

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL
AT THE MEETING HELD AT 6.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2008
AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY

PRESENT:-

Councillor Stanley (Mayor)
Councillor Burston (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Adams, Ahmed, Ali, Mrs. Ameson, Mrs. Aston, Attwood, Banks, D. Blood, Mrs. E. Blood, Body, Ms. Boleyn, Caunt, Mrs. Collins, Cotterill, Mrs. Cowell, Ms. Craigie, Crumpton, G.H. Davies, J. R. Davies, Mrs. Dunn, Evans, Mrs. Faulkner, J. Finch, K. Finch, Ms. Foster, Hanif, Harley, Ms. Harris, Hill, Islam, Jackson, James, Jones, Mrs. Jordan, Kettle, Lavender, Lowe, J. Martin, Mrs. P. Martin, Miller, Mrs. Millward, Mottram, Ms. Nicholls, Nottingham, Ms. Partridge, Rahman, Mrs. Ridley, Roberts, Mrs. Rogers, Ryder, Mrs. Shakespeare, Simms, Southall, Sparks, Taylor, Tomkinson, A. Turner, Mrs. H. Turner, K. Turner, Tyler, Mrs. Walker, Waltho, While-Cooper, C. Wilson, Mrs. M. Wilson, Woodall and Wright; together with the Director of Law and Property and other Officers.

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

72

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs. Coulter and Knowles.

73

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared interests in Minute No. 76 below (Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax 2008/09) for the reasons indicated:-

Councillor K Turner - All references to Groundwork Black Country and Groundwork UK; Castle Hill Development and Birmingham International Airport – Personal and prejudicial interests as Director and Treasurer of Groundwork Black Country; Trustee of Dudley Zoological Gardens and a Member of the Airport Passenger Consultative Committee.

Councillor Ms. Harris - All references to Dudley Primary Care Trust, associated service provision and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2007/08 - 2010/11 - Various Personal interests as the Chair of Dudley Primary Care Trust.

Councillor J. R. Davies - All references to the funding for Dudley Citizens Advice Bureau - Personal interest as colleagues work for that organisation.

Councillor Ms. Craigie – Personal interests in view of her position as Secretary of the Dudley Residential Leaseholder's Association and a Governor at Ellowes Hall Sports College.

74 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements by the Mayor.

75 SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Millward 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 No. 76 and to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance to speak for longer than 5 minutes to exercise her right of reply to the debate.

76 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX, 2008/09

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 1st April, 2008 to 31st March, 2009.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Millward and seconded by Councillor Caunt 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.

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 2008/09 and allocations to services be approved as follows:-

	£m
Children's Services	64.136
Adult, Community and Housing Services	98.783
Urban Environment	54.803
Chief Executive's	11.137
Finance, ICT and Procurement	17.457
Law and Property	1.535
TOTAL SERVICE ALLOCATIONS	247.851
LESS:	
Area Based Grant	-20.980
Use of General Fund Balances	-6.000
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	220.871

- (2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2008/09 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992:-

- (a) £645.385000m 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) £424.514000m 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) £220.871000m 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) £117.856160m 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) £1057.9682 being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, i.e. £103.014840m all divided by the Council Tax base of 97370.45, 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
705.31	822.86	940.42	1057.97	1293.07	1528.18	1763.28	2115.94

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 2008/09, 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:-

West Midlands Police:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
63.11	73.63	84.15	94.67	115.71	136.74	157.78	189.34

West Midlands Fire and Rescue:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
30.49	35.58	40.66	45.74	55.90	66.07	76.23	91.48

(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 2008/09:-

Valuation Bands:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
798.91	932.07	1065.23	1198.38	1464.68	1730.99	1997.29	2396.76

- (5) 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.
- (6) 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 2008/09 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that overspending in 2008/09 will have on the availability of general balances to support spending in 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- (7) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as set out in Appendix 6 to the report now submitted be approved.

The meeting ended at 8.27 p.m.

MAYOR