

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL (BUDGET)

23 February, 2022

Meeting commenced: 9.40 a.m.
“ adjourned: 11.50 a.m.
“ re-convened: 12.00 noon.
“ ended: 12.20 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor John Mullen - 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, Tanya Burch, Stephen Coen, Philip Cusack, Tony Davies, Jim Dawson, Stuart Dickman, Heather Fletcher, Robin Garrido, Jane Hamilton, Bill Hinds, Ann-Marie Humphreys, Tracy Kelly, Jim King, David Lancaster, Ray Mashiter, Mike McCusker, John Merry, Lewis Nelson, Wilson Nkurunziza, Mike Pevitt, Gina Reynolds, Neil Reynolds, Hannah Robinson-Smith, Jake Rowland, Arnold Saunders, Alexis Shama, Irfan Syed, Nathaniel Tetteh, Phil Tresadern, Les Turner, Madeline Wade, Roseanna Wain, Joan Walsh, John Walsh, John Warmisham, Barry Warner and Jack Youd.

86. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A motion was proposed and seconded to suspend Standing Orders, to allow (a) proceedings to comply with current Covid-19 social distancing guidance specifically to allow members to remain seated when speaking and (b) a variation of the time respective members were allowed to speak during consideration of the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2022/23 (see *Minute 89*).

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 I (Council: Rules of Debate - Respect for the Chair) and Rule 18 V (Council: Rules of Debate - Content and Length of Speeches).

87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Michelle Barnes, Jim Cammell Bob Clarke, Laura Edwards, Karen Garrido, Roger Jones, Ari Leitner, Kate Lewis, Sophia Linden, Margaret Morris, Robert Sharpe, Peter Taylor, Andrew Walters and Darren Ward.

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

89. REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23

The City Mayor presented a report detailing his proposals for the 2022/23 Revenue Budget and Council Tax, 2022/23 Housing Revenue Account Budget, 2022/23 Capital Programme, Capital Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25, Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 to 2025/26 (attached to these minutes at Appendix A).

A debate then took place in which members considered the City Mayor's budget proposals for 2022/23 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. *(City Mayor, Councillor Hinds, Councillor Turner, Councillor Saunders and Councillor Fletcher)*
- There was a reluctance to raise both Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept, but this had been necessary. *(City Mayor)*
- A one year financial settlement made it difficult to plan for the mid and long term as well as H.M. Government's assumed reliance on ad hoc local taxation. *(City Mayor)*
- Care workers in Salford were to be paid the "Real Living Wage". *(City Mayor)*
- The budget proposals made a commitment to the provision of social housing and the delivery of a comprehensive kills and works programme. *(City Mayor)*
- H.M. Government needed to honour its pledge to "Levelling-up". *(City Mayor)*
- The economic effect of the Covid-19 pandemic had to be recognised and its impact on H.M. Government's public spending including local government, nevertheless Salford City Council had received approximately £164m of central government funding. *(Councillor Turner)*
- There was a need to have more details of the reserves held by Salford City Council and in turn determine whether these were all necessary, or could be released for other purposes. *(Councillor Turner)*
- The City Council's policies and activities in terms of property investment and development needed to be reviewed, including the AJ Bell Stadium. *(Councillor Turner and Councillor Saunders)*
- H.M. Government had failed to adequately fund local authorities, and this placed a strain on the delivery of services. These proposals protected jobs and services, both now and in the future. *(Councillor Merry, Councillor Davies and Councillor Pevitt)*
- The budget proposals had been considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 11 February 2022 where nineteen recommendations and observations had been made. The Conservative members of the Board had submitted apologies for this meeting nor made any representations to it. *(Councillor Merry, Councillor August and Gina Reynolds)*
- To challenge why elected members had not attended meetings, when they had legitimate reasons for being absent, was inappropriate. *(Councillor Turner)*
- It was suggested many Salford residents did not feel the services they received were adequate and the budget process should be seen as the balancing of priorities. *(Councillor Robin Garrido)*
- The provision of social housing was essential, but this should not be a local authority responsibility. *(Councillor Robin Garrido)*

- The investment in Dérive was welcomed, as was its importance as an additional social housing provider in Salford. *(Councillor Kelly and Councillor Brabiner)*
- A significant proportion of properties in Salford were in Bands A and B which were subject to Council Tax relief, which went some way to mitigate the rises proposed. *(Councillor Fletcher)*
- Whether there was a statutory requirement for the opposition group to prepare alternative budget proposals. *(Councillor Turner)* The City Solicitor confirmed there was no such requirement.
- The budget was one which would benefit all Salford residents, particularly young people, with the support for Route 29 welcomed. *(Councillor John Walsh)*
- Clarification was provided regarding the future provision of services and support for victims of domestic abuse, which had been subject to a thorough and transparent procurement process and were fit for purpose. *(Councillor Lancaster)*
- The impact of H.M. Government's austerity policies continued to be felt in Salford, along with their failings during the Covid-19 pandemic. *(Councillor Warmisham and Councillor Hinds)*
- There were significant social inequalities prevalent both nationally and locally which were not fully recognised by H.M. Government. These budget proposals went some way to mitigating the challenges they created in Salford. *(Councillor Hinds)*

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, following which declared it carried by 43 votes for, with 0 against and 2 abstentions.

For the approval of the proposed Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2022/23 <i>(43)</i>	Against the approval of the proposed Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2022/23 <i>(0)</i>	Abstained <i>(2)</i>
Paul Dennett Cllr August Cllr Bailey Cllr Bellamy Cllr Bentham Cllr Boshell Cllr Brabiner Cllr Brocklehurst Cllr Brooks Cllr Burch Cllr Coen Cllr Cusack Cllr Davies Cllr Dawson Cllr Dickman Cllr Fletcher Cllr Hamilton Cllr Hinds		Cllr Robin Garrido Cllr Saunders

Cllr Humphreys Cllr Kelly Cllr King Cllr Lancaster Cllr Mashiter Cllr Mccusker Cllr Merry Cllr Nelson Cllr Nkurinziza Cllr Pevitt Cllr Gina Reynolds Cllr Neil Reynolds Cllr Robinson-Smith Cllr Rowland Cllr Shama Cllr Syed Cllr Tetteh Cllr Tresadern Cllr Wade Cllr Wain Cllr Joan Walsh Cllr John Walsh Cllr Warmisham Cllr Warner Cllr Youd		
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(Councillor Turner left the meeting at 11.00 am (approx.) taking no further part in proceedings and was therefore not present when the vote was taken. Councillor Mullen, as Ceremonial Mayor and Chair, did not cast a vote.)

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the risk assessment of the reserves and assumptions made in preparing the revenue budget for 2022/23 be noted and supported, and accordingly a revenue budget of £206.565m, be approved.

(2) THAT the revised revenue estimates for the year 2021/22 and 2022/23 as set out in the report now submitted, be approved.

(3) THAT the decision of the Lead Member for Finance and Support Services on 6 January, 2022, to approve the calculation of 71,905 as the Council's council tax base for the year 2022/23 (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 £83.070m as the Council's share of its retained business rates for 2022/23, be confirmed.

(5) THAT the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the Year 2022/23, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act), be approved:

(a)	£ 723,796,907	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.
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(b)	£ 596,254,694	being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
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(c)	£ 127,542,213	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).
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(d)	£ 1,773.76	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.
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(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.
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Basic amount of council tax for the year

A minus	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£ 985.42	£ 1,182.51	£ 1,379.59	£ 1,576.68	£ 1,773.76	£ 2,167.93	£ 2,562.10	£ 2,956.27	£ 3,547.52

(6) THAT for the year 2022/23 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
126.83	152.20	177.56	202.93	228.30	279.03	329.76	380.50	456.60
Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)								
A minus	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
57.19	68.63	80.07	91.51	102.95	125.82	148.70	171.58	205.90

(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 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

2022/23 Council Tax								
A minus	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,169.44	1,403.34	1,637.22	1,871.12	2,105.01	2,572.78	3,040.56	3,508.35	4,210.02

(8) THAT the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2022/23, 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 2021/22 is expected to have a contribution from HRA reserves of £0.020m and consequently the balances held in reserve at 31 March 2022 are forecasted to be £7.187.
- (b) the City Mayor has approved a 4.1% increase in rents for 2022/23 based upon the H.M Government's formula of CPI (Consumer Price Index) plus 1%.

(9) 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.

(10) THAT approval be given to a Capital Programme of £138.208m for 2022/23 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 to the detailed funding arrangements, prior to contractual commitments being made.

(11) THAT the treasury management prudential indicators for 2021/22

to 2025/26, as set out in Part 4 of the report now submitted, be approved.

(12) 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 to the final Local Government Finance Settlement.

90. 2022/23 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 2022/23, 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 2022/23 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.

91. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23 TO 2024/25

The Lead Member for Finance and Support Services submitted a report outlining the proposed three-year Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25 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 2022/23 to 2024/25 be endorsed.

92. EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT 2023/24 TO 2027/28

The Lead Member for Finance and Support Services submitted a report detailing the process for appointing local authority external auditors for the five year period 2023/24 to 2027/28 and seeking approval for Salford city Council to become an opted-in authority, joining the national auditor appointments framework managed by Public Sector Audit Appointments.

RESOLVED: THAT approval be given to Salford city Council opting into the national auditor appointments framework managed by Public Sector Audit Appointments.

A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Council 23 February 2022](#)

Appendix A



04 2022-23 Revenue
Budget and Capital