

3 March 2015

Brighton & Hove City Council

Reconvened Budget Council 3 March 2015:**Setting a Lawful Budget for 2015/16****Introduction**

At its meeting last week, Council did not agree a budget and which led to the Mayor deciding to adjourn the meeting. This meant the uncompleted business has to be considered at today's reconvened meeting.

In order to enable the meeting to be conducted efficiently, and given the fact that Council has already debated the budget at length, it is proposed to suspend Council Procedure Rules to the extent necessary to conduct the meeting using the special procedures set out below. Council's Procedure Rules will continue to apply to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the special procedures.

Rather than start the whole debate from the beginning and debate and vote on all 14 amendments, it is proposed to use:

- (a) The **Council Tax Referendum** proposals (together with the supplementary information) with the amendments that were agreed last week;
- (b) The **Council Tax freeze** proposals (together with the supplementary information) with the amendments that were agreed last week; and
- (c) The **Council Tax Threshold** proposals as originally proposed without the amendments that were carried;

as a starting point for the debate.

There will be one amendment, the **joint amendment**, that will be put to the vote before the vote on the three substantive budget votes.

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 require the Council to record the vote of Members on the budget. The voting will therefore be conducted using the electronic voting system and the individual votes will be recorded in the minutes.

57. Declarations of Interest

The Mayor will ask for any declarations of interest from any Members that were not previously given at the meeting on the 26th February 2015.

58. Mayor's urgent communications, including the following:

The Mayor will ask Members to agree to suspend Council Procedural Rules in accordance with council procedural rule 1.7 to the extent that it is necessary to enable the business of the meeting to be dealt with as set out in agenda items 59 - 62 below.

59. **General Fund Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2015/16**
60. **Supplementary Financial Information for Budget Council**
61. **Capital Resources & Capital Investment Programme 2015/16**
62. **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget 2015/16**

Referendum Budget based on 5.9% Council Tax Increase with a Substitute Budget based on a Council Tax of 1.99%:

1. The Mayor will invite Councillor Jason Kitcat and Councillor Ollie Sykes to move and second the Administration's Referendum Budget based on a 5.9% Council Tax increase as amended on the 26.02.15. This will include a fall back Substitute Budget based on a 1.99% Council Tax increase. Councillor Kitcat will also move the Joint amendment on the Threshold Budget.

Freeze Budget based on a Council Tax Freeze

2. The **Mayor** will invite Councillor Geoffrey Theobald and Councillor Ann Norman to move and second the Conservative Group's Freeze Budget proposals based on a Council Tax freeze as amended on the 26.02.15.

Threshold Budget based on a 1.99% Council Tax Increase

3. The **Mayor** will invite Councillor Warren Morgan and Councillor Les Hamilton to move and second the Labour & Co-operative Group's original Threshold Budget proposals based on a 1.99% Council Tax increase. Councillor Morgan will also second the Joint amendment on the Threshold Budget.

Each speaker will have up to 5 minutes to speak.

Vote on Joint Amendment

4. The Mayor will put the Joint amendment to a vote.

Substantive Votes:

5. The **Mayor** will put the three substantive motions relating to the General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax to the meeting as follows:

Referendum Budget:

- 5.1 The Mayor will then put the Referendum Budget motion, as amended on the 26.02.15, to the vote.

Item 59 General Fund Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2015/16 based on a referendum budget and council tax increase of 5.9% with a substitute Budget based on a council tax increase of 1.99%; recommendations (1) and (4-12); as detailed in the extract from the Policy & Resources Committee;

together with;

Item 60 Supplementary Financial Information for Budget Council recommendation (1) and the council tax resolution as circulated;

5.2 Note: *Should the referendum budget be approved, then the freeze and threshold proposals would automatically fall and the Mayor would move to Item 61 on the agenda;*

5.3 If the vote on a referendum budget is lost then the Mayor will put the Freeze Budget to the vote as detailed in 6.4 below.

Freeze Budget:

5.4 The Mayor will then put the Freeze Budget motion, as amended on the 26.02.15, to the vote.

Item 59 General Fund Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2015/16 based on a freeze budget and council tax freeze; recommendations (2) and (4-12); as detailed in the extract from the Policy & Resources Committee;

together with;

Item 60 Supplementary Financial Information for Budget Council recommendation (1) and the council tax resolution as circulated;

5.5 Note: *Should the freeze budget be approved, then the threshold budget proposals would automatically fall and the Mayor would move to Item 61 on the agenda.*

5.6 If the vote on a freeze budget is lost then the Mayor will put the Threshold Budget to the vote as detailed in 6.7 below.

Threshold Budget:

5.7 The Mayor will then put the Threshold Budget, as amended, (as amended by the Joint Amendment, if agreed), to the vote.

Item 59 General Fund Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2015/16 based on a threshold budget and council tax increase of 1.99%; recommendations (3) and (4-12); as detailed in the extract from the Policy & Resources Committee;

together with;

Item 60 Supplementary Financial Information for Budget Council recommendation (1) and the council tax resolution as circulated;

5.8 Note: *Should the Threshold Budget be approved, then Council will proceed to items 61 and 62 on the agenda.*

Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2015/16 and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget 2015/16

- 6.** The **Mayor** will put the substantive motions relating to the Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2015/16 and the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2015/16 to the vote as follows:
- 7.1 Item 61** Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2015/16 recommendations (1) - (7) as detailed in the extract from the Policy & Resources Committee.
- 7.2 Item 62** Housing Revenue Account Budget 2015/16 recommendations (1) - (4) as detailed in the extract from the Policy & Resources Committee.
- 7. Close of Meeting**
- 7.1** The Mayor will then close the meeting.

The Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer may at any stage advise the Mayor and the Members of the need for a short adjournment, especially if there is a need for consequential adjustment to parts of the Budget resulting from the separate votes under 86 & 87, 88, and 89.

Should the Council fail to approve the Budget, the Mayor may decide to call for an adjournment in order to enable further discussions between the Groups; before reconvening the meeting and taking a further vote on the items. The requirements under procedure rule 13.7 regarding the rescinding of previous resolutions shall not apply to the budget debate if, following a vote, Council fails to agree the substantive budget.

Should Council fail to set the Council Tax on the 3rd March 2015 there are many significant implications; as Members have been separately advised. This includes the start of the Council Tax bill production process on the 5th March, which cannot be delayed without significant financial consequences.

Penelope Thompson CBE
Chief Executive

Rachel Musson
Interim Executive Director of
Finance & Resources
(Chief Finance Officer)

Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis
Head of Law
(Monitoring Officer)

Budget Process 2015 – Order of Events at Budget Council

1

- **Vote to suspend Standing Orders.**

2

- **The Leader to move the Referendum Budget and the Joint amendment. Councillor Sykes to second the Referendum Budget.**
- **Councillor G. Theobald to move the Freeze Budget and Councillor A. Norman to second.**
- **Councillor Morgan to move the Threshold Budget and second the Joint amendment. Councillor Hamilton to second the Threshold Budget.**

3

- **Vote on Joint amendment affecting the Threshold Budget.**
- **There will be a recorded vote on each motion.**

4

- **Vote on substantive Referendum Budget of 5.9% as amended on 26.02.15 with substitute budget of 1.99%.**
- **If carried move to 7.**

5

- **If 4 not carried, vote on substantive Council Tax Freeze Budget as amended on 26.02.15.**
- **If carried move to 7.**

6

- **If 5 not carried, vote on substantive Threshold Budget of 1.99% as amended by the Joint amendmnet, (if agreed).**
- **If carried move to 7.**

Following approval of the General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax, Items 61 and 62 will be put to the vote by the Mayor

7

- **Vote on Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2015/16.**

8

- **Vote on Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget 2015/16.**

