

Council Assembly

(Budget and Council Tax Setting Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Budget and Council Tax Setting Meeting) held on Wednesday 22 February 2017 at 7.00 pm at

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2016/17, Councillor Kath Whittam (Chair)

Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor James Barber
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor James Coldwell
Councillor Fiona Colley
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Catherine Dale
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Nick Dolezal
Councillor Karl Eastham
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Paul Fleming
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor David Hubber
Councillor Peter John OBE
Councillor Ben Johnson
Councillor Samantha Jury-Dada
Councillor Eleanor Kerslake
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Anne Kirby
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Octavia Lamb
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE

Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Vijay Luthra
Councillor Jane Lyons
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Jamille Mohammed
Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Dan Whitehead
Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor announced the death of Danny McCarthy, twice mayor of Southwark, and members of each political party gave tribute to him. A one-minute silence was observed in his memory.

1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

At this juncture the meeting agreed the programme motion.

RESOLVED:

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

| Time | Business |
|------------------|---|
| 7.00pm – 7.15pm | 1. Preliminary business and announcements |
| 7.15pm – 10.00pm | Item 2.1 Policy and Resources Strategy 1. Consideration of this item is not time limited but the meeting is subject to the guillotine. 2. Debate to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions on reports• Councillor Fiona Colley to present recommendations (10 minutes)• Councillor Hamish McCallum to reply on behalf of opposition (5 minutes)• Four amendments to be moved and seconded• Report and Amendments to be debated as a single debate (All speakers 3 minutes each)• Reply to the debate from Councillor Fiona Colley (3 minutes)• Separate vote on each Amendment• Recorded vote on substantive motion. Members can only speak once, except for Councillor Fiona Colley (cabinet member for finance, modernisation and performance), who will reply to the single debate. |
| | Item 2.2 Treasury Management Strategy To be considered as normal |
| | Item 3.1 Setting the Council Tax |

| | |
|--|--|
| | To be considered as normal but with the legal requirement to take a recorded vote on the substantive motion. |
| | Item 3.2 Constitutional Changes |
| | To be considered as normal |

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

The mayor announced that all councillors had been granted a dispensation by the monitoring officer to vote on Item 3.1: Setting the council tax 2017/18.

There were none.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maisie Anderson (absent on maternity leave), Helen Dennis, Lucas Green and Eliza Mann. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor James Okosun.

1.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 30 November 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

2. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET

2.1 POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2017/18 - 2019/20 REVENUE BUDGET

(See pages 16 - 150 of the main agenda)

The Mayor informed the meeting that the Greater London Authority (GLA) had met earlier in the week and agreed the precept for Southwark, therefore the proposed GLA precept outlined in the report was correct.

There were two questions on the report, the written responses to which were circulated on blue paper at the meeting. There were two supplemental questions.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14.9, Councillor Fiona Colley, cabinet member for finance, modernisation and performance, moved the report.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14.9, Councillor Hamish McCallum, the shadow cabinet member for finance, responded to the cabinet member's statement.

Councillor Catherine Rose, seconded by Councillor Evelyn Akoto, moved Amendment A.

Councillor Michael Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Jane Lyons, moved Amendment B.

Councillor Rosie Shimell, seconded by Councillor Ben Johnson, moved Amendment C.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor James Okosun, moved Amendment D.

Following debate (Councillors Mark Williams, Richard Livingstone, Vicky Mills, Damian O'Brien, Johnson Situ, Karl Eastham, Dan Whitehead, Kieron Williams, Gavin Edwards, Maria Linforth-Hall, Ian Wingfield, Bill Williams, David Noakes, Jasmine Ali, Andy Simmons, Adele Morris, Barrie Hargrove, Eleanor Kerslake, Peter John, Rebecca Lury, Paul Fleming, David Hubber, Stephanie Cryan, Sunny Lambe, James Hartley, Nick Dolezal, Tom Flynn, Charlie Smith), Councillor Fiona Colley exercised her right of reply.

Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be carried

Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be lost

Amendment C was put to the vote and declared to be lost

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be lost

At this juncture the clerk explained that the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, which had come into force on 25 February 2014, required a recorded vote on key budget decisions by local authorities. The regulations required a recorded vote on decisions only. Therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.16(4) (a roll call recorded vote), the bell was rung at the beginning and end of one minute, after which the doors to the room were closed.

The substantive motion was put to the vote, and the votes having been recorded, the Mayor declared the result as follows:

In favour of the substantive motion (45):

Councillors Evelyn Akoto, Jasmine Ali, Radha Burgess, Sunil Chopra, James Coldwell, Fiona Colley, Stephanie Cryan, Catherine Dale, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Nick Dolezal, Karl Eastham, Gavin Edwards, Paul Fleming, Tom Flynn, Renata Hamvas, Barrie Hargrove, Jon Hartley, Peter John, Samantha Jury-Dada, Eleanor Kerslake, Sarah King, Anne Kirby, Octavia Lamb, Sunny Lambe, Lorraine Lauder, Richard Livingstone, Rebecca Lury, Vijay Luthra, Darren Merrill, Victoria Mills, Jamille Mohammed, Leo Pollak, Sandra Rhule, Catherine Rose, Martin Seaton, Andy Simmons, Johnson Situ, Michael Situ, Charlie Smith, Cleo Soanes, Kath Whittam, Bill Williams, Kieron Williams, Mark Williams and Ian Wingfield.

Against the substantive motion (14):

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, James Barber, David Hubber, Ben Johnson, Maria Linforth-Hall, Jane Lyons, Hamish McCallum, Michael Mitchell, Adele Morris, David Noakes, Damian O'Brien, James Okosun, Rosie Shimell and Dan Whitehead.

Absent (4)

Councillors Maisie Anderson, Helen Dennis, Lucas Green and Eliza Mann.

The Mayor declared that the substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

That council assembly:

1. Agreed to increase the Southwark element of the council tax for 2017-18 by 1.99%.
2. Agreed to use the flexibility offered by the government to support Adult Social Care through a precept equivalent to 3% of council tax on the basis that these additional funds will be used exclusively for adult social care.
3. Agreed the recommendations of the 7 February 2017 cabinet for a general fund budget requirement (after specific grants and use of reserves) for 2017-18 of £274.3m.

School funding

4. Council assembly welcomed the contribution from Schools Forum from the Dedicated Schools Grant to fund the shortfall in Education Support Grant (ESG) services in 2017/18, but notes its concern about the ending of ESG, which funds the important work that the council's school improvement team undertakes working with local schools.
5. Council assembly noted that this change comes alongside a proposed new national funding formula, which will have a damaging and disproportionate impact on schools in Southwark by reducing funding by 2.7%, alongside existing additional budget pressures.
6. Council assembly believed that at a time when some schools in Southwark could be losing £1,000 per pupil in funding, it is more important than ever that the council is able to continue supporting schools to improve opportunities for Southwark children.
7. Council assembly called on the cabinet to work with schools in Southwark to protect school improvement, continue to encourage school-to-school support and increase collaboration within the Southwark family of schools.
8. Council assembly also called on councillors to support the Southwark campaign for fair funding, and to work with schools, parents and other London boroughs to campaign against cuts to funding for London schools.

Note: The cabinet recommendation had been amended, therefore in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (g), the leader gave his consent to the amendment and the decision was implementable with immediate effect.

2.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017/18 INCLUDING ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT

(See pages 151 - 170 of the main agenda)

Councillor Fiona Colley, cabinet member for finance, modernisation and performance, introduced the report and thanked the finance officers who had prepared the budget reports.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That council assembly:

1. Agreed the 2017-18 treasury management strategy which is to be managed by the strategic director of finance and governance under financial delegation.
2. Noted the treasury management policy set out in paragraph 9 of the report.
3. Agreed the annual investment strategy 2017-18 referred to in paragraphs 16 to 17 of the report and set out at Appendix A to the report.
4. Agreed the prudential indicators covering capital finance and treasury management for the years 2017-18 to 2019-20 referred to in paragraph 30 of the report and set out at Appendix B to the report.
5. Agreed the minimum revenue provision statement, setting aside prudent sums to reduce debt and long term liabilities referred to in paragraphs 31 to 35 of the report and set out at Appendix C to the report.

3. OTHER REPORTS

3.1 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2017-18

(See pages 171 - 182 of the main agenda)

The Mayor informed the meeting that the Greater London Authority (GLA) had met earlier in the week and agreed the precept for Southwark, therefore the proposed GLA precept outlined in the report was correct.

At this juncture the clerk explained that as council assembly had agreed the level of council tax for 2017-18, as set out in the cabinet's recommendation as amended by Amendment B and as agreed in the resolution in item 2.1, council assembly was now required to formally agree the council tax resolution in line with the decisions of item 2.1.

The clerk then reminded the meeting that the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, which had come into force on 25 February 2014, required a recorded vote on key budget decisions by local authorities. The regulations required a recorded vote on decisions only. Therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.16.4 (a roll call recorded vote), the bell was rung at the beginning and end of one minute, after which the doors to the room were closed

The substantive motion was put to the vote, and the votes having been recorded, the Mayor declared the result as follows:

In favour of the substantive motion (45):

Councillors Evelyn Akoto, Jasmine Ali, Radha Burgess, Sunil Chopra, James Coldwell, Fiona Colley, Stephanie Cryan, Catherine Dale, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Nick Dolezal, Karl Eastham, Gavin Edwards, Paul Fleming, Tom Flynn, Renata Hamvas, Barrie Hargrove, Jon Hartley, Peter John, Samantha Jury-Dada, Eleanor Kerslake, Sarah King, Anne Kirby, Octavia Lamb, Sunny Lambe, Lorraine Lauder, Richard Livingstone, Rebecca Lury, Vijay Luthra, Darren Merrill, Victoria Mills, Jamille Mohammed, Leo Pollak, Sandra Rhule, Catherine Rose, Martin Seaton, Andy Simmons, Johnson Situ, Michael Situ, Charlie Smith, Cleo Soanes, Kath Whittam, Bill Williams, Kieron Williams, Mark Williams and Ian Wingfield.

Against the substantive motion (14):

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, James Barber, David Hubber, Ben Johnson, Maria Linforth-Hall, Jane Lyons, Hamish McCallum, Michael Mitchell, Adele Morris, David Noakes, Damian O'Brien, James Okosun, Rosie Shimell and Dan Whitehead.

Absent (4)

Councillors Maisie Anderson, Helen Dennis, Lucas Green and Eliza Mann.

The Mayor declared that the substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the proposed Greater London Authority precept of £280.02 at Band D.
2. That the existing local war disability and war widow/ers' schemes for housing benefit be continued in 2017-18.
3. That the Southwark element of the council tax for band D properties in Southwark, including an increase of 1.99% and the adult social care precept of 3%, be set at £976.80.
4. That no discount be applied to properties in the former parish of St Mary Newington.
5. That no discount be applied to properties in the former parish of St Saviours.
6. That the council tax for all band D properties in Southwark be set at £1,256.82.
7. That the formal resolution for council taxes in 2017-18 (shown in Appendix A to the report) be approved.

4. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES 2016/2017 INCLUDING VOLUNTARY BODIES APPOINTMENTS PANEL (APPOINTMENTS TO SECONDARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES)

(See pages 183 - 191 of the main agenda)

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed changes to the constitution be agreed (see Appendix 1 to the report).

Consequential changes

2. That the proper constitutional officer be authorised to make any necessary consequential changes to the constitution as a result of the above.

5. AMENDMENTS

Amendments are set out in supplemental agenda no. 2.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: