

MINUTES of the WAVERLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL held in
the Council Chamber, Council
Offices, The Burys, Godalming
on 16 February 2016 at 7.00
pm

- * Cllr Mike Band (Mayor)
- * Cllr Chris Storey (Deputy Mayor)

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

*Present

Apologies

Cllr Jill Hargreaves, Cllr Martin Lear, Cllr Peter Martin, Cllr Simon Thornton, Cllr Bob Upton
and Cllr John Williamson

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, prayers were led by the
Reverend Sally Davies.

39/14 MINUTES (Agenda item 1.)

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 December 2015 were
confirmed and signed.

40/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2.)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Jill Hargreaves, Martin Lear, Peter Martin, Simon Thornton, Bob Upton and John Williamson.

41/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 3.)

Cllr Mike Hodge declared a non-pecuniary interest in Executive Minute No. 117 from its meeting on 5 January 2016, as Secretary of the Hale Recreation Ground Management Committee. There being no discussion on the item, Cllr Hodge remained in the meeting.

42/14 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda item 4.)

The Mayor reported on the engagements he had carried out since the last Council meeting which had included presenting congratulations to a local lady on her 105th birthday. He also congratulated the Council's team of four officers who had won the 2016 Pancake race against Guildford Borough Council in Guildford High Street.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that his charity concert before Christmas had successfully raised over £33,000 and invited councillors to contact the Mayor's Secretary if they wished to buy tickets for his next charity concert at St Catherine's School on 19 March 2016, in aid of Dan's Fund for Burns.

43/14 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 5.)

Three questions were received from members of the public in accordance with Procedure Rule 10. With regard to the first question from Mr H Alexander of Hambledon, at the commencement of this agenda item, the Mayor informed the questioner that he would not be invited to read out his question. He explained that it was not possible to deal with the question because the case referred to was being progressed by the Police and the Council's legal advice was that no comment could be made at that time because it may prejudice any future proceedings.

The Mayor moved on to receive the following two questions:

i. from Mr David Beaman of Farnham

"The NPPF is quite clear in requiring all new residential developments to be sustainable including the provision of adequate transport facilities. Badshot Lea, where significant residential development is proposed, is currently served by an hourly Monday to Saturday daytime bus service that operates between Aldershot and Farnham then onto Godalming and Guildford. Under proposals issued by Surrey County Council that are currently open for consultation the section of route between Aldershot and Badshot Lea will be withdrawn completely whilst the number of journeys operated between Badshot Lea and Farnham is likely to be reduced from 10 to 6 or 7 journeys per day with the possibility of no service being provided at all on Saturdays. This reduction in bus service will inevitably affect the sustainability of any further residential development in Badshot Lea and would WBC confirm that when considering planning applications for any new residential development its transport sustainability will take account of any known future changes in bus service".

Cllr Brian Adams, Portfolio Holder for Planning, replied as follows:-

“Planning applications for significant housing schemes are accompanied by a Transport Assessment. We rely on the expert advice of Officers at Surrey County Council to consider these - they typically cover a range of issues including impact on the highway network, the availability of public transport, walking and cycling routes. The assessment will also assess the opportunities that development may offer in terms of improvement to transport infrastructure. The planning assessment will also take into account the wider social and economic benefits that new housing can bring such as meeting unmet local housing need.

Where changes to bus services are planned then that would be a matter for the Officers at the County Council to consider in their response as one of many factors affecting the sustainability of a development. This might include the positive impact new development will have on the viability of an existing bus service by increasing demand generated from additional residents.

Also, thanks to Waverley’s generous grants, Hoppa operates a Dial-a-ride scheme which offers free membership and everyone can take advantage of this for specific trips.”

- ii. from Charles Orange on behalf of Alfold, Busbridge, Chiddingfold, Dunsfold, Hambledon, Hascombe, Shalford and Wonerh Parish Councils

“Our question relates to our concerns on the viability of the consultation process in progress on Planning Application WA/2015/2395 submitted by Dunsfold Park on 4th December 2015, currently expiring on 5th February 2016.

We refer you to the following: In summer 2015 the Council published a Special Edition of “Making Waves” seeking opinions from the wider community on the specific question of their preferences for the location of housing in the borough with 4 x Scenario Areas proposed by the applicant, to assist the Council in the preparation of their Spatial Strategy. Only some 3% of the population responded, with an inevitable emphasis from those in the borough who feel threatened by development in their own neighbourhood of a preference for Scenario 4. We still await the publication of essential reports for meaningful consultations to take place, i.e.

- WBC’s proposed Spatial Strategy – due in April
- Mott McDonald’s report on their current transport assessment
- SCC Infrastructure Plans and Proposals, with current financial implications for recent comprehensive budget cuts

Given that inadequate pre-application consultations, on any aspect of this multi-faceted application have taken place (orchestrated by WBC in accordance with their Statement of Community Involvement) between Dunsfold Park and all, or any, of the statutory consultees, or involving the wider community; and that the Council has acknowledged that it cannot meet the formal deadline for submission of this application to a Joint Planning Committee, our question is:-

“How do you propose to proceed now to ensure that following receipt of the reports above, meaningful consultations can take place across all aspects of this application, with all level of consultees – as in your Statement of Community Involvement, and in a negotiated time frame acceptable to all parties, and as you rightly refer are necessary to avoid HMG penalties?”

Cllr Adams, Portfolio Holder for Planning, gave the following reply:-

“The Council has consulted extensively on the planning application for 1800 houses and related infrastructure at Dunsfold Park.

Any impacts of the development and the means to mitigate them will be assessed in the normal way. This will include assessment by the Council’s professional officers of the submitted application and taking advice as necessary from statutory consultees such as the County Council and where necessary additional expert advice. You make reference to three reports:

Firstly the emerging spatial strategy in the Local Plan. The weight to be attached to this will be dependant on the stage it has reached when the application is decided. Secondly – the Mott MacDonald report – which will be published prior to a decision being made on the application. This report’s main purpose is to inform progress on the Local Plan rather than individual planning applications. The developer has submitted a transport assessment of the scheme which is currently being considered by the County Council and which will inform the outcome of the planning application.

Thirdly - the Surrey Infrastructure Study is a high level document produced by the County Council of limited relevance to this planning application. Any infrastructure impacts of the proposed new settlement are clearly very important and will be assessed in the normal way taking into account the views of the relevant infrastructure providers

You make reference to lack of pre application discussions – I’m afraid this is incorrect as the developer did receive advice from Officers prior to the submission of the planning application and also discussions with councillors in that area. I am confident that the Council has at its disposal access to the appropriate advice to ensure that its assessment of the planning application is undertaken in a timely manner, together with a detailed and thorough assessment of the relevant planning considerations. If third parties have yet to submit their comments on the planning application, I would encourage them to do so as soon as possible so that they can be properly considered by the Council.”

44/14 BUDGET 2016/2017 (Agenda item 8.)

The Chairman of the Executive presented the reports at Agenda Item 8a-8d, and following this, both the Chairman of the Executive and the Portfolio Holder for Finance delivered Budget Statements to the Council, copies of which are attached as Annexe 1 to these minutes.

General Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 (Agenda Item 8a)

An updated Annexe 2 was tabled. The Chairman of the Executive then went on to clarify that the wording of recommendation 1 should be revised to read as follows:-

1. an increase for Waverley's element of council tax for 2016/2017 be agreed as £5 for the Band D equivalent charge;

It was then moved by the Chairman of the Executive and seconded that recommendation 2 be amended by the addition of the following words at the end of the existing recommendation:

- "2. with the exception of the proposed saving of £10,000 identified from cancelling the LGA subscription, with the impact of this change on the draft budget being met from the Government's transitional grant."

Upon being put to the vote, this amendment was CARRIED.

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 1-10, as amended, contained therein be adopted.

General Fund Capital Programme 2016/17 (Agenda Item 8b)

It was moved by the Deputy Leader of the Farnham Residents' Group and seconded that the following words be added to the end of the existing recommendation 2 that

- "2.with the exception that the £800,000 allocated to the Frensham Visitor Centre be reviewed with a view to using a lesser amount for a substantial refurbishment."

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

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 1-4 contained therein adopted.

Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2016/17 (Agenda Item 8c)

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

RESOLVED that the report of the Executive at Agenda Item 8c be approved and recommendations 1-13 contained therein be adopted.

Council Tax Setting 2016/17

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

RESOLVED that

- 28.1 the following amounts have been calculated for the Council for 2016/2017 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £74,616,830 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) £62,900,308 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) £11,716,522 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) £218.41 being the amount at (c) divided by 53,645.9, 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) £2,762,522 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;
- (f) £166.91 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by 53,645.9 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	215.89	being the amounts given by adding
Bramley	189.81	to the amount at (f) above the
Busbridge	192.45	special item or items relating to
Chiddingfold	253.40	dwellings in those parts of the
Churt	216.84	Council's area mentioned above
Cranleigh	220.60	divided in each case by the amount
Dockenfield	189.32	calculated by the Council, in
Dunsfold	228.70	accordance with Section 34(3) of the
Elstead	196.89	Act, as the basic amounts of its
Ewhurst	224.14	Council Tax for the year for dwellings
Farnham	226.74	in those parts of its area to which one
Frensham	215.88	or more special items relate.

Godalming	224.74
Hambledon	193.03
Hascombe	211.18
Haslemere	201.63
Peper Harow	171.27
Thursley	207.85
Tilford	235.81
Witley	224.33
Wonersh	188.67

(h)

Valuation Bands

<u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	<u>Band A</u>	<u>Band B</u>	<u>Band C</u>	<u>Band D</u>	<u>Band E</u>	<u>Band F</u>	<u>Band G</u>	<u>Band H</u>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alfold	143.92	167.91	191.90	215.89	263.86	311.84	359.81	431.78
Bramley	126.54	147.62	168.72	189.81	231.99	274.17	316.35	379.62
Busbridge	128.30	149.67	171.06	192.45	235.22	277.98	320.75	384.90
Chiddingfold	168.93	197.08	225.24	253.40	309.71	366.02	422.33	506.80
Churt	144.56	168.64	192.74	216.84	265.03	313.21	361.40	433.68
Cranleigh	147.06	171.57	196.08	220.60	269.62	318.64	367.66	441.20
Dockenfield	126.21	147.24	168.28	189.32	231.39	273.46	315.53	378.64
Dunsfold	152.46	177.87	203.28	228.70	279.52	330.34	381.16	457.40
Elstead	131.26	153.13	175.01	196.89	240.64	284.39	328.15	393.78
Ewhurst	149.42	174.32	199.23	224.14	273.95	323.76	373.56	448.28
Farnham	151.16	176.34	201.54	226.74	277.13	327.51	377.90	453.48
Frensham	143.92	167.90	191.89	215.88	263.85	311.82	359.80	431.76
Godalming	149.82	174.79	199.76	224.74	274.68	324.62	374.56	449.48
Hambledon	128.68	150.13	171.58	193.03	235.92	278.82	321.71	386.06
Hascombe	140.78	164.24	187.71	211.18	258.11	305.04	351.96	422.36
Haslemere	134.42	156.81	179.22	201.63	246.44	291.24	336.05	403.26

Peper Harow	114.18	133.20	152.24	171.27	209.33	247.39	285.45	342.54
Thursley	138.56	161.65	184.75	207.85	254.04	300.23	346.41	415.70
Tilford	157.20	183.40	209.60	235.81	288.21	340.61	393.01	471.62
Witley	149.55	174.47	199.40	224.33	274.18	324.03	373.88	448.66
Wonersh	125.78	146.73	167.70	188.67	230.60	272.52	314.45	377.34

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;

- 28.2 that it be noted that for 2016/2017 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	845.52	986.44	1,127.36	1,268.28	1,550.12	1,831.96	2,113.80	2,536.56
Surrey P.C.C	146.79	171.26	195.72	220.19	269.12	318.05	366.98	440.38

- 28.3 that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 28.1 (h) and 28.2 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 2016 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of the Council's Area

Valuation Bands

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Alfold	1,136.23	1,325.61	1,514.98	1,704.36	2,083.10	2,461.85	2,840.59	3,408.72
Bramley	1,118.85	1,305.32	1,491.80	1,678.28	2,051.23	2,424.18	2,797.13	3,356.56

Busbridge	1,120.61	1,307.37	1,494.14	1,680.92	2,054.46	2,427.99	2,801.53	3,361.84
Chiddingfold	1,161.24	1,354.78	1,548.32	1,741.87	2,128.95	2,516.03	2,903.11	3,483.74
Churt	1,136.87	1,326.34	1,515.82	1,705.31	2,084.27	2,463.22	2,842.18	3,410.62
Cranleigh	1,139.37	1,329.27	1,519.16	1,709.07	2,088.86	2,468.65	2,848.44	3,418.14
Dockenfield	1,118.52	1,304.94	1,491.36	1,677.79	2,050.63	2,423.47	2,796.31	3,355.58
Dunsfold	1,144.77	1,335.57	1,526.36	1,717.17	2,098.76	2,480.35	2,861.94	3,434.34
Elstead	1,123.57	1,310.83	1,498.09	1,685.36	2,059.88	2,434.40	2,808.93	3,370.72
Ewhurst	1,141.73	1,332.02	1,522.31	1,712.61	2,093.19	2,473.77	2,854.34	3,425.22
Farnham	1,143.47	1,334.04	1,524.62	1,715.21	2,096.37	2,477.52	2,858.68	3,430.42
Frensham	1,136.23	1,325.60	1,514.97	1,704.35	2,083.09	2,461.83	2,840.58	3,408.70
Godalming	1,142.13	1,332.49	1,522.84	1,713.21	2,093.92	2,474.63	2,855.34	3,426.42
Hambleton	1,120.99	1,307.83	1,494.66	1,681.50	2,055.16	2,428.83	2,802.49	3,363.00
Hascombe	1,133.09	1,321.94	1,510.79	1,699.65	2,077.35	2,455.05	2,832.74	3,399.30
Haslemere	1,126.73	1,314.51	1,502.30	1,690.10	2,065.68	2,441.25	2,816.83	3,380.20
Peper Harow	1,106.49	1,290.90	1,475.32	1,659.74	2,028.57	2,397.40	2,766.23	3,319.48
Thursley	1,130.87	1,319.35	1,507.83	1,696.32	2,073.28	2,450.24	2,827.19	3,392.64
Tilford	1,149.51	1,341.10	1,532.68	1,724.28	2,107.45	2,490.62	2,873.79	3,448.56
Witley	1,141.86	1,332.17	1,522.48	1,712.80	2,093.42	2,474.04	2,854.66	3,425.60
Wonersh	1,118.09	1,304.43	1,490.78	1,677.14	2,049.84	2,422.53	2,795.23	3,354.28

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 make it mandatory for Councils to conduct a recorded vote at budget-setting Council meetings. Recorded votes were therefore taken on Recommendations 1-27 and 28, with the voting for each as follows:-

Voting for (51)

Cllr Brian Adams, Cllr Mike Band, Cllr Patrick Blagden, Cllr Andrew Bolton, Cllr Maurice Byham, Cllr Carole Cockburn, Cllr Kevin Deanus, Cllr Jim Edwards, Cllr Brian Ellis, Cllr Patricia Ellis, Cllr David Else, Cllr Jenny Else, Cllr Mary Forszewski, Cllr John Fraser, Cllr Pat Frost, Cllr Michael Goodridge, Cllr Tony Gordon-Smith, Cllr John Gray, Cllr Ged Hall, Cllr Val Henry, Cllr Christiaan Hesse, Cllr Stephen Hill, Cllr Mike Hodge, Cllr Nicholas Holder, Cllr David Hunter, Cllr

Simon Inchbald, Cllr Peter Isherwood, Cllr Anna James, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Robert Knowles, Cllr Denise Le Gal, Cllr Denis Leigh, Cllr Andy MacLeod, Cllr Tom Martin, Cllr Kika Mirylees, Cllr Stephen Mulliner, Cllr David Munro, Cllr Nabeel Nasir, Cllr Libby Piper, Cllr Julia Potts, Cllr Sam Pritchard, Cllr Wyatt Ramsdale, Cllr Stefan Reynolds, Cllr David Round, Cllr Richard Seaborne, Cllr Jeanette Stennett, Cllr Stewart Stennett, Cllr Chris Storey, Cllr Ross Welland, Cllr Liz Wheatley, Cllr Nick Williams.

Voting Against (None)

Abstentions (None)

45/14 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE (Agenda item 9.)

46/14 MEETING OF 5 JANUARY 2016 (Agenda item 9.a)

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 5 January 2016 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

47/14 MEETING OF 2 FEBRUARY 2016 (Agenda item 9.b)

It was moved by the Chairman of the Executive and duly seconded that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 2 February 2016 be approved and adopted.

(i) Corporate Plan 2016-2019 (Minute No. 127)

Councillors John Fraser, Christiaan Hesse, Andy Macleod and Kika Mirylees asked that their abstention from the vote be recorded.

(ii) Property Matter – Cranleigh (Minute No. 132)

Councillor Mary Forszewski asked that her vote against the recommendation be recorded.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 February 2016 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

48/14 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 28 January 2016 be approved and the recommendation contained therein adopted.

The meeting concluded at 8.35 pm

Mayor

Minute Item 44/14

SPEECH FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL- COUNCILLOR ROBERT KNOWLES WAVERLEY'S ANNUAL BUDGET 2016/17

It is my pleasure to propose the Annual Budget for Waverley Borough Council. I have a Secunder, who will doubtless wish to speak.

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

When this Administration was returned at the Election in 2011 and again in 2015 we promised to continue to run a balanced budget and maintain our front line services. Despite huge cuts in grant from Central Government I am really pleased to report that we have done what we promised.

The Draft Finance Settlement for 2016/17 was even more severe than all previous settlements, culminating in an overall reduction of 152% in our Revenue Support Grant by 2019/20. In other words, from 2019/20 we will start paying the Government negative grant. However, members will be aware that I met the Secretary of State on the first Monday in January and made representations on behalf of this Council. We also responded strongly to the consultation, and I am pleased to inform members that in the final settlement statement last week, the Secretary of State announced changes which give Waverley a total of £304,000 in transitional relief over the next two years. In addition, he has withdrawn the proposed negative grant in 2018/19 which would have cost us £350,000. Despite these positive changes, and the greater reduction in Revenue Support Grant in 2016/17 than we expected the net result means that we reluctantly need to increase council tax, by £5 for a Band D property. Whilst this would not be our first choice, this increase represents under 2p per day extra for our tax payers. This members, is excellent value for the 110 services that this Council provides after the past six years when we froze council tax.

During 2015 Waverley Borough Council has a number of achievements to be proud of

January Haslemere Leisure Centre opened in January 2015 after £3.9m investment and the number of visitors to the centre has continued to increase throughout the year. This saw the completion of the final upgrade of our leisure centres, with Haslemere fully in operation this has been a huge success with much increased useage of our facilities. Not only do they improve health and offer better leisure facilities, but they have allowed us to reduce the running costs of our leisure centres. Our capital spend has been part of the Council's farsighted policy of "Investing to Save".

Rolston House was completed in January 2015 to provide 25 new self-contained flats and 5 studio flats.

February February 2015 – Annual Greenspace survey showed increased satisfaction with the standards of grass cutting, cleanliness of parks and the wildlife value of parks and countryside sites.

March	<p>First new build council homes completed on land between Warren and Perrior Road and at Badgers Close, Godalming</p> <p>In March 2015 planning permission was given for two new show homes on the estate at Ockford Ridge in Godalming where we are undertaking a major development of 99 new homes.</p>
March	<p>Haslemere Skate Park refurbished with the design being developed in consultation with the regular users.</p>
April	<p>The end of the first year of the new Garden Waste scheme saw a trebling in the number of people signing up to the scheme and the amount of green waste we collect double. The Customer Satisfaction Survey showed nearly 80 per cent of people responding would definitely recommend the service.</p>
June	<p>Brightwells Tennis Club opened June 2015 with 5 new courts and a purpose-built tennis clubhouse.</p> <p>Surrey Youth Games - we provided free training for around 400 young people for 8 weeks and 180 young people represented Waverley at the games.</p> <p>Farnham Park and Broadwater Park were recognised as being among the best parks in the UK being awarded Green Flags in July 2015</p>
August	<p>The garden clearance scheme was officially launched in August 2015, having successfully transformed 45 tenant's gardens in the lead up to the launch.</p> <p>Plans to convert the Memorial Hall in Farnham into a state-of-the-art multi-use community centre were agreed.</p>
September	<p>Waverley won two golds in the South and South East In Bloom awards for Gostrey Meadow and Phillips Memorial.</p>
September	<p>Flexible tenancies were introduced for all new Council tenants from 1 September 2015.</p>
September	<p>We recruited 4 new apprentices to the Council, continuing our highly successful programme which has been running for 5 years. During this time we have provided training and qualifications for 31 local young people most of whom are now in secure permanent employment</p>
October	<p>Aging Well Strategy adopted with a five year action plan to support older residents living in the borough.</p>
December	<p>£124,000 government funding secured towards the cost of 6 new starter homes for young people in Godalming and Farnham.</p> <p>Throughout the year –</p>

- 2015 Five children's play areas were refurbished in the year at Holloway Hill (£49,000), Aaron's Hill (£50,000), Phillips Memorial Park, Broadwater Park and Farnham Park. Residents were involved in voting for their favourite designs.
- 2015 We have made impressive gains in performance in planning services over 2015 consistently performing above target.
- 2015 In 2015 we delivered 71 affordable homes across a number of different sites around the Borough and we granted planning permission to develop 234 affordable homes.
- 2015 Waverley was a finalist for two national awards in Annual Service Awards 2015 - Best Health & Wellbeing Initiative for Easy Move and Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative.
- 2015 In 2015 we prevented 513 people becoming homeless and we had the lowest number of people living in temporary accommodation compared with other local authorities in the south east.

In addition -

We are seeing exceptional weather, heavy rain and high winds, and our officers, staff and contractors are responding to the demands brought by the effects of the changing weather, be it rain, wind or snow. We continue to plan for the effects of climate change.

As we maintain front line services I am really proud that we have once again protected our funding for vital community organisations which include five day centres serving our elderly residents, Hoppa, Citizens' Advice and many more. In addition, the budget before you proposes to strengthen the work done by our planning and environmental enforcement services teams. I am sure the Finance Portfolio Holder will say more on these and many other areas of the Council's business.

Working with officers we continue to identify savings through the Star Chamber process as we look to obtain greater efficiencies and benefit from our invest to save projects. In the budget before you we have identified savings of £900,000. This builds on what we achieved in the last administration where this Conservative Administration has now saved over £5m in the last 5 years, including £0.5m in staff costs.

These are outstanding results.

Turning now to the Housing Revenue Account. During the life of this Conservative Administration council housing has faced a period of major change. Despite this, our Housing stock has been much improved with many homes having new windows, kitchens and bathrooms. This has only been possible under the HRA Business Plan but changes imposed by government mean we will need to seriously review our Plan. We will be doing this over the summer. As part of that review we will need to consider how many much-needed homes we can still build, remembering that we still have a Government imposed mortgage of £189m to pay.

However, let me remind you that whilst we have been carefully managing the Government's debt of £189m since 2012, we have successfully cleared the Backlog on Decent Homes work and have delivered:-

1,570 new bathrooms

1,720 new kitchens

1,550 new boilers, and

new double glazing for 900 homes

at the same time as improving services to tenants.

We recognise the difficult times ahead for our country and will remain mindful of further cuts in grant announced for coming years, but Waverley's Conservatives have proved that we can manage and we will manage for the benefit of our residents now and in the future. It's not just us who recognise this. The Council's independent auditor Grant Thornton praised the financial management of this Council in their last Audit Letter.

Mr Mayor, colleagues, In the light of the Government's announcement on the final grant settlement last week, I have two changes to make to the recommendations from the Executive to Council on the budget.

The first one is to clarify for Council the position on the council tax increase. On page 17, recommendation 1 should be updated to read 'an increase for Waverley's element of council tax for 2016/2017 be agreed as £5 for the Band D equivalent charge'

The second is a proposed amendment to the savings list referred to in recommendation 2 on page 17. Specifically, the item shown on page 40 relating to Waverley's subscription to the Local Government Association. We have the LGA on rolling notice to withdraw and this option had been built into the budget proposals. However, given the LGA's work on the finance settlement and in coordinating collective legal action on the land charges litigation, I am proposing that we remain in the LGA in 2016/17. Therefore, my proposed amendment is to add the following words to the end of recommendation 2 on page 17

'with the exception of the proposed saving of £10,000 identified from cancelling the LGA subscription, with the impact of this change on the draft budget being met from the Government's transitional grant'

The budget proposals have been put together by Cabinet Members and Officers over recent months – a great deal of hard work has been put in by colleagues and I would like to thank them all, particularly Cllr Wyatt Ramsdale, our Executive Director, Paul Wenham, Finance Director, Graeme Clark and Operations Director Damian Roberts. It is this work, year after year which ensures that savings can be made without the loss of front line services.

In conclusion, this is a remarkable budget in these challenging times, one that continues to put Waverley first.

Members, I commend this Budget.

Portfolio Holder for Finance – Budget Speech

Thank you Mr Mayor

Items 8a, 8b and 8c are the reports concerning our budgets for 2016/17:

- General Fund Revenue;
- General Fund Capital; and
- Housing Revenue Account.

8d is the mathematical calculation of the Council Tax charges

I should like to thank the Joint O&S Committees for looking at the detail and their comments are included. I should also like to thank members of the Executive and the Chairman of the Licensing Committee for their participation in reviews not least the Star Chambers. Plus I must thank all the officers involved particularly the Heads of Service. This has not been a straight-forward budget process; however we have managed to produce proposals for a balanced budget without cutting services. I must warn you that it will be yet more difficult next year. Finally I must thank my predecessors who established the Star Chambers and introduced the Invest to Save approach etc. without which we would not be in this financial position.

Item 8a starting on p11 covers the General Fund Revenue budget –
The headlines are:

1. A 52% cut in our Revenue Support Grant from the Government, with this funding all but wiped out in the following year. However we have had some increase in New Homes Bonus and most recently a Transitional Grant.
2. A proposal to increase Council Tax for the first time in six years up to the maximum level allowable by the Government. This is unavoidable in the light of the severe grant cut, to ensure that we can protect front line services and continue to respond to residents' needs.

Despite the major cut to our grant we are proposing a budget with some very good news items for Waverley's residents:

- There are no cuts to services from financial constraints.
- The budget maintains the overall amount of grants allocated to community organisations at the same level for the fourth year running.
- We have maintained full revenue funding to meet the cost of capital investment plans, and the majority of New Homes Bonus is to go on invest to save schemes.
- The budget increases the spending on the Planning Service to manage the significant additional demands.
- The budget includes an extra £48,000 to maintain Waverley owned ditches to help with flood resilience and to manage tree risk.
- The budget includes additional funding to strengthen our environmental enforcement and litter picking on key roads.
- We are conscious that we have recently implemented a catch-up inflationary increase in car park charges yet at the same time we have increased our

spending on maintenance and improvement of our car parks – with particular focus next year on High Street Haslemere.

The saving and growth proposals are included in annexe 4. (p39 – 48)

With regard to Council Tax increases. The Government initially announced that Councils cannot increase their Council Tax by 2% or more. However in the light of the severity of the Grant Reduction and our track-record, the Government has now reconsidered and allowed us as a Shire Borough Council a £5 increase for each band D equivalent property. This £5 option is recommended.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy is a key document that brings together all of the Council's financial plans and considers the future pressures, risks and opportunities. This document is set out at Annexe 1 from page 19. The page I would draw members' attention to is page 27. This sets out the forecast over the next 3 years for the General Fund. It shows that we have a significant budget deficit projected for 2017/18 of £1.3m which is mainly due to the further government grant cuts. However, we do now have a Transitional Grant of £152,000 to off-set in 2017/18. We will be starting work on meeting this 2017/18 budget challenge immediately, especially as many of the ideas going forward have long lead times.

The annexes provide the detail and the pack including the Detailed Budget Papers have been circulated to all members and included on the website. There is a range of recommendations on p17 and p18. I would point out recommendation 6 which is to earmark funds for potential land acquisitions. This proposal supports Waverley's Treasury Management and Asset Strategies.

I should also point out recommendation 3a on page 17: 'That the staff pay award of 1% from 1 April 2016 be approved.' And I'll take this opportunity to thank all staff for their efforts for Waverley.

Item 8b, starting p51 concerning the General Fund Capital programme sets out the Revenue Project and Capital Scheme proposals for 2016-17. The capital programme proposes a mixture of investment in existing assets and services and utilising the New Homes Bonus to provide new and improved facilities.

Headline items include:

- Budget approval for Broadwater Park improvements in Godalming.
- Commitment to deliver a scheme to develop the Frensham Common Visitors Centre.
- Continuing the playground replacement programme.
- Commitment to explore the potential for the development of a new pavilion at Gostrey Meadow in Farnham.
- Additional capital investment to improve Waverley's car parks and a major project for the car park in High Street, Haslemere.
- Continued provision of £350k pa for much needed disabled facilities grants.

Item 8c starting on p63 is the HRA Business Plan and Capital budgets

This report covers the 30 year Business Plan and the revenue and capital budgets 2016/17 for the Housing Revenue Account. We take a longer term view with the HRA because of the certainty of the rent income going forward and the need to ensure that we can manage the long term debt and long term capital investment. It is particularly important that we have a robust business plan so that we adequately invest in the existing homes for our tenants, and are able to provide new homes for future generations.

The major issue in 2016/17 and beyond is the Government's unexpected announcement a few months ago that it will force social housing providers, like Waverley, to reduce their rents by 1% from 2016/17 for at least 4-years. This approach is completely at odds with the Government's previous policy of encouraging inflationary increases in rent each year, which was what we had projected in our 30 year business plan and set spending proposals accordingly. The Government's decision has created a £1.3million shortfall in the 2016/17 budget but, more importantly, this proposal will take away £170million of resource from Waverley's business plan projections over the next 25 years. On top of this, from 2017/18 the Government will be forcing Waverley to sell off its high value homes when they become empty and pass the money to the Government. This will lose us a further £130million. This money would have been spent on new affordable homes and on improving the existing stock, so it is a devastating blow.

The detailed budget sheets for the HRA are included in the annexes and Annexe 5 on p83 shows the proposed savings and growth in the budgets which were discussed at the Star Chamber meeting.

This report also sets out the draft capital programme for the HRA split over the three main elements. The core capital programme includes investment in the current houses including decent homes work. The other two programmes cover new homes building and the reconfiguration of existing stock. The estimated spend in 2016/17 is £21m. In the light of the Government's sudden decisions about social housing, as mentioned earlier, annexe 9 on p93 shows the impact on Waverley's plans to invest money in new and improved affordable housing in the Borough. Whilst 2016/17's capital spend can be funded, future years are less certain and fundamental reviews are needed.

In summary, the impact of the Government's changes on Waverley's HRA business plan is extremely significant and, whilst I can support the 2016/17 budget and capital spending proposals being recommended to Council, we need a fundamental review of all aspects of the Business Plan and every line of the HRA budget and this is what is proposed in the report.

Item 8d starting on page 295 in the supplementary pages is the Council Tax Setting.

This is the mathematical application of our budget recommendations and the tax decisions by the County Council, the Police and the appropriate town or parish council. I would draw attention to the summary band D calculation on p301.

Recommendation

Mr Mayor the recommendations for items 8a to 8c are recommendations 1 to 27 on pages 287 to 289 of the supplementary pages; and recommendation 28 for item 8d is the lengthy recommendation starting on page 296 of the supplementary papers.

I commend them all to Members.