

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL (BUDGET)

22 February, 2023

Meeting commenced: 9.35 a.m.
“ adjourned: 10.55 a.m.
“ re-convened: 11.10 a.m.
“ ended: 12.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ann-Marie Humphreys - Ceremonial Mayor and Chair

Mr Paul Dennett - City Mayor

Councillors, Sharmina August, Damian Bailey, Samantha Bellamy, Barbara Bentham, Paula Boshell, Maria Brabiner, Adrian Brocklehurst, Joshua Brooks, Jim Cammell, Philip Cusack, Jim Dawson, Stuart Dickman, Heather Fletcher, Karen Garrido, Robin Garrido, Jane Hamilton, Bill Hands, Adam Kealey, Tracy Kelly, Jim King, David Lancaster, Mike McCusker, John Merry, Margaret Morris, John Mullen, Lewis Nelson, Wilson Nkurunziza, Teresa Pepper, Mike Pevitt, Gina Reynolds, Neil Reynolds, Hannah Robinson-Smith, Jake Rowland, Mishal Saeed, Arnold Saunders, Robert Sharpe, Irfan Syed, Nathaniel Tetteh, Les Turner, Chris Twells, Madeline Wade, Roseanna Wain, Andrew Walters, John Warmisham and Barry Warner.

96. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A motion was proposed and seconded to suspend Standing Orders, to allow a variation of the time respective members were allowed to speak during consideration of the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023/24 (see *Minute 100*).

RESOLVED: THAT in accordance with the Salford City Council Constitution Rule 2 in Part 4 Section A (Standing Orders), Council Procedure Rules be suspended, specifically Rule 18 V (Council: Rules of Debate - Content and Length of Speeches).

97. ANNOUNCEMENTS OR SPECIAL BUSINESS

The City Mayor referred to remarks he had made at the meeting of Council held on 18th January 2023, in which, during a discussion on recycling in Kenya, he had suggested, the tone of comments made by Councillor Robin Garrido were detrimental and demeaning (Minute 91 Q7). He said he had since spoken to Councillor Garrido and now accepted there was nothing of a negative, or offensive nature, in those comments, nor should any have been inferred and consequently he unequivocally withdrew those he had made suggesting otherwise. Councillor Robin Garrido thanked the City Mayor for his explanation and retraction.

98. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Yolande Amana-Ghola

Michelle Barnes, Tanya Burch, Stephen Coen, Roger Jones, Kate Lewis, Ray Mashiter, Alexis Shama, Darren Ward, Alex Warren and Jack Youd.

99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

100. REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24

The City Mayor presented a report detailing his proposals for the 2023/24 Revenue Budget and Council Tax, 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Budget, 2023/24 Capital Programme, Capital Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26, Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 to 2026/27 (attached to these minutes at Appendix A). These proposals were seconded by Councillor Bill Hinds.

Councillor Arnold Saunders then moved an amendment to the proposals (attached to these minutes at Appendix B), which were seconded by Councillor Adam Kealey.

A debate then took place in which members considered the amendments to the City Mayor's budget proposals for 2023/24, during which the following comments were made:

- Thanks were extended to the Chief Finance Officer and the Salford City Council finance team for their support in compiling the budget and the amendment to it. Similar thanks were extended to the Chief Executive, the City Solicitor, the Strategic Director for Service Reform and the Assistant Director Human Resources and Occupational Development. *(City Mayor, Councillor Hinds, Councillor Saunders and Councillor Robin Garrido)*
- There was a need to acknowledge the significant funding H.M. Government provided to local authorities, in addition to the Revenue Support Grant (RSG). *(Councillor Saunders)*
- The amendments to the budget failed to support people in financial need arising from the cost of living crisis. The proposed reduction in the value of the cost of living crisis fund was a demonstration of this. *(Councillor Merry, Councillor August, Councillor Bellamy, Councillor Morris, Councillor Nelson and Councillor Fletcher)*
- The proposed reductions in both council tax and the cost of living crisis fund should not be considered in isolation, and their combined effect would be financially beneficial to a wide range of Salford residents. *(Councillor Robin Garrido, Councillor Karen Garrido and Councillor Turner)*
- The proposals to defer the implementation of the findings of the Pay Review until 2024/25 were detrimental to Salford City Council employees. Their introduction would ensure staff were paid what they deserved, as well attracting a high calibre of applicant for positions, together with the retention of existing employees, whose value was immeasurable. *(City Mayor, Councillor Merry and Councillor Bailey)*
- The benefits of introducing the findings of the Pay Review were not disputed, only their timing, and hence why a 12-month delay and staggering its implementation over two years, was proposed. *(Councillor Robin Garrido)*
- The proposals for the Council's Communications Team were short sighted and failed to recognise the valuable role they played, and their importance in the democratic process. *(Councillor Merry)*

- The seriousness of the financial challenges which faced local authorities was demonstrated in that 82% of them were anticipated to increase the respective council taxes by the full 5% permitted. *(Councillor Merry)*
- The amendments to the proposals were short sighted and merely postponed the inevitability difficult decisions being taken now. *(Councillor McCusker)*
- The budgetary challenges Salford City Council faced were primarily due to H.M. Government's mismanagement of the UK's economy and its neglect of the importance and needs of local government. The financial resources existed but there was no fair distribution of them. *(Councillor Hinds)*
- H.M. Government spending formulas for local government were flawed, unbalanced and often detrimental to those areas where deprivation was highest. *(City Mayor and Councillor Sharpe)*
- It was recognised that there was a need for a comprehensive review local government funding and the creation of a new viable and long term model. *(City Mayor, Councillor Hinds and Councillor Karen Garrido)*
- The Working Class Movement Library (WCML) was a valuable resource, but it should not be dependent on City Council support. *(Councillor Karen Garrido)*
- Any ending of financial support for the WCML would be damaging should not be supported. *(Councillor Fletcher)*
- The City Mayor's budget proposals were measured and calculated fully meeting the challenges the City Council and its residents faced. The proposals arising from the amendment did not do this. *(City Mayor and Councillor Saeed)*
- Salford was ranked as the 18th most deprived local authority areas in the UK and the budget proposals reflected and met the challenges that created. *(City Mayor)*

In response to the City Mayor, The Chief Executive advised that the alternative proposals submitted by the Conservative Group (see Appendix B), were amendments to the City Mayor's proposals and therefore in themselves, did not constitute an alternative budget. In the event Council were to approve them, they would then need to be referred to Cabinet for further consideration, particularly the meeting of financial shortfall within it. Councillors Robin Garrido and Arnold Saunders concurred with this assessment of the amendment.

The Ceremonial Mayor, then put the amendment to Council and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a named vote was taken:

For the approval of the proposed Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023/24 (5)	Against the approval of the proposed Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023/24 (39)
Cllr Karen Garrido Cllr Robin Garrido Cllr Kealey Cllr Saunders Cllr Turner	Paul Dennett Cllr August Cllr Bailey Cllr Bellamy Cllr Bentham Cllr Boshell

	Cllr Brabiner Cllr Brocklehurst Cllr Brooks Cllr Cammell Cllr Cusack Cllr Dawson Cllr Dickman Cllr Fletcher Cllr Hamilton Cllr Hinds Cllr Kelly Cllr King Cllr Lancaster Cllr Mccusker Cllr Merry Cllr Morris Cllr Mullen Cllr Nelson Cllr Nkurinziza Cllr Pepper Cllr Pevitt Cllr Gina Reynolds Cllr Neil Reynolds Cllr Robinson-Smith Cllr Rowland Cllr Saeed Cllr Sharpe Cllr Syed Cllr Tetteh Cllr Wade Cllr Wain Cllr Warmisham Cllr Warner
--	--

(Councillor Walters joined the meeting after its commencement and consideration of this item, and therefore was unable to vote. Councillor Twells left proceedings before the vote was taken. Councillor Humphreys, as Chair, did not exercise her vote.)

Following which the Senior Democratic Services Officer declared it not carried by 39 votes against, with 5 for.

A debate then took place in which members considered the City Mayor's budget proposals for 2023/24 (see Appendix A) during which the following comments were made:

- The annual budget should have the aim of being beneficial to all residents of Salford, and wherever possible there needed to be cross-party consensus on this. *(Councillor Robin Garrido and City Mayor)*
- H.M. Government had made a total of £435m in grants to Salford City Council from a variety of funding streams, which was similar to the support given to comparable local authority areas in the north of England. *(Councillor Robin Garrido) The City*

Mayor noted these comments but said clarification and a detailed breakdown of £435m quoted would be beneficial, so he could respond more fully.

- The proposed increase in the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept should be dependent on an improvement in GMP performance. *(Councillor Robin Garrido)* The City Mayor replied that the increase in the precept had been agreed by all 10 local authorities in Greater Manchester.
- The budget proposals did not include an element which aimed to improve road safety, particularly for children travelling to and from school. *(Councillor Robin Garrido)*
- There was a need to restore the pride Salford residents had in the City, particularly by tackling issues of litter and fly-tipping and providing the resources for the services to achieve this. *(Councillor Robin Garrido)*
- In the long term there was a need to reduce the City Council’s deficit and to review its asset base, as well as lower its borrowing levels. *(Councillor Robin Garrido)* The City Mayor replied by saying he did not feel the sale of the City Council’s assets was the correct approach, and instead there was a need to return to traditional municipalism.
- It was acknowledged that many residents were facing financial hardship as result of the cost of living crisis, however the raising of council tax was likely only to add to these. *(Councillor Turner)*
- Current trade union industrial action was severely damaging the UK’s economy and the delivery of public services. *(Councillor Kealey)*
- The RSG settlement had been better than anticipated, but irrespective, there had been shortfalls to meet, which had made the budgetary process for 2023/24 extremely challenging. *(Councillor Hinds)*
- The financial and social challenges Salford City Council now faced were primarily due to H.M. Government repeatedly failing to invest in local government and public services, with no real commitment to “levelling-up”. *(City Mayor)*

The Chair of the Council then put the motion to Council and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a named vote was taken:

For the approval of the proposed Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023/24 (39)	Against the approval of the proposed Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023/24 (5)
Paul Dennett Cllr August Cllr Bailey Cllr Bellamy Cllr Bentham Cllr Boshell Cllr Brabiner Cllr Brocklehurst Cllr Brooks Cllr Cammell	Cllr Karen Garrido Cllr Robin Garrido Cllr Kealey Cllr Saunders Cllr Turner

Cllr Cusack Cllr Dawson Cllr Dickman Cllr Fletcher Cllr Hamilton Cllr Hinds Cllr Kelly Cllr King Cllr Lancaster Cllr Mccusker Cllr Merry Cllr Morris Cllr Mullen Cllr Nelson Cllr Nkurinziza Cllr Pepper Cllr Pevitt Cllr Gina Reynolds Cllr Neil Reynolds Cllr Robinson-Smith Cllr Rowland Cllr Saeed Cllr Sharpe Cllr Syed Cllr Tetteh Cllr Wade Cllr Wain Cllr Warmisham Cllr Warner	
---	--

(Councillor Walters joined the meeting after its commencement and consideration of this item, and therefore was unable to vote. Councillor Twells left proceedings before the vote was taken. Councillor Humphreys, as Chair, did not exercise her vote.)

Following which the Senior Democratic Services Officer declared it carried by 39 votes for with 5 against, and it was:

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the risk assessment of the reserves and assumptions made in preparing the revenue budget for 2023/24 be noted and supported, and accordingly a revenue budget of £244.692m, be approved.

(2) THAT the revised revenue estimates for the year 2022/23 and 2023/24 as set out in the report now submitted, be approved.

(3) THAT the decision of the Lead Member for Finance and Support Services on 17 January 2023, to approve the calculation of 73,859 as the Council's council tax base for the year 2023/24 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, (as amended), be confirmed.

(4) THAT the action of the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) in

approving a business rates estimate which shows £101.067m as the Council's share of its retained business rates for 2023/24, be confirmed.

(5) THAT the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the Year 2023/24, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act), be approved:

(a)	£804,453,007	being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act representing the gross revenue budget of the Council.
-----	--------------	---

(b)	£666,906,868	being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
-----	--------------	--

(c)	£137,546,139	being the amount by which the aggregate at (5(a)) above exceeds the aggregate at (5(b)) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
-----	--------------	--

(d)	£1,862.28	being the amount at (5(c)) above, divided by Item T (3 above) calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
-----	-----------	---

(e) The amounts attributable to the valuation bands as shown in the following table being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (5(d)) 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.

A minus	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£ 1,034.60	£ 1,241.52	£ 1,448.44	£ 1,655.36	£ 1,862.28	£ 2,276.12	£ 2,689.96	£ 3,103.80	£ 3,724.56

(6) THAT for the year 2023/24 the Greater Manchester Mayor 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 the dwellings shown below, be noted:

Precept Valuation Bands								
Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept								
A minus	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£ 135.16	£ 162.20	£ 189.23	£ 216.26	£ 243.30	£ 297.36	£ 351.43	£ 405.50	£ 486.60
Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)								
A minus	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£ 59.97	£ 71.96	£ 83.96	£ 95.95	£ 107.95	£ 131.93	£ 155.92	£ 179.91	£ 215.90

(7) THAT having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (5(e)) and (6) above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts, as the amounts of council tax for the year 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

2022/23 Council Tax								
A minus	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£ 1,229.73	£ 1,475.68	£ 1,721.63	£ 1,967.57	£ 2,213.53	£ 2,705.41	£ 3,197.31	£ 3,689.21	£ 4,427.06

(8) THAT for the purposes of section 11B(1) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 the Council determines with effect from 1st April 2024 the discount under section 11(2)(a) of the Act shall not apply to any long term empty dwelling (that is any dwelling that for a continuous period of at least 1 year has been unoccupied and has been substantially unfurnished) within the Salford City Council area.

(9) THAT for the purposes of section 11C(1) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 the Council determines that with effect from 1st April 2024 the discount under section 11(2)(a) of the Act shall not apply and the amount of council tax payable in respect of that dwelling and that day is increased by 100 percent in respect of any day where a dwelling has no resident, and the dwelling is substantially furnished.

(10) THAT the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2023/24, as detailed in Part 2 of the report now submitted, be approved and in doing so it be identified:

- (a) the estimated outturn expenditure for 2022/23 is expected to have a contribution from HRA reserves of £0.757m and consequently the balances held in reserve at 31 March 2023 are forecasted to be £6.835m.
- (b) the City Mayor has approved a 7% increase in rents for 2023/24.

(11) THAT each respective Lead Member and Strategic Director be requested to monitor expenditure against budget, to ensure overall net expenditure is contained within budget, and for the Lead Member for Finance and Support Services and the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 officer) to report to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on progress with the budget on a corporate basis.

(12) THAT approval be given to a Capital Programme of £88.882m for 2023/24 and the proposed sources of funding, as set out in Part 3 and detailed in Appendix 6 of the report now submitted, and all capital proposals being required to be referred to the Procurement Board for approval, as required by the Salford City Council Constitution, supported by detailed funding arrangements, prior to contractual commitments being made.

(13) THAT the treasury management prudential indicators for 2022/23 to 2026/27, as set out in Part 4 of the report now submitted, be approved.

(14) THAT Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 officer) after consultation with Lead Member for Finance and Support Services and the City Mayor, be given delegated authority to make any necessary technical adjustments to the figures upon receipt of any further details associated with government funding announcements.

101. 2023/24 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT

The Lead Member for Finance and Support Services submitted a report containing details of the Treasury Management Strategy for the financial year 2023/24, indicating its production and submission to the Council, was required under the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice. Also submitted was the Annual Investment Strategy, which needed to be considered by the Council under the Local Government Act 2003, together with the Council's policy for the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision for the forthcoming financial year and the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Practices.

RESOLVED: THAT the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy for Treasury Management and Non-Treasury Management Investment, the policy for the calculation of Minimum Revenue Provision and the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Practices, as now submitted, be approved.

(At this point in proceedings (12.20 p.m.), the Ceremonial Mayor, in accordance with Part 4 Rules of Procedure, Section A, Rule 12 of the Salford City Council Constitution, asked whether members wished to extend the meeting beyond the scheduled finish time of 12.30 p.m. It was duly agreed there should be such an extension and for the meeting to now conclude at 12.45 p.m.)

102. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023/24 TO 2025/26

The Lead Member for Finance and Support Services submitted a report outlining the proposed three-year Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 which would inform the Council's future financial planning and budget decisions to support

delivery of the Council's priorities and form part of the Council's policy and financial framework.

RESOLVED: THAT proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 be endorsed.

103. SENIOR MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS AND REMUNERATION

The Lead Member for Finance and Support Services submitted a report providing details and outcomes of a comprehensive review and refresh of the current pay structures and pay line which had recently been undertaken, with a clear focus on fair and equitable pay across Salford City Council.

At a meeting of the Workforce Panel approval had been given to implement the revised local pay model with effect from 1st April 2023 subject to the approval by Council of the budget required for the revised model, which had been incorporated into the City Mayor's Budget Proposals 2023/24 and approved earlier in the meeting (see Minute 100).

It was also reported in accordance with the Salford City Council Constitution, the Council makes determinations in relation to the remuneration of posts whose remuneration is, or would become, £100,000 per annum or above. As the salary range for several posts affected by this review already exceed £100,000, Council needed to be offered the opportunity to consider the revised salary ranges and give approval to the remuneration levels as agreed by the Workforce Panel.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT Approve the changes to remuneration level for senior posts as detailed in the report as agreed by the Workforce Panel on 24th January 2023.

(2) THAT the establishment of the two posts of Executive Director of Children's Services and Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health Partnerships, be noted.

(3) THAT approval be given to the remuneration level for these posts in line with the revised pay structure at a salary range of £125,000 to £140,000.

(4) THAT the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any necessary or consequential amendments to the Council's Constitution required as a result of this decision, or the decision of the Workforce Panel.

A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Budget Council 22 February 2023 Webcast](#)

Appendix A



04 Budget Report
2023-24.pdf

Appendix B



04b Revenue
Budget and Capital