

# Bristol City Council Minutes of the Full Council

20 February 2018 at 2.00 pm



## **Present:**

Lesley Alexander, Lord Mayor; Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol

**Councillors:** Peter Abraham, Donald Alexander, Nicola Beech, Nicola Bowden-Jones, Harriet Bradley, Mark Bradshaw, Mark Brain, Charlie Bolton, Tom Brook, Fabian Breckels, Clare Champion-Smith, Tony Carey, Craig Cheney, Barry Clark, Jos Clark, Stephen Clarke, Harriet Clough, Eleanor Combley, Asher Craig, Chris Davies, Mike Davies, Carla Denyer, Kye Dudd, Richard Eddy, Jude English, Martin Fodor, Helen Godwin, Paul Goggin, Geoff Gollop, John Goulandris, Fi Hance, Margaret Hickman, Claire Hiscott, Helen Holland, Gary Hopkins, Chris Jackson, Carole Johnson, Steve Jones, Anna Keen, Tim Kent, Sultan Khan, Gill Kirk, Cleo Lake, Mike Langley, Jeff Lovell, Brenda Massey, Olly Mead, Matt Melias, Graham Morris, Anthony Negus, Paula O'Rourke, Steve Pearce, Celia Phipps, Ruth Pickersgill, Kevin Quartley, Jo Sergeant, Afzal Shah, Paul Smith, Clive Stevens, Jerome Thomas, Mhairi Threlfall, Estella Tincknell, Jon Wellington, Mark Weston, Lucy Whittle, Chris Windows and Mark Wright

**Aldermen/women:** M Bailey, A Massey, J McLaren, W Payne, G Poultney, B Price, J Smith, CJN Williams, S Williams

## **1. Welcome and safety information**

The Lord Mayor welcomed all attendees to the meeting, and made a safety announcement in relation to the fire/emergency evacuation procedure.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jama and Radford.

## **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

On the motion of the Lord Mayor, seconded by Councillor Eddy, it was



**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council meeting held on 15 January 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.**

**4. Declarations of interest**

The Lord Mayor reminded members that at its meeting held on 25 January 2018, the Audit Committee had overseen and granted a range of dispensations to the Mayor and councillors, to enable them to participate and vote on matters relating to the civic budget 2018-19 and the setting of the Council Tax at this meeting.

**5. Lord Mayor's business**

None.

**6. Public petitions and written statements**

**Public petitions:**

The Full Council received and noted the following petitions:

Petition PP 01 – “Marvin Rees: set a no-cuts budget to fight Tory austerity!”

Petition organiser – Matthew Carey (petition presented at the meeting by Tom Baldwin)

Petition PP 02 – “Re-open the Rent Offices in Hartcliffe, Southmead, Ridingleaze & Fishponds”

Petition organiser – Matthew Carey (petition presented at the meeting by Heather Jarrett)

Petition PP 03 – “Re-open Bristol City Council owned public toilets”

Petition organiser / presenter – Owen Adams

**Written statements:**

The Full Council received and noted the following statements:

PS 01 - Oliver Fortune – Libraries

PS 02 - Catherine Ninji – Bristol Rethink Carers Service

PS 03 - Judith Caines – Council tax/libraries

PS 04 - Ornella Saibene – Budget cuts

PS 05 - Esther Giles – Budget

**7. Corporate Strategy 2018-2023**

The Full Council considered a report seeking the adoption of the Corporate Strategy 2018 – 2023 as part of the Council’s policy framework.



Cllr Cheney, Deputy Mayor for Finance, Governance and Performance moved the report and the recommendation contained therein.

Cllr Craig seconded the report.

The report was then debated.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2.28 pm and reconvened at 3.35 pm

On the meeting being reconvened, it was:

**RESOLVED (38 members voting in favour, 16 against, with 12 abstentions):**

**That the Corporate Strategy 2018 - 2023 be adopted as part of the Council's policy framework.**

## **8. 2018-19 Budget report**

The Full Council considered a report setting out the Mayor's 2018-19 budget recommendations.

The Lord Mayor drew members' attention to the budget procedure to be followed.

At this point, on the motion of the Lord Mayor, it was

**RESOLVED:**

**That the relevant standing orders (policy and budget framework procedure rules) be suspended, noting that the procedure to be followed at this meeting is at variance with the Council's standing orders.**

The Mayor then moved the budget report.

Cllr Cheney, Deputy Mayor for Finance, Governance and Performance then seconded the report.

Cllr Gollop then presented comments on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3.45 pm and reconvened at 4.05 pm

On the meeting being reconvened, the Full Council then (under section 5 of the procedure) considered and debated each of the proposed budget amendments, as follows:



### **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Amendment summary: Investing in parks, open spaces and street trees; More funding for the Better Lives programme; Reverse library cuts, maintain a full network; Investing in communities and area boards; Improve flood protection; Reduce capital financing; School expansion in south Bristol; Aids & adaptations - private homes; Remove capital contingency; Investing in parks and play; Investing in libraries - better access fund.

Funding source: Investing CIL into capital programme.

Councillor Kent moved the amendment.

Councillor Negus seconded the amendment.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was **LOST** (29 members voting for the amendment, 37 against, with 2 abstentions).

### **GREEN BUDGET AMENDMENT 1**

Amendment summary: Increase funding for the Local Crisis Prevention Fund, which provides one-off emergency support for the most vulnerable people (this was cut by £1.05m or approx. 70% in the 2017-18 budget).

Funding source: Increase income from skip, scaffold and hoarding licenses (the fee paid by developers for blocking the highway) by £100k.

Councillor Denyer moved the amendment.

Councillor Fodor seconded the amendment.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was **CARRIED** (65 members voting for the amendment, none against, with 1 abstention).

### **GREEN BUDGET AMENDMENT 2**

Amendment summary: Buy/refurbish 2 properties to run small scale (2 or 3 bed) specialist children's homes.

Funding source: Use part of the capital contingency/Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) drawdown, instead of putting it all into reserves.

Councillor Combley moved the amendment.

Councillor Stevens seconded the amendment.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was **CARRIED** (66 members voting for the amendment, none against, with 1 abstention).



### **GREEN BUDGET AMENDMENT 3**

Amendment summary: Put an additional £30k into the parks budget to allow the parks department to operate reducing the pressure to introduce advertising in parks.

Funding source: Charge for the car parking passes for City Hall which are currently issued free to councillors, aldermen and senior council staff.

Councillor Combley moved the amendment.

Councillor Hance seconded the amendment.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was **LOST** (12 members voting for the amendment, 47 against, with 6 abstentions).

### **GREEN BUDGET AMENDMENT 4**

Amendment summary: Hire/retain a planner for half a year to gather the evidence needed to support the university expansion mitigation proposals in the Local Plan (being consulted on currently) and any SPD/practice notes required.

Funding source: Use £25k from the MRP drawdown, instead of putting it all into reserves\*

Councillor Stevens moved the amendment.

*\* Note: As part of the moving of the amendment, it was noted and clarified that, in the event of this amendment being carried and included in the 2018/19 budget, the Section 151 Officer had advised that in terms of implementing the amendment, the funding source would be £25k drawn from ring-fenced planning fees (i.e. not funded from the MRP drawdown).*

Councillor Lake seconded the amendment.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was **CARRIED** (65 members voting for the amendment, none against, with 1 abstention).

### **CONSERVATIVE BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Amendment summary: Partially restore the Parks services budget; Restore Wellbeing grants to NP successor bodies; Partially restore cuts to library service budget; Partial (then full) restoration of discretionary rate relief for charities, voluntary groups and not for profit organisations; Restore, then increase spending on PCSOs.

Funding source: Remove funding for Brussels office; Reduction (50%) in PR & consultation; Introduce change to local council tax reduction scheme with staged increase; Remove expenditure on the Poet Laureate position in Bristol City Council.

Councillor Hiscott moved the amendment.



Councillor Goulandris seconded the amendment.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was **LOST** (11 members voting for the amendment, 56 against, with 1 abstention).

At the conclusion of the Full Council's consideration of, and voting on the individual budget amendments, the Lord Mayor clarified (under section 6 of the procedure) that the following amendments had been CARRIED:

Green budget amendment 1  
Green budget amendment 2  
Green budget amendment 4

Also under section 6 of the procedure, on the motion of the Lord Mayor, the Full Council noted the Section 151 Officer's statement regarding the robustness of the budget estimates.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6.05 pm and reconvened at 6.15 pm

On the meeting being reconvened, there was then (under section 7 of the procedure) a general debate on the budget proposals.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Mayor responded to the debate and to the Full Council's earlier consideration of the budget amendments. The Mayor indicated at this point that he was minded to accept an amended budget, i.e. incorporating Green budget amendment 1, Green budget amendment 2 and Green budget amendment 4.

On the motion of the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, the Full Council then

**RESOLVED (37 members voting in favour, 28 against with 3 abstentions):**

**That Full Council NOTES:**

- a) The report from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as outlined in Appendix 10.
- b) The budget consultation process that was followed and feedback as outlined in Section 18 and Appendix 7.
- c) That the consultation feedback and equality impact assessments have been taken into consideration and have informed the final budget proposals.
- d) The comments of the Acting Executive Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) on the robustness of the budget and adequacy of reserves as set out at paragraph 16.



**That Full Council AGREES:**

- e) The Bristol City Council levels of Council Tax increase of 4.99%; which includes 2% to support Adult Social Care and noting the precepts of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset, and the Avon Fire Authority.**
- f) The Council's General Fund net revenue budget for the year 2018/19 (as amended by Green budget amendment 1, Green budget amendment 2 and Green budget amendment 4, as carried under Section 5 of the budget procedure at this meeting) as £355.8 million and Directorate expenditure allocations as set out in Appendix 1 and savings proposals identified in Appendix 6 (£76.4 million).**
- g) The Council's capital budget (including the HRA) for the year 2018/19 as £244.4 million (paragraph 14) and the setting of the capital budget for each of the Council's directorates.**
- h) The Council's provisional capital budget (including the HRA) for the years 2019/20 - 2022/23 totalling £700.5 million as set out in paragraph 14 and detailed in Appendix 2.**
- i) The proposed total Schools budget of £341.3 million for 2018/19 as set out in paragraph 10, which will be funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant.**
- j) The proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19 in Appendix 4, incorporating the Minimum Revenue Provision policy and the prudential indicators and limits.**
- k) The calculations for determining the Council Tax requirement for the year 2018/19 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as set out in Appendix 9.**
- l) To approve the Strategy for the Flexible use of Capital Receipts as set out in Appendix 5.**
- m) The delegation of authority to the Acting Executive Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer, after consultation with the Deputy Mayor for Finance, Governance and Performance and the Mayor to make any necessary technical adjustments to the figures upon receipt of any further details associated to the final Local Government Finance Settlement.**

Meeting ended at 6.50 pm

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_



