



CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY, 2019 AT 4:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

Copies of the relevant budget reports considered by Cabinet on 7 February 2019 can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's website:

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/council/meetings/agendas-reports-minutes/102/2019-02-07

The relevant Cabinet resolutions of that day, circulated as part of the Minutes of Cabinet, are attached as an Appendix to this Agenda.

Notice is hereby given of the above mentioned meeting of the Council which you are summoned to attend for the purpose of transacting the business set out below:-

1. Apologies

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

To declare any interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Members should refer to the guidance included as part of this agenda.

3. Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 January 2019, Minute Nos. 57 – 68; Page Nos. 34 – 38.

4. The Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

5. Housing Revenue Account Budgets and Capital Programmes 2018 - 19 to 2022 - 23: Cabinet Resolutions

Council is requested to consider recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 7 February 2019, in respect of the Housing Revenue Account Budgets and Capital Programmes 2018 - 19 to 2022 - 23 (an extract from the Minutes of the Cabinet is attached for information):

- (i) Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budgets 2018 - 19 to 2021 - 22.
- (ii) Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2018 - 19 to 2022 - 23

6. 2019 - 20 to 2021 - 22 Budget Process Procedural Rules

Joint Report of the Head of Finance and the Council Solicitor (Item 6.1 – 6.7).

7. Budgets 2018 - 19 to 2021 - 22: Cabinet Resolutions

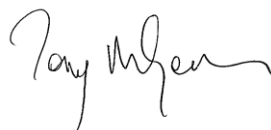
Council is requested to consider recommendations referred from Cabinet held on 7 February 2019, in respect of the General Fund Budgets and Capital Programmes 2018 - 19 to 2021 - 22, and the Treasury Management Strategy etc. 2019 - 20 (an extract from the Minutes of the Cabinet is attached for information):

- (i) General Fund Budget and Capital Programme 2018 - 19 to 2021 - 22.
- (ii) Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy 2019 - 20.

Members will note that the Council Tax Resolution will be submitted to the 6 March 2019 Council meeting following the final agreement of the budget and receipt of all relevant Precepts.

In accordance with paragraph 2.3 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, consideration will also be given to any valid alternative proposals presented by Political Groups and individual Council Members as a referral back to Cabinet.

Any alternative balanced budget proposals submitted to the Managing Director by the deadline of 4:00pm, Tuesday, 12 February, 2019 will be circulated to all Members by 4:00pm, Wednesday, 13 February, 2019.



T. McGovern,
Managing Director

12 February, 2019

GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL, PECUNIARY AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

DEFINITION OF WHAT IS A PERSONAL, PECUNIARY AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

A PERSONAL INTEREST is one where your well-being or financial position, or those of a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association would be affected to a greater extent than the majority of Council Tax payers, ratepayers, or inhabitants of the electoral ward(s) affected by the decision. You automatically have a personal interest if you have given notice in the Register of Members' Interests, e.g. if you are appointed to an outside body by the Council.

A PECUNIARY INTEREST is a personal interest where the matter

- a) affects your financial position or that of a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association or a body in which you have registered in the Register of Members Interests or
- b) relates to the determining of any consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person with whom you have a close association or a body in which you have registered in the Register of Members Interests

and, in either case, where a member of the public knowing the facts would reasonably regard the interest as so significant it is likely to affect your judgement of the public interest

A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST is an interest of yourself or your partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners) in respect of employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried out for profit or gain; sponsorship; contracts; land; licences; corporate tenancies; or securities, as defined with the Localism Act, 2011.

PLEASE MAKE IT CLEAR WHETHER IT IS A PERSONAL, PECUNIARY OR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST.

It would be helpful if, prior to the commencement of the meeting, Members informed the Monitoring Officer of any declarations of interest, of which you are aware. This will help in the recording of the declarations in the Minutes of the meeting.

DECLARING INTERESTS AT FULL COUNCIL

The Code of Conduct requires that personal interests where you have a personal interest in any business of the Council, and where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest, and you attend a meeting of the Council at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

Some items will be mentioned in the papers for full Council but are not actually being considered by Full Council. In such circumstances the Monitoring Officer's advice to Members is that there is no need to declare an interest unless the particular matter is mentioned or discussed. As a general rule, Members only need to declare an interest at full Council in the following circumstances:

- Where a matter is before the Council for a decision and/or
- Where the matter in which the Member has an interest is specifically mentioned or discussed at the Council meeting.

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 4:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 23 JANUARY, 2019

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Witton, P.T. (Chairman)	
Stretton, Mrs. P.Z., M.B.E. (Vice-Chairman)	
Adamson, G.	Johnson, J.P.
Alcott, G.	Johnson, T.B.
Allen, F.W.C.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Lyons, Miss O.
Bennett, C.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Bowater, J.L.	Peake, Mrs. C.L. (late)
Buttery, M.S.	Pearson, A.R.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Preece, J.P.T.L.
Cooper, Miss J.	Smith, C.D.
Crabtree, S.K.	Snape, D.J.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Snape, P.A.
Dudson, Miss M.J.	Startin, P.D.
Fisher, P.A.	Sutherland, M.
Foley, D.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Tait, Ms. L.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Hewitt, P.M.	Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.
Hoare, M.W.A.	Woodhead, P.E.

57. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors A. Dudson; C.I. Lea; Mrs. C.E. Martin; and Mrs. C.L. Peake (late arrival).

Apologies were also received on behalf of the Managing Director who was attending a meeting in Birmingham to discuss the Commonwealth Games. The Deputy Managing Director supported the Chairman.

58. 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.

59. Minutes

Council Services Cuts (Minute 51(iii))

The Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader noted that it was gratifying to note that, in response to public outcry, Staffordshire County Council had reconsidered its plans to significantly cut the budget for school crossing patrols.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November, 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed.

60. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence

(i) Chairman's Charity Collection

The Chairman advised that a collection box was circulating for Members to make a donation to support his fundraising. At the meeting held on 28 November, 2018 a total of £51.00 was received, and he thanked Members for their donations.

61. Questions Received under Council Procedure Rule 8

No Questions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 8.

62. Changes to Membership of Committees etc. 2018/19

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Adamson, advised of the following changes to membership of Committees for approval by Council:

Community Scrutiny Committee

Councillor A. Dudson to be replaced by Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Councillor A. Dudson to be replaced by Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton

Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

Councillor A. Dudson to be replaced by Councillor P Witton; Substitute: Councillor T.B. Johnson

Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Councillor A. Dudson to be replaced by Councillor P Witton; Substitute: Councillor F.W.C. Allen

West Midlands Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee

Councillor A. Dudson to be replaced by Councillor T.B. Johnson. The position of Substitute was offered to the Conservative Group and Councillor M. Sutherland was appointed.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee changes, as advised by the Leader of the Council, be approved.

63. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet, Committees etc.

Consideration was given to the following recommendation to Council agreed by Cabinet at its meeting held on 13 December, 2018, in respect of:

20/24 Anson Street, Rugeley (Draft Minute No. 88)

“That Council, at its meeting to be held on 23 January, 2019, be recommended to allocate £85,000 into the capital programme to fund the necessary works, subject to planning permission, to create office accommodation and interview rooms within Rugeley Market Hall to enable the relocation of the existing Local Taxation and Benefits Service and Housing Options for 20/24 Anson Street, Rugeley.”

RESOLVED:

That £85,000 be allocated into the capital programme to fund the necessary works, subject to planning permission, to create office accommodation and interview rooms within Rugeley Market Hall to enable the relocation of the existing Local Taxation and Benefits Service and Housing Options for 20/24 Anson Street, Rugeley.

64. Motions Received under Council Procedure Rule 6

Consideration was given to the following Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6 by Councillor F.W.C. Allen, Chairman of the Community Scrutiny Committee:

“That this Council should write to the Secretary of State expressing our concern the H.M. Government have missed the point by considering the imposition of a two pounds (£2) limit on punters using gaming machines in betting offices.

It is our belief that online gambling via mobile phones is out of control, and more of a threat to the more vulnerable element of our society, particularly youngsters, some as young as eleven, who gain access illegally.

Furthermore, to consider with the utmost urgency ways of imposing a levy on firms that deal online in order to try and protect our high streets, and hopefully limit the amount of shop closures in our towns and cities.”

Members debated the Motion and it was moved and agreed that, in addition to the substantive Motion, the matter should also be referred to an appropriate Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Council should write to the Secretary of State expressing the Council's concerns that H.M. Government has missed the point by considering the imposition of a two pounds (£2) limit on punters using gaming machines in betting offices. It was the Council's belief that online gambling via mobile phones was out of control, and more of a threat to the more vulnerable element of our society, particularly youngsters, some as young as eleven, who gained access illegally.
- (B) Furthermore, that with utmost urgency, consideration be given to ways of imposing a levy on firms that dealt online in order to try and protect our high streets, and hopefully limit the amount of shop closures in our town and

cities.

- (C) The matter be referred to an appropriate Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Councillor Mrs. C.L. Peake joined the meeting at this point.

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

The following Question on Part 1 Minutes was submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 by Councillor P.E. Woodhead:

“Can Portfolio Holder please advise Council of the rationale not to accept the recommendations from the Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Working Group in respect to the Outcome of their Review of the Policy for the Commercial Use of the Highway?”

Cabinet minutes from 13th December minute 81 (i) page 57.”

In the absence of the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder, the Leader of the Council read out the following statement to address the Question:

“Firstly I would like to record my thanks to the Scrutiny Committee and in particular the members of the Review Working Group for carrying out such a thorough review in such a short timescale. I appreciate and acknowledge the efforts of both members and officers in this process.

The Scrutiny Committee’s recommendation was considered at Cabinet on 13/12/18. Cabinet is mindful of the concerns expressed by some over the impact of the Policy, in relation to the costs to business and its application only to certain parts of the District, which are both considered by some to be inequitable.

Cabinet believes the aspirations behind the introduction of the Policy as still worthwhile and what the Council should be aiming to achieve. The Policy aims to ensure that businesses can use the highway to their advantage whilst ensuring obstructions cause no danger to highway users, in particular to those with visual impairment or mobility difficulties.

Cabinet determined (Minute 81(i)):

“That, having carefully considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee Working Group, Cabinet wished to balance the needs of businesses with the needs of those who suffered from mobility or visual impairment issues and to create fairness. Accordingly, Cabinet agreed that:

- (i) Officers should review the current fee structure and look at expanding the application of the Policy to cover the whole District.
- (ii) Officers should investigate whether the enforcement of highways obstructions covered by the policy could be delegated from the County Council to the District Council, in order that matters are simplified.”

Subsequently, Officers will report their findings to Cabinet and the matter will then be considered by Council.”

Councillor Woodhead stated that he was disappointed at how long it had taken to address the matter and that he considered the Cabinet’s decision ignored the views of the Review Working Group. Traders were asking him what restrictions applied to them putting out ‘A’ boards and he was unable to answer with any certainty. He

then asked for clarification on the following points by way of a supplementary question:

- (i) A clear timeframe to the conclusion of Cabinet's requested review.
- (ii) A commitment from Cabinet to support the role of Scrutiny Committees.

The Leader addressed the points in reverse order, advising first that, while Cabinet would always consider the views of Scrutiny Committees and their working groups, it would not always be appropriate to enact their recommendations. To do so would effectively mean that the Scrutiny Committees were running the Council; not the Executive.

With regard to the policy itself, nothing had changed at the present time, so the current policy stood until such time as Officers reported back to Cabinet and agreement was reached with the County Council in respect of potential delegations regarding the enforcement of highways obstructions.

The scale of charges was fair and reasonable and should not impact unduly on any business that already had in place all of the required paperwork, such as public liability insurance. Nonetheless, the review would look at the fee structure and, in order to ensure that all parts of the District were treated the same, look at expanding its application across the whole District.

66. Calendar of Meetings 2019-20

The Leader requested that the Report be deferred for consideration at a later meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the matter be deferred to a later meeting.

67. Compulsory Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 11.1 – 11.12 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The review process be noted.
- (B) A further report be brought back to Council on completion of the review.

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

No comments or questions on Part 2 Minutes had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

The meeting closed at 4:45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

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CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

CABINET

HELD ON THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 4:00 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

IN RESPECT OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS:

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND GENERAL FUND

(NB: The Minutes are presented in the order in which they will be considered at Council on 20 February, 2019)

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Adamson, G.	Leader of the Council
Alcott, G.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Kraujalis, J.T.	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Bennett, C.	Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Mitchell, Mrs. C.	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Preece, J.P.T.L.	Environment Portfolio Leader
Martin, Mrs. C.E.	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Pearson, A.R.	Housing Portfolio Leader
Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader

91. Apologies

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

97. Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2018-19 to 2021-22

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Finance and the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 7.1 – 7.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The revised position with regard to estimated income and expenditure in respect of the 2018-19 Housing Revenue Account Budget and Housing Revenue Account Budgets for 2019-20 to 2021-22 as summarised in Appendix 1 of the Report be noted.

- (B) Council, at its meeting to be held on 20 February 2019, be recommended to:
- (i) Determine a minimum level of working balances of £1.594 million for 2019-20, and indicative working balances of £1.627 million and £1.663 million for 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively.
 - (ii) Note the further 1% reduction in rents in 2019-20 in accordance with the Government's Social Rent Policy.
 - (iii) Approve the Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budgets for 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 (and note the estimated outturn for 2018-19) as summarised in Appendix 1 of the 7 February 2019 Cabinet report.

Reason for Decisions

Cabinet was required to propose a budget in relation to the Housing Revenue Account for submission to Council on 20 February 2019.

98. Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2018-19 to 2022-23

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Finance and the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 8.1 – 8.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The estimated availability of Housing Revenue Account capital resources for the period 2018-19 to 2022-23, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report, be noted.
- (B) Council, at its meeting to be held on 20 February 2019, be recommended to approve the four-year Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for the period 2019-20 to 2022-23, as set out in Appendix 2 of the 7 February 2019 Cabinet report.

Reasons for Decisions

Cabinet was required to propose a budget in relation to the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for submission to Council on 20 February 2019.

Joint Report of:	Head of Finance and Council Solicitor
Contact Officers:	Bob Kean Alistair Welch
Telephone Nos:	01543 464334 01785 619204
Portfolio Leader:	Leader of Council
Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Council: 20/02/19

COUNCIL
20 FEBRUARY, 2019
2019 - 20 TO 2021 - 22 BUDGET PROCESS PROCEDURAL RULES

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To confirm to Members the Timetable and Procedural Issues for determining the Budget and overall levels of Council Tax for 2019-20.

2 Recommendations

That:

- 2.1 Council notes the timetable for the setting of the budget for 2019-20.
- 2.2 The overall level of Council Tax will be set at Council's meeting on 6 March, 2019, following determination of Cannock Chase's Council Tax requirement in accordance with the procedural rules (attached at Appendix 1).

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

Key Issues

- 3.1 In setting a budget for any year the Council must comply with the Budget and Council Tax setting requirements as reflected in the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended by the Localism Act, 2011.
- 3.2 In accordance with regulations the Council is required to:
- a) Calculate its Council Tax Requirement (Section 31A) – Replacing budget requirement (Section 32) and determination of the District Council element of Council Tax (Section 33).

- b) Set the overall level of Council Tax inclusive of Staffordshire County Council; the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime; and other precepts (Section 30).

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.3 The overall level of Council Tax must be set before 11 March each year; however, the overall level of Council Tax cannot be set before 1 March, 2019 unless all precepting authorities have issued their precepts, and the required calculations in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 have been determined.
- 3.4 The budget timetable reflects these arrangements and also provides sufficient time between Budget Council Meetings to enable both Cabinet and Council time to undertake their duties if a budget was referred back to Cabinet and to enable the necessary calculations to be undertaken following receipt of Precepts.
- 3.5 The 2018-19 Calendar of meetings timetable being as follows:
- Council (Budget) 20 February, 2019
 - Cabinet (Provisional) 27 February, 2019
 - Council 6 March, 2019
- 3.6 Appendix 1 details the procedure notes for Council in relation to approving Cannock Chase Council's Budget and Council Tax Requirement.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 In setting a budget for any year the Council must comply with the Budget and Council Tax setting requirements as reflected in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
- 5.2 The Localism Act 2011 made significant changes to the 1992 Act with the main impact for setting a Council Tax being that a billing authority (Cannock Chase Council) is required to calculate a Council Tax Requirement rather than a Budget Requirement.
- 5.3 In accordance with regulations the Council is required to:
- a) Calculate its Council Tax Requirement (Section 31A) – Replacing budget requirement (Section 32) and determination of the District Council element of Council Tax (Section 33).

- b) Set the overall level of Council Tax inclusive of Staffordshire County Council; the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime; and other precepts (Section 30).
- 5.5 The determination of the Council Tax Requirement (Requirement (a)) is a function of all authorities, however, Requirement (b) is purely a function of this Council as a billing authority
- 5.6 The overall level of Council Tax must be set before the 11 March each year; however, the overall level of Council Tax cannot be set before 1 March, 2019 unless all precepting authorities have issued their precepts, and the required calculations in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 have been determined.
- 5.7 As at the date of writing this report the majority of Parish Precepts have been formally received and the Major Precepting Authorities are due to determine their precepts as follows:
- Staffordshire County Council: 14 February, 2019

A separate approval process exists in relation to the Office of the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime; however, it is expected this will be received in advance of the Council Tax Budget Setting Meeting of the 6 March, 2019.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

The Financial Implications have been referred to throughout the report.

6.2 Legal

The Legal Implications have been referred to throughout the report.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

None.

6.5 Human Rights Act

None.

6.6 Data Protection

None.

6.7 Risk Management

None.

6.8 Equality & Diversity

None

6.9 Best Value

None

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1: Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules (Part 4, Section 29, of the Council's Constitution)

Previous Consideration

None.

Background Papers

None.

APPENDIX 1**Constitution Part 4, Section 29 –
Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules****PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE FRAMEWORK**

- 1.1 The Council will be responsible for the adoption of its budget and policy. Once a budget or a policy framework is in place, it will be the responsibility of the Executive to implement it.

Pre-Adoption Policy

- 2.1 The Cabinet shall publicise in the Council's Annual Schedule of Meetings a timetable for making proposals to the Council for the adoption of any plan, strategy or budget that forms part of the budget and policy framework, and its arrangements for consultation after publication of those initial proposals. The Customers & Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Shadow Cabinet shall be consulted as part of this process.
- 2.2 At the end of the consultation period, the Cabinet will draw up firm proposals having regard to the responses received. The Managing Director (as Proper Officer) shall summons a Council meeting (called the First Council meeting) to consider the Cabinet proposals within 10 working days after the Cabinet have resolved on its proposals.
- 2.3 At least 5 working days prior to the First Council meeting any Political Group and/or any member of the Council shall advise the Managing Director of any alternatives to the Cabinet proposals which are to be presented at the First Council meeting. Each Political Group/Council Member shall only present one alternative proposal as a request for a referral back to the Cabinet by the Council. Such requests shall detail the reasons for the alternative/referral back to Cabinet and must have the effect of providing the Council with a "balanced budget" as determined by the S.151 officer. Any alternative proposals submitted will be circulated to all Councillors 4 working days before the First Council meeting.

The First Council Meeting

- 2.4 In reaching a decision, the Council may:-
- (a) Adopt the Cabinet's proposals as presented.
 - (b) Consider the previously advised alternative proposals (referred to in 2.3 above) as a request for a referral back of the proposals to the Cabinet for consideration.
 - (c) Following advice from the S.151 officer, approve and/or determine aspects of the Budget/Policy framework as required to comply with statutory requirements and/or Ministerial/Governmental guidance/requirements. The S.151 officer will advise the Council at the meeting of the minimum decisions and resolutions the Council must make at that meeting.
 - (d) When considering the alternative budgets referred to in 2.4 (b) the Council shall consider each alternative budget presented by the Political Group/Council

Members individually. Each alternative proposal shall be moved and if seconded shall be debated. At the conclusion of the debate on that individual motion a vote shall be taken as to whether the Council wishes to refer that alternative proposal to the Cabinet for consideration. This process shall apply to each alternative proposal in turn. No amendments to the alternative proposals previously advised (in accordance with 2.3) shall be allowed.

- 2.5 Where the Council resolves in accordance with paragraph 2.4(b) to refer alternative proposals back to the Cabinet for re-consideration, the Proper Officer shall make the necessary arrangements for the Cabinet to meet as soon as practicably possible and will also summons a Second Council meeting (the Second Council meeting) to consider the Cabinet's response to the matters referred back to it for consideration. The Second Council meeting shall take place within 10 working days of the First Council meeting.

The Second Council Meeting

- 2.6 The Managing Director will call a Council meeting (the Second Council meeting) to consider:-

- (a) the Cabinet proposals following the referral back from the First Council meeting;
- (b) adopting (with or without modification) the plan or strategy;
- (c) such decisions required to comply with statutory requirements and/or Ministerial/ Governmental guidance/requirements as advised by the S.151 Officer.

- 2.7 At the Second Council meeting where there is no consensus on the matters before Council and the S.151 Officer advises that the Council is required to make decisions in accordance with 2.6(c) above, the Council shall continue to meet until such matters (as specified by the S.151 Officer) are determined. Council Procedure Rules shall apply to this meeting. The Council shall only consider the Cabinet's Budget and those alternative proposals presented to the Council for consideration at the First Council meeting.

(Note: An example of a requirement to pass a resolution in law as advised by the S.151 officer may include the setting of a lawful budget by a certain date, or the determination of the Council Tax).

- 2.8 In approving the budget and policy framework, the Council will also specify if it wishes to limit the extent of virement within the budget in any way other than that specified in financial regulations, and the degree of in-year changes to the policy framework which may be undertaken by the Cabinet, in accordance with section 4 of these Rules (in-year adjustments). Any other changes to the policy and budgetary framework are reserved to the Council.

Decisions Outside the Budget or Policy Framework

- 3.1 Subject to the provisions of financial regulations, the Executive and any officers discharging executive functions may only take decisions which are in line with the budget and policy framework. If any of these bodies or persons wishes to make a decision which is contrary to the policy framework, or contrary to or not wholly in

accordance with the budget approved by full Council, then that decision may only be taken by the Council, subject to sections 3.2 – 3.4 below.

Emergency Provisions

- 3.2 The Executive or an Officer may only take a decision which is contrary to the Council's policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget approved by full Council if the decision is a matter of urgency, and:
- (a) it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of the full Council; and
 - (b) the Chairman or, in the Chairman's absence, the Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee agrees, in writing, that the decision is a matter of urgency.
- 3.3 The reasons why it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of full Council and the chair of the scrutiny committee's consent to the decision being taken as a matter of urgency must be noted on the record of the decision.
- 3.4 Following the decision, the decision taker will provide a full report to the next available Council meeting explaining the decision, the reasons for it and why the decision was treated as a matter of urgency.
- 3.5 Failure to comply with these provisions will render the decision liable to the Call-in procedure (Part 4 - Section 31)

In-year Changes to Policy Framework

- 4.1 The responsibility for agreeing the budget and policy framework lies with the Council, and decisions by the Executive and officers must be in line with it. No changes to the policy framework may be made by the Executive or officers except those changes:
- (a) which will result in the closure or discontinuance of a service or part of service to meet an approved budgetary constraint only (as apposed to a Policy change);
 - (b) which are necessary to ensure compliance with the law, ministerial direction or government guidance;
 - (c) where the existing policy document is silent on the matter under consideration.

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EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET cont'd

GENERAL FUND

96. General Fund Budget and Capital Programme 2018-19 to 2021-22

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Finance (Item 6.1 – 6.79 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

It was noted that an Addendum to the report (Item 6.77 – 6.79) had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It outlined matters for Cabinet to consider in respect of the premium levied on long-term empty properties.

RESOLVED:

That the following be recommended to Council, at its meeting to be held on 20 February 2019, as part of the formal budget setting process:-

- (A) The level of net spending for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2019-20 be set at £13.072 million, with indicative net spending for 2020-21 and 2021-22 of £13.301 million and £13.230 million, respectively.
- (B) The detailed portfolio budgets as set out in Appendix 2 of the 7 February 2019 Cabinet report.
- (C) The forecast outturn net budget of £12.258 million be approved.
- (D) The use of Government Grants in 2019-20 of £1.580 million.
- (E) To note that although indicative figures exist for the use of Government Grants in 2020-21 and 2021-22, they cannot be accurately determined at this stage with each element of Government funding being subject to review.
- (F) The working balances be set at £0.704 million; £1.061 million; and £1.006 million for 2019-20 to 2021-22, respectively.
- (G) A Council Tax of £217.09 for 2019-20, with indicative increases of 1.95% to the level of Council Tax for 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- (H) The Council's Tax Base be set at 28,874.46.
- (I) The revised Capital Programme, including new schemes, as set out in Appendices 3 and 4 of the 7 February 2019 Cabinet report.
- (J) The Council notes that the Authority is now part of the 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Business Rates Pool', with the 'Greater Birmingham and Solihull Pool' being dissolved following successful pilot applications for 2019-20.
- (K) The premium for long-term empty properties be increased to 100% from April 2019.
- (L) A detailed report on the impact of recommendation (K) be submitted as part of the 2020-21 budget process enabling Cabinet to determine whether further increases in the premium are to be adopted.

Reasons for Decisions

The Council was required to set a balanced budget for 2019-20 set in the context of a sustainable medium term financial plan. Detailed figures were only available

for 2019-20, nevertheless, the level of Working Balances maintained by the Council would enable a Balanced Budget to be set for the duration of the Financial Plan.

The current Council Tax Base included 92 properties that were subject to the empty homes premium levy. The purpose of the increase was to address the rising level of unoccupied properties. The current Council Tax Base calculation included provision for the 50% premium, however no account had been made in the Tax Base for the increase to 100% since the change was intended to bring empty properties back into use.

99. Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy 2019-20

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Finance (Item 9.1 – 9.64 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Council, at its meeting to be held on 20 February 2019, be recommended to approve:
- (i) The Prudential and Treasury Indicators;
 - (ii) The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement;
 - (iii) The Treasury Management Policy;
 - (iv) The Annual Investment Strategy for 2019/20; and
 - (v) The Capital Strategy 2018-22.
- (B) That it be noted that indicators may change in accordance with the final recommendations from Cabinet to Council in relation to both the General Fund / Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budgets and Capital Programmes.

Reason for Decisions

The Council was required to approve its treasury management, investment and capital strategies to ensure that cash flow was adequately planned and that surplus monies were invested appropriately.

The meeting closed at 4:27 p.m.

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

20 FEBRUARY 2019

GENERAL FUND BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR PAUL SNAPE

LEADER CONSERVATIVE GROUP

An alternative General Fund Budget, as proposed by the Conservative Group, is detailed below and, in light of this alternative budget, Council is recommended to refer back the Cabinets Budget recommendations for further consideration.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2018-19 TO 2021-22

The Alternative Budget is attached as Annex 1 and replaces Table 3 and 5 of the Cabinet Report Item No. 6 Dated 07/02/19.

In accordance with the above the following changes are made to the Recommendations to Council as per Paragraph 2.1 of the above report.

- (a) the level of net spending for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2019-20 be set at £13.105 million; with indicative net spending for 2020-21 and 2021-22 of £13.310 million and £13.240 million respectively;
- (b) the detailed portfolio budgets as set out in Appendix 2 (as amended by the changes as contained in Annex 2);

The changes to the Cabinet's Budget are attached as Annex 2 and can be summarised as follows:

Proposals for Savings

The Conservative Group proposes that the following saving option is implemented:

- **Members IT Consumable allowance is deleted.**

Growth Proposals

The Conservative Group proposes that the following growth options are implemented:

- **I Pads are provided for all Members together with appropriate training.**
- **The Support Staffordshire Grant is reinstated**
- **The fee for A Boards is removed.**

ANNEX 1

CONSERVATIVE GROUP BUDGET			
Table 3 :General Fund Draft Budget 2019-20 to 2021-22			
	Budget 2019-20	Budget 2020-21	Budget 2021-22
	£000	£000	£000
Net Expenditure			
Portfolio budgets	12,267	12,665	12,998
Investment interest	(177)	(198)	(177)
Technical items	1,015	843	419
Net Spending	13,105	13,310	13,240
Less: Government Grants			
Levy Account Surplus	(46)		
NNDR Multiplier	(97)	(97)	(97)
New Homes Bonus	(1,437)	(1,353)	(1,095)
Budget Requirement	11,525	11,860	12,048
Financing			
Collection Fund surplus	(100)		
Business Rates	(5,225)	(4,777)	(5,367)
Revenue Support Grant			
Council Tax Income	(6,269)	(6,471)	(6,682)
Total Financing	(11,594)	(11,248)	(12,049)
Transfer to Working Balances	69		1
Transfer from Working Balances		612	

Table 5 : Level of Working Balances				
	31/03/19	31/03/20	31/03/21	31/03/22
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance B/fwd.	3,136	2,868	2,937	2,325
(Applied) in Year	(268)	69	(612)	1
Balance C/fwd.	2,868	2,937	2,325	2,326
Minimum	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,061)	(1,006)
Surplus to Support Budget	1,868	1,937	1,264	1,320

CONSERVATIVE GROUP BUDGET				
Ref	Detail	Budget 2019-20	Budget 2020-21	Budget 2021-22
		£	£	£
	<u>Health & Well Being</u>			
6	Licensing Income			
a.	Delete charge for A Boards	15,000	15,300	15,610
	<u>Leader of the Council Portfolio</u>			
1	Democratic Services Expenditure			
b.	Remove Members IT Consumable Allowance	-16,400	-16,400	-16,400
c.	Provide I pads to all Members	24,500		
5	Grants & Contributions Expenditure			
d.	Reinstate Support Staffordshire Grant	10,000	10,200	10,400
	TOTAL	33,100	9,100	9,610

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

20 FEBRUARY 2019

GENERAL FUND BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

**ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR PAUL WOODHEAD ON
BEHALF OF THE GREEN PARTY**

The Green Party have determined a number of policy changes for consideration as part of the Budget Process. In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework an Alternative General Fund Budget (Revenue and Capital Programme) is proposed by the Green Party and is detailed overleaf .In considering the Alternative Budget the Green Party would like the following context to be taken into account.

The process of setting a budget presents an opportunity for all councillors to consider alternatives which may enhance how we collectively discharge our responsibilities to our residents. We are asking for a small number of targeted variations to be considered by Cabinet as part of the overall budget process. If members vote to support these ideas at our meeting of 20th February, this then opens a dialogue with the Cabinet to agree what can be done and how we offset the financial cost ahead of agreeing the final budget and precepts at our meeting of 6th March. We are seeking to look at three specific areas around our known position of opposition to the A Boards policy, community engagement particularly around litter but more generally addressing the gap between what the community now undertakes for themselves where councils are no longer servicing and finally an outline financial commitment to address the climate emergency following the referral to scrutiny of our motion a couple of months ago and in anticipation of the work and recommendations coming forward in due course. The balancing financial items have been brought forward from the Financial Review Process and are included as illustrative examples required by the process to demonstrate a balanced budget. Our preference is to discuss with the Cabinet where corresponding cuts need to be made and priorities changed. We see this very much as a process of engagement and consensus building and welcome any members to speak with us about the proposals ahead of the Council meeting.

In light of this alternative budget, Council is recommended to refer back the Cabinets Budget recommendations for further consideration.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2018-19 TO 2021-22

The Alternative Budget includes 3 priorities for consideration within the budget process notably:-

- **Budget to address Climate Energy**
- **Funds to be available for a Community Engagement organisation**
- **Reversal of A Board Policy**

The options are to be funded at this stage from indicative proposals, as selected from the Financial Recovery Plan, although other proposals are open for consideration.

The Growth Proposals of the Alternative Budget are attached as Annex 1 and the saving proposals at Annex2.

The Alternative Budget contains no changes to Tables 3 and 5 of the Cabinet Report Item No. 6 Dated 07/02/19, with only the changes relating to Portfolio Budgets as highlighted in Annex 1 and .2.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018-19 TO 2021-22

The Alternative Capital Programme includes one new priority notably:-

- **The reallocation of £1million from the District Investment Fund for capital investment in climate action programmes.**

The change to the Capital Programme is shown in Annex 3.

No other changes are proposed to the Capital Programme

In accordance with the above the following changes are made to the Recommendations to Council as per Paragraph 2.1 of the above report.

- 2.1.b the detailed portfolio budgets as set out in Appendix 2 (as amended by the changes as contained in Annex 1 and 2 of the Alternative Budget);
- 2.1.i the revised capital programme , including new schemes, as set out in Appendices 3 and 4. (as amended by the changes as contained at Annex 3 of this Alternative Budget)

GREEN PARTY BUDGET GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET GROWTH PROPOSALS				
Ref	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Budget</u> 2019-20	<u>Budget</u> 2020-21	<u>Budget</u> 2021-22
		£	£	£
	<u>Environment (Item 6.46)</u>			
	<u>Climate Emergency</u>			
a.	Budget to address Climate Emergency	72,750	74,210	75,690
	<u>Health & Well Being(Item 6.53)</u>			
5	Licensing			
b.	Deletion of A Boards Policy	-	-	-
	<u>Leader of the Council Portfolio (Item6.61)</u>			
5	Grants & Contributions			
d.	Community Engagement	20,000	20,000	20,000
	TOTAL	92,750	94,210	95,690

GREEN PARTY BUDGET GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS				
Ref	Detail	Budget 2019-20 £	Budget 2020-21 £	Budget 2021-22 £
	<u>Corporate Improvement (Item 6.27)</u>			
6	<u>Corporate Services</u>	-5,000	-5,100	-5,200
a.	Rationalisation of Staffing Corporate Services /Land Charges			
	<u>Crime & Partnerships (item 6.33)</u>			
2	<u>CCTV Services</u>			
b.	Reduce operating hours (early morning shifts)	-11,800	-12,040	-12,280
	<u>Economic Development & Planning (Item 6.37)</u>			
3	<u>Development Control</u>			
c.	Review of Customer Services Support	-18,620	-18,990	-19,370
	<u>Culture & Sport (Item 6.36)</u>			
1	<u>Parks and Open spaces</u>			
d.	Withdraw from green Flag application Process	-1,330	-1,360	-1,390
e.	Cessation of Floral Displays (Town Centres etc.)	-12,000	-12,240	-12,480
	<u>Health & Well Being(Item 6.53)</u>			
5	<u>Taxation</u>			
f.	Reduction in Benefit Processing Performance	-44,000	-44,880	-45,780
	TOTAL	-92,750	-94,610	-96,500

ANNEX 3.

GREEN PARTY BUDGET CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018-19 TO 2021-22 (ITEM 6.69) PROPOSED CHANGES				
Ref	Detail	<u>Total Programm £'000</u>	<u>General Fund £'000</u>	<u>Section 106 £'000</u>
<u>1. Proposed</u>				
	<u>Environment</u>			
a.	Climate Action Programme	1,000	1,000	-
	<u>Economic Regeneration & Planning</u>			
b.	District Investment Fund	4,745	4,745	-
	TOTAL	5,745	5,745	-
<u>2. Existing</u>				
	<u>Economic Regeneration & Planning</u>			
b.	District Investment Fund	5,745	5,745	-
	TOTAL	5,745	5,745	-