

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL
AT THE MEETING HELD AT 6.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 7TH MARCH, 2005
AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY

PRESENT:-

Councillor Knowles (Mayor)
Councillor Kettle (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Adams, Ali, Mrs Ameson, Mrs Aston, Attwood, Banks, Blood, Body, Boys, Bradney, Burston, Burt, Caunt, Mrs Collins, Cotterill, Mrs Coulter, Mrs Cowell, Ms Craigie, Crumpton, G H Davies, J R Davies, M Davis, Debney, Donegan, Mrs Dunn, Evans, Mrs Faulkner, Finch, Ms Foster, Fraser-Macnamara, Harley, Ms Harris, Ms Hart-Bowman, Islam, Jackson, James, Johnston, Jones, Mrs Jordan, Male, Mrs Martin, Miller, Mrs Millward, Mottram, Musk, Miss Nicholls, Ms Partridge, Mrs Patrick, Mrs Pearce, Rahman, Mrs Ridley, Rogers, Ryder, Mrs Shakespeare, Simms, Southall, Sparks, Stanley, Taylor, Tomkinson, A Turner, K Turner, Mrs H Turner, Tyler, Vickers, C Wilson, Mrs M Wilson, C L Woodall, J Woodall and Wright; together with the Chief Executive and other Officers

PRAYERS

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, Councillor Johnston led the Council in prayer.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared personal or prejudicial interests in Minute No. 70 below (Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax 2005/06) for the reasons indicated:-

Councillor Ms Harris - Personal Interest in sections of the report on Social Services efficiency savings, Social Services and Good Health - Chair of the Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust, providers of Mental Health Services and partners in various shared social care services with Dudley MBC Social Services.

Councillor Ms Harris - Personal and prejudicial interest - Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) - Associate of Democratic Health Network (DHN), an arm of the LGIU - had a current contract as a specialist advisor with the Improvement and Development Agency supported by the DHN.

Councillor Mrs Wilson - Personal interest as a housing tenant.

Councillor M Davis - Personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to Social Services insofar as he was a service user.

Councillor M Davis - Personal interest in matters relating to Castle High School as a school governor.

Councillor J R Davies - Personal interest in grant for Dudley Citizens Advice Bureau (works for Sandwell Citizens Advice Bureau and has colleagues in the Dudley Citizens Advice Bureau).

Councillor Attwood – Personal interest with reference to Liveability Fund- Chairman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park; the Group was a potential recipient of liveability money; served on the Environmental Task Group that discussed the mechanisms for capital allocation for the Liveability Programme.

Councillors K Turner and Mrs H Turner – Personal interest in references to Home to School Transport as granddaughter was in receipt of service.

Councillor A Turner - Personal interest in references to Home to School Transport as wife received support for travel to school costs.

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MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no announcements or apologies for absence.

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SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Fraser-Macnamara and

RESOLVED

That, under Council Procedure Rule 22.1, the time restriction of 5 minutes referred to in Council Procedure Rule 14.4, be suspended to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance and the lead spokesmen from the other political groups to speak for longer than 5 minutes on the report referred to in Minute 72 and to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance to speak for longer than 5 minutes to exercise her right of reply to the debate.

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REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX, 2005/06

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance was submitted setting out the recommendations of the Cabinet 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 1st April, 2005 to 31st March, 2006.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Millward and seconded by Councillor Fraser-Macnamara that the recommendations of the Cabinet, as set out in the report, be approved and adopted.

Following speeches by the Lead Opposition spokesmen and general debate by Members, the motion moved by Councillor Mrs Millward was put to the meeting and it was accordingly:

RESOLVED

- (1) That the budget requirement for 2005/06 and allocations to services be approved as follows:-

	£m
Education and Lifelong Learning	197.521
Social Services	82.673
Urban Environment	48.960
Chief Executive's	9.145
Finance, ICT and Procurement	6.631
Law and Property	3.679
Housing (General Fund)	2.613
TOTAL SERVICE ALLOCATIONS	351.222
LESS: Use of General Fund Balances	-2.000
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	349.222

- (2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2005/06 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992:-

- (a) £528.564000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act (*the Council's Spending*)
- (b) £179.342000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Sections 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act (*the Council's income and use of reserves*)

- (c) £349.222000m being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year (*the Council's budget requirement*)
- (d) £258.690373m being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates or revenue support grant [increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988] or [reduced by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its General Fund to its Collection Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988] and [increased by the amount of any relevant sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988] or [reduced by the amount of any relevant sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its General Fund to its Collection Fund pursuant to the directions under Section 98(5) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988].
- (e) £939.2512 being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, i.e. £90.531627m all divided by the Council Tax base of 96387.02, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year [*the Council's basic amount of tax*].

(f) Dudley's Council Tax for each Valuation Band

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
626.17	730.53	834.89	939.25	1147.97	1356.70	1565.42	1878.50

being the rounded amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) 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.

(3) Precepts for each Valuation Band

That it be noted that for the year 2004/05, the major precepting authorities are understood to be issuing 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:-

West Midlands Police:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
55.79	65.08	74.38	83.68	102.27	120.87	139.47	167.36

West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
27.47	32.05	36.63	41.21	50.36	59.52	68.68	82.41

- (4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix 3 of the report, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, agrees the following levels of Council Tax for 2005/06:-

Valuation Bands:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
709.43	827.66	945.90	1064.14	1300.60	1537.09	1773.57	2128.27

- (5) That the Council reminds the Chief Executive and all Directors to exercise strict budgetary control in accordance with the Financial Management Regime and care and caution in managing the 2005/06 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years.
- (6) That the Chief Executive and Directors be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in the report, in accordance with the Council's Financial Management Regime.

The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

MAYOR