

MINUTES of the WAVERLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL held in
the Council Chamber, Council
Offices, The Burys, Godalming
on 20 February 2018 at 7.00
pm

- * Cllr Simon Inchbald (Mayor)
- * Cllr Denise Le Gal (Deputy Mayor)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| * Cllr Brian Adams | * Cllr Carole King |
| * Cllr Mike Band | * Cllr Robert Knowles |
| * Cllr Andrew Bolton | * Cllr Martin Lear |
| * 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 Paul Follows | * Cllr Libby Piper |
| * Cllr Mary Forszewska | * Cllr Julia Potts |
| * Cllr John Fraser | * Cllr Sam Pritchard |
| * Cllr Pat Frost | * Cllr Wyatt Ramsdale |
| * Cllr Michael Goodridge | Cllr Stefan Reynolds |
| * Cllr Tony Gordon-Smith | * Cllr David Round |
| Cllr John Gray | * Cllr Richard Seaborne |
| * Cllr Ged Hall | Cllr Jeanette Stennett |
| * Cllr Jill Hargreaves | Cllr Stewart Stennett |
| * Cllr Val Henry | * Cllr Chris Storey |
| * Cllr Christiaan Hesse | * Cllr Liz Townsend |
| Cllr Stephen Hill | * Cllr Bob Upton |
| * Cllr Mike Hodge | Cllr John Ward |
| * Cllr Nicholas Holder | Cllr Ross Welland |
| * Cllr David Hunter | * Cllr Liz Wheatley |
| * Cllr Jerry Hyman | * Cllr Nick Williams |
| * Cllr Peter Isherwood | Cllr John Williamson |
| * Cllr Anna James | |

*Present

Apologies

Cllr Carole Cockburn, Cllr Jim Edwards, Cllr John Gray, Cllr Peter Martin, Cllr Kika Mirylees, Cllr Stefan Reynolds, Cllr Jeanette Stennett, Cllr Stewart Stennett, Cllr John Ward, Cllr Ross Welland and Cllr John Williamson

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, prayers were led by the Reverend Jane Vlach

48/17 MINUTES (Agenda item 1.)

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 December 2017 and of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 19 December 2017 were confirmed and signed.

49/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2.)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Carole Cockburn, Jim Edwards, John Gray, Peter Martin, Kika Mirylees, Stefan Reynolds, Stewart and Jeanette Stennett, John Ward, Ross Welland and John Williamson.

50/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 3.)

There were no interests declared under this heading.

51/17 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda item 4.)

The Mayor thanked all councillors who had taken part in the joint bowling evening with the Mayor of Guildford. The event raised £2,400 for the two mayoral charities.

52/17 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 5.)

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

“Why has it taken this Council over 2 years and counting to simply remove the private and large commercial waste bins located within the conservation area of Crown Court?”

The following response was provided:-

“Whilst the presence of waste bins in conservation areas can detract from the appearance of the area and is something the council continually works to minimise, the solution is never as simple as just removing the bins. In such densely occupied areas, residents and businesses often struggle to find space to store rubbish and recycling and the council has to work with them to try to find mutually acceptable solutions which minimise the impact of the area but enable them to store refuse and recycling securely so that it does not become strewn throughout the area and become an even greater environmental issue.

Councils can use powers to enforce keeping areas clear of waste storage containers. Currently, the applicable powers are Public Spaces Protection Orders and Community Protection Notices as part of the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. Both powers require there to be a persistent and detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality by the behaviour or activity and that the activity is unreasonable. Evidence of the activity needs to be provided, including evidence of how this is negatively impacting individuals and the community. Both powers can be appealed so the Council has to demonstrate the above and also demonstrate that any action taken is reasonable and proportionate to the issue. Officers have been working with Portfolio Holders for several years to find acceptable and workable solutions.

In 2014, the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services at the time, Cllr Thornton, requested that officers investigated wheelie bin storage in public areas within Godalming and whether this could be reduced. Officers approached local businesses directly to ascertain ownership and were successful in reducing the number of bins present in areas with frequent public use by approximately half in 2014. Following the exercise, Cllr Thornton and the community were positive in his feedback for what had been achieved.

In 2016, Waverley undertook public consultation with a view to restricting the presentation times of commercial waste in high street areas. This primarily followed interest from Farnham Town Council. The consultation received limited feedback and highlighted that there were specific localised areas of concern, as opposed to a broader problem. Further work then took place with Farnham Town Council to identify where focus could be made and work to reduce commercial storage in public areas of Godalming was also continued.

In relation to the Crown Court area specifically, a recent inspection confirmed that there were 3 commercial bins. One was stored adjacent to a business on land leased from Waverley Borough Council and 2 were stored under cover of buildings at the margin of the pedestrian area. All 3 bins were typically stored tidily, locked and without adjacent littering or side waste, and the businesses have a right of access and a lack of dedicated external storage areas. Therefore, it was considered that the bins are not being stored in an unreasonable fashion and it is simply their presence which could be viewed as being antisocial.

Additionally, there are currently very few complaints received by Waverley, to justify further investigation as to whether a PSPO or CPN would be appropriate. A more recent inspection of the area has revealed that additional residential recycling bins were present in the area near to the High Street. Officers will further investigate the source of these bins and will discuss with their owners options such as reducing bin sizes and/or increasing frequency of collection so that they do not remain on the street. Officers are also about to start working with Godalming Town Council, Planning Conservation, Planning colleagues and local councillors to develop potential bin storage improvements in Great George Street, Godalming.

Addressing waste storage issues will inevitably be an ongoing area of work across the borough and officers will continue to work closely with Town and Parish Councils, residents and businesses to minimise the impact of waste storage on the community and the environment.”

53/17 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EXECUTIVE - 20 FEBRUARY 2018 - LOCAL PLAN
(Agenda item 10.b)

Due to the public interest in this item, the Mayor agreed to re-order the agenda to take the minutes of the Special Executive meeting held earlier in the evening at this point (formerly agenda item 10b).

It was moved by the Chairman of the Committee and duly seconded that the minutes of the Special Executive meeting held on 20 February 2018 be approved and adopted.

i. Waverley Borough Local Plan Part I: Adoption (Minute No. 109)

Following lengthy discussion on this item, the Leader moved that in accordance with Procedure Rule 17.4, the voting on this item should be by roll-call and recorded in the minutes. She was supported by more than 5 others present at the meeting, including Cllrs Andrew Bolton, Mike Band, Mary Forszewska, Ged Hall and Jerry Hyman.

The voting was recorded as follows:-

Voting for (41)

Cllrs Brian Adams, Mike Band, Andrew Bolton, Maurice Byham, , Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Mary Forszewska, John Fraser, Pat Frost, Michael Goodridge, Tony Gordon-Smith, Ged Hall, Jill Hargreaves, Val Henry, Christiaan Hesse, Mike Hodge, Nicholas Holder, David Hunter, Simon Inchbald, Peter Isherwood, Anna James, Carole King, Robert Knowles, Denise Le Gal, Denis Leigh, Tom Martin, Stephen Mulliner, Nabeel Nasir, Libby Piper, Julia Potts, Sam Pritchard, Wyatt Ramsdale, David Round, Richard Seaborne, Chris Storey, Liz Townsend, Bob Upton, Liz Wheatley and Nick Williams.

Voting against (1)

Cllr Jerry Hyman

Abstentions (3)

Cllrs Kevin Deanus, Paul Follows and Andy MacLeod.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Special Executive held on 20 February 2018 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

54/17 FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018/2019 - 2020/2021 (Agenda item 8.) (Pages 13 - 16)

The Leader 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 Jerry Hyman delivered a budget speech on behalf of the Leader of the Farnham Residents' Group.

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2014 make it mandatory for Councils to conduct a recorded vote at budget-setting Council meetings. With the agreement of the Council, a recorded vote was taken on all three budget reports (Agenda Item 8a – recommendations 1-11, Agenda Item 8b – recommendations 1-9 and Agenda Item 8c – recommendations 1.1-1.3), with a unanimous (nem com) vote in favour of the whole budget. The voting was as follows:-

Voting for (44)

Cllrs Brian Adams, Mike Band, Andrew Bolton, Maurice Byham, Kevin Deanus, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Paul Follows, Mary Forszewski, John Fraser, Pat Frost, Michael Goodridge, Tony Gordon-Smith, Ged Hall, Jill Hargreaves, Val Henry, Christiaan Hesse, Mike Hodge, Nicholas Holder, David Hunter, Jerry Hyman, Simon Inchbald, Peter Isherwood, Anna James, Carole King, Robert Knowles, Denise Le Gal, Denis Leigh, Andy MacLeod, Tom Martin, Stephen Mulliner, Nabeel Nasir, Libby Piper, Julia Potts, Sam Pritchard, Wyatt Ramsdale, David Round, Richard Seaborne, Chris Storey, Liz Townsend, Bob Upton, Liz Wheatley and Nick Williams.

Voting against (0)Abstentions (0)

RESOLVED that the reports of the Executive at Agenda Item 8a (General Fund Budget 2018/19) and 8b (Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2018/19 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

Council Tax Setting 2018/2019(Agenda Item 8c)

RESOLVED that

1.1 The following amounts have been calculated for the Council for 2018/2019 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|--|
| (a) | £73,515,712 | 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) | £60,792,455 | 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) | £12,723,257 | 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) | £234.79 | being the amount at (c) divided by 54,191.0, 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) £3,129,287.12 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;
- (f) £177.04 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by 54,191.0 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 | 229.65 | being the amounts given by adding |
| Bramley | 201.64 | to the amount at (f) above the |
| Busbridge | 204.27 | special item or items relating to |
| Chiddingfold | 271.41 | dwellings in those parts of the |
| Churt | 230.73 | Council's area mentioned above |
| Cranleigh | 243.72 | divided in each case by the amount |
| Dockenfield | 202.47 | calculated by the Council, in |
| Dunsfold | 253.00 | accordance with Section 34(3) of the |
| Elstead | 211.08 | Act, as the basic amounts of its |
| Ewhurst | 246.04 | Council Tax for the year for dwellings |
| Farnham | 239.66 | in those parts of its area to which one |
| Frensham | 235.69 | or more special items relate. |
| Godalming | 245.35 | |
| Hambledon | 204.97 | |
| Hascombe | 223.12 | |
| Haslemere | 217.61 | |
| Peper Harow | 181.37 | |
| Thursley | 218.79 | |
| Tilford | 273.49 | |
| Witley | 239.06 | |
| Wonersh | 200.08 | |

(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	153.09	178.61	204.12	229.65	280.68	331.71	382.74	459.30
Bramley	134.42	156.82	179.23	201.64	246.45	291.25	336.06	403.28
Busbridge	136.17	158.87	181.56	204.27	249.66	295.05	340.44	408.54
Chiddingfold	180.93	211.09	241.24	271.41	331.72	392.03	452.34	542.82
Churt	153.81	179.45	205.08	230.73	282.00	333.27	384.54	461.46
Cranleigh	162.47	189.55	216.63	243.72	297.88	352.04	406.19	487.44
Dockenfield	134.97	157.47	179.96	202.47	247.46	292.45	337.44	404.94
Dunsfold	168.66	196.77	224.88	253.00	309.22	365.44	421.66	506.00
Elstead	140.71	164.17	187.62	211.08	257.98	304.89	351.79	422.16
Ewhurst	164.02	191.36	218.69	246.04	300.71	355.39	410.06	492.08
Farnham	159.77	186.39	213.02	239.66	292.92	346.17	399.43	479.32
Frensham	157.12	183.31	209.49	235.69	288.06	340.44	392.81	471.38
Godalming	163.56	190.82	218.08	245.35	299.87	354.39	408.91	490.70
Hambledon	136.64	159.41	182.19	204.97	250.52	296.06	341.61	409.94
Hascombe	148.74	173.53	198.32	223.12	272.70	322.28	371.86	446.24
Haslemere	145.07	169.24	193.42	217.61	265.97	314.32	362.68	435.22
Peper Harow	120.91	141.06	161.21	181.37	221.67	261.97	302.28	362.74
Thursley	145.85	170.16	194.47	218.79	267.41	316.03	364.64	437.58
Tilford	182.32	212.71	243.09	273.49	334.26	395.04	455.81	546.98
Witley	159.37	185.93	212.49	239.06	292.18	345.30	398.43	478.12
Wonersh	133.38	155.61	177.84	200.08	244.54	289.00	333.46	400.16

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 it be noted that for 2018/2019 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	872.60	1,018.03	1,163.47	1,308.90	1,599.77	1,890.63	2,181.50	2,617.80
Surrey County Council ADULT SOCIAL CARE	68.26	79.64	91.01	102.39	125.14	147.90	170.65	204.78
Surrey County Council TOTAL	940.86	1,097.67	1,254.48	1,411.29	1,724.91	2,038.53	2,352.15	2,822.58
Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner	157.71	184.00	210.28	236.57	289.14	341.71	394.28	473.14

- 1.3 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 2018 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	1,183.40	1,380.64	1,577.87	1,775.12	2,169.59	2,564.05	2,958.52	3,550.24
Bramley	1,164.73	1,358.85	1,552.98	1,747.11	2,135.36	2,523.59	2,911.84	3,494.22

Busbridge	1,166.48	1,360.90	1,555.31	1,749.74	2,138.57	2,527.39	2,916.22	3,499.48
Chiddingfold	1,211.24	1,413.12	1,614.99	1,816.88	2,220.63	2,624.37	3,028.12	3,633.76
Churt	1,184.12	1,381.48	1,578.83	1,776.20	2,170.91	2,565.61	2,960.32	3,552.40
Cranleigh	1,192.78	1,391.58	1,590.38	1,789.19	2,186.79	2,584.38	2,981.97	3,578.38
Dockenfield	1,165.28	1,359.50	1,553.71	1,747.94	2,136.37	2,524.79	2,913.22	3,495.88
Dunsfold	1,198.97	1,398.80	1,598.63	1,798.47	2,198.13	2,597.78	2,997.44	3,596.94
Elstead	1,171.02	1,366.20	1,561.37	1,756.55	2,146.89	2,537.23	2,927.57	3,513.10
Ewhurst	1,194.33	1,393.39	1,592.44	1,791.51	2,189.62	2,587.73	2,985.84	3,583.02
Farnham	1,190.08	1,388.42	1,586.77	1,785.13	2,181.83	2,578.51	2,975.21	3,570.26
Frensham	1,187.43	1,385.34	1,583.24	1,781.16	2,176.97	2,572.78	2,968.59	3,562.32
Godalming	1,193.87	1,392.85	1,591.83	1,790.82	2,188.78	2,586.73	2,984.69	3,581.64
Hambledon	1,166.95	1,361.44	1,555.94	1,750.44	2,139.43	2,528.40	2,917.39	3,500.88
Hascombe	1,179.05	1,375.56	1,572.07	1,768.59	2,161.61	2,554.62	2,947.64	3,537.18
Haslemere	1,175.38	1,371.27	1,567.17	1,763.08	2,154.88	2,546.66	2,938.46	3,526.16
Peper Harow	1,151.22	1,343.09	1,534.96	1,726.84	2,110.58	2,494.31	2,878.06	3,453.68
Thursley	1,176.16	1,372.19	1,568.22	1,764.26	2,156.32	2,548.37	2,940.42	3,528.52
Tilford	1,212.63	1,414.74	1,616.84	1,818.96	2,223.17	2,627.38	3,031.59	3,637.92

Witley	1,189.68	1,387.96	1,586.24	1,784.53	2,181.09	2,577.64	2,974.21	3,569.06
Wonersh	1,163.69	1,357.64	1,551.59	1,745.55	2,133.45	2,521.34	2,909.24	3,491.10

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

	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Alfold	1,251.66	1,460.28	1,668.88	1,877.51	2,294.73	2,711.95	3,129.17	3,755.02
Bramley	1,232.99	1,438.49	1,643.99	1,849.50	2,260.50	2,671.49	3,082.49	3,699.00
Busbridge	1,234.74	1,440.54	1,646.32	1,852.13	2,263.71	2,675.29	3,086.87	3,704.26
Chiddingfold	1,279.50	1,492.76	1,706.00	1,919.27	2,345.77	2,772.27	3,198.77	3,838.54
Churt	1,252.38	1,461.12	1,669.84	1,878.59	2,296.05	2,713.51	3,130.97	3,757.18
Cranleigh	1,261.04	1,471.22	1,681.39	1,891.58	2,311.93	2,732.28	3,152.62	3,783.16
Dockenfield	1,233.54	1,439.14	1,644.72	1,850.33	2,261.51	2,672.69	3,083.87	3,700.66
Dunsfold	1,267.23	1,478.44	1,689.64	1,900.86	2,323.27	2,745.68	3,168.09	3,801.72
Elstead	1,239.28	1,445.84	1,652.38	1,858.94	2,272.03	2,685.13	3,098.22	3,717.88
Ewhurst	1,262.59	1,473.03	1,683.45	1,893.90	2,314.76	2,735.63	3,156.49	3,787.80
Farnham	1,258.34	1,468.06	1,677.78	1,887.52	2,306.97	2,726.41	3,145.86	3,775.04
Frensham	1,255.69	1,464.98	1,674.25	1,883.55	2,302.11	2,720.68	3,139.24	3,767.10
Godalming	1,262.13	1,472.49	1,682.84	1,893.21	2,313.92	2,734.63	3,155.34	3,786.42
Hambleton	1,235.21	1,441.08	1,646.95	1,852.83	2,264.57	2,676.30	3,088.04	3,705.66
Hascombe	1,247.31	1,455.20	1,663.08	1,870.98	2,286.75	2,702.52	3,118.29	3,741.96
Haslemere	1,243.64	1,450.91	1,658.18	1,865.47	2,280.02	2,694.56	3,109.11	3,730.94
Peper Harow	1,219.48	1,422.73	1,625.97	1,829.23	2,235.72	2,642.21	3,048.71	3,658.46
Thursley	1,244.42	1,451.83	1,659.23	1,866.65	2,281.46	2,696.27	3,111.07	3,733.30
Tilford	1,280.89	1,494.38	1,707.85	1,921.35	2,348.31	2,775.28	3,202.24	3,842.70

Witley	1,257.94	1,467.60	1,677.25	1,886.92	2,306.23	2,725.54	3,144.86	3,773.84
Wonersh	1,231.95	1,437.28	1,642.60	1,847.94	2,258.59	2,669.24	3,079.89	3,695.88

[NB Cllr Libby Piper left the meeting at 9.06pm following the recorded vote on this item]

55/17 REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (Agenda item 9.)

RESOLVED that the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel be adopted.

56/17 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE (Agenda item 10.)

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive held on 6 February 2018 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

57/17 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE (Agenda item 11.)

19 DECEMBER 2017 (Agenda Item 11a)

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 19 December 2017 be approved.

15 JANUARY 2018 (Agenda Item 11b)

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 19 December 2017 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

58/17 MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS PANEL (Agenda item 12.)

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Panel held on 29 January 2018 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

59/17 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS (Agenda item 13.)

RESOLVED that the changes to Committee memberships in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and as set out in the agenda papers, be noted.

The meeting concluded at 9.40 pm

Mayor

ANNEXE 1

Councillor Julia Potts- Leader, Waverley Borough Council Budget Speech –20/2/2018

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

I am pleased to put before the Council this evening a robust and prudent budget that has been produced under challenging financial circumstances. I will shortly ask the portfolio holder for finance to draw out the main headlines.

This budget is proposed by a Conservative administration that cares about Waverley's community. The budget is based on a sound and sensible medium term financial strategy that aims to not only protect vital services into the future, but also to improve our offer to residents by being more innovative and collaborative in the way that we operate.

We are an ambitious council and to achieve our aspirations we need the right staff and the right resources. I am delighted that we have appointed Tom Horwood as Waverley's new Chief Executive and he will be leading the charge with our restructured director team to ensure that we have the right talent, skills and motivation in our dedicated staff for the Council to achieve great things for our communities in the future.

I am very proud of what this Council and this Conservative has achieved over the year and I want to mention some of the main successes.

I am absolutely thrilled that the Brightwells scheme is now set to be delivered and unconditional contracts are now in place between Waverley, the developer and the funder. **This is a transformative deal.** A major milestone for Farnham, the surrounding area and this Council. **A multi million pound regeneration of a large run down part of Farnham** and a major boost to the local economy. This is a significant opportunity to give the residents of Farnham new shops, restaurants, and a cinema and leisure space. It brings 800 plus jobs and 239 much needed homes to Farnham- a huge boost to the local economy. **Through thick and thin this Conservative administration has worked to make this happen**

and we can be really proud of this achievement. When we say we will deliver – that is what we do.

We are talking about the budget tonight and this major Brightwells scheme is also about supporting Waverley's finances, now and in the future. Waverley received more than **£3million** last week with more to come, plus significant infrastructure spending in the town. In addition, once completed, the scheme is estimated to boost the Council's finances in excess of **£750,000** each year. **This really will ensure we can transform our finances positively for the future.**

Earlier this evening, Members adopted the Local Plan part 1. This is a major step towards taking back control of development in the Borough. Now we will work to further shape the future of our borough through, Neighbourhood plans, placeshaping and implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

With the new senior executive structures in place we can now really focus on shaping and strengthening external relationships – Surrey CC, south east councils, CCG's and Housing associations – the landscape has changed for local authorities, and now is the time we need to work collaboratively through shared services, partnership working, economies of scale, ways to access grants and other forms of government funding in association with organisations such as the LEP. We can achieve so much more for our community by joining forces with other public and private organisations who also have our residents' best interests at the forefront.

Much work has been done by the Portfolio holders for economic development engaging with businesses through Chambers of Commerce, and we are now focussing on developing and strengthening our relationships with Town and Parish Councils. These organisations are at the heart of our community and effective joined up working is so important.

Our budget has been significantly bolstered by our property investment strategy. Councillor Hall will cover this crucial part of our business in more detail .We have approached this in a sensible and measured way. I would like to thank the Investment Advisory Board and the Value for Money O&S committee for their work developing our approach and ensuring sound governance.

My thanks to the officers who have secured some excellent property acquisitions for us over the last year allowing us to develop a portfolio across the borough that secures office space , jobs **and** gives Waverley a significant income stream.

In order to protect both our core frontline services and maintain our significant support to our partner community organisations, we are proposing a range of savings and efficiency measures within the Council, at a time of high customer demand and reduced government funding. We are also proposing a 2.99% increase, just below CPI inflation, in Band D council tax which is a rise of 10 pence per week.

Looking to the coming year we have procurements of a number of our major service contracts. Bin collection, grounds maintenance, street cleaning and the maintenance of our 5000 council houses. **In total more than £10m pounds with each year.** Whilst this inevitably has risks attached, it is also a significant opportunity for us to listen to our customers and secure good value for money for the Council for many years to come.

We are proposing a solid, deliverable financial strategy that will take us into the future, built on efficiency and innovation, not short term fixes or raiding reserves.

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

We are committed to improving our council homes and providing new affordable homes in the Borough which are much needed for our residents and their families. We have delivered 37 new homes ourselves over the last 3 years, with 60 more currently under construction in Godalming, Cranleigh and Shamley Green. This is in addition to the multi-million pound improvement programme at Ockford Ridge. We have also continued to work with housing associations and developers to ensure many more homes are provided in the Borough. Of course, the Brightwells scheme will add a further 72 affordable homes to this, right in the centre of Farnham.

We have again had to apply a 1% rent reduction on the instruction of the Government. Whilst this has limited the amount of money that we can reinvest in our council homes, the comprehensive review of the HRA finances that we carried out last year has enabled us to realign the HRA minimising impact on tenants. I am

pleased to report that tenant satisfaction has improved in many areas of the service . I would like to thank the Housing portfolio holder, the Housing O&S committee, our housing officers and the Tenants panel and the Tenants Scrutiny panel for their excellent collaborative working over the year.

Finally Mr Mayor - my thanks to the O&S committees for their robust scrutiny of the budgets. This is an important part of setting our budget and the reports before you tonight include their comments.

I would like to thank all our Heads of Service, 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.

I commend this budget to council.

Thank you.