



**MINUTES of
COUNCIL
13 FEBRUARY 2020**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor R G Boyce MBE
Vice-Chairman	Councillor Mrs P A Channer, CC
Councillors	E L Bamford, B S Beale MBE, M G Bassenger, V J Bell, R P F Dewick, M R Edwards, Mrs J L Fleming, A S Fluker, B E Harker, M S Heard, M W Helm, A L Hull, K W Jarvis, J V Keyes, K M H Lagan, C Mayes, C P Morley, C Morris, S P Nunn, N G F Shaughnessy, R H Siddall, N J Skeens, W Stamp, Mrs J C Stilts, C Swain, Mrs M E Thompson and Miss S White

749. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

The Chairman referred to the noticed published on the agenda.

750. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss A M Beale and M F L Durham CC.

751. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor S P Nunn disclosed a pecuniary interest in relation to Agenda Items 8 – Minute Book and 10d – Discretionary Fees and Charges 2020 / 21, advising that he had previously advised the Council he received from Top Sail Charters a fee from time to time for historical charter work.

Councillor Mrs P A Channer declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of Essex County Council (ECC) in relation to most items as they related to had connections with Essex County Council. She also declared in relation to Agenda Item 8 – Minute Book and specifically 8b Minute 693 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Grant Offer advising that she had removed herself from the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee due to wording within the report referring criteria which ECC may apply to CIL.

Councillor N Skeens disclosed a pecuniary interest advising that he was a leaseholder for Maldon District Council part of a group for West Quay Houseboat Association. In

response to a question the Monitoring Officer advised that interest related to Agenda Item 10 and particularly the Discretionary Fees and Charges report.

Councillor M R Edwards disclosed an interest in Agenda Item 10d – Discretionary Fees and Charges 2020 / 21 as he was a member of the Thames Sailing Barge Trust.

Councillor K M H Lagan disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10d – Discretionary Fees and Charges 2020 / 21 as he was known to Topsail Charters and the barge owners.

Councillor C Morris disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as he cared about the community.

752. MINUTES - 21 NOVEMBER 2019

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 November 2019 be received

Minute No. 564 – Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station Review

It was noted that reference in the resolution to Maldon North should be Maldon East.

RESOLVED

- (ii) that subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 November 2019 be agreed.

753. MINUTES - 19 DECEMBER 2019

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 December 2019 be agreed.

754. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1(3)(e) and the Council's Public Question Time and Participation at Council and Committee Meetings Scheme, the Chairman of the Council referred to two questions of which prior notification had been given. A copy of the questions was circulated prior to the meeting.

Question One:

Why is Maldon District Council putting forward proposals to raise fees for barges well above the current rate of inflation, and is this connected to the North Quay Development proposals?

Response from the Leader of the Council

The discount applied to barges at the Hythe Quay has not been re visited for several years. Officers have met with barge operators to discuss berthing fees which has resulted in a recommendation to maintain the base 'discounted figure' but apply a 10% increase in 2020 / 21. The Council has pledged to meet operators again to discuss

future years ahead of the 2021 / 22 budget cycle. This matter is not connected to the North Quay proposal.

Question Two:

Can MDC please clarify the ‘state of play’ concerning the current failure of all concerned to make infrastructure Health Improvements considering the largescale new housebuilding and therefore increasing population pressures on Health Facilities?

Response from the Leader of the Council:

The MDC Local Development Plan includes an infrastructure delivery plan, which includes the health infrastructure that was identified as required to meet the population growth resulting from new homes. For example, the delivery of the North Heybridge Garden Suburb will include a new health centre, to be developed alongside the housing delivery. We welcome the news Maldon District was recently rated as the 5th best place in the country to live and we are working to ensure facilities are maintained and extended, to build further on that.

At this point in the meeting a Member raised a matter not relating to this item of business. During the discussion that followed the Chairman called the Council to order and moved onto the next item of business.

755. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred to the following events he had attended since the last meeting of the Council. He made particular reference to an event at Anglian Ruskin University he had recently attended with over 100 Royal Air Force Cadets / Essex Wing Air Training Corps. He commented how these young people were an inspiration.

17 January 2020	Chairman of Essex County Council Annual Civic Dinner
19 January 2020	The Town Mayor of Maldon's Civic Service
7 February 2020	Royal Air Force Air Cadets / Essex Wing Air Training Corps Presentation Evening 2020

756. PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - 9 JANUARY 2020

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Performance, Governance and Audit Committee held on 9 January 2020 be agreed.

757. STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 29 JANUARY 2020

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 29 January 2020 be received.

Minute 686 – Disclosure of Interest

It was noted that reference to Councillor Lagan in this Minute should refer to Councillor K M H Lagan.

Minute 692 – Local Development Scheme 2020 - 2022

RESOLVED

- (ii) that the Local Development Scheme (attached as Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee) be approved as the project plan for key planning policy documents until 2022.

In accordance with her earlier declaration, Councillor Mrs P A Channer left the meeting at this point.

Minute 693 – Community Infrastructure Levy Grant Offer

RESOLVED

- (iii) that the Community Infrastructure Levy grant offer from Essex County Council and its related conditions be accepted.

Councillor Mrs Channer rejoined the meeting.

Minute 694 – Council Tax Support Scheme

RESOLVED

- (iv) that following Members' careful reading of and regard to the Equality Impact Assessment (attached as Appendix 2 to the Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee) the following changes to the existing scheme are approved:
- a cost of living increase in line with the Department for Work and Pensions schemes be included in the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2020 / 21 for Pensioners only;
 - any legislative changes being introduced to the Housing Benefit Scheme for 2020 / 21 are mirrored in the Councils LCTS scheme to ensure consistency;
 - the introduction of a minimum income change threshold of up to £10 per week, and periodic reviews of Universal claims with a fixed period of award.

The Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee advised that following recommendations contained within the Minutes were the subject of separate reports on this agenda and therefore would be approved at that stage:

- Minute 696 – Capital Project Bids 2020 / 21
- Minutes 697 – Capital and Investment Strategies for 2020 / 21 and Minimum Revenue Statement 2020 / 21
- Minute 698 – Treasury Management Strategy 2020 / 21
- Minute 699 – Discretionary fees and Charges 2020 / 21

- Minute 700 – Revised 2109 / 20 Estimates, Original 2020 / 21 Budget Estimates and Council Tax 2020 / 21

RESOLVED

- (v) That subject to the above decisions and with the exception of Minute Numbers 696 - 700, the Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 December 2019 be agreed.

758. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council noted the list of Committees that had met since the last meeting of the Council, up to Wednesday 5 February 2020 for which Minutes had been published.

759. 2020 / 21 BUDGET, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING

Councillor M S Heard declared a non-pecuniary interest in as a trustee of the steam tug Brent.

The Council considered the reports of the Interim Section 151 Officer, on the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 29 January 2020 relating to the revenue budget and the proposed level of Council for 2020 / 21.

The Leader of the Council made a budget speech (attached at **APPENDIX 1** to these Minutes) and commended the budget for 2020 / 21 to the Council. This was duly seconded by Councillor B E Harker.

In response to the budget speech, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Heard, thanked the Leader of the Council for providing him with an early draft copy of his budget statement. Councillor Heard commented on the speech, referring to:

- Expenditure – this should be financed from existing capital reserves, not directly from revenue.
- The Council currently was debt free, but he noted the planned borrowing and fall in investments forecast by March 2023.
- The Future Council model and the identified £739,000 savings for 2021. Councillor Heard asked the Leader of the Council to clarify the potential loss in grant of £328,000 referred to by the Leader.
- The reversal identified savings from the Citizens Advice Bureau and Councillor Heard pointed out an error on page 234 of the report pack which should read “...reduces the saving to £328,000...”.
- The meeting with barge operators over the Wharfage fees was welcomed and he recognised the value that the barges brought to Maldon.
- Budget training for Members and hoped that the delays seen would be rectified for the new municipal year.

Councillor Heard advised that the Independent Group broadly agreed with the recommendations and also commended the work of the Interim Section 151 Officer.

In response, Councillor A S Fluker commented on the recent communications and meeting arranged with barge operators to address concerns raised. In response to Councillor Heard's question regarding the revenue support grant he referred to the Interim Section 151 Officer. The Interim Section 151 Officer provided the Council with a detailed explanation regarding this grant and how for 2019, following national representations, the Government undertook to meet the cost of negative support grants from its own business rate receipts. The Government had undertaken a technical consultation and for 2020/21 it would again be taking on the cost of the negative revenue support grant. The Interim Section 151 Officer advised that the Council needed to be aware that there was a risk that it may have to repay monies in the future, which for this Council would be in the region of £338,000.

760. CAPITAL PROJECTS 2020 / 21

The report of the Interim Section 151 Officer sought Members' consideration of the Capital Projects for inclusion in the 2020 / 21 Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

RESOLVED that the capital projects as set out in the report and Appendix A to the report, be approved for inclusion in the 2020 / 21 Capital Programme.

761. CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES FOR 2020 / 21 AND MINIMUM RESERVE STRATEGY 2020 / 21

The report of the Interim Section 151 Officer sought approval of an annual Capital Strategy (Appendix 1 to the report) and Annual Investment Strategy (Appendix 2 to the report) before the start of the financial year to which they relate. The Minimum Revenue Provision was attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

In response to a question the Interim Section 151 Officer provided further information regarding the proposed provision relating to business rates and planning appeal liabilities. The Interim Section 151 Officer advised that it was prudent of the Council to hold these monies separate to general reserves.

At this point, the Chairman responded to a point of order raised by Councillor N Skeens regarding the Chairman seeking Members' comments prior to the debate.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Capital Strategy for 2020 / 21 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) be approved; and
- (ii) That the Investment Strategy for 2020 / 21 (attached as Appendix 2 to the report) be approved; and
- (iii) That the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2020 / 21 (attached as Appendix 3 to the report) be approved.

762. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2020 / 21

Members were reminded that the Code of Practice to Treasury Management required the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year. The report of the Interim Section 151 Officer fulfilled the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2020 / 21 was attached as Appendix 1 to the report and the supporting Treasury Management Practices at Appendix 2.

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management Strategy 2020 / 21 be approved.

763. DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2020 / 21

Following their earlier declarations, Councillors S P Nunn and N Skeens left the chamber at this point.

The report of the Director of Resources sought Members' approval of the fees and charges of the Council (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) which were then included in the 2020 / 21 budget. It was noted that the proposed 2020 / 21 fees and charges (that generate >£2,000) had been reviewed by the Interim Section 151 Officer under delegated powers.

RESOLVED that the detailed Fees and Charges for 2020 / 21 (as set out in Appendix A to the report), be agreed.

Councillors Nunn and Skeens returned to the chamber.

764. REVISED 2019 / 20 AND ORIGINAL 2020 / 21 BUDGET ESTIMATES AND COUNCIL TAX 2020 / 21

The report of the Interim Section 151 Officer presented the revised 2019 / 20 and original 2020 / 21 General Fund Revenue Budget estimates for approval. Members were advised that the final Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) 2020 / 21 had not been announced by the Government. When announced, should the LGFS differ from the provisional amount received the Council's budget estimate for 2020 / 21 would need to be revised.

In response to a number of questions, the Interim Section 151 Officer provided Members with the following information:

- The Future Council model £739,000 savings had been identified from the transformation blueprint approved by the Council.
- Staffing budget were not normally provided due to the General Data Protection Regulations and individual staff being able to be identified.
- Salary budgets were set in accordance with the staffing structure agreed as part of the transformation programme.

- The Interim Section 151 Officer explained in detail where other savings had been identified as part of the Transformation Programme. Members were advised that there were some outstanding savings to be identified and this was in addition to the further savings to be identified in 2022 / 23.
- Core Spending Power was an assessment undertaken by the Government and further explanation as to what this included was provided.

The Leader of the Council advised Members that an Interim Director of Resources, incorporating the role of Section 151 Officer, had been appointed and was due to start in March. Interviews had also been scheduled for the permanent role of Director of Resources. The Leader explained that the Resources directorate was almost up to full contingent which would allow the Council to move forward quicker with the budget.

In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 13 (5) the Chairman informed the Council that there would need to be a recorded vote on any decision relating to the budget, including the setting of Council Tax and levying a precept.

The Chairman then put the recommendations as set out in the report and the voting was as follows:

For the recommendations:

Councillors E L Bamford, M G Bassenger, B S Beale, R G Boyce, Mrs P A Channer, R P F Dewick, M R Edwards, J L Fleming, A S Fluker, B E Harker, M S Heard, M W Helm, A J Hull, K W Jarvis, J V Keyes, K M H Lagan, C Mayes, C P Morley, S P Nunn, Mrs N G F Shaughnessy, R H Siddall, J Stilts, C Swain, Mrs M E Thompson and Miss S White.

Against the recommendations:

Councillor C Morris

Abstentions:

Councillors V J Bell, N Skeens and W Stamp.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the main details of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2020 / 21 described in section 3.4 of the report, be noted;
- (ii) that the following be approved as recommended by the Strategy and Resources Committee subject to the comment in 1.1 of the report:
 - (a) the Revised 2019 / 20 and Original 2020 / 21 General Fund Revenue Budget Estimates (attached as Appendices 1 -3 of the report);
 - (b) an average Band D council tax of £202.40 (excluding parish precepts) (£5 increase) for 2020 / 21 (Appendix 1 to the report);
 - (c) policies on the designated use of financial reserves (Appendix 4 to the report);
 - (d) maintain the current policy of a minimum general fund balance of £2,600,000;

- (iii) that Council gives due regard to the Interim Section 151 Officer's statement on the robustness of budgets and adequacy of reserves in Appendix 5 to the report.

765. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020 / 21 TO 2023 / 24

The report of Interim Section 151 Officer presented the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2020 / 21 to 2023 / 24 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) for approval.

RESOLVED that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2020 / 21 to 2023 / 24 (Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.

766. COUNCIL TAX 2020 / 21

The Chairman drew Members' attention to a revised report and appendices which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Interim Section 151 Officer advised that the columns labels for the table at paragraph 3.5 of the revised report should read A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H. This was noted.

The Chairman informed the Council that in accordance with Procedure Rule 13 (5) this decision required a recorded vote. He then put the recommendations as set out in the revised report to the Council and the voting was as follows:

For the recommendations:

Councillors E L Bamford, M G Bassenger, B S Beale, V J Bell, R G Boyce, Mrs P A Channer, R P F Dewick, M R Edwards, J L Fleming, A S Fluker, B E Harker, M S Heard, M W Helm, A J Hull, K W Jarvis, J V Keyes, K M H Lagan, C Mayes, C P Morley, S P Nunn, Mrs N G F Shaughnessy, R H Siddall, N Skeens, W Stamp, J Stilts, C Swain, Mrs M E Thompson and Miss S White.

Against the recommendations:

Councillor C Morris.

RESOLVED

- (i) that Maldon District Council's Council Tax Requirement for 2020 / 21 is set at £5,078,378;
- (ii) that the Maldon District Council's Band D Council Tax (excluding Parish precepts) is set at £202.40, reflecting an increase of £5.00, all other bands being determined in accordance with the relevant Sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended;
- (iii) that the precept demands and level of Band D Council Tax of the Essex County Council, the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority for both Police and Fire, and the various Parish Councils within the District be determined as set out in the report, all other bands being determined in accordance with the relevant Sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended;

(iv) that the Council agrees the following:

1. That it be noted that at its meeting on 19 December 2019 the Council calculated its Council Tax Base for the year 2020/21:

- (a) for the whole district as 25,090.8 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act), as amended by the Localism Act 2011; and
- (b) for dwellings in those parts of its district to which a Parish precept relates as listed below:

Althorne	523.3
Asheldham	61.8
Bradwell-on-Sea	337.6
Burnham-on-Crouch	3,288.3
Cold Norton	499.2
Dengie	49.4
Goldhanger	311.6
Great Braxted	178.7
Great Totham	1,274.2
Hazeleigh	57.2
Heybridge	2,781.6
Heybridge Basin	280.3
Langford	85.3
Latchingdon	478.5
Little Braxted	84.8
Little Totham	193.4
Maldon	5,430.2
Mayland	1,487.7
Mundon	146.8
North Fambridge	410.0
Purleigh	567.6
Southminster	1,544.8
St. Lawrence	596.6
Steeple	193.1
Stow Maries	84.3
Tillingham	402.0
Tollesbury	1,013.2
Tolleshunt D'arcy	443.3
Tolleshunt Knights	421.3
Tolleshunt Major	277.2
Ulting	68.8
Wickham Bishops	994.6
Woodham Mortimer	253.2
Woodham Walter	270.9
Total	25,090.8

2. Calculate that the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020/21 (excluding Parish precepts) is £5,078,378

3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2020/21 in accordance with new Sections 31 to 36 of the Act as amended:
- (a) £33,044,385 being the aggregate of the amounts 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 Parish Councils (**i.e. gross expenditure including Parish precepts**)
 - (b) £26,403,879 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (**i.e. gross income including government grants**)
 - (c) £6,640,506 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 (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act) (**i.e. Council Tax Requirement including Parish precepts**).
 - (d) £264.66 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R) divided by the amount at 1(a) above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (**i.e. average Band D Council Tax including Parish precepts**)
 - (e) £1,562,128 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (**i.e. Parish Council precepts**)
 - (f) £202.40 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(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 (**i.e. District Council Band D Council Tax excluding Parish precepts**).
 - (g) Basic Amount of Council Tax by Parish 2020 / 21

Town/Parish	Local Precept	Town/Parish Band D	District + Town/Parish Band D
Althorne	18,000.00	34.40	236.80
Asheldham	3,437.35	55.62	258.02
Bradwell-on-Sea	27,000.00	79.98	282.38
Burnham-on-Crouch	203,441.00	61.87	264.27
Cold Norton	31,083.00	62.27	264.67
Dengie	2,747.65	55.62	258.02
Goldhanger	8,850.00	28.40	230.80
Great Braxted	8,160.00	45.66	248.06

Town/Parish	Local Precept	Town/Parish Band D	District + Town/Parish Band D
Great Totham	19,572.00	15.36	217.76
Hazeleigh	882.14	15.42	217.82
Heybridge	210,000.00	75.50	277.90
Heybridge Basin	24,374.00	86.96	289.36
Langford	4,985.00	58.44	260.84
Latchingdon	50,000.00	104.49	306.89
Little Braxted	3,950.00	46.58	248.98
Little Totham	8,200.00	42.40	244.80
Maldon	385,170.00	70.93	273.33
Mayland	99,256.00	66.72	269.12
Mundon	4,750.00	32.36	234.76
North Fambridge	15,310.00	37.34	239.74
Purleigh	42,000.00	74.00	276.40
Southminster	140,990.00	91.27	293.67
St. Lawrence	24,570.00	41.18	243.58
Steeple	8,915.00	46.17	248.57
Stow Maries	6,500.00	77.11	279.51
Tillingham	35,000.00	87.06	289.46
Tollesbury	85,204.00	84.09	286.49
Tolleshunt D'arcy	21,515.24	48.53	250.93
Tolleshunt Knights	9,500.00	22.55	224.95
Tolleshunt Major	8,400.00	30.30	232.70
Ulting	3,295.00	47.89	250.29
Wickham Bishops	20,276.00	20.39	222.79
Woodham Mortimer	3,904.86	15.42	217.82
Woodham Walter	22,890.00	84.50	286.90

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Councils area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(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.

(h) Calculation of Basic Amounts of Council Tax by Parish for Different Valuation Bands

PARISH	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Althorne	157.86	184.18	210.49	236.80	289.42	342.05	394.66	473.60
Asheldham	172.01	200.68	229.35	258.02	315.36	372.70	430.03	516.04
Bradwell-on-Sea	188.25	219.63	251.00	282.38	345.13	407.89	470.63	564.76
Burnham-on-Crouch	176.18	205.54	234.91	264.27	323.00	381.73	440.45	528.54
Cold Norton	176.44	205.85	235.26	264.67	323.49	382.31	441.11	529.34
Dengie	172.01	200.68	229.35	258.02	315.36	372.70	430.03	516.04

PARISH	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Goldhanger	153.86	179.51	205.15	230.80	282.09	333.38	384.66	461.60
Great Braxted	165.37	192.93	220.50	248.06	303.19	358.31	413.43	496.12
Great Totham	145.17	169.37	193.56	217.76	266.15	314.55	362.93	435.52
Hazeleigh	145.21	169.41	193.62	217.82	266.23	314.63	363.03	435.64
Heybridge	185.26	216.14	247.02	277.90	339.66	401.42	463.16	555.80
Heybridge Basin	192.90	225.06	257.21	289.36	353.66	417.97	482.26	578.72
Langford	173.89	202.87	231.86	260.84	318.81	376.77	434.73	521.68
Latchingdon	204.59	238.69	272.79	306.89	375.09	443.29	511.48	613.78
Little Braxted	165.98	193.65	221.31	248.98	304.31	359.64	414.96	497.96
Little Totham	163.20	190.40	217.60	244.80	299.20	353.60	408.00	489.60
Maldon	182.22	212.59	242.96	273.33	334.07	394.81	455.55	546.66
Mayland	179.41	209.31	239.22	269.12	328.93	388.73	448.53	538.24
Mundon	156.50	182.59	208.67	234.76	286.93	339.10	391.26	469.52
North Fambridge	159.82	186.46	213.10	239.74	293.02	346.30	399.56	479.48
Purleigh	184.26	214.98	245.69	276.40	337.82	399.25	460.66	552.80
Southminster	195.78	228.41	261.04	293.67	358.93	424.19	489.45	587.34
St. Lawrence	162.38	189.45	216.51	243.58	297.71	351.84	405.96	487.16
Steeple	165.71	193.33	220.95	248.57	303.81	359.05	414.28	497.14
Stow Maries	186.34	217.39	248.45	279.51	341.63	403.74	465.85	559.02
Tillingham	192.97	225.13	257.30	289.46	353.79	418.11	482.43	578.92
Tollesbury	190.99	222.82	254.66	286.49	350.16	413.82	477.48	572.98
Tolleshunt D'arcy	167.28	195.17	223.05	250.93	306.69	362.46	418.21	501.86
Tolleshunt Knights	149.96	174.96	199.95	224.95	274.94	324.93	374.91	449.90
Tolleshunt Major	155.13	180.99	206.84	232.70	284.41	336.13	387.83	465.40
Ulting	166.86	194.67	222.48	250.29	305.91	361.53	417.15	500.58
Wickham Bishops	148.52	173.28	198.03	222.79	272.30	321.81	371.31	445.58
Woodham Mortimer	145.21	169.41	193.62	217.82	266.23	314.63	363.03	435.64
Woodham Walter	191.26	223.14	255.02	286.90	350.66	414.42	478.16	573.80

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) 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.

- That it be noted for the year 2020/21 the major precepting authorities have issued precepts 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:

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands			
Essex County Council	A	£880.74	E	£1,614.69
	B	£1,027.53	F	£1,908.27
	C	£1,174.32	G	£2,201.85
	D	£1,321.11	H	£2,642.22

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands			
Essex PFCC F&RA Essex Police and Crime Commissioner	A	£132.42	E	£242.77
	B	£154.49	F	£286.91
	C	£176.56	G	£331.05
	D	£198.63	H	£397.26
Essex PFCC F&RA Essex Fire and Rescue Authority	A	£49.26	E	£90.31
	B	£57.47	F	£106.73
	C	£65.68	G	£123.15
	D	£73.89	H	£147.78

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2020/21 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwelling shown in Table A attached.
6. Determines that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2020 / 21 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2020/21 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

TABLE A

Total Council Tax Amounts (£) by Band and Area 2020/21

Parish/Area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Althorne	1,220.28	1,423.67	1,627.05	1,830.43	2,237.19	2,643.96	3,050.71	3,660.86
Asheldham	1,234.43	1,440.17	1,645.91	1,851.65	2,263.13	2,674.61	3,086.08	3,703.30
Bradwell-on-Sea	1,250.67	1,459.12	1,667.56	1,876.01	2,292.90	2,709.80	3,126.68	3,752.02
Burnham-on-Crouch	1,238.60	1,445.03	1,651.47	1,857.90	2,270.77	2,683.64	3,096.50	3,715.80
Cold Norton	1,238.86	1,445.34	1,651.82	1,858.30	2,271.26	2,684.22	3,097.16	3,716.60
Dengie	1,234.43	1,440.17	1,645.91	1,851.65	2,263.13	2,674.61	3,086.08	3,703.30
Goldhanger	1,216.28	1,419.00	1,621.71	1,824.43	2,229.86	2,635.29	3,040.71	3,648.86
Great Braxted	1,227.79	1,432.42	1,637.06	1,841.69	2,250.96	2,660.22	3,069.48	3,683.38
Great Totham	1,207.59	1,408.86	1,610.12	1,811.39	2,213.92	2,616.46	3,018.98	3,622.78
Hazeleigh	1,207.63	1,408.90	1,610.18	1,811.45	2,214.00	2,616.54	3,019.08	3,622.90
Heybridge	1,247.68	1,455.63	1,663.58	1,871.53	2,287.43	2,703.33	3,119.21	3,743.06
Heybridge Basin	1,255.32	1,464.55	1,673.77	1,882.99	2,301.43	2,719.88	3,138.31	3,765.98
Langford	1,236.31	1,442.36	1,648.42	1,854.47	2,266.58	2,678.68	3,090.78	3,708.94
Latchingdon	1,267.01	1,478.18	1,689.35	1,900.52	2,322.86	2,745.20	3,167.53	3,801.04
Little Braxted	1,228.40	1,433.14	1,637.87	1,842.61	2,252.08	2,661.55	3,071.01	3,685.22
Little Totham	1,225.62	1,429.89	1,634.16	1,838.43	2,246.97	2,655.51	3,064.05	3,676.86
Maldon	1,244.64	1,452.08	1,659.52	1,866.96	2,281.84	2,696.72	3,111.60	3,733.92

Parish/Area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Mayland	1,241.83	1,448.80	1,655.78	1,862.75	2,276.70	2,690.64	3,104.58	3,725.50
Mundon	1,218.92	1,422.08	1,625.23	1,828.39	2,234.70	2,641.01	3,047.31	3,656.78
North Fambridge	1,222.24	1,425.95	1,629.66	1,833.37	2,240.79	2,648.21	3,055.61	3,666.74
Purleigh	1,246.68	1,454.47	1,662.25	1,870.03	2,285.59	2,701.16	3,116.71	3,740.06
Southminster	1,258.20	1,467.90	1,677.60	1,887.30	2,306.70	2,726.10	3,145.50	3,774.60
St. Lawrence	1,224.80	1,428.94	1,633.07	1,837.21	2,245.48	2,653.75	3,062.01	3,674.42
Steeple	1,228.13	1,432.82	1,637.51	1,842.20	2,251.58	2,660.96	3,070.33	3,684.40
Stow Maries	1,248.76	1,456.88	1,665.01	1,873.14	2,289.40	2,705.65	3,121.90	3,746.28
Tillingham	1,255.39	1,464.62	1,673.86	1,883.09	2,301.56	2,720.02	3,138.48	3,766.18
Tollesbury	1,253.41	1,462.31	1,671.22	1,880.12	2,297.93	2,715.73	3,133.53	3,760.24
Tolleshunt D'arcy	1,229.70	1,434.66	1,639.61	1,844.56	2,254.46	2,664.37	3,074.26	3,689.12
Tolleshunt Knights	1,212.38	1,414.45	1,616.51	1,818.58	2,222.71	2,626.84	3,030.96	3,637.16
Tolleshunt Major	1,217.55	1,420.48	1,623.40	1,826.33	2,232.18	2,638.04	3,043.88	3,652.66
Ulting	1,229.28	1,434.16	1,639.04	1,843.92	2,253.68	2,663.44	3,073.20	3,687.84
Wickham Bishops	1,210.94	1,412.77	1,614.59	1,816.42	2,220.07	2,623.72	3,027.36	3,632.84
Woodham Mortimer	1,207.63	1,408.90	1,610.18	1,811.45	2,214.00	2,616.54	3,019.08	3,622.90
Woodham Walter	1,253.68	1,462.63	1,671.58	1,880.53	2,298.43	2,716.33	3,134.21	3,761.06

767. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE 6(3) OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

The Chairman advised that in accordance with Procedure Rule 6(3) he had received notification from Councillor C Swain of a question he wished to ask.

Councillor Swain asked the following question:

“In order to reassure the public that decisions of the Joint Standards Committee are objective and fair will you ask or recommend that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the effectiveness of the decision-making procedure of the Joint Standards Committee?”

The Chairman responded to this question, advising:

“You have kindly informed me that your reason for asking your question is that you would like to see each member of the Joint Standards Committee (JSC) explain why they voted.

JSC is a Committee like other Committees of the Council. Members can explain their position during any debate and can introduce their proposal with an explanation for their proposal. Members then vote on that proposal and their vote is a statement on their view on whether they are ‘for’ or ‘against’. As in other Committees no member can be forced to participate in a debate nor to explain their reasons for voting.

I do not see any basis for any changes in the constitution regarding JSC and therefore see no basis for a referral to O and S.”

768. ONE MALDON DISTRICT

The Council considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery presenting the One Maldon District (OMD) proposal.

It was noted that OMD was a senior level partnership, working together across the statutory, voluntary and private sector, to ensure a healthier and prosperous Maldon District in relation to the themes of Place, Prosperity, Community and Safety. It sought to maximise collaboration to ensure there was an abundance of opportunities for enhanced health, wellbeing, community safety and the feeling of safety within communities across the District.

The Leader of the Council referred to the importance of this group and that the Council should endorse it as an excellent thing to do. He raised some concern regarding that there was insufficient information provided within the report to make an informed decision. Councillor Fluker proposed that this report be brought back to the March 2020 meeting of the Council with more information. This was duly seconded.

The Council requested that its thanks be passed onto the Health Improvement Officer and Strategy Theme Lead - Community for the enormous amount of work they had done in respect of this project.

The Chairman then put the proposal to the Council and upon a vote being taken this was agreed.

RESOLVED that consideration of formation of One Maldon District be deferred to the March 2020 meeting of the Council pending further information.

769. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY WORKING GROUP

The Council considered the report of the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance seeking Members' approval to establish a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Working Group to consider and inform the work being undertaken to introduce a CIL for Maldon.

The report provided an outline of the process for implementing CIL and a timetable towards the adoption of CIL was summarised in Appendix 1 to the report. Members were advised that Essex County Council was offering support and funding for up to two authorities to meet the costs of bringing forward a CIL. However as a condition of the grant the County Council would wish to influence the spend of CIL income, if a CIL was adopted, on infrastructure priorities up to the value of the grant, with terms agreed through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Leader of the Council proposed that recommendation (i) be agreed and the following Members be appointed to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) working group:

- Councillor E L Bamford,
- Councillor Mrs P A Channer
- Councillor A S Fluker

- Councillor J L Fleming
- Councillor M S Heard
- Councillor Mrs M E Thompson

Following further debate and a proposal from Councillor Mrs W Stamp, Councillor Fluker amended his proposal to increase the Membership of the Working Group by one to seven Members and add Councillor Stamp to its proposed Members. This was duly seconded and agreed.

The Chairman then put recommendation (ii) to the council as set out in the report and this was duly agreed. At this point he thanked Councillor Mrs P A Channer, previous Chairman of the Planning and Licensing Committee for all the work she had in respect of CIL.

RESOLVED

- (i) That a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Working Group comprised of the following Members be established:
 - Councillors E L Bamford, Mrs P A Channer, A S Fluker, J L Fleming, M S Heard, W Stamp and Mrs M E Thompson
- (ii) That the progress made in developing the CIL since the Planning and Licensing Committee in September 2019 be noted.

770. BRADWELL B DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

The Council considered the report of the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance providing a summary of the adopted planning policy with regards to Bradwell B. The report also sought Members' consideration of the preparation of a Development Plan Document (DPD) to address wider development impacts and opportunities arising from the Bradwell B proposal.

The report provided background information regarding the identification of Bradwell as one of the eight sites suitable in principle for the siting of a new nuclear power station and the process following this.

The DPD would provide an adopted planning policy framework and clarity on the Council's vision and development strategy in relation to the wider development impacts and opportunities arising from the development of a new nuclear power station at Bradwell-on-Sea. If the DPD was approved the Local Development Scheme (LDS) would be updated to include the DPD.

The report suggested establishing a Bradwell B DPD Working Group to provide opportunity for Members to input into the DPD work programme as it progressed.

The Leader of the Council proposed that recommendations (i) and (ii) as set out in the report be agreed. In respect of recommendation (iii) he proposed that this be amended and the remit of this work be added to that of the Bradwell B Working Group. These proposals were duly seconded and agreed. It was noted that the Membership of the

Bradwell B Working Group would be reviewed at the Statutory Annual meeting of the Council.

In response to a question regarding the timing of the DPD the Leader of the Council provided the Council with additional information on progress of work to date.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the current references and policies in the Local Development Plan be noted;
- (ii) That the Council approves preparation of a Development Plan Document (DPD) to provide an adopted planning policy framework and to provide clarity on the Council's vision and development strategy in relation to the wider development impacts and opportunities arising from the development of a new nuclear power station at Bradwell-on-Sea;
- (ii) That preparation of a DPD be added to the Bradwell B Working Group Terms of Reference.

771. BRADWELL B PROJECT - CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Council considered the report of the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance seeking Members' consideration of a proposed response to the consultation on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) (attached as Appendix A to the report) relating to the proposed Bradwell B power station proposals. It was noted that the Joint Bradwell Board had recommended that a joint consultation response representing the view of both Maldon District Council and Essex County Council be submitted and the report contained joint responses. Members were informed that the consultation period expired on 14 February 2020.

The Leader of the Council proposed that the recommendations as set out in the report be agreed with an amendment that if a Parish Council were to ask BRB to consult with them on a 121 basis that this will be implemented.

In response to a question regarding consultation areas, the Strategy, Policy and Communications Manager advised that the Council had asked for definition of the consultation areas and BRB informed that these areas related to areas of impact. The Council had made it clear that it was commenting in response to the consultation document and until the proposals were live the contents of the proposals would not be known.

The Chairman put the proposal of Councillor Fluker which was duly agreed.

RESOLVED that the Officer comments on the submitted draft Statement of Community Consultation, as set out in the report, subject to amendment to include reference so that if a Parish Council were to ask BRB to consult with them on a 121 basis that this will be implemented be endorsed at the Council's response to the consultation made in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 and regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulation 2017.

772. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

In response to a question from Councillor Swain regarding the reason for the following report being considered in private sessions, the Council's Monitoring Officer provided Members' with some guidance.

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test.

773. REVIEW OF CORPORATE SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Leadership Team presenting for consideration the outcomes of a review of corporate subscriptions with external partnership organisations. Members were reminded that this review had been undertaken following a decision by the Council which requested the review as part of the 2020 / 21 budget process along with a value for money analysis.

The report provided background information regarding the request for a review and Appendix 1 to the report detailed information previously provided on the Local Government Association and East of England Local Government Association to Members in June 2019. Details of each review undertaken were set out in the report and in respect of the Local Government Information Unit, Appendix 2 to the report outlined the services provided by this Unit.

The Director of Service Delivery provided Members with further information regarding the Local Government Information Unit and why the Corporate Leadership Team were recommending that Members consider whether they wished to renew its membership of this body.

The Leader of the Council then proposed that recommendations (i), (ii) and (iv) as set out in the report be agreed and that the Council agrees not to re-join the Local Government Information Unit. This was duly seconded and upon a vote being taken was agreed.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the corporate subscription with the Local Government Association (LGA) and East of England Local Government Association (EELGA) be continued;
- (ii) That corporate subscriptions with the following organisations are renewed for the 2020 / 21 financial year and then are subject to annual review by the Corporate Leadership Team:
 - Essex On Line Partnership;
 - Vine HR;
 - Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Membership – District Surveyors Association;

- Volume and Values Survey by Visit England.
- (iii) That the Council not re-join the Local Government Information Unit;
- (iv) That the corporate subscription to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting be reinstated.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.09 pm.

R G BOYCE MBE
CHAIRMAN

I stand to present the 2020/21 Budget

The budget reflects the financial requirements of the Council and the overarching principal of delivering first class services to residents and customers.

The budget meets our fiscal responsibilities and follows the advice and guidance of the Section 151 Officer

Over the last three years Government funding has reduced by 22%, in real terms this equates to around £425k, the Council has not received Revenue Support Grant (RSG) since 2018, the sum total of RSG is now negative which means if the government chooses they could ask us to repay around £330,000.

Furthermore, the Government has announced that the New Homes Bonus will cease to exist from 2021. Whilst the details of the new funding formula is currently unknown it is likely that it will provide less than the current New Homes Bonus scheme

On the plus side the Council has completed the Transformation Programme which will deliver efficiency savings and income of £1.9m per annum based on the 18/19 budget.

For the Council to become Sustainable and meet its MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY for 2020/1 – 2023/4 it must start to generate NEW commercial income via its Corporate Projects Plan. Projects from the plan and other new emerging projects will be presented to Council and its committees for consideration in the coming months.

The council pension fund has a requirement of £25m and is currently underfunded by approximately £7m compared to £8.5m a few years ago. Following the request from the FUND ACTUARIES it is proposed a payment of £1.5m is made to the scheme to cover the years 2020 to 2023

Sums of £100k each will be required to support both the Resources Department and the doorstep collections of Glass and Green Waste for recycling. The investment in the Waste Collection Service will enable us to work more efficiently – it will also mean that the 800 plus households that are currently waiting for a garden waste recycling bin will get one and that moving forward, and in recognition of the HOUSING DELIVERY PROJECTION of the LDP and the expected requirements of our existing residents an additional 2,500 green bins will be made available to residents over the coming years.

To meet these extraordinary costs, it will be necessary to draw down £1.7m from reserves.

To support the budget Capital Project Bids have been kept to a bare minimum and only include those items that are considered essential or where there has been a service failure

With regards to DISCRETIONARY FEES and CHARGES the council has where appropriate met and consulted with customers and residents to ensure that any CHANGES that it is planning are FAIR AND TRANSPARENT. As a result, and in recognition of the enormous value they bring to the District the Council will NOW meet with the Thames Sailing Barge Operators on a regular basis to ensure that their needs and those of the Council are properly understood.

It would be remiss of me not to highlight some of the financial issues that we will be facing over the coming years. Towards the end of the administration the first statutory review of the LDP will need to be undertaken - the estimated cost to deliver this piece of work is likely to be in the region of £600,000. The Bradwell B project is gathering momentum with an announcement today that the GDA GENERIC DESIGN ASSESSMENT is moving to the final stage of the assessment process, it is also anticipated that the first public consultation will start in the Spring and whilst an initial PPA has been agreed with BRB this will only cover certain elements of the consultation and DCO process. As far as MAXIMISING the SOCIO-ECONOMIC benefits to the District are concerned the Council will have to meet the costs of developing its own SOCEC team. Costs for both projects could with the agreement of Council be met partly through the New Homes Bonus Reserve.

The costs of dealing with Planning Appeals can be significant - following today's announcement that the Council has passed the Statutory Housing Delivery Test and that its five year housing land supply is re-confirmed as a result; it is hoped that the number of appeals and associated costs will reduce accordingly.

The Budget provides for the delivery of an inordinate amount of services and whilst we monitor our performance through both Statutory and Corporate indicators it is always helpful to see how others see us. To that end I am delighted to announce that the latest Quality of Life survey by the Halifax has reported that Maldon District is the 5th best place to live in the UK. The survey was based on 26 different factors including safety, access to green space, wellbeing, lifestyle, affordability, cleanliness and happiness. The District Council should be very proud of the part it has played in making that happen.

Each year the Council faces inflationary costs that it has no control over, for 20/21 these include in salary cost increases of £163,000, a £221,000 increase in Employers Pension Contributions and £69,000 to mitigate the impact of the increase in the living wage on the WASTE CONTRACT

With the exception of the draw down from reserves the budget is balanced but to achieve that we need to protect our tax base, keep track with inflation, meet costs outside of our control and ensure that our statutory and other frontline services are maintained to the highest standards for both our residents and customers. We are therefore proposing that the Maldon District Council's Band D Council Tax is increased by £5 per annum; this equates to 42p per month for a band D Property, and that all other bands are determined proportionally in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992

In summary chairman... To meet our overarching corporate Objective of a 'Sustainable Council – with a Prosperous Future' we need to become financially independent and sustainable and thereafter use every pound we raise to deliver first class services for our residents and customers. Chairman to do otherwise will eventually leave us with no reserves and the bleak prospect of having to merge with another authority.

This budget lays the FOUNDATION STONES for a SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL - going forward we MUST build on THIS BUDGET to ensure we prosper for the benefit of our residents and future generations who choose to live in MALDON District

CHAIRMAN I COMMEND THE BUDGET TO THE COUNCIL.

Cllr Adrian S Fluker

Leader of the Council

Ward Member for Southminster

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