

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

22 February 2024 AT 6.30 pm

PRESENT: CLLR SM GIBBENS - MAYOR
CLLR R WEBBER-JONES – DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr RG Allen, Cllr MC Bools, Cllr SL Bray, Cllr MB Cartwright, Cllr MA Cook, Cllr DS Cope, Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr WJ Crooks, Cllr REH Flemming, Cllr C Gibbens, Cllr CE Green, Cllr C Harris, Cllr L Hodgkins, Cllr E Hollick, Cllr C Lambert, Cllr KWP Lynch, Cllr J Moore, Cllr LJ Mullaney, Cllr MT Mullaney, Cllr LJP O'Shea, Cllr A Pendlebury, Cllr M Simmons, Cllr H Smith, Cllr P Stead-Davis, Cllr MJ Surtees, Cllr BE Sutton, Cllr BR Walker, Cllr A Weightman and Cllr P Williams

Officers in attendance: Ilyas Bham, Bill Cullen, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen, Sharon Stacey and Ashley Wilson

275. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Allen, Boothby and Glenville.

276. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was moved by Councillor Bools, seconded by Councillor Bray and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January be confirmed as a correct record.

277. **Declarations of interest**

Councillors Smith and Stead-Davis declared a personal interest in item 11c as council tenants.

278. **Mayor's Communications**

The Mayor presented long service awards to two members of staff who had served the borough for 25 years and 44 years respectively. He then spoke about recent events attended.

279. **Leader of the Council's Position Statement**

In his position statement, the leader referred to the challenging financial situation, the fifty year anniversary of the council, the emergency incident in Ratby, the vigil to mark the anniversary of the start of the Ukraine war, green space volunteers, neighbourhood plans, the TeenTech festival and lobbying for A5 investment.

280. Minutes of the Scrutiny Commission

The minutes of the joint budget meeting of the Scrutiny Commission and Finance & Performance Scrutiny held on 1 February were received for information.

281. Pay policy statement 2024/25

The proposed pay policy statement for 2024/25 was presented to Council. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Pendlebury and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The continued positive reduction in the pay gap between the top and median average earner to 4.26:1 (from 4.82:1 the previous year) be noted;
- (ii) The positive reduction in the gender pay gap to 3.1% on 31 March 2023 (from 3.3% on 31 March 2022) be noted;
- (iii) The pay policy statement for 2024/25 be approved.

282. Budget reports

Consideration was given to the general fund budget 2024/25, the calculation of council tax for 2024/25, the housing revenue account budget 2024/25, fees & charges for 2024/25, the capital programme and the treasury management strategy and prudential indicators. The finance team was thanked for its work on the budget and all staff were thanked for their continued hard work.

During discussion, questions were asked in relation to the crematorium, reserves, business rate liability, the green waste collection service, homelessness and dog fouling fines.

It was moved by Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Bray that the budget reports be approved.

(a) General fund budget 2024/25

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, voting on this motion was recorded.

Councillors Bools, Bray, Cartwright, Cope, J Crooks, W Crooks, Flemming, C Gibbens, S Gibbens, Green, Hodgkins, Hollick, Lambert, Lynch, Moore, L Mullaney, M Mullaney, Pendlebury, Stead-Davis, Walker, Webber-Jones, Weightman and Williams voted FOR the motion (23);

Councillors R Allen, Cook, Harris, O'Shea, Simmons, Smith, Surtees and Sutton voted AGAINST the motion (8).

The motion was therefore declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) The general fund budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25 be approved;
- (ii) The special expenses area budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25 be approved;
- (iii) The proposed movement in general fund balances and earmarked reserves for 2023/24 and 2024/25 be approved;
- (iv) A council plan of action be established as part of an updated medium term financial strategy to address the growing pressure on the budget, expected for 2025/26 of £1m - £1.5m.

(b) Calculation of council tax for 2024/25

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, voting on this motion was recorded.

Councillors Bools, Bray, Cartwright, Cope, J Crooks, W Crooks, Flemming, C Gibbens, S Gibbens, Green, Hodgkins, Hollick, Lambert, Lynch, Moore, L Mullaney, M Mullaney, Pendlebury, Stead-Davis, Walker, Webber-Jones, Weightman and Williams voted FOR the motion (23);

Councillors R Allen, Cook, Harris, O’Shea, Simmons, Smith, Surtees and Sutton voted AGAINST the motion (8).

The motion was therefore declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED – in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the following be approved for 2024/25:

- (i) £65,032,814 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act (gross expenditure on general fund services, special district expenses and parish precepts);
- (ii) £56,095,425 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (gross income including external financing and the use of reserves);
- (iii) £8,937,389 being the amount by which the aggregate at (i) above exceeds the aggregate at (ii) above calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its council tax requirement for the year (amount to be funded from council tax including special expenses and parish precepts);

- (iv) £154.87 being the amount calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31(B) of the Act as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (average local council tax not including parish precepts);
- (v) A band D council tax for borough wide services, excluding special expenses and parish council precepts of £135.50;
- (vi) An average band D council tax relating to borough wide services and an average of special expenses and parish council services of £224.63;
- (vii) Appendix B to the report being the council tax for the HBBC district divided by the tax base, including amounts for the Leicestershire County Council, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire, and Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Fire Authority, and for each area and valuation (council tax band charges for each parish and special expenses area).

(c) Housing revenue account budget 2024/25

RESOLVED –

- (i) The rent policy for 2024/25 be approved;
- (ii) The revised housing revenue and housing repairs account budgets for 2023/24 be approved;
- (iii) The housing revenue and housing repairs account budgets for 2024/25 be approved;
- (iv) The proposed movement in reserves be approved.

(d) Fees & charges 2024/25

RESOLVED – the fees and charges book for 2024/25 be approved.

(e) Capital programme

RESOLVED –

- (i) The capital strategy be approved;
- (ii) The proposed capital programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27 be approved;
- (iii) The growth bids details in the report be approved.

(f) Treasury management and prudential indicators

RESOLVED –

- (i) The prudential indicators and limits for 2023/24 to 2026/27, including the authorised limit prudential indicator, be approved;
- (ii) The minimum revenue provision statement be approved;
- (iii) The treasury management strategy be approved.

(The Meeting closed at 7.53 pm)

MAYOR