

Council Assembly

Budget and Council Tax Setting Meeting

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Budget and Council Tax Setting Meeting) held on Wednesday 27 February 2019 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2009-10, Councillor Catherine Rose (Chair)

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Humaira Ali	Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Peter Babudu	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Maggie Browning	Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Jack Buck	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Radha Burgess	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Victor Chamberlain	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor James Coldwell	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Helen Dennis	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Karl Eastham	Councillor Victoria Olisa
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Paul Fleming	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Tom Flynn	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor William Houngho	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Peter John OBE	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Nick Johnson	Councillor Leanne Werner
Councillor Eleanor Kerlake	Councillor Dan Whitehead
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Sunny Lambe	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE	Councillor Ian Wingfield

Councillor Richard Leeming

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

The Mayor offered her congratulations to Councillor Bill Williams on his marriage, to Councillor James Coldwell on his engagement, and to Duncan Whitfield, the strategic director of finance and governance, on a significant birthday.

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

At this juncture the meeting agreed the programme motion.

RESOLVED:

The timings for the evening will be as follows:

Time	Business
7.00pm – 7.15pm	1. Preliminary business and announcements
7.15pm – 10.00pm	Item 2.1 Policy and Resources Strategy 2019-20 - Revenue Budget 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">• Seven questions on reports• Councillor Vicky Mills to present recommendations (10 minutes)• Councillor Jane Salmon to reply on behalf of opposition (5 minutes)• Three 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 Vicky Mills (3 minutes)• Separate vote on each amendment• Recorded vote on substantive motion. Members can only speak once, except for Councillor Vicky Mills (cabinet member for finance, performance and Brexit), who will reply to the single debate. 3. Amendment A to be titled " Police officers not press officers ".

	4. Amendment B to be titled " A roof over every head ".
	<p>Item 2.2 Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20</p> <p>To be considered as normal.</p>
	<p>Item 2.3 Setting the Council Tax 2019-20</p> <p>Recommendation 2 to be amended to refer to Appendix A rather than Appendix B.</p> <p>If Amendment C to item 2.1 is carried, Appendix A will be amended to reflect this:</p> <p>3 a) to read "£988,781,353" instead of "£988,521,353" 3 b) to read "-£878,249,672" instead of "-£877,989,672".</p> <p>This report has a legal requirement to take a recorded vote on the substantive motion.</p>
	<p>Item 2.4 Capital Programme Refresh for 2018-19 to 2027-28</p> <p>Recommendation 3 to be amended to refer to £1,305m rather than £2,100m.</p> <p>To be considered as normal.</p>

Item 2 Reports for decision

Each report to have a single debate, subject to the guillotine.

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 2.3: Setting the council tax 2019-20.

There were no further disclosures of interest.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bill Williams.

1.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the council assembly meeting held on 28 November 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

2. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET

2.1 POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2019-20 - REVENUE BUDGET

(See pages 22 - 142 of the main agenda)

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

There were three amendments to this report.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14.9, Councillor Vicky Mills, cabinet member for finance, performance and Brexit, moved the report.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14.9, Councillor Jane Salmon responded to the cabinet member's statement.

Councillor William Hougbo, seconded by Councillor David Noakes, moved Amendment A.

Councillor Victor Chamberlain, seconded by Councillor Hamish McCallum, moved Amendment B.

Councillor Andy Simmons, seconded by Councillor Kath Whittam, moved Amendment C.

Following debate (Councillors Maggie Browning, Leo Pollak, Dan Whitehead, Jasmine Ali, Eliza Mann, Kieron Williams, Peter John, Graham Neale, Richard Livingstone, Johnson Situ, Maria Linforth-Hall, Rebecca Lury, Jack Buck, Damian O'Brien, Stephanie Cryan, Evelyn Akoto, Humaira Ali, Sunny Lambe, Gavin Edwards, (Graham Neale made a point of personal explanation), Adele Morris, Charlie Smith, Paul Fleming, Nick Johnson, Anood Al-Samerai), Councillor Vicky Mills exercised her right of reply.

Amendment A – Lost

Amendment B – Lost

Amendment C – Carried

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 (48):

Councillors Evelyn Akoto, Jasmine Ali, Peter Babudu, Maggie Browning, Jack Buck,

Radha Burgess, Sunil Chopra, James Coldwell, Stephanie Cryan, Helen Dennis, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Nick Dolezal, Karl Eastham, Gavin Edwards, Paul Fleming, Tom Flynn, Renata Hamvas, Barrie Hargrove, Jon Hartley, Sirajul Islam, Peter John, Eleanor Kerlake, Sarah King, Sunny Lambe, Lorraine Lauder, Richard Leeming, Richard Livingstone, Rebecca Lury, Alice Macdonald, James McAsh, Darren Merrill, Vicky Mills, Margy Newens, Jason Ochere, Victoria Olisa, Leo Pollak, Sandra Rhule, Catherine Rose, Martin Seaton, Andy Simmons, Johnson Situ, Michael Situ, Charlie Smith, Cleo Soanes, Leanne Werner, Kath Whittam, Kieron Williams and Ian Wingfield.

Abstained (14):

Councillors Humaira Ali, Anood Al-Samerai, Victor Chamberlain, William Hougbo, Nick Johnson, Maria Linforth-Hall, Eliza Mann, Hamish McCallum, Adele Morris, Graham Neale, David Noakes, Damian O'Brien, Jane Salmon and Dan Whitehead.

Absent (1)

Councillor Bill Williams

The Mayor declared that the substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

That council assembly:

1. Agrees to increase the Southwark element of the council tax for 2019-20 by 2.99%.
2. Agrees the recommendations of the 5 February 2019 cabinet for a general fund budget requirement (after specific grants and use of reserves) for 2019-20 of £290.424m.

Police and the Night Time Economy

3. Council assembly notes the crucial role that police officers across the borough play in preventing, detecting and responding to crime.
4. Council assembly notes the Night Time Economy team's contribution to this work, and the benefits for local residents of having police officers visibly patrolling, supporting council enforcement, assisting local businesses with issues including rough sleeping and illegal trading, and providing counter terrorism advice.
5. Council assembly notes the Night Time Economy team is currently made up of one Sergeant and five PCs, and that at present this team is part funded by the council, part funded by the police through the Met Patrol Plus scheme and part funded by the Team London Bridge Business Improvement District (BID).
6. Council assembly notes that the Met Patrol Plus scheme will not be continuing in its present form, and is likely to cease altogether. Without the contribution of the Met Patrol Plus scheme, there is a funding shortfall of £205,000 in the Night Time Economy team.

7. Council assembly believes that if the number of police officers working in the Night Time Economy team were to decrease this would have a significant negative impact on local residents and businesses.
8. Council assembly therefore resolves to commit £205,000 to the Night Time Economy team in order to maintain the current levels of policing.

Local intelligence analyst

9. Council assembly notes that despite the work of the council, the police and local organisations and communities, crime and youth violence continue to be serious issues in Southwark.
10. Council assembly notes that these issues are not unique to Southwark and that youth violence and crime are issues across the whole of London.
11. Council assembly believes that a local intelligence analyst would add to the council's and police's work to tackle crime and youth violence. A local intelligence analyst would add vital capacity to the identification of trends and key areas of concern, look at comparisons with other similar areas and neighbouring boroughs, and provide victim and suspect profiles to identify both those who may be at risk of being a victim of crime and those who may be at risk of being drawn into criminal activities.
12. Council assembly therefore resolves to invest £55,000 in a local intelligence analyst to support the work of the council in preventing and tackling crime.

Fees and Charges

13. Council assembly notes that updated fees and charges schedules for 2019-20 were agreed by cabinet on 5 February 2019, bringing Southwark's fees and charges in line with London averages.
14. Council assembly resolves to make rigorous efforts to collect fees and charges notices in full, to make a saving of £260,000.
15. Council assembly therefore amends the budget as follows:

Implications for the 2019/20 budget

Item	Budget Impact (£)
Police officers	205,000
Local intelligence analyst	55,000
Fees and charges collection	-260,000
Balance	0

2.2 CAPITAL STRATEGY AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019-20

(See pages 143-174 of the agenda)

Councillor Vicky Mills, cabinet member for finance, performance and Brexit, 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 approved:

1. The proposed Capital Strategy 2019-20 as Appendix A of the report
2. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019-20 as Appendix B of the report
3. The Investment Management Strategy 2019-20 as Appendix C of the report
4. The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2019-20 as Appendix D of the report
5. The Prudential Indicators for 2019-2021 as Appendix E of the report.

2.3 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2019-20

(See pages 175-186 of the agenda)

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 (62):

Councillors Evelyn Akoto, Humaira Ali, Jasmine Ali, Anood Al-Samerai, Peter Babudu, Maggie Browning, Jack Buck, Radha Burgess, Victor Chamberlain, Sunil Chopra, James Coldwell, Stephanie Cryan, Helen Dennis, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Nick Dolezal, Karl Eastham, Gavin Edwards, Paul Fleming, Tom Flynn, Renata Hamvas, Barrie Hargrove, Jon Hartley, William Hounbo, Sirajul Islam, Peter John, Nick Johnson, Eleanor Kerlake, Sarah King, Sunny Lambe, Lorraine Lauder, Maria Linforth-Hall, Richard Leeming, Richard Livingstone, Rebecca Lury, Alice Macdonald, Eliza Mann, James McAsh, Hamish McCallum, Darren Merrill, Vicky Mills, Adele Morris, Graham Neale, Margy Newens, David Noakes, Damian O'Brien, Jason Ochere, Victoria Olisa, Leo Pollak, Sandra Rhule, Catherine Rose, Jane Salmon, Martin Seaton, Andy Simmons, Johnson Situ, Michael Situ, Charlie Smith, Cleo Soanes, Leanne Werner, Dan Whitehead, Kath Whittam, Kieron Williams and Ian Wingfield.

Absent (1)

Councillor Bill Williams

The Mayor declared that the substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the 2019-20 Southwark element of the council tax for band D properties in Southwark, including an increase of 2.99% be set at **£1,066.27**.
2. That the formal resolution for Southwark council taxes in 2019-20 (shown in Appendix A of the report) be approved.
3. That no discount be applied to properties in the former parish of St Mary Newington for 2019-20.
4. That no discount be applied to properties in the former parish of St Saviour's for 2019-20.
5. That council assembly notes the Greater London Authority (GLA) proposal to set a precept level of **£320.51** at Band D, which the GLA considered on 25 February 2019.
6. That the existing local war disability and war widow/ers' schemes for housing benefit be continued in 2019-20.

Note: As contained within the programme motion, Appendix A to the report be amended as below:

3 a) to read "£988,781,353" instead of "£988,521,353"

3 b) to read "-£878,249,672" instead of "-£877,989,672".

2.4 CAPITAL PROGRAMME REFRESH FOR 2018-19 TO 2027-28

(See pages 187-217 of the agenda)

Councillor Vicky Mills, cabinet member for finance, performance and Brexit, introduced the report.

After debate (Councillor Richard Livingstone), the recommendations contained within the report and updated in the programme motion were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That council assembly:

3. Agree the recommendations of the 5 February 2019 cabinet for a refreshed general fund capital programme for the period 2018-19 to 2027-28 of £792m, as detailed in the cabinet report attached as Appendix 1 of the report;
4. Agree the addition to the general fund capital programme of £3m funding

contribution to the Cycle Super-Highway 4 project in the borough (paragraph 10 of the report);

5. Agree the recommendations of the 5 February 2019 cabinet for a refreshed housing investment programme (HIP) for the period 2018-19 to 2027-28 of £1,305m, as detailed in the cabinet report attached as Appendix 1 of the report.

3. AMENDMENTS

Amendments are set out in supplemental agenda no. 1.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: