

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

3 MARCH 2005

5.00PM

HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Mrs Drake (Mayor); Councillors Allen, Barnett, Battle, Bennett, Bodfish, Mrs Brown, Burgess, Carden, Mrs Cobb, Davidson, Edmond-Smith, Elgood, Fitch, Forester, Framroze, Giebeler, Hamilton, Hawkes, Hazelgrove, Hyde, John, Kemble, Lepper, Mallender, McCaffery, Meadows, Mears, Meegan, Mitchell, Morgan, Mrs A Norman, K Norman, Older, Oxley, Paskins, Peltzer Dunn, Pennington, Pidgeon, Randall, Mrs Simson, Smith, Taylor, Mrs C Theobald, G Theobald, Tonks, Turner, Watkins, Wells, Williams, Willows, Wrighton and Young.

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

82.1 There were none.

83. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

83.1 The Mayor reported that under Section 30(6) of the Local Government Act 1992 the Council has a duty to set the Council Tax by 11 March 2005. A failure to set a tax does not then in itself invalidate the tax demands but it has other adverse consequences including the potential loss of income to the Council. One significant practical implication is that the contractor who prints and sends out the Council Tax bills has a slot booked to process the City Council's bills on 4 March 2005.

83.2 The Mayor invited the Monitoring Officer to draw our attention to some of the key points in the procedural note that had been circulated.

83.3 The Mayor stated that she appreciated that as Members will wish to discuss all three items under the Policy and Resources Committee proceedings there will not be a formal callover. A procedural note for today's Budget debate had been circulated, which she hoped Members would find helpful. It was intended that, as usual, the Revenue Budget, the Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme and the Housing Revenue Account Budget would be taken together. The Mayor advised the Council that Procedural Rules would need to be suspended to enable the

business to be dealt with as set out in the procedural note and moved accordingly.

83.4 The Council agreed.

84. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2005/06 (Item 3(a)), CAPITAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2005/06 (Item 3(b)), HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2004/05 (item 3(c))

84.1 Councillor Burgess addressed the Council on items 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c) of the report of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 23 February 2005. Councillor Burgess moved the recommendations as set out in the Policy and Resources Committee paper. Councillor Burgess also referred to the following amendment that had been discussed with the Liberal Democrats and Councillor Burgess indicated that the Administration was prepared to accept the amendment. Councillor Elgood seconded the proposed Budget as amended. Therefore in the circumstances the recommendations as amended became the substantive motion, which were subsequently debated.

Directorate	Service Area	Description of budget proposal	Service Impact	Value £'000	Council Tax Impact %
Amendment					
Corporate Services	Community Safety	Consultancy costs for audit and evaluation of the operation of the Racial Harassment Forum and its relationship with the Council	Opportunity for Racial Harassment Forum and Council to work more effectively together	5	
Cultural Services	Tourism	Financial support to Pride	One-off funding to support a full time member of staff to get the organisation on a firmer business and commercial footing	25	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Installation of CCTV camera in Western Road	Improvements to community safety in vicinity	20	
All	Corporate	Reduce allocation from Strategic Priorities Fund earmarked for LPSA 2 nd generation schemes for 2005-06 only.	Allocation reduced from £300,000 to £250,000, with less funding available for investment in LPSA priority areas,	-50	
Total				0	0%

84.2 Councillor Peltzer Dunn moved the following amendments that were seconded by Councillor Oxley:

Directorate	Service Area	Description of budget proposal	Service Impact	Value £'000	Council Tax Impact %
Amendment 1					

Directorate	Service Area	Description of budget proposal	Service Impact	Value £'000	Council Tax Impact %
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Provision for number 91 and 96 bus routes	Reinstate permanent service	23	
Environment	Cityclean	Blitz on graffiti	Enhance the built environment and visual impact of the City	75	
Environment	Cityclean	Extra training for Cityclean staff	Improve customer / Cityclean interaction in order to enhance customer satisfaction.	35	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Preparatory work for future introduction of audible bus stops	To enable an early introduction of the scheme.	10	
Corporate Services	Democratic Services	Extra resources for scrutiny	Appointment of 2 additional scrutiny support officers to improve timeliness of reviews.	62	
Environment	Quality of Life & Green Spaces	Preparation of a new sports pitch at Patcham Place	Build on council initiatives to enhance sports participation.	20	
Corporate Services	Human Resources	Reduction of 2 human resource managers	Significantly reduced ability to provide effective HR advice and support across the organisation. This may result in 2 redundancies.	-75	
Cultural Services	Communications	Savings from reduced and restructured section, which will generate £250,000 in a full year. The saving in 2005/6 takes into account the costs of meeting legal obligations for consultation, redundancy and early retirement.	Will create a minimum service undertaking statutory functions such as the annual report, and continue support to housing management and education services. This would reduce the team by two thirds of its current size and require an estimated 7 f.t.e. redundancies. Support for internal communications such as the Wave are unlikely to be sustained as is any proactive media or campaign activity and City News. Budget pressures may result from other services paying for external design and copyright advice.	-150	
Sub-Total for amendment 1				0	0.0%

Directorate	Service Area	Description of budget proposal	Service Impact	Value £'000	Council Tax Impact %
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Directorate	Service Area	Description of budget proposal	Service Impact	Value £'000	Council Tax Impact %
Amendment 2					
Cultural Services	Economic Dev & Regen	Net reduction of expenditure on grants	Grants to housing and arts organisations will be reduced. Some monies will be added to MIND (the mental health charity), Money Advice and Community Support Services. Provisional grant allocations already agreed and notified but have yet to be confirmed.	-200	
Corporate Services	Democratic Services	Non-renewal of affiliations to LGIU, SEERA and Peace Messenger Cities	No reduction in frontline services but non-affiliation with SEERA could lead to a reduction of perceived influence at regional level.	-39	
Corporate Services	Human Resources	Reduction in IT training	Inability to meet demand leading to greater reliance on software training packages.	-15	
Cultural Services	ICT & e-Government	Delete Senior Information Systems Consultant	Project management capacity reduced but not eliminated for e-Government priority outcomes	-32	
Environment	City Planning	Planning projects and strategy reductions	Some planning department projects delivering service improvements may be delayed	-27	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Reduce on-street parking charges for 30 minute parking	Reduce from 50p to 20p in areas outside central Brighton and from £1.50 to £1.20 in central Brighton. This will reduce the potential car parking income balance earmarked for related initiatives from £1m to £590,000.	0	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Apply the remaining balance on potential car parking income to offset eligible expenditure under the Traffic Management Act thereby reducing the budget and council tax.	The charging increases are already in place. The projected additional income is sensitive to changes in motorist behaviour.	-590	
Sub-Total for amendment 2				-903	-1.0%
Total for both Conservative Amendments				-903	-1.0%

84.3 On being put to the vote, each amendment was voted on separately. Both amendments were lost.

84.4 Councillor Taylor moved the following amendments that were seconded by Councillor Randall:

Directorate	Service Area	Description of budget proposal	Service Impact	Value £'000	Council Tax Impact %
Amendment 1					
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Implement bike rental OYBike scheme*	Funding for study and direct support to the scheme.	30	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Improve cycle & walking provision within the city e.g. Cycles racks*.	Capital investment of £100,000	10	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Offer 50% funding for cycle proficiency training for 1 yr group in primary schools across the city*.		35	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Car Club - encourage roll out*.	Impose a £1,000 \$106 contribution for all housing schemes in excess of 5 units	0	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Congestion Charging study.		50	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Workplace charging implementation within the council*.	Charge for spaces at Norton Rd, the Lanes, London Road and Kings House car parks used by staff and members. Offer bus passes to essential users and members that do not currently use passes.	-200	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Study to investigate implementation of work-place charging across the city.	Funding for study.	50	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Funding to carry out study for a North Laine pedestrianisation prog.		15	
Sub-total for Amendment 1				-10	0.0%

Directorate	Service Area	Description of budget proposal	Service Impact	Value £'000	Council Tax Impact %
Amendment 2					
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Provision for number 91 & 96 bus routes.	Reinstate permanent service.	23	

Directorate	Service Area	Description of budget proposal	Service Impact	Value £'000	Council Tax Impact %
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Resident Parking Zone consultation and implementation in St Peters and North Laine*.	Any additional revenue from implementation would offset set up costs in year 1. This assumes that the lack of staff capacity to undertake the work can be overcome.	0	
Environment	Cityclean	Introduce domestic garden waste collection as a chargeable service*.	Any charges would be set at a level to offset the additional cost of collection. Feasibility work will be undertaken before the scheme is introduced.	5	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Provide 50% discount on resident parking permits for low emission or dual fuel vehicles*.	Costs assume 5% take up in year 1.	24	
Cultural Services	Communications	Make City News self-funding.	City News is currently budgeted to cost £24,000 in 2005/06.	-24	
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Apply £28,000 of the unallocated potential car parking income to offset eligible expenditure under the Traffic Management Act	The charging increases are already in place. The projected additional income is sensitive to changes in motorist behaviour.	-28	
Sub-total for Amendment 2				0	0.0%

Directorate	Service Area	Description of budget proposal	Service Impact	Value £'000	Council Tax Impact %
Amendment 3					
Environment	Cityclean	Town centre collections of bio-degradable (kitchen) waste.	Any service cannot begin until a waste treatment plant is completed. Initial funding proposed to support the future development of the service.	20	
Environment	Public Safety	Pavements for People*	Funding for one off campaign	2.5	
Environment	Quality of Life & Green Spaces	New toilets in Blakers Park*.	Assumed capital investment of £80,000. A new toilet facility would have ongoing costs of approx £12,000pa	20	
Environment	City Planning	Introduce a pilot scheme in 2005/06 to charge for pre-application advice to developers that may produce revenue savings in future years*.	Service would need to develop clear contractual agreements setting out services provided. Fees would be charged for larger developments in the City.	0	

Directorate	Service Area	Description of budget proposal	Service Impact	Value £'000	Council Tax Impact %
Housing & City Support	Adult Social Care	Increased spending on Learning Disability for Asperger worker*.	Funding for 1 FTE post	40	
Environment	Cityclean	Increase waste recycling collection to weekly in city centre locations*.	Service enhancement would require £0.5m capital investment and ongoing revenue costs of £0.5m. Would require reasonable lead in period to purchase new equipment and consult in affected areas.	550	
Environment	Cityclean	Partnership working with Magpie over waste minimisation education*.	Funding for roll out in one ward per year based on £2 per household.	12	
Environment	Quality of Life & Green Spaces	Appearance/maintenance given higher priority*.	Increased funding for general improvements.	100	
Cultural Services	Executive Office	10% saving from reduced and restructured section on top of the savings already proposed by the administration.		-13	
Cultural Services	Royal Pavilion Libraries & Museums	Increase income/improve efficiency at Preston Manor*.	Offer facility for corporate events and gaining a wedding licence for weddings/receptions	-3	
Environment	Quality of Life & Green Spaces	William Clarke Park improvements - new play equipment and multi purpose sports equipment*.	Requires capital investment of £50,000 and additional ongoing revenue costs of £5,000.	10	
Children Families & Schools	Music & Performing Arts Service	Reject saving in Music Service as detailed in 2.1 of appendix 11.	Maintain the equalities/inclusion profile of the service.	25	
Environment	Quality of Life & Green Spaces	Reject saving from Beach Hut income as detailed in 2.18 of appendix 11.	None	10	
Environment	City planning	Reject saving in City planning Service as detailed in 2.23 of appendix 11.	Maintain flexibility to employ temporary staff when needed.	27	
Housing & City Support	Adult Social Care	Reject savings in Adult Social Care as detailed in 2.27 of appendix 11.	Increased charges on home care, day care, day care meals and transport were in line with strategy for fairer charging.	40	
Corporate	All	Cutting Carbon emissions – study and implementation*		25	

Directorate	Service Area	Description of budget proposal	Service Impact	Value £'000	Council Tax Impact %
Environment	Sustainable Transport	Apply the unallocated remaining balance of the potential car parking income to offset eligible expenditure under the Traffic Management Act	The charging increases are already in place. The projected additional income is sensitive to changes in motorist behaviour.	-972	
Sub-total for Amendment 3				-106.5	-0.1%
Total of Green Party amendments				-116.5	-0.1%

Note: The proposals for new or improved services marked * would require a detailed feasibility report to be considered by the relevant service committee before introduction.

84.5 On being put to the vote, each amendment was voted on separately. Amendments 1 and 3 were lost but amendment 2 was accepted.

84.6 **RESOLVED -**

- 1 That it be noted that at its meeting on 26 January 2005 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2005/2006 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- a 91,833.08 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year,

- b Parts of the Council's Area

Rottingdean Parish – 1,441.63

Hanover Crescent Enclosure – 40.14

Marine Square Enclosure – 73.37

Royal Crescent Enclosure – 31.28

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- 2 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2005/2006 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("the Act"):-

£537,192,279 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act net of contingency, levies and "County-wide" services and special items

Contingency – £2,970,000

Levies and "County-wide" services:-

£30,413	Environment Agency (Flood Defence)
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£95,080	Sussex Sea Fisheries
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Special expenses:-

£23,50	Rottingdean Parish
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£5,572	Hanover Crescent Enclosure Committee
£11,211	Marine Square Enclosure Committee
£5,050	Royal Crescent Enclosure Committee
£45,333	Total of special items

- a £540,333,105 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act including contingency and special items
- b £250,214,825 Income from Fees, Charges and specific Government grants.
- £600,000 contribution from reserves
- £250,814,825 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act
- c £289,518,280 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year.
- d £193,885,762 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant and increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax surplus) and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to directions under section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Community Charge Surplus).
- e £1,041.37 being the amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year
- f £45,333 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act

- g £1,040.88 being the amount at 2(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at

2(f) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relates

h Parts of the Council's area

Rottingdean Parish - £1,057.18

Hanover Crescent - £1,179.69

Marine Square - £1,193.68

Royal Crescent - £1,202.33

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for the dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

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Valuation Band:	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Parts of the Council's area	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rottingdean Parish	587.32	704.79	822.25	939.72	1,057.18	1,292.11	1,527.04	1,761.97	2,114.36
Hanover Crescent	655.38	786.46	917.54	1,048.61	1,179.69	1,441.84	1,704.00	1,966.15	2,359.38
Marine Square	663.16	795.79	928.42	1,061.05	1,193.68	1,458.94	1,724.20	1,989.47	2,387.36
Royal Crescent	667.96	801.55	935.15	1,068.74	1,202.33	1,469.51	1,736.70	2,003.88	2,404.66
All other parts of the councils area	578.27	693.92	809.57	925.23	1,040.88	1,272.19	1,503.49	1,734.80	2,081.76

* Entitled to disabled relief

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(g) and 2(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, 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 Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands

- 3 That it be noted that for the year 2005/2006 the Sussex Police Authority has 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 Band (£)								
A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H

61.25	73.50	85.75	98.00	110.25	134.75	159.25	183.75	220.50
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* Entitled to disabled relief

- 4 That it be noted that for the year 2005/2006 the East Sussex Fire Authority has 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 Band (£)								
A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
37.19	44.64	52.07	59.51	66.95	81.83	96.71	111.59	133.91

* Entitled to disabled relief

- 5 That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i), 3 and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts of council tax for the year 2005/2006 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Valuation Band:	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Parts of the Council's area	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rottingdean Parish	685.76	822.93	960.07	1,097.23	1,234.38	1,508.69	1,783.00	2,057.31	2,468.77
Hanover Crescent	753.82	904.60	1,055.36	1,206.12	1,356.89	1,658.42	1,959.96	2,261.49	2,713.79
Marine Square	761.60	913.93	1,066.24	1,218.56	1,370.88	1,675.52	1,980.16	2,284.81	2,741.77
Royal Crescent	766.40	919.69	1,072.97	1,226.25	1,379.53	1,686.09	1,992.66	2,299.22	2,759.07
All other parts of the councils area	676.71	812.06	947.39	1,082.74	1,218.08	1,488.77	1,759.45	2,030.14	2,436.17

* Entitled to disabled relief

(b) CAPITAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2005/06

84.7 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the level of available capital resources as set out in appendix 4 be noted.

(2) That the Capital Investment Programme for 2005/06 totalling £51.596m as detailed in appendix 4 be agreed and the estimated resources for future years also detailed in appendix 4 be noted.

(3) That the allocation of £2.5m resources for the Strategic Investment Fund; £0.5m for the Property Improvement Fund and £0.5m for the ICT fund be agreed.

(4) That the allocation of Strategic Investment Fund resources as set out in paragraphs 3.5 - 3.8 be noted.

(5) That the allocation of £0.5m for the refurbishment of Social Care buildings as set out in paragraph 3.12 be approved.

(6) That the allocation of £0.2m for planned maintenance to the farmlands as set out in paragraph 3.13 be approved.

(7) That the potential use of unsupported borrowing of £7.69m as set out in paragraph 3.11 be agreed.

(c) HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2005/06

84.8 **RESOLVED** – (1) That individual rent increases and decreases in line with rent restructuring principles as determined by the Government be approved and that the HRA Subsidy determination proposes an average increase of 4.03% to target rents.

(2) That the changes to fees and charges as detailed in paragraph 6.11 of the report be approved.

(3) That the Director of Housing & City Support be authorised to implement the new rents, fees and charges, but with power to make any minor amendments which may appear to be appropriate in particular cases; and

(4) That the Director of Housing & City Support be authorised to prepare and place on deposit the statement of proposals, estimates and other particulars as required by Section 76 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

Signed

Mayor

Dated this

day of

2005