

MINUTES of the WAVERLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL held in
the Council Chamber, Council
Offices, The Burys, Godalming
on 21 February 2017 at 7.00
pm

- * Cllr Chris Storey (Mayor)
- * Cllr Simon Inchbald (Deputy Mayor)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| * Cllr Brian Adams | * Cllr Robert Knowles |
| * Cllr Mike Band | * Cllr Martin Lear |
| * Cllr Andrew Bolton | * Cllr Denise Le Gal |
| * Cllr Maurice Byham | * Cllr Denis Leigh |
| Cllr Carole Cockburn | * Cllr Andy MacLeod |
| * Cllr Kevin Deanus | * Cllr Peter Martin |
| * Cllr Jim Edwards | * Cllr Tom Martin |
| * Cllr Patricia Ellis | Cllr Kika Mirylees |
| * Cllr David Else | Cllr Stephen Mulliner |
| * Cllr Jenny Else | * Cllr Nabeel Nasir |
| * Cllr Mary Forszewski | * Cllr Libby Piper |
| * Cllr John Fraser | * Cllr Julia Potts |
| * Cllr Pat Frost | * Cllr Sam Pritchard |
| * Cllr Michael Goodridge | * Cllr Wyatt Ramsdale |
| * Cllr Tony Gordon-Smith | * Cllr Stefan Reynolds |
| * Cllr John Gray | * Cllr David Round |
| * Cllr Ged Hall | * Cllr Richard Seaborne |
| Cllr Jill Hargreaves | Cllr Jeanette Stennett |
| * Cllr Val Henry | * Cllr Stewart Stennett |
| * Cllr Christiaan Hesse | * Cllr Simon Thornton |
| Cllr Stephen Hill | * Cllr Bob Upton |
| * Cllr Mike Hodge | * Cllr Ross Welland |
| * Cllr Nicholas Holder | * Cllr Liz Wheatley |
| * Cllr David Hunter | * Cllr Nick Williams |
| * Cllr Jerry Hyman | Cllr John Williamson |
| * Cllr Peter Isherwood | * Cllr Liz Townsend |
| * Cllr Anna James | * Cllr John Ward |
| Cllr Carole King | |

*Present

Apologies

Cllr Carole Cockburn, Cllr Jill Hargreaves, Cllr Stephen Hill, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Kika Mirylees, Cllr Stephen Mulliner, Cllr Jeanette Stennett and Cllr John Williamson

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, prayers were led by the Reverend Alan Crawley.

The Mayor and those present welcomed newly-elected Cllr Liz Townsend to the meeting.

51/16 MINUTES (Agenda item 1.)

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13 December 2016 were confirmed and signed.

52/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2.)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Carole Cockburn, Jill Hargreaves, Stephen Hill, Carole King, Kika Mirylees, Stephen Mulliner, Jeanette Stennett and John Williamson.

53/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 3.)

Cllr Stefan Reynolds declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8a (General Fund budget) as a member of the Godalming and District Chamber of Commerce.

Cllr Mary Forszewski declared a non-pecuniary interest in (Exempt) Minute 146 from the Executive meeting held on 7 February 2017. Had there been any speakers registering to speak on this item, Cllr Forszewski would have withdrawn from the Chamber, but this was not necessary.

54/16 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda item 4.)

The Mayor informed members that he had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon for 4 new homes built off Middlefield in Farnham, along with 2 new homes in Haslemere. He informed members that there was a very interesting exhibition at the Museum of Farnham of paintings by W. Allen who was a former Headmaster of the Farnham School of Arts who painted copies of the works of Italian Masters.

The Mayor thanked those who had attended his Quiz in January, and thanked Cllr Forszewski who had donated half of the proceeds raised by cutting her hair to his charity. All members were invited to support and attend the Mayor's barn dance on 18 March, for which there were still tickets available.

55/16 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 5.)

The following question was received from Mr Kuszel of Godalming in accordance with Procedure Rule 10:

"Why has Godalming once again received a disproportionately lower allocation of capital spending compared to Haslemere and Farnham in the proposed budget for 2017/18 when Waverley Borough Council seems to spend vast sums in other towns within the borough and ignore the needs of residents and visitors to Godalming?"

Response:

"Thank you for your question Mr Kuszel. Waverley's capital programme has to balance the need to maintain existing assets with the need to spend on invest-to-save opportunities. The Council has to stretch its limited resources across a huge geographical area and receiving the news just before Christmas that we will lose £3.5m of New Homes Bonus over the next 3 years was a major blow to our investment plans. The priorities across the different locations within the Borough

change from year to year and heads of service bid for funding based on need. I don't know how you have arrived at your view about the allocation of the 17/18 capital budget but I can assure you that this Council does not ignore the needs of residents and visitors to Godalming."

56/16 BUDGET 2017/2018 (Agenda item 8.)

The Chairman of the Executive delivered a Budget Statement to the Council, a copy of which is attached as Annexe 1 to these minutes, following which the Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the reports at Agenda Item 8a-8c. Cllr John Ward also delivered a budget speech on behalf of the Leader of the Farnham Residents' Group.

General Fund Budget 2017/18 (Agenda Item 8a)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance made the following corrections to the papers:-

- i. Annexe 4 (page 31) – the garden waste subscription should be increased to £55 and not £60 as specified in the papers;
- ii. Annexe 4 (car parking charges (Page 35)) – Mint Street 4 hours to be £4.40 and not £4.70; Crown Court 5 hours to be £5.00 and not £6.00.

It was then proposed by the Leader, seconded and agreed that, following an open debate on the report, recommendations 1- 11 in the report would be voted upon en bloc.

During the debate, it was moved and seconded that Recommendation 2 relating to the proposed car parking charges be amended to add an additional charge band in one premium site in each settlement, as follows:

50p for 30 minutes at Village Way, Cranleigh; Central, Farnham; Crown Court, Godalming and High Street, Haslemere.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was LOST.

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 make it mandatory for Councils to conduct a recorded vote a budget-setting Council meetings. A recorded vote was therefore taken on recommendations 1-11, with the voting as follows:-

Voting for (40)

Cllr Brian Adams, Mike Band, Andrew Bolton, Maurice Byham, Kevin Deanus, Jim Edwards, David Else, Jenny Else, Mary Forszewski, Pat Frost, Michael Goodridge, Tony Gordon-Smith, John Gray, Ged Hall, Val Henry, Christiaan Hesse, Mike Hodge, Nicholas Holder, David Hunter, Simon Inchbald, Peter Isherwood, Anna James, Denise Le Gal, Martin Lear, Denis Leigh, Peter Martin, Tom Martin, Nabeel Nasir, Julia Potts, Wyatt Ramsdale, Stefan Reynolds, Richard Seaborne, Stewart Stennett, Chris Storey, Simon Thornton, Liz Townsend, Bob Upton, Ross Welland, Liz Wheatley and Nick Williams.

Voting against (5)

Cllrs John Fraser, Jerry Hyman, Andy MacLeod, David Round and John Ward.

Abstentions (3)

Cllrs Patricia Ellis, Robert Knowles and Libby Piper

It was moved by the Chairman of the Executive, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Executive at Agenda Item 8a be approved and recommendations 1-11 contained therein be adopted.

[NB Cllr Pat Frost left the meeting at this point]

Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2017/18 (Agenda Item 8b)

It was moved by the Chairman of the Executive, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Executive at Agenda Item 8b be approved and recommendations 1-8 contained therein adopted.

Council Tax Setting 2017/18 and Pay Award (Agenda Item 8c)

It was moved by the Chairman of the Executive, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that

1.1 The following amounts have been calculated for the Council for 2017/2018 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|---|
| (a) | £76,826,773 | being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A 2 (a) to (f) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils; |
| (b) | £64,627,752 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act; |
| (c) | £12,199,021 | being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year; |
| (d) | £226.18 | being the amount at (c) divided by 53,936.1, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act and rounded for |

administrative purposes, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;

(e) £2,926,921 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;

(f) £171.91 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by 53,936.1 calculated by the Council in accordance with the Section 34 (2) of the Act and rounded for administrative purposes, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates;

(g) Part of Council's area

	£	
Alfold	223.48	being the amounts given by adding
Bramley	195.31	to the amount at (f) above the
Busbridge	199.14	special item or items relating to
Chiddingfold	259.43	dwellings in those parts of the
Churt	224.24	Council's area mentioned above
Cranleigh	232.67	divided in each case by the amount
Dockenfield	204.88	calculated by the Council, in
Dunsfold	246.87	accordance with Section 34(3) of the
Elstead	204.34	Act, as the basic amounts of its
Ewhurst	234.93	Council Tax for the year for dwellings
Farnham	232.94	in those parts of its area to which one
Frensham	224.49	or more special items relate.
Godalming	234.94	
Hambledon	199.36	
Hascombe	216.61	
Haslemere	206.64	
Peper Harow	176.16	
Thursley	212.52	
Tilford	268.15	
Witley	230.54	
Wonersh	194.29	

(h) Valuation Bands

<u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Alfold	148.98	173.81	198.64	223.48	273.14	322.80	372.46	446.96
Bramley Busbridge	130.20 132.75	151.90 154.88	173.60 177.00	195.31 199.14	238.71 243.39	282.11 287.64	325.51 331.89	390.62 398.28
Chiddingfold	172.95	201.77	230.60	259.43	317.08	374.73	432.38	518.86
Churt	149.49	174.40	199.32	224.24	274.07	323.90	373.73	448.48
Cranleigh	155.11	180.96	206.81	232.67	284.37	336.07	387.78	465.34
Dockenfield Dunsfold	136.58 164.57	159.34 192.00	182.11 219.43	204.88 246.87	250.41 301.73	295.93 356.59	341.46 411.44	409.76 493.74
Elstead	136.22	158.92	181.63	204.34	249.75	295.15	340.56	408.68
Ewhurst	156.61	182.72	208.82	234.93	287.13	339.34	391.54	469.86
Farnham	155.29	181.17	207.05	232.94	284.70	336.46	388.23	465.88
Frensham	149.65	174.60	199.54	224.49	274.37	324.26	374.14	448.98
Godalming	156.62	182.72	208.83	234.94	287.15	339.35	391.56	469.88
Hambledon	132.90	155.05	177.20	199.36	243.66	287.96	332.26	398.72
Hascombe	144.40	168.47	192.53	216.61	264.74	312.88	361.01	433.22
Haslemere	137.75	160.71	183.67	206.64	252.56	298.48	344.39	413.28
Peper Harow	117.43	137.01	156.58	176.16	215.30	254.45	293.59	352.32
Thursley	141.67	165.29	188.90	212.52	259.74	306.97	354.19	425.04
Tilford	178.76	208.55	238.35	268.15	327.74	387.32	446.91	536.30
Witley	153.69	179.30	204.92	230.54	281.77	333.00	384.23	461.08
Wonersh	129.52	151.11	172.69	194.29	237.46	280.64	323.81	388.58

being the amounts given by multiplying the individual amounts contained within (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

Waverley and Parish/Town charges are calculated separately then added together.

- 1.2 that it be noted that for 2017/2018 the Surrey County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Surrey County Council BASIC	846.07	987.08	1,128.10	1,269.11	1,551.14	1,833.16	2,115.19	2,538.22
Surrey County Council ADULT SOCIAL CARE	41.63	48.57	55.50	62.44	76.31	90.19	104.06	124.88
Surrey County Council TOTAL	887.70	1,035.65	1,183.60	1,331.55	1,627.45	1,923.35	2,219.25	2,663.10
Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner	149.71	174.67	199.62	224.57	274.47	324.38	374.28	449.14

- 1.3 that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 1.1 (h) and 1.2 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2017 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of the Council's Area (NOT including Adult Social Care)

	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Alfold	1,144.76	1,335.56	1,526.36	1,717.16	2,098.75	2,480.34	2,861.93	3,434.32
Bramley	1,125.98	1,313.65	1,501.32	1,688.99	2,064.32	2,439.65	2,814.98	3,377.98
Busbridge	1,128.53	1,316.63	1,504.72	1,692.82	2,069.00	2,445.18	2,821.36	3,385.64
Chiddingfold	1,168.73	1,363.52	1,558.32	1,753.11	2,142.69	2,532.27	2,921.85	3,506.22

Churt	1,145.27	1,336.15	1,527.04	1,717.92	2,099.68	2,481.44	2,863.20	3,435.84
Cranleigh	1,150.89	1,342.71	1,534.53	1,726.35	2,109.98	2,493.61	2,877.25	3,452.70
Dockenfield	1,132.36	1,321.09	1,509.83	1,698.56	2,076.02	2,453.47	2,830.93	3,397.12
Dunsfold	1,160.35	1,353.75	1,547.15	1,740.55	2,127.34	2,514.13	2,900.91	3,481.10
Elstead	1,132.00	1,320.67	1,509.35	1,698.02	2,075.36	2,452.69	2,830.03	3,396.04
Ewhurst	1,152.39	1,344.47	1,536.54	1,728.61	2,112.74	2,496.88	2,881.01	3,457.22
Farnham	1,151.07	1,342.92	1,534.77	1,726.62	2,110.31	2,494.00	2,877.70	3,453.24
Frensham	1,145.43	1,336.35	1,527.26	1,718.17	2,099.98	2,481.80	2,863.61	3,436.34
Godalming	1,152.40	1,344.47	1,536.55	1,728.62	2,112.76	2,496.89	2,881.03	3,457.24
Hambledon	1,128.68	1,316.80	1,504.92	1,693.04	2,069.27	2,445.50	2,821.73	3,386.08
Hascombe	1,140.18	1,330.22	1,520.25	1,710.29	2,090.35	2,470.42	2,850.48	3,420.58
Haslemere	1,133.53	1,322.46	1,511.39	1,700.32	2,078.17	2,456.02	2,833.86	3,400.64
Peper Harow	1,113.21	1,298.76	1,484.30	1,669.84	2,040.91	2,411.99	2,783.06	3,339.68
Thursley	1,137.45	1,327.04	1,516.62	1,706.20	2,085.35	2,464.51	2,843.66	3,412.40
Tilford	1,174.54	1,370.30	1,566.07	1,761.83	2,153.35	2,544.86	2,936.38	3,523.66
Witley	1,149.47	1,341.05	1,532.64	1,724.22	2,107.38	2,490.54	2,873.70	3,448.44
Wonersh	1,125.30	1,312.86	1,500.41	1,687.97	2,063.07	2,438.18	2,813.28	3,375.94

Part of the Council's Area (including Adult Social Care)

	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Alfold	1,186.39	1,384.13	1,581.86	1,779.60	2,175.06	2,570.53	2,965.99	3,559.20
Bramley	1,167.61	1,362.22	1,556.82	1,751.43	2,140.63	2,529.84	2,919.04	3,502.86
Busbridge	1,170.16	1,365.20	1,560.22	1,755.26	2,145.31	2,535.37	2,925.42	3,510.52
Chiddingfold	1,210.36	1,412.09	1,613.82	1,815.55	2,219.00	2,622.46	3,025.91	3,631.10
Churt	1,186.90	1,384.72	1,582.54	1,780.36	2,175.99	2,571.63	2,967.26	3,560.72
Cranleigh	1,192.52	1,391.28	1,590.03	1,788.79	2,186.29	2,583.80	2,981.31	3,577.58

Dockenfield	1,173.99	1,369.66	1,565.33	1,761.00	2,152.33	2,543.66	2,934.99	3,522.00
Dunsfold	1,201.98	1,402.32	1,602.65	1,802.99	2,203.65	2,604.32	3,004.97	3,605.98
Elstead	1,173.63	1,369.24	1,564.85	1,760.46	2,151.67	2,542.88	2,934.09	3,520.92
Ewhurst	1,194.02	1,393.04	1,592.04	1,791.05	2,189.05	2,587.07	2,985.07	3,582.10
Farnham	1,192.70	1,391.49	1,590.27	1,789.06	2,186.62	2,584.19	2,981.76	3,578.12
Frensham	1,187.06	1,384.92	1,582.76	1,780.61	2,176.29	2,571.99	2,967.67	3,561.22
Godalming	1,194.03	1,393.04	1,592.05	1,791.06	2,189.07	2,587.08	2,985.09	3,582.12
Hambledon	1,170.31	1,365.37	1,560.42	1,755.48	2,145.58	2,535.69	2,925.79	3,510.96
Hascombe	1,181.81	1,378.79	1,575.75	1,772.73	2,166.66	2,560.61	2,954.54	3,545.46
Haslemere	1,175.16	1,371.03	1,566.89	1,762.76	2,154.48	2,546.21	2,937.92	3,525.52
Peper Harow	1,154.84	1,347.33	1,539.80	1,732.28	2,117.22	2,502.18	2,887.12	3,464.56
Thursley	1,179.08	1,375.61	1,572.12	1,768.64	2,161.66	2,554.70	2,947.72	3,537.28
Tilford	1,216.17	1,418.87	1,621.57	1,824.27	2,229.66	2,635.05	3,040.44	3,648.54
Witley	1,191.10	1,389.62	1,588.14	1,786.66	2,183.69	2,580.73	2,977.76	3,573.32
Wonersh	1,166.93	1,361.43	1,555.91	1,750.41	2,139.38	2,528.37	2,917.34	3,500.82

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 make it mandatory for Councils to conduct a recorded vote a budget-setting Council meetings. A recorded vote was therefore taken on recommendations 1-8 of Agenda Item 8b and Recommendation 1 of Agenda Item 8c, with the voting as follows:-

Voting for (46)

Cllr Brian Adams, Mike Band, Andrew Bolton, Maurice Byham, Kevin Deanus, Jim Edwards, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Mary Foryszewski, John Fraser, Michael Goodridge, Tony Gordon-Smith, John Gray, Ged Hall, Val Henry, Christiaan Hesse, Mike Hodge, Nicholas Holder, David Hunter, Jerry Hyman, Simon Inchbald, Peter Isherwood, Anna James, Robert Knowles, Denise Le Gal, Martin Lear, Denis Leigh, Andy MacLeod, Peter Martin, Tom Martin, Libby Piper, Julia Potts, Wyatt Ramsdale, Stefan Reynolds, David Round, Richard Seaborne, Stewart Stennett, Chris Storey, Simon Thornton, Liz Townsend, Bob Upton, John Ward, Ross Welland, Liz Wheatley and Nick Williams.

Voting against (none)

Abstentions (none)

[NB Cllr Nasir had left the Chamber when the recorded vote on Agenda Item 8b was taken].

57/16 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE - 10 JANUARY AND 7 FEBRUARY 2017 (Agenda item 9.)

It was moved by the Chairman of the Committee, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Executive meetings held on 10 January and 7 February 2017 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

58/16 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE (Agenda item 10.)

It was moved by the Chairman of the Committee, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 26 January 2017 be approved.

59/16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COMMITTEES AND POLITICAL GROUPS)
REGULATIONS 1990
 (Agenda item 11.)

RESOLVED that

1. the political proportions and allocation of seats to the principal Committees for the remainder of the current Council year be agreed, as set out at in the report; and
2. Cllr Liz Townsend be appointed to the Eastern Area Planning Committee with effect from 22 February 2017.

The meeting concluded at 9.32 pm

Mayor

Minute Item 56/16

Budget 2017/18

Councillor Julia Potts- Leader,

Waverley Borough Council Budget Speech –21/2/2017

Thank you Mr Mayor, Members, Officers and members of the public. I propose the Annual Budget for Waverley Borough Council. I have a Secunder.

This annual meeting is about the finances of the Council and the budgets without which we would be unable to operate.

There have been many achievements this year that have involved Portfolio Holders, ward councillors and officer teams from across the council working together. The refurbishment of the Memorial Hall in Farnham, the new community meals service, the newly created Investment Board, the Station Road and Ockford Ridge housing developments – are all examples where teams have come together to deliver for our residents in our borough.

The Local Plan and the Dunsfold planning application are both extremely complex, technical documents. Whilst acknowledging the sensitivities in some parts of the borough, I am sure you would agree that they are incredibly important, in that they are key milestones in how we plan and shape the future of Waverley.

Last May the Council agreed terms to progress the longstanding corporate priority to deliver the Brightwells regeneration scheme that will revitalise Farnham town centre, create jobs, provide much-needed affordable homes and numerous community benefits. I know we all look forward seeing the regeneration finally take shape as it will also deliver much needed and vital income generation for our borough.

In December we set up the Investment Advisory Board and we hope that very soon we will be completing on our first acquisition which will support local businesses and bring much needed revenue to the Council.

This Conservative administration and the Leadership Team want to ensure this Council is able to deliver exemplary customer service for its residents and excels at levels of work with pride, passion, and pace across all services. We have undertaken a Strategic Review of the council and its operations to help enable

us to shape its future, in what has become a challenging and frequently changing arena. As you will see further on in the agenda this Conservative administration recognises the need to develop the council as both a local authority but also find a balance in running aspects of services as a business. This administration is now working with neighbouring Surrey districts and boroughs, as well as SCC, Rushmoor and East Hampshire. We will continue to strive to find innovative ways to ensure this council remains sustainable.

You have before you a detailed set of budget reports which the Finance Portfolio Holder will detail further, but before that I would like to put this years' budget into some context.

The Council is, facing an extremely challenging and unprecedented budget shortfall this year as a result of a dramatic reduction in our government grant and not helped by the late announcement days before Christmas- of substantial cuts in our New Homes Bonus. I wish to make clear that going forward this council is committed to working more collaboratively with Towns and Parishes and the Chamber of Commerce on any such matters.

The council has to produce a balanced budget and submit that now- not in 3 or 6 months time and that fact is in statute. Despite these financial challenges, this Conservative administration is not prepared to propose a council tax increase which would trigger a referendum.

Therefore, in order to protect both our core frontline services and maintain our significant support to our partner community organisations, difficult decisions have had to be made - a car park charge increase in a limited number of central shoppers' car parks is necessary alongside a combination of other savings and efficiency measures within the Council.

We are also proposing a £5 increase in band D council tax which is a rise of 10 pence per week. This gives good value to our residents with Waverley's proposed charge at £171.91 a year or £3.31 per week.

Now -I would like to speak briefly on the Housing budget.

The significant raft of Government changes meant that we had to undertake a thorough review of all aspects of the housing budget during 2016. The forced 1% reduction in rents opened up a £3m annual shortfall in the business plan budget.

Members and officers did an excellent job during the year and in December the Council approved a range of measures to bring the HRA budget into balance in the medium term.

The budget report before you this evening sets out a revised HRA business plan and capital programme, however I want to emphasise that despite these financial pressure this Conservative administration will do all it can to ensure that we continue to deliver value for money and improved homes for our tenants and provide new affordable homes in the Borough for local people.

My thanks to the Joint O&S committee for their robust scrutiny of the budgets. The reports before you tonight include responses to the detailed points raised and certain budget proposals were revised, as you will see in the detail proposal, as a result of the O&S feedback.

Mr Mayor – I would like to thank all our Heads of Service, especially Mr Clark, and the finance team, for their hard work and commitment in delivering both the General Fund & HRA Budget Proposals.

Again, in summary, I would emphasise that these budget proposals seek to deliver;

- A balanced and robust financial strategy
- Investment in our key services
- Protection of our core frontline services and support to community organisations
- Investment in income generating projects

This Conservative administration firmly believes that these **Budget proposals** represent outstanding Value for our Council Tax Payers in monetary terms and the all important service delivery.

This budget is all the more remarkable when seen in the context of the Government spending cuts and our commitment to continue to deliver on our core frontline services.

I commend this budget to council.

Thank you.

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