

Budget Council 5 March 2014:**Setting a Lawful Budget for 2014/15****Introduction**

At its meeting last week, Council did not agree a budget and decided to adjourn the meeting under Council procedure 15.13. This meant the uncompleted business has to be considered at today's meeting.

In order to enable the meeting to be conducted efficiently, and give the fact that Council has already debated the budget at length, it is proposed to suspend Council Procedure Rules to the extent necessary to conduct the meeting using the special procedures set out below. Council's Procedure Rules will continue to apply to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the special procedures.

It is proposed that, rather than start the whole debate from the beginning and debate and vote on all 17 amendments, it is proposed to use the Policy & Resources budget proposals (together with the supplementary information) with the amendments that were agreed last week before the vote on the substantive budget as a starting point.

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 impose an obligation on the Council to amend standing orders to require the vote of Members on the budget to be recorded. The votes on the amendments and the substantive budget will therefore be conducted by electronic voting and the individual votes will be reflected in the minutes.

84. Declarations of Interest.**85. Mayor's urgent communications, including the following:**

The Council will be asked to agree that Council Procedural Rules be suspended in accordance with council procedural rule 1.7 to the extent that it is necessary to enable the business of the meeting to be dealt with as set out in agenda items 86 - 89 below.

86. General Fund Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2014/15**87. Supplementary Financial Information for Budget Council****88. Capital Resources & Capital Investment Programme 2014/15****89. Housing Revenue Account Budget 2014/15**

Council's Budget Proposal and Green Group's Amendment:

- (a) Councillor Kitcat will move:
- (i) The Council tax resolution (as set out on pages 339 – 341 of the agenda as amended) reflecting the Policy & Resources Committee's report on the General Fund Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2014/15 and the Supplementary Financial Information for Budget Council and the amendments agreed at Council last week before the substantive vote.
 - (ii) The Green Group amendment as set out in the addendum
 - (iii) The Capital Resources & Capital Investment Programme 2014/15 and
 - (iv) The Housing Revenue Account Budget 2014/15

Councillor Kitcat will have 5 minutes to move the budget proposals and the Green Group amendment.

- (b) Councillor Davey will second the budget motion and the Green Group amendment.

Councillor Davey will have 3 minutes to second the budget motion.

[The Chief Finance Officer / Monitoring Officer shall have discretion at any stage to remind Members of the proposed substantive budget motion and its implications following acceptance of any amendments.]

Green, Conservative and Labour & Co-operative Groups' Joint Amendment Proposal:

- (c) The **Mayor** will invite Councillor Jason Kitcat, and Councillors Geoffrey Theobald and Warren Morgan to move the Joint amendment.

Councillors Kitcat, Theobald and Warren will have 5 minutes each to move the joint motion.

[The Chief Finance Officer / Monitoring Officer shall have discretion at any stage to remind Members of the proposed substantive budget motion and its implications following acceptance of any amendments.]

Voting on Amendments:

- (d) (i) The Mayor will request that the screen is lowered so that the outcome of the voting can be shown (Note: This will mean a delay of approximately 45 seconds).

(ii) There will be a slight delay between each vote to enable the results of the previous item to be recorded into the system for the minutes once they have been shown on the screen.

(e) The Mayor will then put the amendments to the vote in the following order:

- (i) The Green Group's amendment;
- (ii) The Green, Conservative and Labour & Co-operative Groups' joint amendment.

During the voting on the amendments, if an amendment needs to be changed, then there may need to be a short adjournment whilst further clarification is prepared by officers for Members.

The Chief Finance Officer / Monitoring Officer may advise the Mayor of the need for a short adjournment, in order to adjust the budget model in light of any amendments just agreed. The Budget resolutions shall not be treated as concluded until any consequential adjustments are agreed.

Substantive Votes:

(f) The **Mayor** will put the substantive motions (as amended) (if amended) to the meeting in three separate votes as follows:

(1) Item 86 General Fund Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2014/15 recommendations (1) - (5), including the formal council tax resolution;

together with;

Item 87 Supplementary Financial Information for Budget Council recommendations (1) - (4);

Followed by:

(2) Item 88 Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2014/15 recommendations (1) - (6);

Followed by:

(3) Item 89 Housing Revenue Account Budget 2014/15 recommendations (1) - (5).

The Chief Finance Officer / Monitoring Officer may at any stage advise the Mayor and the Members of the need for a short adjournment, especially if there is a need for consequential adjustment to parts of the Budget resulting from the separate votes under 86 & 87, 88, and 89.

Should the Council fail to approve the Budget, the Mayor may decide to call for an adjournment in order to enable further discussions between the Groups; before reconvening the meeting and taking a further vote on the items. The requirements under procedure rule 13.7 regarding the rescinding of previous resolutions shall not apply to the budget debate if, following a vote, Council fails to agree the substantive budget.

Should Council fail to set the Council Tax on the 5th March 2014 there are many significant implications; as Members have been separately advised. This includes the start of the Council Tax bill production process on the 7th March, which cannot be delayed without significant financial consequences.

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