

Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2023 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Stuart Wheeler (Chairman), Cllr James Sheppard (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Sarah Gibson, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Dr Nick Murry, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Jack Oatley, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tim Trimble, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr David Vigar, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Derek Walters, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Graham Wright

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nick Errington, Tony Jackson, Charles McGrath, Andrew Oliver, Sam Pearce-Kearney, and Robert Yuill.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 October 2022 were presented for consideration, and it was,

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 October 2022 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

It was noted that the following Members were also Members of City, Town or Parish Councils in Wiltshire, declared as non-disclosable interests. Furthermore, on advice of the Monitoring Officer it was clarified those interests would not require the Members listed to leave the room for any items on the agenda, though were declared for information. Those Members were:

Phil Alford, Liz Alstrom, Helen Belcher OBE, Steve Bucknell, Clare Cape, Trevor Carbin, Daniel Cave, Sam Charleston, Ernie Clark, Mark Connolly, Caroline Corbin, Brian Dalton, Jane Davies, Andrew Davis, Matthew Dean, Dr Monica Devendran, Sarah Gibson, Gavin Grant, Sven Hocking, Ruth Hopkinson, Jon Hubbard, Mel Jacob, George Jeans, Bob Jones MBE, Gordon King, Johnny Kidney, Edward Kirk, Kathryn Macdermid, Dominic Muns, Dr Nick Murry, Nabil Najjar, Kelvin Nash, Jack Oatley, Paul Oatway QPM, Stewart Palmen, Bill Parks, Sam Pearce-Kearney, Antonio Piazza, Horace Prickett, Nic Puntis, Ricky Rogers, Tom Rounds, Paul Sample JP, Jonathan Seed, James Sheppard, Martin Smith, Caroline Thomas, Ian Thorn, Jo Trigg, Tim Trimble, Tony Trotman, Mark Verbinnen, David Vigar, Iain Wallis, Bridget Wayman, Graham Wright, and Robert Yuill.

Councillors Brian Dalton and Sam Charleston further declared disclosable pecuniary interests with regard to the budget resolutions relating to the Housing Revenue Account by virtue of them renting Wiltshire Council owned garages. They stated they would leave the room during for the vote on the Housing Revenue Account items (listed as Vote 2 under Minute 10) and would also leave the room and not participate in the debate should the matter arise during debate of the wider budget.

During discussion of the budget at item 10 Councillor George Jeans declared a Non-Registerable Interest by virtue of his wife holding a Blue Badge. Accordingly, at that point he left the room during debate and did not participate in the vote on the amendment relating to Blue Badge charging.

4 **Announcements by the Chairman**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

a) Helen Jones

On behalf of Wiltshire Council, the Chairman expressed condolences to the family and friends of Helen Jones, who had been serving Director of Procurement and Commissioning, following her sudden passing. He stated that everyone was saddened to hear of her death and that thoughts and prayers remained with everyone that knew and had worked with her.

b) Chairman's Engagements

A list of recent engagements attended by the Chairman from 19 October 2022 to February 2023 were detailed as below:

- 10 November 2022 - Hosted the High Sheriff's Thank You Reception for WC staff for all the work undertaken to ensure the success of the Proclamation of HM King Charles III on Sunday, 11th September, in the Chairman's Room.
- 11 November 2022 - Chippenham Town Council Armistice Day Commemoration.
- 13 November 2022 - Salisbury City Council Remembrance Day Parade and Service.
- 12 December 2022 -The County of Wiltshire Carol Service, St. Sampson's Church, Cricklade.
- 25 January 2023 - Attended the Royal Visit of HM The Queen Consort to Lacock, to St. Cyriac's Church, to plant a tree as part of the late HM The Queen's Green Canopy initiative, meet representatives from the Church and The National Trust and to walk through the village, visiting shops.

c) New Year's Honours Lists

The Chairman announced that a number of Wiltshire residents had received national recognition in the recent New Year's Honours List. The Chairman congratulated all those who had been honoured, noting in particular the award to Councillor Helen Belcher, Member for Corsham Pickwick.

CBE

The Countess of Bessborough, East Winterslow

OBE

Councillor Helen Belcher
 John Churchill
 James Hepburne Scott
 Rachel Hick
 Elizabeth Jackson
 Catherine Spencer
 Toby Sutton
 Prof. Geoffrey Till

MBE

David Bickers
 Patrick Bradley
 Meryl Hayward
 Helen Yeadon

BEM

Sarah Brewis
 Polly Cox
 Nicholas Cross
 Barbara King
 Juliette Pearson

d) Julian Johnson

On behalf of Wiltshire Council, the Chairman expressed condolences to the family and friends of Julian Johnson, former Chairman of Wiltshire County Council from

2001-02. Councillor Johnson was the Member for Downton and Ebbles Valley from 2009-2017, and also from 2005-2009 and the Member for Downton from 1993-2005 on Wiltshire County Council. He served as the Chairman of the Standards Committee from 2012-2017.

The Chairman expressed deep sadness at the passing of Councillor Johnson, acknowledging the many years service he had provided to Wiltshire. Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, currently representing Downton and Ebbles Valley, on behalf of other Members also offered his condolences to former Councillor Johnson's family

e) Salisbury St Paul's

Finally, the Chairman welcomed Councillor Sam Charleston to his first Full Council meeting since election to the Salisbury St Paul's Division on 3 November 2022.

5 Petitions Update

The Chairman stated that four petitions had been formally received by the Council since the last ordinary meeting held on 18 October 2022, as detailed within the Council summons.

Following which, it was:

Resolved:

That Council notes the update on petitions in the report.

6 Public Participation

The Chairman explained the procedure that would be followed for public participation at the meeting in accordance with the constitution.

Although statements and questions would normally be considered during the relevant agenda item, as it was likely to be a lengthy meeting the Chairman offered the opportunity for questions and statements to be received under Item 6 instead.

Details of questions received during the item are detailed below. Other questions together with responses were set out in the Agenda Supplement.

Question P23-06 – Felicity Courage

A written response was provided as detailed in the Agenda Supplement. A supplementary question was asked relating to the urgent need for housing for Ukrainian refugees and if there was provision for allocating new build houses to aid in mitigating this issue and if the Leader would consider meeting with the voluntary group focussing on this topic.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, encouraged volunteers to get in contact with his office to propose and organise a meeting. The written response given to the original question was referenced to address other points, and that

further information would be circulated as soon as practicable following consideration of any legal or other advice regarding.

Question P23-07 – Graham Hill

A written response was provided as detailed in the Agenda Supplement.

A supplementary question was asked in relation to a non-determined planning application which was to be determined at an upcoming meeting. The Chairman explained that the question should be directed to the relevant officer for that meeting.

7 **Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel July 2021-June 2022**

The Chairman invited Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, and Skills, to present the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel from July 2021 - June 2022.

Councillor Mayes proposed a motion to receive and note both the Annual Reports of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Child and Youth Voice Team, and to ratify the improvements required to further strengthen Corporate Parenting in Wiltshire. This was seconded by Councillor Peter Hutton, Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

It was emphasised that all elected Members had responsibilities as 'corporate parents' for Looked After Children and young people in Wiltshire. As such, Members were responsible for ensuring that the voices of children and young people continued to be heard while ensuring that these opinions were fully reflected in the Business Plan to deliver better outcomes for children both in and also leaving care, and to provide them with every opportunity available to reach their full potentials.

Councillor Mayes continued by presenting brief anecdotes and highlights from the report and highlighted the need for more in-house foster carers, with Members being encouraged to promote fostering within their communities.

Members then received a presentation from Cora, a Looked After young person who explained her personal experiences in the care system over many years. She talked of her experience of the Children in Care Council and with the Child and Youth Voice Team, alongside a video presentation outlining some of the activities and work that the team had undertaken with young people.

Comments were then made by Group Leaders as follows:

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, commended the work made by officers and other organisations in providing the results noted in the report which he felt provided confidence and assurance against the Business Plan. He stated that despite the successes it was an area that always needed to be under continuous review to ensure that Members fulfilled their duties as corporate parents.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, welcomed the presentation and noted that the role of corporate parents unified and united Members towards a shared goal. Thanks were given to all Looked After Children

and young people, officers and other organisations working to help achieve these targets.

Councillor Ernie Clark, Leader of the Independent Group, and Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, echoed the sentiments made by the other group leaders in particular praising Cora's presentation to Members.

During the debate, Councillor Peter Hutton, Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel, gave further thanks to officers and the Child and Youth Voice Team for their support and for providing a specific direction on where to place resources and focus. Recognition was given to the personal achievements of all of the Looked After children and young people, and it was reiterated that there would always be challenges ahead, but all parties were continually striving for improvements.

Further comments were received including praising the quality and detail of the report, and congratulations to Cora for attending the meeting. The equal responsibility of all Members as corporate parents was reiterated and further recognition to all foster carers across the County as representatives of the wider corporate body, was also given.

At the conclusion of the debate Councillor Mayes reaffirmed the comments made above, and it was:

Resolved:

- 1) **To receive and note the Annual Report and the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel to date, its functions and impact of its work and to ratify the improvements required to further strengthen Corporate Parenting in Wiltshire.**
- 2) **To receive and note the Annual Report of the Child and Youth Voice Team from April 2021 to March 2022 attached as Appendix 2 to this report.**

8 **Final Report from the Corporate Peer Challenge**

The Chairman invited Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, to present the final report from the Corporate Peer Challenge.

Councillor Clewer proposed a motion to note the findings of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge, seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes. A brief summary of peer challenges was given, and it was emphasised that it was undertaken by independent officers and councillors, and should give reassurance and confidence in the findings. The effort undertaken by officers and the administration was commended and the endorsements given in the report were stated as being testament to the effectiveness of the hard work to deliver the Business Plan.

Comments were then received from Group Leaders as follows:

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, congratulated all Members and officers who contributed to the successful review.

Councillor Ernie Clark, Leader of the Independent Group, endorsed the positive comments made.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, further reaffirmed previous comments and added that he was glad the honest feedback provided in the consultation was reflected in the report and encouraged all Members and officers to continue the momentum.

During the debate, Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader of the Council, endorsed the report and expressed pride in the findings and in the method of analysis which she felt accurately presented the significant improvement works tackled over recent years. Further comments from Members included noting the high level of trust and confidence Members had with officers, and the successful embedding of the Business Plan to achieve targets and goals, and noting where there were suggested improvements in minor areas.

At the conclusion of the debate, it was:

Resolved:

That Council notes the findings of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge 2022.

9 **Treasury Management Strategy**

The Chairman invited Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning, to present a report on the Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24.

Councillor Botterill proposed a motion to accept the recommendations set out in the report, seconded by Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council. The importance of the maintaining a sound balance sheet with high levels of rigour and prudence through the proposed strategy was highlighted.

Additionally, the need to make informed decisions respecting topical matters such as the recent rise of inflation rates was important when considering factors like high level investment and debt management decisions. Furthermore, it was highlighted that major financial problems were often linked to improper treasury management decisions, showing the importance of such a strategy.

Comments were then made on the proposals by Group Leaders as follows:

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, stated that he would support the strategy and emphasised the fundamental nature of the strategy to Wiltshire Council's daily operations.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, noted the comments and stated that he was happy to support the strategy and its recommendations.

Councillors Ernie Clark, Leader of the Independent Group, and Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, further stated that they would support the strategy.

During the debate Members welcomed the thoroughness of the report and the concise and clear nature of the strategy. Further comments were received with regard to the interrelationship between capital budgets and the borrowing requirements of the Council and the need to make clear the difference between the types of capital budget to allow for a more robust scrutiny on capital budgetary matters.

At the conclusion of the debate, Councillor Botterill noted the comments made above, and it was then:

Resolved:

That Full Council:

- 1) Adopt the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (paragraph 26 – 28);**
- 2) Adopt the Prudential and Treasury Indicators (paragraphs 17 – 25, 40 – 46 and Appendix A);**
 - 3) Adopt the Annual Investment Strategy (paragraph 63 onwards);**
 - 4) Delegate to the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) the authority to vary the amount of borrowing and other long-term liabilities within the Treasury Indicators for the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary;**
 - 5) Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) to agree the restructuring of existing long-term loans where savings are achievable or to enhance the long-term portfolio;**
 - 6) Agree that short term cash surpluses and deficits continue to be managed through temporary loans, deposits and money market funds;**
 - 7) Agree that any surplus cash balances not required to cover borrowing are placed in the most appropriate specified or non-specified investments, particularly where this is more cost effective than short term deposits; and delegate to the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) the authority to select such funds;**
 - 8) Agree the revised Investment Policy (paragraph 70);**
 - 9) Agree the revised Creditworthiness Policy (paragraph 77);**

In accordance with the Constitution there was a recorded vote.

Votes for the motion (86)

Votes against the motion (0)

Votes in abstention (0)

Details of the vote are attached to the minutes.

10 **Budget 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 - 2025/26**

Budget Introduction

The Chairman introduced the item and provided details of the reports which had been circulated. He explained the procedures to be followed for consideration and debate of the budget, including of any proposed amendments. He then invited Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Military-Civilian Integration, Heritage, Arts, Tourism, Health and Wellbeing, to present the proposed budget. Councillor Clewer proposed a motion to adopt the recommendations as set out on pages 406-409 of the Summons. This was seconded by Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning.

Councillor Clewer drew attention to the Budget Addendum Report included in the Summons which outlined the late update from Government regarding the final Local Government Finance Settlement and how the updates affect the previously published budget and the proposals to be moved. He detailed some of the work carried out by government, council officers, voluntary sectors, Members and his administration in overcoming the challenges of delivering services through the impact from the invasion of Ukraine, continued Covid recovery, the death of the Queen, and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. The financial strain that local authorities across the country were facing was described and additional details as to the financial status and proposed budgets of neighbouring authorities were highlighted to provide further context to the proposed budget.

Councillor Clewer then emphasised the four guiding themes of the Business Plan in preparing the budget, and that focus and investments into preventative work and tackling long term systemic problems was critical to limiting pressure and driving the organisational operation of Wiltshire Council and the budget itself. A rigorous and prudent approach to developing the budget had been followed, to focus activity where it was most needed with understanding of the implications across all parts of the council.

Specific details were set out with it stated budgets were increasing in all service areas, including an extra £11m into Living and Aging well, £6m into Education and Skills, and £2.3m into Planning. It was explained that due to the increases to inflation, if the standard calculation was applied, social rent would be increased by 11.7% but central government had intervened and stated that the increase could not exceed 7%, and the council was proposing to increase social rents by this figure.

Capital investment and programmes over the next 7 years were detailed. It was explained that the administration had worked to develop a more accurate capital programme with a better profiling spend to ensure that there was a greater

understanding of when and where to spend the £1.1bn of investments into Wiltshire. Councillor Clewer raised the issue of reserves and highlighted that prudence and tight financial control were critical and underpinned the success of the Council and that £13.1m would be released from reserves to address the key priorities and strategic long-term issues of the county. Noting the proposed amendments included with the Summons he criticised the scale of the proposals due to their very small impact on the total budget.

In conclusion, Councillor Clewer stated that the presented budget for the next 3 years was stable and fully costed with no use of reserves to balance the accounts and provided a clear vision to modernise and transform services, focussing on preventative work, tackling deprivation and maintaining critical infrastructure, and recommended Council approve the proposal.

Scrutiny Comments

The Chairman then invited Councillor Graham Wright, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, to comment and present the report of the meeting of the committee held on 24 January 2023 to discuss the budget proposals. Councillor Wright at the same time presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 7 February 2023 to discuss budget amendment proposals.

Each meeting had included a series of questions and comments from Select Committee chairs and others, with extensive discussion of the effect and deliverability of the budget and proposed amendments, and drew attention to the full report included in the Summons. Thanks were given to all Scrutiny Committee Members, Officers, Cabinet Members, Financial Planning Task Group Members and those Councillors who had submitted amendments. He commended the level of scrutiny that had taken place throughout the year and particularly relating to the formal budget and amendment proposals.

The Chairman also invited Councillor Pip Ridout, Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group, to comment. Councillor Ridout provided assurance as to the extensive and rigorous scrutiny process undertaken, including briefings to all Members, Task Group meetings, and the great many questions which were submitted and reported to the Management Committee. She added her thanks to those already given by the Leader, Andy Brown, S151 Officer, and the rest of the Finance team.

Public Participation

The Chairman explained that one statement and two questions from the public had been received as set out in the Agenda Supplement, with the details of supplementary questions received below.

Question P23-03 – Colin Gale – Rushall Parish Council

A written response was provided as detailed in the Agenda Supplement. Mr Gale asked a supplementary question relating to the Town and Parish Council four-yearly election cycle costs, such as how to explain the proposed precept increase to electorates and criticising the level of consultation prior to the decision. Councillor Ashley O'Neill, Cabinet Member for Governance, IT, Broadband, Licensing, Staffing, Communities and Area Boards thanked Councillor Gale for his statement and questions. Councillor O'Neill referred to the written responses included within

the Agenda Supplement and noted that Wiltshire Council had historically absorbed the costs incurred solely for electoral activity that related to City, Town and Parish Councils who had their own precepting ability, and the introduction of the charges would bring Wiltshire in line with other Councils. Details as to the specific financial impact to Rushall Parish Council were given and Councillor Gale was encouraged to contact the Wiltshire Council Elections Team directly for further information.

Group Leader Responses

The Chairman then invited group leaders to comment on the proposed budget.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, thanked Councillor Clewer, Andy Brown, S151 Officer, Lizzie Watkin, Director of Finance, Councillor Gavin Grant and Officers for their hard work and commitment in preparing the budget and those assisting with preparation of the proposed amendments, and all council staff for their work through the year, and the support of residents and businesses. He commented upon some of the issues raised by the Leader in his budget speech, such as the role of Visit Wiltshire and the removal of its funding base, and some of the points made by the Leader were commented upon; namely, the role of Visit Wiltshire and its funding base for future years and the criticisms of neighbouring Councils. The financial strain that local government was facing was reiterated and the challenges that all local authorities were navigating was emphasised in respect of the necessity that central government recognised those challenges and supported councils in delivering vital services.

Further thanks were given to officers for the work undertaken in supporting residents during the cost-of-living crisis and emphasis was given as to the continued challenge of reaching and aiding those residents most in need of help. Councillor Thorn accepted that the yearly preparation of the budget was not a simple task and welcomed the achievement of a balanced budget despite the economic climate and landscape. However, he stressed that some of the proposed savings were detrimental to the poorest and most vulnerable residents with few positive impacts felt. He stated that he could not support the recommendations as they stood and welcomed the debate with regard to the proposed amendments.

Councillor Ernie Clark, Leader of the Independent Group, stated that he would observe the debate before reaching any conclusions.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, thanked the Leader for his introduction to the budget. He expressed disappointment that there were no details as to the impacts to residents for the proposed 7% rise on social rents, and criticised comments from the Leader regarding the parish level precepts in Salisbury. He referenced ongoing disputes between the GMB Union and the council's corporate leadership.

Councillor Rogers also noted the work undertaken in delivering a balanced budget during a difficult financial year, work in tackling the climate emergency, and the production and subsequent circulation of a leaflet providing contact information for residents who needed help and advice during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. Councillor Rogers highlighted the increase in contract inflation and questioned whether any of the services being outsourced could be or could have been handled internally by the council to aid in saving costs. Councillor Rogers referenced his

upcoming amendment in context of whether he could support the budget as proposed.

A break was then taken for lunch between 12.55pm and 2:00pm.

Amendment A

The Chairman then invited Councillor Ricky Rogers, seconded by Councillor Ian McLennan, to present proposed Amendment A, as set out in the Summons.

Councillor Rogers explained that his amendment was to reduce the rise in social dwelling rents from 7% to 5%. This had an additional budgetary cost of £0.519m, to be funded by a decrease in the contribution to the Housing Revenue Account Reserve of the same amount to offset the reduction in rental income. Councillor Rogers stated that normally the rise was set by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities, plus 1%, but that due to the current economic and inflationary situation councils had been given discretion on the rise, with modelling for 3%, 5%, and 7%, with the latter being the cap. He noted most councils and housing associations had set 7%, but that Swindon Borough Council had set their rate at 5%.

Councillor Rogers noted that increases in council tax and parish precepts, and considered that a 7% rise for social dwelling rents on top of that was an unreasonable burden. He stated he considered the council to have a well-run Housing Board and that it was an effective landlord, but pointed to feedback from his local community, where a high proportion of the social dwellings were located, asking to reject the recommendation of the board to set the rate at 7%. He read out a number of statements from local Salisbury residents. He asked council to lessen the impact on those hit hardest, and that whilst a lesser rise would affect the amount of reserves in the Housing Revenue Account, which remained significant, it would not affect the progression of development works planned.

The Chairman then invited comments from other Group Leaders on Amendment A.

Councillor Clewer confirmed he did not support the amendment. He pointed to the recommendation of the Housing Board, which included tenants and independent members, that 7% was the most appropriate rise at the time. He stated the Housing Revenue Account operated on a 30 year business plan and decisions made on it could have a significant effect over time, pointing to a previous government decision to reduce rents by 1% a year over 4 years, which had significantly hit those business plans. As such, even as a one off decision to reduce rents there would be knock-on effects, and he could not support an impact on the business plan designed to provide more council houses and a better service.

Councillor Thorn noted the discussion that had taken place at Overview and Scrutiny Management relating to the amendment. He did not consider that other authorities or associations raising by 7% in itself meant that a rise in Wiltshire of 5% was unreasonable. He stated he had not seen evidence the lesser rise would negatively affect the repairs budget, and supported the amendment as an opportunity to offer support where it could to residents during the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Councillor Wright, in place of the Independent Group Leader, stated there would be a variety of views on the amendment from the group, but he expressed his own sympathy for the amendment.

The Chairman then opened debate on Amendment A.

Amendment A Debate

Comments made in support of the amendment included that only around 1/3 of tenants would be directly affected by the amendment as they were not in receipt of housing benefit which was rising above the level of inflation and not a large impact. Comparisons were made to other local authorities which had more social dwellings yet lesser reserves, indicating Wiltshire could afford to reduce its reserves a little on this occasion. Some Members noted the importance of building more social housing, but that the amendment was providing needed help which was able to be offered.

Other comments were made that in most areas of Wiltshire there was not much social housing owned by the council, and so most of those in social dwellings would be facing a 7% rise as agreed by their housing association. Comparisons with private sector rent rises were made, which it was stated was less than the 7% being asked of those in social dwellings. Others commented that the economic situation was such that making a 30 year projection was not useful or to be relied upon, but the existing impacts could be seen. Some stated that it was important to note the council was the landlord and decision maker, with an obligation to look out for its tenants, and that on balance immediate action was justified given the urgent situation.

Comments made against the amendment included that there would be an impact on the discretionary spend, and would require the maintenance programme to be reprofiled. It was noted that the difference between the recommendation and the amendment amount to less than £2 per week, which whilst not insignificant had longer term effects on the Housing Revenue Account with a shortfall building up over the 30 year business plan to over £17m. It was also stated that the original expectation of increases of inflation plus 1% was due to the unique situation not going to be met, with the 4% below inflation rise already having an impact on the maintenance and investment. There were also concerns about the impact on the council house build programme, and the ongoing financial impact that would be felt from the lack of the additional funding from one year rolling into future years.

Other comments in debate included that the poorest residents were in receipt of housing benefit and would not be affected by the recommendation or amendment, and that the cost of the lesser increase would therefore be met by other residents. It was also noted that those in private rents did not have the same level of security of tenure. Others pointed to the recommendation of the Housing Board itself, and the risk that all the tenants would be ultimately worse off if the investment programme was prejudiced.

Councillor Rogers, as mover of the amendment, then responded to comments made in debate. He acknowledged the Housing Revenue Account could be complicated, but he noted the council was part way through not at the start of the business plan. He reiterated that in most years there would not be opportunity to set

a lower level of rents, if inflation was brought under control. He pointed to previous reductions which did not lead to a large detrimental impact, the level of reserves available, and that the main issue with planned development work to the housing stock was not funding, but lack of available tradesman on local government pay and conditions. He asked the council to think about those who could least afford to pay an increase.

Councillor Clewer, as mover of the original motion, then responded to the comments made in debate. He highlighted work undertaken to set up the housing stock to be sustainable over the long term, the constant rolling nature of the 30 year plan to keep maintenance going, to keep the stock in good condition, and to build more stock. He reiterated that losing £0.500m for this year would have significant effects on the account over the long term, and the council would not be able to undertake some works which were designed to improve standards and efficiency, which itself would lead to cost savings for all residents, such as on heating costs. He asked the council to reject the amendment, as whilst it sounded sympathetic to residents it would in fact be detrimental to their interests.

In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote.

Votes for the amendment (29)

Votes against the amendment (51)

Votes in abstention (3)

The vote was therefore lost. Details of the recorded vote are attached to the minutes.

Amendment B

The Chairman then invited Councillor Gavin Grant, seconded by Councillor Ian Thorn, to present proposed Amendment B, as set out in the Summons.

Councillor Grant explained that the amendment was to remove the income budget introduced in 2022/23 as a result of the saving included in the budget to include parking charges for Blue Badge holders. This had been estimated in discussion with council officers to have an annual impact of £0.040m. It was proposed to be funded for 2023/24 and 2024/25 from reductions in the Wiltshire Towns Funding budget. For 2025/26 it was proposed to be funded through an increase in the assumption in growth in the council tax base from 1.2% to 1.25%, which resulted in an additional £0.169m of basic council tax, which would also be utilised for other proposed amendments. He drew attention to details in the report to Overview and Scrutiny on past growth of the council tax base.

Councillor Grant argued that the impact of the amendment on the overall budget was very modest, but the issue had generated a lot of concern from residents of Wiltshire about the introduction of the charges following the decision at the previous years' budget. He noted Blue Badge holders already had to pay for the Badges, and that many of them were impacted by greater expenses in their own life. He said this was recognised by the recent decision to allow an additional free hour for Blue Badge holders in council car parks. He believed the charge should be waived entirely, and that the evidence was that disabled people usually had a higher cost of

living, and there was an opportunity to acknowledge the imposition of the charge should be reversed.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders on Amendment B.

Councillor Clewer confirmed he did not support the amendment. He noted the arguments for and against the charge had been thoroughly debated at the previous years' budget. He pointed to comments from the S151 Officer in the reports, and that other council's such as Bath and North East Somerset also charged for Blue Badge parking. He stated that in discussion with disability groups the key issue was not charging, but impacts from mobility issues. Other comments he would save for the conclusion of the debate.

Councillor Thorn supported the amendment. He referenced that many residents had contacted him with concerns about the impact of the charge. He said due to difficulties in estimating parking income there was in fact reduced financial risk. In response to reference to the comments of the S151 officer he stated the Leader had noted the amounts involved were very small, this was not a proposal which would significantly effect the council's operations, but would improve the lives of a substantial number of people.

Councillor Rogers stated the proposal offered a sensible funding method of limited impact, and so was minded to support the amendment.

Amendment B Debate

The Chairman therefore opened debate on Amendment B.

Comments made in support of the amendment included that many Blue Badge holders had mobility difficulties in getting to and using parking charge machines, and upgrades would take a long time to implement, whilst removing the charge could be immediate. It was stated that issue of inaccessibility had been raised prior to the decision as foreseeable. It was argued that the current policy to charge meant those who were able to be parked elsewhere in less convenient locations, and others may be discouraged from journeying.

Other comments were made that noted the cost of removing the charge was very small, yet not removing it disadvantaged a large number of people. Some questioned the benefit of charging Blue Badge holders, and the decision had caused upset and anxiety to a particular group. Some comments argued the lack of disabled representation on the council may have impacted the initial decision. The level of charges that would be raised was questioned, with the risk that if they continued people might not do so, and so in fact the level estimated could be lower. Examples were provided of some of those with mobility issues suffering falls and other risks, and that the council should encourage use of proper parking spaces for safety reasons. Although not all those with a Blue Badge needed financial assistance it was argued that a large proportion did.

Comments made against the amendment included that not all those with a Blue Badge needed financial assistance, whereas those on universal credit for example were not proposed to have parking charges removed. It was stated that Blue Badge holders often needed more time to get in and out of their cars, and this was being

recognised with the additional free parking time. It was stated it had not been an easy decision to implement the charge, and that the opposition included proposing policies which were not helpful for motorists, which impacted use of car parks, and referenced proposals made at other local authorities.

The history of Blue Badges was raised, with the intention of the authorising Act stated to be focused on those with severe mobility issues, and at the time there had not been dedicated disabled parking spaces, so the policy was about on street parking. Financial support for those in need was provided by other means, with no requirement for disabled spaces to be free. The level of support provided by the council to vulnerable people, including older and mobility impaired residents, was highlighted as an indication of general support. The funding of the amendment was raised, with the purpose of the Towns Fund to assist in transforming high streets was stated to be diminished if used to fund amendments unrelated to that. The increase in the council tax base assumption to part fund the amendment was criticised, with the budget assumption the professional advice the council had received.

Other comments in debate included that encouraging Blue Badge holders not to park on double yellow lines, which they were entitled to do if not causing an obstruction, was positive, and not charging in the car park may be an incentive. There were also comments relating to the number of parking wardens and their associated pay, in enforcing rules in council car parks.

Councillor Grant, as mover of the amendment, then responded to comments made in debate. The discussion and debate at Overview and Scrutiny on the amendment, including on the proposed funding of the amendment, was highlighted. He noted the debate at the council meeting had raised issues of mobility and ability for people to pay, and stated both were relevant. He felt the decision last year to impose charges deserved to be revisited and asked for support for his amendment.

Councillor Clewer, as mover of the original motion, then responded to the comments made in debate. He stated financial advice was that the amendment was a risk, and that whilst small in itself if the council started to approve risky amendments on such a basis this was not a sensible approach to financial management. He stated the Towns Fund was critical for the council, and it could not be used for this purpose. The primary issue involved was mobility, and it was not the case that most Blue Badge holders were in receipt of benefits. He noted adjustments had been made to assist with the mobility concerns.

In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote.

Votes for the amendment (28)

Votes against the amendment (50)

Votes in abstention (7)

The vote was therefore lost. Details of the recorded vote are attached to the minutes.

The Chairman then stated that with consent of the meeting that with the exception of those proposing amendments and group leader comments, that all Members be

restricted to 3 minutes speaking time during debate, rather than 5 minutes. This was agreed by the meeting.

Amendment C

The Chairman then invited Councillor Gavin Grant, seconded by Councillor Ian Thorn, to present proposed Amendment C, as set out in the Summons.

Councillor Grant explained that the amendment was to include an additional £0.350m for discretionary Council Tax Reliefs to support households in receipt of Council Tax Relief support where there was a balance of council tax to be paid, to apply an additional £25 discretionary relief for 2023/24 only, and to include an additional £0.300m revenue budget for funding additional Council Tax Relief to support households with individuals and families hit by the cost of crisis. This was a total cost of £0.650m, proposed to be funded through use of the Collection Fund Surplus received in the 2023/24 year and reducing the contribution to the Collection Fund Volatility Reserve.

Councillor Grant argued the amendment was intended to give the council greater capacity to offer discretionary relief on council tax. He stated the council was in receipt of government funding to assist with council tax relief. He quoted comments on behalf of Wiltshire Citizen's Advice regarding those just outside those protected by government funding, the people the council exercised its discretion on council tax. He stated where the council was currently forgiving 80% of someone's council tax it would pursue the remainder, leading to court action. He said that was appropriate if someone could pay, but there were increasing numbers of people who were struggling to pay despite not being in receipt of benefits. He directed attention to comments from the S151 Officer in the report, stating that it indicated there was unallocated government funding for Council Tax Relief, and pointed to the effect on reserves.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders on Amendment C.

Councillor Clewer confirmed he did not support the amendment. He considered the amendment utilised reserves based on assumptions and not evidence.

Councillor Thorn supported the amendment and the arguments Councillor Grant had set out.

Councillor Rogers stated the amendment was well intentioned, though he had some concerns about the impact on the reserves and would consider the debate carefully.

Amendment C Debate

The Chairman therefore opened debate on Amendment C.

Comments made in support of the amendment included that council reserves had previously been much lower, and the proposed reduction was supportable. It was argued that the use of Council Tax Relief to support communities during the cost of living crisis was a powerful and justified tool in the current circumstances. It was stated record numbers of people were accessing crisis support such as emergency charity grants and food banks, indicating the severity of the pressures many faced and the need for the amendment.

Comments made against the amendment included that the collection fund reserve existed because a 1% difference from a predicted collection amounted to over £3m, so the reserve was necessary to cover that or a more significant scenario. Any reduction of that reserve entailed a significant risk, and the council would need to take a swifter route to bring more monies in to account for that. The volatility of the economy in recent years due to Covid, Brexit, international war and other matters, was noted. Some comments stated there was sufficient funds allocated, the amendment had minimal impact and lacked a coherent plan.

Other comments in debate included seeking clarification of the £25 support element, and evidence that there would be a reduction in costs due to reduction in action taken against people for non-payment of council tax.

Councillor Grant, as mover of the amendment, then responded to comments made in debate. He noted the extensive discussion at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting, and stated that the amendment strengthened the relief fund, where there was no guarantee the government would continue to fund it. He reiterated the purpose of the amendment was to provide relief to those not currently receiving the 100% relief, not additional to those who were. Regarding reductions of actions against those who are unable to pay, he stated the council does take action against those who owe, and so extension of the 100% to more individuals would result in fewer actions, though the number could not be quantified.

Councillor Clewer, as mover of the original motion, then responded to the comments made in debate. He criticised use of reserves for one off measures, and stated the debate had indicated the costs did not add up as suggested. He did not consider the second element of the proposal was necessary, as if the relief fund was depleted in future action could be taken, rather than increase it without evidence when it was not required.

In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote.

Votes for the amendment (28)

Votes against the amendment (53)

Votes in abstention (5)

The vote was therefore lost. Details of the recorded vote are attached to the minutes.

Amendment D

Amendment D was set out in the Summons was withdrawn by Councillor Gavin Grant, following information from Citizen's Advice that they did not intend to remain in the Bourne Hill Wiltshire Council offices.

Amendment E

The Chairman then invited Councillor Gavin Grant, seconded by Councillor Ian Thorn, to present proposed Amendment E, as set out in the Summons.

Councillor Grant explained that the amendment was to remove the saving included in the budget to cease grant funding for lunch and friendship clubs and to allocate

the money to Area Boards to provide support to the clubs in their areas. This had a financial impact of £0.106m, which it was proposed to fund for 2023/24 through use of the Collection Fund Surplus and reduce the contribution to the Collection Fund Volatility Reserve. For 2024/25 and 2025/26 it was proposed to fund the amount through an increase in the assumption in growth in the council tax base from 1.2% to 1.25%, as also indicated for a previous amendment.

Councillor Grant noted Full Council had discussed the issue at its budget meeting in 2022 and had agreed to undertake a rapid scrutiny exercise in relation to the funding of the clubs. That had recommended carrying on with implementation of a new funding system, and Councillor Grant argued now was an appropriate time to review the impact of that, and whether action needed to be taken. He stated only two of the previous clubs had gone forward into the new system. He said the new tendering approach was designed more for professional care organisations than for volunteers who run the clubs. The funding was for those who qualify under the Care Act 2014, and he stated the clubs had helped people who did not qualify but still needed assistance. He stated the amendment would help maintain existing groups and encourage others. He referenced the Overview and Scrutiny report on the amendment, and stated if the amendment were passed it would be appropriate for the relevant Cabinet Member to consider the most appropriate method of allocating out the funding that would be made available to Area Boards.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders on Amendment E.

Councillor Clewer confirmed he did not support the amendment and would comment further at the end of debate.

Councillor Thorn supported the amendment, and stated that if a bad decision was made then it was appropriate to revisit it, and he considered that was the case with the lunch and friendship club funding.

Councillor Wright, in place of the Leader of the Independent Group as a personal comment, stated he did not think the principle adopted the previous year had worked. He stated he was in favour of doing more for voluntary groups through Area Boards.

Councillor Rogers stated the intention had not been to save money but to have a new system for groups to bid for monies, so would listen carefully to debate on how many clubs had benefited and how many had not under the new approach.

Amendment E Debate

The Chairman therefore opened debate on Amendment E.

Comments made in support of the amendment included that the new process was slow and ineffective, with the amendment an attempt not to reverse the policy but to find common ground to support the voluntary sector. It was argued Area Boards were in a better position to consider local issues and deliver in an appropriate fashion, and should be provided the means to do so in respect of any clubs in their areas.

Comments made against the amendment included that the funding mechanism was not appropriate, noting comments under previous amendments around the risks of reallocating from the collection fund reserve, and of estimating a larger increase in the council tax base against the estimation of officers. It was stated that the previous funding model for the clubs had not been fairly distributed, and the amendment did not improve upon the new model or provide long term benefit. Some areas had previously had clubs but no method to apply for such funding, whereas now all areas could apply through an open system, and that the amendment would not help in the way its supporters believed.

Other comments in debate included seeking clarification on the need for additional funding to be provided if, as stated by various parties, the previous decision had been to redirect funding not saving money. Another sought commitment from the Cabinet that there was opportunity to provide more support for clubs at Area Boards regardless of the outcome of the vote.

Councillor Grant, as mover of the amendment, then responded to comments made in debate. He noted the support provided to those with profound needs, but that the clubs in most cases were not designed to support the most vulnerable. In response to finances he stated officer advice was that the assumed increase in the council tax base through additional predicted houses was less than 100. He argued that level of precision was not possible, and the assumed increase was reasonable on the basis of previous years information. He stated the amendment was not an attempt to undo entirely the previous year's decision, that the new framework did important work and so money was not taken from that, but new funding was needed, but the clubs were voluntary organisations providing support to people who did not qualify as having profound needs. He considered Area Boards operated without politics and were well situated to make appropriate decisions to support voluntary organisations.

Councillor Clewer, as mover of the original motion, then responded to the comments made in debate. He considered the advice on the increase in council tax assumptions was an insurmountable problem and the amendment could not be supported on that basis. He noted that many of the clubs were self-sustaining and did not require council support, and that some were already able to seek support, and there was a lack of evidence supporting the need for the amendment.

In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote.

Votes for the amendment (28)

Votes against the amendment (53)

Votes in abstention (5)

The vote was therefore lost. Details of the recorded vote are attached to the minutes.

A break was then taken from 5.15pm to 5:30pm.

Budget debate

There being no further amendments, the Chairman returned to debate on the original budget motion moved by the Leader.

Comments in support of the budget included that it was ambitious but also formulated around a sound and solid structure within the Mid Term Financial Strategy. Some Members praised the financial discipline in the budget, which ensured good value to residents at a time of significant cost pressures. The investment in a number of areas, such as support for the vulnerable, planning and education was welcomed. It was also emphasised that rises in expenditure would sit alongside a transformational process with smarter working and greater customer engagement. Investment in early intervention work was highlighted, which was seen as an important way of improving services whilst also reducing long term costs.

Comments in opposition to the budget included that the below inflation rise in expenditure would lead to an overall real term cuts in services. Some Members felt that the budget lacked ambition and should have included more funding for Local Highway and Footway Improvement Groups and improved support for luncheon and friendship clubs. Concerns were also raised about the costs for elections being taken on by city, town and parish councils, with concerns about the potential impact, as well as the impact of ceasing funding to VisitWiltshire. Some Members stated that they felt that more powers should be devolved to Area Boards to give greater responsibility to Members and ensure that decision making was taken at the appropriate local level.

Other comments made in the debate included whether the council would be lobbying the Department for Transport to maintain or increase highways maintenance funding. Questions were asked whether there had been a decline in the take up of green bins and whether there had been an increase in fly tipping. In addition, queries were raised about the timeframe for the Trowbridge Leisure Facility Project and the delays to the Maltings development in Salisbury. Further discussion also took place about whether the council could make greater use of its unused building space, though renting or selling property. Comments were made that the proposed amendments which had been rejected had only amounted to a very small percentage of the overall budget.

Councillor Clewer, as mover of the original motion, then responded to the comments made in the debate. He stated the budget would provide financial stability for the next three years and contrasted the approach with the financial difficulties at other authorities and the approach proposed by those seeking amendments.

He reported that the council would lobby the Department for Transport for fair highway maintenance funding for rural authorities. He agreed with the principal of renting out unused council office space where appropriate. In response to a query about bins and fly tipping, the Leader noted that that fly tipping had reduced by around 30 percent. He highlighted that the delay to the Maltings development in Salisbury was due to the complexity of the project, as the council was not the landowner and that further planning was expected to take around a year. He also clarified that the Trowbridge Leisure Facility Project funding would be split over two years. The Leader praised the work of Area Boards but highlighted the importance of maintaining a strategic overview when taking decisions. In relation to

VisitWiltshire, he commented that the funding given to them for marketing purposes was not an effective use of public money. He noted that it was not a statutory responsibility to support destination management organisations and that the government was moving to a more regional model and that the council was exploring alternative options.

At the conclusion of debate and discussion, it was then,

Resolved:

- a) That a net general fund budget of 2023/24 of £465.874m is approved;
- b) That the Council Tax requirement for the council be set at £332.187m for 2023/24 with a Band D charge of £1,719.90, an increase of £1.57 per week;
- c) That the Wiltshire Council element of the Council Tax be increased in 2023/24 by the following:
 - i. a 2.99% general increase;
 - ii. plus a levy of 2% to be spent solely on Adult Social Care;
- d) That the Extended Leadership Team be required to meet the revenue budget targets for each service area as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, for the delivery of council services in 2023/24;
- e) That the Extended Leadership Team be required to deliver the revenue savings plans for each service area as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, over the three-year MTFs period 2023/24 to 2025/26;
- f) That the changes in the fees and charges as set out in the report are approved;
- g) That the Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2029/30 is approved;
- h) That the Capital Strategy set out in Appendix 2 is approved;
- i) That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2023/24 is set at £26.401m;
- j) That a 7% increase is set for social dwelling rents, except for rents currently over the formula rent which will be capped at formula rent as per national guidance;
- k) That all service charges related to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to cover costs and garage rents are increased by 5%;
- l) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the forecast balanced budget over the MTFs period 2023/24 to 2025/26 is endorsed.

In accordance with the constitution there were recorded votes:

Vote 1 – Resolutions A-H and L

Votes for the motion (48)
Votes against the motion (19)
Votes in abstention (11)

Vote 2 – Resolutions I, J and K

Votes for the motion (48)
Votes against the motion (22)
Votes in abstention (6)

Details of each recorded vote are attached to the minutes.

11 **Council Tax Setting 2023-24**

The Chairman invited Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning, to present a report on Council Tax Setting 2023-24 and move the recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Richard Clewer.

There were no comments from Group Leaders or in debate.

It was then:

Resolved:

- 1) **It be noted that on 7 December 2022 an Officer Decision was made by Andy Brown Corporate Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer).**
 - (a) **the Council Tax Base 2023/24 for the whole Wiltshire Council area as 193,142.94 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and,**
 - (b) **for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix.**
- 2) **Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding parish precepts) is £332,186,542.51**
- 3) **That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:**
 - (a) **£1,059,154,347.79 (Gross Revenue Expenditure including transfers to reserves, parish precepts and any collection fund deficit) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils).**

- (b) **£696,896,854.49** (Gross Revenue Income including transfers from reserves, General Government Grants and any collection fund surplus) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) **£362,257,493.30** (Net Revenue Expenditure including parish precepts) being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
- (d) **£1,875.59** (Wiltshire Council band D tax plus average Town & Parish Councils Band D Council Tax) being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts), as shown below:

Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
1,250.39	1,458.79	1,667.19	1,875.59	2,292.39	2,709.19	3,125.98	3,751.18

- (e) **£30,070,950.79** (Aggregate of Town & Parish Council Precepts) being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C).
- (f) **A£1,719.90** (band D Council Tax for Wiltshire Council purposes only) being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates, as shown below:

Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
1,146.60	1,337.70	1,528.80	1,719.90	2,102.10	2,484.30	2,866.50	3,439.80

In accordance with the Constitution there was a recorded vote.

Votes for the motion (73)

Votes against the motion (1)

Votes in abstention (4)

Details of the vote are attached to the minutes.

12 **Pay Policy Statement 2023/24**

The Chairman invited Councillor Ashley O'Neill, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Staffing, to present the report which provided an update on the pay policy statement for 2023/24.

This included consequential amendments to the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24, as a result of discussions with the council's recognised trade unions, the updated figures in the now approved budget and with the final details to be delegated to officers.

Councillor O'Neill moved the recommendations in the report and consequential amendments, which were seconded by Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling.

There were no comments from Group Leaders, or further debate.

It was then,

Resolved:

- 1) **That Council Approve the updated pay policy statement set out in Appendix 1;**
- 2) **Full Council agrees that consequential amendments to the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 about unsocial hours, and standby and callout allowances and the Budget are delegated to the Director HR & OD in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Governance, IT, Broadband, Digital, Licensing, Staffing, Communities, and Area Boards.**

In accordance with the Constitution there was a recorded vote.

Votes for the motion (71)

Votes against the motion (0)

Votes in abstention (2)

Details of the vote are attached to the minutes.

13 **Cabinet Capital Recommendations 2022/23 Financial Year**

Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Nick Holder. Councillor Botterill outlined the three recommendations by Cabinet for additional increases to the Capital programme for 2022/23 as listed in the report equating to a total of £2.864 million.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, explained the decision to withdraw from the Chippenham Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) programme and moving forward with the Local Plan process. He stated that decisions of future housing need in Chippenham would be evidence driven.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, welcomed the planned refurbishment of the Family Contact Centre in Chippenham, but stated he did not support the other recommendations. He said he hoped that the £1.848 million from the balance forecast due to the withdrawal from the HIF programme could be recovered.

The Chairman then invited comments in debate:

Comments in debate in support of the proposals included welcoming the investment in the Capital programme as a way forward, as well as a recognition of the issues with the HIF bid. It was also stated that people in Chippenham were not against all housing developments.

Comments in debate in opposition to the proposals included frustration that they felt that the £1.848 million from the balance forecast had been allocated rather than on other services, and views on perceived lack of engagement with residents on the Future Chippenham programme.

At the conclusion of the debate, it was then:

Resolved

- 1) To approve an increase in the Capital Enhancement budget of £0.516m to enable the refurbishment of an existing Family Contact Centre to be funded by increased Capital Receipts.**
- 2) To approve a sum of £1.848m to be funded by future Capital Receipts to cover the unfinanced costs of the Future Chippenham programme as a result of the withdrawal of HIF grant.**
- 3) To approve a sum of £0.500m to be included in the Capital Programme 2023/24 to support the necessary work with the landowners to the South of Chippenham to masterplan and promote the sites as part of the Local Plan review.**

In accordance with the Constitution there was a recorded vote.

Votes for the motion (52)

Votes against the motion (17)

Votes in abstention (5)

Details of the vote are attached to the minutes

14 Notices of Motion

No notices of motion were received for the meeting.

15 Designation of Statutory Functions

The Chairman invited Councillor Ashley O'Neill, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Governance, to present the report which asked Council to consider changes to the designation of statutory roles following changes to senior management structure of the council.

Councillor O'Neill moved the proposals as detailed in the report, which were seconded by Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council.

Councillor O'Neill noted that the positions of Director for Wholelife Pathway and Director of Ageing and Living Well had been removed and had been replaced by a new position called Director of Adult Social Care, and a re-designation of the statutory post was therefore required.

There were no comments from Group Leaders or in debate.

It was then,

Resolved:

- 1) **To approve the designation of statutory role of Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) to the post of Director of Adult Social Care.**
- 2) **To note that other designated statutory roles are unchanged as a result of the restructure and remain with existing posts:**
 - i. **Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer (RO) and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) with the post of Chief Executive**
 - ii. **Section 151 with the post of Corporate Director - Resources / Deputy Chief Executive**
 - iii. **Director of Children's Services (DCS) with the post of Corporate Director – People**
 - iv. **Director of Public Health (DPH) with the post of Director of Public Health**
 - v. **Monitoring Officer with the post of Director of Legal and Governance**
- 3) **To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential changes to the Constitution arising from the designation of the statutory function outlined above.**

16 **Review of Proportionality and Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups**

The Chairman presented a report on the review of the allocation of seats on committees to political groups. He then invited proposals from Group Leaders about changes to their respective groups' committee representation.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by the Vice Chairman, it was then:

Resolved:

- 1) **To note the report and the legal requirements;**
- 2) **To confirm the aggregate number and the draft scheme of committee places available to members of the Council as set out in Appendix B;**

3) To make those changes to the appointment of councillors and substitutes to serve on those committees in accordance with the revised scheme of committee places, until the next occasion membership is reviewed under the provisions of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, as follows:

- Councillor Pip Ridout to be removed as a member of the Licensing Committee;
- Councillor Bill Parks to be removed as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee;
- Councillor Pip Ridout to be appointed as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee;
- Councillor Jonathan Seed to be appointed as a substitute for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee;
- Councillors Bill Parks and Rich Rogers to be removed as a members of the Environment Select Committee;
- Councillors Tom Rounds and Tony Trotman to be appointed as Members of the Environment Select Committee;
- Councillors Bridget Wayman, Stuart Wheeler, Dr Mark McClelland to be appointed as substitutes for the Environment Select Committee;
- Councillor Sam Charleston to be appointed as a member of the Licensing Committee;
- Councillor Sam Charleston to be appointed as a substitute on Southern Area Planning Committee;
- Councillor Mel Jacob to be removed from the Appeals Committee;
- Councillor Sam Charleston to be appointed to the Appeals Committee.

Council also resolved to replace a member on the Children's Select Committee, but following the meeting it was confirmed that the member in question was not currently on the committee.

17 **Announcements from Cabinet and Committees**

There were no announcements from Cabinet Members , Committee Chairmen, or on other matters.

18 **Members' Questions**

A total of three questions were received from Members, as set out in Supplement 1 to the agenda, together with written responses.

One supplementary question was submitted by Councillor Dr Brian Mathew in relation to question 23-02. Councillor Mathew asked whether the evidence and implications of not providing further funding VisitWiltshire had been taken into account.

In response Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, explained that he had considered evidence carefully before making a decision. He stated that the

Department of Culture, Media and Sport was moving to support Destination Management Zones in future, which he felt was an appropriate way forward.

19 **Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for 16 May 2023.

Appendices

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 7.05 pm)

The Officers who produced these minutes are Ellen Ghey, Matthew Hitch, Max Hirst, and Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, e-mail tara.hunt@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line 01225 713114 or email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk

Full Council Meeting - 21 February 2023 - Members Attendance

Councillor Name	Time In	Time Out (Meeting close - 19:05)
Phil Alford	10:30	Meeting close
Liz Alstrom	10:30	Meeting close
Helen Belcher OBE	10:30	Meeting close
Chuck Berry	10:30	Meeting close
Ian Blair-Pilling	10:30	Meeting close
Nick Botterill	10:30	Meeting close
David Bowler	10:30	Meeting close
Richard Britton	10:30	Meeting close
Allison Bucknell	10:30	Meeting close
Steve Bucknell	10:30	Meeting close
Clare Cape	10:30	Meeting close
Trevor Carbin	10:30	Meeting close
Daniel Cave	10:30	Meeting close
Mary Champion	10:30	Meeting close
Pauline Church	10:30	Meeting close
Ernie Clark	10:30	14.00
Richard Clewer	10:30	Meeting close
Zoë Clewer	10:30	Meeting close
Mark Connolly	10:30	Meeting close
Caroline Corbin	10:30	Meeting close
Kevin Daley	10:30	Meeting close
Brian Dalton	10:30	Meeting close
Jane Davies	10:30	Meeting close
Andrew Davis	10:30	Meeting close
Matthew Dean	10:30	Meeting close
Dr Monica Devendran	10:30	17.55
Nick Errington	10:30	Meeting close
Adrian Foster	10:30	Meeting close
Sarah Gibson	10:30	17.20
Gavin Grant	10:30	Meeting close
Howard Greenman	10:30	Meeting close
Ross Henning	10:30	Meeting close
Sven Hocking	10:30	Meeting close
Nick Holder	10:30	Meeting close
Ruth Hopkinson	10:30	Meeting close
Jon Hubbard	10:30	Meeting close
Peter Hutton	10:30	14.00
Tony Jackson	Apologies	Apologies
Mel Jacob	10:30	18.45
Simon Jacobs	10:30	Meeting close
George Jeans	10:30	18.45
Bob Jones MBE	10:30	16.30
Johnny Kidney	10:30	16.30

Carole King	10:30	Meeting close
Gordon King	10:30	Meeting close
Edward Kirk	10:30	18.10
Jerry Kunkler	10:30	Meeting close
Jacqui Lay	10:30	Meeting close
Kathryn MacDermid	10:30	Meeting close
Dr Brian Mathew	10:30	Meeting close
Laura Mayes	10:30	Meeting close
Dr Mark McClelland	10:30	Meeting close
Charles McGrath	10:30	Meeting close
Ian McLennan	10:30	Meeting close
Dominic Muns	10:30	Meeting close
Dr Nick Murry	10:30	14.00
Nabil Najjar	10:30	Meeting close
Kelvin Nash	10:30	Meeting close
Christopher Newbury	10:30	18.45
Ashley O'Neill	10:30	Meeting close
Jack Oatley	10:30	18.10
Paul Oatway QPM	10:30	Meeting close
Andrew Oliver	Apologies	Apologies
Stewart Palmen	10:30	18.45
Bill Parks	10:30	Meeting close
Sam Pearce-Kearney	Apologies	Apologies
Antonio Piazza	10:30	18.10
Tony Pickernell	10:30	Meeting close
Horace Prickett	10:30	18.30
Nic Puntis	10:30	Meeting close
Tamara Reay	10:30	Meeting close
Pip Ridout	10:30	Meeting close
Rich Rogers	10:30	Meeting close
Ricky Rogers	10:30	Meeting close
Tom Rounds	10:30	Meeting close
Paul Sample JP	10:30	Meeting close
Mike Sankey	10:30	Meeting close
Jonathon Seed	10:30	Meeting close
James Sheppard	10:30	Meeting close
Martin Smith	10:30	Meeting close
Caroline Thomas	10:30	Meeting close
Ian Thorn	10:30	Meeting close
Elizabeth Threlfall	10:30	Meeting close
Jo Trigg	10:30	Meeting close
Tim Trimble	10:30	18.40
Tony Trotman	10:30	Meeting close
Mark Verbinnen	10:30	Meeting close
David Vigar	10:30	18.15
Iain Wallis	10:30	Meeting close

Derek Walters	10:30	18.45
Bridget Wayman	10:30	Meeting close
Stuart Wheeler	10:30	Meeting close
Philip Whitehead	10:30	Meeting close
Suzanne Wickham	10:30	Meeting close
Christopher Williams	10:30	Meeting close
Graham Wright	10:30	17.55
Robert Yuill	Apologies	Apologies

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Recorded Votes – Council – 21 February 2023

Treasury Management Strategy

Resolution status:  Carried

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Sarah Gibson, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Dr Nick Murry, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Jack Oatley, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tim Trimble, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr David Vigar, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Derek Walters, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Graham Wright	86
Against	None	0
Abstain	None	0

Item: Budget 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 - 2025/26

Amendment A

Amendment status:  Rejected

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Sarah Gibson, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Jack Oatley, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tim Trimble, Cllr David Vigar, Cllr Derek Walters and Cllr Graham Wright	29
Against	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham and Cllr Christopher Williams	51
Abstain	Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Jacqui Lay and Cllr Stuart Wheeler	3

Amendment B:

Amendment status:  Rejected

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Sarah Gibson, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tim Trimble, Cllr David Vigar and Cllr Derek Walters	28
Against	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Jack Oatley, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham and Cllr Christopher Williams	50
Abstain	Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr James Sheppard and Cllr Graham Wright	7

Amendment C:

Amendment status:  Rejected

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Sarah Gibson, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tim Trimble, Cllr David Vigar and Cllr Derek Walters	28
Against	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Jack Oatley, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham and Cllr Christopher Williams	53
Abstain	Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr James Sheppard, Cllr Stuart Wheeler and Cllr Graham Wright	5

Amendment E:

Amendment status:  Rejected

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tim Trimble, Cllr David Vigar and Cllr Derek Walters	28
Against	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Jack Oatley, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham and Cllr Christopher Williams	53
Abstain	Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr James Sheppard, Cllr Stuart Wheeler and Cllr Graham Wright	5

Budget Vote 1:

Resolution status:  Carried

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham and Cllr Christopher Williams	48
Against	Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Jo Trigg and Cllr Derek Walters	19
Abstain	Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr James Sheppard and Cllr Stuart Wheeler	11

Budget Vote 2:

Resolution status:  Carried

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham and Cllr Christopher Williams	48
Against	Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Jo Trigg and Cllr Derek Walters	22
Abstain	Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr James Sheppard and Cllr Stuart Wheeler	6

Council Tax Setting 2023-24

Resolution status:  Carried

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Derek Walters, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham and Cllr Christopher Williams	73
Against	Cllr Caroline Corbin	1
Abstain	Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr James Sheppard and Cllr Stuart Wheeler	4

Pay Policy Statement 2023/24

Resolution status:  Carried

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion,	71

Vote	Councillors	Count
	Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham and Cllr Christopher Williams	
Against	None	0
Abstain	Cllr Mike Sankey and Cllr James Sheppard	2

Cabinet Capital Recommendations 2022/23 Financial Year

Resolution status:  Carried

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham and Cllr Christopher Williams	52
Against	Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Ian Thorn and Cllr Jo Trigg	17
Abstain	Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr James Sheppard and Cllr Stuart Wheeler	5

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