

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL**  
**AT THE MEETING HELD AT 6.00 P.M.**  
**ON MONDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2007**  
**AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY**

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Woodall (Mayor)  
Councillor Stanley (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillors Adams, Ahmed, Ali, Mrs. Ameson, Mrs. Aston, Attwood, Banks, Blood, Body, Ms. Boleyn, Burston, Burt, Caunt, Mrs. Collins, Cotterill, Mrs. Coulter, Mrs. Cowell, Ms. Craigie, Crumpton, G.H. Davies, J. R. Davies, M. Davis, Donegan, Mrs. Dunn, Evans, Mrs. Faulkner, Finch, Ms. Foster, Fraser-macnamara, Harley, Ms. Harris, Hill, Islam, Jackson, James, Johnston, Jones, Mrs. Jordan, Knowles, Lowe, Male, Mrs. Martin, Miller, Mrs. Millward, Mottram, Ms. Nicholls, Nottingham, Ms. Partridge, Mrs. Pearce, Rahman, Mrs. Ridley, Rogers, Ryder, Mrs. Shakespeare, Simms, Southall, Sparks, Taylor, Tomkinson, A. Turner, Mrs. H. Turner, K. Turner, Tyler, Mrs. Walker, Waltho, C. Wilson, Mrs. M. Wilson and Wright; together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

**PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain, Canon John Everest, led the Council in prayer.

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**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Bradney and Kettle.

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following members declared interests in Minute No. 84 below (Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax 2007/08) for the reasons indicated:-

Councillor M. Davis - All matters relating to social services - Personal interest as a service user.

Councillor J. R. Davies - Grant for Dudley Citizens Advice Bureau. Personal interest in view of having colleagues within that organisation.

Councillor J. R. Davies - Liveability Fund - Personal interest as an attendee of Friends of Parks Groups.

Councillor Ms. Harris - Personal and prejudicial interest as the Chair of Dudley Primary Care Trust. Councillor Ms. Harris left the meeting during the ensuing debate and voting referred to in Minute No. 84 below.

Councillor Ms. Foster - Reference to Dudley Credit Union - Personal interest by virtue of membership of the Credit Union.

Councillor Mrs. Coulter - Personal and prejudicial interest in any reference to Friends of Netherton Park as an attendee at meetings and in view of the Chairperson being a personal friend.

Councillor Mrs. Coulter - Personal and prejudicial interest in respect of renting two garages from the Council.

Councillor Crumpton – Personal interest in references to Parks and Friends of Parks Groups as a Member of the Lye Wollescote Stevens Park Friends Group.

Councillor Johnston - Reference to Dudley Credit Union - Personal interest as a Director of the Credit Union.

Councillor Ms. Craigie – Personal interests as a Governor of Ellowes Hall School and as the Secretary of Dudley Residential Leaseholders Association.

Councillor Mrs. Walker – Personal interest in any references to Home to School Transport in view of having a relative who received the service.

Councillor Adams – Personal interest in references to Parks and Friends of Parks Groups as the Honorary President of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park.

Councillors Mrs. H. Turner and K. Turner – Personal interests in references to Parks and Friends of Parks Groups as Members of the Friends of Huntingtree Park.

Councillor Rogers - Personal interest in references to Parks and Friends of Parks Groups as a Member of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park.

Councillor Burston – Personal interest in references to Parks and Friends of Parks Groups as Member of the Friends of Huntingtree Park.

Councillor Mrs. Ameson - Reference to Dudley Credit Union - Personal interest as a Director of the Credit Union.

Councillor Attwood - Personal interest in references to Parks and Friends of Parks Groups as Chairman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park.

Councillors Mrs. Faulkner and Mrs. Shakespeare – Personal interests in references to Parks and Friends of Parks Groups as Members of the Friends of Hope Street Park.

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MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements by the Mayor.

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SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Fraser-macnamara and

RESOLVED

That, under Council Procedure Rule 22.1, the time restriction of 5 minutes referred to in Council Procedure Rule 14.4, be suspended to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance and the lead spokespersons from the other political groups to speak for longer than 5 minutes on the report referred to in Minute 84 and to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance to speak for longer than 5 minutes to exercise her right of reply to the debate.

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84

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX, 2007/08

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A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance was submitted setting out recommendations concerning the deployment of General Fund Revenue resources, a number of statutory calculations that had to be made by the Council and the Council Tax to be levied for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Millward and seconded by Councillor Fraser-macnamara that the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved and adopted.

Following speeches by the lead opposition spokespersons, the report was the subject of general debate by Members.

At the conclusion of the debate, the motion moved by Councillor Mrs. Millward was put to the meeting and it was accordingly:

RESOLVED

- (1) That the budget requirement for 2007/08 and allocations to services be approved as follows:-

	£m
Children's Services	50.277
Adult, Community and Housing Services	76.429

Urban Environment	47.920
Chief Executive's	13.609
Finance, ICT and Procurement	18.481
Law and Property	1.851
TOTAL SERVICE ALLOCATIONS	208.567
LESS: Use of General Fund Balances	-4.287
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	204.280

(2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2007/08 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992:-

- (a) £605.390000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act (*the Council's Spending*)
- (b) £401.110000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Sections 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act (*the Council's income and use of reserves*)
- (c) £204.280000m being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year (*the Council's budget requirement*)

(d) £106.334105m being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates or revenue support grant [increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988] or [reduced by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its General Fund to its Collection Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988] and [increased by the amount of any relevant sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988] or [reduced by the amount of any relevant sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its General Fund to its Collection Fund pursuant to the directions under Section 98(5) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988].

(e) £1009.2343 being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, i.e. £97.945895m all divided by the Council Tax base of 97049.71, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year *[the Council's basic amount of tax]*.

(f) Dudley's Council Tax for each Valuation Band

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
672.82	784.96	897.10	1009.23	1233.51	1457.78	1682.06	2018.47

being the rounded amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different bands.

(3) Precepts for each Valuation Band

That it be noted that for the year 2007/08, the major precepting authorities have issued the following amounts in precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:-

West Midlands Police:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
60.98	71.14	81.31	91.47	111.80	132.13	152.45	182.94

West Midlands Fire and Rescue:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
29.62	34.56	39.49	44.43	54.30	64.18	74.05	88.86

- (4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix 2 of the report, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, agrees the following levels of Council Tax for 2007/08:-

Valuation Bands:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
763.42	890.66	1017.90	1145.13	1399.61	1654.09	1908.56	2290.27

- (5) That the Chief Executive and Directors be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in the report, in accordance with the Council's Financial Management Regime.

- (6) That the Council reminds the Chief Executive and all Directors to exercise strict budgetary control in accordance with the Financial Management Regime and care and caution in managing the 2007/08 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that overspending in 2007/08 will have on the availability of general balances to support spending in 2008/09 and 2009/10.
- (7) That the Annual Efficiency Statement (AES) as set out as Attachment A to the report be noted.
- (8) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as set out as Attachment B to the report be approved.

The meeting ended at 9.12 p.m.

MAYOR