

West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

28 February 2022

At the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 am on Monday, 28 February 2022, at County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ, the members present being:

Cllr Bradbury (Chairman)

Cllr Wickremaratchi
Cllr Albury
Cllr Ali
Cllr Atkins
Cllr Baldwin
Cllr Baxter
Cllr Bennett
Cllr Boram
Cllr Britton
Cllr Burgess
Cllr Burrett
Cllr Charles
Cllr Cherry
Cllr Chowdhury
Cllr A Cooper
Cllr B Cooper
Cllr Cornell
Cllr Crow
Cllr J Dennis
Cllr Duncton
Cllr Elkins
Cllr Evans
Cllr Forbes
Cllr Gibson
Cllr Greenway
Cllr Hillier
Cllr Hunt
Cllr Johnson
Cllr Joy
Cllr A Jupp

Cllr N Jupp
Cllr Kenyon
Cllr Kerry-Bedell
Cllr Lanzer
Cllr Lord
Cllr Markwell
Cllr Marshall
Cllr McGregor
Cllr Mercer
Cllr Milne
Cllr Mitchell
Cllr Montyn
Cllr Oakley
Cllr O'Kelly
Cllr Oppler
Cllr Oxlade
Cllr Patel
Cllr Payne
Cllr Pendleton
Cllr Pudaloff
Cllr Quinn
Cllr Russell
Cllr Sharp
Cllr Smith
Cllr Sparkes
Cllr Turley
Cllr Urquhart
Cllr Waight
Cllr Wall
Cllr Walsh, KStJ, RD

59 Situation in Ukraine

- 59.1 The Chairman and the group leaders addressed the Council on the serious situation in Ukraine. The Council recorded its support for and sympathy with the Ukrainian people and supported the following actions:

That the Chairman writes to the Ambassador for Ukraine to express this Council's sympathy and support for the people of Ukraine at

this desperate time for them and to offer our hopes and prayers for their future return to peace and stability.

That the Chairman writes to the Prime Minister to express our support for the taking of a strong and united international stance in taking such measures as may be needed to persuade the Russian government to end its aggressive actions towards Ukraine and its people.

- 59.2 The Chairman informed members that the Council would soon be flying the Ukrainian flag at County Hall, Chichester.

60 Death of Mrs Margaret Ball

- 60.1 The Chairman reported the death of Mrs Margaret Ball, who had represented East Grinstead from 2005 to 2009.

- 60.2 Members held a minute's silence.

61 Social Worker of the Year Award

- 61.1 Vivian Okeze-Tirado attended the Council meeting to receive the congratulations of Council members on being recently named Overall Social Worker of the Year 2021 at a national awards ceremony.

62 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- 62.1 The Chairman reported that Her Majesty the Queen had ascended to the throne 70 years ago, a momentous feat and an enormous commitment to public service. He said the Council looked forward to celebrating her Platinum Jubilee later in the year and that he would advise of County Council plans in due course.

63 Apologies for Absence

- 63.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Bence, Cllr Condie, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Hall, Cllr Linehan, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Nagel and Cllr Richardson.

- 63.2 Apologies for the morning session were received from Cllr Kenyon.

- 63.3 Cllr Smith gave her apologies and left at 2.30 p.m.

64 Members' Interests

- 64.1 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

65 Minutes

- 65.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 17 December 2021 (pages 3 to 24) be approved as a correct record.

66 Appointments

66.1 The Council approved appointments as set out below.

Committee	Change
Communities, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Committee substitute	Cllr Burgess to fill Conservative vacancy

67 Pay Policy Statement 2022/23

67.1 The Council considered the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23, in the light of a report from the Governance Committee (pages 25 to 36).

67.2 Resolved –

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

68 Governance Committee: Minor Changes to the Constitution

68.1 The Council considered changes to the Rights of Way Delegation Code of Practice and a new Standing Order on reasonable adjustments, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (pages 37 to 40).

68.2 Resolved –

- (1) That the proposed changes to the Delegation Code of Practice for Rights of Way (Public Path Orders), as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- (2) That Council be recommended to add a new Standing Order 1.07 to Part 4, Section 1 of the Constitution, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.

69 Council Plan and Budget 2022/23

69.1 The Cabinet Member for Finance and Property moved the report on the Council Plan and budget for 2022/23, the Capital Strategy 2022-27 and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23 (budget pack pages 1 to 187).

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

Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget

Growth

Ongoing changes to the revenue budget	2022/23 £m
Resource 2 additional officer posts (2 FTE) within the highways team - one to accelerate the active travel programme and one to develop proposals on improving bus services as highlighted in the Levelling Up White Paper	0.081
Increase the Occupational Therapist resource to deliver reablement at home to support independence (3 FTE)	0.135
Enhance support to carers through additional Carers Support Officers (2 FTE) to allow people who are acting as carers to continue caring for as long as possible and prevent carer breakdown	0.080
Increase the current climate change administration of 1 FTE by an additional officer resource to administer the climate emergency fund	0.040
Additional Mental Health Support Team for Schools	0.370
Specialist team focused on preventative and educational work on disordered eating working within schools and supporting families (6 early help workers plus team manager)	0.267
Additional resource to Highways for road safety maintenance	0.500
Total	1.473

Reduction options

Ongoing changes to the revenue budget	2022/23 £m
Increased discretionary fees and charges by 2.5% over RPI	0.500
Commission a review by the Independent Remuneration Panel to endorse the 25% reduction to the Special Responsibility Allowances for members (excluding Foster Panel)	0.086
Removal of Advisers to Cabinet Members	0.026
Communications (20% reduction to budget)	0.291
Policy Team (20% reduction to budget)	0.060
HR & Organisational Change (3% reduction to budget)	0.210
Executive PAs (16% reduction to budget)	0.100
Customer experience (5% reduction to budget)	0.080
Intelligence & Performance (9% reduction to budget)	0.120
Total	1.473

Proposed changes to the Capital Programme

Growth

Ongoing changes to the Capital Programme	2022/23 £m
Fund a Climate Emergency fund to encourage innovative community projects that will reduce carbon levels locally and improve our environment	1.000
Additional funding for Public Rights of Way capital improvements, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure	1.000
Total	2.000

Funding

Ongoing changes to the Capital Programme	2022/23 £m
Capital Improvement budget already included within Capital Programme. The 2022/23 budget is £0.475 and £1.525 will be re-profiled (brought forward) from 2023/24	1.525 0.475
Total	2.000

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

(a) For the amendment – 20

Cllr Baxter, Cllr Cherry, Cllr Chowdhury, Cllr B Cooper, Cllr Cornell, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Joy, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Lord, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Milne, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Pudaloff, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Turley and Cllr Walsh.

(b) Against the amendment – 40

Cllr Albury, Cllr Ali, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Britton, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Charles, Cllr A Cooper, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Evans, Cllr Forbes, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kenyon, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, 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 – 0

69.4 The amendment was lost.

69.5 Labour amendment 1 was moved by Cllr Baxter and seconded by Cllr Oxlade as set out below.

Revenue Budget

Growth	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
BAME Community Outreach Officer - Fund a 0.5 FTE officer post in the fostering service for specific communications support to engage hard-to-reach Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities	0.023	
Sustainable Transport Officer - Fund an additional officer post in the highways team to focus on and accelerate sustainable travel and transport to support decarbonisation of transport throughout the county	0.045	
Road Safety Officer - Fund an additional officer post in the highways team dedicated to improving road safety across the county	0.045	
Service Users and Carers Support Officer FTE - Fund an additional officer to provide dedicated support and improve communications with carers	0.045	
Total Growth	0.158	

Reduction	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
Commission a review by the Independent Remuneration Panel to endorse the proposed change to remove the Special Responsibility Allowance for the 6 Adviser to Cabinet Member posts	0.023	
Commission a review by the Independent Remuneration Panel to endorse the proposed change to apply a 22% reduction to the remaining Special Responsibility Allowances for members	0.079	
Remove the budget for	0.011	

Reduction	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
member catering		
Total Reduction	0.158	

69.6 The amendment 1 was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.36.

(a) For the amendment – 20

Cllr Baxter, Cllr Cherry, Cllr Chowdhury, Cllr B Cooper, Cllr Cornell, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Joy, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Lord, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Milne, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Pudaloff, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Turley and Cllr Walsh.

(b) Against the amendment – 40

Cllr Albury, Cllr Ali, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Britton, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Charles, Cllr A Cooper, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Evans, Cllr Forbes, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kenyon, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, 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 – 0

69.7 The amendment was lost.

69.8 Labour amendment 2 was moved by Cllr Baxter and seconded by Cllr Oxlade as set out below.

Capital programme - Funded by re-profiling the SEND development programme in 2023/24

Growth	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
Accelerate the programme of special support centres within mainstream schools in order to reduce the number of out-of-county placements, transport costs and pressure on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	0.600	-0.600
Re-profiled budget for the SEND development programme		
Total Impact SEND Development Programme	0.600	-0.600

DSG Reductions	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
Accelerating the programme of special support centres within mainstream schools will deliver a reduction to the future years revenue budget which would reduce the deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant. The additional borrowing costs will be funded through savings on SEND transport costs.		0.360
Total Budget reductions	0.00	0.360

69.9 The amendment 2 was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.36.

(a) For the amendment – 20

Cllr Baxter, Cllr Cherry, Cllr Chowdhury, Cllr B Cooper, Cllr Cornell, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Joy, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Lord, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Milne, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Pudaloff, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Turley and Cllr Walsh.

(b) Against the amendment – 40

Cllr Albury, Cllr Ali, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Britton, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Charles, Cllr A Cooper, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Evans, Cllr Forbes, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kenyon, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, 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 – 0

69.10 The amendment was lost.

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

(a) For the recommendations – 40

Cllr Albury, Cllr Ali, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Britton, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Charles, Cllr A Cooper, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Evans, Cllr Forbes, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kenyon, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, 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.

(b) Against the recommendations – 19

Cllr Baxter, Cllr Cherry, Cllr Chowdhury, Cllr B Cooper, Cllr Cornell, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Joy, Cllr Kerry-Bedell, Cllr Lord, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Milne, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Pudaloff, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Turley and Cllr Walsh.

(c) Abstentions – 1

Cllr Gibson

69.12 The recommendations were carried.

69.13 Resolved –

- (1) Our Council Plan and KPIs for 2022/23 (as set out in paragraph 1.7 and Appendix 8 to the report).
- (2) Net revenue expenditure in 2022/23 of £648.342m (as set out in paragraph 4.1 and Appendix 1 to the report).
- (3) An increase in council tax in 2022/23 of 2.99% comprising 1.0% for Adults’ Social Care and 1.99% to support other General Fund services.
- (4) The following amounts be approved for the financial year 2022/23 in accordance with Section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (a) That the council tax requirement for 2022/23 is £532.646m.
 - (b) The council tax base for the year 2022/23 is the aggregate amount calculated of Band D equivalents by the billing authorities to which the County Council issues precepts totalling 342,375.00.
 - (c) The amount of council tax being the council tax requirement at 4(a) above divided by the council tax base at 4(b) above, shall be £1,555.74 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	Amount	Band	Amount
A	£1,037.16	E	£1,901.46

Band	Amount	Band	Amount
B	£1,210.02	F	£2,247.18
C	£1,382.88	G	£2,592.90
D	£1,555.74	H	£3,111.48

- (e) That the district and borough councils be requested to make payments totalling £532.646m 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 7 of the report.
- (5) 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 appropriate reserve.
- (6) These ancillary financial management provisions:
- (a) The Capital Strategy for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27, as set out in Annex 2(a) to the report.
- (b) The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy as set out within the Capital Strategy, Annex 2(a) to the report, section 8.
- (c) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23, as set out in Annex 2(b) to the report.
- (d) The Prudential Indicators, as set out in Annex 2(c) to the report.
- (7) 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.
- (8) An allocation of up to £3.0m be made available to provide funding to support the continuation of the council tax hardship schemes across the West Sussex districts and boroughs for 2022/23.

70.1 Due to lack of time Question Time fell away.

Chairman

The Council rose at 4.38 pm

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Interests

Members declared interests as set out below. All the interests listed below were personal but not pecuniary or prejudicial unless indicated.

Item	Member	Nature of Interest
7 – Governance Committee: Minor Amendments to the Constitution	Cllr Sharp	Member of Chichester District Cycle Forum
8 – Council Plan and Budget	Cllr Burgess	Member of Crawley Borough Council
8 – Council Plan and Budget	Cllr Burrett	Member of Crawley Borough Council
8 – Council Plan and Budget	Cllr Elkins	Member of Arun District Council
8 – Council Plan and Budget	Cllr Gibson	Member of Mid Sussex District Council
8 – Council Plan and Budget	Cllr Lanzer	Member of Crawley Borough Council
8 – Council Plan and Budget	Cllr Oakley	Member of Chichester District Council and Tangmere Parish Council
8 – Council Plan and Budget	Cllr Oppler	Member of Arun District Council
8 – Council Plan and Budget	Cllr Smith	Member of Worthing Borough Council. Parent of a child with an Education and Healthcare Plan and in receipt of school transport and support from the education psychology service.
8 – Council Plan and Budget	Cllr Sparkes	Member of Worthing Borough Council
8 – Council Plan and Budget	Cllr Waight	Member of Worthing Borough Council
9 – Question Time and Written Question 3	Cllr Atkins	Member of Worthing BC and Governor of Durrington Infant and Junior Federated Schools

Item	Member	Nature of Interest
9 – Question Time	Cllr Burrett	Member of Crawley Borough Council and Chair of Crawley Borough Council Planning Committee
9 – Question Time	Cllr Elkins	Member of Arun District Council
9 – Question Time and Written Question 4	Cllr Gibson	Member of Institute of Physics
9 – Question Time	Cllr Hillier	Cabinet Member at Mid Sussex District Council
9 – Question Time	Cllr Oakley	Member of Chichester District Council and Tangmere Parish Council
9 – Question Time	Cllr Oppler	Member of Arun District Council and foster carer via an agency
9 – Question Time	Cllr Sharp	Member of Chichester District Council