
West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

12 February 2021

At the virtual Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 am on Friday, 12 February 2021, the members present being:

Cllr Duncton (Chairman)

Cllr Arculus	Cllr Kennard
Cllr Acraman	Cllr Kitchen
Cllr Atkins, RD	Cllr Lanzer
Cllr Baldwin	Cllr Lea
Cllr Barling	Cllr Lord
Cllr Barnard	Cllr Magill
Cllr Barrett-Miles	Cllr Markwell
Cllr Bennett	Cllr Marshall
Cllr Boram	Cllr McDonald
Cllr Bradbury	Cllr Millson
Cllr Bradford	Cllr Mitchell
Cllr Bridges	Cllr Montyn
Cllr Brunsdon	Cllr R Oakley
Cllr Buckland	Cllr S Oakley
Cllr Burgess	Cllr O'Kelly
Cllr Burrett	Cllr Oppler
Cllr Catchpole	Cllr Oxlade
Cllr Cloake	Cllr Patel
Cllr Crow	Cllr Pendleton
Cllr J Dennis	Cllr Purchase
Cllr N Dennis	Cllr Purnell
Cllr Edwards	Cllr Quinn
Cllr Elkins	Cllr Russell
Cllr Goldsmith	Cllr Smytherman
Cllr Hall	Cllr Sparkes
Cllr High	Cllr Sudan
Cllr Hillier	Cllr Turner
Cllr Hunt	Cllr Urquhart
Cllr A Jones, MBE	Cllr Waight
Cllr M Jones	Cllr Walsh, KStJ, RD
Cllr A Jupp	Cllr Whittington
Cllr N Jupp	Cllr Wickremaratchi

70 Death of Cllr George Barton

70.1 The Chairman reported the death of a current member of the Council, Cllr George Barton, who had represented the Sompting & North Lancing division since 2017.

70.2 Members held a minute's silence.

71 Apologies for Absence

71.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Fitzjohn and Cllr Simmons. Cllr Smith was absent.

71.2 Cllr Bridges gave her apologies and left at 12.15 p.m. Apologies for the afternoon session were received from Cllr Barnard. Cllr Hall arrived at 2.27 p.m. for the afternoon session. Cllr Goldsmith gave her apologies and left at 4.40 p.m.

72 Members' Interests

72.1 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

73 Minutes

73.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 11 December 2020 (pages 7 to 32) be approved as a correct record.

74 Committee Appointments

74.1 There were no appointments to consider.

75 Independent Remuneration Panel

75.1 The Council was informed that Mr Steve Cooper, Mr Kevin Scutt and Mrs Charlotte Pexton had been first appointed to the Panel in February, October and December 2017, respectively, for a four-year term.

75.2 The Council was invited to appoint them for a second term, to run to February 2025 for Mr Cooper, October 2025 for Mr Scutt and December 2025 for Mrs Pexton.

75.3 Resolved –

That Mr Steve Cooper, Mr Kevin Scutt and Mrs Charlotte Pexton be appointed to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a second term to run to February 2025 for Mr Cooper, October 2025 for Mr Scutt and December 2025 for Mrs Pexton.

76 Address on Children First Improvement Plan

76.1 Members received an address by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on the Council's Children First Improvement Plan, together with a report (pages 33 to 36).

77 Address on the Fire & Rescue Service Covid-19 Inspection

77.1 Members received an address by the Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities on the Fire & Rescue Service Covid-19 inspection.

77.2 In response to a question from Cllr Smytherman, the Cabinet Member agreed to provide him with information relating to the disposal of surplus buildings within the Fire and Rescue Service, specifically any monies from receipts.

78 Address on letter from Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government

78.1 Members received an address by the Leader on a letter from the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government which states that his Department will no longer seek any formal oversight of the Council's progress on its improvement journey for governance.

79 WSCC Reset Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25

79.1 The Council considered the West Sussex County Council Reset Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25, in the light of a report by the Leader (pages 37 to 68).

79.2 Resolved –

That the WSCC Reset Plan (2021/22 to 2024/25), as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

80 Revenue Budget 2021/22 and Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26

80.1 The Cabinet Member for Finance moved the report on the Revenue Budget 2021/22, Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26 and Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22 (budget pack pages 1 to 176).

80.1 An amendment was moved by Cllr Walsh and seconded by Cllr Lord as set out below.

Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget

Growth

Ongoing changes to the revenue budget	2021/22	2022/23
Transitional Funding to enable the Children and Family Centres, Youth and Find It Out centres to remain open to support families and young people coming out of the pandemic	0.550	0.400
Transitional Funding to enable the Shaw day services to remain open for current users post pandemic until such time as	0.375	0.000

Ongoing changes to the revenue budget	2021/22	2022/23
satisfactory alternative provision has been put in place for the service users		
Resource 2 additional posts within the highways team to facilitate work in more walking and cycling within communities, one post in the cycling team and the other in the Rights of Way team	0.080	0.000
Formally ring-fence the £300k in the highways budget allocated to Rights of Way maintenance and supplement this sum with a further £100k	0.100	0.000
Funding to deliver additional mental health support provision for children and young people by funding an additional mental health support team for two academic years and increasing the number of emotional literacy support assistants to ensure there is one in every school	0.429	-0.034
Total	1.534	0.366

Reduction

Ongoing changes to the revenue budget	2021/22	2022/23
Increased discretionary fees and charges by 3%	0.600	0.000
40% reduction to the Communications budget spread over two years	0.300	0.200
Intelligence & Performance (6% reduction to budget)	0.080	0.000
HR & Organisational change (3% reduction to budget spread over two years)	0.080	0.080
Policy Team (21% reduction to budget)	0.060	0.000
Executive PAs (24% reduction spread over two years)	0.100	0.050
Finance (3% reduction to budget)	0.160	0.000
Customer experience (8% reduction to budget spread over two years)	0.080	0.040
Apply a 25% reduction to the Special Responsibility allowances for members	0.088	0.000

Ongoing changes to the revenue budget	2021/22	2022/23
Total	1.548	0.370
Budget Surplus	0.014	0.004

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

(a) For the amendment – 13

Cllr Buckland, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr M Jones, Cllr Lord, Cllr Millson, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Purchase, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Smytherman, Cllr Sudan and Cllr Walsh.

(b) Against the amendment - 45

Cllr Acraman, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Barling, Cllr Barrett-Miles, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Bradford, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Catchpole, Cllr Cloake, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Hall, Cllr High, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jones, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kennard, Cllr Kitchen, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Montyn, Cllr R Oakley, Cllr S Oakley, Cllr Patel, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Purnell, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Turner, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight, Cllr Whittington and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 4

Cllr Arculus, Cllr Brunsdon, Cllr Lea and Cllr Magill.

80.2 The amendment was lost.

80.3 An amendment was moved by Cllr M Jones and seconded by Cllr Oxlade as set out below.

Revenue - Changes to Revenue Budget

Growth

Growth:	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
Reverse the proposed closures of children and family centres, youth and find it out centres	0.550	0.400	0.000
Reverse the Public Health Grant savings	0.370	0.088	0.000

Growth:	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
Reverse the CIF grant budget cut and officer resource	0.175	0.000	0.000
Reverse proposed increased top slice of the Early Years DSG	0.225	0.225	0.000
Total Growth	1.320	0.713	0.000

Reduction

Reduction:	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
Reduce the Special Responsibility Allowances payable to members who hold specific roles by 25%	0.088	ongoing	ongoing
50% reduction in the Communications budget	0.660	ongoing	ongoing
50% reduction in the Lieutenancy budget	0.031	ongoing	ongoing
50% reduction in the Policy budget	0.141	ongoing	ongoing
10% across the board senior management post reduction (Executive Directors/Directors/Heads of Service)	0.400	ongoing	ongoing
Reduction Support Services budget	0	0.193	ongoing
Revenue impact from not borrowing to fund the construction of the proposed Retail Park on the Broadbridge Heath depot site	0	0.150	-0.227
Savings on capital borrowing as a result of selling the Broadbridge Heath depot site and using the capital receipts to finance the capital programme	0	0.080	0.080
Revenue benefits from re-purposing some of the Chichester estate (Northleigh/the Grange) to	0.000	0.090	0.090

Reduction:	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
deliver housing using permitted development rights			
Savings on capital borrowing as a result of selling existing council assets and using capital receipts to finance the capital programme	0.000	0.200	0.120
Total Reduction	1.320	0.713	0.063
Total ongoing changes to the revenue budget	0.000	0.000	0.063

Capital:

Reduction in Capital Programme:	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
Cancellation of the proposed Broadbridge Heath Retail Park	0.740	7.500	7.605
Total	0.740	7.500	7.605

Estimated Changes to Capital Receipts	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
Sell of surplus assets	0.000	5.000	3.000
Capital receipts as a result of cancelling the development of the proposed retail park and the sale of the Broadbridge Heath depot site	4.000	0.000	0.000
Capital receipts as a result of re-purposing some of the Chichester estate (Northleigh/ the Grange) to deliver housing using permitted development rights	0.000	4.500	0.000
Total	4.000	9.500	3.000

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

(a) For the amendment – 15

Cllr Brunsdon, Cllr Buckland, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr M Jones, Cllr Lea, Cllr Lord, Cllr Millson, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Purchase, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Smytherman, Cllr Sudan and Cllr Walsh.

(b) Against the amendment – 46

Cllr Acraman, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Barling, Cllr Barrett-Miles, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Bradford, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Catchpole, Cllr Cloake, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Hall, Cllr High, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jones, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kennard, Cllr Kitchen, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Magill, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Montyn, Cllr R Oakley, Cllr S Oakley, Cllr Patel, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Purnell, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Turner, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight, Cllr Whittington and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 1

Cllr Arculus.

80.5 The amendment was lost.

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

(a) For the recommendations – 48

Cllr Acraman, Cllr Arculus, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Barling, Cllr Barrett-Miles, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Bradford, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Catchpole, Cllr Cloake, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Hall, Cllr High, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jones, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kennard, Cllr Kitchen, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Lea, Cllr Magill, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Montyn, Cllr R Oakley, Cllr S Oakley, Cllr Patel, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Purnell, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Turner, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight, Cllr Whittington and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the recommendations – 10

Cllr Buckland, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Lord, Cllr Millson, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Purchase, Cllr Smytherman, Cllr Sudan and Cllr Walsh.

(c) Abstentions – 4

Cllr Brunsdon, Cllr M Jones, Cllr Oxlade and Cllr Quinn.

80.1 The recommendations were carried.

80.2 Resolved –

That, taking account of the priorities contained in the West Sussex Reset 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 (Section 6), the following items be approved:

- (1) Net revenue expenditure in 2021/22 of £624.833m (as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report and Appendix 1);
- (2) An increase in council tax in 2021/22 of 4.99% comprising 3.00% for Adults' Social Care and 1.99% to support other General Fund services;
- (3) The following amounts be approved for the financial year 2021/22 in accordance with Section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (a) That the council tax requirement for 2021/22 is £509.476m.
 - (b) The council tax base for the year 2021/22 is the aggregate amount calculated of Band D equivalents by the billing authorities to which the County Council issues precepts totalling 337,276.40.
 - (c) The amount of council tax being the council tax requirement at 3(a) above divided by the council tax base at 3(b) above, shall be £1,510.56 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	£1,007.04	E	£1,846.24
B	£1,174.88	F	£2,181.92
C	£1,342.72	G	£2,517.60
D	£1,510.56	H	£3,021.12

- (e) That the district and borough councils be requested to make payments totalling £509.476m 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.
- (4) 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:

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- 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.

- (5) The following further provisions:
- (a) The Capital Strategy for the period 2021/22 to 2025/26, 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), section 8 of the report.
 - (c) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22, as set out in Annex 2(b) to the report.
 - (d) The Prudential Indicators, as set out in Annex 2(c) to the report.

81 Pay Policy Statement 2021/22

81.1 The item on the Pay Policy Statement 2021/21 was deferred to the next meeting due to lack of time.

82 Motion on Bus Lanes

82.1 The motion on bus lanes was deferred to the next meeting due to lack of time.

83 Motion on Romance Fraud

83.1 The motion on romance fraud was deferred to the next meeting due to lack of time.

84 Governance Committee: Appointment of co-opted Independent member of Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee and change to Joint Scrutiny Arrangements

84.1 The proposals for the inclusion in the constitution of the Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee of an independent member and for a minor change to the joint scrutiny arrangements were deferred to the next meeting due to lack of time.

85 Report of Urgent Action

85.1 The report of urgent action taken under regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 was deferred to the next meeting due to lack of time.

86 Question Time

86.1 The report of the Cabinet on matters relevant to their portfolios and written questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 2.38 were deferred to the next meeting due to lack of time.

Chairman

The Council rose at 4.59 pm