

Cannock Chase Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Held via Remote Access

On Wednesday 24 February 2021 at 6:10 p.m.

Part 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Dudson, A. (Chairman)
Witton, P.T. (Vice-Chairman)

Adamson, G. (Leader)	Kraujalis, J.T.
Alcott, G.	Layton, A.
Allen, F.W.C.	Lyons, Miss O.
Bennett, C. (Telephone)	Martin, Mrs. C.E.
Boucker, A.S.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Buttery, M.S.	Molineux, G.N.
Cartwright, Mrs.S.M.	Muckley, A.M.
Crabtree, S.K.	Newbury, J.A.A.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Pearson, A.R.
Dunnett, Ms. A.J.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Fisher, P.A.	Smith, C.D.
Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.	Startin, P.D.
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z., M.B.E.
Hewitt, P.M.	Sutherland, M.
Hughes, R.J.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Johnson, J.P.	Thompson, Mrs. S.L.
Johnson, T.B.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Jones, B.	Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.
Jones, Mrs. V.	Woodhead, P.E.

75. Apologies

None.

76. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No other Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

77. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021 be approved as a correct record.

78. Questions Received from the Public under Council Procedure Rule 4B.(c)

None received.

79. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

None.

80. Leader's Announcements and Correspondence

Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups' Merger Consultation

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Adamson, advised that Members would have received correspondence earlier in the week about a proposed merger of the six Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) into one body, with a fairly short consultation period.

The Leader had discussed this matter with the Chair of the Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Miss M.A. Freeman) and it was agreed that the best course of action was for all members to let Councillor Freeman know their views on this important matter, which she would collate and pass on to the County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee as the body responsible for scrutinising the CCGs in the area.

The Select Committee had arranged a meeting at which representatives from the CCGs would be present, and the proposals would be discussed in detail. Colleagues at the County Council were fully supportive of this means of scrutinising the plans.

Covid-19 Update

The Leader advised that he had attended yesterday a meeting of the Cannock Chase Local Outbreak Control Group, at which the pandemic and its effects on the District's population were discussed.

The latest infection rate for the District as of that day was 172.7 per 100,000 population. Whilst the fall in infection rates was very welcome, Cannock Chase was still the third highest in Staffordshire and was also above the West Midlands and England rates, so there was still cause for concern and a need to continue to observe all of the guidelines.

The vaccination rate in Cannock Chase was 27.8% of the total population, compared to 30.6% across Staffordshire, and was the second lowest rate in the County. The majority of residents over 70 years old had received their first dose of the vaccination, but concerns were raised at the meeting that the District's vaccination rate was at the bottom end of the scale.

On a more positive note, the community testing uptake rate in the District was 89%, compared to 61% for Staffordshire, with Hednesford Green Heath ward being the highest in the District.

The Leader reiterated that whilst there had been substantial progress in the fight against Covid-19, everyone still needed to be vigilant and observe all the guidelines to keep everyone safe.

81. Questions Received under Council Procedure Rule 8

None received.

82. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees, etc.

The Leader of the Council introduced and moved the recommendations referred to Council from the Cabinet meeting held on 17 February 2021, which were duly seconded, in respect of the following (as detailed in the Minutes of that meeting which were circulated to all Members on 18 February 2021):

- (i) General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2020-21 to 2023-24,
- (ii) Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy 2021-22, and
- (iii) Corporate Plan 2021-24.

Consideration was then given to the Conservative Group's Alternative Budget proposals as presented to Council on 10 February 2021, which were moved by Councillor Miss O. Lyons, Leader of the Opposition, and duly seconded.

A vote was then taken on the Conservative Group's Alternative Budget, which was not carried.

A vote was then taken on the recommendations referred from the Cabinet meeting held on 17 February 2021, in respect of the above matters, which was carried unanimously.

Resolved:

General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2020-21 to 2023-24

That:

- (A) The level of net spending for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2021-22 be set at £14.667 million; with indicative net spending for 2022-23 and 2023-24 of £14.361 million and £14.520 million, respectively (as detailed in Annex 1 to the 17 February 2021 Cabinet minutes and table 3 of the 28 January 2021 Cabinet report).
- (B) The detailed portfolio budgets as set out in Appendix 2 of the 28 January 2021 Cabinet report be approved, including the amendment to the Leader's portfolio as set out in Annex 2 of the 17 February 2021 Cabinet minutes.
- (C) The Capital Programme, as set out in Appendices 2 and 4 of the 28 January 2021 Cabinet report be approved, including the additional scheme as detailed in Annex 3 of the 17 February 2021 Cabinet minutes.
- (D) The forecast outturn net budget of £15.408 million be approved.
- (E) The use of Government Grants in 2021-22 of £2.261 million be approved.

- (F) It be noted that although indicative figures existed for the use of Government Grants for 2022-23 and 2023-24, they could not be accurately determined at this stage with each element of Government funding being subject to review.
- (G) The working balances be set at £0.812 million, £1.147 million, and £1.176 million for 2021-22 to 2023-24, respectively.
- (H) A Council Tax of £225.64 for 2021-22 be approved, with indicative increases of 1.95% to the level of Council Tax for 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- (I) The Council's Tax Base be set at 29,136.82.

Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy 2021-22

- (J) The capital expenditure prudential indicator for the Council be increased to £14.458 million in 2021-22, £15.182 million in 2022-23 and £13.927 million in 2023-24, to reflect the new Capital Scheme as detailed in Annex 3 of the 17 February 2021 Cabinet minutes.
- (K) The Prudential and Treasury Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, Treasury Management Policy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2021-22 be approved.

Corporate Plan 2021-24

- (L) The Corporate Plan 2021-24, as submitted to Council on 10 February 2021, be approved and included in the Policy Framework of the Council.

83. Council Tax Resolution

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Finance and the Council Solicitor (Item 9.1 – 9.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(4)(b), a named vote was held on the proposals:

For	Against	Abstain
Adamson, G.		
Alcott, G.		
Allen, F.W.C.		
Bennett, C.		
Boucker, A.S.		
Buttery, M.S.		
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.		
Crabtree, S.K.		
Davis, Mrs. M.A.		

For**Against****Abstain**

Dudson, A.

Dunnett, Ms. A.J.

Fisher, P.A.

Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.

Freeman, Miss M.A.

Hewitt, P.M.

Hughes, R.J.

Johnson, J.P.

Johnson, T.B.

Jones, B.

Jones, Mrs. V.

Kraujalis, J.T.

Layton, A.

Lyons, Miss O.

Martin, Mrs. C.E.

Mitchell, Mrs. C.

Molineux, G.N.

Muckley, A.M.

Newbury, J.A.A.

Pearson, A.R.

Preece, J.P.T.L.

Smith, C.D.

Startin, P.D.

Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.

Sutherland, M.

Sutton, Mrs. H.M.

For

Against

Abstain

Thompson, Mrs. S.L.

Todd, Mrs. D.M.

Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.

Witton, P.T.

Woodhead, P.E.

Resolved:

That the Council Tax Resolutions 1 to 6, as included at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

84. Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 9

None received.

85. Comments and Questions on Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9

None received.

86. Localism Act 2011 – Pay Policy Statement 2021-22

Consideration was given to the Report of the Leader of the Council (Item 12.1 – 12.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Resolved:

That the Pay Policy Statement 2021-22, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved and published on the Council's website.

87. Comments and Questions on Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9

None received.

The meeting closed at 7:21 p.m.

CHAIRMAN