West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

14 February 2020

At the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 am on Friday, 14 February 2020, at the County Hall, Chichester, the members present being:

Mrs Duncton (Chairman)

Mrs Arculus Mr Acraman Lt Cdr Atkins, RD Mr Baldwin Mr Barling Mr Barnard Mr Barrett-Miles Mrs Bennett Mr Boram Mr Bradbury Mr Bradford Mr Buckland Mrs Burgess Mr Burrett Mr Catchpole Mr Crow Dr Dennis Mr Edwards Mr Elkins Mr Fitzjohn Ms Goldsmith Mrs Hall Mr High Mr Hillier Mr Hunt Mrs Jones, MBE Mr Jones Mrs Jupp Mr Jupp Ms Kennard

Mrs Kitchen Mr Lanzer Mr Lea Ms Lord Mr Markwell Mr Marshall Mr McDonald Mrs Millson Mr Mitchell Mr Montyn Mr R J Oakley Mr S J Oakley Dr O'Kelly Mr Oppler Mr Oxlade Mr Patel Mrs Pendleton Mr Purchese Mrs Purnell Mr Quinn Mrs Russell Mr Smytherman Mrs Sparkes Ms Sudan Mr Turner Mrs Urguhart Mr Waight Dr Walsh, KStJ, RD Mr Whittington Mr Wickremaratchi

90 Apologies for Absence

- 90.1 Apologies were received from Lt Col Barton, Mrs Bridges, Mrs Brunsdon, Mr Cloake, Mrs Dennis, Mrs Flynn, Mr Magill and Mr Simmons.
- 90.2 Mrs Smith was absent.
- 90.3 Apologies for the afternoon session were received from Mrs Arculus and Mrs Burgess.

90.4 Mr Markwell was absent for the afternoon session. Mr Baldwin, Mrs Jones, Ms Lord and Mr R J Oakley left at 3.55 p.m.

91 Members' Interests

91.1 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

92 Minutes

92.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 17 December 2019 (pages 5 to 40) be approved as a correct record.

93 Review of Proportionality

- 93.1 Following the decision of the Council at its last meeting to establish a Fire & Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee, the Council was asked to review the proportionality on its committees. A paper on the application of the proportionality rules and how they were applied, together with a table showing the number of seats on committees, was set out on pages 41 and 42.
- 93.2 Resolved -

That the proportionality on committees be agreed.

94 Appointments

94.1 The Council approved appointments as set out below.

Committee	Change
Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Mr Baldwin to fill vacancy Ms Goldsmith in place of Mrs Bridges Mr Quinn in place of Mr Jones Mr Jones as substitute in place of Mr Quinn Mrs Millson to fill vacancy as substitute
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	Ms Sudan in place of Mrs Smith Mr Jones in place of Ms Sudan as substitute
Fire & Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee	Mrs Arculus Mr Barnard (Vice-Chairman) Mr Edwards Mr Jones Mrs Pendleton Mr Smytherman

Committee	Change
	Mr Waight (Chairman)
	Mr Barrett-Miles as substitute
	Mr Oxlade as substitute
	Dr Walsh as substitute
Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee	Mr Bradford to fill vacancy
Planning Committee	Mr Burrett and Mr Montyn to fill vacancies
	Mrs Millson to fill vacancy
	Ms Lord as substitute
Rights of Way Committee	Mrs Brunsdon to fill vacancy
Corporate Parenting Panel	Mrs Jones to fill vacancy

95 Address by a Cabinet Member

- 95.1 Members asked questions of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on the Council's Children First Improvement Plan.
- 95.2 In response to a question from Dr Walsh about the placing of West Sussex children out of county, the Cabinet Member agreed to discuss with the team the reasons for it not being suitable for particular children to be placed closer to West Sussex and to report back to Dr Walsh.

96 Revenue Budget 2020/21, Capital Strategy 2020-25 and Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21

- 96.1 The Cabinet Member for Finance moved the report on the Revenue Budget 2020/21, Capital Strategy 2020-25 and Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21.
- 96.2 An amendment was moved by Dr Walsh and seconded by Ms Lord.

Changes to the Revenue Budget	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22
	Growth £m	Reduction £m	Growth £m	Reduction £m
Ongoing changes				
Reverse the proposed cut to the post-16 support service that provides	0.100			

`Revenue Budget 2020/21

Changes to the Revenue Budget	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22
	Growth £m	Reduction £m	Growth £m	Reduction £m
interventions and careers guidance for young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs).				
Continue the ESIF funding for the post-16 support service that ceases on 31 December 2020.	0.057		0.173	
Reverse Local Assistance Network (LAN) budget cut agreed by Cabinet at its meeting in December 2019 (decision report CAB05 (19/20)).	0.100			
Fund two additional posts to accelerate progress to tackle the climate change emergency: Climate Change Emergency Lead Officer at around £75-80k pa on- costed, to coordinate the corporate response to the climate change emergency, internally and develop joint working with others, especially districts and boroughs. Data & Information Officer at around	0.120			

Changes to the Revenue Budget	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22
	Growth £m	Reduction £m	Growth £m	Reduction £m
£40-45k pa on- costed, reporting to Climate Change Lead Officer.				
Fund two additional officer posts and consultancy support to explore opportunities for improvements in sustainable travel. One post to work on Enhanced Bus Quality Partnerships and with the Transport for South East on regional franchising and another post to drive forward work on new cycling schemes to include the feasibility of delivering a mini Holland concept in West Sussex.	0.150			
Reduce the Communications budget by 35% in 2020/21 and a further 11% in 2021/22 (Communications 2020/21 net budget is £1.519m).		0.527		0.173
Total ongoing changes	0.527	0.527	0.173	0.173
Total changes	0.527	0.527	0.173	0.173

96.1 The amendment was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.36.

(a) For the amendment – 13

Mr Buckland, Dr Dennis, Mr Jones, Ms Lord, Mrs Millson, Dr O'Kelly Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Purchese, Mr Quinn, Mr Smytherman, Ms Sudan and Dr Walsh.

(b) Against the amendment - 41

Mr Acraman, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mrs Bennett, Mr Boram, Mr Bradbury, Mr Bradford, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Crow, Mr Edwards, Mr Elkins, Mr Fitzjohn, Ms Goldsmith, Mrs Hall, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mr Lanzer, Mr Lea, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mrs Purnell, Mrs Russell, Mrs Sparkes, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 3

Mrs Jones, Mrs Kitchen and Mr Turner.

- 96.2 The amendment was lost.
- 96.3 The Labour amendment 1 was moved by Mr Jones and seconded by Mr Oxlade.

Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget	Growth £m	Reduction £m
Ongoing changes to the Revenue Budget		
Reverse Local Assistance Network (LAN) budget cut agreed by Cabinet at its meeting in December 2019 (decision report CAB05 (19/20)).	0.100	
Reverse proposed cut to post-16 support service that provides interventions and careers guidance for young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs).	0.100	
Reverse proposed reduction to library opening hours at seven libraries to close at 6pm instead of 7pm (decision report CAB04(19/20)).	0.070	
Fund an additional post to increase participation with home library direct and digital library plus.	0.035	

'Revenue Budget 2020/21

Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget	Growth £m	Reduction £m
Pilot the partial opening of Crawley and Burgess Hill libraries on 50 Sundays from 10am-2pm.	0.085	
Reinstate urban grass cutting from five up to seven cuts per year at £55,000 per cut.	0.110	
Provide additional resource within highways repairing road signs (around 30 jobs per month /360 per year), as well as additional resource to refresh line-painting on around 50km of the network.	0.235	
Funding for a dual diagnosis link worker (1fte post) to take a lead on the high-level findings of the Drug Death Audit specifically in relation to supporting adults with co-existing substance misuse and mental health needs.	0.060	
Funding to increase the capacity of therapist time to support children of alcohol dependant parents to meet the demand currently not being met.	0.050	
Climate Change Lead Officer to coordinate the corporate response to Climate Change, internally and develop joint working, especially with districts and boroughs.	0.080	
49% reduction in the Communications budget		0.749
50% reduction in the Lieutenancy budget		0.035
50% reduction in the Policy budget		0.141
Total ongoing changes to the Revenue Budget	0.925	0.925
One-off changes to the Revenue Budget		
Funding to boost the night-time economy in town centres by supporting feasibility work, further development work where this has been completed or building partnerships to develop and manage night-time economy activities. Subject to equivalent match funding by districts and boroughs, this would provide a maximum of £40,000 available to spend on jointly agreed priorities in each district or borough area.	0.140	
Reprioritise drawdown from the Economic Growth Reserve, which is ' <i>Held to deliver the Economic Growth Plan 2018-2023.</i> '		0.140

Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget	Growth £m	Reduction £m
 Projected balance as 1 April 2020 is £1.297m. The reserve is committed to programmes of work to achieve priorities such as: mature workforce programme; creative digital sector growth programme for coastal towns; economy, business and skills benefits from digital infrastructure investment activities working with the districts and boroughs; growth of the low carbon economy in support of the Council's Climate Pledge, including match funding for a significant external funding bid; and boosting research, development and innovation in West Sussex businesses to address productivity and growth challenges, including match funding bid. Allocations against other priorities from within this reserve could put achievement of these priorities at risk. 		
Total one-off changes to the Revenue Budget	0.140	0.140
Total changes to the Revenue Budget	1.065	1.065

Capital Programme

Changes to the Capital Programme	Growth £m	Reduction £m
Invest in road safety to deliver a reduction in the number of people killed and seriously injured on West Sussex roads.	5.000	
Increase Investment Property Fund.	7.000	
Reallocation of corporate funding for A29 realignment.		12.000
This will mean not completing the A29 realignment works. Delivery of the A29 southern extension is a firm commitment within the Arun local plan. The site for the housing associated with the road has been allocated as has the line of the road.		
Total changes to the Capital Programme	12.000	12.000

- 96.4 The revenue proposals in the Labour amendment 1 were put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.36.
 - (a) For the amendment 12

Dr Dennis, Mr Jones, Ms Lord, Mrs Millson, Dr O'Kelly Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Purchese, Mr Quinn, Mr Smytherman, Ms Sudan and Dr Walsh.

(b) Against the amendment - 42

Mr Acraman, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mrs Bennett, Mr Boram, Mr Bradbury, Mr Bradford, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Crow, Mr Edwards, Mr Elkins, Mr Fitzjohn, Ms Goldsmith, Mrs Hall, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jones, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Lea, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mrs Purnell, Mrs Russell, Mrs Sparkes, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 1

Mr Turner.

- 96.5 The amendment was lost.
- 96.6 The capital proposals in the Labour amendment 1 were put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.36.
 - (a) For the amendment 5

Mr Buckland, Mr Jones, Mr Oxlade, Mr Quinn and Ms Sudan.

(b) Against the amendment - 44

Mr Acraman, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mrs Bennett, Mr Boram, Mr Bradbury, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Crow, Dr Dennis, Mr Edwards, Mr Elkins, Ms Goldsmith, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Lea, Ms Lord, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mrs Millson, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mrs Purnell, Mrs Russell, Mr Smytherman, Mrs Sparkes, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight, Dr Walsh, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 4

Mr Fitzjohn, Dr O'Kelly, Mr Oppler and Mr Purchese.

96.7 The amendment was lost.

96.8 The Labour amendment 2 was moved by Mr Jones and seconded by Mr Oxlade.

`Capital Programme

	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22
Changes to the Capital Programme	Growth £m	Reduction £m	Growth £m	Reduction £m
Increase funding to ensure the re-build of Woodlands Meed is delivered by September 2022.	8.500		4.100	
(Total cost of £18.6m, takes account of £1.0m in the programme for 2020/21 and £5m for 2021/22)				
Total changes to the Capital Programme	8.500		4.100	

Revenue impact of the changes to the Capital programme

Accelerating the capital programme for Woodlands Meed increases revenue costs by about £0.7m in 2021/22, £0.8m in 2022/23 and \pm 0.6m in 2023/24. Thereafter, the capital programme already provides for the cost of Woodlands Meed.

Note: The Director of Finance and Support Services had been advised of the proposed amendment and had indicated that it could not have her endorsement as the change to the capital profiling would be misleading to the public by giving an impression that a capital project would be delivered within a set timescale whereas that can only be determined by the project plan for the scheme which, in this instance, has not been developed.

- 96.9 The Labour amendment 2 was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.36.
 - (a) For the amendment 13

Dr Dennis, Mr Jones, Mr Lea, Ms Lord, Mrs Millson, Dr O'Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Purchese, Mr Quinn, Mr Smytherman, Ms Sudan and Dr Walsh.

(b) Against the amendment - 41

Mr Acraman, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mrs Bennett, Mr Boram, Mr Bradbury, Mr Bradford, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Crow, Mr Edwards, Mr Elkins, Ms Goldsmith, Mrs Hall, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jones, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mrs Purnell, Mrs Russell, Mrs Sparkes, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 2

Mr Buckland and Mr Fitzjohn.

- 96.10 The amendment was lost.
- 96.11 The recommendations were put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.36.
 - (a) (a) For the recommendations 43

Mr Acraman, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mrs Bennett, Mr Boram, Mr Bradbury, Mr Bradford, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Crow, Mr Edwards, Mr Elkins, Ms Goldsmith, Mrs Hall, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jones, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Lea, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mrs Purnell, Mrs Russell, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

- (b) Against the recommendations 0
- (c) Abstentions 14

Mr Buckland, Dr Dennis, Mr Fitzjohn, Mr Jones, Ms Lord, Mrs Millson, Dr O'Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Purchese, Mr Quinn, Mr Smytherman, Ms Sudan and Dr Walsh.

96.12 The recommendations were carried.

96.13 Resolved -

That, taking account of the priorities contained in the approved West Sussex Plan, the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and the results of internal and external consultation, the following items be approved:

- (1) An increase in council tax in 2020/21 comprising:
 - 2.00% for Adults' Social Care, plus
 - 1.99% to support other General Fund services
 - making a total increase of 3.99%

- (2) Net revenue expenditure in 2020/21 of £593.857m (as set out in paragraph 5.1 and Appendix 1).
- (3) (a) Capital Strategy, setting out capital expenditure and proposed method of financing for the core programme and the income generating initiatives (which will be subject to their own business cases) for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25, as set out in Annex 2(a).
 - (b) Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy, outlining how the Council proposes to use the flexibility to apply capital receipts to fund transformation projects, as set out within the Capital Strategy, Annex 2(a), section 7.
 - (c) Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21, as set out in Annex 2(b).
 - (d) Prudential Indicators, as set out in Annex 2(c).
- (4) The Director of Finance and Support Services' assessment of the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves (Section 7).
- (5) The following amounts be approved for the financial year 2020/21 in accordance with Section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (a) That the budget requirement to meet net expenditure of the County Council for the financial year 2020/21 is £593.857m, and the council tax requirement for 2020/21 is £485.691m.
 - (b) That the following sums be payable for the year into the County Council's revenue fund:

Business Rates Retention Scheme	£85.110m
New Homes Bonus Grant	£3.713m
Social Care Support Grant	£17.343m
Net surplus from District and Borough Collection Funds	£2.000m

- (c) The council tax base for the year 2020/21 is the aggregate amount calculated by the billing authorities to which the County Council issues precepts totalling 337,580.90 Band D equivalents.
- (d) The amount of council tax being the budget requirement at 5(a) above, less the amounts receivable in 5(b) above, all divided by the council tax base at 5(c) above, shall be £1,438.74 to the nearest penny for Band D.

(e) The amount of council tax payable for dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, calculated in accordance with the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, shall be as follows:

Band	Amount	Band	Amount
А	£959.16	E	£1,758.46
В	£1,119.02	F	£2,078.18
С	£1,278.88	G	£2,397.90
D	£1,438.74	Н	£2,877.48

(f) That the district and borough councils be requested to make payments totalling £485.691m to West Sussex County Council of sums due under precepts calculated in proportion to their council tax Band D equivalents as follows:

Adur District Council	£30,762,275.44
Arun District Council	£89,552,932.56
Chichester District Council	£77,883,744.04
Crawley Borough Council	£51,524,013.01
Horsham District Council	£90,682,343.46
Mid Sussex District Council	£88,786,947.38
Worthing Borough Council	£56,498,888.18

(g) That the district councils be required to make payments of precept by equal instalments of the above sums due on or before:

6 April 2020	5 May 2020	5 June 2020
6 July 2020	5 August 2020	7 September 2020
5 October 2020	5 November 2020	7 December 2020
5 January 2021	5 February 2021	5 March 2021

(h) Additionally, it is noted that payments be made by the district and borough councils (or to them) in respect of the estimated surplus/(deficit) on their collection funds on 31 March 2020:

Council	Business
Tax *	Rates *

Adur District Council

Arun District Council

Chichester District Council

Crawley Borough Council

Horsham District Council

Mid Sussex District Council

Worthing Borough Council

(*Figures from districts and borough councils being verified)

- (6) The delegation to the Director of Finance and Support Services of authority to make changes to the report on net revenue expenditure or to the precepts required:
 - as a result of a change in the council tax base notified by the district and borough councils;
 - arising from updated information from the district and borough councils to the council tax collection funds and business rates forecast and collection funds; or
 - arising from any funding announcements from central government.

All such changes of funding (positive or negative) to be applied through the Budget Management Reserve.

97 Pay Policy Statement 2020/21

- 97.1 The Council considered changes to the Pay Policy Statement 2020/21 in the light of a report from the Governance Committee (pages 43 to 54).
- 97.2 An amendment was moved by Mr Jones and seconded by Dr Walsh.

`Extract from Appendix 1, page 49

- 10. Termination of Employment
- 10.1 The County Council has determined that a vote by the Council on severance payments above **£100,000** a defined threshold is not required **unless agreed otherwise by the Chairman and group leaders**. This is due to the fact that the Governance Committee determines all pay policies including those affecting severance payments.'
- 97.3 The amendment was lost.
- 97.4 Resolved -

That the proposed revisions to the Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

98 Question Time

98.1 Members asked questions of members of the Cabinet on matters relevant to their portfolios and asked questions of chairmen, as set out at Appendix 3. This included questions on those matters contained within the Cabinet report (pages 55 to 58) and written questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 2.38 (set out at Appendix 2).

99 Governance Committee: Minor changes to Council procedures, Pensions delegations, authority to effect constitutional changes arising from withdrawal from the EU and establishment of a Joint Waste Committee

- 99.1 The Council considered minor changes to Council procedures, Pensions delegations, authority to affect constitutional changes arising from withdrawal from the EU and the establishment of a Joint Committee for work on recycling projects, in the light of a report from the Governance Committee (pages 59 to 68).
- 99.2 In relation to the changes to the Pensions Panel terms of reference set out in Appendix 2 to the report, the Chairman informed members that following further advice from the Director of Finance and Support Services, in paragraph (3) that the words after the word 'strategy' should be deleted as they were superfluous.
- 99.3 Resolved -
 - (1) That the proposed minor changes to Council procedures set out above and in Appendix 1 to the report be agreed;
 - (2) That the changes to Part 3 of the Constitution, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, subject to the further amendment set out in minute 99.2, be approved;
 - (3) That paragraph 12 be deleted from the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference;
 - (4) That delegation of authority to the Director of Law and Assurance to make any changes to the Council's Constitution, policies and guidance documents to reflect changes in legislation arising from the UK's withdrawal from the EU and to agree and settle changes to any other affected legal instrument or agreement to which the County Council is or will become a party be confirmed;
 - (5) That the constitution and terms of reference for a joint executive committee between the County Council and one or more district and borough councils for use in connection with

inter-authority partnership work on recycling projects, as set out at Appendix 3 to the report, be approved; and

(6) That should any minor amendments be required following consultation with Mid Sussex District Council, the Director of Law and Assurance be authorised to make the changes in consultation with the Chairman.

Chairman

The Council rose at 4.15 pm