

**MEETING OF MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

At the Meeting of Middlesbrough Council, lawfully convened, and held in the Town Hall, Middlesbrough on 26 February 2020.

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Hobson (Chair), L Garvey (Vice-Chair), R Arundale, A Bell, D J Branson, C Cooke, B Cooper, D P Coupe, D Davison, S Dean, C Dodds, T Furness, A Hellaoui, A High, S Hill, C Hobson, B A Hubbard, N Hussain, L Lewis, L Mason, T Mawston, D McCabe, J McTigue, M Nugent, E Polano, A Preston, G Purvis, J Rathmell, D Rooney, J Rostron, M Saunders, M L Smiles, M Storey, P Storey, J Thompson, Z Uddin, J A Walker, S Walker, A Waters, G Wilson and C Wright

**OFFICERS:** M Allinson, C Benjamin, J Bromiley, R Brown, S Butcher, B Carr, G Cooper, G Field, R Horniman, A Hoy, A Humble, D Johnson, K Parkes, T Parkinson, A Perriman, F Revely, S Reynolds, E Scollay, A M Wilson, J Weston, I Wright

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Councillor J Goodchild, Councillor T Higgins, Councillor D Jones, Councillor C McIntyre, Councillor J Platt, Councillor R M Sands.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item/Nature of Interest
Councillor Nugent	Non- Pecuniary	Agenda Item 3 - Relative of Member of staff
Councillor Uddin	Non-Pecuniary	Agenda Item 3 - Relative of Member of staff
Councillor Wright	Non-Pecuniary	Agenda Item 3 - Relative of Member of staff

**1 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Luke Mason to his first meeting of the Council. The Chair advised that Councillor Mason was elected as Conservative Councillor for the Coulby Newham Ward at the By-election held on 20 February 2020.

The Chair also welcomed Councillor Uddin back to the Chamber following his recent illness.

**2 REVENUE BUDGET, COUNCIL TAX, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN, AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020/2021**

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Mason to his first meeting of the Council and he also welcomed Councillor Uddin back to the Chamber.

The Mayor presented a report which set out the proposed Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy for 2020/21.

A number of members commented on the budget and congratulated the members of the public that had contributed to the budget process, either by submitting representations or by organising petitions. Members also thanked the Council officers for their hard work in pulling the budget together.

In accordance with statutory regulations a recorded vote was taken by roll call of those Members present at that time, the results of which were as follows:-

Votes For: (35)

The Mayor (A Preston), Councillors Arundale, Bell, Branson, Cooke, Cooper, Coupe, Davison, Dean, Dodds, Furness, Garvey, Hellaoui, High, Hill, C Hobson, J Hobson, Hussain, Lewis, Mason, Mawston, McCabe, Nugent, Purvis, Rooney, Rostron, Smiles, M Storey, P Storey,

Thompson, Uddin, J Walker, S Walker, Waters, Wright

Votes Against (6)

Councillors Hubbard, McTigue, Polano, Rathmell, Saunders, Wilson

It was Moved, Seconded and **ORDERED** as follows:-

That the Council approves the proposed budget strategy for 2020/21 as set out in paragraphs 36 to 83, approves the proposed budget savings for 2020/21 and notes the proposed budget savings for 2021/22 (Appendices 1-3).

That the Council approves the budget requirement for 2020/21 to be set at £116,396,952, as detailed in Appendix 4.

Having taken into account the matters set out in Section 32 of the Local Government Act 1992 and the items set out within the report that the Council approves that the basic amount of Council Tax (Band D) for 2020/21 be £1,710.63 being a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and an annual precept of 2.00% for Adult Social Care which has been continued by the Government for 2020/21 only to contribute towards the shortfall of funding for adult social care. This Council Tax increase was in line with Government assumptions relating to the funding available to the Council. In total this represents an increase of 3.99% in the basic amount of Council Tax for the whole of the Borough.

That the Council approves the actual amount of Council Tax (Band D) for areas without parish precepts (excluding Fire and Police) be set at £1,710.13.

That the Council approves the actual amount of Council Tax (Band D) for areas with parish precepts (excluding Fire and Police) be set at :-

Nunthorpe Parish £1,714.41

Stainton and Thornton Parish £1,719.44

That the Council approves the amounts of Council Tax for each category of dwelling be set in accordance with table 4 of Appendix 7 within the report.

That the Council notes the refreshed Medium-Term Financial Plan position for 2020-23 set out in this report in paragraphs 84 to 109.

That the Council approves the updated Investment Strategy for the period to 2022/23 as outlined in paragraphs 110 to 115 and detailed in Appendix 8.

That the Council approves the Capital Strategy Report (Prudential indicators, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision) 2020/21 as outlined in paragraphs 116 to 127 and detailed in Appendix 9, and approves the Authorised Limit for external borrowing of £300 million for the Council for 2020/21 as set out in paragraph 126.

### 3 **COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM RATES.**

A report of the Strategic Director for Finance, Governance and Support and the Executive Member for Finance and Governance was submitted, which requested Council:-

To make the determination that would allow the increased long-term empty property Council Tax charge to be made from 01 April 2020 in line with this report.

To make a further determination that would allow a premium charge otherwise due to be offset under a discretionary relief policy in line with this report.

It was **ORDERED** as follows:

That the rate of empty property premium charged be increased to the maximum permitted

from 01 April 2020.

That the amount of premium charged in excess of the existing 50% rate be offset in the circumstances set out in the report.