

# Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** on Wednesday 13 February 2019

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## **Council members:**

Councillor Cook (Lord Mayor)	Councillor Malik (Deputy Lord Mayor)
Councillor Simmons (Sheriff)	Councillor Altaf-Khan
Councillor Arshad	Councillor Azad
Councillor Bely-Summers	Councillor Brown
Councillor Chapman	Councillor Clarkson
Councillor Corais	Councillor Curran
Councillor Djafari-Marbini	Councillor Donnelly
Councillor Fry	Councillor Gant
Councillor Goddard	Councillor Gotch
Councillor Haines	Councillor Harris
Councillor Hayes	Councillor Hollingsworth
Councillor Howlett	Councillor Kennedy
Councillor Landell Mills	Councillor Lygo
Councillor McManners	Councillor Munkonge
Councillor Pressel	Councillor Rowley
Councillor Rush	Councillor Simm
Councillor Linda Smith	Councillor Roz Smith
Councillor Tanner	Councillor Tarver
Councillor Taylor	Councillor Turner
Councillor Upton	Councillor Wade
Councillor Wolff	

## **Apologies:**

Councillors Aziz, Garden, Henwood, Humberstone, Iley-Williamson and Tidball sent apologies.

Councillors Bely-Summers, Gant, Goddard, and Haines left; and Councillor Corais arrived during the meeting as shown in the minutes.

## Minute's Silence

Council heard brief tributes from the Lord Mayor and then stood for a minute's silence in memory of former Lord Mayors Jean Fooks, Tony Williamson and Lady Patsy Yardley who had recently passed away.

### 81. Declarations of interest

Councillor Malik declared that the decisions at Minutes 88 and 94 affected his disclosable pecuniary interest and he would leave the meeting and take no part in the debate on these items.

### 82. Appointment to Committees

Councillor Gant announced and Council noted a change to the appointment to the Liberal Democrat seat on the **General Purposes Licensing Committee** - Councillor Wade to replace Councillor Landell-Mills.

### 83. Announcements relating to items on the agenda

The Lord Mayor reminded councillors that his annual charity dinner was on 9 March.

He requested, and Council agreed, to **change the start time of the Annual Council meeting on 13 May to 6pm** for the formal business and 7pm for the Mayor Making ceremony.

The Leader of the Council announced that from 1 March Councillor Tidball would replace Councillor Simm as Board Member for Supporting Local Communities. She thanked Councillor Simm for covering this portfolio during Councillor Tidball's maternity leave.

### 84. Agreement of procedure for debate on the medium term financial strategy and budget

Council noted the procedure and agreed that the timings for each stage of the debate would be as detailed in the Council's Constitution.

### 85. Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting

There was one address to Council from Patrick Coulter (Headington Neighbourhood Forum) in support of the proposed governance review for a community council for Headington.

The full text of his speech is set out in the briefing note.

Councillor Brown thanked Mr Coulter for his speech and said she hoped that the report would be approved.

## **86. Report of the Council's Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of the 2019-2020 budget**

Council considered a report from the Head of Financial Services on the soundness of the financial proposals before Council. The Head of Financial Services drew attention to the key points including risks and to the levels of the Council's reserves and balances and contingencies.

**Council resolved to note** the report and its implications.

## **87. Scrutiny Response: Budget 2019 -2020**

Council considered the report and recommendations of the Budget Review Group of the Scrutiny Committee to the City Executive Board meeting on 12 February and the Board's response. Councillor Fry, Chair of the Budget Review Group, explained the Panels' approach to scrutinising the budget and formulating their recommendations and drew attention to the key findings in the report.

**Council resolved to note** the report and the response.

## **88. Licensing and Gambling Acts and General Purposes Licensing Committees - recommendations on fees and charges**

Councillor Malik having declared this item related to his disclosable pecuniary interests, withdrew from the council chamber for the duration of this item.

Councillors Cook and Clarkson, Chairs of the Licensing Acts Committee and the General Purposes Licensing Committee, presented the report and moved the recommendations for their respective committees.

On being seconded and put to the vote these were agreed.

**Council resolved to agree** the licence fees and charges for 2019/20 as set out in the appendices to the reports to the committees and repeated in the budget book at Appendix 7 (relevant Community Services Fees and Charges and relevant Planning and Regulatory Fees and Charges).

## **89. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-21 to 2022-23 and Budget for 2019-20**

Councillor Malik re-joined the meeting at the start of this item.

Council had before it and considered:

- The report of the Head of Finance and the budget and medium term financial strategy submitted to the City Executive Board for consideration on 12 February 20189
- The extract of the draft minutes of that meeting;

- The Liberal Democrat group's submitted amendments published with the briefing note;
- The Green group's submitted amendments published with the briefing note;
- The Head of Finance's comments on the amendments published with the briefing note;
- Additional recommendations to, and accepted by, the Executive Board published with the briefing note including a revised Appendix 6 (Capital);
- One individual amendment submitted and circulated at the meeting

Councillor Turner, seconded by Councillor Brown, moved the City Executive Board recommendations.

Councillors Haines left and Councillor Corais arrived at this point.

#### **a) Liberal Democrat group amendments to the budget**

Councillor Roz Smith, seconded by Councillor Wade, moved the Liberal Democrat group amendments.

After debate, Councillor Turner called for a named vote on the amendments. This being supported by more than the required 10 councillors, a named vote was taken:

**For** the amendments – Councillors Altaf-Khan, Gant, Goddard, Gotch, Harris, Landell Mills, Roz Smith, Wade (8)

**Against** the amendments- Councillors Arshad, Azad, Bely-Summers, Brown, Chapman, Clarkson, Cook, Corais, Curran, Djafari-Marbini, Donnelly, Fry, Hayes, Hollingsworth, Howlett, Kennedy, Lygo, Malik, McManners, Munkonge, Pressel, Rowley, Rush, Simm, Linda Smith, Tanner, Tarver, Taylor, Turner, Upton (30)

**Abstentions**- Councillors Simmons, Wolff (2)

With more councillors voting against than for, the Liberal Democrat amendments were not carried.

#### **b) Green group amendments to the budget**

Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Wolff, moved and seconded the Green group amendments.

After debate these were put to the vote.

With more councillors voting against than for, the Green group amendments were not carried.

#### **c) Individual amendment to the City Executive Board budget as proposed**

Councillors Gant and Goddard left before this point.

Councillor Roz Smith, seconded by Councillor Simmons, moved an amendment: *Cut communications officer posts by 1FTE and put funds into supporting Experience Oxfordshire and a 0.5FTE Carbon Accountant post (reducing communications posts by £45k and allocating £20k to Experience Oxfordshire and £25k to the part time post) to start immediately and continue for 4 years.*

The S151 officer confirmed the proposals were arithmetically correct.

After debate this was put to the vote.

With more councillors voting against than for, the amendment was not carried.

#### **d) Decision on the City Executive Board budget**

After a debate, the recommendations of the City Executive Board including the details of the medium term financial strategy, budget, capital programme, HRA, fees and charges and other matters as set out in the published agenda and briefing note for this meeting were put to the vote.

In accordance with legislative requirements, a recorded vote was then taken:

**For** the City Executive Board recommendations to Council – Councillors Arshad, Azad, Bely-Summers, Brown, Chapman, Clarkson, Cook, Corais, Curran, Djafari-Marbini, Donnelly, Fry, Hayes, Hollingsworth, Howlett, Kennedy, Lygo, Malik, McManners, Munkonge, Pressel, Rowley, Rush, Simm, Linda Smith, Tanner, Tarver, Taylor, Turner, Upton (30)

**Against** the City Executive Board recommendations to Council – Councillors Altaf-Khan, Gotch, Harris, Landell Mills, Roz Smith, Wade (6)

**Abstentions** – Councillors Simmons, Wolff (2)

#### **Council resolved in accordance with the named vote above to:**

1. **Approve** the 2019-20 General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets and the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in Appendices 1-10 of the report,

**and agree** that the Capital Budget for the Seacourt Park and Ride Extension scheme is increased by £945k in 2019-20, to be funded from Community Infrastructure Levy where available funds permit, with any balance to come from the Council capital financing reserve with a commensurate amendment to appendix 6;

noting:

- a. the Council's General Fund Budget Requirement of £24.167 million for 2019/20 and an increase in the Band D Council Tax of 2.99% or £8.94 per annum representing a Band D Council Tax of £307.80 per annum;
- b. the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2019/20 of £42.466 million and a reduction of 1% (£1.03/wk) in social dwelling rents from April 2019 giving a

revised weekly average social rent of £102.26 as set out in Appendix 4 of the report;

- c. the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme as shown in Appendix 6 of the report (as amended as set out above)
2. **Agree** the fees and charges shown in Appendix 7 of the report;
3. **Delegate** to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Board Member for Finance and Asset Management the decision to determine whether it is financially advantageous for the Council to enter into a Business Rates Distribution Agreement as referred to in paragraphs 12-14 of the report;
4. **Ratify** their decision to implement the Premium Council Tax of 100% for properties that have been empty for more than 2 years and approve the escalated rate of premium council tax when permitted to do so. (paragraphs 17-19 of the report);
5. **Agree** the transfer of property from the General Fund to the HRA as referred to in paragraph 35 of the report; and
6. **Formally adopt** the Business Rates Retail Discount Scheme and apply the scheme in accordance with the guidance issued.

## **90. Council Tax 2019-2020**

Councillor Bely-Summers left before the vote on this item.

Council considered a report of the Head of Financial Services setting out the necessary calculation to enable Council to set the 2019/20 Council Tax for Oxford City.

Councillor Turner, Board Member for Finance and Asset Management, moved and Councillor Brown seconded the recommendations.

In accordance with legislative requirements, a recorded vote was then taken:

**For** the recommendations to Council – Councillors Altaf-Khan, Arshad, Azad, Brown, Chapman, Clarkson, Cook, Corais, Curran, Djafari-Marbini, Donnelly, Fry, Gotch, Harris, Hayes, Hollingsworth, Howlett, Kennedy, Landell Mills, Lygo, Malik, McManners, Munkonge, Pressel, Rowley, Rush, Simm, Simmons, Linda Smith, Roz Smith, Tanner, Tarver, Taylor, Turner, Upton, Wade, Wolff (37)

**Against and abstentions** – none

**Council resolved in accordance with the named vote above to approve for 2019/20:**

1. The City Council's precept and Council Tax requirement of £14,201,686 including Parish precepts and £13,941,621 excluding Parish precepts;
2. The average Band D Council Tax figure (excluding Parish Precepts) of £307.80 a 2.99% increase on the 2018/19 figure of £298.86. Including Parish Precepts the figure is £313.54, a 3.21% increase (see paragraphs 2 to 6 of the report);

3. A contribution of £10,000 to Old Marston Parish Council in recognition of the additional expenditure that the Parish incurs as a consequence of maintaining the cemetery (see paragraphs 12 and 13 of the report);
4. The amount of £603,750 to be treated as Special Expenses (see paragraph 19 of the report);
5. The Band D Council Taxes for the various areas of the City (excluding the Police and County Council's precepts) as follows:-

Littlemore	£348.68
Old Marston	£340.49
Risinghurst and Sandhills	£329.55
Blackbird Leys	£313.44
Unparished Area	£310.35

These figures include Parish Precepts and special expensing amounts as appropriate; in addition to the City-wide Council Tax of £294.47.

**Council resolved to note:**

6. Oxfordshire County Council's precept and Band D Council Tax as set out in paragraph 22 of the report.
7. The Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley's precept and Band D Council Tax as set out in paragraph 23 of the report, and
8. **The overall average Band D equivalent Council Tax of £1,988.65 including Parish Precepts** (the Head of Finance having had confirmation of the Band D figures noted above from the County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner).

## **91. Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20**

Council considered a report of the Head of Financial Services asking Council to approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20 together with the Prudential Indicators.

Councillor Turner, Board Member for Finance and Asset Management, presented the report and moved the recommendations which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

**Council resolved to approve:**

1. The Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20 as set out in paragraphs 15 to 60 of the report and the Prudential Indicators for 2019/20 – 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
2. The Borrowing Strategy at paragraphs 23 to 35 of the report;
3. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement at paragraphs 36 to 37 of the report which sets out the Council's policy on charging borrowing to the revenue account; and
4. The Investment Strategy for 2019/20 and investment criteria as set out in paragraphs 38 to 59 of the report and Appendix 1 of the report.

## 92. Capital Strategy 2019-2020

Council considered a report of the Head of Financial Services asking for approval of the Capital Management Strategy 2019/2020.

Councillor Turner, Board Member for Finance and Asset Management, presented the report and moved the recommendations which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

**Council resolved to approve** the Capital Strategy as attached at Appendix A of the report.

## 93. Community Governance Review - Headington Neighbourhood Plan referendum area

Council considered a report of the Head of Law and Governance setting out details of a request to create a community council in the area covered by the 2017 Headington neighbourhood plan referendum and the proposed terms of reference and consultation.

Councillor Brown, Leader of the Council, presented the report with changes to Appendix 1: *Who carries out the Review?...meeting of Council in October 2019* and confirmed that an email address/ weblink would be included on the pamphlet.

Councillors for the Headington area asked that all city and county councillors in the CGR area see the draft pamphlet before it was issued.

Councillor Brown moved the recommendations which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

**Council resolved to agree** the terms of reference for the community governance review for the Headington area as set out in the report.

## 94. Licensed Vehicles Emission Standards

Councillor Malik having declared this item related to his disclosable pecuniary interests, withdrew from the council chamber for the duration of this item.

Council considered the report of the Head of Community Services and the recommendation from the General Purposes Committee to introduce emission standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles:

<b>Date From</b>	<b>Renewal HCV Applications</b>	<b>New HCV Applications:</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020	All HCV must meet EURO 4 emission standard	All HCV must meet EURO4, EURO 6 or ULEV emission standard  (EURO 5 vehicles will not be considered to meet this



		standard)
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2022	All HCV must meet EURO 4 emission standard	All HCV must meet ULEV standard, or at least Euro 4 if replacing an existing Euro 4, Euro 5 or Euro 6 due to the vehicle being written off by an insurance company or is a temporary courtesy vehicle due to repairs
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	All HCV must meet ULEV standard	All HCV must meet ULEV standard

and amend the vehicle age limit for Private Hire Vehicles licensed by this Authority: vehicle age limit for first licensing of new Low and Ultra Low Emission Private Hire Vehicles to the following *“The maximum age for a new Private Hire Vehicle to obtain a license is “less than five years of age” or “less than seven years of age for Alternative Fuel Type Vehicles (Tax Code TC59 definition), OR petrol vehicles (TC 48 definition) OR diesel vehicles (TC 49 definition AND meeting the RDE2 standard), that also produce CO2 emission figures of 110g/km or less as displayed in the DVLA V5 Vehicle Registration Certificate.”*

Councillor Clarkson, Chair of the General Purposes Licensing Committee, moved the recommendations which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

**Council resolved to:**

1. approve the recommended option (*set out in the report and above*) for the introduction of new emission standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles licensed by this Authority;
2. approve the recommended amendment to vehicle age criteria(*set out in the report and above*) for licensing of new Low and Ultra Low Emission Private Hire Vehicles.

**The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 9.00 pm**

**Chair .....**

**Date: Monday 29 April 2019**