

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2020 FROM 8.00 PM TO 10.15 PM

Members Present

Councillors: Bill Soane (Mayor), Malcolm Richards (Deputy Mayor), Keith Baker, Parry Batth, Rachel Bishop-Firth, Laura Blumenthal, Chris Bowring, Shirley Boyt, Prue Bray, Rachel Burgess, Jenny Cheng, UllaKarin Clark, Stephen Conway, Gary Cowan, Andy Croy, Richard Dolinski, Carl Doran, Lindsay Ferris, Michael Firmager, Paul Fishwick, Jim Frewin, Maria Gee, Guy Grandison, Charlotte Haitham Taylor, John Halsall, David Hare, Emma Hobbs, Clive Jones, Pauline Jorgensen, John Kaiser, Sarah Kerr, Abdul Loyes, Tahir Maher, Adrian Mather, Ken Miall, Andrew Mickleburgh, Stuart Munro, Gregor Murray, Barrie Patman, Imogen Shepherd-DuBey, Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey, Caroline Smith, Wayne Smith, Alison Swaddle, Simon Weeks and Oliver Whittle

73. MINUTES SILENCE

The Council stood in silence to honour the memory of Muriel Long, who had previously been a ward member for Finchampstead for 20 years and Chairman of the Council in 2002, who had passed away recently.

74. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Pauline Helliard Symons, Graham Howe, Dianne King, Charles Margetts, Ian Pittock and Angus Ross.

75. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor John Halsall declared a Personal Interest in Item 66 Medium Term Financial Plan and Associated Reports on the grounds that he was a Non Executive Director of WBC Holdings Limited.

Councillor John Halsall declared a Personal Interest in Item 66 Medium Term Financial Plan and Associated Reports and Item 67 Community Vision and Corporate Delivery Plan on the grounds that he was a Director of the Campaign to Protect Rural Wokingham.

Councillor John Kaiser declared a Personal Interest in Item 66 Medium Term Financial Plan and Associated Reports on the grounds that he was a Non Executive Director of WBC Holdings Limited, Berry Brook Homes and Wokingham Housing Limited.

Councillor Lindsay Ferris declared a Personal Interest in Item 66 Medium Term Financial Plan and Associated Reports on the grounds that he was a Non Executive Director of Loddon Homes Limited.

Councillor UllaKarin Clark declared a Personal Interest in Item 66 Medium Term Financial Plan and Associated Reports on the grounds that she was a Non Executive Director of Loddon Homes Limited.

Councillor Stuart Munro declared a Personal Interest in Item 66 Medium Term Financial Plan and Associated Reports on the grounds that he was a Non Executive Director of WBC Holdings Limited.

Councillor Wayne Smith declared a Personal Interest in Item 66 Medium Term Financial Plan and Associated Reports on the grounds that he was a Non Executive Director of WBC Holdings Limited.

77. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members of the Mayor's Event on 28 March 2020 and encouraged as many as possible to attend.

78. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the agreed procedure the Mayor invited members of the public to submit questions to the appropriate Members.

78.1 Ian Shenton asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency the following question:

Question

I'm very pleased that this Council has declared a climate emergency, and delighted to see in some literature through my door that £50 million will be spent on reducing our carbon emissions, which is set to be approved at tonight's meeting as part of the Council's budget. Specifically, how will this money be used?

Answer

The committed investment of £50 million over the next three years (subject to approval at this Council) will allow some of the actions identified within the initial Climate Emergency Action Plan to progress.

To significantly reduce the Borough's carbon dioxide emissions within 10 years, the Council will require the implementation of substantial actions. The Council efforts will focus on the key emitting sectors; energy, domestic gas and transport.

The assigned funding will be allocated over the next 3 years to the following projects:

- Development of infrastructure for the generation of renewable energy. These will take shape in the form of solar farms, which will either feed into a battery or grid arrangement.
- Reduction of energy consumption in council-owned assets. These will see a wide range of energy efficiency projects at existing properties to reduce our energy demand. These include installing LED lighting, cavity wall and loft insulation boiler controls. These are envisaged to deliver demonstrable energy saving benefit.
- Investment in energy reduction schemes to support residents and small businesses to fund energy efficiency and retrofitting projects.
- Investment in public rights of way, cycle networks, greenways, new foot and cycle structures and other non-motorised routes throughout the Borough to support mode shift to active and sustainable modes of transport.
- Enhancement of transport infrastructure in the Borough to expand and improve the use of public transport.
- Improvement in waste schemes to increase recycling and food waste collection.

- Implementation of a rolling programme of capital projects aimed at enhancing biodiversity of various sites and other assets.

Supplementary Question:

When I look through last year's Capital Spending Programme a lot of that money was already in there before we had declared a climate emergency. For example, food waste collection had £20,000 in the Budget for the coming financial year but it was under the Customer and Locality section. This year the same amount is under Climate Emergency. Coppid Beech Park and Ride was under last year's Budget for £2.7m to be spent in the coming financial year in Customer and Localities. The same amount has been transferred to the Climate Emergency section of this year's Budget. Likewise, greenways were down for £1m in the coming financial year and in this year's Budget it is actually less at £874,000 under Climate Emergency. There are many examples of this and I believe it is a bit misleading. How is this £50million for the Climate Emergency when it looks like old money with a new name?

Supplementary Answer:

Actually almost half of the money that is being spent on climate emergency is new money. The money that we are putting into solar farms, the money we are putting into our Green Bank project, is all new money coming in. It was not in the Budget last year and it was not in any budgets beforehand.

What we have done though is very deliberately brought together under one roof, one remit, all of the programmes and projects that we believe will influence and help bring down our carbon footprint and our carbon budget. Yes, some of these are existing programmes. The Council has already been working on things like greenways and cycle routes, but it makes sense to have them all in one place under one officer group, to make sure that it can be monitored effectively, and that we can make sure that going forwards we are recording all of the net savings that we are making on our carbon budget, not just small fractions on it here and there.

78.2 Chris Wallace asked the Executive Member for Finance and Housing the following question:

Question

Agenda Item 66.1, Appendix A Page 45. The Housing Revenue Account Reserves – states that the reserve has to be a minimum 5% of gross spend with the current recommended minimum level of reserves at £0.8m. Could you explain why a reserve of less than this minimum, £0.6m (2020) & £0.7m (2021) is being authorised?

Answer

You rightly point out the recommended minimum level of reserve is approximately £0.8m and the proposed level for 2020/21 is just below this at £0.6m, but it rises to £1m over the next 3 years.

The reason for the reduction in reserves in 2020/21 is because we are repaying a significant tranche of HRA debt. What that means is the HRA debt is the second largest debt that this Council has, which is about £85m, that we took to buy our own council houses back so we could retain all of the rents and use that money to keep them at a decent standard. Before, half of our council rent was going out of the Borough, going somewhere else. In addition, there are other issues which will increase the debt, but it looks like at the end of year we are going to have an underspend, which is increasingly

likely. The minimum level is a guideline recommended by the Council's CFO and if he is comfortable with the budget proposal given the options available to us. The other thing that has not really helped is the fact that, in real terms, council home rents have probably dropped over the last 4 years by about 14%, so we have had less income as well.

Supplementary Question:

The reduction in the reserves and the need to increase borrowing to £2.3million for major repairs seems to have been caused by the HRA being stripped of assets, resulting in a loss of dwelling rent income of more than £2million per annum for the years shown in the Budget. It would appear that most of these assets have been transferred free of charge to WHL, with the profits from new builds being returned to the General Fund at the same time as the HRA, as you said, is still servicing loans taken out in 2012. As the HRA is a ring fenced fund by law, the Housing Act 1985, can you, show how this use of HRA assets and funds can be regarded as legal?

Supplementary Answer:

I am not quite sure where you got your information from, but it is a ring fenced fund, and we have not been taking any money out of it, or I do not know about us taking money out of it. I think you will find that the decrease in the fund is much around the reduction in the rent that we have been collecting over the last 4 years, which again is a nearly 15% reduction in the rent that we would have normally expected under normal circumstances.

79. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

80. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND ASSOCIATED REPORTS

The Council considered four reports which together comprised a single Agenda item:

- The Housing Revenue Account Budget 2020/21 as set out on Agenda pages 39-50;
- The Capital Programme and Strategy 2020-2023 as set out on Agenda pages 51-98;
- The Treasury Management Strategy 2020-2023 as set out on Agenda pages 99-152;
- The Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/23 – Revenue Budget Submission 2020/21 as set out on Agenda pages 153-156.

The Mayor reminded Members that a total of 90 minutes would be set aside for the debate.

Prior to proposing the budget, Councillor John Halsall made the following announcement.

Since the publication of the Treasury Management Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan documents included in tonight's agenda, I have the following amendments to highlight;

1. We now have received the council tax precepts for Winnersh Parish and the Fire Authority, these have now been included in the relevant pages of the Medium Term Financial Plan.
2. The elements of the capital funding in the Treasury Management Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan have been corrected to reflect the latest figures. This includes an increase in developer funding and use of capital reserves which means an £8m reduction in borrowing. There is no change to the total funding and no

change to the planned Capital Programme which is still £517m over the next 3 years.

3. Following the changes just mentioned, all affected tables in the Treasury Management Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan have been restated; this also corrects some casting anomalies.
4. Updated figures and tables have been tabled at the meeting for information.

Following the receipt of the council tax precepts for all the Parish Councils, the Fire Authority and the Police, the Council tax amounts for 20/21 for each Council Tax Band and Parish are set out in the "Revenue Budget & Statutory Resolution" (Appendix A) as shown as "to follow" in the agenda pack.

I ask Council to resolve to agree the recommendations set out in the Treasury Management Strategy as adjusted by the tabled amendments.

I also ask Council to resolve to agree the recommendations set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan as adjusted by the tabled amendments.

As set out in the recommendation, I also ask Council to resolve to agree the revenue budget and statutory resolution for the 20/21 financial year.

Following the Budget statements by Councillors John Halsall and Lindsay Ferris, Members discussed the various aspects of the proposed Budget, in detail.

At 9.50pm, as the debate was ongoing, it was moved in accordance with Rule 4.2.13.11 (g) that the time limit for speeches on the Medium Term Financial Plan and Associated Reports be extended by 30 minutes. This was proposed by Councillor Chris Bowring and seconded by Councillor John Halsall.

On being put to the vote, the Mayor declared the Motion to be carried.

80.1 Councillor John Halsall, Leader of the Council 2020/21 Budget Statement

Last May, I was honoured that you elected me Leader of the Council. It has been a huge pleasure to work with our Chief Executive, the Executive, Directors, the Officer Team and Councillors. In eight months, we have covered a lot of ground and launched some important initiatives.

Mr Mayor, it gives me great pleasure to propose this budget put before you this evening. The formulation of this year's budget has involved a level of transparency and collaboration like no other. The Opposition in Overview and Scrutiny has been able to input their comments and concerns throughout the process, which has significantly benefited from this approach. Long may it continue. I commend both John Kaiser and Graham Ebers for taking this significant and positive step.

Some Members give me the feeling that they are confused between the revenue and capital account. There are those, who have long experience of private sector IFRS, indeed lecture others, and assume that public sector conventions are the same. They are not. Grant funding sometimes determines categorisation. i.e. if the grant says its capital it is capital and if the grant funding says it is revenue – it is revenue.

Nevertheless, our fiscal rules are to maintain our revenue reserves – indeed this budget sees them increased back to over £10m which we regard as prudent.

Our Council tax proposal is at 1.99%, below inflation at 2.7%; in addition, we have taken advantage of the 2%, which is ring-fenced for Adult Social Care. It is instructive to note that whilst most town and parish precept increases are in line with inflation or below, Liberal controlled Earley Town Council is pushing their precept up by 10.4% making it up to the second highest precept in the Borough. Twyford Parish Council by 25% where two Liberal Councillors hold sway. Wokingham Town is increasing its precept by 4.5%. Woodley Town Council's precept of £112.88, the lowest precept for Woodley since 2008/9, but is still suffering from £114.65 precept they inherited in 2014/15, after 40 years I believe of Liberal administration. A too familiar tale I feel.

The Medium Term Financial Plan should be read in conjunction with the Community Vision and Corporate Delivery Plan, which I will be proposing shortly.

Our central mission is to keep our residents safe, secure and happy and to provide the very best services that we can.

We are all of course acutely aware of the pressures we have faced in Children's Services over the past years with an increase of 164% in children on protection plans and a 44% increase in children in care. This budget not only provides the resource needed to meet these unavoidable costs but provides investment to enable our community to receive a Children's Services offer rated as "Good" for the first time.

The Revenue budget also adds an additional £4.8m into Adults Services for our increasing elderly population.

It also contains additional capital financing costs that will enable £9m extra borrowing for the surfacing of our roads.

Our proposed Capital Programme is a budget which invests £185m in roads and transportation, which includes tackling congestion on our roads. It is a budget which invests £50m on Climate Emergency. It is a budget which invests over £70m into improving services for our essential frontline of Children's Services, Adult Social Care and Environmental facilities across the Borough. It is also a Capital Programme that provides over £200m on regenerating our Borough, providing homes and enabling the Council to generate valuable income streams from its expanding Commercial Agenda.

Capital borrowing is asset backed. As a local authority, we have recourse to funds from the Treasury fixed for the duration at the time when the debt is contracted. As we had originally predicted, debt peaks in 2022/23 but declines rapidly thereafter. This debt is not to fund spending but to purchase assets which remain and appreciate and generates much needed income for services. We have not predicted any asset sales. One of our largest debt is due for our purchasing of our social housing, whose asset value is many times the debt we incurred and allows us to retain all the rents we collect from our residents to be used to maintain their homes to decent standards and finance additional social homes.

Wokingham consistently ranks amongst the top ten most desirable places to live in the country. It is known as the Silicon Valley of the UK. It is one of the lowest areas of deprivation, which is a credit to the efficacy of the Council, its Officers and Members. Yet

its success raises concerns. Having a low level of deprivation results in the lowest funding of any unitary in the UK for both the Council and one of the lowest for GP surgeries, if not the lowest. We have the dubious honour of being, I understand, one of the highest vehicle concentrations per household in the UK.

Being a very desirable place to live, we are a prime target for developers. Whilst there is always the talk of a slowdown, it seems that there is no real problem with selling houses at a premium in the Borough. The only protected land is the small amount of green belt in the northern parishes. The high retail price of houses compared to the average income within the Borough drives the Government to instruct us to build some 800 homes per annum for the foreseeable future when the Office of National Statistics growth of the Borough is expected to be around 450. Mr Mayor, I fundamentally disagree with the Government's approach and agree with our residents that we should be obliged to take a very much lower level of housing perhaps even lower than the Office of National Statistics growth.

80.2 Point of Order

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Andy Croy indicated that Councillor John Halsall was a Director of Campaign to Protect Rural Wokingham and had not declared this on his Declaration of Interest Form or at meetings where discussions around the Local Plan had taken place. Councillors Croy and Ferris sought clarification from Officers as to what should or should not be declared.

Councillor John Halsall declared a Personal Interest, as he was a Director for the Campaign to Protect Rural Wokingham. He advised that it had been dormant for some time.

The Mayor confirmed that the matter would be considered with the Monitoring Officer outside of the meeting.

80.3 Continuation of Councillor John Halsall, Leader of the Council 2020/21 Budget Statement

Any Local Plan which is more than five years old is considered by National Planning Policy Framework to be out of date. As ours is more than five years old even though we continue to deliver more homes than neighbouring authorities, developers can claim that we do not have a plan and therefore appeal to planning inspectors that the development that they are promoting should be allowed. We have a veritable epidemic of appeals. To fight them we have engaged the top planning Chambers, which is both very expensive and very consumptive of Officers and Executive Members' time.

We have published the draft Local Plan for consultation. It is based upon meeting a lower figure than the standard method, which we feel we can justify. It protects the Green Belt and the countryside by concentrating development in only a few places across the Borough and proposes a new Garden town at Grazeley, which would be designed and built to cutting edge environmental standards with sustainable transport links into Reading and massive investment in facilities – schools, community centres, sporting and leisure facilities with huge swathes of green space opened up for public use.

To not adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework and not having a plan means that we will have planning by appeal – developers putting houses where they want and government taking our planning department into special measures, as has happened in Liberal controlled South Oxfordshire. We will get more houses not less with no

infrastructure. I do not like the situation we are in, but unless Parliament relents, we must do the best we can, with the tools we have.

Consequent upon the development, but not necessarily completely due to it we have congestion which is plaguing every resident's lives. We need several billions and many years to build the capacity we need. Without that, all we can do is to optimise our use of the existing network. We are completing five major new roads which when finished will enable travel across the Borough avoiding Wokingham Town Centre. We are acquiring the tools so that an intelligent transport system will keep traffic moving as well as helping the environment. We will install responsive traffic light systems with smart software allowing signals to work intelligently based on traffic demand. Residents should notice reduced delays and improved journey times thanks to a combination of cameras and sensors within the network.

Mr Mayor, climate change is an issue for everybody. We have declared a Climate Emergency. The recently approved plan starts to make significant inroads into our ambitions to achieve carbon neutrality. As a Borough, we cannot solve it, but we can make sure that we are doing everything we can to play our part in its resolution including generating clean renewable energy. The Council has published its first plan and this Budget sees that plan put into action. In the future, this plan will be modified taking account of the measurement that we will be doing and the results of the actions that we are taking. It will of course introduce other actions that will come to light. This is very new to us and to others, but we are determined to be at the leading edge as I am sure residents would wish us to be. It is too important an issue for our future and our children's future.

It is an ambitious but robust budget. It achieves the careful balance of safeguarding the vulnerable in our community and delivering services to everybody. The revenue budget is in surplus and the capital budget reflects our ambitions.

Mr Mayor, not only have we invested all this additional resource in much needed services and facilities for our community, we have maintained a strong and stable financial platform through our continued excellent stewardship of the Council's finances and I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my Deputy Leader and Lead Member of Finance John Kaiser, for doing this. Our proposed General Fund balance is restored to a healthy position in excess of £10m, we have a fully funded 3 year Capital Programme and we are ranked in the top 20 of all upper tier authorities in the country in terms of our overall financial standing. We are not without our significant financial challenges and we remain the lowest funded Unitary Authority in the country, however we remain financially responsible and well managed. This should not prevent us, across all parties, lobbying for a fair funding deal in next year's long-term settlement and getting the level of funding this community deserves.

Mr Mayor, notwithstanding the interruption, I am delighted to present this Budget to Chamber, a budget which provides much needed investment into our community, whilst being a budget proposal that is safe, sound and responsible.

80.4 Councillor Lindsay Ferris, Leader of the Opposition, Budget statement on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group:

I have put an addendum at the beginning of my speech. It is: What a chaotic budget in Tory controlled Wokingham. All these errors and an additional £75 million of debt has been found in the last minute. If you check the figures, there is a £75million difference. What is going on?

For the first time in nearly 20 years, there is a serious challenge to the current Conservative administration. Local residents have an opportunity to choose an alternative way forward. Tonight, I want to present a Liberal Democrat vision and rationale for the future across the Wokingham Borough. The reasons we need change is because the current Conservative administration has acted more like cash strapped amateur speculators who have racked up £700 million of debt, than a Council administration who are there to provide services for their residents. The Conservatives have become complacent and arrogant in their approach to residents. Instead of providing services that residents want, they are providing services that the Council wants to provide and in the way, they want to provide them. Whenever the Council has been found to have done things incorrectly, for example, when they lost the Court of Appeal decision to Hare Hatch Sheeplands, or when they lost a vital Employment Tribunal, their response has been 'oh it was an exceptional, bizarre result.' This aloof response is not acceptable. The Council administration needs to learn from its mistakes and to act in a more appropriate manner in the future, instead the administration is in denial. This has to change for the sake of our residents. This Conservative Council rarely says sorry. The Liberal Democrats would put residents first.

The Tories have no forward thinking or overall strategy. Many proposals being presented are reactions to events. For example, Wokingham Borough Council closed both The Paddocks and Rose Street car parks in Wokingham as part of the Wokingham Town regeneration. Little or no thought was given to how suitable car parking capacity could be provided in the town centre area. Now in 2020, Wokingham Borough Council has been forced to buy back Denmark Street car park area, sold off by the previous Conservative administration. This is hardly joined up planning, and at what cost to the council tax paying residents?

There has been months of upheaval which has severely impacted local businesses and residents alike. The Conservative administration has treated residents' petitions presented in this Council Chamber of the last couple of years, with utter disdain. I am sure residents from Shinfield, Barkham and those supporting Hare Hatch Sheeplands remember how they were treated, and in effect, ignored, by this Conservative administration. This will change under a Liberal Democrat administration. The Budget being presented by the Conservatives tonight will be the Budget that the Liberal Democrats would have to use should there be a change of control at Council in May. It is recognised that the overall Budget, a 3.99% increase in council tax, made up of 1.99 council tax and 2% adult social care precept, is the highest possible without a referendum, we have no issue with this. However, the Liberal Democrats have a different set of priorities and would use supplementary estimates to move the financial resources around within the budget areas to enable an alternative set of priorities to be introduced. A number of these priorities will be presented by my colleagues in the Council Chamber here tonight.

Regarding the Capital Programme, it is like a curate's egg: good in part but unworkable in others. There are individual lines in the Capital Programme that the Liberal Democrat Group can support, in fact have pressed for. This includes the £640,000 for the Polehampton library in Twyford, although to fully complete and equip this, more money may be required. Also, the £250,000 for the Montague Park Community Facility and many others.

A significant part of the roads programme has already been agreed and is in the process of being built and many more areas have cross party support. However, there a number of

projects that the Liberal Democrats would like to introduce which have not been included in this Budget. We have a vision of a better run administration, which listens to our residents to enable us to provide the services that they want, within our budget constraints. Our vision – the culture of the Council must change. We would aim to make Wokingham Borough Council more resident focused, one of the best, if not the best local authority in England. The Liberal Democrats would support an ethical position on finance which is open and available for scrutiny, be at the forefront of tackling environmental matters, including the climate emergency, not just soundbites but thought through plans in a structured coordinated, quantifiable manner to achieve real results. We would rebuild our Children’s Services department so that it is better able to assist our local children and schools, with a future aim of making this one of the best in the country. We would focus the Council on providing the right number and type of homes for our local people. This includes the provision of truly affordable homes. Our focus will be on 1, 2, 3 bedroomed homes for local families and single people and the provision of 1 and 2 bedroomed bungalows for our older residents to move into so that they are able to downsize and stay in our area. We would establish Wokingham Borough as a vibrant centre for the arts and culture. The better provision for adult social services and improve support for carers. We believe we are ready, open and able to take on the running of this Council.

80.5 Housing Revenue Account Budget 2020/21

It was proposed by Councillor John Halsall and seconded by Councillor John Kaiser that the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2020/21 as set out in Agenda Pages 39 to 50, be approved.

Upon being put to the vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Housing Revenue Account budget be approved;
- 2) that Council house dwelling rents be increased by 2.70% effective from April 2020 in line with the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2015;
- 3) that Garage rents be increased by 2.38% effective from April 2020 in line with Council fees and charge;
- 4) that Shared Equity Rents be increased by 2.43% based on September RPI, effective from April 2020;
- 5) that Tenant Service Charges are set in line with estimated costs;
- 6) the Housing Major Repairs (capital) programme for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix B be approved;
- 7) that Sheltered room guest charges for 2020/21 remain at £9.50 per night per room.

80.6 Capital Programme and Strategy 2020-2023

It was proposed by Councillor John Halsall and seconded by Councillor John Kaiser that the Capital Programme and Strategy 2020-2023, as set out in Agenda Pages 51 to 98, be approved.

Upon being put to the vote, it was;

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Capital Strategy for 2020/23 - Appendix A be approved,
- 2) the three year capital programme for 2020/23 – Appendix B be approved;
- 3) the draft vision for capital investment over the next ten years - Appendix C be noted;
- 4) the developer contributions s106 and CIL as set out in Appendix D, be approved. The s106 and CIL values are estimated and approval is sought up to the scheme budget;
- 5) the commercial activities of the Council be noted.

80.7 Treasury Management Strategy 2020/23

It was proposed by Councillor John Halsall and seconded by Councillor John Kaiser that the Treasury Management Strategy 2020/2023 as set out Agenda Pages 99 to 152 be approved, subject to the tabled amendments.

Prior to the vote being held, six Members in accordance with Rule 4.2.15.5 requested that a recorded vote be taken on the proposal.

The voting was as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
Keith Baker	Rachel Bishop-Firth	Jim Frewin
Parry Batth	Shirley Boyt	
Laura Blumenthal	Prue Bray	
Chris Bowring	Rachel Burgess	
Jenny Cheng	Stephen Conway	
UllaKarin Clark	Andy Croy	
Gary Cowan	Carl Doran	
Richard Dolinski	Lindsay Ferris	
Michael Firmager	Paul Fishwick	
Guy Grandison	Maria Gee	
Charlotte Haitham Taylor	David Hare	
John Halsall	Clive Jones	
Emma Hobbs	Sarah Kerr	
Pauline Jorgensen	Tahir Maher	
John Kaiser	Adrian Mather	
Abdul Loyes	Andrew Mickleburgh	
Ken Miall	Imogen Shepherd-DuBey	
Stuart Munro	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	
Gregor Murray	Caroline Smith	
Barrie Patman		
Malcolm Richards		

Wayne Smith		
Bill Soane		
Alison Swaddle		
Simon Weeks		
Oliver Whittle		

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED: That subject to the tabled amendments:

- 1) the Capital Prudential indicators 2020/21 (*Appendix A (pages 4 and 5, table 1 and 2)*) be approved;
- 2) the Borrowing strategy 2020/21 (*Appendix A (page 8)*) be approved;
- 3) the Annual Investment Strategy 2020/21 (*Appendix D*) be approved;
- 4) the MRP policy (*Appendix E*) be approved;
- 5) Treasury Indicators: limits to borrowing activity (*Appendix A (page 10 –table 5)*) be approved; and
- 6) it be noted that the Audit Committee agreed the Treasury Management Strategy on 5th February 2020.

80.8 Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/23 Revenue Budget Submission 2020/21

It was proposed by Councillor John Halsall and seconded by Councillor John Kaiser that the Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/23 Revenue Budget Submission 2020/21 be approved subject to the tabled amendments.

In line with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Keith Baker	Shirley Boyt	
Parry Batth	Rachel Burgess	
Rachel Bishop-Firth	Andy Croy	
Laura Blumenthal	Carl Doran	
Chris Bowring		
Prue Bray		
Jenny Cheng		
UllaKarin Clark		
Stephen Conway		
Gary Cowan		
Richard Dolinski		
Lindsay Ferris		
Michael Firmager		
Paul Fishwick		
Jim Frewin		
Maria Gee		
Guy Grandison		

Charlotte Haitham-Taylor		
John Halsall		
David Hare		
Emma Hobbs		
Clive Jones		
Pauline Jorgensen		
John Kaiser		
Sarah Kerr		
Abdul Loyes		
Tahir Maher		
Adrian Mather		
Ken Miall		
Andrew Mickleburgh		
Stuart Munro		
Gregor Murray		
Barrie Patman		
Malcolm Richards		
Imogen Shepherd-DuBey		
Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey		
Caroline Smith		
Wayne Smith		
Bill Soane		
Alison Swaddle		
Simon Weeks		
Oliver Whittle		

Upon being put to the vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That subject to the tabled amendments:

- 1) the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2020/23, including the budget submission for 2020/21 be approved;
- 2) the statutory resolution that sets out the 2020/21 council tax levels as set out in Appendix A to the report (tabled at the meeting) be approved and that it be noted that at its meeting on 23rd January 2020 Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2020/21 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Government Finance Act 2012.

The statutory resolution is attached as an appendix to the Minutes.

- 3) that in the event that there are any changes to the provisional precept of the Fire Authority or parishes, arising from their precept setting meetings being held before the end of February, the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) is delegated authority to enact all relevant changes to the MTFP, Statutory Resolution and council tax levels.

Statutory resolution

81. COMMUNITY VISION AND CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN

The Council considered the Community Vision and Corporate Delivery Plan as set out on Agenda pages 157 to 184.

It was proposed by Councillor John Halsall and seconded by Councillor John Kaiser that the recommendation within the report be agreed.

Councillor Halsall stated that the Community Vision set out what the Council would focus on over the next four years to improve the outcomes for residents. He wanted to keep residents safe, secure and happy and for the best service that, the Council could provide, to be provided. He went on to refer to some of the areas covered in the Community Vision and the Corporate Delivery Plan, including tackling the climate emergency and challenging traffic congestion and the impact of development on communities. The Plan would cover how the Council would work with its partners, what action would be taken and what success would look like.

Some Members felt that the Vision and Plan were too vague and did not detail how measures would be achieved or how actions would be monitored. Councillor Bishop-Firth questioned how anti-social behaviour in particular would be tackled.

Councillor Cowan commented that he supported the document but felt that more about how the Council would work with its residents and protecting green spaces, could be included.

A number of Members expressed concern at the inclusion of 'An approved and deliverable masterplan for a self-sustaining garden town at Grazeley' as stated in the 'What success will look like' under the 'Right homes, right places' section, in the Corporate Delivery Plan.

Councillor John Halsall proposed that 'An approved and deliverable masterplan for a self-sustaining garden town at Grazeley' be removed from the Corporate Delivery Plan. This was seconded by Councillor Gary Cowan.

Upon being put to the vote, the Mayor declared the amendment to be carried.

Councillor Jim Frewin commented that he felt that the Plan needed to be carefully positioned.

Councillor Prue Bray was of the opinion that the Plan was more a set of strategic aims and objectives. She questioned the tone of the documents.

Councillor John Kaiser referred to the progress that had been made over a number of years.

Prior to the vote on the Community Vision and Corporate Delivery Plan being held, six Members in accordance with Rule 4.2.15.5 requested that a recorded vote be taken on the proposal.

The voting was as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
Keith Baker	Rachel Bishop-Firth	
Parry Bath	Shirley Boyt	
Laura Blumenthal	Prue Bray	
Chris Bowring	Rachel Burgess	
Jenny Cheng	Stephen Conway	
UllaKarin Clark	Andy Croy	
Gary Cowan	Carl Doran	
Richard Dolinski	Lindsay Ferris	
Michael Firmager	Paul Fishwick	
Guy Grandison	Jim Frewin	
Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Maria Gee	
John Halsall	David Hare	
Emma Hobbs	Clive Jones	
Pauline Jorgensen	Sarah Kerr	
John Kaiser	Tahir Maher	
Abdul Loyes	Adrian Mather	
Ken Miall	Andrew Mickleburgh	
Stuart Munro	Imogen Shepherd-DuBey	
Gregor Murray	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	
Barrie Patman	Caroline Smith	
Malcolm Richards		
Wayne Smith		
Bill Soane		
Alison Swaddle		
Simon Weeks		
Oliver Whittle		

Upon being put to the vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Community Vision and Corporate Delivery Plan as amended be approved subject to further amendments delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the tabled amendment.

82. TREASURY MANAGEMENT -MID YEAR REPORT

The Council considered the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report as set out on Agenda pages 185 to 187. The report gave details of treasury management operations during the first six months of 2019/20.

It was proposed by Councillor John Kaiser and seconded by Councillor John Halsall that the recommendations set out on Agenda page 185 be approved.

Upon being put to the vote, it was:

RESOLVED That:

- 1) the mid-year position on the treasury management portfolio be noted;

- 2) it be noted that the Council had worked within approved parameters;
- 3) the forecast outturn saving of £500k (an over achievement on investments £390k, and saving on debt charges of £110k), be noted.