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## 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 (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr N Jupp
Cllr Albury	Cllr Kenyon
Cllr Ali	Cllr Kerry-Bedell
Cllr Atkins, RD	Cllr Lanzer
Cllr Baldwin	Cllr Lord
Cllr Baxter	Cllr Markwell
Cllr Bennett	Cllr Marshall
Cllr Boram	Cllr McGregor
Cllr Britton	Cllr Mercer
Cllr Burgess	Cllr Milne
Cllr Burrett	Cllr Mitchell
Cllr Charles	Cllr Montyn
Cllr Cherry	Cllr Oakley
Cllr Chowdhury	Cllr O'Kelly
Cllr A Cooper	Cllr Oppler
Cllr B Cooper	Cllr Oxlade
Cllr Cornell	Cllr Patel
Cllr Crow	Cllr Payne
Cllr J Dennis	Cllr Pendleton
Cllr Duncton	Cllr Pudaloff
Cllr Elkins	Cllr Quinn
Cllr Evans	Cllr Russell
Cllr Forbes	Cllr Sharp
Cllr Gibson	Cllr Smith
Cllr Greenway	Cllr Sparkes
Cllr Hillier	Cllr Turley
Cllr Hunt	Cllr Urquhart
Cllr Johnson	Cllr Waight
Cllr Joy	Cllr Wall
Cllr A Jupp	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

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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.

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## 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

<b>Ongoing changes to the revenue budget</b>	<b>2022/23 £m</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.473</b>

### Reduction options

<b>Ongoing changes to the revenue budget</b>	<b>2022/23 £m</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.473</b>

### Proposed changes to the Capital Programme

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## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.000</b>

## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.000</b>

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

<b>Growth</b>	<b>2022/23 £m</b>	<b>2023/24 £m</b>
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	
<b>Total Growth</b>	<b>0.158</b>	

<b>Reduction</b>	<b>2022/23 £m</b>	<b>2023/24 £m</b>
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	

<b>Reduction</b>	<b>2022/23 £m</b>	<b>2023/24 £m</b>
Remove the budget for member catering	0.011	
<b>Total Reduction</b>	<b>0.158</b>	

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**

<b>Growth</b>	<b>2022/23 £m</b>	<b>2023/24 £m</b>
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		
<b>Total Impact SEND Development Programme</b>	<b>0.600</b>	<b>-0.600</b>

<b>DSG Reductions</b>	<b>2022/23 £m</b>	<b>2023/24 £m</b>
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
<b>Total Budget reductions</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.360</b>

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,

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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:

<b>Band</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Band</b>	<b>Amount</b>
A	£1,037.16	E	£1,901.46
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.

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**70 Question Time**

70.1 Due to lack of time Question Time fell away.

Chairman

The Council rose at 4.38 pm