

Council
22 FEBRUARY 2023

Present: Councillors: Kate Rowbottom (Chairman), Ian Stannard (Vice-Chairman), Matthew Allen, Andrew Baldwin, Tony Bevis, John Blackall, Martin Boffey, Toni Bradnum, Chris Brown, Jonathan Chowen, Philip Circus, Paul Clarke, Michael Croker, Ruth Fletcher, Joan Grech, Billy Greening, Tony Hogben (Deputy Leader), Nigel Jupp, Liz Kitchen, Lynn Lambert, Gordon Lindsay, Tim Lloyd, John Milne, Colin Minto, Mike Morgan, Roger Noel, Jon Olson, Bob Platt, Louise Potter, Josh Potts, Sam Raby, Stuart Ritchie, Jack Saheid, David Skipp, Clive Trott, Diana van der Klugt, Claire Vickers, Belinda Walters and Tricia Youtan

Apologies: Councillors: Alan Britten, Karen Burgess, Peter Burgess, Christine Costin, Ray Dawe, Brian Donnelly, Richard Landeryou, Christian Mitchell and James Wright

CO/58 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 December, and the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 2 February were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CO/59 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

CO/60 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman expressed sympathy on behalf of the Council to those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The Chairman also invited all Members to join the silent vigil being held in the Carfax on 24 February to mark 365 days since the invasion of Ukraine.

The Leader of the Council shared her vision for the Council that focused on providing quality community services, whilst maintaining financial prudence. The importance of sustainability, and Members working together was highlighted.

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Assets highlighted the impact of the landslide on the A29 on local businesses, due to reduced passing traffic. The Cabinet Member has worked with the Economic Development and Parking Teams to increase footfall with signage and free parking, and plans had been made to support businesses to promote themselves.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure & Culture provided clarification in relation to an article about Owlbeech Woods. Council were advised that the land was purchased from the Forestry Commission in 1989 and work had taken place to retain heathland and protect species that inhabit the area. Recent visitor pressure had caused disturbance to wildlife, and therefore the decision was made to close the last enclosure to the public. This decision would be discussed at the Policy Development Advisory Group and reviewed at the end of the summer.

The Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities shared the progress on the delivery of affordable rented housing. It was noted that delays had occurred due to the coronavirus pandemic, however within the next 15 months, it was anticipated that the total affordable rented homes provided by the housing company would be 28. It was highlighted that 144 units were delivered districtwide in 2021/22, which met the definition of affordable housing, and that the Council were committed to reducing the housing register.

The Cabinet Member for Recycling & Waste reaffirmed the commitment for the Council to become the best at recycling in the country. To achieve this, food waste collection was required, and detailed work was starting now on this to allow a Cabinet discussion in the Autumn. It was noted that litter remained an issue, and the Council could learn from other authorities that have tackled the issue successfully.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs advised that successful Wilder Horsham District workshops had been held. This had involved working with parish and neighbourhood councils to achieve a Nature Recovery Network. The aim was to give communities the tools required to take action, and solutions and actions were developed as part of the workshops. Feedback would be collated and parish councils would be supported in a series of meetings throughout the year. The Cabinet Member thanked the Wilder Horsham District team for their work.

CO/61 **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr Russell Shaw asked the following question:

"I'm Russell Shaw, Chair of Plans Advisory Committee for Henfield. At our most recent meeting, we were considering the Government's consultation paper called 'Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill'. In this, there is significant emphasis on the importance and key role of Local Plans. It seems all the more extraordinary therefore that the Cabinet members of HDC have decided not to bring forward to full Council a Local Plan for Horsham that can be moved to Regulation 19 stage. We believe this leaves Henfield and other rural parishes especially, more vulnerable to speculative development and, as such, wanted to leave you in no doubt how disappointing we find this.

Can I ask relevant Councillors why this decision was taken in secret and without

public scrutiny and why you feel that the risks, of leaving us open to undesirable speculative developers are worth taking? Additionally, I imagine there has been a huge quantity of work undertaken by Council officers in working to draft a Local Plan - it must be demoralising not to have all of that work discussed and voted upon by Full Council. How are you explaining this to your staff members and what are you doing to keep them motivated to continue their important work? Thank you”

Councillor Claire Vickers, Leader of the Council replied:

Horsham District Council has adopted a “leader and cabinet model” and most councils operate in this way. As members are aware, this means that full council elects its leader who, in turn, appoints and chairs the cabinet and, each cabinet member has a specific area of responsibility.

Accordingly, Horsham District Council’s constitution provides that the Cabinet is responsible for both devising its agenda (per paragraph 4b.13 of the Cabinet Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution) – i.e., it has the ability to bring forward initiatives, and, formulating the policy framework, of which the Local Plan is part (per paragraph 4d.1 of the Budget & Policy Framework Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution).

Naturally, the Cabinet agenda is not debated in a public forum and devised according to what initiatives are being brought forward at a particular time and this is done in consultation with the leader and its Cabinet/relevant portfolio holder as and when required. Therefore, the decision to bring initiatives forward to Cabinet for recommendation up to full council rests with the Cabinet in the first instance.

Your second point about officers, we do value the enormous amount of work that officers have done on the Local Plan. The decision to pause the plan was in light of Michael Gove’s decision to consult on amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework and we await clarification on the changes that he intends to make. Planning appeals right now are taking around 10 months before coming in front of the Planning Inspector, by which time we will have a Regulation 19 in place.

Mr Shaw stated that the main concern was that the delay could allow speculative development, that could put the Council at risk, or expense, when challenging these developments.

The Leader stated that she understood the concerns.

CO/62 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET**

The 2023/24 Budget and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27

Councillor Paul Clarke, Cabinet Member for Finance & Assets introduced this item. It was noted that there was a very small change following the receipt of

the final settlement linked to the Government funding changes, but it was immaterial to the discussion of the budget. Horsham District had the 32nd lowest Council Tax rates for 2022/23 and it was hoped that this would continue for 2023/24. The Council was forecasting to breakeven in 2023/24 and the net budget requirement for this period was £13.5m. This was £1.2m higher than 2022/23 and reflected the impact of inflation and salary cost pressures. The key features highlighted, and in recognition of the cost-of-living crisis, were:

- an increase in Council Tax well below the current rate of inflation;
- £1m to support those on Council Tax support and other benefits, and to support the voluntary sector;
- £15m environmental infrastructure reserve to tackle environmental improvements and decarbonisation; and
- £8.5m capital programme.

The forecasted budget deficits would need action in the next 12-18 months, however the Cabinet Member advised Council that it would be possible to continue to invest, with sustained prudent financial management. Councillor Stuart Ritchie seconded the motion.

Councillor Paul Clarke proposed an amendment to recommendation 11. It was highlighted that although the District continues to be one of the safest places to live in Sussex, the fear of crime appeared to be increasing. The Cabinet Member proposed that a Horsham District Community Safety Fund of £150,000 would be established to support the Council, and other community organisations for local projects that will cut crime and antisocial behaviour and improve feelings of safety. The proposed three areas of use were:

- To fund specific community projects, where there is a need
- To fund specific interventions, where there is a need
- To set aside funding for an additional Community Safety Officer (CSO), if needed

Councillor Clarke moved that recommendation (xi) be amended so that:

- (i) The “£1.6m food waste collection implementation” be amended to “£1.45m food waste collection implementation”
- (ii) And “£0.15m community safety fund” be inserted following this

Councillor Stuart Ritchie seconded the motion.

Council debated the motion, with the key point being whether a flexible fund or commitment for a Community Safety Officer was preferable.

The motion was put to the vote and the motion was CARRIED.

Councillor Martin Boffey, Leader of the Minority Group, thanked officers for their work in compiling the budget. He highlighted that the main area of concern was the net expenditure on Planning, with consideration to the delay to the Local

Plan and resultant increased expenditure. The Leader of the Minority Group welcomed the earmarking of reserves for carbon reduction and other infrastructure expenditure. He also welcomed the use of the £2.9m Funding Guarantee grant to support those on the lowest incomes. However, he wanted further support to those of working age on Council Tax Support as with an award of up to £150 per household, under the 90% scheme, a residual bill remained for all except those in Band A. In order to fund the scheme, it was proposed that the funds were taken from the food waste collection implementation, as the implementation phase was likely to take place in the following financial year.

Members discussed the support currently available, and it was noted that the need to claim could act as a barrier and increases financial uncertainty in budgeting. The Cabinet Member highlighted that there were significant expenses in the MTFs that would lead to the Council requiring all the reserves, however some members felt that reserves were sufficient to support the proposal.

Councillor Boffey moved that recommendation (xi) be further amended so that:

- (i) The “£1m to help support residents in need through the cost of living” is amended to “£1.15m to help support residents in need through the cost of living”
- (ii) The “£1.45m food waste collection implementation” be amended to “£1.3m food waste collection implementation”

Councillor Sam Raby seconded the motion.

After debate, the amendment to the recommendation was put to the vote and was CARRIED.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the voting in respect of the substantive motion, as amended, was recorded and was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Matthew Allen, Andrew Baldwin, Tony Bevis, John Blackall, Martin Boffey, Toni Bradnum, Chris Brown, Jonathan Chowen, Philip Circus, Paul Clarke, Mike Croker, Ruth Fletcher, Joan Grech, Billy Greening, Tony Hogben, Nigel Jupp, Liz Kitchen, Lynn Lambert, Gordon Lindsay, Tim Lloyd, John Milne, Colin Minto, Mike Morgan, Roger Noel, Jon Olson, Bob Platt, Louise Potter, Josh Potts, Sam Raby, Stuart Ritchie, Kate Rowbottom, Jack Saheid, David Skipp, Ian Stannard, Clive Trott, Diana van der Klugt, Claire Vickers, Belinda Walters, Tricia Youtan

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Alan Britten, Karen Burgess, Peter Burgess, Christine Costin, Ray Dawe, Brian Donnelly, Richard Landeryou, Christian Mitchell, James Wright

The motion was declared CARRIED and it was RESOLVED:

- (i) That the level of Council Tax for 2023/24 be increased from £162.09 by £4.85 (2.99%) to £166.94 at Band D.
- (ii) That the net revenue budget set out in Appendix A for 2023/24 of £13.513m be approved.
- (iii) That Special Expenses of £336,920 set out in Appendix C and a Band D charge of £27.53 be agreed in respect of the unparished area for 2023/24.
- (iv) That the capital programme for 2023/24 set out in Appendix D be approved and that the indicative capital budgets in the programme for future years be noted.
- (v) That the projected future budgets on the revenue account in 2024/25 to 2026/27 be noted and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy continues to be reviewed and refined to ensure that decisions are taken to set balanced budgets in these three years.
- (vi) That the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement set out in Appendix E be approved.
- (vii) That the Capital Strategy, Treasury Strategy, Investment Strategy and prudential indicators and limits for 2023/24 to 2026/27 set out in Appendix F be approved.
- (viii) That the statement on the robustness of the level of reserves in Appendix H be noted.
- (ix) That the increases to fees and charges set out in Appendix I to I(iii) be approved.
- (x) That the New Homes Bonus earmarked reserve is renamed to an Environment and Infrastructure earmarked reserve
- (xi) That £2.9m of the Funding Guarantee grant received in 2023/24 is earmarked; for £1.15m to help support residents in need through the cost of living, £1.3m for food waste collection implementation, £0.15m for community safety, £0.3m for a new path around Horsham Park in the capital programme, and that £50,000 is used in 2023/24 to fund the painting of the street furniture in Horsham town centre in time for the Coronation on 6 May 2023.

REASON

To meet the Council's statutory requirement to approve the budget and the prudential indicators before the start of a new financial year.

2023/24 Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Housing Benefit Modified Scheme

Councillor Paul Clarke, Cabinet Member for Finance & Assets introduced the report. He advised that Horsham's current scheme provided financial support for those on low incomes to help them afford their Council Tax payments. It supported approximately 2,240 pensioners and 3,160 working-age families. There was a requirement for the scheme to be reviewed annually, and the Cabinet Member proposed that it remain unchanged for 2023/24. It was also proposed that the Housing Benefit Modified Scheme continue without change.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Stuart Ritchie.

RESOLVED

- (i) That there are no changes in the Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2023/24, other than the updates prescribed by Government to reflect changes in the wider benefits system.
- (ii) That there are no changes to the modified schemes under Housing Benefit subsidy whereby the Council locally and voluntarily disregards war disablement pensions or war widow pensions in the housing benefit calculation.

REASON

The Council Tax Reduction and locally modified schemes are annual schemes requiring an annual review and approval, even when no changes to the scheme are being proposed. Review work on the scheme showed the schemes remains affordable for Horsham District Council and provides a good level of support to our less well-off residents.

Business Rates Discretionary Charitable Relief 2023/24

Councillor Paul Clarke, Cabinet Member for Finance & Assets introduced the report. Horsham District Council provided discretionary rate relief to charities and not-for-profit organisations. There was a requirement for the scheme to be reviewed annually and the Cabinet Member for Finance & Assets, proposed that the current scheme remain unchanged and continue to extend the charitable relief to up to 100% for eligible organisations.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Stuart Ritchie, who highlighted that charities welcome the scheme.

RESOLVED

That the Discretionary Rate Relief scheme for 2023/24 as detailed in the appendix to the report be approved.

REASON

Discretionary rate relief is an annual scheme and therefore requires an annual review and approval.

Local Authority Housing Fund 2022-23 and 2023-24

Councillor Paul Clarke, Cabinet Member for Finance & Assets, advised that the Government had announced a £500m scheme in late December for local authorities providing accommodation for those fleeing conflict in Ukraine and Afghanistan. It was proposed that HDC accept funding of over £2.6m and add approximately £3.2m of its own to provide 14 standard and 2 larger homes by the deadline of 30 November 2023. The Council could also passport part, or all, of the funding to registered providers, should the Council not be able to provide the total number of homes.

The Cabinet Member advised that the homes would be for use by families fleeing conflict from Ukraine and Afghanistan, but it was anticipated that in time these families can return home and the accommodation would support wider local authority housing and homelessness responsibilities.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Stuart Ritchie.

Members spoke in support of the scheme and highlighted the support that the Council had provided in previous humanitarian causes. It was suggested that the opportunity to leverage to provide additional housing in the future could be utilised.

RESOLVED

- (i) To proceed with (i) the application for, and, (ii) receipt of the grant allocation for the Council to provide or facilitate the provision of 14 standard properties and 2 larger homes (“the Housing”).
- (ii) That capital spend of up to £5.866m in the 2023/24 capital programme be approved; the amount to be added being based on whether the Council decide to or is not able to proceed with the full amount and / or passporting to a Registered Provider/s.
- (iii) That the Director of Resources be delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets and Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, the decision to provide the Housing through whichever means, or work with Registered Provider/s to provide the Housing and in both instances, to enable the use of the grant funding to be maximised.

REASONS

- (i) To use the grant to help purchase / provide more affordable homes for the district.
- (ii) Full Council must approve the capital budget.
- (iii) Further work is needed at this stage to establish whether the Council can source sufficient properties at the right price.

CO/63 **COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2023/24**

It was moved by Councillor Paul Clarke and seconded by Councillor Stuart Ritchie that the Council Tax resolution for 2023/24 be approved.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the voting in respect of the motion was recorded and was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Matthew Allen, Andrew Baldwin, Tony Bevis, John Blackall, Martin Boffey, Toni Bradnum, Chris Brown, Jonathan Chowen, Philip Circus, Paul Clarke, Mike Croker, Ruth Fletcher, Joan Grech, Billy Greening, Tony Hogben, Nigel Jupp, Liz Kitchen, Lynn Lambert, Gordon Lindsay, Tim Lloyd, John Milne, Colin Minto, Mike Morgan, Roger Noel, Jon Olson, Bob Platt, Louise Potter, Josh Potts, Sam Raby, Stuart Ritchie, Kate Rowbottom, Jack Saheid, David Skipp, Ian Stannard, Clive Trott, Diana van der Klugt, Claire Vickers, Belinda Walters, Tricia Youtan

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Alan Britten, Karen Burgess, Peter Burgess, Christine Costin, Ray Dawe, Brian Donnelly, Richard Landeryou, Christian Mitchell, James Wright

The motion was declared CARRIED and it was RESOLVED:

1. The Council Tax Base 2023/24 be noted
 - a. for the whole Council area as 64,792.5 (Item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act") and
 - b. for dwellings in those parts of its area to which as Parish Precept or Special Expenses relates as shown below:

| Parish | 2023/24 tax base |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Amberley | 337.6 |
| Ashington | 1,159.3 |
| Ashurst | 143.3 |
| Billingshurst | 4,484.9 |
| Bramber | 415.1 |
| Broadbridge Heath | 2,334.8 |
| Coldwaltham | 476.1 |
| Colgate | 1,958.5 |
| Cowfold | 871.1 |
| Henfield | 2,735.6 |
| Itchingfield | 784.5 |
| Lower Beeding | 556.9 |
| North Horsham | 8,819.4 |
| Nuthurst | 1,074.4 |
| Parham | 128.7 |
| Pulborough | 2,598.8 |
| Rudgwick | 1,450.7 |
| Rusper | 945.9 |
| Shermanbury | 317.4 |
| Shipley | 642.5 |
| Slinfold | 970.6 |
| Southwater | 4,773.0 |
| Steyning | 2,583.9 |
| Storrington & Sullington | 3,349.6 |
| Thakeham | 1,143.5 |
| Upper Beeding | 1,456.9 |
| Warnham | 1,005.3 |
| Washington | 1,120.5 |
| West Chiltington | 2,220.3 |
| West Grinstead | 1,315.9 |
| Wiston | 104.1 |
| Woodmancote | 275.9 |
| Horsham Town | 12,237.4 |
| | |
| Total | 64,792.5 |

2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding Special Expenses and Parish precepts) is £166.94
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 37 (excluding sections 32 and 33 which are applicable to Wales only) of the Act:

- (a) £99,589,198 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- (b) £84,328,628 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £15,260,570 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) £235.53 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £4,443,795 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
- (f) £166.94 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

| (g) | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---|--|--|------------|
| Council Tax at Band D | | | | | |
| Parish | Precept Amount £ | Parish Precept / Special charge for Unparished Area £ | | Basic Amount of District Council Tax £ | Total £ |
| Amberley | 34,857.00 | 103.25 | | 166.94 | 270.19 |
| Ashington | 102,984.00 | 88.83 | | 166.94 | 255.77 |
| Ashurst | 13,400.00 | 93.51 | | 166.94 | 260.45 |
| Billingshurst | 490,586.00 | 109.39 | | 166.94 | 276.33 |
| Bramber | 33,334.56 | 80.30 | | 166.94 | 247.24 |
| Broadbridge Heath | 137,928.00 | 59.07 | | 166.94 | 226.01 |
| Coldwaltham | 17,168.00 | 36.06 | | 166.94 | 203.00 |
| Colgate | 32,687.00 | 16.69 | | 166.94 | 183.63 |
| Cowfold | 72,564.00 | 83.30 | | 166.94 | 250.24 |
| Henfield | 304,789.00 | 111.42 | | 166.94 | 278.36 |
| Itchingfield | 63,000.00 | 80.31 | | 166.94 | 247.25 |
| Lower Beeding | 38,880.00 | 69.82 | | 166.94 | 236.76 |
| North Horsham | 365,346.00 | 41.43 | | 166.94 | 208.37 |
| Nuthurst | 52,410.00 | 48.78 | | 166.94 | 215.72 |
| Parham | 5,907.40 | 45.90 | | 166.94 | 212.84 |
| Pulborough | 277,323.00 | 106.71 | | 166.94 | 273.65 |
| Rudgwick | 109,500.00 | 75.48 | | 166.94 | 242.42 |
| Rusper | 46,619.00 | 49.29 | | 166.94 | 216.23 |
| Shermanbury | 26,325.00 | 82.94 | | 166.94 | 249.88 |
| Shingle | 31,638.86 | 49.24 | | 166.94 | 216.18 |
| Slinfold | 66,220.00 | 68.23 | | 166.94 | 235.17 |
| Southwater | 485,772.00 | 101.77 | | 166.94 | 268.71 |
| Steyning | 338,997.00 | 131.20 | | 166.94 | 298.14 |
| Storrington & Sullington | 277,730.00 | 82.91 | | 166.94 | 249.85 |
| Thakeham | 69,954.00 | 61.18 | | 166.94 | 228.12 |
| Upper Beeding | 222,463.00 | 152.70 | | 166.94 | 319.64 |
| Warnham | 95,950.68 | 95.44 | | 166.94 | 262.38 |
| Washington | 42,830.00 | 38.22 | | 166.94 | 205.16 |
| West Chiltington | 156,600.00 | 70.53 | | 166.94 | 237.47 |
| West Grinstead | 74,500.00 | 56.62 | | 166.94 | 223.56 |
| Wiston | 4,156.00 | 39.92 | | 166.94 | 206.86 |
| Woodmancote | 14,455.00 | 52.39 | | 166.94 | 219.33 |
| | | | | | |
| Horsham Town - Special charge | 336,920.00 | 27.53 | | 166.94 | 194.47 |

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special items relating to the dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

4. That the County Council have proposed precepts and the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner has notified precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Act for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below, be noted:

| Band Authority | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| West Sussex County Council | 1,088.94 | 1,270.43 | 1,451.92 | 1,633.41 | 1,996.39 | 2,359.37 | 2,722.35 | 3,266.82 |

| Band Authority | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner | 159.94 | 186.60 | 213.25 | 239.91 | 293.22 | 346.54 | 399.85 | 479.82 |

The Horsham District Figures are shown below:-

| Band Authority | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Horsham District Council | 111.29 | 129.84 | 148.39 | 166.94 | 204.04 | 241.14 | 278.23 | 333.88 |

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3 and 4 above the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Act, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

| BAND | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Amberley | 1,429.00 | 1,667.18 | 1,905.34 | 2,143.51 | 2,619.84 | 3,096.19 | 3,572.51 | 4,287.02 |
| Ashington | 1,419.39 | 1,655.96 | 1,892.52 | 2,129.09 | 2,602.22 | 3,075.36 | 3,548.48 | 4,258.19 |
| Ashurst | 1,422.51 | 1,659.60 | 1,896.68 | 2,133.77 | 2,607.94 | 3,082.12 | 3,556.28 | 4,267.54 |
| Billingshurst | 1,433.09 | 1,671.95 | 1,910.79 | 2,149.65 | 2,627.34 | 3,105.05 | 3,582.74 | 4,299.29 |
| Bramber | 1,413.71 | 1,649.33 | 1,884.94 | 2,120.56 | 2,591.80 | 3,063.05 | 3,534.27 | 4,241.13 |
| Broadbridge | 1,399.55 | 1,632.82 | 1,866.07 | 2,099.33 | 2,565.85 | 3,032.38 | 3,498.89 | 4,198.67 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Heath | | | | | | | | |
| Coldwaltham | 1,384.21 | 1,614.92 | 1,845.61 | 2,076.32 | 2,537.72 | 2,999.14 | 3,460.53 | 4,152.64 |
| Colgate | 1,371.30 | 1,599.85 | 1,828.40 | 2,056.95 | 2,514.05 | 2,971.16 | 3,428.25 | 4,113.90 |
| Cowfold | 1,415.70 | 1,651.66 | 1,887.60 | 2,123.56 | 2,595.46 | 3,067.37 | 3,539.26 | 4,247.12 |
| Henfield | 1,434.45 | 1,673.53 | 1,912.60 | 2,151.68 | 2,629.82 | 3,107.98 | 3,586.12 | 4,303.35 |
| Itchingfield | 1,413.71 | 1,649.33 | 1,884.94 | 2,120.57 | 2,591.80 | 3,063.05 | 3,534.27 | 4,241.13 |
| Lower Beeding | 1,406.71 | 1,641.17 | 1,875.62 | 2,110.08 | 2,578.98 | 3,047.89 | 3,516.79 | 4,220.15 |
| North Horsham | 1,387.79 | 1,619.09 | 1,850.38 | 2,081.69 | 2,544.28 | 3,006.89 | 3,469.47 | 4,163.37 |
| Nuthurst | 1,392.69 | 1,624.81 | 1,856.92 | 2,089.04 | 2,553.27 | 3,017.51 | 3,481.73 | 4,178.08 |
| Parham | 1,390.77 | 1,622.57 | 1,854.36 | 2,086.16 | 2,549.75 | 3,013.35 | 3,476.93 | 4,172.32 |
| Pulborough | 1,431.31 | 1,669.87 | 1,908.42 | 2,146.97 | 2,624.08 | 3,101.19 | 3,578.28 | 4,293.94 |
| Rudgwick | 1,410.49 | 1,645.58 | 1,880.65 | 2,115.74 | 2,585.90 | 3,056.08 | 3,526.23 | 4,231.48 |
| Rusper | 1,393.03 | 1,625.20 | 1,857.37 | 2,089.55 | 2,553.89 | 3,018.24 | 3,482.57 | 4,179.09 |
| Shermanbury | 1,415.46 | 1,651.38 | 1,887.28 | 2,123.20 | 2,595.02 | 3,066.85 | 3,538.66 | 4,246.40 |
| Shipley | 1,393.00 | 1,625.17 | 1,857.33 | 2,089.50 | 2,553.84 | 3,018.18 | 3,482.50 | 4,179.01 |
| Slinfold | 1,405.65 | 1,639.93 | 1,874.21 | 2,108.49 | 2,577.04 | 3,045.60 | 3,514.14 | 4,216.97 |
| Southwater | 1,428.02 | 1,666.03 | 1,904.03 | 2,142.03 | 2,618.04 | 3,094.06 | 3,570.05 | 4,284.07 |
| Steyning | 1,447.63 | 1,688.91 | 1,930.18 | 2,171.46 | 2,654.00 | 3,136.56 | 3,619.09 | 4,342.91 |
| Storrington & Sullington | 1,415.45 | 1,651.36 | 1,887.26 | 2,123.17 | 2,594.99 | 3,066.82 | 3,538.62 | 4,246.35 |
| Thakeham | 1,400.95 | 1,634.45 | 1,867.94 | 2,101.44 | 2,568.42 | 3,035.41 | 3,502.39 | 4,202.87 |
| Upper Beeding | 1,461.97 | 1,705.63 | 1,949.29 | 2,192.96 | 2,680.28 | 3,167.61 | 3,654.92 | 4,385.91 |
| Warnham | 1,423.80 | 1,661.10 | 1,898.40 | 2,135.70 | 2,610.30 | 3,084.91 | 3,559.50 | 4,271.41 |
| Washington | 1,385.65 | 1,616.60 | 1,847.54 | 2,078.48 | 2,540.37 | 3,002.26 | 3,464.14 | 4,156.97 |
| West Chiltington | 1,407.19 | 1,641.73 | 1,876.25 | 2,110.79 | 2,579.85 | 3,048.93 | 3,517.98 | 4,221.58 |
| West Grinstead | 1,397.91 | 1,630.90 | 1,863.88 | 2,096.88 | 2,562.85 | 3,028.83 | 3,494.79 | 4,193.75 |
| Wiston | 1,386.79 | 1,617.92 | 1,849.05 | 2,080.18 | 2,542.44 | 3,004.72 | 3,466.97 | 4,160.37 |
| Woodmancote | 1,395.10 | 1,627.62 | 1,860.13 | 2,092.65 | 2,557.68 | 3,022.73 | 3,487.75 | 4,185.30 |
| Horsham Town - Special charge | 1,378.52 | 1,608.28 | 1,838.03 | 2,067.79 | 2,527.30 | 2,986.82 | 3,446.32 | 4,135.58 |

6. That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Act, be noted

Horsham District Council Tax Band D, inclusive of the special charge, as reported to Government.

| 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Council Tax increase |
|---------|---------|----------------------|
| £167.14 | £172.14 | £5.00 (or 2.99%) |

As the billing Authority the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Act.

7. That Council Tax discount policies which remain unchanged be approved

REASON

To meet the Council's statutory requirement to set a Council Tax.

CO/64 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

Capital Strategy 2023/24 incorporating Investment and Treasury Management Strategy

Councillor Stuart Ritchie, Chairman of Audit Committee, introduced the recommendation regarding the Capital Strategy, which had been approved by Audit Committee as an appropriate overarching strategy for the Council. The recommendation, as set out in the report, required Council to approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2023/24, which formed part of the overarching Capital Strategy. Councillor John Blackall seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 and the associated limits and specific indicators included in section 4 and appendix B of this report be approved.
- (ii) To recommend that the full Council approve the Investment Strategy for 2023/24 and the associated limits and specific indicators included in section 4 and appendix C of this report.

REASONS

- (i) The Council is required to have regard to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Prudential Code for Capital Finance that require the Council to approve a Capital Strategy, Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year.
- (ii) The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) issued revised guidance on local authority investments in 2018 that the Council is required to have regard to.

Hackney Carriage Fares – Rate Increase

Councillor John Blackall, Chairman of Licensing Committee introduced the recommendation for Council to approve the revised charges for the Hackney Carriage trade. Rates in Horsham District have not changed since 2012, and due to an increase in costs this proposal has been made. If approved, the charges would be brought in line with neighbouring authorities. Councillor Billy Greening seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

That following satisfactory consultation procedure, the fares contained within Appendix 1 be approved.

REASONS

- (i) To set standard fares throughout the district.
- (ii) To prevent fraud & overcharging of passengers.

Interim Review of Polling Places and Constitutional Amendment

Councillor Philip Circus introduced the recommendations and advised that since the scheme of polling places were adopted in 2019, changes had been required due to those polling places becoming unsuitable. The Governance Committee approved temporary changes to the scheme for the upcoming elections, and approved a delegation to the Returning Officer to make changes, in consultation with ward members, prior to an election should a polling place become unavailable. This would ensure that the electorate have appropriate places to vote, should there be changes to suitability at short notice. Councillor Mike Croker seconded the motion.

Members acknowledged that consultation had taken place, and noted that a change to the scheme for 4 May had been made following responses to that consultation.

RESOLVED

That the proposed amendment to the constitution at Paragraph 3.5.1, namely:

“1(a) Will, in consultation with relevant Ward Members, redesignate new Polling Places, where such becomes unavailable or unsuitable before an election.”

be approved and the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the required changes to the constitution.

REASON

To ensure that polling places and polling stations are relevant and fit for purpose.

CO/65 **APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2023/24 TO 2027/28**

The Chairman of the Audit Committee presented the report and advised Members that following the decision by Council to independently appoint an external auditor, a procurement exercise was run and only one bid was received which was subsequently withdrawn. This meant that Council faced the prospect of not having an external auditor in place and therefore it was recommended that the Council accept the appointment made by the Public Sector Audits Appointments. It was highlighted that this would result in the current auditor being appointed, at a lower cost than if the auditor had gone through the public procurement process.

Councillor Tony Hogben seconded the recommendations, and Members of the Council thanked Councillor Ritchie for his contribution to the Audit Committee as Chairman.

RESOLVED:

That the Council accepted the appointment of its auditor through Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Ltd for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28.

REASON:

The Council was unable to procure an external auditor through an independent appointment. Folding back into PSAA will result in that appointment being made. The Council is required have an external auditor.

CO/66 **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

The Chief Executive reminded Council that the Constitution stated that Members' allowances were increased in line with officers' pay rises. Following the agreement of the Local Authority Pay Award in November 2022 of £1,925 regardless of pay grade, the Council asked the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to consider how this award should be reflected in Members' allowances.

Alan Ladley, Chair of the IRP, introduced the report and advised of the methodology and the evidence upon which the Panel's conclusions and recommendations were based. The Panel proposed a 4.9% increase, to be backdated to April 2022 and highlighted that no increase to the Special Responsibility Allowances had been made since 2020.

Councillor Claire Vickers, Leader of the Council, spoke in support of the increase, whilst noting that the motivation to act as a Councillor was not financial. Members discussed the importance of remuneration to encourage

diversity in Councillors, and it was highlighted that individuals Members can choose not to take their allowance, or to donate it to charity.

Councillor Martin Boffey, Leader of the Minority Group, also spoke in support of the increase. Councillor Boffey moved that recommendation (ii) be amended so that:

- (i) The “approve that the 4.90% increase is backdated to 1 April 2022” is amended to “approve that the 4.90% increase takes effect from 1 April 2023”

Councillor Vickers seconded the motion.

The motion was debated, and it was noted that the IRP were independent, and therefore it was suggested that the recommendations should be taken as provided to maintain independence in the determination of Members’ allowances. The motion was put to the vote and was LOST.

Councillor Ian Stannard moved that the recommendations in the report were put, and Councillor Billy Greening seconded the motion. The motion was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

- i) The report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel contained in the Appendix attached to this report be noted; and
- ii) To (i) the Members’ Allowances Scheme contained in the Appendix (which includes an uplift of 4.90% to be applied to Basic Allowances, Special Responsibility Allowances and the Co-optees’ and Representatives’ Allowances), and be agreed and adopted, and (ii) that the 4.90% increase be backdated to 1 April 2022

REASONS

- i) It is a statutory requirement that the Council instructs the IRP in relation to Members’ Allowances.
- ii) The Council must have regard to the IRP’s recommendations when agreeing Members’ Allowances.

CO/67 **CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS**

The Chief Executive advised Members that it was recommended that the Council appoint two Deputy Electoral Registration Officers to assist the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), and in particular provide effective cover to

deal with requirements introduced by the Elections Act 2022, and other matters for the ERO.

It was moved by Councillor Claire Vickers and seconded by Councillor Martin Boffey that the recommendation be approved.

RESOLVED

That Lauren Kelly (Monitoring Officer) and Aisha Nottage (Elections Manager) be appointed to act as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers with immediate effect.

REASONS

To enable the ERO to delegate functions of the role to the two deputies.

To ensure that officers are in place to discharge effectively and efficiently the functions of the ERO at all times and within requisite legislative timeframes.

CO/68 **CHANGES TO CABINET, COMMITTEE AND PDAG MEMBERSHIPS - FEBRUARY 2023**

The Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) introduced the report, which outlined changes made to the Cabinet, PDAG memberships and committee membership following the appointment of Councillor Claire Vickers as Leader of the Council on 2 February 2023, and a change to the political balance, due to changes in party membership. The Cabinet reshuffle included combining the Housing & Public Protection portfolio with the Community Matters portfolio.

RESOLVED:

That Council noted

- a) Changes to the (i) Cabinet, (ii) Cabinet Portfolios (and functions and responsibilities thereunder) and (iii) Committee and PDAG memberships, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report and which have arisen as a result of the appointment of a new Cabinet by the Leader; and
- b) That the Monitoring Officer will revise the constitution to reflect the above changes pursuant to Article 13.3 (b) 3 of the Constitution.

REASON

Article 7.1 (b) of the Constitution states that the Cabinet will consist of at least two but not more than nine Councillors appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader. In order to more effectively discharge the work of the Cabinet, the Leader has reconfigured the Cabinet portfolios.

CO/69 **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023/24**

The Chief Executive reported on the proposed programme of Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings for 2023/24. The calendar followed a similar pattern to previous years, and Members and Officers had been consulted.

RESOLVED

That the calendar of meetings for 2023/24 as submitted be approved.

REASON

To fix a programme of Council meetings, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, and to approve a calendar for Cabinet and Committee meetings, which enables the Council to transact its business in a timely and efficient manner.

CO/70 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor Tony Bevis advised that a note had been sent to all Councillors in relation to the WSCC Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee consultation on stroke services, and reminded Members to submit their response.

CO/71 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

- (a) Motion proposed by Councillor Tricia Youtan and seconded by Councillor Roger Noel

Councillor Youtan proposed:

Horsham District Council expresses alarm at the rise in antisemitism across the UK in recent years. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines on antisemitism, negotiated and agreed at an international level, were adopted by the UK Government in 2016. These guidelines define antisemitism thus:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- *Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.*
- *Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.*
- *Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.*
- *Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).*
- *Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust*
- *Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.*
- *Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.*
- *Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.*
- *Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.*
- *Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis*
- *Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.*

This Council hereby adopts the above definition of antisemitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and adopted by the UK Government, and pledges to combat this anti-Jewish racism.

Councillor Noel spoke in support of the motion and highlighted that the constitution refers to equality.

Members spoke in support of the motion, and Councillor Olson highlighted that the following the adoption of this motion, the Council should reflect on how to embed within the Code of Conduct.

The Motion was put to the vote and was CARRIED.

(b) Motion proposed by Councillor Mike Croker and seconded by Councillor Mike Morgan

Councillor Mike Croker proposed that:

This Council regrets the recent contested decision by the majority group in a private meeting to further delay the revised Local Plan and asks that reasons/explanations should be provided to them (without breaching confidentiality):

- 1) in order that Council understands the reason for the delay, and*
- 2) as to why this was not brought to Full Council so that a decision could be taken by all Members on whether or not to proceed to Regulation 19, as laid out in the January 2023 Forward Plan.*

Councillor Mike Morgan spoke in support of the motion, and stated that Members may have supported the decision not to consider the Local Plan at Full Council in January, had an explanation been provided as to why the decision was made. The risk of not having a Local Plan was highlighted, as well as the uncertainty around the Secretary of State for the Department of Housing, Levelling Up & Communities' proposals. Councillor Morgan felt that the decision should have been transparent and democratic, and made by all Members.

Some Members of the majority group highlighted that they were concerned about the delay, and that they had not voted in favour.

Councillor Tony Hogben stated that the meeting was cancelled by the Acting Leader, and it was therefore constitutional to cancel the meeting, and that the decision was made by the majority group. He advised the Council that there was an expectation that the housing target would be reduced, following lobbying and anticipated changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. Councillor Hogben informed Members that the opportunity for further consultation with stakeholders and communities would be taken, and apologised if the reasons for the delay were not clear. The intention was for a Local Plan to be considered later in the year, with revised housing numbers, to reduce the risk of speculative development. The Leader and other Members spoke in support. The Leader advised that they understood the concerns and was confident that the right decision was made and that the Council would have a Regulation 19 in place.

Councillor John Milne spoke in support of the motion and stated that although he would support the chance to review the Local Plan, he felt the decision had been made for the wrong reasons and would not expect housing targets to be further reduced. The risk of speculative development, the possibility higher housing targets as well as the potential for mitigation measures in relation to water neutrality were highlighted.

It was moved by Councillor Mike Croker and seconded by Councillor Belinda Walters that the vote be recorded, in accordance with Rule 4a.19 (d) of the Council's Constitution.

FOR THE MOTION: Tony Bevis, Martin Boffey, Toni Bradnum, Jonathan Chowen, Mike Croker, Ruth Fletcher, Joan Grech, Lynn Lambert, John Milne,

Colin Minto, Mike Morgan, Jon Olson, Bob Platt, Sam Raby, David Skipp, Clive Trott, Belinda Walters

AGAINST THE MOTION: Andrew Baldwin, John Blackall, Chris Brown, Philip Circus, Paul Clarke, Billy Greening, Tony Hogben, Nigel Jupp, Liz Kitchen, Gordon Lindsay, Tim Lloyd, Roger Noel, Josh Potts, Kate Rowbottom, Jack Saheid, Diana van der Klugt, Claire Vickers

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Matthew Allen, Alan Britten, Karen Burgess, Peter Burgess, Christine Costin, Ray Dawe, Brian Donnelly, Richard Landeryou, Christian Mitchell, Louise Potter, Stuart Ritchie, Ian Stannard, James Wright, Tricia Youtan

The vote was tied, and the Chairman made the casting vote against the motion. The Motion was therefore declared LOST.

CO/72 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

No questions had been received.

CO/73 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting closed at 9.52 pm having commenced at 6.00 pm

CHAIRMAN