

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 25 February 2019

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Kim Botting FRSA**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor David Cartwright QFSM**

Councillors

Gareth Allatt	Peter Fortune	Peter Morgan
Graham Arthur	Kira Gabbert	Keith Onslow
Kathy Bance MBE	Will Harmer	Tony Owen
Yvonne Bear	Christine Harris	Angela Page
Julian Benington	Samaris Huntington-	Neil Reddin FCCA
Nicholas Bennett J.P.	Thresher	Will Rowlands
Mike Botting	William Huntington-	Richard Scoates
Katy Boughey	Thresher	Colin Smith
Mark Brock	Simon Jeal	Diane Smith
Kevin Brooks	David Jefferys	Gary Stevens
Mary Cooke	Charles Joel	Melanie Stevens
Aisha Cuthbert	Josh King	Harry Stranger
Peter Dean	Kate Lymer	Kieran Terry
Ian Dunn	Christopher Marlow	Pauline Tunnicliffe
Judi Ellis	Robert Mcilveen	Michael Turner
Robert Evans	Russell Mellor	Stephen Wells
Simon Fawthrop	Alexa Michael	Angela Wilkins

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Kim Botting FRSA

73 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marina Ahmad, Vanessa Allen, Nicky Dykes, Hannah Gray, Colin Hitchins, Chris Pierce, Michael Rutherford and Michael Tickner.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Kieran Terry.

74 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Nicholas Bennett declared an interest as a user of the Spa Leisure Centre in relation to a question he had submitted.

75 Petitions

No petitions had been received.

76 To confirm the Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10th December 2018 and the special meeting held on 16th January 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10th December 2018, and the special meeting held on 16th January 2019 be confirmed.

77 Questions

One question had been received from a member of the public for oral reply. The question, with the answer given, is set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

Ten questions had been received from members of the public for written reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

Fourteen questions had been received from members of the Council for oral reply. The questions, with the replies given, are set out in Appendix C to these minutes.

Eight questions had been received from members of the Council for written reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix D to these minutes.

78 To consider any statements that may be made by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.

No statements were made.

**79 2019/20 Council Tax
Report CSD19041**

Councillor Colin Smith, seconded by Councillor Graham Arthur, moved acceptance of the recommendations made by the Executive. In moving the recommendations, Councillor Smith confirmed that there were no changes to the final Mayoral precept and the changes to Parking Charges had, since the Executive's meeting, been agreed by the Environment and Community services Portfolio Holder.

The following amendments were moved by Councillor Angela Wilkins and seconded by Councillor Ian Dunn -

“The following amendments are proposed to the recommendations of the Executive set out in the Blue Book on pages 73-124.

The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2019/20:

Additional Recommendation (2.1):

- (l) sets aside the following funding from earmarked reserves:
 - (i) £5,000k from the Investment Fund to provide capital funding for new build social housing over a period of two years;
 - (ii) £5,000k from the Invest to Save Fund for the provision of modular TA housing;
 - (iii) £3,250k from the Growth Fund to support the Local Economy;
 - (iv) £5,000k from Better Care Fund and NHS monies (S75 agreements) for investment in public health/social prescribing and CAMHS (subject to CCG agreement);
 - (v) £700k from a combination of Member Initiatives and Invest to Save to support a range of initiatives including town centre assemblies, debt advisory service and safer streets.

- (m) explores opportunities for income generation arising from the sale of out of Borough commercial property investments (capital receipt of £5,000k) and the commercialisation of some council services (revenue income of £500k per annum – assume full year impact from 2020/21);

- (n) agrees the following ongoing revenue expenditure to be met from a corresponding reduction of £199k in the central contingency:
 - (i) additional staff to support regulation of private rented sector (£50k per annum);
 - (ii) re-instate air pollution monitoring equipment (£14k per annum);
 - (iii) increase CCTV/lighting in areas affected by ASB / youth violence (£80k);
 - (iv) increased service user involvement in commissioning/contract monitoring (£5k per annum);
 - (v) improved provision of ‘easy to read’ and re-instatement of BSL interpreter service (£30k per annum);
 - (vi) exempt care leavers from council tax (£20k).

Further detail is provided in Appendix 1.

Amended Recommendation (2.3):

3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
 - (a) £537,264k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £377,413k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.”

Further detail was set out in an appendix (attached as Appendix E to these minutes.)

On being put to the vote, this amendment was **LOST**.

Accordingly, the recommendations of the Executive, as moved by Councillor Colin Smith and seconded by Councillor Graham Arthur, were **CARRIED** as follows -

That Council -

- (1)
 - (a) **Approves the schools budget of £76.722 million which matches the estimated level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) after academy recouplement (a reduction of £922k - see (b) below);**
 - (b) **Approves the draft revenue budgets (as in Appendix 2) for 2019/20 to include the following updated changes:**
 - (i) **DfE have refused a disapplication request by the Council resulting in increased costs of £1m (£922k reduction in DSG income due to Academy recouplement and £78k to an increase in expenditure for maintained schools). This is offset by a reduction of £788k held in the Central Contingency for additional 2019/20 High Needs (SEN) Funding. The shortfall of £212k will be met from the Government’s additional 2018/19 High Needs Funding which will be reflected in the next Budget Monitoring 2018/19 report to Executive.**
 - (ii) **Parking Income £308k.**
 - (iii) **Other minor variations totalling £65k mainly relating to Business Rate Levy funding and updated collection fund surplus.**
 - (c) **Agrees that Chief Officers identify alternative savings/mitigation within their departmental budgets where it is not possible to realise any savings/mitigation reported to**

the previous meeting of the Executive held on 16th January 2019;

- (d) Approves the following provisions for levies for inclusion in the budget for 2019/20:

	£'000
London Pensions Fund Authority	452
London Boroughs Grant Committee	249
Environment Agency (flood defence etc.)	249
Lee Valley Regional Park	312
Total	1,262

- (e) Approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £10,943k to reflect the changes in (b) and (d);
- (f) Notes that the 2019/20 Central Contingency sum includes significant costs not yet allocated and there will therefore be further changes to reflect allocations to individual Portfolio budgets prior to publication of the Financial Control Budget;
- (g) Approves the revised draft 2019/20 revenue budgets to reflect the changes detailed above;
- (h) Sets a 4.99% increase in Bromley's council tax for 2019/20 compared with 2018/19 (2.99% general increase plus 2% Adult Social Care Precept) and notes that, based upon their consultation exercise, the GLA are currently assuming a 8.9% increase in the GLA precept;
- (i) Notes the latest position on the GLA precept, as above, which will be finalised in the overall Council Tax figure to be reported to full Council (see section 12);
- (j) Approves the approach to reserves outlined by the Director of Finance (see Appendix 4);
- (k) Executive agree that the Director of Finance be authorised to report any further changes directly to Council on 25th February 2019.
- (2) Council Tax 2019/20 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

Subject to 2.1 (a) to (k) above, if the formal Council Tax Resolution as detailed below is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	Increase £	Increase % (note #)
Bromley (general)	1,094.18	1,128.80	34.62	2.99
Bromley (ASC precept)	64.30	87.46	23.16	2.00
Bromley (total)	1,158.48	1,216.26	57.78	4.99
GLA *	294.23	320.51	26.28	8.93
Total	1,452.71	1,536.77	84.06	5.79

* The GLA Precept may need to be amended once the actual GLA budget is set.

(#) in line with the 2019/20 Council Tax Referendum Principles, the % increase applied is based on an authority's "relevant basic amount of Council Tax" (£1,158.48 for Bromley) – see paragraph 6 below. Any further changes arising from these Principles will be reported directly to Council on 25th February 2019.

(3) Council formally resolves as follows:

- 1. It be noted that the Council Tax Base for 2019/20 is 131,428 'Band D' equivalent properties.**
- 2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2019/2020 is £159,851k.**
- 3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):**
 - (a) £531,584k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.**
 - (b) £371,733k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.**
 - (c) £159,851k 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 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.**
 - (d) £1,216.26 being the amount at 3(c) above, divided by (1) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.**
- (4) It is noted that the Greater London Authority (GLA) has issued a precept to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.**

- (5) That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2019/20 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands	London Borough of Bromley £	Greater London Authority £	Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements £
A	810.84	213.67	1,024.51
B	945.98	249.29	1,195.27
C	1,081.12	284.90	1,366.02
D	1,216.26	320.51	1,536.77
E	1,486.54	391.73	1,878.27
F	1,756.82	462.96	2,219.78
G	2,027.10	534.18	2,561.28
H	2,432.52	641.02	3,073.54

- (6) That the Council hereby determines that its relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year 2019/20, which reflects a 4.99% increase (including Adult Social Care Precept of 2%), is not excessive. The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2019/20 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2019/20. Any further changes arising from these Principles will be reported directly to Council on 25th February 2019. The Council is required to determine whether its relevant basic amount of Council Tax is excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The following Members voted in favour of the motion -

Councillors Gareth Allatt, Graham Arthur, Yvonne Bear, Julian Benington, Nicholas Bennett, Mike Botting, Katy Boughey, Mark Brock, Mary Cooke, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Judi Ellis, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Peter Fortune, Kira Gabbert, Will Harmer, Christine Harris, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Robert Mcilveen, Russell Mellor, Alexa Michael, Peter Morgan, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Neil Reddin, Will Rowlands, Richard Scoates, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Gary Stevens, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Kieran Terry, Pauline Tunnicliffe, Michael Turner and Stephen Wells.

The following Members voted against the motion -

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Councillors Kathy Bance, Kevin Brooks, Ian Dunn, Simon Jeal, Josh King and Angela Wilkins.

The following Members abstained -
Councillors Kim Botting and David Cartwright.

80 Capital Programme Monitoring Q3 2018/19 and Capital Strategy
Report CSD19042

A motion to agree the inclusion of the new scheme proposals listed in Appendix C to the report in the capital programme and to approve the inclusion of £1,208k of Special Provision Fund capital grant in the 2019/20 capital programme, under the Basic Need scheme was moved by councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

81 Treasury Management - Annual Investment Strategy 2019/20 and Quarter 3 Performance 2018/19
Report CSD19043

A motion to approve an increase in the limit to £50 million for investments with Housing Associations (section 3.4.6 of the report), agree that the Treasury Management Strategy be amended to clarify that only the ring fenced components of the Royal Bank of Scotland be included for future investments (section 3.4.6 of the report) and agree to adopt the Treasury Management Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2019/20 (Appendix 4, pages 17-43 of the report), including the prudential indicators (summarised on page 43 of the report) and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement (page 22 of the report) , was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

82 Third Report of the Education, Children and Families Select Committee 2018/19 - Sustainability of the Education Budget
Report CSD19033

Councillor Nicholas Bennett asked Members to note that in recommendation 2.1 (page 2) of the report the words “special needs” should be inserted between the words “new” and “provision.”

A motion to invite the Leader and appropriate Portfolio Holders to consider the recommendations in the report and (a) refer the recommendations to service Directors and Partners where appropriate and (b) provide a written response to the Education, Children and Families Select Committee for consideration at a future meeting of the Select Committee was moved by Councillor Nicholas Bennett, seconded by Councillor Neil Reddin and **CARRIED**.

83 2019/20 Pay Award
Report CSD19044

A motion to approve the following -

- (i) a flat 2.25% pay increase for all staff (excluding teachers who are covered by a separate statutory pay negotiating process;)
- (ii) a further increase for lower paid staff as follows inclusive of the flat rate 2.25% increase -

Spinal Points	Proposed increase inclusive of the flat rate pay award of 2.25%
4-17	6%
18	5%
19-22	4%
23-30	3%

- (iii) that the Trade Union's pay claim for staff be rejected (paragraph 3.7 and appendices to the report.)

and to note that, as in the previous years since coming out of the nationally/regionally negotiated frameworks, Bromley staff would receive the 2019/20 pay increase in time for the April pay, was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Michael Turner and **CARRIED**.

84 Pay Policy Statement
Report CSD19045

A motion to approve the 2019/20 Pay Policy Statement was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Michael Turner and **CARRIED**.

85 Members Allowances Scheme 2019/20
Report CSD19046

An amendment to the proposed scheme to require that an allowance of £52 per meeting should be paid to members of Plans Sub-Committees in place of the fixed annual allowance was moved by Councillor Simon Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Nicholas Bennett and **CARRIED**.

A motion to approve the Members Allowances Scheme 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report and as amended, and to approve the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Allowances for 2019/20, with an increase in all allowances in line with the increase in officer salaries of 2.25%, was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Michael Turner and **CARRIED**.

The following Members voted in favour of the motion -

Councillors Gareth Allatt, Graham Arthur, Yvonne Bear, Julian Benington, Nicholas Bennett, Mike Botting, Katy Boughey, Mark Brock, Mary Cooke, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Judi Ellis, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Peter Fortune, Kira Gabbert, Will Harmer, Christine Harris, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Kate

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Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Robert Mcilveen, Russell Mellor, Alexa Michael, Peter Morgan, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Neil Reddin, Will Rowlands, Richard Scoates, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Gary Stevens, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Kieran Terry, Pauline Tunncliffe, Michael Turner and Stephen Wells.

The following Members voted against the motion -

Councillors Kathy Bance, Kevin Brooks, Ian Dunn, Simon Jeal, Josh King and Angela Wilkins.

The following Members abstained -

Councillors Kim Botting and David Cartwright.

86 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.

No motions were received.

87 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor thanked all the Members who had attended her Charity Dinner at Tamasha in January.

The annual Quiz, held on 8th February had been another great success - the Mayor thanked the quizmaster, Ian Payne, his wife, Judith and their family, for giving their time over the last fifteen years.

On Friday 22nd February the Looked after Children awards had been held, and the Mayor thanked the many Members who had attended.

The signing of the Friendship Agreement with Thunder Bay was being held on Thursday 7th March at 12 noon and the following day, on Friday 8th March at 10am there would be a visit to Canadian Corner in All Saints Church for a short service and then on to Orpington Hospital at 12pm where the Mayor, with the Mayor of Thunder Bay, would unveil a plaque marking the signing of the friendship Agreement. All Members were very welcome to attend these two events.

Later in the day, the Mayor had arranged to take the visitors to Biggin Hill Airport, as well as to the Museum and Chapel.

The Mayor's final charity event would be on Friday 5th April - a dinner at the East India Club with a wonderful speaker - Sir Alistair MacDuff, a retired High Court Judge. The Lord Mayor of Neuwied, Jan Einig and his wife would be visiting Bromley that weekend and would be attending the dinner. With sixteen Mayors already booked to attend tickets were selling very fast, so if Members wanted tickets they should contact the office as soon as possible.

The Meeting ended at 10.05 pm.

Mayor