

# MINUTES OF COUNCIL

21 FEBRUARY 2024

## PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs O'Rourke), Councillors Mrs A'Barrow, Barnett, Bennett, Mrs Brown, Daly, Douglas, Miss Dumbleton, Mrs Garcia, Gillias, Harrington, Mrs Hassell, Karadiar, D Keeling, J Keeling, Lawrence, Lewis, Ms Livesey, Mrs McKenzie, Mistry, Moran, Mrs New, Mrs Parker, Picker, Poole, Rabin, Ms Robbins, Mrs Robinson, Roodhouse, Mrs Roodhouse, Russell, Sandison, Mrs Sayani, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Slinger, Srivastava, Mrs Timms, Ward, Ms Watson-Merret and Willis.

## 84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Edwards and Mrs Maoudis.

## 85. MINUTES

The minutes of the special meeting held on 6 February 2024 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

## 86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 87. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had been delighted to attend the Pancake Race on 13 February in the town centre which had been reinstated by the Rugby Rokeby Lions in collaboration with Rugby First. The Mayor thanked everyone who entered the races and joined in the fun despite the weather conditions.

The Mayor recently presented the Bradby Club with a Mayor's Appreciation Award for their commitment and hard work with the youth of Rugby. The Mayor thanked the club for all their efforts."

The Mayor thanked everyone for their kind donations to HOPE4 in memory of her husband and Consort, Brendan, which now totalled nearly £5,000. The Mayor announced that the Seven Stars pub will also be holding a charity quiz on 12 March at 8pm in memory of Brendan. The Mayor would be asking for proceeds to go to the Bradby Club which Brendan, her son and grandson had all benefitted from.

The Mayor would be hosting a charity quiz at The Bell public house in Hillmorton on 4 March 2024, proceeds of which would go to her charity, Rugby Myton Hospice.

Money raised for the mayoral charity totalled approximately £11,000 currently with a donation being made by the Rugby Male Voice Choir recently. The Mayor wished to thank everyone who had contributed to this incredible amount of money.

## **88. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

### **A. Councillor Alison Livesey asked the Leader of the Council and Regulation and Safety Portfolio Holder, Councillor Poole:**

“Please could the Leader of the Council state the total social value of initiatives taken since the Public Services Act 2013 requiring all public sector organisations and their contracted organisation to consider the economic, social and environmental value of the activities they undertake, and the social value of each individual initiative undertaken since 2022?”

**Councillor Poole, Leader of the Council, provided the following response:**

“The Public Services Act 2013 requires public authorities to have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with public services contracts – a principle which is embedded within our procurement practices and which can be demonstrated, for example, through our recent contract for the redevelopment of Biart Place. Initial social value activities from this include:

- Two students from Lawrence Sheriff School have been selected for work experience placements, commencing in February.
- Two T level students from Warwick College, Rugby Campus to be selected to carry out the 365 hours of work experience required to complete their qualification, with the first placement already on site
- 5 week engineering enrichment programme agreed with Ashlawn School.

During the contract term, further social value activities are proposed to be considered and delivered. Further details can be provided to Members at a later date.

A social value calculation is not currently required under the Act and is not used by Rugby Borough Council.

Whilst the provisions of the Procurement Act (2023) are not yet in force, they are expected to be in the Autumn of this year. Cllr Livesey will be aware that these provisions place a greater emphasis on procurement as a means to deliver social value – for example through the legal requirement for public sector buyers to shift from awarding contracts based on the Most Economically Advantageous Tender to the Most Advantageous Tender. This

means giving full consideration of the wider benefits for the community, such as creating local employment opportunities, environmental benefits or using a local supply chain, in which the contract will be delivered.

It is imperative that all parties engage with the process of embedding these provisions into Council practice and I look forward to working with colleagues across the chamber to ensure that this leads to additional social value for the residents of the Borough – including on how the Council considers and reports social value.”

Councillor Ms Livesey then asked why such little had been achieved since the implementation of the Act. Councillor Poole stated that it was a very complex subject matter and would look to provide Councillor Ms Livesey with further details.

**B. Councillor Louise Robinson asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Poole:**

“Can the Leader of the Council update Council on the steps taken (and planned) to review the use of gender titles (Miss, Ms. and Mrs) for Councillors who identify as female?”

**Councillor Poole, Leader of the Council, provided the following response:**

“I can confirm that this matter has been discussed by the Council’s Equality and Diversity Steering Group. There will be a recommendation for Members to consider at the upcoming Full Council meeting in March.”

**C. Councillor Richard Harrington asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Poole:**

“Following the recent publicised views of councillors on Warwickshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee can the Leader of the Council affirm that Rugby Borough Council is committed to an inclusive approach to all initiatives and will seek to ensure that all future community engagement activities will include those with SEND?”

**Councillor Poole, Leader of the Council, provided the following response:**

“I am proud to be the Leader of a Council that is committed to equality and diversity and supporting all communities across our Borough. This is at the very heart of our values and I would be concerned if any of our Councillors are not committed to this all-inclusive approach.

The Council’s training programme for Councillors includes equality and diversity and I will be requesting the Council’s E&D Steering Group to review this programme to ensure it remains fit for purpose. I will also be seeking the same in respect of all Council officers to ensure training and overall

awareness of equality and diversity continues to be well embedded in all aspects of this Council's operations."

Councillor Harrington then asked the Leader of the Council if he would write to Warwickshire County Council concerning the lack of services available for those living with SEND. Councillor Poole was willing to discuss this with officers with a view to an appropriate response being received from Warwickshire County Council.

**89. REPORT OF AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE – 1 FEBRUARY 2024**

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report of Audit and Ethics Committee be confirmed and adopted.

**90. REPORT OF CABINET – 5 FEBRUARY 2024**

Council considered the report of Cabinet dated 5 January 2024 (Part 1 – agenda item 6(b)) concerning the Council Tax Base 2024/25, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2024/25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024-2029. Agenda item 7(a) concerning the Section 151 Officer's statement and a supplementary report concerning the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner, which had been circulated to all Members and published on the Council's website prior to the meeting, were also considered as part of the debate on this item.

In order that this item could be dealt with as a single debate, including the proposal of amendments, the Mayor moved, the Deputy Mayor seconded and it was resolved that Council Standing Orders paragraph 13.6(e) be suspended.

The Mayor informed the meeting that a recorded vote would be taken for the substantive motion on Council Tax determination.

Members placed on record their thanks to Jon Illingworth, Chief Officer – Finance and Performance and his team for their support and diligence during the budget setting process this year.

Councillor Poole moved and Councillor Ms Robbins seconded that the recommendation of Cabinet, together with agenda item 7(a) and the supplementary report be approved.

Councillor Moran then moved and Councillor Slinger seconded the amendment of the Labour Group as set out at Appendix 1 to the minutes.

Councillor Roodhouse moved and Councillor Miss Dumbleton seconded the amendment of the Liberal Democrat Group as set out at Appendix 2 to the minutes.

Further to debate and each Group Leader's right of reply, the Mayor took a vote on the Labour Group amendment and declared it lost. The Mayor then took a vote on the Liberal Democrat amendment and declared it carried. The Mayor then put the substantive motion to the vote.

**For the motion** - Councillors Mrs A'Barrow, Bennett, Daly, Douglas, Miss Dumbleton, Mrs Garcia, Gillias, Mrs Hassell, D Keeling, J Keeling, Lawrence, Lewis, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs New, Mrs Parker, Picker, Poole, Rabin, Ms Robbins, Roodhouse, Mrs Roodhouse, Russell, Sandison, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Mrs Timms, Ward, Ms Watson-Merret and Willis – **28 votes**

**Against the motion** – Councillors Barnett, Mrs Brown, Harrington, Karadiar, Ms Livesey, Mistry, Moran, Mrs O'Rourke, Mrs Robinson, Sayani, Slinger and Srivastava – **12 votes**

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the recommendation of Cabinet be confirmed and adopted, subject to Appendix 2 to the minutes being adopted as the Council's budget for 2024/25.

## **91. REPORT OF OFFICERS**

### **(a) Constitution Update**

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 7(b)) concerning proposed updates to the Budget Policy Framework and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers outlined within the Council's Constitution.

#### **RESOLVED THAT –**

(1) the proposed amendments as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 to the report be approved; and

(2) delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer to implement the amendments to the Council Constitution as detailed within the report and within Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

### **(b) Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers – Civic Procession**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive (Part 1 – agenda item 7(c)) concerning an urgent decision taken under delegated powers with regard to a civic procession for the funeral of Freeman of the Borough and Past Mayor, Dr James Shera.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report be noted.

**92. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, there were no motions on notice for consideration.

**MAYOR**

## Labour Amendment

Proposer: Michael Moran

Seconder John Slinger

**COUNCIL MEETING - 21 FEBRUARY 2024**

**COUNCIL TAX DETERMINATION 2024/25**

### RECOMMENDED THAT:-

- (1) the Council's General Fund Capital budget for 2024/25 be as shown within **Appendix 3 of the Budget Booklet 2024/25 (Appendix B)** of the "Council Tax Determination 2024/24 report. With the following variations:  
none
- (2) the Council's General Fund Revenue budget for 2024/25 be as shown within **Appendix 1 of the Budget Booklet (Appendix B)** as part of the "Council Tax Determination 2024/25" report. With the following variations:

	£
Limit the increase in the purchase of exclusive rate of burial to 6.7% or £1,760, therefore reducing the income target associated with the service	11,000
Reduce the lifeline personal alarm service from £5.20 to £5.00 per week, therefore reducing the income target associated with the service	12,000
Maintain the garden bins waste collection service at £40 as opposed to the increase to £48, therefore reducing the income target associated with the service	189,000
Use of the business rates growth for 2024/25 to fund the reductions in income (therefore increasing the use of retained business rates growth in year from £783,000 to £995,000)	-212,000
The establishment of a suite of reserves to support the delivery of the Rugby 2035 coordination through the repurposing of existing reserves and retained business rates growth	
<b>A) Reserves to be disbanded (REDUCED TO ZERO)</b>	
Transformation fund (forecast balance)	-935,000
Town centre fund (forecast balance)	-3,600,000
Retained business rates growth	-1,790,000
Climate change fund (forecast balance)	-800,000
<b>b) Reserves to be established</b>	
Rugby 2035 coordination	500,000
Love Rugby public Works	725,000
Environment/Climate Change Health	1,000,000
Town Centre revival	2,000,000
Employment Skills and growth	1,500,000
partnerships and grant funding	300,000
Volunteers initiative	300,000
Diversity engagement	300,000
Crime and community safety	500,000
	0

- (3) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish precepts) be calculated as **£8,897,509** equating to a **2.99% increase** for a Band D property;
- (4) the Council note that in the professional opinion of the Chief Financial Officer the level of reserves and balances as detailed in **Council Tax Base 2024/25, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2024/25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024-2029 - update** as part of the "Council Tax Determination 2024/25" report are adequate to support the level of spending in the proposed capital and revenue budgets for 2024/25 and onwards;

- (5) it be noted that at its meeting on 8th January 2024 Cabinet confirmed the following amounts for the year 2024/25 calculated in accordance with regulations made under section 31(B) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by sections 72 to 79 of the Localism Act 2011:-

(a) **40,975.91** being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 as its Council Tax base for the year.

(b) Part of the Council's area

Parish of		
Ansty	134.06	
Binley Woods	1,067.35	
Birdingbury	171.38	
Bourton & Draycote	146.67	
Brandon & Bretford	296.21	
Brinklow	469.45	
Burton Hastings	97.97	
Cawston	2,033.26	
Church Lawford	163.96	
Churchover	787.4	
Clifton-upon-Dunsmore	1,991.32	
Combe Fields	69.5	
Copston Magna	21.96	
Cosford	8.1	
Dunchurch	1,825.75	
Easehall	105.86	
Frankton	175.43	
Grandborough	220.73	
Harborough Magna	184.87	
Kings Newnham	30.89	
Leamington Hastings	243.18	
Long Lawford	1,452.55	
Marton	226.67	
Monks Kirby	227	
Newton & Biggin	615.83	
Pailton	235.51	
Princethorpe	168.72	
Ryton-on-Dunsmore	700.42	
Shilton & Barnacle	352.34	
Stretton Baskerville	8.29	
Stretton-on-Dunsmore	528.33	
Stretton-under-Fosse	96	
Thurlaston	214.59	
Wibtoft	25.06	
Willey	39.36	
Willoughby	194.71	
Withybrook	124.37	
Wolfhampcote	153.97	
Wolston	1,022.14	
Wolvey	565.14	
Rugby Town Area	23,639.83	
MOD Properties	139.78	40,975.91

being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

- (6) consequent upon the above revised tax base for Rugby Special Expenses Area the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended:-

(a)	£ <b>76,696,873</b>	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act ( <i>gross expenditure including parish precepts</i> );
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- (b) **-66,699,784** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31(A)(3) of the Act (*gross income*);
- (c) **9,997,089** being the amount by which the aggregate at 6(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 6(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31(A)(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year;
- (d) **243.97** being the amount at 6(c) above divided by the amount at 5(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31(B) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (*including parish precepts and town area special expenses*);
- (e) **3,219,643** being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (*parish precepts and town area special expenses*);
- (f) **165.40** being the amount at 6(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 6(e) above by the amount at 5(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 area to which no special item relates (*Rugby Borough Council Tax excluding parish precepts and town area special expenses*);

## (g) Part of the Council's area

Parish of	£
Ansty	78.32
Binley Woods	50.59
Birdingbury	46.53
Bourton & Draycote	40.91
Brandon & Bretford	71.21
Brinklow	76.57
Burton Hastings	26.95
Cawston	46.31
Church Lawford	41.14
Churchover	26.25
Clifton-upon-Dunsmore	36.91
Combe Fields	4.46
Copston Magna	0.00
Cosford	0.00
Dunchurch	64.65
Easenhall	70.85
Frankton	57.00
Grandborough	53.41
Harborough Magna	75.31
Kings Newnham	0.00
Leamington Hastings	16.45
Long Lawford	92.25
Marton	55.15
Monks Kirby	49.17
Newton & Biggin	44.23
Pailton	76.51
Princethorpe	103.81
Ryton-on-Dunsmore	121.94
Shilton & Barnacle	69.92
Stretton Baskerville	0.00
Stretton-on-Dunsmore	113.22
Stretton-under-Fosse	92.50
Thurlaston	107.18
Wibtoft	0.00
Willey	12.70
Willoughby	88.00
Withybrook	68.34
Wolfhampcote	38.97
Wolston	100.64
Wolvey	77.16
Rugby Town Area	89.68

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 6(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 5(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 (*Rugby Borough Council plus parish/town area Council Tax for each parish/town area at Band D*);

(h) the amounts set out in Annex 1, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 6(f) and 6(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 (*Rugby Borough Council plus parish/town area Council Tax for each parish/town area for each Band*);

- (7) it be noted that for the year 2023/24 Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the District Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands £	Warks County Council £	Police & Crime Commissioner £
A	1,157.46	193.14
B	1,350.37	225.33
C	1,543.28	257.52
D	1,736.19	289.71
E	2,122.01	354.09
F	2,507.83	418.47
G	2,893.65	482.85
H	3,472.38	579.42

and

- (8) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 6(h) and 7 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts set out at Annex 2, as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown;
- (9) the Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

## Liberal Democrats Amendment

Proposer: Jerry Roodhouse

Seconder Carrie-Anne Dumbleton

### COUNCIL MEETING - 21 FEBRUARY 2024

### COUNCIL TAX DETERMINATION 2024/25

#### RECOMMENDED THAT:-

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- (2) the Council's General Fund Revenue budget for 2024/25 be as shown within **Appendix 1 of the Budget Booklet (Appendix B)** as part of the "Council Tax Determination 2024/25" report. With the following variations:

	£
Establishment of a Climate change officer (1FTE assumed grade F) to accelerate and deliver on the climate change strategy reporting directly to the Deputy Chief Executive	52,000
Allocate one off sum towards increasing the circular economy as outlined in the Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan regarding community education on recycling, composting and other waste reduction measures that reduce waste to landfill and incineration	50,000
Allocation towards a Rugby Health Partnership fund this is to enable this Council to deliver on greater partnership working between agencies and allow the Council to tackle the health deficit that is facing Rugby. This funding is conditional on statutory partners also investing into the Rugby Health Partnership.	50,000
The green bin charge be set at £45 for 2024/25 instead of the £48 which is a 20% proposed increase, therefore reducing the income target associated with the service	69,000
Use of the business rates growth for 2024/25 to fund the reductions in income (therefore increasing the use of retained business rates growth in year from £783,000 to £1004,000) But with consideration during 2024/25 to establish if the Climate change reserve could be utilised for the Climate change officer and the circular economy project	-221,000
That the UKSPF group investigate an allocation to kickstart public realm improvements around Church Walk and St Andrews Parish Church	n/a
council also requests that the cross party budget working group be established earlier in the budget setting process to commence the exploring of the medium term.	n/a
council requests that the following the prioritisation exercise the corporate strategy delivery plan be accelerated in regard to its delivery and that scrutiny ensures that key performance measures are in place.	n/a
	0

- (3) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish precepts) be calculated as **£8,897,509** equating to a **2.99% increase** for a Band D property;
- (4) the Council note that in the professional opinion of the Chief Financial Officer the level of reserves and balances as detailed in **Council Tax Base 2024/25, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2024/25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024-2029 - update** as part of the "Council Tax Determination 2024/25" report are adequate to support the level of spending in the proposed capital and revenue budgets for 2024/25 and onwards;
- (5) it be noted that at its meeting on 8th January 2024 Cabinet confirmed the following amounts for the year 2024/25 calculated in accordance with regulations made under section 31(B) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by sections 72 to 79 of the Localism Act 2011:-
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(c)	<b>9,997,089</b>	being the amount by which the aggregate at 6(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 6(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31(A)(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year;

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(h) the amounts set out in Annex 1, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 6(f) and 6(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 (*Rugby Borough Council plus parish/town area Council Tax for each parish/town area for each Band*);

- (7) it be noted that for the year 2023/24 Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the District Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

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F	2,507.83	418.47
G	2,893.65	482.85
H	3,472.38	579.42

and

- (8) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 6(h) and 7 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts set out at Annex 2, as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown;
- (9) the Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.