

## **THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESTER-LE-STREET**

Minutes of the proceedings at the Special Meeting of the District Council of Chester-le-Street held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Chester-le-Street on Thursday 2 March 2006 at 6.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillor A Turner (Chairman)

Councillors:

A Willis	L E W Brown
S C L Westrip	L Ebbatson
C Jukes	P H May
J W Barrett	G Armstrong
J J Evans	A Humes
G A N Kerr	G K Davidson
S A Henig	R Harrison
S Barr	M Gollan
A K Holden	J M Proud
I S Smith	

Officers: R Templeman (Chief Executive), L Chambers (Director of Resources), C Potter (Legal and Democratic Services Manager), I Herberson (Finance and Accountancy Manager), I Forster (Assistant Chief Executive), T Galloway (Director of Development Services), I Broughton (Director of Community Services), P Stephens (Head of Housing Services), R Humphrey (Property Services Manager), A Swinney (Head of Organisational Development) and C Turnbull (Democratic Services Officer).

### **161 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors P Ellis, D Holding, W Laverick, R Richardson, D Robson, C Carr, M Potts, K Potts, S Gollan, D S Meek, D Stoker and K Greenwell.

### **162 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of Interest were advised by Members as follows: -

Councillors C Jukes and S A Henig declared personal and prejudicial interests in Section 12 of item 4 as it related to Selby Cottage.

Councillor M Gollan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 4 as a trustee of the CVS

Councillor A Willis declared a personal interest in item 5 as a member of the Tenants Panel

**163 SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

A report from the Director of Resources reminding Members that Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council to consider all of its budgets, policies and plans from the standpoint of their potential contribution to the reduction of crime and disorder, was submitted.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the need to take into account this duty be noted.”

**Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor M Gollan left the meeting.**

**164 2006/7 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Resources on the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2006/2007 that listed the recommendations of the Executive and comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

Councillor S A Henig thanked all Officers and Members for their involvement in the budget process which had commenced before the grant settlement was announced by the Government. He was pleased to report that savings had been identified without major cuts in services. Growth is limited and is contingent on resources being found during the year. The Band D increase proposed was £7.77 which equates to 15p per week and as there are more Band A properties in the District, the increase for most households will be less. The District Council share of the Council Tax Bill will be only 13%.

The Leader thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Panels for their comments.

The Council RESOLVED:

- “1. That the comments of the Statutory Finance Officer be noted.
2. That the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels be noted.
3. That the recommendations of the Executive as detailed in the report be agreed and the net General Fund Revenue Budget of £7,815,767 for 2006/7 be approved.
4. That a Band D Council Tax of £168.00 for 2006/7 be approved.”

**Councillor M Gollan returned to the meeting**

## **165 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**

Consideration was given to a joint report from the Director of Community Services and the Finance and Accountancy Manager on the probable outturn for 2005/6, the budget for 2006/7 and the issues that require decisions.

Councillor I S Smith commented that the reduction in Government subsidy was disappointing and as a result savings had to be achieved within the budget.

The Council RECOMMENDED:

- “1. That the comments of the Statutory Finance Officer be noted.
2. That the comments from the Safe and Healthy Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Tenants Panel be noted.
3. That the recommendations from the Executive as detailed in the report be agreed.
4. That a rent rise in accordance with the Governments requirements of rent restructuring resulting in an average rent of £48.92 per week based on 50 weeks be approved.
5. That garage rents be increased by 20p per week to £5.10 per week.
6. That energy charges be increased to £3.80 for a bed sit, £5.60 for a flat and £7.30 for Warden accommodation.
7. That the Housing Revenue Account Budget as presented be approved.”

## **166 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/7**

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Resources advising of the demands on the 2006/7 general fund capital programme and the available resources.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the recommendations of the Executive as detailed in the report be approved.”

## **167 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - 3 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Community Services seeking approval for the 2006/7 to 2008/9 Public Sector Housing Capital Programme.

The Council RESOLVED:

- “1. That the 3 year capital programme as detailed in the appendix to the report be approved.
2. That the Director of Community Services arrange for details of the programme to be published to tenants throughout the District.
3. That the Director of Community Services report to the Executive on detailed arrangements for the delivery of the HRA Capital Programme in 2006/7, through partnering arrangements.”

#### **168 COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2006/7**

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Resources on the 2006/7 Council Tax setting.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the amounts of tax for each valuation band within each part of the Authority as detailed in the appendix to the report be approved.”

#### **169 COUNCIL TAX 2006/7**

The Council RESOLVED:

- “1. That the revised General Fund revenue budget for 2005/2006 and the General Fund revenue budget for 2006/2007 as submitted to this Council Meeting be approved.
2. That it be noted that at its meeting on 26 January 2006 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2006/2007 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
  - a) 16,968.70 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities’ (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax base for the year.
  - b) Part of the Council’s area:-

Parish of Bournmoor	686.84
Parish of Edmondsley	176.32
Parish of Great Lumley	1,199.83
Parish of Kimblesworth and Plawsworth	506.29
Parish of Little Lumley	524.61
Parish of North Lodge	895.27
Parish of Ouston	915.56
Parish of Pelton	1,814.27
Parish of Sacriston	1,374.37
Parish of Urpeth	1,116.79
Parish of Waldrige	1,475.63

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2006/2007 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
  - a) £28,523,527 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
  - b) £20,526,360 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
  - c) £7,997,167 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 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
  - d) £4,965,026 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, additional grant or relevant special grant increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) Directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7 February 1994.
  - e) £178.69 being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(d) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
  - f) £181,400 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
  - g) £168.00 being the amount at 3(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(f) above by the amount at 2(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 special item relates.

h) Part of the Council's area:-

£

Parish of Bournmoor	185.47
Parish of Edmondsley	174.81
Parish of Great Lumley	183.00
Parish of Kimblesworth and Plawsworth	184.79
Parish of Little Lumley	179.44
Parish of North Lodge	188.11
Parish of Ouston	177.83
Parish of Pelton	189.50
Parish of Sacriston	189.83
Parish of Urpeth	185.01
Parish of Waldrige	182.03

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) 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.

i) Valuation Bands

Part of the Council's area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Bournmoor	123.65	144.25	164.86	185.47	226.69	267.90	309.12	370.94
Edmondsley	116.54	135.96	155.39	174.81	213.66	252.50	291.35	349.62
Great Lumley	122.00	142.33	162.67	183.00	223.67	264.33	305.00	366.00
Kimblesworth	123.19	143.73	164.26	184.79	225.85	266.92	307.98	369.58
Little Lumley	119.63	139.56	159.50	179.44	219.32	259.19	299.07	358.88
North Lodge	125.41	146.31	167.21	188.11	229.91	271.71	313.52	376.22
Ouston	118.55	138.31	158.07	177.83	217.35	256.87	296.38	355.66
Pelton	126.33	147.39	168.44	189.50	231.61	273.72	315.83	379.00
Sacriston	126.55	147.65	168.74	189.83	232.01	274.20	316.38	379.66
Urpeth	123.34	143.90	164.45	185.01	226.12	267.24	308.35	370.02
Waldrige	121.35	141.58	161.80	182.03	222.48	262.93	303.38	364.06
Ch-le-St	112.00	130.67	149.33	168.00	205.33	242.67	280.00	336.00

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) and 3(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2006/2007 the Durham County Council, Durham Police Authority and the Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

<u>Precepting Authority</u>	<b>Valuation Bands</b>							
	<u>Band A</u>	<u>Band B</u>	<u>Band C</u>	<u>Band D</u>	<u>Band E</u>	<u>Band F</u>	<u>Band G</u>	<u>Band H</u>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Durham County Council	644.94	752.43	859.92	967.41	1182.39	1397.37	1612.35	1934.82
Durham Police Authority	67.20	78.40	89.60	100.80	123.20	145.60	168.00	201.60
Durham & Darlington Fire Authority	51.36	59.92	68.48	77.04	94.16	111.28	128.40	154.08

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(i) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts at the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2006/2007 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

<b>Part of the Council's area</b>	<b>Band A</b>	<b>Band B</b>	<b>Band C</b>	<b>Band D</b>	<b>Band E</b>	<b>Band F</b>	<b>Band G</b>	<b>Band H</b>
Bournmoor	887.15	1035.00	1182.86	1330.72	1626.44	1922.15	2217.87	2661.44
Edmondsley	880.04	1026.71	1173.39	1320.06	1613.41	1906.75	2200.10	2640.12
Great Lumley	885.50	1033.08	1180.67	1328.25	1623.42	1918.58	2213.75	2656.50
Kimbleworth	886.69	1034.48	1182.26	1330.04	1625.60	1921.17	2216.73	2660.08
Little Lumley	883.13	1030.31	1177.50	1324.69	1619.07	1913.44	2207.82	2649.38
North Lodge	888.91	1037.06	1185.21	1333.36	1629.66	1925.96	2222.27	2666.72
Ouston	882.05	1029.06	1176.07	1323.08	1617.10	1911.12	2205.13	2646.16
Pelton	889.83	1038.14	1186.44	1334.75	1631.36	1927.97	2224.58	2669.50
Sacriston	890.05	1038.40	1186.74	1335.08	1631.76	1928.45	2225.13	2670.16
Urpeth	886.84	1034.65	1182.45	1330.26	1625.87	1921.49	2217.10	2660.52
Waldrige	884.85	1032.33	1179.80	1327.28	1622.23	1917.18	2212.13	2654.56
Ch-le-St	875.50	1021.42	1167.33	1313.25	1605.08	1896.92	2188.75	2626.50

6. That the Director of Resources be authorised to serve notices, enter into agreements, give receipts, make adjustments, institute proceedings and take any action available to the Council to collect or enforce the collection of the Non-Domestic Rate and the Council Tax from those persons liable.

## **170 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2006/7 – 2008/9**

Consideration was given to a report from the Finance and Accountancy Manager seeking approval to a Treasury Management Strategy for the period 2006/7 to 2008/9.

The Council RESOLVED:

- “1. That the Treasury Management Strategy detailed in the report be approved.
2. That the Treasury Management Practice – Credit and Counterparty Risk Management provisions detailed in appendix 1 to the report be approved.
3. That the schedule of counterparties detailed in appendix 2 to the report be approved.”

## **171 PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**

Consideration was given to a report from the Finance and Accountancy Manager seeking approval to prudential indicators that are primarily concerned with affordability, prudence and sustainability, and which impact on treasury management strategy.

The Council RESOLVED:

“That the prudential indicators and limits for the three year period 2006/7 to 2008/9, as detailed in the report, be approved.”

The Leader thanked Councillor Henig, Portfolio Holder, the Director of Resources and her staff for all the work involved in the budget process.

The meeting terminated at 6.40pm