



Minutes of the meeting of the **Council** held in Committee Rooms - East Pallant House on Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 2.00 pm

**Members Present:** Mrs E Hamilton (Chairman), Mr H Potter (Vice-Chairman), Mrs C Apel, Mrs T Bangert, Mr G Barrett, Miss H Barrie, Mr M Bell, Rev J H Bowden, Mr B Brisbane, Mr R Briscoe, Mr J Brown, Mr A Dignum, Mrs J Duncton, Mr G Evans, Mrs N Graves, Mr F Hobbs, Mrs D Johnson, Mr T Johnson, Mrs E Lintill, Mr G McAra, Mr A Moss, Mr S Oakley, Dr K O'Kelly, Mr C Page, Mr D Palmer, Mrs P Plant, Mr R Plowman, Mrs C Purnell, Mr D Rodgers, Mrs S Sharp, Mr A Sutton, Mrs S Taylor and Mr P Wilding

**Members not present:** Mr J Elliott, Mrs J Fowler and Mrs S Lishman  
**Officers present all items:**

#### 94 **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Elliott, Cllr Fowler and Cllr Lishman.

The Council observed a minutes silence for those affected by the war in the Ukraine.

#### 95 **Declarations of Interests**

The Monitoring Officer advised as to interests as members of other bodies not needing to be declared on a strategic budget report item including County Council. Reference was made to ensuring the accuracy of the register of interests in this advice. Following that advice no specific interests were declared.

#### 96 **2022-23 Treasury Management & Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy update**

Cllr Wilding moved the recommendations which were seconded by Cllr Lintill.

Cllr Wilding then introduced the item.

Cllr O'Kelly asked whether the council has any investments linked to Russia or effected by Russia. Mr Ward clarified that the council's fuel is purchased through Kent County Council. Mr Catlow explained that the council's investment are not linked to Russia.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement, the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the Investment Strategy and relevant Indicators for 2022/23 be approved.
2. That the Council's Capital Strategy for 2022/23 to 2026/27 be approved.

## 97      **Budget Spending Plans 2022-23**

Cllr Wilding introduced the item.

Cllr Lintill was then invited to speak as Leader of the Council.

Cllr Moss was then invited to speak as Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Ward referred to the supplement pack, page 6 referring to the second line of Planning Services. He confirmed that there has been no cut in the budget for Planning Services. The figure related to the processing of CIL.

Cllr Brown then outlined his amendment seconded by Cllr Bangert which incorporated suggested changes by Cllr Dignum as follows:

*To employ a full time Growth & Sustainability Officer to promote economic growth in the District by supporting local businesses and the creation of local apprenticeships and jobs - all in the context of supporting the Climate Emergency Action Plan.*

1. *Full Time, Two Year role (reviewed in year 2 to determine whether or not to incorporate into the base budget)*
2. *Working in the Economic Development Team (working closely with the Environment Team)*

*Funding for this temporary position to be drawn from reserves:*

- *Up to a maximum of £60,000 per year for two years*

*That the job specification for the position is presented to the Economic Development Panel meeting scheduled for July 2022 (to be rescheduled to May 2022) for approval to support the targets within the agreed corporate plan and to provide support to businesses in the sectors of renewable, retrofitting and the circular economy.*

Cllr Dignum confirmed he would support the amendment motion subject to the inclusions of his suggestions above.

Cllr Purnell explained that she felt that this amendment motion and the next amendment motion should have come from officers not members. Cllr Page wished to note his support of Cllr Purnell's comments.

Cllr Sharp spoke of transformation and changing practices. She supported the role.

Cllr Oakley explained that the Budget proposal showed the council was able to still support a number of discretionary services.

Cllr Donna Johnson spoke in support of the role for both addressing the Climate Emergency and economy. Cllr Plowman spoke in agreement.

Cllr Briscoe spoke in favour of the role.

Cllr Sutton asked for clarification of inflation on the Budget. Mr Ward explained that the Budget allowed for 5% increase in gas, 8% increase in electric and 10% in diesel. He explained that diesel prices were currently exceeding the rate. This would be monitored.

A recorded vote was held:

Cllr Apel – For  
Cllr Bangert – For  
Cllr Barrett – For  
Cllr Barrie – For  
Cllr Bell – For  
Cllr Bowden – For  
Cllr Brisbane – For  
Cllr Briscoe – For  
Cllr Brown – For  
Cllr Dignum – For  
Cllr Duncton - For  
Cllr Elliott – Absent  
Cllr Evans - For  
Cllr Fowler – Absent  
Cllr Graves – For  
Cllr Hamilton – For  
Cllr Hobbs - For  
Cllr Donna Johnson – For  
Cllr Tim Johnson – For  
Cllr Lintill – For  
Cllr Lishman – Absent  
Cllr McAra – Against  
Cllr Moss – For  
Cllr Oakley – Abstain  
Cllr O’Kelly – For  
Cllr Page – Abstain  
Cllr Palmer – For  
Cllr Plant – For  
Cllr Plowman - For  
Cllr Potter – For  
Cllr Purnell – Abstain  
Cllr Rodgers – For  
Cllr Sharp – For  
Cllr Sutton – For  
Cllr Taylor – For  
Cllr Wilding – For

For = 29

Against = 1

Abstain = 3

Absent = 3

**RESOLVED**

To employ a full time Growth & Sustainability Officer to promote economic growth in the District by supporting local businesses and the creation of local apprenticeships and jobs - all in the context of supporting the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

3. Full Time, Two Year role (reviewed in year 2 to determine whether or not to incorporate into the base budget)
4. Working in the Economic Development Team (working closely with the Environment Team)

Funding for this temporary position to be drawn from reserves:

- Up to a maximum of £60,000 per year for two years

That the job specification for the position is presented to the Economic Development Panel meeting scheduled for July 2022 (to be rescheduled to May 2022) for approval to support the targets within the agreed corporate plan and to provide support to businesses in the sectors of renewable, retrofitting and the circular economy.

Cllr Moss then outlined his amendment seconded by Cllr Brown which incorporated suggested changes by Cllr Taylor as follows:

*To employ a full time Landscape Officer to provide specialist landscape design advice on development management matters and to monitor and manage the discharge of conditions on development sites.*

- 1. Full Time Two Year role (reviewed in year 2 to determine whether or not to incorporate into the base budget)*
- 2. Working in the Planning Team*

*Funding for this temporary position to be drawn from reserves:*

- *“Up to a maximum of £56,000.00 per year for two years. (total £112,000)”*
- *“That the job specification for this position is delegated to the Director for Planning and the Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning Services”*

Cllr Taylor confirmed she would support the amendment motion subject to the inclusions of her suggestions above.

Cllr Potter asked how much power the officer would have or would they need to refer to the enforcement team. Cllr Taylor explained that the role would aim to assist the enforcement team.

Cllr Duncton spoke in support of the amendment.

Cllr Brown spoke in favour of the amendment and highlighted the work the council had already done for wildlife corridors.

Cllr Purnell explained that she felt that this amendment motion should have come from officers not members. She added that she felt the role was more than one officer could do.

Cllr Bangert spoke in favour in the amendment.

Cllr Oakley asked how the role would be permanently funded and whether this would help encourage more candidates.

Cllr Page wished to note his agreement of Cllr Purnell and Cllr Oakley's comments.

Cllr Brisbane addressed the question of funding and whether the role could be permanent. He suggested some of the cost could be recouped from planning fees and Section 106 monies.

Cllr Sutton gave his support for the role but explained that he understood the views of Cllr Purnell, Cllr Oakley and Cllr Page.

Cllr O'Kelly agreed with Cllr Brisbane that there could be ways to address the funding of the role permanently.

Cllr Bell asked whether the title of the role could be reconsidered before taking it out to advert in order to best describe the role. Cllr Lintill responded by explaining that the key information will be in the job description.

Cllr Barrett, Cllr Apel, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Plowman and Cllr Graves spoke in favour of the role.

A recorded vote was held:

Cllr Apel – For  
Cllr Bangert – For  
Cllr Barrett – For  
Cllr Barrie – For  
Cllr Bell – For  
Cllr Bowden – For  
Cllr Brisbane – For  
Cllr Briscoe – For  
Cllr Brown – For  
Cllr Dignum – For  
Cllr Duncton - For  
Cllr Elliott – Absent  
Cllr Evans - For  
Cllr Fowler – Absent  
Cllr Graves – For  
Cllr Hamilton – For  
Cllr Hobbs - For  
Cllr Donna Johnson – For  
Cllr Tim Johnson – For  
Cllr Lintill – For  
Cllr Lishman – Absent  
Cllr McAra – For  
Cllr Moss – For  
Cllr Oakley – Abstain  
Cllr O'Kelly – For  
Cllr Page – For  
Cllr Palmer – For

Cllr Plant – For  
Cllr Plowman - For  
Cllr Potter – For  
Cllr Purnell – Abstain  
Cllr Rodgers – For  
Cllr Sharp – For  
Cllr Sutton – For  
Cllr Taylor – For  
Cllr Wilding – For

For = 31  
Against = 0  
Abstain = 2  
Absent = 3

## **RESOLVED**

To employ a full time Landscape Officer to provide specialist landscape design advice on development management matters and to monitor and manage the discharge of conditions on development sites.

1. Full Time Two Year role (reviewed in year 2 to determine whether or not to incorporate into the base budget)
2. Working in the Planning Team

Funding for this temporary position to be drawn from reserves:

- “Up to a maximum of £56,000.00 per year for two years. (total £112,000)”
- “That the job specification for this position is delegated to the Director for Planning and the Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning Services”

Mr Ward explained that following the agreement of the above amendments the substantive recommendations would read as follows:

- a) *That a net budget requirement of £15,015,600 for 2022-23 be approved.*
- b) *That Council Tax be increased by £5.00 from £170.81 to £175.81 for a Band D equivalent in 2022-23.*
- c) *That a contribution from the General Fund Reserve of £808,100 be approved to help fund the 2022-23 budget.*
- d) *The capital programme, including the asset renewal programme (appendix 1c and 1d of the agenda report) be approved.*
- e) *That a local Council Tax Hardship Reliefs Scheme for 2022-23 giving an additional £150 deduction on council tax bills for relevant taxpayers in receipt of CTR as set out in paragraph 6.7 of this report, using the £159,916 grant received in 2021-22.*

The revised recommendations were moved by Cllr Wilding and seconded by Cllr Lintill.

Cllr Bowden questioned whether there had been a reduction in the planning budget. This was clarified by Cllr Lintill, Mr Ward and Cllr Taylor to explain why that was not the case.

Cllr O'Kelly and Cllr Sharp provided comments.

A recorded vote was held:

Cllr Apel – For  
Cllr Bangert – For  
Cllr Barrett – For  
Cllr Barrie – For  
Cllr Bell – For  
Cllr Bowden – For  
Cllr Brisbane – For  
Cllr Briscoe – For  
Cllr Brown – For  
Cllr Dignum – For  
Cllr Duncton - For  
Cllr Elliott – Absent  
Cllr Evans - For  
Cllr Fowler – Absent  
Cllr Graves – For  
Cllr Hamilton – For  
Cllr Hobbs - For  
Cllr Donna Johnson – For  
Cllr Tim Johnson – For  
Cllr Lintill – For  
Cllr Lishman – Absent  
Cllr McAra – For  
Cllr Moss – For  
Cllr Oakley – For  
Cllr O'Kelly – For  
Cllr Page – For  
Cllr Palmer – For  
Cllr Plant – For  
Cllr Plowman - For  
Cllr Potter – For  
Cllr Purnell – For  
Cllr Rodgers – For  
Cllr Sharp – Absent  
Cllr Sutton – For  
Cllr Taylor – For  
Cllr Wilding – For

For = 32

Against = 0

Abstain = 0

Absent = 4

## **RESOLVED**

- a) That a net budget requirement of £15,015,600 for 2022-23 be approved.
- b) That Council Tax be increased by £5.00 from £170.81 to £175.81 for a Band D equivalent in 2022-23.

- c) That a contribution from the General Fund Reserve of £808,100 be approved to help fund the 2022-23 budget.
- d) The capital programme, including the asset renewal programme (appendix 1c and 1d of the agenda report) be approved.
- e) That a local Council Tax Hardship Reliefs Scheme for 2022-23 giving an additional £150 deduction on council tax bills for relevant taxpayers in receipt of CTR as set out in paragraph 6.7 of this report, using the £159,916 grant received in 2021-22.

## 98 **Council Tax Resolution**

Cllr Wilding moved the recommendation which was seconded by Cllr Lintill.

Mr Ward explained that as a result of the previous item the following amendments would be required:

In the supplement to the agenda item page 5, section 3a and section 3b needed to be amended by £116,000 each.

Cllr Wilding introduced the item.

Cllr Apel asked whether the rise in Council Tax impact would be monitored. Mr Ward outlined the Council Tax support the council would be offering.

A recorded vote was held:

Cllr Apel – For  
 Cllr Bangert – For  
 Cllr Barrett – For  
 Cllr Barrie – Absent  
 Cllr Bell – For  
 Cllr Bowden – For  
 Cllr Brisbane – For  
 Cllr Briscoe – For  
 Cllr Brown – For  
 Cllr Dignum – For  
 Cllr Duncton - For  
 Cllr Elliott – Absent  
 Cllr Evans - For  
 Cllr Fowler – Absent  
 Cllr Graves – For  
 Cllr Hamilton – For  
 Cllr Hobbs - For  
 Cllr Donna Johnson – For  
 Cllr Tim Johnson – For  
 Cllr Lintill – For  
 Cllr Lishman – Absent  
 Cllr McAra – For  
 Cllr Moss – For  
 Cllr Oakley – For  
 Cllr O’Kelly – For  
 Cllr Page – Absent  
 Cllr Palmer – For



Cllr Plant – For  
Cllr Plowman - For  
Cllr Potter – For  
Cllr Purnell – For  
Cllr Rodgers – For  
Cllr Sharp – Absent  
Cllr Sutton – For  
Cllr Taylor – For  
Cllr Wilding – For

For = 30

Against = 0

Abstain = 0

Absent = 6

## **RESOLVED**

That having considered the Cabinet's budget proposals from their meeting of 1 March 2022 Council approve the Council Tax Resolutions as set out in Appendix A.

### **99 Exclusion of the press and public**

There was no requirement to exclude the public or press.

The meeting ended at 4.25 pm

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CHAIRMAN

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Date: