

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL**  
**AT THE MEETING HELD AT 6.00 P.M.**  
**ON MONDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2006**  
**AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY**

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Kettle (Mayor)  
Councillor J Woodall (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillors Adams, Ali, Mrs. Aston, Attwood, Banks, Blood, Body, 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, Islam, Jackson, James, Johnston, Jones, Mrs. Jordan, Knowles, Male, Mrs. Martin, Miller, Mrs. Millward, Mottram, Musk, Ms. Nicholls, Ms. Partridge, Mrs. Patrick Mrs. Pearce, Rahman, Mrs. Ridley, Rogers, Ryder, Mrs. Shakespeare, Simms, Southall, Sparks, Stanley, Taylor, Tomkinson, A. Turner, K. Turner, Tyler, Vickers, Mrs. Wilson, C. Wilson and Wright;  
together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

**PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Tony Attwood led the Council in prayer.

74

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following members declared interests in Minute No. 77 below (Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax 2006/07) for the reasons indicated:-

Councillor M Davis - Personal interest in all matters relating to Social Services as a service user.

Councillor J R Davies - Personal interest in references to the grant for Dudley Citizens Advice Bureau as he had colleagues working in that organisation.

Councillor J R Davies - Personal interest in references to Culture and Recreation - Liveability Project as he attended Friends of the Parks Groups.

Councillor Ms. Harris - Personal interest in all items involving health; including references to children's, adult and community services as Chair of Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust – joint commissioners and joint budget holders for some service provision.

Councillor Ali - Personal interest in references to Culture and Recreation - Liveability Project as he attended Friends of the Parks Groups.

---

75

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Mayor welcomed Councillor David Williams and Ms Liz Jones to the meeting, representing the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment Team.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. Ameson, Boys, Mrs H Turner and C. L. Woodall.

The Council passed on its best wishes to Councillor Mrs H. Turner for a speedy recovery to good health.

---

76

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 spokespersons from the other political groups to speak for longer than 5 minutes on the report referred to in Minute 77 and to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance to speak for longer than 5 minutes to exercise her right of reply to the debate.

---

77

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX, 2006/07

---

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance 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 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007.

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

Following speeches by the lead opposition spokespersons, the report was the subject of general debate by Members.

During the debate, it was moved by Councillor Fraser-Macnamara, duly seconded 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 Leader of the Council to speak for longer than 5 minutes on the report.

At the conclusion of the debate, the motion moved by Councillor Mrs Millward was put to the meeting and it was accordingly:

RESOLVED

- (1) That the budget requirement for 2006/07 and allocations to services be approved as follows:-

	£m
Children's Services	55.347
Adult, Community and Housing Services	74.599
Urban Environment	52.093
Chief Executive's	9.833
Finance, ICT and Procurement	3.467
Law and Property	2.276
TOTAL SERVICE ALLOCATIONS	197.615
LESS: Use of General Fund Balances	-2.400
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	195.215

- (2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2006/07 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992:-

- (a) £562.941000m 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) £367.726000m 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) £195.215000m 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) £102.089949m 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) £962.5314 being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, i.e. £93.125051m all divided by the Council Tax base of 96750.14, 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
641.69	748.64	855.58	962.53	1176.43	1390.32	1604.22	1925.06

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 2006/07, 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
58.37	68.09	77.82	87.55	107.00	126.46	145.92	175.10

West Midlands Fire and Rescue:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
28.79	33.59	38.38	43.18	52.78	62.37	71.97	86.36

- (4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix 2 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 2006/07:-

Valuation Bands:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
728.85	850.32	971.78	1093.26	1336.21	1579.15	1822.11	2186.52

- (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 2006/07 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.
- (7) That the provisional Annual Efficiency Statement (AES) as set out as Attachment A to the report be noted.
- (8) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as set out as Attachment B to the report be approved.

The meeting ended at 7.58 p.m.

MAYOR