

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL8 February 2018 at 7.30pmThe Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor I A Chaudhri) in the chair.

Members of the Council present Councillors A Alderson, D E Anderson-Bassey, J R Ashmore, Miss E Bancroft, J Broadhead, I A Chaudhri, Mrs D V Clarke, D A Cotty, R J Edis, J R Furey, Mrs L M Gillham, Mrs J Gracey, T Gracey, Mrs M T Harnden, N M King, D J Knight, M T Kusneraitis, Mrs Y P Lay, S Lewis, M J Maddox, M Nuti, D W Parr, B W Pitt, N Prescott, Ms C Simmons, Miss J K Sohi, P S Sohi, A P Tollett, P J Waddell, Mrs G Warner, M Willingale and J Wilson.

Members of the Council absent: Councillors T Dicks, Mrs E Gill, Miss M N Heath, Miss D Khalique, Mrs G M Kingerley, S Mackay, Mrs C S S Manduca, P I Roberts P B Tuley and N Wase-Rogers

508 FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Mayor read out the Fire Precautions.

509 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 7 December 2017 and 9 January 2018 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

510 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- The Mayoral Ball would be held on 10 March 2018
- Charity Walk for Peace would be held on 29 April 2018

511 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Dicks, Mrs Gill, Miss Heath, Miss Khalique, Mrs Kingerley, Mackay, Mrs Manduca, Tuley and Wase-Rogers.

512 COMMITTEE SEATS REVIEW

Following the resignation of Councillor Mackay from the Conservative Group, Council considered revisions to the apportionment of total Committee seats and their appointment on individual Committees,

RESOLVED that:

- i) the allocation of seats on Committees be as follows:-**

| Committees | Political Groups | | | Total |
|----------------------|------------------|------|-------------|-------|
| | Con | RIRG | Cllr Mackay | |
| Corporate Management | 8 | 2 | | 10 |
| Environment and | 8 | 2 | | 10 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Sustainability | | | | | |
| Housing | | 9 | 1 | | 10 |
| Community Services | | 9 | 1 | | 10 |
| Planning | | 13 | 2 | | 15 |
| Regulatory | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Overview and Scrutiny Select/Crime and Disorder | | 7 | 2 | | 9 |
| Standards and Audit | | 8 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| | Totals | 65 | 12 | 2 | 79 |

- ii) **Councillor P Sohi be removed from Regulatory Committee and appointed to the Community Services Committee; and**
- iii) **Councillor S Mackay be appointed to the Regulatory Committee and Standards and Audit Committee.**

513 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2018/19-SECTION 25 REPORT

The Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee held on 25 January 2018.

The Section 25 report had concluded that the Budget was robust and realistic and regard would be had by the Council to the report in deciding the Budget. The Leader confirmed that the main risk was the continued uncertainty over Government funding. The Leader also confirmed that the Council's Financial Strategy was totally reliant on the Property Investment Strategy.

RESOLVED that:

the Council has regard to the Section 25 report in making the decision on the 2018/19 budget.

514 CAPITAL STRATEGY AND GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 TO 2021/22

The Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee held on 25 January 2018. The Leader reported that the Council was funding a wide ranging and ambitious regeneration strategy and that provision of resources had also been made for short life assets dedicated to service provision.

RESOLVED that:

- i) **the Capital Strategy and the Capital Programme be approved; and**
- ii) **the Corporate Management Committee consider future revisions to the Council's Capital and Treasury Management Strategies to maintain usable Capital Receipts at a prudent level.**

515 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES FOR 2018/19

The Council considered a recommendation from the Housing Committee held on 10 January 2018 on the Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2018/19.

RESOLVED that

- i) the draft HRA Revenue Estimates for 2018/19 be approved and provision be made accordingly; and**
- ii) the proposed changes in HRA rents and charges(including those for Housing General Fund Services) for 2018/19 be approved to be effective, either from the first rent week of April 2018 or 1 April 2018, as appropriate.**

516 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2018/19

The Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee, which had met on 25 January 2018 regarding the Budget and Council Tax for the financial year 2018/19.

The Council also received additional information concerning the precepts to be levied by Surrey County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, which had not been available when the Corporate Management Committee had met.

As a low tax Council, Runnymede could increase its 2018/19 band D Council Tax by up to £5 a year (a 3.23% increase for Runnymede) and the recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee to the Council was that the Council Tax be increased accordingly.

The total bill for a Runnymede tax payer in a band D property would be £1,807.45, taking into account the increased precepts from Surrey County Council and Police Commissioner. Of the total bill only £159.59 related to the Runnymede element. The Council Tax would still be the lowest in Surrey by some margin.

The Leader reported that the budget proposals showed a balanced budget which relied very heavily on commercial income. The budget for 2018/19 showed a surplus as the Council would benefit from the business rates pilot. As the budget for 2018/19 now showed a surplus there was no need to seek a contribution from working balance and therefore recommendation (i) from Corporate Management Committee was not moved.

There were a few unknowns in the financial strategy after March 2019; namely the Government's "fair funding" review which would commence in Spring 2018 and would address the problem of negative RSG and Business Rate retention.

The Council continued to provide a wide range of discretionary services – yellow buses, CCTV, day centres, community meals and transport etc, for one of the lowest Council tax rates in the country, and that was set to continue.

The Chief Executive had also instigated a number of "best value" reviews in Depot Services and Planning and continued to seek out efficiency savings to add to the £6m saved and redirected to services over the last six years. The Council continued to develop its customer services function to benefit residents and local businesses.

The Council relied heavily on the income from property, not only the property it owned, but the plans in the capital strategy to spend over £200 million over the next few years in Egham and other commercial opportunities as they arose. The Budget included an increase in General Fund minimum working balances from £2.5m to £3.3m mainly because of the larger amount of commercial income from new community services contracts and from the Council's regeneration programme which brought with it a risk of default and bad debts.

The reduction for Runnymede between this year and next was a further cut in funding of 22.8% which was one of the highest in the Country which made balancing the budget more

difficult. The Leader stated that Members had been through the Budget at length and it was clear that as the Council's tax rate was so low, and would remain one of the lowest in the UK, tax increases could never balance the budget. Therefore, commercialism and regeneration had been the Council's strategy since 2013 and would continue to be so. The Leader commended the Budget to the Council.

In accordance with Standing Order 25.2, a named vote was taken on the Motion to increase the Council Tax and the voting was as follows:-

For (32): Councillors Alderson, Anderson-Bassey, Ashmore, Miss Bancroft, Broadhead, Chaudhri, Mrs Clarke, Cotty, Edis, Furey, Mrs Gillham, Mrs Gracey, T Gracey, Mrs Harnden, King, Knight, Kusneraitis, Mrs Lay, Lewis, Maddox, Nuti, Parr, Pitt, Prescott, Ms Simmons, Miss Sohi, Sohi, Tollett, Waddell, Mrs Warner, Willingale, Wilson.

Against (0)

Abstentions (0)

The Motion to increase the Council Tax was passed.

RESOLVED that:

- i) the growth and savings proposals, as reported, be agreed;**
- ii) the Council Tax Base 2018/19 for the whole Council as 33,489.6 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 for the whole Council area be agreed;**
- iii) a 3.23% increase in the Runnymede Borough Council element of the Council Tax for 2018/19 be approved;**
- iv) the following amounts be calculated for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:**
 - A £60,530,779.43 being the aggregate of the amount 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 major preceptors and parish councils.**
 - B £55,186,172.25 being the aggregate of the amount which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.**
 - C £5,344,607.18 being the amount by which the aggregate at ivA above exceeds the aggregate at ivB above, calculated by this Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.**
 - D £159.59 being the amount at ivC above (item R), divided by item T (item ii above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).**
 - E £0.00 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.**
 - F £159.59 being the amount at ivD above less the result given by dividing the amount at ivE 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 (Parish precept) relates.**

G That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act as amended.

| Valuation Band | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Runnymede Borough Council | 106.39 | 124.13 | 141.86 | 159.59 | 195.05 | 230.52 | 265.98 | 319.18 |

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at ivF 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 '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.

To note for the year 2018/19 Surrey County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act for each of the categories of dwelling in the Council's area as shown below:

| Valuation Band | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|-----------------------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Surrey County Council | 940.86 | 1,097.67 | 1,254.48 | 1,411.29 | 1,724.91 | 2,038.53 | 2,352.15 | 2,822.58 |
| Surrey Police | 157.71 | 184.00 | 210.28 | 236.57 | 289.14 | 341.71 | 394.28 | 473.14 |

That, having calculated the aggregate in each case above the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011, hereby sets the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2018/19 for each of the categories of dwellings:

| Valuation Band | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| TOTAL TAX DUE | 1,204.97 | 1,405.79 | 1,606.62 | 1,807.45 | 2,209.11 | 2,610.76 | 3,012.42 | 3,614.90 |

The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Act.

As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council tax for 2018/19 is excessive and therefore the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Act.

H The payment dates for the statutory ten monthly instalments scheme be set to run from 1 April 2018 to 1 January 2019 and

I The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 allow customers to opt out of the ten monthly instalment scheme and request payment over a 12 month period. Where this is requested the Council authorises that the payment dates are to be on such a day in each month as is most efficient for administrative purposes.

v) the pay award to staff be set at 2% in July 2018;

- vi) **the Council continues in 2018/19 with the existing Council tax discount scheme to be reviewed as Government welfare benefit proposals for Universal credit develop; and**
- vii) **Runnymede Borough Council joins the Surrey Business Rates pilot scheme for 2018/19**

517 ELECTORAL REVIEW – COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON REVISED WARDING PATTERN

Council considered a proposed revised submission incorporating the changes recommended by the Corporate Management Committee on 25 January 2018 to be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as the Council's proposed Warding Pattern for the Borough.

The Egham Town Councillors expressed strong objection to the proposed warding boundary arrangement for Egham Town as they considered it did not respect the town's identity and sense of community. The Egham Town Councillors considered that the current Egham Town and Englefield Green East Wards should be retained and the Egham Residents Association had submitted a separate alternative submission to this effect to the LGBCE. An amendment was moved and seconded that the proposed name of Egham Hill be changed to Englefield Green East. The amendment was lost.

RESOLVED that:

the submission, as reported, be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) as the Council's proposed Warding Pattern for the Borough, subject to the name of Chertsey Town ward being changed to Chertsey St Ann's and where alternative names for wards are included in the submission, the following ward names be recommended to the LGBCE - Chertsey Riverside, Egham Hill, Englefield Green and Ottershaw.

518 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2018/19

Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 25 January 2018.

The revised calendar of meetings for May 2018-May 2019 was approved. The dates of the proposed Surrey County Council Runnymede Joint Committee, when established, would be included in the calendar in due course.

RESOLVED that-

the revised calendar of meetings for May 2018-May 2019 be approved.

(The meeting ended at 8.17 p.m.)

Mayor