

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL**  
**AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2012**  
**AT 6.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY**

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Evans (Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs Ameson (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillors Adams, Ahmed, Ali, Miss Arshad, A Aston, Mrs M Aston, Attwood, Banks, Barlow, Mrs Billingham, Blood, Body, Burston, Caunt, Cotterill, Miss Cowell, Crumpton, G H Davies, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Faulkner, A Finch, K Finch, Foster, Mrs Greenaway, Hanif, Mrs D Harley, P Harley, Ms Harris, Hill, Islam, James, J Jones, L Jones, Mrs Jordan, Kettle, Knowles, Lowe, Mrs Martin, Miller, Mottram, Ms Nicholls, Ms Partridge, Mrs Ridley, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Rogers, Ryder, Mrs Shakespeare, Mrs Simms, Southall, Sparks, Stanley, Taylor, A Turner, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, S Turner, Vickers, Mrs Walker, Waltho, Mrs Westwood, C Wilson, Mrs M Wilson, Ms Wood, J Woodall, Wright and Zada; together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

**WEBCAST OF COUNCIL MEETING**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 24.5, the Council gave its consent to this meeting being recorded and broadcast on the Internet.

**PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

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71

**APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor M Davis.

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72

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of personal interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members in respect of Minute No. 75 below:

Councillor Mrs Faulkner as an appointed Governor of Dudley Group of Hospitals Foundation Trust.

Councillor Wright as a tenant of Midland Heart.

Councillor Crumpton as a relative was employed as a supply teacher.

Councillor A Aston as an employee of West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Councillor Mrs Rogers in view of her involvement with Dudley Citizens Advice Bureau.

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73

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor reminded the Council that his Charity Ball would be on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2012 at the Copthorne Hotel.

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74

SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

It was moved by Councillor L Jones, seconded by Councillor Wright and

RESOLVED

That, under Council Procedure Rule 22.1, the time restriction of five minutes referred to in Council Procedure Rule 14.4, be suspended to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Lead Spokesperson for the Opposition Group to speak for longer than five minutes on Minute No. 75 below and to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance to speak for longer than five minutes to exercise his right of reply to the debate.

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75

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2012/13

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Treasurer was submitted, setting out recommendations concerning the deployment of General Fund Revenue Resources, a number of statutory calculations that had to be made by the Council and the Council Tax to be levied for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2013.

It was moved by Councillor D Blood and seconded by Councillor Wright, that the recommendations in paragraphs 58 to 62 (inclusive) in the report on the Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax for 2012/13, be approved and adopted.

Following the debate, Councillor D Blood was afforded and exercised his right of reply pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.11(b). The motion was put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the budget for 2012/13 and service allocations, as set out in the report now submitted, be approved as follows:

<b>Service</b>	<b>£m</b>
Children's Services	60.429
Adult, Community and Housing Services	93.206
Urban Environment	54.175
Corporate Resources	24.578
Chief Executive's	4.461
<b>Total Service Budget</b>	<b>236.849</b>

(2) That the Council Tax Freeze Grant be accepted for 2012/13.

(3) That the statutory amounts required to be calculated for the Council's spending, contingencies and contributions to reserves; income and use of reserves; transfers to and from its collection fund; and Council Tax requirement, as referred to in Section 67(2)(b) be now calculated by the Council for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as shown below:-

(a) £716.851000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2)(a) to (f) of the Act (*The Council's spending, contingencies, contribution to reserves, any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the 1988 Act, and any amounts which it estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(5) of the 1988 Act and charged to a revenue account for the year*).

(b) £605.530000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Sections 31A (3)(a) to (d) of the Act (*The Council's income, use of reserves, any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with section 97(3) of the 1988 Act, and any amounts which it estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(4) of the 1988 Act and will be credited to a revenue account for the year*).

(c) £111.321000m being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.

(d) £1125.3843 being the amount at (c) above divided by the Council Tax base of 98918.21, 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) Dudley Council Tax for each Valuation Band

<b>A</b> <b>£</b>	<b>B</b> <b>£</b>	<b>C</b> <b>£</b>	<b>D</b> <b>£</b>	<b>E</b> <b>£</b>	<b>F</b> <b>£</b>	<b>G</b> <b>£</b>	<b>H</b> <b>£</b>
750.26	875.30	1000.34	1125.38	1375.47	1625.56	1875.64	2250.77

being the rounded amounts given by multiplying the amount at (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 bands.

(f) Precepts for each Valuation Band

That it be noted for the year 2012/13, that the major precepting authorities have issued the following amounts in precepts 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:

	<b>A</b> <b>£</b>	<b>B</b> <b>£</b>	<b>C</b> <b>£</b>	<b>D</b> <b>£</b>	<b>E</b> <b>£</b>	<b>F</b> <b>£</b>	<b>G</b> <b>£</b>	<b>H</b> <b>£</b>
West Midlands Police	66.30	77.35	88.40	99.45	121.54	143.64	165.74	198.89
West Midlands Fire and Rescue	31.89	37.20	42.52	47.83	58.46	69.09	79.72	95.66

- (4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix 3 to the report now submitted, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, agrees the following levels of Council Tax for 2012/13:

Valuation Bands

<b>A</b> <b>£</b>	<b>B</b> <b>£</b>	<b>C</b> <b>£</b>	<b>D</b> <b>£</b>	<b>E</b> <b>£</b>	<b>F</b> <b>£</b>	<b>G</b> <b>£</b>	<b>H</b> <b>£</b>
848.45	989.85	1131.26	1272.66	1555.47	1838.29	2121.10	2545.32

- (5) That 2011/12 budgets be revised to reflect the variances set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report now submitted.
- (6) That New Home Bonus funding be allocated as set out in paragraph 30 of the report now submitted.
- (7) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), as set out as Attachment A to the report now submitted, be approved.
- (8) That the Council determines that a referendum relating to Council Tax increases is not required in accordance with Chapter 4ZA of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (9) That Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive and Directors be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in the report now submitted, in accordance with the Council's Financial Management Regime.
- (10) That the Chief Executive and Directors be reminded to exercise strict budgetary control in accordance with the Financial Management Regime and care and caution in managing the 2012/13 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that any overspending in 2012/13 will have on the availability of resources to meet future budgetary demands.

- (11) That the following decisions of the Cabinet at its meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 (Minute No. 87 refers) be noted:-
- (a) That the appropriate Director, in consultation with their Cabinet Member, the Leader of the Council, and the Chief Executive be authorised to determine any application for a grant or loan from the Community Enterprise Fund (as referred to in paragraph 30 of the report now submitted) from a social enterprise in the Borough.
  - (b) That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Law and Governance, be authorised to approve flexible retirements.

The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

MAYOR