

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 26 February 2024

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Mike Botting**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Keith Onslow**

Councillors

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Jeremy Adams | Dr Sunil Gupta FRCP | Angela Page |
| Jonathan Andrews | FRCPPath | Chris Price |
| Jessica Arnold | Christine Harris | Chloe-Jane Ross |
| Felicity Bainbridge | Colin Hitchins | Will Rowlands |
| Kathy Bance MBE | Alisa Igoe | Colin Smith |
| Yvonne Bear | Julie Ireland | Diane Smith |
| Nicholas Bennett J.P. | Mike Jack | Mark Smith |
| Kim Botting FRSA | Simon Jeal | Alison Stammers |
| Mark Brock | David Jefferys | Melanie Stevens |
| David Cartwright QFSM | Charles Joel | Harry Stranger |
| Graeme Casey | Kevin Kennedy-Brooks | Ryan Thomson |
| Josh Coldspring-White | Josh King | Michael Tickner |
| Will Connolly | Jonathan Laidlaw | Pauline Tunnicliffe |
| Aisha Cuthbert | Kate Lymer | Thomas Turrell |
| Sophie Dunbar | Tony Owen | Sam Webber |
| Robert Evans | Christopher Marlow | Rebecca Wiffen |
| Simon Fawthrop | Ruth McGregor | |
| Adam Jude Grant | Tony McPartlan | |
| Hannah Gray | Alexa Michael | |

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Mike Botting

48 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Dean, Kira Gabbert and Shaun Slator.

49 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Nicholas Bennett declared an interest in relation to minute 51 as a member of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.

Councillor Simon Fawthrop declared an interest in relation to minute 52 as his wife was employed by the Council.

50 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2023

It was noted that there was a typing error in question 9, on page 6 of Appendix C, which would be corrected.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2023 be confirmed.

**51 2024/25 Council Tax
Report CSD24022**

The Director of Finance had circulated the following changes to the Council Tax Resolution -

“There were no changes to the final Mayoral precept accepted by the London Assembly on 22nd February 2024.

Since the last meeting of the Executive there have been further changes on levies and the final position is shown in recommendation 2.1 (f) below.

Members are requested to note that the 2024/25 Budget includes the impact of the recommended 2024/25 pay award that is subject to Full Council approval (agenda item 7).

The above change will require the following proposed amendments to be made to the recommendations of the Executive:

Amended Recommendation (2.1)

- (e) approves a revised Central Contingency sum to reflect the allocation of the pay award, movement of levies and final local government settlement, resulting in a sum of £9,829k;
- (f) approves the following provisions for levies to include in the budget for 2024/25:

| | £'000 |
|---|-------|
| London Pension Fund Authority | 448 |
| London Boroughs Grant Committee | 248 |
| Environment Agency (Flood defence etc.) | 270 |
| Lee Valley Regional Park | 350 |

| | |
|-------|-------|
| Total | 1,316 |
|-------|-------|

- (g) notes the final position on the GLA precept, as accepted by the London Assembly on 22nd February 2024; and
- (h) Sets a 2% increase in Adult Social Care Precept with a 2.99% increase in Bromley's General Council Tax, compared with 2023/24 (2% increase in Adult Social Care Precept and 2.99% increase in Bromley's General Council Tax) and 8.58% increase in the GLA precept."

The recommendations as amended above were moved by Councillor Christopher Marlow and seconded by Councillor Colin Smith.

The following amendments were moved by Councillor Simon Jeal and seconded by Councillor Jeremy Adams –

"After allowing for the report from the Director of Finance the following amendments are proposed to the recommendations of the Executive set out in the Blue Book on pages 27-134.

The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2024/25:

Additional recommendations:

1. Council be recommended to:

- (k) Approve the proposed changes to the revenue budget as detailed in Appendix 1

Subject to the approval of (k) above:

- (l) Approve the following changes to the Capital Programme (agenda item 5):
 - i) The addition of £3,150k for a Children's Home, funded from the Invest to Save earmarked reserve;
 - ii) The addition of £3,150k for a care home for Adults, funded from the Invest to Save earmarked reserve;
 - iii) The addition of £123.2m for a social housing scheme on the current Civic Centre site, funded by GLA Grant (£54m), external borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (£58m) and the Invest to Save earmarked reserve (£11.2m);
 - iv) To not proceed with the planned disposal of the Civic Centre site;
 - v) The disposal of former 'Top Shop' building;
 - vi) The drawdown of £8m from the Growth Fund earmarked reserve to cover the net impact on capital financing arising from the change in capital receipts in iv) and v) above;
- (m) The detailed proposals relating to the changes in (l) will be reported back to Executive prior to final release of capital resources identified above.

Amended recommendations:

- 4. Council is recommended to formally resolve as follows:

(3) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):

(a) £663,215k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.

(b) £463,199k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.”

The following Members voted for the amendment –

Councillors Jeremy Adams, Jessica Arnold, Kathy Bance, Graham Casey, Will Connolly, Alisa Igoe, Julie Ireland, Simon Jeal, Kevin Kennedy-Brooks, Josh King, Ruth McGregor, Tony McPartlan, Chris Price, Chloe-Jane Ross, Ryan Thomson, Sam Webber and Rebecca Wiffen (17)

The following Members voted against the amendment –

Councillors Jonathan Andrews, Felicity Bainbridge, Yvonne Bear, Nicholas Bennett, Kim Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Josh Coldspring-White, Aisha Cuthbert, Sophie Dunbar, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Adam Grant, Hannah Gray, Sunil Gupta, Christine Harris, Colin Hitchins, Mike Jack, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Jonathan Laidlaw, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Alexa Michael, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Will Rowlands, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Mark Smith, Alison Stammers, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunnicliffe and Thomas Turrell (36)

The following Members abstained –

Councillors Mike Botting and Keith Onslow (2)

The amendment was **LOST**.

The following amendments were moved by Councillor Chloe-Jane Ross and seconded by Councillor Julie Ireland –

“After allowing for the report from the Director of Finance the following amendments are proposed to the recommendations of the Executive set out in the Blue Book on pages 27-134.

The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2024/25:

Additional recommendations:

(k) Approve the proposed changes to the revenue budget as detailed in appendix 1 including the following:

i) carry forward of the £411k business rate levy adjustment for 2023/24

ii) contribution from Invest to Save earmarked reserve of £900k

iii) the implementation of the 100% Council Tax second home premium from 2025/26

Amended recommendations:

4. Council is recommended to formally resolve as follows:

(3) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):

(a) £664,466k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.

(b) £464,450k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.”

The following Members voted for the amendment –

Councillors Graham Casey, Will Connolly, Julie Ireland, Chloe-Jane Ross and Sam Webber (5)

The following Members voted against the amendment –

Councillors Jonathan Andrews, Felicity Bainbridge, Yvonne Bear, Nicholas Bennett, Kim Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Josh Coldspring-White, Aisha Cuthbert, Sophie Dunbar, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Adam Grant, Hannah Gray, Sunil Gupta, Christine Harris, Colin Hitchins, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Jonathan Laidlaw, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Alexa Michael, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Will Rowlands, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunnicliffe and Thomas Turrell (33)

The following Members abstained –

Councillors Jeremy Adams, Jessica Arnold, Kathy Bance, Mike Botting, Alisa Igoe, Mike Jack, Simon Jeal, Kevin Kennedy-Brooks, Josh King, Ruth McGregor, Tony McPartlan, Keith Onslow, Chris Price, Mark Smith, Alison Stammers, Ryan Thomson and Rebecca Wiffen (17)

The amendment was **LOST**.

Accordingly, as proposed by Councillor Christopher Marlow and seconded by Councillor Colin Smith, the following recommendations of the Executive, with the changes proposed by the Director of Finance, were put to the vote -

Council resolves to:

(1) (a) Note the following recent changes including the outcome of the Final Local Government Settlement 2024/25 announced by DLUHC on 6th February:

- i) additional Services Grant funding of £24k;**
- ii) final allocation of Public Health Grant which represents a 2.1% increase in funding (£64k); and**
- iii) one-off funding of £411k in 2023/24 only, mainly relating to the government’s business rates safety net and levy account.**

- (b) Approve the schools' budget of £116.453m which matches the estimated level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) after academy recouplement;
- (c) Approve the draft revenue budgets (as detailed in the revised Appendix 2) for 2024/25;
- (d) Agree 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 17th January 2024;
- (e) approve a revised Central Contingency sum to reflect the allocation of the pay award, movement of levies and final local government settlement, resulting in a sum of £9,829k;
- (f) approve the following provisions for levies to include in the budget for 2024/25:

| | £'000 |
|---|--------------|
| London Pension Fund Authority | 448 |
| London Boroughs Grant Committee | 248 |
| Environment Agency (Flood defence etc.) | 270 |
| Lee Valley Regional Park | 350 |
| Total | 1,316 |

- (g) note the final position on the GLA precept, as accepted by the London Assembly on 22nd February 2024; and
- (h) Set a 2% increase in Adult Social Care Precept with a 2.99% increase in Bromley's General Council Tax, compared with 2023/24 (2% increase in Adult Social Care Precept and 2.99% increase in Bromley's General Council Tax) and 8.58% increase in the GLA precept.

2. Council Tax 2024/25 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

Subject to 1. (a) to (h) above, if the formal Council Tax Resolution as detailed below is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

| | 2023/24 £ | 2024/25 £ | Increase £ | Increase % (note #) |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Bromley (general) | 1,218.25 | 1,260.35 | 42.10 | 2.99 |
| Bromley (ASC precept) | 189.80 | 217.96 | 28.16 | 2.00 |
| Bromley (total) | 1,408.05 | 1,478.31 | 70.26 | 4.99 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| GLA * | 434.14 | 471.40 | 37.26 | 8.58 |
| Total | 1,842.19 | 1,949.71 | 107.52 | 5.84 |

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

(#) in line with the 2024/25 Council Tax Referendum Principles, the % increase applied is based on an authority's "relevant basic amount of Council Tax" (£1,478.31 for Bromley) – see paragraph 6 below. Any further changes arising from these Principles will be reported directly to Council on 26th February 2024.

3. Council is formally resolves as follows:

- (1) It be noted that the Council Tax Base for 2024/25 is 135,300 'Band D' equivalent properties.**
- (2) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 is £200,016k.**
- (3) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):**
 - (a) £663,110k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.**
 - (b) £463,094k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.**
 - (c) £200,016k 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) £1,478.31 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) To note 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 (NB. the GLA precept figure may need to be amended once the actual GLA budget is set).**
- (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 2024/25 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 | 985.54 | 314.27 | 1,299.81 |
| B | 1,149.80 | 366.64 | 1,516.44 |
| C | 1,314.05 | 419.02 | 1,733.07 |
| D | 1,478.31 | 471.40 | 1,949.71 |
| E | 1,806.82 | 576.16 | 2,382.98 |
| F | 2,135.34 | 680.91 | 2,816.25 |
| G | 2,463.85 | 785.67 | 3,249.52 |
| H | 2,956.62 | 942.80 | 3,899.42 |

- (6) That the Council hereby determines that its relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year 2024/25, which reflects a 4.99% increase (Adult Social Care Precept increase of 2%), is not excessive. The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2024/25 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England from 2024/25. Any further changes arising from these Principles will be reported directly to Council on 26th February 2024. 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 for the motion –

Councillors Jonathan Andrews, Felicity Bainbridge, Yvonne Bear, Nicholas Bennett, Kim Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Josh Coldspring-White, Aisha Cuthbert, Sophie Dunbar, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Adam Grant, Hannah Gray, Sunil Gupta, Christine Harris, Colin Hitchins, Mike Jack, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Jonathan Laidlaw, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Alexa Michael, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Will Rowlands, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Mark Smith, Alison Stammers, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunnicliffe and Thomas Turrell (36)

The following Members voted against the motion –

Councillors Jeremy Adams, Jessica Arnold, Kathy Bance, Alisa Igoe, Simon Jeal, Kevin Kennedy-Brooks, Josh King, Ruth McGregor, Tony McPartlan, Chris Price, Ryan Thomson and Rebecca Wiffen (12)

The following Members abstained –

Councillors Mike Botting, Graeme Casey, Will Connolly, Julie Ireland, Keith Onslow, Chloe-Jane Ross and Sam Webber (7)

The amendment was **CARRIED**.

52 Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28 and Q3 Capital Programme Monitoring
Report CSD24023

A motion to approve the Council Strategy for 2024/25 to 2027/28, including an increase of £2,477k in relation to new schemes to be added to the Capital programme as detailed in section 3.11 of the report to the Executive, was moved by Councillor Christopher Marlow, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Bear and **CARRIED**.

53 Treasury Management - Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25 and Quarter 3 Performance 2023/24
Report CSD24024

A motion to note Treasury Management performance report for the third quarter of 2023/24 and to adopt the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 including (i) the Prudential Indicators for the period 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Annex 3 of Appendix 4 of the report) and (ii) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement (paragraph 2.4 of Appendix 4 to the report), was moved by Councillor Christopher Marlow, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

54 2024/25 Pay Award
Report CSD24025

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Josh King and seconded by Councillor Kevin Kennedy-Brooks

“Amend recommendation 2.1 (ii) to add the words:

[Spinal Point 12 (BR4)...] which shall be increased to an hourly rate of £13.15, in line with the London Living Wage as at 1st April 2024. In consideration of the current cost of living pressures, an additional pay award of £500 shall be made for 2024/25 to each member of staff from grades BR4 to BR8 inclusive.”

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

A motion to approve (i) a flat 3% pay increase on all salary points and rates for Council staff (excluding teachers who are covered by a separate statutory pay negotiating process) for 2024/25, (ii) the removal of the equivalent spinal points 9-11 (affecting grade BR3) with assimilation to equivalent spinal point 12 (BR4), (iii) an increase of 3% to the Merited Rewards, for 2024/25, bringing the total to £412k for rewarding staff for exceptional performance, (iv) reject the Trade Union pay claim for staff, and to note that, as in previous years since coming out of nationally/regionally negotiated frameworks, Bromley staff will receive the 2024/25 pay increase in time for the April pay, was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Colin Hitchins, and **CARRIED**.

55 Pay Policy Statement 2024/25
Report CSD24026

A motion to approve the 2024/25 Pay Policy Statement was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Colin Hitchins and **CARRIED**.

56 Members Allowances Scheme 2024/25
Report CSD24027

A motion to approve (i) the Members Allowances Scheme 2024/25 (Appendix 2 to the report) on the basis of a 3% increase in line with the proposed increase for officers and (ii) the increase of the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Allowances by 3% to £16,946 and £4,157 respectively, was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Colin Hitchins and **CARRIED**.

57 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor thanked Members for their attendance at recent events –

- The Civic Carol Service and Nine Lessons on 17th December at All Saints Church in Orpington;
- The Sunday Lunch at The Warren to raise funds for Ukraine;
- Holocaust Memorial Day;
- The Annual Mayor's Quiz;
- The service to mark the second anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine.

The Mayor reminded Members about the forthcoming events –

- Wine Tasting Evening on 16th March 2024;
- The Walnuts Restaurant in Locksbottom were offering a Sunday Lunch in aid of the Mayor's Charities;
- The dinner at the East India Club in April was now fully booked, but there was a waiting list.

The Mayor thanked Members for their phenomenal support throughout his year.

The Meeting ended at 9.23 pm

Mayor