

MINUTES of the WAVERLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL held in
the Council Chamber, Council
Offices, The Burys, Godalming
on 12 February 2019 at 7.00
pm

- * Cllr Denise Le Gal (Mayor)
- * Cllr Mary Forszewska (Deputy Mayor)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| * Cllr David Beaman | * Cllr Anna James |
| * 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 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 Chris Storey |
| Cllr Stephen Hill | * Cllr Liz Townsend |
| * Cllr Mike Hodge | Cllr Bob Upton |
| Cllr Nicholas Holder | Cllr John Ward |
| * Cllr David Hunter | Cllr Ross Welland |
| * Cllr Jerry Hyman | * Cllr Liz Wheatley |
| * Cllr Simon Inchbald | * Cllr Nick Williams |
| Cllr Peter Isherwood | |

*Present

Apologies

Cllr John Fraser, Cllr Pat Frost, Cllr Jill Hargreaves, Cllr Val Henry, Cllr Nicholas Holder, Cllr Peter Isherwood, Cllr Martin Lear, Cllr Tom Martin, Cllr Libby Piper, Cllr Bob Upton and Cllr John Ward

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, prayers were led by the Reverend David Uffindell and Lay Chaplain Mary Haines

CNL51/18 MINUTES (Agenda item 1.)

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2018 were confirmed and signed.

CNL52/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2.)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs John Fraser, Pat Frost, Jill Hargreaves, Val Henry, Nick Holder, Peter Isherwood, Martin Lear, Tom Martin, Libby Piper, Bob Upton, John Ward.

CNL53/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 3.)

Cllr Chris Storey declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to the Part I matter on the Executive Minutes of 5 February 2019 in relation to the Empty Homes Council Tax Discount and Premium (EXE 71/18).

CNL54/18 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda item 4.)

The Mayor was grateful for having the opportunity to attend many enjoyable Christmas events, and made special mention of the wonderful singers who performed at the carol concert at Broadwater School.

CNL55/18 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 5.)

There were no questions received from members of the public.

CNL56/18 QUESTION TIME (Agenda item 6.)

Four questions had been received from Members, in accordance with Procedure Rule 11:

1. The following question had been received from Cllr Robert Knowles, Haslemere East & Grayswood Ward.

“Santander Bank has announced the closure of Haslemere Branch in April, 2019, following the closure of Barclays, HSBC and Nat West Banks in the town, leaving only one Branch of Lloyds for a town with a catchment area of over 25,000 people.

Godalming and Guildford High Street Branches are also listed for closure.

What representations has the portfolio holder for economic development and the Executive made to Santander regarding the removal of a vital service in Haslemere, which also includes the loss of another ATM, whilst noting that the excuse that a Post Office can be used is not like for like and in Haslemere there are no ATMs at Post Offices for out of hours use.”

Response from Cllr Jim Edwards, Portfolio Holder for Economic and Community Development:

“Waverley Borough Council was very concerned to hear of the forthcoming closure of both the Haslemere (Wey Hill) & Godalming branches of

Santander on 25 April and 6 June respectively. The key reason given is that many customers are now opting for the convenience of online and telephone banking, with the result that retaining a branch presence on the high street is too expensive.

The development comes on the back of a number of other local bank closures, many of which also offer external cashpoints. This is of course of particular concern in a rural borough like Waverley with a larger proportion of older people who rely on the bank branches and may prefer a face to face presence. Whilst the council is directly consulted when there is a threat to community services (such as post offices, payphones, bus routes and ticket offices) banks are private companies, and the council is not routinely consulted.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development met the Branch Manager of the Wey Hill Santander branch on the morning of the announced closure (23 January) and then subsequently met the Branch Manager of Godalming Santander to offer support and assistance in any way possible.

The Economic Development team will be contacting Santander Head Office directly to express concern about the impact on jobs and also the lack of banking facilities especially for those who rely on a face to face service.

In the light of bank branch closures, it is very important that the council does all it can to retain - and strengthen - our 23 post offices in the borough, making best use of the council's Universal Service Obligation to ensure the Post Offices meet the needs of the local community. For many people looking to bank on the high street, the post office will take on a more important role in future and the PO has responded to this demand by broadening its banking services to both business and personal customers. Most personal bank customers are now able to do their day to day banking at their local post offices with basic bank services such as cash withdrawals, cash and cheque deposits and balance enquiries.

If and when the two Santander branches close, this will leave 24 other bank branches in the borough – the Economic Development Team are currently mapping cashpoints to assess location and availability.”

2. The following question had been received from Cllr Paul Follows, Godalming Central and Ockford Ward:

“The Leader of the Council is no doubt aware that Ockford Park, a development of 262 houses in my ward of Godalming Central and Ockford was passed by the JPC on 9th January 2019. As this happened pre-CIL, the developer is due to pay only £3.8 million in infrastructure contributions (instead of over £8m that would be due under CIL). A £4m loss to our community.

This has happened despite your personal reassurances that scenarios such as this would not occur - reassurances you made during the initial local plan vote on Feb 20th 2018 and then at Full council sessions on 24th April, 16th

October and 11th December 2018 respectively when I asked this question again. As I have said on all these occasions - this was an entirely foreseeable consequence of leaving an 8 month gap between the passing LPP1 and CIL and then allowing a further, consultation period (itself excessive in duration by comparison to other boroughs) for it to come into effect. You have effectively created a window for developers to rush in their applications now to avoid CIL - and they have jumped at the opportunity.

It should also be noted that last site of any real size in the Godalming area, Milford Golf Course - is before the JPC on February 20th. Just days before the introduction of CIL and potentially at a further loss of several million pounds to the community.

Will the Leader explain:

- a) what benefit Godalming will see from this local plan when it has almost reached its local plan period (up to 2032) housing numbers without seeing a penny of CIL?
- b) why you believe it is acceptable that strategic sites be given planning permission despite not yet being subject to the public consultation planned for such sites under LPP2?
- c) how you expect large, strategic sites to ever provide the infrastructure required to mitigate their impact and benefit the wider community (in the way that local plan envisages) absent of the money to actually deliver such infrastructure?
- d) Could the Leader explain how her figure of £94million of CIL over the plan period is actually calculated considering the number of strategic and large sites that have already been approved pre-CIL?"

Response from Cllr Chris Storey, Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy and Customer Services, and Cllr Kevin Deanus, Portfolio Holder for Planning Operations and Enforcement Services:

a) "The Council was very mindful of the need to get CIL in place as soon as reasonably possible following the examination and adoption of Local Plan Part 1. A lot of preparatory work and consultation on CIL took place during the Local Plan Examination and following the adoption of the Plan the Council moved quickly to formally agree the proposed CIL for submission for examination. Clearly the timescale for the CIL examination was out of the Council's control. However, once the Council received the Examiner's report on 1 October 2018 approving the CIL charge the Council moved quickly to adopt CIL on 31 October 2018. The Council had to decide on a reasonable period leading to the implementation of CIL. It agreed a period of 4 months which, given that this also covered the Christmas/New Year period, was considered to be reasonable and consistent with the approach taken by other councils. It should be added that CIL will be Borough-wide and that in the future Godalming may benefit from CIL derived from schemes elsewhere in the Borough."

b) “Most of the key strategic sites were included in Local Plan Part 1. However, one of the agreed modifications to the Plan, arising from the Examination, was the acceptance that some large sites could still come forward through Local Plan Part 2. One of the sites proposed for allocation in Local Plan Part 2 was the site at Aaron’s Hill. However, that site was also subject to modification in Local Plan Part 1, where its removal from the Green Belt was confirmed. This was another modification arising from the Examination of Local Plan Part 1. The removal of that site from the Green Belt in Part 1 did not prevent the site coming forward through a planning application in advance of Part 2. That application had to be considered on its merits at the time.”

c) “The Local Plan is accompanied by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan that sets out the infrastructure identified to support growth. Where sites have come forward in advance of CIL, they have still been assessed to identify infrastructure required to mitigate the impact of development. In some cases that will have been to require specific mitigation for an individual site. In other cases this has been through the limited pooling of infrastructure payments in order to deliver infrastructure, such as in the case of some of the large schemes in Cranleigh. Once CIL is in place there will be a formal process of considering what infrastructure projects should be allocated CIL funding.”

d) “The projection of £94million is included in one of the documents that the Council produced for the CIL Examination. The figures included are based on the position as at 1st April 2018. The document in question can be viewed on the web site at:

https://www.waverley.gov.uk/downloads/file/6352/wbc-cil-001_-_cil_income_projections

3. The following question had been received from Cllr Paul Follows, Godalming Central and Ockford Ward:

“The Leader is likely aware of the existence of a task and finish group of the Housing O&S Committee considering views and perceptions of stigma felt by council tenants. You may also be aware that this group came into existence because of the comments of one member that “there was no stigma surrounding social housing in Waverley”. A point challenged vociferously by the tenants panel reps and myself.

This group has been chaired positively and effectively by Cllr Townsend and includes Cllrs. Seaborne, Cockburn and myself as members and has been fantastically managed and supported by Yasmine Makin and Annalisa Howson. However this exceptional piece of work has laid bare the poor participation and engagement levels of many members of this council.

As a fellow member representing a ward containing a substantial proportion of social housing and considering the origin of this task and finish group and its subject matter,

a) Would the Leader care to comment on the fact that only 18 members of this council could be bothered to complete the survey?

b) What does the Leader believe this says about her councillors and what they think or understand about council tenants in Waverley?"

Response from Cllr Julia Potts, Leader of the Council:

"First of all, I want to say how much I am looking forward to reading the report of the Task & Finish Group when it is published later this month. Tackling stigma is one of the themes of the 2018 Housing Green Paper, and I know that the Members on the Task & Finish Group, members of the Tenants' Panel, and officers have worked tremendously hard to ensure that our tenants' voices are heard in exploring this topic.

It is disappointing that only 18 out of 57 councillors completed the survey, but I notice that is still more than the number who completed the survey last year about the effectiveness of overview and scrutiny. And I do think that many councillors have a slightly skewed view, because they are more aware of the efforts to which the council goes to ensure that our tenants do have quality homes to live in. Cllr Seaborne and Cllr Townsend were both part of the previous Housing O&S Task & Finish Group that looked at the design standards for new council housing development, and which incorporated the National Space Standards into the recommendations adopted by the council – so we have design guidelines for our own council housing developments that are of a higher standard than those that we currently require for market housing.

Rather than speculating on what I think our councillors think about council tenants in Waverley, I think the important thing is to take note of what the council tenants think – if they feel that there is a stigma attached to being a council tenant then we need to do what we can to understand the reasons for that, and what Waverley can do to change perceptions.

This is a very important piece of work by Overview Scrutiny, and I think it may be the first time – certainly for a long time – that scrutiny have tackled this type of review, and it demonstrates the value there is in investing in our scrutiny function by resourcing it properly with dedicated officer support."

4) The following question had been received from Cllr Jerry Hyman, Farnham Castle Ward:

"The Chief Executive has obtained legal advice from Wayne Beglan which concludes that,

" the Council does have convincing objective evidence that the Farnham Park SANG and the SAMM strategy are effective, applying the Waddenzee judgment; "

Natural England have confirmed that they have no such evidence, and as it is necessary for this information to be included in an appropriate assessment in order for Council to grant consents to SPA-affected planning applications, can you please provide and publicise such an appropriate assessment immediately?"

Response from Cllr Julia Potts, Leader of the Council:

"The question asks for the provision of an appropriate assessment containing "convincing objective evidence" relating to Thames Basin Heath SPA-affected planning applications and also referencing Farnham Park SANG and SAMM.

From the evidential context, it is clear from decided case law that 'appropriate assessment' is not a precise, technical term or process but indicates no more than such assessment that should be appropriate to satisfy the responsible local planning authority that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. This implies a high standard of investigation, but that issue ultimately rests on the judgement of the local planning authority concerned.

The required degree of certainty about adverse effects is explained in the *Waddenzee* case; namely that the necessary certainty cannot be construed as achieving absolute certainty since that is impossible to attain and therefore such a decision must be based on relevant information (based on that high standard of investigation) being set out in such an appropriate assessment.

So the responsible authority (i.e. the Council) is able, from its point of view, to come to a decision that there will be no adverse effect, although from an objective point of view there would be no absolute certainty. The required standard expressed in case law is to establish that there is no risk of adverse effect to a standard "beyond reasonable scientific doubt", in the judgement of the relevant authority.

The case law is also clear that the Council is entitled to place considerable weight on the opinion of Natural England, as the expert national agency, with responsibility for oversight of nature conservation, and ought to do so in the absence of a good reason not to. The duty to consult the appropriate nature conservation body is compulsory under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 with regard to European protected sites such as SPAs.

The approach adopted under the Thames Basin Heath SPA Delivery Framework has been subjected to scrutiny in the past, including in Waverley's Local Plan Part 1 Examination, and found to be sound. SANG and SAMM are not novel techniques and are widely-accepted mechanisms

used by local planning authorities to avoid adverse effects on European Protected sites.

In this context the “appropriate assessment” requested already exists in an extant and published document. It is set out in the Aecom Habitats Regulation Assessment 2016, prepared by independent ecologically, and technically-qualified consultants, acting in consultation with Natural England. It was scoped to consider impact pathways, likely significant effects, mitigation and other matters relevant to an appropriate assessment in the context of the emerging Local Plan Part 1, with regard to the Thames Basin Heath SPA. The assessment comprised a consideration of historic trends and conditions, key environmental conditions, potential effects of the Plan, urbanisation, recreational pressure and disturbance, “in-combination effects”, atmospheric pressure and water resources.

The Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) also assessed in the same way other protected sites such as Wealden Heath Phase I and II SPA, the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham European protected Site of Area Conservation (SAC) and the Thursley and Ockley Bog European protected RAMSAR site.

The contents and findings of that HRA were submitted to and considered by the Government-appointed Inspector, Mr Bore, at the Local Plan Examination, during which he concluded that sufficient SANG could be identified under the Plan and found the Plan’s approach to be “sound” in this respect. He specifically considered the Farnham Park SANG and found that the Local Plan was also sound in this respect and that the Local Plan strategy for SANG and SAMM was likewise sound, based on convincing evidence.

On the above basis the request for the provision and publication of a further appropriate assessment relating to plans or projects in relation to “SPA affected planning applications” is not considered to be necessary.

In addition, to secure compliance with recent European case law, site-specific appropriate assessments are carried out where a SPA is affected, in a manner agreed with Natural England, to ensure all likely significant effects are appropriately assessed and avoided.”

CNL57/18 MOTIONS (Agenda item 7.)

There had been no Motions received from Members.

BUDGET 2019/20 (Pages 21 - 26)

The Leader delivered the Budget Statement to the Council, a copy of which is attached at Annexe 1 to these minutes, after which the Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the reports at Agenda Items 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3.

The Leader introduced the budget proposals as being sustainable and balanced, and driven by a strategy of efficiency, investment and income. It had been produced under challenging circumstances. The Leader thanked the hard work of Officers, and councillors, including the O&S committees and Budget Strategy Working Group, who had contributed

over many months to developing the robust approach that had delivered positive outcomes for the budget. These included the new waste and recycling collection contract, successful property investments that were generating revenue for the Council, and using cash holdings efficiently to generate interest income.

The Leader drew attention to the significant financial challenges facing the council in the medium term, the £3.8m shortfall in the budget by 2023, and strategy to address the shortfall.

The Leader commended the careful management of the Housing Revenue Account to enable the continued investment in developing new affordable housing, whilst meeting the mandatory 1% reduction in rents.

The Leader highlighted the achievements of the last year including, the adoption of CIL, the completion of the Memorial Hall, regaining control and use of the Wey Centre, adoption of the Economic Delivery Strategy, significant progress on the Wey Hill car park, completion of the bridge to take construction traffic away from Farnham town centre and enable the start of development of the Brightwells project, and adoption of Local Plan Part 1.

The Leader concluded by commending the budget proposals for 2019/20 to the Council for approval.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Cllr Hall, echoed the Leader's concern about the medium term financial forecast and the challenge this would present, especially the potential pressures filtering down from Surrey County Council's budget difficulties and from the national economic position.

With regard to the budget for 2019/20, this was a balanced budget, and a prudent budget, that still protected services and ensured no reduction in funding to community organisation partners. In addition, there were no increases to car parking charges proposed. An increase of 2.99% was proposed in Waverley's portion of the council tax, to help offset inflation on service costs.

Cllr Hall commended the budget to Council.

Cllr Andy MacLeod delivered a budget speech on behalf of the Leader of the Farnham Residents Group. He noted the widespread agreement that the proposed budget was prudent and achievable, but this was only possible with a 2.99% increase in council tax on top of the council tax increases already agreed by Surrey County Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner. Cllr MacLeod drew attention to the risks to the success of the Brightwells redevelopment and emphasised the need for Waverley and Surrey County Council to work together to deliver on the investments they had made in the project.

A number of councillors, including Cllrs Peter Martin, David Beaman, Liz Wheatley, Wyatt Ramsdale, Stephen Mulliner, Sam Pritchard, Mike Band and Carole Cockburn all spoke in support of the budget proposals, whilst also noting the forecast shortfall in the medium term financial plan. Cllrs Paul Follows and Jerry Hyman suggested that this was a pre-election budget.

Responding to questions and comments made during the debate, the Leader advised that:

- The council was working closely with Surrey County Council, other districts in Surrey

and Hampshire, the Local Government Association and other partners to mitigate the risks posed by the uncertainty around Brexit.

- The Executive were very aware of the impact of the proposed council tax increases on lower income households, and there was council tax support and discretionary relief for those in hardship.
- The South Street Car park is a Waverley car park, and Waverley is responsible for its maintenance and condition.

In concluding the debate, the Leader commended the budget to Council.

CNL58/18 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019/20 - 2021/22 AND GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2019/20 (Agenda item 8.1)

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2014 require Councils to conduct a recorded vote at budget-setting Council meetings.

With the agreement of the Council, a recorded vote was taken on the five recommendations from the Executive on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 – 2021/22 and General Fund Budget 2019/20

The voting was as follows:

Voting for (39)

Cllrs Brian Adams, Mike Band, David Beaman, Andrew Bolton, Maurice Byham, Carole Cockburn, Kevin Deanus, Jim Edwards, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Mary Foryszewski, Michael Goodridge, Tony Gordon-Smith, John Gray, Ged Hall, Mike Hodge, David Hunter, Simon Inchbald, Anna James, Carole King, Robert Knowles, Denise Le Gal, Denis Leigh, Peter Martin, Stephen Mulliner, Nabeel Nasir, Julia Potts, Sam Pritchard, Wyatt Ramsdale, Stefan Reynolds, David Round, Richard Seaborne, Jeanette Stennett, Stewart Stennett, Chris Storey, Liz Townsend, Liz Wheatley and Nick Williams.

Voting against (0)

Abstentions (4)

Cllrs Paul Follows, Jerry Hyman, Andy MacLeod, and Kika Mirylees.

RESOLVED to

- 1. agree a 2.99% increase in Waverley's element of Council Tax for 2019/20;**
- 2. agree to make no change to the Council's existing Council Tax Support Scheme;**
- 3. approve the proposed Fees and Charges as shown at Annexe 4;**
- 4. approve the General Fund Budget for 2019/20, incorporating the pay award; and**

- 5. approve the 2019/20 General Fund Capital Programme as shown at Annexe 6.**

CNL59/18 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN, REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 (Agenda item 8.2)

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2014 require Councils to conduct a recorded vote at budget-setting Council meetings.

With the agreement of the Council, a recorded vote was taken on the five recommendations from the Executive on the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2019/20 (EXE 70/18).

The voting was as follows:

Voting for (42)

Cllrs Brian Adams, Mike Band, David Beaman, Andrew Bolton, Maurice Byham, Carole Cockburn, Kevin Deanus, Jim Edwards, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Mary Forszewski, Michael Goodridge, Tony Gordon-Smith, John Gray, Ged Hall, Mike Hodge, David Hunter, Jerry Hyman, Simon Inchbald, Anna James, Carole King, Robert Knowles, Denise Le Gal, Denis Leigh, Andy MacLeod, Peter Martin, Kika Mirylees, Stephen Mulliner, Nabeel Nasir, Julia Potts, Sam Pritchard, Wyatt Ramsdale, Stefan Reynolds, David Round, Richard Seaborne, Jeanette Stennett, Stewart Stennett, Chris Storey, Liz Townsend, Liz Wheatley and Nick Williams.

Voting against (0)

Abstentions (1)

Cllrs Paul Follows

RESOLVED that

- 1. the annual rent level of Council dwellings be reduced by 1% from the 2018/19 level with effect from April 2019, in compliance with the Welfare Reform and Work Act;**
- 2. the revised HRA Business Plan for 2019/20 to 2022/23 as set out at Annexe 1 be approved;**
- 3. the fees and charges be agreed as set out in Annexe 2;**
- 4. the 2019/20 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes as shown at Annexes 3 and 4 be approved; and**
- 5. the financing of the capital programmes be approved in line with the resources shown in Annexe 5.**

CNL60/18 COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2019/20 (Agenda item 8.3)

The Council received the report of the Chief Financial Officer on Council Tax Setting for 2019/20.

It was moved by the Mayor, duly seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED:

1. That the following amounts which have been calculated for the Council for 2019/2020 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 be approved:

- | | | |
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| (a) | £81,104,464 | 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) | £67,869,637 | 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) | £13,234,827 | 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) | £242.09 | being the amount at (c) divided by 54,669.1, 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) | £3,267,010 | being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act; |
| (f) | £182.33 | being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by 54,669.1 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) | <u>Part of Council's area</u> | |
| | Alfold | £
235.84 being the amounts given by adding |
| | Bramley | 207.47 to the amount at (f) above the |

Busbridge	210.13	special item or items relating to
Chiddingfold	279.03	dwelling in those parts of the
Churt	242.80	Council's area mentioned above
Cranleigh	251.12	divided in each case by the amount
Dockenfield	212.27	calculated by the Council, in
Dunstable	261.58	accordance with Section 34(3) of the
Elstead	233.02	Act, as the basic amounts of its
Ewhurst	257.81	Council Tax for the year for
Farnham	246.82	dwelling in those parts of its area to which
Frensham	242.74	one or more special items relate.
Godalming	252.00	
Hambledon	212.59	
Hascombe	227.79	
Haslemere	222.90	
Peper Harow	186.71	
Thursley	224.08	
Tilford	293.10	
Witley	244.88	
Woburn	208.83	

(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	157.22	183.43	209.63	235.84	288.24	340.65	393.06	471.68
Bramley	138.31	161.36	184.42	207.47	253.57	299.67	345.78	414.94
Busbridge	140.08	163.43	186.78	210.13	256.82	303.52	350.21	420.26
Chiddingfold	186.02	217.02	248.03	279.03	341.03	403.04	465.05	558.06
Churt	161.86	188.84	215.82	242.80	296.75	350.71	404.66	485.60
Cranleigh	167.41	195.31	223.22	251.12	306.92	362.72	418.53	502.24
Dockenfield	141.51 174.38	165.10 203.45	188.68 232.51	212.27 261.58	259.43 319.70	306.61 377.83	353.78 435.96	424.54 523.16

Dunsfold

Elstead	155.34	181.24	207.13	233.02	284.79	336.58	388.36	466.04
Ewhurst	171.87	200.52	229.16	257.81	315.09	372.39	429.68	515.62
Farnham	164.54	191.97	219.39	246.82	301.66	356.51	411.36	493.64
Frensham	161.82	188.80	215.77	242.74	296.67	350.62	404.56	485.48
Godalming	168.00	196.00	224.00	252.00	307.99	363.99	420.00	504.00
Hambledon	141.72	165.35	188.97	212.59	259.82	307.07	354.31	425.18
Hascombe	151.86	177.17	202.48	227.79	278.40	329.02	379.65	455.58
Haslemere	148.60	173.36	198.13	222.90	272.43	321.96	371.50	445.80
Peper Harow	124.47	145.22	165.96	186.71	228.19	269.69	311.18	373.42
Thursley	149.38	174.28	199.18	224.08	273.87	323.67	373.46	448.16
Tilford	195.40	227.96	260.53	293.10	358.23	423.36	488.50	586.20
Witley	163.25	190.46	217.67	244.88	299.29	353.71	408.13	489.76
Wonersh	139.22	162.42	185.63	208.83	255.23	301.64	348.05	417.66

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;

2. that it be noted that for 2019/2020 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	900.74	1,050.86	1,200.99	1,351.11	1,651.36	1,951.60	2,251.85	2,702.22

STANDARD								
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	969.00	1,130.50	1,292.00	1,453.50	1,776.50	2,099.50	2,422.50	2,907.00
Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner	173.71	202.67	231.62	260.57	318.47	376.38	434.28	521.14

3. that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 1.(h) and 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 2019 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	1,231.67	1,436.96	1,642.24	1,847.52	2,258.07	2,668.63	3,079.19	3,695.04
Bramley	1,212.76	1,414.89	1,617.03	1,819.15	2,223.40	2,627.65	3,031.91	3,638.30
Busbridge	1,214.53	1,416.96	1,619.39	1,821.81	2,226.65	2,631.50	3,036.34	3,643.62
Chiddingfold	1,260.47	1,470.55	1,680.64	1,890.71	2,310.86	2,731.02	3,151.18	3,781.42
Churt	1,236.31	1,442.37	1,648.43	1,854.48	2,266.58	2,678.69	3,090.79	3,708.96
Cranleigh	1,241.86	1,448.84	1,655.83	1,862.80	2,276.75	2,690.70	3,104.66	3,725.60
Dockenfield	1,215.96	1,418.63	1,621.29	1,823.95	2,229.26	2,634.59	3,039.91	3,647.90
Dunsfold	1,248.83	1,456.98	1,665.12	1,873.26	2,289.53	2,705.81	3,122.09	3,746.52
Elstead	1,229.79	1,434.77	1,639.74	1,844.70	2,254.62	2,664.56	3,074.49	3,689.40
Ewhurst	1,246.32	1,454.05	1,661.77	1,869.49	2,284.92	2,700.37	3,115.81	3,738.98
Farnham	1,238.99	1,445.50	1,652.00	1,858.50	2,271.49	2,684.49	3,097.49	3,717.00
Frensham	1,236.27	1,442.33	1,648.38	1,854.42	2,266.50	2,678.60	3,090.69	3,708.84
Godalming	1,242.45	1,449.53	1,656.61	1,863.68	2,277.82	2,691.97	3,106.13	3,727.36
Hambledon	1,216.17	1,418.88	1,621.58	1,824.27	2,229.65	2,635.05	3,040.44	3,648.54
Hascombe	1,226.31	1,430.70	1,635.09	1,839.47	2,248.23	2,657.00	3,065.78	3,678.94
		1,426.89	1,630.74			2,649.94	3,057.63	3,669.16

Haslemere	1,223.05			1,834.58	2,242.26			
Peper Harow	1,198.92	1,398.75	1,598.57	1,798.39	2,198.02	2,597.67	2,997.31	3,596.78
Thursley	1,223.83	1,427.81	1,631.79	1,835.76	2,243.70	2,651.65	3,059.59	3,671.52
Tilford	1,269.85	1,481.49	1,693.14	1,904.78	2,328.06	2,751.34	3,174.63	3,809.56
Witley	1,237.70	1,443.99	1,650.28	1,856.56	2,269.12	2,681.69	3,094.26	3,713.12
Wonersh	1,213.67	1,415.95	1,618.24	1,820.51	2,225.06	2,629.62	3,034.18	3,641.02

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

	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alfold	1,299.93	1,516.60	1,733.25	1,949.91	2,383.21	2,816.53	3,249.84	3,899.82
Bramley	1,281.02	1,494.53	1,708.04	1,921.54	2,348.54	2,775.55	3,202.56	3,843.08
Busbridge	1,282.79	1,496.60	1,710.40	1,924.20	2,351.79	2,779.40	3,206.99	3,848.40
Chiddingfold	1,328.73	1,550.19	1,771.65	1,993.10	2,436.00	2,878.92	3,321.83	3,986.20
Churt	1,304.57	1,522.01	1,739.44	1,956.87	2,391.72	2,826.59	3,261.44	3,913.74
Cranleigh	1,310.12	1,528.48	1,746.84	1,965.19	2,401.89	2,838.60	3,275.31	3,930.38
Dockenfield	1,284.22	1,498.27	1,712.30	1,926.34	2,354.40	2,782.49	3,210.56	3,852.68
Dunsfold	1,317.09	1,536.62	1,756.13	1,975.65	2,414.67	2,853.71	3,292.74	3,951.30
Elstead	1,298.05	1,514.41	1,730.75	1,947.09	2,379.76	2,812.46	3,245.14	3,894.18
Ewhurst	1,314.58	1,533.69	1,752.78	1,971.88	2,410.06	2,848.27	3,286.46	3,943.76
Farnham	1,307.25	1,525.14	1,743.01	1,960.89	2,396.63	2,832.39	3,268.14	3,921.78
Frensham	1,304.53	1,521.97	1,739.39	1,956.81	2,391.64	2,826.50	3,261.34	3,913.62
Godalming	1,310.71	1,529.17	1,747.62	1,966.07	2,402.96	2,839.87	3,276.78	3,932.14
Hambleton	1,284.43	1,498.52	1,712.59	1,926.66	2,354.79	2,782.95	3,211.09	3,853.32
Hascombe	1,294.57	1,510.34	1,726.10	1,941.86	2,373.37	2,804.90	3,236.43	3,883.72
Haslemere	1,291.31	1,506.53	1,721.75	1,936.97	2,367.40	2,797.84	3,228.28	3,873.94
Peper Harow	1,267.18	1,478.39	1,689.58	1,900.78	2,323.16	2,745.57	3,167.96	3,801.56
Thursley	1,292.09	1,507.45	1,722.80	1,938.15	2,368.84	2,799.55	3,230.24	3,876.30

Tilford	1,338.11	1,561.13	1,784.15	2,007.17	2,453.20	2,899.24	3,345.28	4,014.34
Witley	1,305.96	1,523.63	1,741.29	1,958.95	2,394.26	2,829.59	3,264.91	3,917.90
Wonersh	1,281.93	1,495.59	1,709.25	1,922.90	2,350.20	2,777.52	3,204.83	3,845.80

CNL61/18 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE (Agenda item 9.)

61.1 It was moved by the Leader of the Council, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Executive held on 5 February 2019 be received and noted.

The Leader reported that in addition to the budget items already considered, there were two further items recommended to the Council for decision. There was one request to speak in relation to Part II of the Minutes.

CNL 61.2/18 COUNCIL TAX EMPTY HOMES DISCOUNT AND EMPTY HOMES PREMIUM (EXE 71/18)

(Councillor Chris Storey left the Council Chamber before the start of consideration of this item)

The Leader briefly introduced the proposals to change Waverley's Council Tax empty home discount and empty homes premium, using powers from the Local Government Finance Act 2012, to encourage empty homes to be brought back into use.

The Leader moved the recommendations, it was duly seconded, and

RESOLVED that:

- i. **the discretionary 50% 6-month Council Tax discount for "empty and substantially unfurnished properties" is reduced to a 50% 1-month discount from 1 April 2019; and,**
- ii. **the maximum additional council tax premiums on long term "empty and unfurnished properties" are applied according to the following commencement dates:**
 - **200% extra (for properties empty for 5-10 years) (commencing in April 2020),**
 - and**
 - **300% extra (for properties empty for 10+ years) commencing in April 2021)**

(Councillor Chris Storey returned to the Council Chamber.)

CNL 61.3/18 ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20 (EXE 72/18)

The Leader presented the Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20 to Council for approval, in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act.

The Leader moved the recommendation, it was duly seconded, and

RESOLVED that the Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20 be approved.

CNL 61.4 MATTERS OF REPORT

Risk Appetite Statement (EXE 74/18)

Cllr Hyman noted that the Risk Appetite Statement would be considered by the Audit Committee in March, and emphasised the importance of having a zero tolerance approach to 'regulatory breaches'.

The Leader thanked Cllr Hyman for his comments and clarified that there was nothing in the Risk Appetite Statement to suggest that Waverley was breaking the law. The Leader welcomed any further comments that the Audit Committee might have.

CNL62/18 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 14 January 2019 be received and noted.

The Chairman advised that that there was one recommendation from the Committee in Part I for Council consideration, and he had had no requests to speak in relation to Part II of the Minutes.

CNL 62.2 FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019/20-2021/22: LICENSING BUDGET 2019/20 (LIC 26/18)

The Licensing and Regulatory Committee had considered the draft revenue estimates for 2019/20 for the Licensing function, and the proposed Licensing Fees and Charges for 2019/20. The Committee has noted that the proposed increases in fees and charges were inflationary. It was a statutory requirement to advertise proposed increases in fees and charges, and this consultation was now in progress. The recommendation to Council to approve the proposed Licensing Fees and Charges, which were included in the General Fund Budget, would subject to consideration of consultation responses by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

It was moved by the Chairman, duly seconded, and

RESOLVED that the level of fees and charges for 2019/20 for Licensing be approved, and noted that various fees would be subject to advertisement prior to implementation.

CNL63/18 MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (Agenda item 11.)

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Committee held on 21 January 2019 be received and noted.

The Chairman advised that there was one recommendation from the Committee in Part I for Council consideration, and he had had no requests to speak in relation to Part II of the Minutes.

CNL 63.2/18 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE (STD 17/18)

Following the agreement of Council in October 2018 to re-designate the Standards Panel as the Standards Committee, the Committee had reviewed its terms of reference to ensure that these better reflect the function and purpose of the Committee.

It was moved by the Chairman, duly seconded, and

RESOLVED that the revised terms of reference of the Standards Committee be approved and incorporated into the Constitution at Article 9.

CNL64/18 DECISION OF THE STANDARDS PANEL (Agenda item 11.1)

64.1 The Council received the decision notice of the Standards Panel held on Friday 1 February 2019, in accordance with *Waverley's Arrangements for dealing with Standards Allegations against Councillors and co-opted Members under the Localism Act 2011*.

64.2 Cllr Jerry Hyman advised that he would be appealing the decision of the Standards Panel.

64.3 The Mayor moved that the outcome of the Standards Panel be noted.

It was duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the decision notice of the Standards Panel be noted.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm

Mayor

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Councillor Julia Potts Waverley Budget 2019-20

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

I am pleased to put before the Council this evening a sustainable balanced budget driven by a strategy of efficiency, investment and income.

A 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.

This time last year our financial plan forecast a £1.5m shortfall in the 2019/20 budget. This Conservative administration is now presenting to Council a balanced budget that protects services, has no reductions to grants to community organisations and does not increase any car park charges.

We were very pleased when the Government announced that it would not inflict the negative grant of £814k next year but we are very aware that this has only been put back by a year, not removed, therefore we have to plan for this in the medium term projection.

We have been able to balance the budget through hard work from officers and councillors working together over many months, including the O&S committees and Budget working group. **My thanks to all of them.** Balancing next year's budget has not happened by accident. We have put in place robust strategies covering procurement, treasury management and property investment and these have all delivered positive outcomes. To name but a few, we have had:

- an excellent result from tendering the waste and recycling contract which will save us money but not at the expense of service quality
- made sensible property investments that are bringing in the money and keeping good quality office accommodation in the Borough

- used our cash holding more efficiently to generate more interest income

It would have been easy to raid reserves to get a quick fix budget ahead of the election. **This Conservative administration does not believe in election gimmicks.** This would have been incredibly short sighted given the challenges ahead and would only have stored up problems for the future. We are proposing a council tax increase to help pay for the inflation on our costs. This 2.99% increase equates to approx. 10pence per week for a Band D property.

It would have been easy to cut back on investing in our community facilities around the Borough. But we know that these are used and valued by our residents, our car parks, play areas, parks and leisure centres. But no – we are spending more next year to ensure that these facilities meet our residents' needs. We have agreed a £3.2m investment to improve Farnham and Godalming Leisure Centre and made a commitment for a multi-million pound investment in leisure facilities in Cranligh. We are investing more on our IT and kick starting a major customer service project. We have allocated over £1m to invest on or car parks.

The budget does not include arbitrary unidentified savings targets. It does not include major redundancy programmes.

Car park charges – we are not proposing any increases in next year's budget but we have listened to our community, including our local businesses, and we will be undertaking a full review of car park provision in the Borough later this year.

Turning to the medium term. Make no mistake, this council is faced with a massive financial challenge. The medium term financial strategy presented in the report tonight shows that without taking any action we would be faced with a £3.8m shortfall in our budget by 2023. Doing nothing is simply not an option.

We have a strategy for addressing this budget shortfall which is robust, prudent and achievable. Our strategy does not rely on uncertain sources of income.

Now we have a fellow councillor who likes to use achrinims so here's mine for our budget strategy.....EII

EII = efficiency, investment and income.

-Efficiency in the way that we deliver our services including our costs, income and staff resources – our reviews will have the customer at the core.

-Investment in new and existing assets to generate income. Acquiring commercial property in a sensible, prudent and proportionate way. We have agreed a new strategy and have made four good acquisitions recently that will bring in £0.75m each year. Importantly, we have agreed to acquire others but not been afraid to walk away when the final deal hasn't been good enough.

-Investment in our own assets. Our investment in leisure centres will bring better facilities and much needed income to the council. The Brightwells Farnham regeneration scheme will transform a major part of Farnham town centre, strengthen the local economy and bring income to Waverley when it is complete in 2-3 years time

-We need to look at all sources of income, existing and new. We have listened to the VFM O&S committee and we will be launching a full review of fees and charges in the coming year

Turning to housing and the HRA.

The Council has a £30m a year long term business plan for the operation of its 5000 council homes. The report before Council is an example of excellent joint working between officers, councillors and tenants. Waverley has responded effectively to the government pressure on the business plan which has seen forced 1% rent reductions in each of the last four years, and extensive welfare reforms. We have acted responsibly and managed our costs and revised our investment plans which has put us on a solid footing going forward.

We continue to build new affordable homes for our residents and the report includes nearly £40m of spend on new build projects over the next three years. That is on top of £20m in the last 3 years. There cannot be many other councils in the country building new affordable homes on this scale.

The report shows that in 2019/20 our housing rents will go down by 1% for the fourth year in a row. We are not proposing to increase garage rents next year.

I just want to take a moment to reflect on the successes led by, and achieved by, this Conservative administration over the past year:

CIL – After long consultation and examination stages I'm delighted that this will be in place from 1st March providing funding for much needed infrastructure.

Memorial Hall - £3m multi use community centre opened in the autumn. We could have 'made-do' with a smaller facility but we were ambitious and had a vision for something much more versatile and accessible that could be the new home for the Brightwells Gostrey Centre and Waverley Training services as well as providing an in-demand usable space for the local community.

Wey centre – taken back control of the previously under utilised and under invested in Wey centre in Haslemere and we are working with the local community to make this a community youth hub

Economic development strategy – approved last year providing a platform for supporting and building our local economy including our local businesses

Wey Hill car park – delighted at the Inspector's decision which enables us to make better use of the site in the short term and develop our plans for its long term future

Brightwells – The Bridge that this council rightly insisted on to minimise construction traffic through Farnham town centre is now complete and the development can really start to gather pace

LPP1 – approved in February 2018 – landmark achievement for Waverley after many years without up to date plan etc.

Finally Madam 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.

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

- A sustainable balanced financial strategy
- Investment in our key services
- Protection of our core frontline services
- Investment in new and existing assets

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.

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