

West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

17 February 2023

At the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 am on Friday, 17 February 2023, at County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ, the members present being:

Cllr Bradbury (Chairman)

Cllr Wickremaratchi (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Lord
Cllr Albury	Cllr Markwell
Cllr Atkins, RD	Cllr Marshall
Cllr Baldwin	Cllr McDonald
Cllr Baxter	Cllr McGregor
Cllr Bence	Cllr McKnight
Cllr Britton	Cllr Mercer
Cllr Burrett	Cllr Milne
Cllr Cherry	Cllr Mitchell
Cllr Chowdhury	Cllr Montyn
Cllr Condie	Cllr Nagel
Cllr Cooper	Cllr Oakley
Cllr Cornell	Cllr O'Kelly
Cllr Crow	Cllr Oppler
Cllr J Dennis	Cllr Oxlade
Cllr N Dennis	Cllr Patel
Cllr Duncton	Cllr Payne
Cllr Dunn	Cllr Pendleton
Cllr Evans	Cllr Pudaloff
Cllr Forbes	Cllr Quinn
Cllr Gibson	Cllr Richardson
Cllr Greenway	Cllr Russell
Cllr Hillier	Cllr Sharp
Cllr Hunt	Cllr Smith
Cllr Johnson	Cllr Sparkes
Cllr Joy	Cllr Turley
Cllr A Jupp	Cllr Urquhart
Cllr N Jupp	Cllr Waight
Cllr Kenyon	Cllr Wall
Cllr Kerry-Bedell	Cllr Walsh, KStJ, RD
Cllr Lanzer	Cllr Wild

148 Deaths of Mr Jack Campbell DL and Mr John Cherry

148.1 The Chairman reported the deaths of two former members, Mr John Cherry who had represented Midhurst from 2012 to 2013 and Mr Jack Campbell DL who had represented Steyning from 1979 to 1989 and then from 1993 to 2001.

148.2 Members also remembered the many victims of the terrible earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria in the previous week

148.3 Members held a minute's silence.

149 Anniversary of war in Ukraine

149.1 The Chairman informed members that he had asked for the Ukrainian Flag to be flown at County Hall from 17 to 24 February, the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine, as a mark of respect for and solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

150 Apologies for Absence

150.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Ali, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Hall and Cllr Linehan. Cllr Markwell arrived at 12.44 pm. Cllr Sharp arrived for the afternoon session at 2.05 pm.

150.2 Cllr Richardson was absent for the afternoon session.

150.3 Cllr Walsh gave his apologies and left at 2.30 pm. Cllr Joy, Cllr Markwell and Cllr O'Kelly left at 4.20 pm, 4.45 pm and 5.00 pm respectively.

151 Members' Interests

151.1 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

152 Minutes

152.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 16 December 2022 (pages 3 to 28) be approved as a correct record.

153 Governance Committee: Pay Policy Statement 2023/24

153.1 The Council considered the Pay Policy Statement 2023/24, in the light of a report from the Governance Committee (pages 29 to 38).

153.2 Resolved –

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

154 Governance Committee: Pensions Committee Terms of Reference

154.1 The Council considered a change to the Pension Committee's terms of reference, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (pages 39 to 44).

154.2 Resolved –

That the Pension Committee's terms of reference be amended to include responsibility for determination and consideration of the

Pension Fund policy documents, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

155 Report of Urgent Action

155.1 The report of urgent action taken under regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (pages 45 and 46) was noted.

156 Council Plan and Budget 2023/24

156.1 The Leader moved the report on the Council Plan and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property moved the report on budget for 2023/24, the Capital Strategy 2023-28 and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24 (budget pack pages 1 to 233).

156.2 An amendment was moved by Cllr Lord and seconded by Cllr O’Kelly as set out below.

Proposed amendment to the Revenue Budget

Growth

Ongoing amendment to the revenue budget	2023/24 £m
Highways – Additional Officer - Active Travel	0.060
Highways – Additional Officer – Buses	0.060
Highways – Additional Officer – Rights of Way	0.060
Adults – 3 x Occupational Therapists	0.135
Adults – 2 x Carers Support Officers	0.080
Environment - Community Climate Emergency Fund Officer	0.060
Additional support for children and adolescent mental health within schools	0.500
Borrowing costs to fund £0.5m of Public Rights of Way capital improvements, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and £0.5m on Climate Emergency Fund	0.057
Total	1.012

One-off amendment to revenue budget

One-off amendment	2023/24 £m
Cost of living support to enable local voluntary groups to meet their needs to support people in need	0.200
Total revenue budget amendments	1.212

Reduction options

Ongoing amendments to the revenue budget	2023/24 £m
Increase discretionary income from Fees and charges excluding Adults social care by 1% over RPI included within budget proposals	0.153
Remove advisers to Cabinet Members	0.032
12% Reduction to communications budget	0.262
Efficiencies from reviewing the insourcing of Capita services (3%)	0.240
Reduction to Executive Personal Assistants (2xFTE)	0.075
Reduction to customer experience (2x FTE)	0.100
Reduction to Insight & Performance (3XFTE)	0.150
Total	1.012

One-off amendments	2023/24 £m
Use of Covid 19 Grant reserves to support cost of living – one-off funding	0.200
Total Funding for ongoing and one-off amendments	1.212

Proposed amendments to the Capital Programme

Growth

Amendment to the Capital Programme	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Fund a Climate Emergency fund to encourage innovative community projects that will reduce carbon levels locally and improve our environment	0.500	0.500
Additional funding for Public Rights of Way capital improvements, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure	0.500	0.500
Total Amendment	1.000	1.000

Funding

Amendments to the Capital Programme	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Use of the unallocated Capital Improvement budget in 2024/25 to fund Climate Emergency fund		1.000
Funded through borrowing – see detail in the revenue changes table above	1.000	
Total Amendments	1.000	1.000

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

(a) For the amendment – 13

Cllr Cherry, Cllr Condie, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Lord, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Milne, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Sharp, and Cllr Wild.

(b) Against the amendment – 35

Cllr Albury, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Britton, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Evans, Cllr Forbes, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kenyon, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr McGregor, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Montyn, Cllr Oakley, Cllr Patel, Cllr Payne, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight, Cllr Wall and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 8

Cllr Baxter, Cllr Chowdhury, Cllr Cornell, Cllr McKnight, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Pudaloff, Cllr Smith and Cllr Turley.

156.4 The amendment was lost.

156.5 An amendment was moved by Cllr Baxter and seconded by Cllr Oxlade as set out below.

Proposed amendments to the Revenue Budget - ongoing

Growth

Ongoing amendments to the revenue budget	2023/24 £m
Funding for a communication officer (0.5 FTE) in the fostering service to engage hard-to-reach Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities	0.023
Funding for an additional officer post (1.0 FTE) to support and respond to carers funding enquiries	0.045
Funding for a design support officer (1.0 FTE) within the strategic commissioning and procurement team to conduct a review and identify which existing contracts could deliver better value for money if brought in-house	0.070
Total	0.138

To be funded (ongoing budget reductions) through:

Ongoing amendments to the revenue budget	2023/24 £m
Invest to save funding to delivery future savings on Commissioning and Procurement	0.070
Removal of the posts of cabinet advisers from the Council's list of special responsibilities for members	0.032

Ongoing amendments to the revenue budget	2023/24 £m
The value of the deletion would be the value of the special responsibility allowances currently set against these posts	
Remove the budget for member catering	0.011
Reduce the Policy Team budget by 15%	0.045
Total Ongoing Funding	0.158

Proposed amendments to the Revenue Budget – one-off in 2023/24

Growth

One-off Spending	£m
Funding for an additional officer post (1.0 FTE) to identify new funding streams across the organisation and support the development of bids	0.050
Funding for a Bio-diversity and Climate Action Fund to enable communities to fund planting, green initiatives and take over verges and small greenspaces across the county	0.100
A pilot scheme to enable voluntary, community and social enterprise groups (VCSE) to bid for funding to support young peoples' initiatives including counselling and mental health	0.050
A pilot scheme to enable voluntary, community and social enterprise groups (VCSE) to bid for funding to support early help initiatives such as stay and play where these do not already exist	0.050
Funding for supplementary support for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) to address need for social inclusion and preventative social care	0.050
Homeless Support Fund (participatory fund) Housing and homelessness support fund (funded by underspend in homeless budget) voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) supporting homelessness outreach initiatives	0.050
Cost of Living emergency fund (CoLE) Funding for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) supporting people with poverty and the CoLE	0.100
Total One-off Funding	0.450

To be funded through:

One-off Spending	£m
Use of Covid-19 Grant Reserve to fund the Cost of living emergency fund	0.100
Carry Forward overachievement of income received from Recycling in 2022/23 to fund Bio-diversity fund	0.100

One-off Spending	£m
Carry forward of unspent homelessness budget in 2022/23	0.050
£0.020 of the ongoing budget reductions identified above	0.020
Reduce the one-off spend on highways maintenance – this will be funded through the £4.5m (see below)	0.180
Total	0.450

Budget Allocation from Corporate Budget of £4.5m for highways and roads – £0.180 used to fund one-off proposals above	2023/24 £m
Accelerated Road safety pothole and pavements fund – ringfence new projects rather than for routine maintenance.	3.820
Ringfence corporate priorities highways fund for active travel initiatives and vulnerable road user initiatives	0.500
Total Allocation	4.320

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

(a) For the amendment – 13

Cllr Baxter, Cllr Chowdhury, Cllr Cornell, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Johnson, Cllr McKnight, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Pudaloff, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Smith, Cllr Turley and Cllr Wild.

(b) Against the amendment – 37

Cllr Albury, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bence, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Britton, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Evans, Cllr Forbes, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kenyon, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr McGregor, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Montyn, Cllr Nagel, Cllr Oakley, Cllr Patel, Cllr Payne, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight, Cllr Wall and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 8

Cllr Cherry, Cllr Condie, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Lord, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Milne and Cllr Oppler.

156.7 The amendment was lost.

156.8 An amendment was moved by Cllr Sharp and seconded by Cllr Johnson as set out below.

Proposed amendments to the Revenue Budget

Growth:

Ongoing amendments to the revenue budget	2023/24 £m
Additional monies to resurface the central red brick panels in North and East Street of Chichester City Centre	0.500
Total amendment	0.500

To be funded through:

Ongoing amendments to the revenue budget	2023/24 £m
Prioritisation of £500,000 of the £4.5m additional budget that has been set aside for maintenance of highways and roads	0.500
Total amendment	0.500

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

(a) For the amendment – 4

Cllr Gibson, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Sharp and Cllr Wild.

(b) Against the amendment – 38

Cllr Albury, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bence, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Britton, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Evans, Cllr Forbes, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kenyon, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr McGregor, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Montyn, Cllr Nagel, Cllr Oakley, Cllr Patel, Cllr Payne, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight, Cllr Wall and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 16

Cllr Baxter, Cllr Cherry, Cllr Chowdhury, Cllr Condie, Cllr Cornell, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Lord, Cllr McKnight, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Milne, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Pudaloff, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Smith and Cllr Turley.

156.10 The amendment was lost.

156.11 The recommendations were put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.36.

(a) For the recommendations – 37

Cllr Albury, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bence, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Britton, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Evans, Cllr Forbes, Cllr Greenway,

Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kenyon, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr McGregor, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Montyn, Cllr Nagel, Cllr Oakley, Cllr Patel, Cllr Payne, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight, Cllr Wall and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the recommendations – 0

(c) Abstentions – 21

Cllr Baxter, Cllr Cherry, Cllr Chowdhury, Cllr Condie, Cllr Cornell, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Lord, Cllr McKnight, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Milne, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Pudaloff, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Smith, Cllr Turley and Cllr Wild.

156.12 The recommendations were carried.

156.13 Resolved –

That, taking account of the priorities contained in the Council Plan, the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and noting the Director of Finance and Support Services' assessment of the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves as required by Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 (Section 9), the following recommendations be approved:

- (1) The Council Plan and KPIs for 2023/24 (as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report and Appendix 8).
- (2) The net revenue budget requirement in 2023/24 of £708.803m (as set out in paragraph 3.37 of the report and Appendix 1).
- (3) An increase in Council Tax in 2023/24 of 4.99% comprising 2.0% in the precept for the costs for Adults' Social Care and 2.99% for General Fund services.
- (4) The increase in fees and charges as set out in Appendix 7.
- (5) The five year capital programme of £747.247m over the period 2023/24 to 2027/28, of which £124.883m is expected to be spent in 2023/24.
- (6) The overall indicative budget envelopes as set out in Appendix 1.
- (7) An allocation of £0.4m be made available from the Covid-19 reserve to provide funding to support the continuation of the council tax hardship schemes across the West Sussex districts and boroughs for 2023/24 (as set out in paragraph 3.17 of the report).
- (8) The following amounts be approved for the financial year 2023/24 in accordance with Section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) That the Council Tax requirement for 2023/24 is £567.120m.
- (b) The Council Tax base for the year 2023/24 is the aggregate amount calculated of Band D equivalents by the billing authorities to which the County Council issues precepts totalling 347,199.83.
- (c) The amount of Council Tax being the council tax requirement at (8)(a) above divided by the council tax base at (8)(b) above, shall be £1,633.41 to the nearest penny for Band D.
- (d) 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	2023/24 Council Tax £	2022/23 Council Tax £	Increase £	Increase %
A	1,088.94	1,037.16	51.78	4.99
B	1,270.43	1,210.02	60.41	4.99
C	1,451.92	1,382.88	69.04	4.99
D	1,633.41	1,555.74	77.67	4.99
E	1,996.39	1,901.46	94.93	4.99
F	2,359.37	2,247.18	112.19	4.99
G	2,722.35	2,592.90	129.45	4.99
H	3,266.82	3,111.48	155.34	4.99

- (e) That the district and borough councils be requested to make payments totalling £567.120m to West Sussex County Council of sums due under precepts calculated in proportion to their Council Tax Band D equivalents as set out in section 10 of the report.
- (9) The Medium Term Financial Position for period 2024/25 to 2026/27 as set out in Section 6 of the report.
- (10) The total Schools Budget of £775.8m through the Dedicated Schools Grant to meet the County Council's statutory requirement on schools funding as set out in Section 4 of the report.
- (11) The delegation to the Director of Finance and Support Services (as Section 151 Officer) 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, including through the final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24.

All such changes of funding (positive or negative) to be applied through the appropriate reserve.

(12) These ancillary financial management provisions:

- (a) The Capital Strategy for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28, as set out in Annex 2(a).
- (b) The policy for making a prudent level of revenue provision for the repayment of debt as set out in Annex 2 (a) Appendix B.
- (c) The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2022/23 and 2023/24 as set out within the Capital Strategy, Annex 2(a), section 8.
- (d) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24, as set out in Annex 2(b).
- (e) The Prudential Indicators, as set out in Annex 2(c).
- (f) The importance of effective lobbying with local, regional and national partners to ensure the Government understands the needs of West Sussex residents, businesses and communities.

157 Question Time

157.1 Due to lack of time Question Time fell away.

Chairman

The Council rose at 5.23 pm