

COUNCILLOR JACKIE OAKES, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 23rd February 2022

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Oakes (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Cheetham, Janet Eaton, Foxcroft, Gill, Hughes, Johnson, Kempson, Kenyon, Lythgoe, MacNae, Marriott, Morris, Neal, Powell, Procter, Rigby, Rooke, Serridge, Steen, Stevens, Walmsley, Whitehead and Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Karen Spencer, Head of Finance/S151 Officer
Mandy Lewis, Director of Economic Development
Craig Finn, Finance Manager
John Illingworth, Mayor's Attendant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: By remote access (Zoom): 1 press, 2 public observers
Adam Allen, Director of Communities

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Lynda Barnes, James Eaton, Essex, Haworth, Pendlebury and Thompson.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2022 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. Urgent Items of Business

There was one urgent item of business regarding delegating the amendment of the Council Tax Support Scheme to accommodate changes in relation to the £150 council tax rebate for households.

Resolved:

That amendments be delegated to the Head of Finance in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder in relation to the changes required of the Council Tax Support Scheme to accommodate the £150 council tax rebate.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

5. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service

There were no communications from the Mayor, the Leader or on behalf of the Head of Paid Service.

POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK ITEMS

6. 2022/23 Council Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Council considered the 2022/23 Council Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- There was a need to set a lawful budget.
- Government had written off £12 billion in covid grants.
- Reserves shouldn't be used to support revenue.
- Members must rely on the professionalism of staff to set the council tax base.
- There was a need to set a Medium Term Financial Strategy over 5 years.
- There was pressure on councils as a result of government spending cuts, which was why these decision had to be made.
- Savings were identified in the report.

Thanks was given to the Head of Finance and the Finance Team.

Members voted on the recommendations of the report as follows:

| Name | Vote |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Cllr Adshead | For |
| Cllr Ashworth | For |
| Cllr Alyson Barnes | For |
| Cllr Samara Barnes | For |
| Cllr Cheetham | For |
| Cllr Janet Eaton | For |
| Cllr Foxcroft | Against |
| Cllr Gill | For |
| Cllr Hughes | For |
| Cllr Johnson | For |
| Cllr Kempson | For |
| Cllr Kenyon | For |
| Cllr Lythgoe | For |
| Cllr MacNae | For |
| Cllr Marriott | For |
| Cllr Morris | Abstain |
| Cllr Neal | For |
| Cllr Oakes | For |
| Cllr Powell | For |
| Cllr Procter | For |
| Cllr Rigby | Against |
| Cllr Rooke | For |
| Cllr Serridge | For |
| Cllr Steen | Against |
| Cllr Stevens | For |
| Cllr Walmsley | For |
| Cllr Whitehead | For |
| Cllr Woods | Against |
| For: | 23 |
| Against: | 4 |
| Abstentions: | 1 |

Resolved:

Council approve:

1. A revenue budget for 2022/23 of £8.991m, as detailed in the report.
2. A council tax increase of 1.99% which equates to a rate for Band D for 2022/23 of £290.80.
3. Use of £56k from the Transitional reserve to support the 2022/23 revenue budget.
4. The proposed fees and charges attached as Appendix 1.

5. The technical resolution necessary to give effect to these budget proposals attached as Appendix 4.

Reason for Decision

The financial position for the council, like all local authorities, is challenging. The council is proposing to set a revenue budget for 2022/23 of £8.991m. There are a number of significant risks outside the council's control which remain a major concern: Covid, the uncertainty of the recently announced revised funding review and the Business Rates scheme from 2023/24 onwards, also the ongoing impact of Brexit. The council must remain focused on identifying and delivering further savings and income in order to ensure annual balanced budgets over the immediate and medium term. It must also ensure that all its budget resource allocations are directed to the core functions of the council and that the use of its resources drives the delivery of the council's Corporate Plan priorities.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2025/26 and Capital Strategy 2022/23

The Council considered the Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2025/26 and Capital Strategy 2022/23.

A recorded vote was requested by three members.

Members voted on the recommendations of the report as follows:

| Name | Vote |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Cllr Adshead | For |
| Cllr Ashworth | For |
| Cllr Alyson Barnes | For |
| Cllr Samara Barnes | For |
| Cllr Cheetham | Abstain |
| Cllr Janet Eaton | For |
| Cllr Foxcroft | Against |
| Cllr Gill | For |
| Cllr Hughes | For |
| Cllr Johnson | For |
| Cllr Kempson | Abstain |
| Cllr Kenyon | For |
| Cllr Lythgoe | For |
| Cllr MacNae | For |
| Cllr Marriott | For |
| Cllr Morris | Against |
| Cllr Neal | For |
| Cllr Oakes | For |
| Cllr Powell | For |
| Cllr Procter | For |
| Cllr Rigby | Against |
| Cllr Rooke | For |
| Cllr Serridge | For |
| Cllr Steen | Against |
| Cllr Stevens | For |
| Cllr Walmsley | For |
| Cllr Whitehead | For |
| Cllr Woods | Against |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| For: | 21 |
| Against: | 5 |
| Abstentions: | 2 |

Resolved:

Council approve:

1. The capital programme for 2022/23 -2025/26 and associated capital expenditure of £5.082m in 2022/23.
2. The Capital Strategy 2022/23 including Prudential Indicators attached at Appendix B.

Reason for Decision

The proposed capital programme for 2022/23 and up to 2025/26 represents an affordable plan, as indicated by the prudential borrowing performance indicators the Capital Strategy (Appendix B).

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Treasury Management Strategy & Treasury Management Practises

The Council considered the Treasury Management Strategy & Treasury Management Practises report and thanks was given to the Finance Team.

A recorded vote was requested by three members.

Members voted on the recommendations of the report as follows:

| Name | Vote |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Cllr Adshead | For |
| Cllr Ashworth | For |
| Cllr Alyson Barnes | For |
| Cllr Samara Barnes | For |
| Cllr Cheetham | Abstain |
| Cllr Janet Eaton | For |
| Cllr Foxcroft | For |
| Cllr Gill | For |
| Cllr Hughes | For |
| Cllr Johnson | For |
| Cllr Kempson | For |
| Cllr Kenyon | For |
| Cllr Lythgoe | For |
| Cllr MacNae | For |
| Cllr Marriott | For |
| Cllr Morris | For |
| Cllr Neal | For |
| Cllr Oakes | For |
| Cllr Powell | For |
| Cllr Procter | For |
| Cllr Rigby | For |
| Cllr Rooke | For |
| Cllr Serridge | For |
| Cllr Steen | For |
| Cllr Stevens | For |
| Cllr Walmsley | For |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Cllr Whitehead | For |
| Cllr Woods | For |
| For: | 27 |
| Against: | 0 |
| Abstentions: | 1 |

Resolved:

Council approves:

1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement incorporating the Investment Strategy, Investment Indicators and Borrowing Strategy and the Treasury Management Policy and Practises.
2. To delegate any further minor amendments to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

Reason for Decision

The adoption of the updated Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Treasury Management Policy and Practises, which will ensure continued compliance with the Code and continue to manage the council's exposure to financial risk.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

NOTICES OF MOTION

9. **Notice of motion**

Councillor Neal moved the following motion

Any new housing developments across the whole of Rossendale, that all developer's pay for and cover all costs incurred for all blue, green and grey household waste collection bins. This now needs to be included as part of any Planning Conditions prior to any planning approval to all and any housing developments, to comply with Rossendale Borough Council's Clean and Green agenda and priorities.

A friendly amendment was moved by Councillor Serridge prior to seconding as follows:

To request that officers look at ways in which developers are charged for new bins in all cases of new housing developments.

In response to the amendment, questions from members were confirmed as follows:

- It was confirmed that each case would have to be considered on its planning merits as to whether it would meet the legal tests for requiring such a s106 contribution from the developer, but officers could look at other options.

The friendly amendment was accepted by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Serridge.

Resolved:

To request that officers look at ways in which developers or new residents are charged for new bins in all cases of new housing developments.

Reason for Decision

To support the amended motion.

Alternative Options Considered

Original motion.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.31pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date