

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

COUNCIL

**Held on Thursday, 21 February 2019 at 10.00 am in the
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

PRESENT

Mr T. J. Ashby	Mr A.P. Joel
Mr S Askew	Mr R.G. Kybird
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mr K. Martin
Mr W.P. Borrett	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Councillor C. Bowes	Mrs L.H. Monument
Mr R. F. W. Brame	Mr T. F. C. Monument
Mr M. P. Brindle	Mr M. J. Nairn
Mr T. R. Carter	Mr J.W. Nunn
Councillor M. Chapman-Allen	Mr R. R. Richmond
Mr S. H. Chapman-Allen	Mr M. S. Robinson
Mr H. E. J. Clarke	Mr J.D. Rogers
Mr P.D. Claussen	Mr F.J. Sharpe
Mr J.P. Cowen	Mr I. Sherwood
Mr D. M. Crawford	Mr W.H.C. Smith
Mr P. M. M. Dimoglou	Mr A.C. Stasiak
Mr R.W. Duffield (Chairman)	Mr M Taylor
Mr P.J. Duigan	Mrs L.S. Turner (Vice-Chairman)
Mr K.S. Gilbert	Mr M. A. Wassell
Councillor E. Gould	Mrs A. M. Webb
Mr P.J. Hewett	Mr N.C. Wilkin
Mrs T. Hewett	Mr P. S. Wilkinson
Mr T. J. Jermy	

In Attendance

Anna Graves	- Chief Executive
Maxine O'Mahony	- Executive Director of Strategy & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Christine Marshall	- Executive Director Commercialisation (S151 Officer)
Mark Stinson	- Executive Manager Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Rob Walker	- Executive Director Place
Alison Chubbock	- Chief Accountant (Deputy Section 151 Officer) (BDC)
Julie Britton	- Democratic Services Officer

18/19 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Darby, Hollis, Oliver and William Richmond.

Councillor Millbank was marked as absent as no apologies had been received.

19/19 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Action By

20/19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

None.

21/19 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

It had been quite a quiet month but one event that the Chairman was looking forward to was a 2 hour flight on the re-fuelling plane from Mildenhall. The month ahead; however, was going to be quite busy and his diary was already fairly booked.

The Chairman reminded Members that under agenda item 12, if they were two months or more in arrears with their Council Tax, they must disclose the fact and not vote on any item to set tax or any decision which may affect its calculation.

22/19 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 5)

The Leader made the following announcements:

- Elections - Members were made aware that the Elections Team was there to support any Councillor that needed assistance. The Leader mentioned the Prospective Councillor Event that took place recently and thanked his colleagues who supported that event and congratulated all those involved. He felt that it was very important to get people interested in local Government and willing to stand for local Election.
- Swaffham Air Quality – Members were aware of previous conversations in respect of this matter and the Leader was pleased to announce that the air quality in Swaffham was improving. DEFRA was now suggesting different actions and had been pleased with what the Council had achieved to date in relation to the reduction of nitrogen dioxide. Breckland Council would continue to strive moving forwards and continue to work with Norfolk County Council to improve the flow of vehicles through the towns.
- BreckWorld – A brand new app available to download from the App Store, backed by Stephen Fry, had recently been launched by the Council with 166 downloads already. The Leader was sure that this interest had been helped by Stephen Fry tweeting about the app to his many followers far and wide. The app had been delivered working with Ryan Baxter, the young entrepreneur who Members met at the last Council meeting. The Leader said that since visiting the BreckWorld site he had seen many places that he never knew existed even though he had lived most of his life in Breckland and he encouraged Members to download the app.
- Town & Parish Council Forum – this event would be taking place later, from 5.30pm in the Conference Suite. He knew of a few District Members that were attending and he also knew that there were approximately 50 Town & Parish Councillors on the list to attend.
- Cyber Security – the Council had received a grant from the LGA to ensure that all Members would have the opportunity for training. There would be cyber security e-learning modules for all Councillors from May 2019 onwards to hopefully address these future challenges going forward.
- Funding for Fibre – The Leader congratulated Norfolk County Council (NCC) who had recently secured an additional £8m which would see fibre broadband rolled out to those parts of the District that were in the very rural areas. He felt as a collective, all were trying hard to recognise the more deprived and remote areas that suffered the worst possible signals both in phone lines and broadband so the more that could be done collectively to drive that forward the better.

Councillor Wassell asked the Leader a question about broadband. He believed that it was still the case that the Council had not used the £950k that had been allocated for broadband a number of years ago and asked what proportion of the NCC money was likely to be spent in Breckland. If the amount was not sufficient, he wanted to know if the Council would be able to utilise the £950k to ensure that these particular residents in the remotest areas of Breckland received the best possible broadband speed. The Leader explained that the £950k had not been utilised as yet and was being held by the Council as a Reserve to match fund NCC funding as had always been the case. The funding was only ever going to be drawn down when NCC could not secure enough funding from other sources but now that National Government was funding fibre broadband, Breckland's money would be used to reach as many 'cold spots' as possible.

Councillor Joel asked the Leader when BreckWorld would be rolled out to android customers. A definitive answer was not possible at present, but was likely to depend upon how much interest the current app would generate. The app was launched on a single platform to keep the Council's costs relatively low but as long as BreckWorld continued to go well and prove popular he could not see any reason for not rolling it out to android customers in due course.

23/19 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 6 (AGENDA ITEM 6)

None received.

24/19 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 7 (AGENDA ITEM 7)

Councillor Clarke asked the Leader if he would rule out completely the introduction of car park charging at Cherry Tree car park and elsewhere after the 2nd May Elections so as not to stifle initiative in the market towns. The Leader said that he could not provide Councillors with an answer as he did not know if, following the Elections, he would be elected as Leader. This was; however, a manifesto commitment.

Councillor Dimoglou asked two short questions of Councillor Cowen, the Executive Member for Finance & Delivery:

- The first question was in relation to one of the outstanding success stories of this administration, the Unsightly Sites Policy. At a recent Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting, a presentation had been provided on the progress of some unsightly sites and although he had been impressed with the progress, the actual initiative seemed as if it could have benefited from enhanced resources. Councillor Dimoglou asked if the Finance department intended to better fund and support this important aspect of work.
- Councillor Dimoglou also asked the Executive Member to confirm if the Council Tax increase was once again, the maximum permitted by law as this had been the fourth year running that this increase had been applied despite Breckland Council having millions of pounds in Reserves which he felt would be another blow to hard pressed families living in Breckland.
- In response to the first question, in relation to unsightly sites, the Executive Member for Finance & Delivery explained that the Council did not have a specific budget for unsightly sites due to the unknown factor of Government funding year on year. However, funding had been allocated in various areas of the budget, in particular, in the Place Portfolio within the Inclusive Growth

Reserve. He explained that it was impossible to allocate a specific amount for such matters as the costs were unknown and ultimately, the Council could be criticised for either over spending or under spending if a specific budget had been allocated.

In terms of the budget, the Executive Director of Commercialisation & S151 Officer explained that there was a history for this authority having to deal with some difficult sites and funds had been allocated for works/legal costs accordingly; this funding could be either a one-off or for more minor cases, funding would be utilised from existing budgets. The Executive Director of Place advised that most of these matters were part of the day job across the Communities Team and the Planning & Enforcement Team; however, if in a particular case, a more significant spend was required, Cabinet would be approached to request additional funds from the Inclusive Growth Fund.

- In response to Councillor Dimoglou's second question in relation to the Council Tax increase, the Executive Member for Finance & Delivery explained that this authority had been given the opportunity 4 years ago to look, as a low taxing authority, how it could increase its Council Tax - given that all authorities were facing significant funding cuts from Central Government. Council Tax had been increased which had been a wise choice by this authority as it had been able to counter the reduction in Rate Support Grant and, looking ahead, had put itself in a better position to minimise the impact of the New Homes Bonus being lost which was likely to come into effect in 2020. This modest increase in monetary terms worked out to be an additional £4.95 per annum for people living in a Band D property; therefore, in response to Councillor Dimoglou's second part of his question, 77% of Breckland's residents did not live in a Band D property, most lived in Bands A to C and again, in monetary terms, the actual increase which the Council would expect them to pay was less than £2 per annum. This minimal increase, in his opinion, would not cause anyone a huge problem financially over the year particularly given the quality of the services that the Council provided and more importantly, aiming to improve the quality of life for people within its market towns and in its rural areas.

Councillor Brindle asked Councillor Bambridge, the Executive Member for Growth a question that he had drawn his attention to at a previous Council meeting about an issue in Glebe Close, Thetford in relation to long drawn out concerns of below standard private landlord housing. He asked if the Executive Member could confirm that there would be an internal review of this incident to establish if any lessons had been learnt in the way Breckland Council dealt with such matters. In response, Councillor Bambridge advised that in respect of the issue raised previously, the Council had dealt with it and had visited the building in question and on 8th February 2019, urgent prohibition orders had been issued on 3 of the 4 dwellings. Then on 13th February, the Council issued improvement notices on all 4 of the dwellings for a range of hazards resulting in a multi-disciplinary meeting being held which included the Fire Service; this had proved to be very useful as very recently, a serious fire had broken out in the building and the people from one of the flats had been re-housed even though that particular flat had not been one of the flats considered to be unfit for human habitation. As from 20 February, an update had not been provided as it was still considered to be a crime scene of possible arson. Regarding the internal review, one had taken place which he had not been party to but he would be receiving an update at his Portfolio meeting. Once out of Police hands and the building was back with the Landlord, this authority would be conducting a review by which time he would be happy to answer any more questions. In the meantime, regular Landlord Forums were taking place in order to improve the quality of living standards.

Councillor Jermy directed his question to Councillor Robinson, the Executive Member for Governance. He stated that Norfolk County Council was now live-streaming its meetings, particularly the Cabinet meetings, which he felt was a really useful way of encouraging public scrutiny and holding elected Members to account. He asked if there were any plans for Breckland to follow suit and install such a facility once the new Council, following the Elections, was underway. Councillor Robinson pointed out that Breckland Council's facilities were currently undergoing a review to become more user friendly going forward and live streaming was being considered.

25/19 CABINET MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 8)

Members were informed that the recommendation on page 18 of the agenda pack would be taken under agenda item 11 (Minute No. 08/19 refers).

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 5 February 2019 be adopted.

26/19 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION (AGENDA ITEM 9)

Members were informed that the recommendation on page 25 of the agenda pack would be taken under agenda item 14 (Minute No. 08/19 refers).

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 31 January 2019 be adopted.

27/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 10)

Local Plan Update (Minute No. 7/19)

Councillor Borrett raised a concern as he had noticed that the Local Plan consultation had already begun. He reminded Members that when Full Council endorsed the modification document consultation to be progressed, reservations from Members had been expressed as to the form of the amendments that the Planning Inspector had made. Councillor Borrett believed that it had been the wish of Members that the Council expresses its concerns as part of the consultation and that these be circulated so that Members could share this information with their Parish Councils. In response, the Deputy Leader, Councillor Sam Chapman-Allen advised that he had worked with the Executive Member for Growth and a statement would be produced in conjunction with the Executive Director of Commercialisation to pick up the comments that had been raised at the December Full Council meeting. This statement would then be circulated to Members and Parish Councils in due course. He reminded Members that there was also an opportunity for all Members to respond during the consultation process.

Adoption

RESOLVED that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14 January 2019 be adopted.

28/19 BUDGET, MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2019-20 (AGENDA ITEM 11)

Councillor Cowen, the Executive Member for Finance & Delivery presented the report.

All Members had been given the opportunity to follow the budget process from the start. The draft budget papers had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 27 November 2018. The report was then taken to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting followed by the public consultation period held during December which finished in January 2019. At the recent Cabinet meeting in February, Members were provided with an updated paper and this Full Council meeting was the final stage of the budget process. As it was such a significant and important issue for the Council and for its residents, the Executive Member for Finance & Delivery hoped that all Members had taken the opportunity to read the final report thoroughly.

Attention was drawn to page 41 of the agenda pack where the ten recommendations were highlighted. The Executive Member for Finance & Delivery pointed out that this budget was an incredibly positive budget for any Council to review and this authority had achieved a budget, going forward, that was balanced and would provide the Council with Reserves with which it could support its local communities. He conveyed his thanks to the Officers involved for all their hard work and commitment and commended the budget to Members.

Prior to any questions being asked and in response to the Chairman, Members agreed to take the 10 recommendations enbloc. The Chairman also reminded Members that under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote must be taken.

Councillor Jermy raised the following points.

The Labour Group took its role very seriously within the Council; it raised opportunities when needed whilst also giving praise where it was due. The Group also highlighted matters that could be lacking, not for the sake of it, but in the hope that it might be able to make some improvements. Looking back at last year's Labour Group proposals, despite not being carried, Councillor Jermy had been really pleased to see some amendments around street lights where many had been or were being replaced with LED energy efficient lamps which had been welcomed.

Similarly, another amendment proposed in the previous year, was to increase the availability of affordable housing which again was defeated; however, there had been a marked improvement in the focus of affordable housing that could be seen within the Annual Monitoring report and it had been confirmed that over 28% of housing within the District were affordable which again was to be welcomed.

Another proposal in relation to tourism had been put forward in the previous year asking for £5k for each of the market towns to invest in tourism information services, again this was voted down; however, a few months later ShopAppy was launched but he understood that it would cost more than the Group's initial proposal. Its impact remained to be seen and he would remain sceptical as he would much rather have seen locally based community solutions. He hoped that the Council recognised, in time, that tourism brought a great deal to the District and invest accordingly.

Turning to this year's budget, Councillor Jermy pointed out that it was not many years ago that this Council prided itself on having the lowest Council Tax and whilst it was still relatively low, it could not be denied that it had increased significantly. In his Ward alone, people were now paying 25% more Council Tax than they were 10 years ago and this was before this year's increase had been factored in. People on low incomes were struggling financially and Council Tax was the one bill that they struggled with the most. The responsibility to fund local council services had shifted from local government to local people. Councillor Jermy did not like Council Tax, he thought it was an unfair tax and he hoped at some point in the future it would be

reformed but if he was to vote for this budget by default to increase the Council Tax, he wanted assurance that those people on low incomes would not suffer as a result. As a Council, pensioners were protected by being provided with 100% relief but approximately 4,500 people on a low income, including work age disabled residents, were only being supported at a maximum of 92%. Therefore, if he was to support he would like to see a relatively small amount of money of £40k to ensure individuals of working age were supported up to 100% of their Breckland share of the Council tax. He was aware that this proposal could not be enacted immediately but asked if it could be actioned via the Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme and he proposed that a budget allocation be requested.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Clarke who applauded the work of the Executive Member for Finance and the finance staff; however, people were paying more Council Tax for less services and he echoed Councillor Jermy's comments.

The proposal was not supported.

The Leader felt that Councillor Jermy had raised an interesting point and was pleased that he recognised that Breckland was a listening Council in the sense that street lighting concerns had been picked up and that its focus remained on affordable housing. He completely understood the Labour Group's concerns in that the Council was doing all that it could, as rate support grants were being reduced, for those people that were without doubt finding this a difficult time. However, this was happening across the whole public sector, doing what they could to make their budgets work. It was not an easy time and was probably more difficult now than it had ever been and he assured all Members that whilst the Labour Group's proposal was not supported, this authority would do all that it could to ensure that it supported those who needed it most.

Councillor Taylor was aware that the Government had stated that if £39billion could be saved, £60m would be repaid to each constituency and wanted to know that if this was the case, would the Council be able to revise this budget in lieu of this possible decision. The Leader felt that the chances of getting a rebate from Central Government were very slim but if it were to happen, then he had no doubt that the budget would be reviewed.

Councillor Clarke asked the Executive Member for Finance & Delivery not for an amendment but a marker for future years or a strategy for 2023. The Council was very good at planning for the future and he asked what the Council was considering to do with its Planning resource once the Capita contract had come to an end and the implications of bringing Planning back in-house. Although this question did not relate to finance, the Leader advised that the Council was in the process of reviewing all of its contracts, and as and when any contracts were due to be reviewed, the Officers in question, and indeed Members, would work very hard to ensure the best possible use of money and the best product for the Council's communities.

Councillor Ian Sherwood asked the Executive Member for Finance & Delivery questions in relation to the budget. The first question was in respect of the Council Tax setting and how much the Council asked its residents to pay for services, and the second question related to the Council Tax income, and what it enabled the Council to do. He also asked if the Executive Member could provide him with some idea of how much money had been spent on services that the Council provided. The Executive Member for Finance & Delivery was happy to respond and drew attention to page 127 of the agenda pack where it showed a schedule of Council Tax levels from a Band A through to Band H. This information provided an indication of how much each resident in each of those Bands was paying in Breckland. He pointed out

that the Council's Band D proposal was a little under £90 per annum and for that £90, the Council was delivering about £500 worth of services to everyone who paid Council Tax. The Executive Member for Finance & Delivery drew attention to the fact that those in a Band A at Norfolk County Council level were being charged a great deal more than £59 as in Breckland; therefore, in terms of value for money, this Council delivered to its residents a benefit of paying £500 for £90 or £500 for £60 which he felt was very good value for money.

Regarding the issue of Council Tax, Councillor Borrett had been quite surprised at some of Councillor Jermy's points raised as the Band D charge in Breckland was a lot less than in the Labour controlled Norwich City Council. Norwich City Council was not charging £90 it was charging £264 for the same kinds of service that residents received in Breckland. Breckland Council was trying to keep its Council Tax down and its services protected so that those less able to pay could still afford to pay. Norwich City Council had put their Council tax up by 3% this year which was an increase in cash terms of £40 for every Band D Tax Band. In response, Councillor Jermy reported that Norwich City Council did offer discounts to the most vulnerable in their society. He also pointed out that the cost for his Band C house was overall, including the Police & Norfolk County Council's share, the same as a Band C house under Norwich City Council.

The 10 recommendations were proposed and seconded and following a recorded vote it was:

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the Breckland revenue estimates and parish special expenses for 2019-20 and outlined position through to 2022-23 (as set out in Appendix B and E of the report) be approved;
- 2) the capital estimates and associated funding for 2019-20 and outline position through to 2022-23 (as set out in Appendix H of the report) be approved;
- 3) the fees and charges shown at Appendix D and D2 of the report, for adoption on 1 April 2019 be approved;
- 4) the Council Tax be set at £88.83 for a Band D property in 2019-20 (a £4.95 per annum increase on 2018-19 levels);
- 5) the Financial Medium Term Plan and associated staffing full time equivalents at Appendix A of the report be approved;
- 6) the Capital Strategy at Appendix G of the report be approved.
- 7) the Business Rates relief for retail business premises contained in the guidelines at appendix I of the report be approved (this is offset by a Government grant);
- 8) the additional one off income generated from the 2019-20 75% Business Rates Pilot scheme be set aside, 50% in the Growth and Investment Reserve to fund future feasibilities and funding applications and 50% to the General Fund (as detailed in paragraph 1.10 of the report);
- 9) the establishment be increased by 1.0 FTE (shared with SHDC at 60% BC and 40% SHDC) to create a post that adds capacity to support the Chief Executive and Directors at a senior level to move forward a number of strategic priorities

and help to identify the key impacts of emerging national and local policy on the organisation(s) from a corporate point of view, enabling effective mitigation as required (as detailed in paragraph 1.9 of the report); and

- 10) the full time equivalent be increased by 5.0 FTE in ARP as agreed at ARP Joint Committee on 4 December 2018 (as detailed in paragraph 1.9 of the report) where the costs are fully offset by additional income and shared between the other partners.

RECORDED VOTES:					
MEMBER	FOR	AGAINST	MEMBER	FOR	AGAINST
Mr Ashby	X		Mr Joel	X	
Mr Askew	X		Mr Kybird	X	
Mr Bambridge	X		Mr Martin	X	
Mr Brame	X		Mrs Matthews	X	
Mr Borrett	X		Mrs Millbank		ABSENT
Councillor Bowes	x		Mrs Monument	X	
Mr Brindle		x	Mr Monument	X	
Mr Carter	X		Mr Nairn	X	
Councillor Marion Chapman-Allen	X		Mr Nunn	X	
Mr Sam Chapman-Allen	x		Mr Oliver		APOLOGIES
Mr Clarke		x	Mr Robert Richmond	X	
Mr Claussen	X		Mr William Richmond		APOLOGIES
Mr Cowen	X		Mr Robinson	X	
Mr Crawford	x		Mr Rogers	X	
Mr Darby		APOLOGIES	Mr Sharpe	X	
Mr Dimoglou		X	Mr Sherwood	X	
Mr Duffield	X		Mr Smith	X	
Mr Duigan	X		Mr Stasiak	X	
Mr Gilbert	X		Mr Taylor	X	
Councillor Gould	X		Mrs Turner	X	
Mrs Hewett	X		Mr Wassell	X	
Mr Hewett	X		Mrs Webb	X	
Mrs Hollis		APOLOGIES	Mr Wilkin	X	
Mr Jermy		X	Mr Wilkinson	X	

29/19 COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2019-20 (AGENDA ITEM 12)

Councillor Cowen, the Executive Member for Finance & Delivery presented the Council Tax setting report and commended the two recommendations to Council.

The Chairman again reminded Members that if they were two months or more in arrears with their Council Tax, they must disclose the fact and not vote on any item to set tax or any decision which may affect its calculation.

A recorded vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED that:

1. the special expenses for 2019-20 (at paragraph 1.3 of the report) be approved; and
 2. the formal Council Tax resolutions for 2019-20 (at paragraph 1.4.1 to 1.4.5 of the report as set out below) be approved.
- 1.4.1 It is to be noted that on 21 February 2019 the Council has calculated: -
- a) the Council Tax Base 2019-20 for the whole Council area as 43,479.8 (item T in the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended) and

- b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached **Appendix A**.
- 1.4.2 Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2019-20 (excluding Parish precepts) is £3,933,183.
- 1.4.3 That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2019-20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act):-
- a) £78,582,320 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the expenditure items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act;
 - b) £70,632,356 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the income items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;
 - c) £7,949,964 being the amount by which the aggregate at 1.4.3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 1.4.3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year;
 - d) £182.84 being the amount at 1.4.3(c) above, divided by the amount at 1.4.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts);
 - e) £4,087,653 being the aggregate amount of all special items (including Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per **Appendix A of the agenda**);
 - f) £88.83 being the amount at 1.4.3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 1.4.3(e) above by the amount at 1.4.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its areas to which no special item relates;
 - g) The figures shown in **Appendix B** of the agenda, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 1.4.3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1.4.1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;
 - h) The figures shown in **Appendix C** of the agenda, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 1.4.3(f) and 1.4.3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- 1.4.4 That it be noted that for the year 2019-20 the Norfolk County Council and Norfolk Police & Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D
NCC	£908.16	£1,059.52	£1,210.88	£1,362.24
NPCC	£168.72	£196.84	£224.96	£253.08
	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
NCC	£1,664.96	£1,967.68	£2,270.40	£2,724.48
NPCC	£309.32	£365.56	£421.80	£506.16

- 1.4.5 That having calculated the aggregate in each case the amounts at 1.4.3(h) and 1.4.4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in **Appendix D** of the agenda as the amount of Council Tax for 2019-20 of the categories of dwellings shown.

RECORDED VOTES:					
MEMBER	FOR	AGAINST	MEMBER	FOR	AGAINST
Mr Ashby	X		Mr Joel	X	
Mr Askew	X		Mr Kybird	X	
Mr Bambridge	X		Mr Martin	X	
Mr Brame	X		Mrs Matthews	X	
Mr Borrett	X		Mrs Millbank	ABSENT	
Councillor Bowes	x		Mrs Monument	X	
Mr Brindle		x	Mr Monument	X	
Mr Carter	X		Mr Nairn	X	
Councillor Marion Chapman-Allen	X		Mr Nunn	X	
Mr Sam Chapman-Allen	x		Mr Oliver	APOLOGIES	
Mr Clarke		x	Mr Robert Richmond	X	
Mr Claussen	X		Mr William Richmond	APOLOGIES	
Mr Cowen	X		Mr Robinson	X	
Mr Crawford	x		Mr Rogers	X	
Mr Darby	APOLOGIES		Mr Sharpe	X	
Mr Dimoglou		X	Mr Sherwood	X	
Mr Duffield	X		Mr Smith	X	
Mr Duigan	X		Mr Stasiak	X	
Mr Gilbert		x	Mr Taylor	X	
Councillor Gould	X		Mrs Turner	X	
Mrs Hewett	X		Mr Wassell	X	
Mr Hewett	X		Mrs Webb	X	
Mrs Hollis	APOLOGIES		Mr Wilkin	X	
Mr Jermy		X	Mr Wilkinson	X	

30/19 CORPORATE PLAN 2019-2023 (AGENDA ITEM 13)

The Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Investment, Councillor Sam Chapman-Allen presented the Corporate Plan for the period 2019-2023 to Council for adoption.

The Deputy Leader thanked all Members and Officers within the authority for their input throughout this process. The layout and design had been changed and it had a strategic vision throughout being 'Breckland: A place where people and business can thrive' and he felt that the budget presentation that everyone had seen had reinforced some of those opportunities and successes over the last four years. The Corporate Plan was fundamentally linked to all aspects of the Council and was classed as the 'golden thread' that linked its strategic vision to its four Corporate Priorities – Your Place, Your Health & Wellbeing, Your opportunity and Our Council.

Councillor Duigan felt that although the A47 had been highlighted on page 140 as an aspiration, it should have been included on page 142 under the priority: Your Opportunity, with an extra line similar to that of the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor. The Deputy Leader was more than happy to take this iteration forward if Members were content with this amendment.

Councillor Jermy thanked the Deputy Leader for the new Corporate Plan. He liked the new layout and the format and was pleased with what it contained; however, the two matters that he felt were missing were; firstly, the environment specifically around climate change which he felt would be an increasing issue over the coming years and, how this authority sought to minimise its own impact on the environment and reduce its carbon footprint. He felt that environmental issues ran across all four priorities and this would be a missed opportunity for the Council. Secondly, he would have preferred to see not just more jobs but better paid jobs in the District to allow people to have a better quality of life and work-life balance and he did not believe that the report was strong enough in that respect. In response, the Deputy Leader reminded Members of the 'golden thread' that ran throughout all four priorities within the Corporate Plan and mentioned what the Council was doing for vision setting in relation to business growth in the District that was discussed at the last Cabinet meeting. Therefore, as much as the Corporate Plan did not detail it directly and would be inappropriate to do so, the vision setting for Business Growth and the Corporate Plan, both linked the Council's aspiration for moving forward and he thanked Councillor Jermy for his support at the last Cabinet meeting in relation to the Thetford Enterprise Park. As far as the environment was concerned, he would be more than happy to take that back and carry out further iteration to the introductory piece in relation to the Council trying to reduce its carbon footprint.

Councillor Kybird mentioned the lack of support for the military covenant within the Corporate Plan. At a previous Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting the Executive Member in attendance had promised to raise this with the appropriate person. The Deputy Leader confirmed that at the next Full Council meeting he would be presenting a report on the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant and the paper would highlight what the Council would be undertaking moving forward.

Subject to the aforementioned changes, it was:

RESOLVED that the new Corporate Plan for the period 2019-20 be adopted.

31/19 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20 (AGENDA ITEM 14)

Councillor Alison Webb, the Executive Member for People & Information presented the report. The Pay Policy Statement was a statutory requirement and had already been considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 31 January 2019.

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement be approved.

32/19 GENDER PAY GAP REPORT (AGENDA ITEM 15)

Councillor Alison Webb, the Executive Member for People & Information presented the report. The Gender Pay Gap report had already been considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 31 January 2019.

RESOLVED that the Gender Pay Gap report be uploaded onto the Government website in accordance with the Gender Pay Gap Information Regulations 2017.

33/19 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND OTHER SEATS (AGENDA ITEM 16)

None.

34/19 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (AGENDA ITEM 17)

None.

35/19 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (AGENDA ITEM 18)

None.

The meeting closed at 11.05 am

CHAIRMAN