

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 26 FEBRUARY 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Fitch (Chair), Barnett, Bennett, Bowden, Brown, Buckley, Carden, Cobb (Deputy Chair), Cox, Daniel, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Farrow, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Janio, Jarrett, Jones, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, A Norman, K Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Pissaridou, Powell, Randall, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Simson, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wakefield, Wealls, Wells, West and Wilson

PART ONE

57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 57.1 The Mayor noted that the Monitoring Officer had written to all Members to enable them to apply for dispensation, which he was authorised to grant, in order that they could take part and vote on the budget matters. It was for each individual Member to decide whether or not to apply for such dispensation and he confirmed that applications had been made and duly authorised. He then reminded Members that the dispensation did not dispense with the need to declare a pecuniary or personal interest and therefore asked if any such declarations needed to be made.
- 57.2 Councillor Powell declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 59, General Fund Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2015/16, for which she had been granted dispensation, as her partner was the Interim Director of the B&H LGBT Switchboard.
- 57.3 Councillor Davey declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Item 59, General Fund Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2015/16, for which he had been granted dispensation, as his wife worked in the Adult Learning & Disability Service.
- 57.4 The Mayor noted that there were no other declarations of interests in matters appearing on the agenda.

58 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

- 58.1. I have to inform the Council that I am a little under the weather and in order to save my voice I shall to ask the Monitoring Officer to outline the procedure for today's meeting.

- 58.2. The Monitoring Officer outlined the financial and legal requirements for the setting of a Budget and referred to the legal note and the proposed protocol for the Budget debate that had been circulated. He reported that under Section 30(6) of the Local Government Act 1992 the Council had a duty to set the Council Tax by 11 March 2015. A failure to set a tax did not then in itself invalidate the tax demands but it had other adverse consequences including the potential loss of income to the Council. One significant practical implication was that the contractor who printed and sent out the Council Tax bills had a slot booked to process the City Council's bills and a delay in setting the Budget could have significant implications in this respect.
- 58.3. The Mayor then advised the council that Procedural Rules would need to be suspended in so far as was necessary to enable the business under Items 79-82 on the agenda to be dealt with as set out in the annex and the procedural note as circulated and moved the suspension accordingly.
- 58.4. The motion was **carried**.

59 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2015/16

- 59.1. The Mayor noted that all three budget areas listed as Items 59, 60 and 62 would be debated together, along with Item 61 Supplementary Financial Information, once the proposed budget and the various amendments had been moved and seconded and invited Councillor Jason Kitcat to propose the budget for 2015/16.
- 59.2. Councillor Kitcat stated that he wished to thank finance officers and all the officers across the council involved in the budget process and his colleagues in enabling the budget papers to be brought to the council meeting. In moving the budget for 2015/16, he noted that the Green Administration believed that there should be a council tax increase of 5.99%, which would require a referendum to be held. He also wished to move an amendment on behalf of the Green Group which was predicated on the positive outcome of a referendum.
- 59.3. He believed that the Council faced severe pressures with local government facing unprecedented cuts, and various public bodies all warning that councils were likely to buckle under the constraints. If services were to be maintained then there was a need to increase the council tax. The referendum budget proposed enabled vital services to be supported and recent consultation on the budget showed public support for a referendum. The opposition groups' amendments were based on one-off savings at the expense of reserves and did nothing for the long-term future. The council was already moving forward with its workstyles and value for money programmes and the Administration should be allowed to continue with its work. He therefore recommended that the council should adopt the budget as amended by the Green Group's amendment.
- 59.4. Councillor Sykes formally seconded the proposed Budget as amended by the Green Group's amendment. He stated that the level of cuts was increasing and pressure on local authorities was likely to see services put at risk. There was a need to remind the government that local government was an efficient organisation and it should be given greater control over its own responsibilities. He believed that the residents of the city

should be given the opportunity to determine whether or not a budget based on a 5.99% council tax increase should be set. He noted that in October 61% of respondents to the budget consultation had said they supported a council tax increase. He therefore urged the council to support the Green Group's proposals.

- 59.5. Councillor A. Norman moved the five amendments to the Budget proposals on behalf of the Conservative Group and stated that she did not believe that there was a need to raise council tax. A council tax freeze could be implemented and should be with the acceptance of the Government's grant that was on offer. She also wished to thank the finance officers for their help and assistance with the proposed amendments. She suggested that further consideration needed to be given to using private contracts and the voluntary sector to help deliver services as well as shared services with other authorities. There were clear examples of how other authorities had taken such an approach and the council could learn from these. She questioned the Labour & Co-operative Group's amendments and argued that they penalised local tradesmen and businessmen. The Conservative Group's proposals would reduce senior management costs and enable a further £1.2m to be used to support other services rather than being spent on a referendum. She therefore recommended a freeze budget as proposed by the Conservative Group.
- 59.6. Councillor Norman also moved the joint Conservative and Labour & Co-operative amendment in relation to the Mayoralty
- 59.7. Councillor G. Theobald formally seconded the Conservative Group's amendments. He stated that it was clear that a council tax freeze could be achieved and services maintained. There was a need to tackle the high management costs and explore better use of the community and voluntary sector for provision of services. The amendments put forward allowed for service redesign and he urged Members to support the proposals.
- 59.8. Councillor Morgan moved the six amendments on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group and stated that he also wished to thank the finance officers for their assistance and advice during the budget setting process. He noted that there was likely to be a stay of execution for the Children's Centres and stated that the amendments put forward highlighted the Group's desire to protect public services, Able & Willing and the Mayoralty. He believed that the Administration's proposals would leave an incoming administration with a worsening situation, whilst the Conservative's aims would see further cuts to public service provision. A council tax freeze would only add to the increasing gap in funding available through council tax and therefore a threshold budget was the right option.
- 59.9. Councillor Hamilton formally seconded the Labour & Co-operative Group's amendments, and the joint Conservative and Labour & Co-operative Groups' amendment. He noted that as with last year the Labour & Co-operative Group were seeking to retain the community grants budget and support the Children's Centres. The amendment to support the mayoralty recognised the importance the office held for the city. He could not support a council tax increase above the 2% target and therefore a referendum which would be costly and was likely to result in a no vote. He therefore hoped that the amendments put forward by the Labour & Co-operative Group would be accepted.

- 59.10. Councillor Summers formally moved an amendment which sought to use part of the one-off resources released if a referendum budget was not approved. She stated that the intention was to protect services and delay implementation of the proposed savings for the discretionary grants programme, special educational needs and disability services for children, youth service provision and to protect preventative housing related services. She also questioned the position that the council had reached with alternative budget proposals having to be considered along with a number of amendments. She believed that discussions should have been held at an earlier stage to ensure that a recommendation on the budget had been forthcoming from the Policy & Resources Committee. Given the likelihood of a no vote for the referendum budget, she hoped that this amendment would be supported.
- 59.11. Councillor Farrow formally seconded the amendment and stated that he felt there was a need to consider utilising the council's property portfolio and reserves to support services. He noted that at the last Policy & Resources Committee meeting, significant levels of expenditure had been agreed for the Brighton Centre and Black Rock, which could have been used to support front-line services. The amendment was only using one-off resources to maintain the services in question for another year and therefore consideration needed to be given to how they could be supported in the future, but in the meantime he hoped that it could be accepted.
- 59.12. The Mayor then opened the matter up to a general debate and the following Members of the Council spoke on the various motions that had been put forward; Councillors Daniel, Simson, Shanks, Davey, Mears, Meadows, West, Pissaridou, Duncan, Wealls, Wilson, Wakefield, Mac Cafferty, Janio, Mitchell, Cox, C. Theobald, Carden, Hawtree, Randall, Jarrett, Littman, Hyde, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Robins, K. Norman and Jones.
- 59.13. The Mayor noted that all Members wishing to speak during the debate had done so. He then called on Councillor Kitcat to respond to the debate and the amendments.
- 59.14. Councillor Kitcat thanked the Mayor and stated that he did not believe that the outcome of a referendum should be presumed. He suggested that residents could be persuaded to accept the proposed council tax increase and therefore they should be allowed to decide. On that basis he hoped that the proposed budget based on a 5.99% council tax increase as amended by the Green Group's amendment would be accepted.
- 59.15. The Mayor stated that Items 59 and 60 would be taken together. He intended to put each of the amendments to the vote, during which he would call on the Interim Executive Director for Finance & Resources to confirm the budgetary position should any be carried and impact on the overall budget; before putting the substantive recommendations to the vote as outlined in the procedural document.
- 59.16. The Mayor then asked for the electronic voting system to be activated and put the Green Group's amendment to the vote:
- 59.17. Green Amendment No. 1.

	For	Against	Abstain			For	Against	Abstain
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Barnett		X		Marsh		X	
Bennett		X		Meadows		X	
Bowden	√			Mears		X	
Brown		X		Mitchell		X	
Buckley		X		Morgan		X	
Carden		X		A Norman		X	
Cobb		X		K Norman		X	
Cox		X		Peltzer Dunn		X	
Daniel		X		Phillips		X	
Davey	√			Pidgeon - absent			
Deane	√			Pissaridou		X	
Duncan	√			Powell	√		
Farrow	√			Randall	√		
Fitch		X		Robins		X	
Gilbey		X		Rufus	√		
Hamilton		X		Shanks	√		
Hawtree	√			Simson		X	
Hyde		X		Smith		X	
Janio		X		Summers		X	
Jarrett	√			Sykes	√		
Jones		X		C Theobald		X	
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald		X	
A Kitcat	√			Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat	√			Wealls		X	
Lepper		X		Wells		X	
Littman	√			West	√		
MacCafferty		X		Wilson		X	
				Total	16	36	

59.18. The Mayor confirmed that the motion was **lost** by 16 votes to 36.

59.19. The Mayor then put the Conservative Group's five amendments to the vote:

59.20. Conservative Amendment No.1

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett	√			Marsh		X	
Bennett	√			Meadows		X	
Bowden		X		Mears	√		
Brown	√			Mitchell		X	
Buckley		X		Morgan		X	
Carden		X		A Norman	√		
Cobb	√			K Norman	√		
Cox	√			Peltzer Dunn	√		
Daniel		X		Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou		X	
Duncan		X		Powell		X	
Farrow		X		Randall		X	
Fitch		X		Robins		X	
Gilbey		X		Rufus		X	
Hamilton		X		Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson	√		
Hyde	√			Smith	√		
Janio	√			Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald	√		
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald	√		
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls	√		
Lepper		X		Wells	√		
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson		X	
				Total	17	35	

59.21. The Mayor confirmed that the motion was **lost** by 17 votes to 35.

59.22. Conservative Amendment No.2

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
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Barnett	√			Marsh		X	
Bennett	√			Meadows		X	
Bowden		X		Mears	√		
Brown	√			Mitchell		X	
Buckley		X		Morgan		X	
Carden		X		A Norman	√		
Cobb	√			K Norman	√		
Cox	√			Peltzer Dunn	√		
Daniel		X		Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou		X	
Duncan	√			Powell		X	
Farrow		X		Randall		X	
Fitch		X		Robins		X	
Gilbey		X		Rufus		X	
Hamilton		X		Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson	√		
Hyde	√			Smith	√		
Janio	√			Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald	√		
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald	√		
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls	√		
Lepper		X		Wells	√		
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson		X	
				Total	18	34	

59.23. The Mayor confirmed that motion was **lost** by 18 votes to 34.

59.24. Conservative Amendment No.3

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
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Barnett	√			Marsh		X	
Bennett	√			Meadows		X	
Bowden		X		Mears	√		
Brown	√			Mitchell		X	
Buckley		X		Morgan		X	
Carden		X		A Norman	√		
Cobb	√			K Norman	√		
Cox	√			Peltzer Dunn	√		
Daniel		X		Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou		X	
Duncan		X		Powell		X	
Farrow		X		Randall		X	
Fitch		X		Robins		X	
Gilbey		X		Rufus		X	
Hamilton		X		Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson	√		
Hyde	√			Smith	√		
Janio	√			Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald	√		
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald	√		
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls	√		
Lepper		X		Wells	√		
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson		X	
				Total	17	35	

59.25. The Mayor confirmed that motion was **lost** by 17 votes to 35.

59.26. Conservative Amendment No.4

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett	√			Marsh		X	

Bennett	√			Meadows		X	
Bowden		X		Mears	√		
Brown	√			Mitchell		X	
Buckley		X		Morgan		X	
Carden		X		A Norman	√		
Cobb	√			K Norman	√		
Cox	√			Peltzer Dunn	√		
Daniel		X		Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou		X	
Duncan		X		Powell		X	
Farrow		X		Randall		X	
Fitch		X		Robins		X	
Gilbey		X		Rufus		X	
Hamilton		X		Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson	√		
Hyde	√			Smith	√		
Janio	√			Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald	√		
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald	√		
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls	√		
Lepper		X		Wells	√		
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson		X	
				Total	17	35	

59.27. The Mayor confirmed that motion was **lost** by 17 votes to 35.

59.28. Conservative Amendment No.5

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett	√			Marsh		X	
Bennett	√			Meadows		X	

Bowden		X		Mears	√		
Brown	√			Mitchell		X	
Buckley		X		Morgan		X	
Carden		X		A Norman	√		
Cobb	√			K Norman	√		
Cox	√			Peltzer Dunn	√		
Daniel		X		Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou		X	
Duncan	√			Powell		X	
Farrow	√			Randall		X	
Fitch		X		Robins		X	
Gilbey		X		Rufus		X	
Hamilton		X		Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson	√		
Hyde	√			Smith	√		
Janio	√			Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald	√		
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald	√		
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls	√		
Lepper		X		Wells	√		
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson		X	
				Total	19	33	

59.29. The Mayor confirmed that motion was **lost** by 19 votes to 33.

59.30. The Mayor confirmed that the Conservative Group's amendment No's. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 had been lost.

59.31. The Mayor then put the Labour & Co-operative Group's six amendments to the vote:

59.32. Labour & Co-operative Amendment No.1

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett		X		Marsh	√		
Bennett		X		Meadows	√		
Bowden		X		Mears		X	
Brown		X		Mitchell	√		
Buckley		X		Morgan	√		
Carden	√			A Norman		X	
Cobb		X		K Norman		X	
Cox		X		Peltzer Dunn		X	
Daniel	√			Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou	√		
Duncan	√			Powell		X	
Farrow	√			Randall		X	
Fitch	√			Robins	√		
Gilbey	√			Rufus		X	
Hamilton	√			Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson		X	
Hyde		X		Smith		X	
Janio		X		Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald		X	
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald		X	
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls		X	
Lepper	√			Wells		X	
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson	√		
				Total	15	37	

59.33. The Mayor confirmed that motion was **lost** by 15 votes to 37.

59.34. Labour & Co-operative Amendment No.2

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
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Barnett		X		Marsh	√		
Bennett		X		Meadows	√		
Bowden		X		Mears		X	
Brown		X		Mitchell	√		
Buckley		X		Morgan	√		
Carden	√			A Norman		X	
Cobb		X		K Norman		X	
Cox		X		Peltzer Dunn		X	
Daniel	√			Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou	√		
Duncan	√			Powell		X	
Farrow	√			Randall		X	
Fitch	√			Robins	√		
Gilbey	√			Rufus		X	
Hamilton	√			Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson		X	
Hyde		X		Smith		X	
Janio		X		Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald		X	
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald		X	
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls		X	
Lepper	√			Wells		X	
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson	√		
				Total	15	37	

59.35. The Mayor confirmed that motion was **lost** by 15votes to 37.

59.36. Labour & Co-operative Amendment No.3

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett		X		Marsh	√		

Bennett		X		Meadows	√		
Bowden		X		Mears		X	
Brown		X		Mitchell	√		
Buckley		X		Morgan	√		
Carden	√			A Norman		X	
Cobb		X		K Norman		X	
Cox		X		Peltzer Dunn		X	
Daniel	√			Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou	√		
Duncan		X		Powell		X	
Farrow		X		Randall		X	
Fitch	√			Robins	√		
Gilbey	√			Rufus		X	
Hamilton	√			Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson		X	
Hyde		X		Smith		X	
Janio		X		Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald		X	
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald		X	
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls		X	
Lepper	√			Wells		X	
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson	√		
				Total	13	39	

59.37. The Mayor confirmed that motion was **lost** by 13 votes to 39.

59.38. Labour & Co-operative Amendment No.4

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett		X		Marsh	√		
Bennett		X		Meadows	√		

Bowden		X		Mears		X	
Brown		X		Mitchell	√		
Buckley		X		Morgan	√		
Carden	√			A Norman		X	
Cobb		X		K Norman		X	
Cox		X		Peltzer Dunn		X	
Daniel	√			Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou	√		
Duncan		X		Powell		X	
Farrow	√			Randall		X	
Fitch	√			Robins	√		
Gilbey	√			Rufus		X	
Hamilton	√			Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson		X	
Hyde		X		Smith		X	
Janio		X		Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald		X	
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald		X	
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls		X	
Lepper	√			Wells		X	
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson	√		
				Total	14	38	

59.39. The Mayor confirmed that motion was **lost** by 14 votes to 38.

59.40. Labour & Co-operative Amendment No.5

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett		X		Marsh	√		
Bennett		X		Meadows	√		
Bowden	√			Mears		X	

Brown		X		Mitchell	√		
Buckley	√			Morgan	√		
Carden	√			A Norman		X	
Cobb		X		K Norman		X	
Cox		X		Peltzer Dunn		X	
Daniel	√			Phillips	√		
Davey	√			Pidgeon - absent			
Deane	√			Pissaridou	√		
Duncan	√			Powell	√		
Farrow	√			Randall	√		
Fitch	√			Robins	√		
Gilbey	√			Rufus	√		
Hamilton	√			Shanks	√		
Hawtree	√			Simson		X	
Hyde		X		Smith		X	
Janio		X		Summers	√		
Jarrett	√			Sykes	√		
Jones	√			C Theobald		X	
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald		X	
A Kitcat	√			Wakefield	√		
J Kitcat	√			Wealls		X	
Lepper	√			Wells		X	
Littman	√			West	√		
MacCafferty	√			Wilson	√		
				Total	35	17	

59.41. The Mayor confirmed that motion was **carried** by 35 votes to 17.

59.42. Labour & Co-operative Amendment No.6

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett	√			Marsh	√		
Bennett	√			Meadows	√		
Bowden		X		Mears	√		
Brown	√			Mitchell	√		

Buckley		X		Morgan	√		
Carden	√			A Norman	√		
Cobb	√			K Norman	√		
Cox	√			Peltzer Dunn	√		
Daniel	√			Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou	√		
Duncan	√			Powell		X	
Farrow		X		Randall		X	
Fitch	√			Robins	√		
Gilbey	√			Rufus		X	
Hamilton	√			Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson	√		
Hyde	√			Smith	√		
Janio	√			Summers	√		
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald	√		
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald	√		
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls	√		
Lepper	√			Wells	√		
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson	√		
				Total	32	20	

59.43. The Mayor confirmed that motion was carried by 32 votes to 20.

59.44. The Mayor confirmed that the Labour & Co-operative Group's amendments No's. 1, 2, 3 and 4 had been lost and that amendment No's.5 and 6 had been carried.

59.45. The Mayor then put the Joint Conservative and Labour & Co-operative Groups' amendment to the vote:

59.46. Joint Amendment

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett	√			Marsh	√		

Bennett	√			Meadows	√		
Bowden		X		Mears	√		
Brown	√			Mitchell	√		
Buckley		X		Morgan	√		
Carden	√			A Norman	√		
Cobb	√			K Norman	√		
Cox	√			Peltzer Dunn	√		
Daniel	√			Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou	√		
Duncan		X		Powell		X	
Farrow	√			Randall			Ab
Fitch	√			Robins	√		
Gilbey	√			Rufus		X	
Hamilton	√			Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson	√		
Hyde	√			Smith	√		
Janio	√			Summers	√		
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald	√		
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald	√		
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls	√		
Lepper	√			Wells	√		
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson	√		
				Total	32	19	1

59.47. The Mayor confirmed that the motion was **carried** by 32 votes to 19, with 1 abstention.

59.48. The Mayor then put an amendment from Councillors Summers and Farrow to the vote.

59.49. Independent Amendment

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
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Barnett	√			Marsh		X	
Bennett	√			Meadows		X	
Bowden		X		Mears	√		
Brown	√			Mitchell		X	
Buckley		X		Morgan		X	
Carden		X		A Norman	√		
Cobb	√			K Norman	√		
Cox	√			Peltzer Dunn	√		
Daniel		X		Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou		X	
Duncan	√			Powell		X	
Farrow	√			Randall		X	
Fitch		X		Robins		X	
Gilbey		X		Rufus		X	
Hamilton		X		Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson	√		
Hyde	√			Smith	√		
Janio	√			Summers	√		
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald	√		
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald	√		
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls	√		
Lepper		X		Wells	√		
Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson		X	
				Total	20	32	

59.50. The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **lost** by 20 votes to 32 votes.

59.51. The Mayor noted that various amendments had been carried and in order for the revised council tax resolutions to be prepared and circulated to Members, he proposed to adjourn the meeting for a period of 20 minutes.

59.52. The Mayor then adjourned the meeting at 8.20pm.

59.53. The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 8.45pm and invited the Interim Executive Director for Finance & Resources to confirm the budget position.

59.54. The Interim Executive Director for Finance & Resources confirmed that all three amendments had been reflected in the revised council tax resolutions that had been circulated. These changes needed to be taken into account by Members prior to their vote on the budget proposals for either a 5.99% council tax rise, a council tax freeze or a 1.99% council tax rise.

59.55. The Mayor then put the proposed referendum budget based on a 5.99% council tax increase as amended to the vote.

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett		X		Marsh		X	
Bennett		X		Meadows		X	
Bowden	√			Mears		X	
Brown		X		Mitchell		X	
Buckley		X		Morgan		X	
Carden		X		A Norman		X	
Cobb		X		K Norman		X	
Cox		X		Peltzer Dunn		X	
Daniel		X		Phillips		X	
Davey	√			Pidgeon - absent			
Deane	√			Pissaridou		X	
Duncan		X		Powell	√		
Farrow		X		Randall	√		
Fitch		X		Robins		X	
Gilbey		X		Rufus	√		
Hamilton		X		Shanks	√		
Hawtree	√			Simson		X	
Hyde		X		Smith		X	
Janio		X		Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes	√		
Jones		X		C Theobald		X	
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald		X	
A Kitcat	√			Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat	√			Wealls		X	

Lepper		X		Wells		X	
Littman	√			West	√		
MacCafferty		X		Wilson		X	
				Total	13	39	

59.56. The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **lost** by 13 votes to 39.

59.57. The Mayor then put the proposed council tax freeze budget to the vote.

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett	√			Marsh		X	
Bennett	√			Meadows		X	
Bowden		X		Mears	√		
Brown	√			Mitchell		X	
Buckley		X		Morgan		X	
Carden		X		A Norman	√		
Cobb	√			K Norman	√		
Cox	√			Peltzer Dunn	√		
Daniel		X		Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou		X	
Duncan		X		Powell		X	
Farrow		X		Randall		X	
Fitch		X		Robins		X	
Gilbey		X		Rufus		X	
Hamilton		X		Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson	√		
Hyde	√			Smith	√		
Janio	√			Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald	√		
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald	√		
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls	√		
Lepper		X		Wells	√		

Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson		X	
				Total	17	35	

59.58. The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **lost** by 17 votes to 35.

59.59. The Mayor then put the threshold budget based on a council tax increase of 1.99% to the vote.

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Barnett		X		Marsh	√		
Bennett		X		Meadows	√		
Bowden		X		Mears		X	
Brown		X		Mitchell	√		
Buckley		X		Morgan	√		
Carden	√			A Norman		X	
Cobb		X		K Norman		X	
Cox		X		Peltzer Dunn		X	
Daniel	√			Phillips		X	
Davey		X		Pidgeon - absent			
Deane		X		Pissaridou	√		
Duncan		X		Powell		X	
Farrow		X		Randall		X	
Fitch	√			Robins	√		
Gilbey	√			Rufus		X	
Hamilton	√			Shanks		X	
Hawtree		X		Simson		X	
Hyde		X		Smith		X	
Janio		X		Summers		X	
Jarrett		X		Sykes		X	
Jones		X		C Theobald		X	
Kennedy - absent				G Theobald		X	
A Kitcat		X		Wakefield		X	
J Kitcat		X		Wealls		X	
Lepper	√			Wells		X	

Littman		X		West		X	
MacCafferty		X		Wilson	√		
				Total	13	39	

- 59.60. The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **lost** by 13 votes to 39.
- 59.61. The Mayor stated that in view of the failure to set a General Fund Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2015/16, he proposed to adjourn the meeting for a period of 30 minutes, in order to enable the respective Leaders and their Groups to discuss matters and seek a way forward.
- 59.62. The Mayor then adjourned the meeting at 9.05pm.
- 59.63. The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 9.55pm and apologised for the delay and asked the Chief Executive to address the Council.
- 59.64. The Chief Executive informed the meeting that following further discussions with the Group Leaders, officers had been requested to draft a further joint amendment that needed to be discussed with the respective Groups. The Leaders had therefore asked for a further adjournment, in order to consult their respective Groups with the hope that an agreement could be reached.
- 59.65. The Mayor thanked the Chief Executive and adjourned the meeting at 10.05pm.
- 59.66. The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 10.35pm and invited the Chief Executive to address the Council.
- 59.67. The Chief Executive thanked the Mayor and informed the meeting that despite lengthy and constructive discussions it had become apparent that the setting of a budget could not be completed at the present meeting. Having discussed the matter with the Mayor, it was proposed that the meeting should be adjourned and reconvened on Tuesday 3rd March at either 10am, 2.00pm or 4.00pm.
- 59.68. Councillor Mears noted that in previous years there had been a need to resolve the matter of setting a budget before the print deadline for issuing council tax bills. However, she had assumed any reconvened meeting would take place on the following Thursday and questioned why this was not the case.
- 59.69. The Monitoring Officer stated that a note regarding the budget process had been circulated to all Members around December/January time outlining the time frame and legal position for setting the budget. The printing arrangements for the council tax bills meant that the necessary information had to be sent to the printers by the 5th March and therefore the budget needed to be set before that date. He stated that both he and the Head of Democratic Services believed that the date of the 3rd March had been raised with the Leaders as a potential for a reconvened budget council meeting, based on the time table that had been identified by the previous Executive Director for Finance & Resources.

- 59.70. The Monitoring Officer acknowledged that the proposed date of the 3rd March may be difficult for some Members, but noted that a quorum of 14 Members was only required. He hoped that as many Members as possible would be able to attend the meeting on the 3rd March and offered to meet with the Group Leaders to facilitate any agreements about non-attendance between the Groups. However, in view of the impasse currently reached, he supported the Chief Executive and Mayor's view that the meeting should be adjourned and then reconvened on the 3rd March.
- 59.71. The Mayor noted that Members did not have the same understanding of officers in regard to the potential date for a reconvened meeting, but in view of the situation and the need to seek to reach an agreed budget position, he stated that he intended to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday 3rd March at 4.00pm.
- 59.72. The Mayor then adjourned the meeting at 10.45pm.

60 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR BUDGET COUNCIL

Note:

- 60.1. The item was taken into consideration as part of the overall budget debate and included in the votes on the amendments to the General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2015/16 as detailed under Item 59 above.

61 CAPITAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2015/16

Note:

- 61.1 The item was taken into consideration as part of the overall budget debate as detailed under Item 59 above and following the decision to adjourn meeting was not voted on but deferred to the reconvened meeting of the council.

62 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16

Note:

- 62.1 The item was taken into consideration as part of the overall budget debate as detailed under Item 59 above and following the decision to adjourn meeting was not voted on but deferred to the reconvened meeting of the council.

63 CLOSE OF MEETING

- 63.1 The Mayor noted that the meeting would reconvene at 4.00pm on Tuesday 3rd March 2015 and then closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 10.45pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2015