

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL12 February 2019 at 7.30pmThe Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Mrs D V Clarke) in the chair.

Members of the Council present Councillors A Alderson, D E Anderson-Bassey, J R Ashmore, J Broadhead, I A Chaudhri, Mrs D V Clarke, D A Cotty, S Dennett, Ms F Dent, R J Edis, J R Furey, Mrs E Gill, Mrs L M Gillham, Mrs J Gracey, T Gracey, Mrs M T Harnden, Miss M N Heath, Mrs G Kingerley, D J Knight, M T Kusneraitis, Mrs Y P Lay, S Lewis, Mrs CSS Manduca, M Nuti, D W Parr, N Prescott, N Rubidge, Ms A Shepperdson, Ms C Simmons, P Snow, Miss J K Sohi, P S Sohi P J Taylor, A P Tollett and Mrs G Warner.

Members of the Council absent: Councillors M D Cressey, N King, S Mackay, M Maddox, PJ Waddell, N Wase-Rogers and M Willingale,

472 FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Mayor read out the Fire Precautions.

473 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6 December 2018 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

474 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that the Mayoral Ball would be held on 30 March 2019 and thanked the Runnymede Independent Residents' Group for their support:

475 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Cressey, King, Maddox, Waddell, Wase-Rogers and Willingale.

476 CORPORATE FRAUD AND FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 24 January, 2019.

The Leader commended to Council the proposal to work in partnership with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council on fraud investigation. The investment of £43,000 by the Council would bring increased income to the Council in terms of tax collected and retained for 2019/20 of £290,000 and costs would be saved in the HRA and avoided in the General Fund Homelessness budget. The arrangement would be self-financing. The Council approved the recommendation and

RESOLVED that:

- i) **the Council works in partnership with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council with regard to fraud investigation and provision be made in the Resources Directorate for a budget of £43,400 for 2019/20 to meet the**

cost of entering into a Service Level Agreement with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council for this purpose; and

- ii) the estimate of the increased General Fund income and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) savings that would result from the partnership be noted.**

477 2019/20 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT

Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 24 January 2019.

The Leader commended to Council the Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy, Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators , and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2019/20.

The Leader commented that the increase in the authorised borrowing limit was necessary in order to finance completion of Egham Gateway West, Ashdene and other regeneration schemes the Council had previously approved.

The Council approved the recommendation and

RESOLVED that

- i) the proposed 2019/20 Treasury Management Strategy , as reported, encompassing the Annual Investment Strategy be approved;**
- ii) the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators for 2019/20 as reported be approved;**
- iii) the revised Treasury Management Practices as reported be approved;**
- iv) the authorised limit for external borrowing by the Council in 2019/20, be set at £720,939,000 (this being the statutory limit determined under Section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003); and**
- v) there be no change to the previously adopted MRP policy as set out below:**

The Council will use the asset life method as its main method for calculating MRP.

In normal circumstances, MRP will be set aside from the date of acquisition. However, in relation to capital expenditure on property purchases and/or development, we will start setting aside an MRP provision from the date that the asset becomes operational and/or revenue income is generated. Where schemes require interim financing by loan, pending receipt of an alternative source of finance (for example capital receipts) no MRP charge will be applied.

478 CAPITAL STRATEGY AND GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 TO 2022/23

Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee held on 24 January 2019.

The Leader reported that the Capital Strategy was a continuation of the existing Strategy and focussed on the assets required to deliver the Council's services. The Council would seek to fund more of the short- life assets from revenue and maintain capital receipts to improve community assets such as Runnymede Pleasure Grounds.

The Council approved the recommendation and

RESOLVED that:

- i) the Capital Strategy and the Capital Programme, as reported, 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.**

479 CORPORATE BUSINESS PLANNING 2019/20

Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee held on 24 January 2019 regarding the growth requests to be included in the proposed 2019/20 budget.

The financial implications of the growth requests were noted and the requests had been added to the 2019/20 budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy as appropriate.

The Council approved the recommendation and

RESOLVED that-

- i) the associated growth requests in Table 1, as reported, be approved and added to the 2019/20 budget; and**
- ii) the remaining associated growth requests shown in Table 2 as reported be approved and added to the 2019/20 budget, subject to each request having a completed business case and being considered by the Officer vetting process.**

480 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES FOR 2019/20

Council considered a recommendation from the Housing Committee held on 9 January 2019 on the Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2019/20.

RESOLVED that

- i) the draft HRA Revenue Estimates for 2019/20 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 2019/20 be approved to be**

effective, either from the first rent week of April 2019 or 1 April 2019, as appropriate.

481 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2019/20-SECTION 25 REPORT

Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee held on 24 January 2019.

The Leader confirmed that the Section 25 report had concluded that the Budget was robust and mitigated all the external risks faced by the Council ,as far as possible ,and regard would be had by the Council to the report in deciding the Budget.

RESOLVED that:

the Council has regard to the Section 25 report in making the decision on the 2019/20 budget.

482 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2019/20

Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee, which had met on 24 January 2019 regarding the Budget and Council Tax for the financial year 2019/20.

The Council also received additional information concerning the precepts to be levied by Surrey County Council and the 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 2019/20 band D Council Tax by up to £5 a year (a 3.13% 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 £1,878.66, taking into account the increased precepts from Surrey County Council and Police Commissioner. Of the total bill only £164.59 related to the Runnymede element. The Council Tax would still be the lowest in Surrey by some margin.

The Leader stated that despite loss of Central Government grant ,the Council was in a position to fund and provide a full range of services, and provide for growth, whereas many local authorities were cutting budgets and services.

The Leader summarised the key points in the Budget and commended the Budget, MTFS and growth items 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 (34): Councillors Alderson, Anderson-Bassey, Ashmore, Broadhead, Chaudhri, Mrs Clarke, Cotty, Dennett, Edis, Furey, Mrs Gill, Mrs Gillham, Mrs Gracey, T Gracey, Mrs Harnden, Miss Heath ,Mrs Kingerley, Knight, Kusneraitis, Mrs Lay, Lewis, Mrs Manduca, Nuti, Parr, Prescott, Rubidge, Ms Shepperdson, Ms Simmons, Snow, Miss Sohi, Sohi, Taylor, Tollett and Mrs Warner.

Against (1) Councillor Ms Dent.

Abstentions (0)

The Motion to increase the Council Tax was passed.

RESOLVED that:

- i) a contribution to the working balance for 2019/20 in the sum of £1,037,000 be approved;
- ii) the growth and savings proposals, as reported, be agreed;
- iii) the Council Tax Base 2019/20 for the whole Council as 33,409.9 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 for the whole Council area be agreed;
- iv) a 3.13% increase in the Runnymede Borough Council element of the Council Tax for 2019/20 be approved;
- v) the following amounts be calculated for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- A** £62,765,842.73 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** £57,266,907.29 being the aggregate of the amount which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
- C** £5,498,935.44 being the amount by which the aggregate at v)A above exceeds the aggregate at v)B above, calculated by this Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- D** £164.59 being the amount at v) C above (item R), divided by item T (item iii 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** £164.59 being the amount at v)D above less the result given by dividing the amount at v) E 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 2019/20 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	109.73	128.01	146.30	164.59	201.17	237.74	274.32	329.18

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at v)F above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, 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.

To note for the year 2019/20 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	969.00	1,130.50	1,292.00	1,453.50	1,776.50	2,099.50	2,422.50	2,907.00
Surrey Police	173.71	202.67	231.62	260.57	318.47	376.38	434.28	521.14

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 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwellings:

Valuation Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
TOTAL TAX DUE	1,252.44	1,461.18	1,669.92	1,878.66	2,296.14	2,713.62	3,131.10	3,757.32

The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 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 2019/20 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 2019 to 1 January 2020 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.

vi) the cost of living contingency pay award to staff be set at 2% in July 2019;

483 REVIEW AND REPLACEMENT RUNNYMEDE COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee, which had met on 24 January 2019.

The Leader commended option 3 as it and the other suggested revisions would maintain a significant level of protection for a high number of vulnerable applicants whilst ensuring that the Council did not overspend against the CTS budget and at the same time provided valuable savings with which to support front line services.

The Council approved the recommendation and
RESOLVED that:

the preferred option (Option3) for Runnymede's Council Tax Support scheme be approved and the implementation of the revised scheme from 1 April 2019 be approved.

(The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.)

Mayor