



**MINUTES of
COUNCIL (EXTRAORDINARY)
23 FEBRUARY 2021**

PRESENT

Chairman Councillor M S Heard

Vice-Chairman Councillor C Mayes

Councillors Miss A M Beale, B S Beale MBE, M G Bassenger, V J Bell,
R G Boyce MBE, Mrs P A Channer, CC, M F L Durham, CC,
M R Edwards, Mrs J L Fleming, A S Fluker, M W Helm,
A L Hull, K W Jarvis, J V Keyes, K M H Lagan, 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

276. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this remote extraordinary meeting of the Maldon District Council, held under new regulations which had come into effect in response to the COVID-19 situation. The Chairman then went through some general housekeeping arrangements for the meeting.

A roll call of those Members present was taken.

277. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R P F Dewick.

278. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Lead Legal Specialist and Monitoring Officer advised Members that the Joint Standards Committee at its last meeting had under Section 33 of the Localism Act considered a dispensation request from Councillor S P Nunn. Although the Committee had agreed that the dispensation should be granted to Councillor Nunn and all Members upon further investigation the Officer had ascertained that Section 33 could only apply to the Member who had made the request and not all Members. The Lead Legal Specialist and Monitoring Officer reported that Councillor Nunn had disclosed a pecuniary interest to him and the Joint Standards Committee had granted Councillor Nunn a dispensation to remain in this meeting, debate and vote on all items of the budget.

Councillor Nunn thanked the Officer for explaining this and declared a pecuniary interest in relation to Fees and Charges (Agenda Item 5c Discretionary Fees and Charges 2021-22) specifically in relation to Wharfage or the like for barges as his wife worked as a caterer for one of the barge companies and he had given history tours from the barges. He explained that this was why he had sought a dispensation.

Councillor C Mayes disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5c Discretionary Fees and Charges 2021-22 as she was secretary to the Maldon and Heritage Harbour Association.

Councillor R G Boyce raised a point of order referring the Local Government Act 2011 Section 33 and a challenge he had made of the Lead Legal Specialist and Monitoring Officer's report to the Joint Standards Committee (JSC) meeting in relation to the dispensation. He believed a point of order he had raised at the JSC was correct and that this matter should not have been brought forward. In response the Chairman advised that the matter had been corrected by the Officer and clarified that the dispensation only applied to Councillor Nunn.

In response to another Point of Order raised by Councillor Boyce, the Chairman outlined the correction as advised by the Lead Legal Specialist and Monitoring Officer and that he was happy with the decision.

Councillor M F L Durham declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Essex County Council and a governor of the Essex Partnership University NHS Trust in a voluntary position.

Councillor K M H Lagan declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5c Discretionary Fees and Charges 2021-22 as he was a member of the Maldon Harbour Commissioners and had had discussions with barge owners and operators over the years.

Councillor N Skeens clarified that normally in budget meetings he would declare an interest in relation to West Quay Houseboats Association which held a lease with the Council. He advised that this was not connected to the Discretionary Fees and Charges report but should any matter relating this organisation arise in the future he had a pecuniary interest.

Councillor J Stilts declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5c Discretionary Fees and Charges 2021-22 as she sat on the Maldon Heritage Harbour Committee and Little Ship Club Committee.

Councillor Mrs P A Channer declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of Essex County Council who were named in a number of the reports for consideration at this meeting. She also declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5a Capital and Investment Strategies for 2021-22 as it referred to houseboats and the vessel Llys Helig. Being on the Crouch Harbour Authority she had previously removed herself from discussions relating to this vessel but believed she could remain for this item of business as matters regarding that vessel had moved on. Councillor Mrs Channer advised that she had never participated in discussions when Crouch Harbour Authority may have discussed the Llys Helig.

Councillor M S Heard declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5c Discretionary Fees and Charges 2021-22 as he was a trustee of the steam tug Brent moored at Maldon, although he had no financial involvement.

Councillor M R Edwards declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5c Discretionary Fees and Charges 2021-22 as a member of the Thames Barge Sailing Trust.

After a short statement Councillor C Morris left the meeting and advised that he would be expressing his views through a different means.

279. STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 28 JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee on 28 January 2021 be received.

The Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee presented the Minutes and the following recommendations for consideration by the Council. He advised that recommendations contained within the Minute Numbers 216 - 220 were not consideration as they formed part of Agenda Item 5 – 2021 / 22 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy and therefore would be considered by the Council at that stage. This was duly seconded.

Councillor R G Boyce raised a point of order referring to the business detailed on the agenda for this meeting, commenting that this extraordinary meeting of the Council had been called to discuss the budget and that should be the only item of business for consideration. In response the Chairman of the Council advised that this was at his discretion and he was happy to allow these matters to be brought forward in the interest of efficiency for the Council.

Minute 221 – Annual Review of Financial Regulations

RESOLVED

- (ii) that the revised Financial Regulations, attached at Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee, be approved.

Minute 222 – Contract Procedure Rules Review and Update

RESOLVED

- (iii) That the revised Contract Procedure Rules at Appendix 2 to the Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee be approved.
- (iv) That the Director of Resources is authorised to make minor changes to the Contract Procedure Rules; minor changes are defined as:
 - Changes in statutory framework, such as references to new or updated legislation;

- Changes in titles, names or terminology;
- Changes consequential to other constitutional changes already made.

Minute 223 – Council Tax Support Scheme 2021 / 22

RESOLVED

- (v) that the following changes to the existing Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) be approved:
- (a) 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 2021 / 22 for Pensioners only;
 - (b) that any legislative changes being introduced to the Housing Benefit Scheme, for 2021 / 22 are mirrored in the Councils LCTS scheme to ensure consistency;
 - (c) that amendments to the discretionary provisions of the LCTS to ensure that the Council is able to administer the various schemes to reflect local and national guidance;
 - (d) that the LCTS may reflect any additional changes to government welfare benefit regulations during the year which are intended to:
 - increase the income of benefit recipients; and
 - be introduced during a financial year to;
 to avoid any unintended consequences to customers.
 - (e) that this decision has been made following Members careful reading of and regard to the Equality Impact Assessment attached at Appendix 3 to the Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

Minute 224 – Pay Policy Statement

RESOLVED

- (vi) that the Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix 4 to the Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee be adopted for 2021.

Minute 225 – Insurance Tender

RESOLVED

- (vii) that the tender process to ensure the Council has compliant insurance contracts in place by 1 October 2021 be commenced;
- (vii) that the insurance contract tender process be put in place for five years with an option to extend the process for a further two years Long Term Agreement.

Minute 214 – Disclosure of Interest

Councillor Mrs P A Channer referred to her declaration of interest and asked Members to agree the following amendments:

“...the papers relating to **the vessel Llys Helig** and houseboats. Councillor Mrs Channer advised that although in the past she had removed herself from the meeting for such items she felt she was able to remain **as things had moved on regarding the vessel but would not comment should the vessel Llys Helig itself be discussed.**”

Councillor Siddall advised he was happy with the proposed amendment. This was duly agreed.

Minute 219 – Revised 2020 – 21 Estimates, Original 2021 / 22 Budget Estimates and Council Tax 2021 - 22

Councillor Mrs Channer advised that the second bullet on page 10 should read as follows:

- the Government had recently announced a further **£15m** to be allocated in

She also advised that prior to the vote taking place she had advised the Committee that she reserved judgement until all budget papers were available. She therefore requested that the following paragraph be added prior to the penultimate paragraph for this Minute:

Councillor Mrs P A Channer indicated that she reserved judgement until she had seen all the budget papers at the budget meeting. Prior to assent being agreed Councillor Mrs Channer placed a caveat regarding herself on the basis that further information may come forward.

Councillor Mrs M E Thompson advised that she had reserved the same judgement as Councillor Mrs Channer and requested that she be included in the suggested additional paragraph.

Councillor Siddall advised he was happy to accept these amendments and they were duly agreed. In response to a question, he advised that the Minutes of this Committee would be brought to the next meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee where they would also be reviewed and agreed. Councillor Siddall then moved his earlier proposition with the addition of the amendments detailed. This was duly seconded and agreed by assent.

RESOLVED

- (ix) That subject to the above amendments, decisions and with the exception of Minute Numbers 216 – 220, the Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 28 January 2021 be agreed.

280. 2021 / 22 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Council considered the reports of the Section 151 Officer, on the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 28 January 2021 relating to the revenue budget and the proposed level of Council for 2021 / 22.

The Leader of the Council made a budget speech (attached at **APPENDIX 1** to these Minutes) and commended the budget for 2021 / 22 to the Council.

In response to the budget speech, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Mrs P A Channer, thanked the Leader of the Council and commented on the speech, referring to:

- the good financial position the Council had started the year with and how the Council, like many other authorities, its residents and businesses had experienced unprecedented challenging times due to the impact of COVID-19. The Council's emergency response to the pandemic had resulted in a higher expenditure than normal and she highlighted the support and relief provided by the Government. At this point, Councillor Mrs Channer thanked all Council officers for their work during the pandemic to ensure that services and support to residents was largely maintained.
- how the Council had lost income from a number of areas including, car parking income, events etc. However even though the Government had promised to extend the income compensation scheme the impact of COVID-19 was difficult to predict due to the ongoing uncertainty.
- the Council's main sources of income and the items included in growth for 2021 / 22 including the Local Development Plan review, digitalisation projects etc.
- how the Council needed to be mindful of the transformation process it had been through and associated staff costs.
- the proposed £5 increase in council tax (the maximum possible) which equated to a 2.47% increase, 2½ times the rate of inflation. Councillor Mrs Channer again referred to COVID-19 the pressures, stress and losses faced by residents and businesses and how it had affected lives in immeasurable ways. She felt to support residents and customers council tax should be frozen and offset the £125,000 income that the 2.47% increase would bring.

Following her suggested freeze on council tax, Councillor Mrs Channer proceeded to outline the areas where savings could be made, advising that the total of the following was £125,000 meaning there would be no council tax increase and would this would have no increase to the general fund.

Councillor Mrs Channer explained that she felt this would reduce the stress and strain and impact on residents who were suffering at this time.

In response to a query the Lead Legal Specialist and Monitoring Officer advised that he had taken the Opposition Leaders' statement as a response to the Leaders' speech and not a formal proposal. Councillor Mrs Channer raised a point of order regarding the process and putting forward an amendment to the budget. In response the Lead Legal Specialist and Monitoring Officer referred to Procedure Rule 1, the process for the Leaders' speech and how following a reply from the Leader to any comments from the Leader of the Opposition proposals could be taken.

A further point of order was raised by Councillor R G Boyce regarding the Leader 'commending' the budget to the Council. The Chairman advised of the process that was being followed and the order of speakers.

In response to the comments from the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Council responded and outlined the percentage increases / decreases of Council Tax in past years and the importance of agreeing the budget. The Leader of the Council

proposed that the budget for 2021 / 22 (as set out in reports 5a – 5f) be agreed enblock. This proposal was duly seconded.

In response to a question the Lead Legal Specialist and Monitoring Officer provided Members with further guidance on procedures, and how having a proposal on the table meant that amendments could be considered.

Councillor Mrs Channer proposed that the budget be amended and council tax for 2021 / 22 be frozen at 0%, and advised that the way she proposed to remove the £125,000, 2.47 proposed increase (taking the £5 maximum to council tax) would be to make the following changes:

Proposed change	Detail
-£10,000	Assumed reduced in audit fees growth due to negotiation.
-£10,000	Funding from Government for audit increase regarding the Redmond Review as the Council received some income from this.
-£13,000	Further increase in green waste collection by £1 to £49.
-£1,000	Increase in pre-application charges by 1.5% in line with what Officers may be getting in the next financial year.
- £14,000	Increase use of Business Rates Equalisation Reserve to offset the reduction in Wharfage fees, covering eight barges (opposed to the six as reported to the Strategy and Resources Committee).
-£27,000	Funding of Parks and Countryside Officer post from Transformation Reserve.
-£50,000	Part funding of Commercial Manager post growth from Transformation Reserve.

Councillor Mrs Channer advised that this would have no impact on the General Fund and further proposed that Officers look to achieve savings to offset some of the reserves. She advised that this amendment would apply to the budget documents appropriately. This proposal was duly seconded.

In response to a question regarding use of the New Homes Bonus, the Director of Resources advised that allocations for 2021 / 22 had been confirmed. For future years the Council was only assuming a small legacy payment taking into consideration that the figures may change as a result of a consultation taking place and then ceasing completely in the final year.

In response to a point of order and further queries, the Lead Legal Specialist and Monitoring Officer explained the process the Council should follow when considering an amendment to the original motion, how if agreed this would become the substantive motion and if not agreed there was opportunity for a further amendment to be proposed.

Debate on the proposed amendment ensued, following which the Director of Resources gave a short presentation highlighting the budget amendments as proposed by Councillor Mrs Channer. The Chairman then put this amendment to the vote in accordance with Procedure Rule 13(b) and the voting was as follows:

For the recommendation:

Councillors Miss A M Beale, R G Boyce, Mrs P A Channer, M F L Durham, Mrs J L Fleming, A S Fluker, M W Helm, A L Hull, J V Keyes, C P Morley, Mrs M E Thompson and Miss S White.

Against the recommendation:

Councillors M G Bassenger, B S Beale, V J Bell, M R Edwards, K W Jarvis, K M H Lagan, C Mayes, S P Nunn, N G F Shaughnessy, R H Siddall, N J Skeens, W Stamp, J Stilts and C Swain.

Abstention:

Councillor M S Heard.

The proposed amendment in the name of Councillor Mrs Channer was therefore declared lost.

Councillor Mrs M E Thompson then proposed an amendment to the Leaders' proposition that the Council keeps a 0% Council Tax increase, as proposed by Councillor Mrs Channer but the monies related to not increasing Council Tax be taken from the business equalisation fund. She advised that the Section 151 Officer had cleared this as a sensible proposal. This proposal was duly seconded.

In response to a request, the Section 151 Officer advised that this amendment used the business equalisation reserve and that reserves were a one-off course of funding. With this amendment the general fund balance would remain about the minimum level of £2.6m next year. He advised Members that they should consider the longer-term funding impact as well.

A debate ensued during which Members discussed the impact this amendment would have on the Council's reserves in future years and how it sought to support residents in the District during this difficult time.

The Chairman then put the amendment from Councillor Mrs Thompson to the vote in and the voting was as follows:

For the recommendation:

Councillors Miss A M Beale, R G Boyce, Mrs P A Channer, M F L Durham, Mrs J L Fleming, A S Fluker, M W Helm, A L Hull, J V Keyes, C P Morley, Mrs M E Thompson and Miss S White.

Against the recommendation:

Councillors M G Bassenger, B S Beale, V J Bell, M R Edwards, K W Jarvis, K M H Lagan, C Mayes, S P Nunn, N G F Shaughnessy, R H Siddall, N J Skeens, W Stamp, J Stilts and C Swain.

Abstention:

Councillor M S Heard.

The amendment as proposed by Councillor Mrs Thompson was therefore declared lost.

The Leader of the Council then repeated her earlier proposal that recommendations as set out in reports 5a to 5f be taken enblock. This was again duly seconded.

The Chairman then put the proposal of the Leader of the Council to the vote in and the voting was as follows:

For the recommendation:

Councillors M G Bassenger, B S Beale, V J Bell, M R Edwards, K W Jarvis, K M H Lagan, C Mayes, S P Nunn, N G F Shaughnessy, R H Siddall, N J Skeens, W Stamp, J Stilts and C Swain.

Against the recommendation:

Councillors Miss A M Beale, R G Boyce, Mrs P A Channer, M F L Durham, Mrs J L Fleming, A S Fluker, M W Helm, A L Hull, J V Keyes, C P Morley, Mrs M E Thompson and Miss S White.

Abstention:

Councillor M S Heard.

RESOLVED

(a) Capital and Investment Strategies for 2020 / 21 and Minimum Reserve Strategy 2021 / 22

- (i) That the Capital and Investment Strategies for 2020 / 21 and Minimum Reserve Strategy 2021 / 22 report and the attached appendices as recommended by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 28 January 2021, be approved:
 - (a) the Capital Strategy (Appendix 1 to the report),
 - (b) the Capital Project Bids (Appendix 2 to the report),
 - (c) Investment Strategy (Appendix 3 to the report), and
 - (d) Minimum Revenue Provision Statement (Appendix 4 to the report).

(b) Treasury Management Strategy 2021 / 22

- (ii) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2021 / 22 be approved.

(c) Discretionary Fees and Charges 2021 / 22

- (iii) That the detailed Fees and Charges for 2021 / 22 as set out in Appendix A to the report be agreed.

(d) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021 / 22 to 2023 / 24

- (iv) That the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2021 / 22 to 2023 / at Appendix 1 be agreed.

(e) Revised 2020 / 21 and Original 2021 / 22 Budget Estimates and Council Tax 2021 / 22

- (v) that the main details of the Local Government Finance Settlement 2021 / 22 described in section 3.4 of the report;
- (vi) that the following be approved:

- (a) the Revised 2020 / 21 and Original 2021/22 General Fund Revenue Budget Estimates (Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report);
 - (b) an average Band D council tax of £207.40 (excluding parish precepts) (£5 increase) for 2021/22 (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;
- (vii) that the Council gives due regard to the Director of Resources' (Section 151 Officer) statement on the robustness of budgets and adequacy of reserves as set out in Appendix 5 to the report.

(f) Council Tax 2021 / 22

- (viii) that Maldon District Council's Council Tax Requirement for 2021 / 22 is set at £5,176,517;
- (ix) that the Maldon District Council's Band D Council Tax (excluding Parish precepts) is set at £207.40, 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;
- (x) 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;
- (xi) That it be noted that at its meeting on 17 December 2020 the Council calculated its Council Tax Base for the year 2021/22:
- (a) for the whole district as 24,959.9 [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	510.3
Asheldham	63.7
Bradwell-on-Sea	334.7
Burnham-on-Crouch	3,337.2
Cold Norton	497.4
Dengie	51.9
Goldhanger	310.5
Great Braxted	178.9
Great Totham	1,280.1
Hazeleigh	60.3
Heybridge	2,745.7

Heybridge Basin	269.5
Langford	86.6
Latchingdon	467.6
Little Braxted	85.5
Little Totham	193.8
Maldon	5,387.9
Mayland	1,459.9
Mundon	154.5
North Fambridge	408.3
Purleigh	561.6
Southminster	1,559.7
St. Lawrence	585.5
Steeple	191.6
Stow Maries	88.5
Tillingham	392.0
Tollesbury	981.3
Tolleshunt D'arcy	439.0
Tolleshunt Knights	423.3
Tolleshunt Major	272.9
Ulting	69.2
Wickham Bishops	979.7
Woodham Mortimer	255.3
Woodham Walter	275.2
	24,959.1

(xii) Calculate that the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021 / 22 (excluding Parish precepts) is £5,176,517.

(xiii) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2021 / 22 in accordance with new Sections 31 to 36 of the Act as amended:

- (a) £29,902,595 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) £23,155,126 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) £6,747,469 being the amount by which the aggregate at xiii(a) above exceeds the aggregate at xiii(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) £270.34 being the amount at xiii(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, 570,952 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) £207.40 being the amount at xiii(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at xiii(e) above by Item T xi(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 2021 / 22

Town/Parish	Local Precept	Town/Parish Band D	District + Town/Parish Band D
Althorne	21,500.00	42.13	249.53
Asheldham	3,408.17	53.50	260.90
Bradwell-on-Sea	27,000.00	80.67	288.07
Burnham-on-Crouch	203,441.00	60.96	268.36
Cold Norton	38,189.00	76.78	284.18
Dengie	2,776.83	53.50	260.90
Goldhanger	9,250.00	29.79	237.19
Great Braxted	8,323.00	46.52	253.92
Great Totham	17,102.00	13.36	220.76
Hazeleigh	1,057.92	17.54	224.94
Heybridge	200,000.00	72.84	280.24
Heybridge Basin	34,000.00	126.16	333.56
Langford	5,191.00	59.94	267.34
Latchingdon	53,000.00	113.34	320.74
Little Braxted	4,400.00	51.46	258.86
Little Totham	8,450.00	43.60	251.00
Maldon	369,123.00	68.51	275.91
Mayland	100,249.00	68.67	276.07
Mundon	4,750.00	30.74	238.14
North Fambridge	17,650.00	43.23	250.63
Purleigh	44,000.00	78.35	285.75
Southminster	140,990.00	90.40	297.80
St. Lawrence	24,570.00	41.96	249.36
Steeple	8,915.00	46.53	253.93
Stow Maries	6,500.00	73.45	280.85
Tillingham	35,000.00	89.29	296.69

Town/Parish	Local Precept	Town/Parish Band D	District + Town/Parish Band D
Tollesbury	89,902.00	91.62	299.02
Tolleshunt D'arcy	21,515.00	49.01	256.41
Tolleshunt Knights	10,000.00	23.62	231.02
Tolleshunt Major	8,400.00	30.78	238.18
Ulting	3,509.00	50.71	258.11
Wickham Bishops	20,276.00	20.70	228.10
Woodham Mortimer	4,479.08	17.54	224.94
Woodham Walter	24,035.00	87.34	294.74

These amounts are calculated by adding to the amount at xiii(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 xi(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	166.36	194.08	221.81	249.53	304.98	360.43	415.89	499.06
Asheldham	173.94	202.92	231.92	260.90	318.88	376.86	434.84	521.80
Bradwell-on-Sea	192.05	224.05	256.07	288.07	352.09	416.10	480.12	576.14
Burnham-on-Crouch	178.91	208.72	238.55	268.36	328.00	387.63	447.27	536.72
Cold Norton	189.46	221.03	252.61	284.18	347.33	410.48	473.64	568.36
Dengie	173.94	202.92	231.92	260.90	318.88	376.86	434.84	521.80
Goldhanger	158.13	184.48	210.84	237.19	289.90	342.61	395.32	474.38
Great Braxted	169.28	197.49	225.71	253.92	310.35	366.78	423.20	507.84
Great Totham	147.18	171.70	196.24	220.76	269.82	318.88	367.94	441.52
Hazeleigh	149.96	174.95	199.95	224.94	274.93	324.92	374.90	449.88
Heybridge	186.83	217.96	249.11	280.24	342.52	404.79	467.07	560.48
Heybridge Basin	222.38	259.43	296.50	333.56	407.69	481.81	555.94	667.12
Langford	178.23	207.93	237.64	267.34	326.75	386.16	445.57	534.68
Latchingdon	213.83	249.46	285.11	320.74	392.02	463.29	534.57	641.48
Little Braxted	172.58	201.33	230.10	258.86	316.39	373.91	431.44	517.72
Little Totham	167.34	195.22	223.12	251.00	306.78	362.56	418.34	502.00
Maldon	183.94	214.60	245.26	275.91	337.22	398.54	459.85	551.82
Mayland	184.05	214.72	245.40	276.07	337.42	398.77	460.12	552.14
Mundon	158.76	185.22	211.68	238.14	291.06	343.98	396.90	476.28
North Fambridge	167.09	194.93	222.79	250.63	306.33	362.02	417.72	501.26
Purleigh	190.50	222.25	254.00	285.75	349.25	412.75	476.25	571.50
Southminster	198.54	231.62	264.72	297.80	363.98	430.16	496.34	595.60
St. Lawrence	166.24	193.95	221.66	249.36	304.77	360.19	415.60	498.72
Steeple	169.29	197.50	225.72	253.93	310.36	366.79	423.22	507.86
Stow Maries	187.24	218.44	249.65	280.85	343.26	405.67	468.09	561.70

PARISH	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Tillingham	197.80	230.76	263.73	296.69	362.62	428.55	494.49	593.38
Tollesbury	199.35	232.57	265.80	299.02	365.47	431.92	498.37	598.04
Tolleshunt D'arcy	170.94	199.43	227.92	256.41	313.39	370.37	427.35	512.82
Tolleshunt Knights	154.02	179.68	205.36	231.02	282.36	333.70	385.04	462.04
Tolleshunt Major	158.79	185.25	211.72	238.18	291.11	344.04	396.97	476.36
Ulting	172.08	200.75	229.44	258.11	315.47	372.83	430.19	516.22
Wickham Bishops	152.07	177.41	202.76	228.10	278.79	329.48	380.17	456.20
Woodham Mortimer	149.96	174.95	199.95	224.94	274.93	324.92	374.90	449.88
Woodham Walter	196.50	229.24	262.00	294.74	360.24	425.74	491.24	589.48

These amounts are calculated by multiplying the amounts at xiii(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.

- (xiv) That it be noted for the year 2021 / 22 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	£893.94	E	£1,638.89
	B	£1,042.93	F	£1,936.87
	C	£1,191.92	G	£2,234.85
	D	£1,340.91	H	£2,681.82
Essex Police Fire Crime Commissioner (PFCC) Fire and Rescue Association (F&RA) Essex Police and Crime Commissioner	A	£139.02	E	£254.87
	B	£162.19	F	£301.21
	C	£185.36	G	£347.55
	D	£208.53	H	£417.06
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

- (xv) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at xiii(h) and xiv 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 2021 / 22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwelling shown in Table A below.

- (xvi) Determines that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2021 / 22 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 2021 / 22 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 2021 / 22

Parish/Area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Althorne	1,248.58	1,456.67	1,664.77	1,872.86	2,289.05	2,705.24	3,121.44	3,745.72
Asheldham	1,256.16	1,465.51	1,674.88	1,884.23	2,302.95	2,721.67	3,140.39	3,768.46
Bradwell-on-Sea	1,274.27	1,486.64	1,699.03	1,911.40	2,336.16	2,760.91	3,185.67	3,822.80
Burnham-on-Crouch	1,261.13	1,471.31	1,681.51	1,891.69	2,312.07	2,732.44	3,152.82	3,783.38
Cold Norton	1,271.68	1,483.62	1,695.57	1,907.51	2,331.40	2,755.29	3,179.19	3,815.02
Dengie	1,256.16	1,465.51	1,674.88	1,884.23	2,302.95	2,721.67	3,140.39	3,768.46
Goldhanger	1,240.35	1,447.07	1,653.80	1,860.52	2,273.97	2,687.42	3,100.87	3,721.04
Great Braxted	1,251.50	1,460.08	1,668.67	1,877.25	2,294.42	2,711.59	3,128.75	3,754.50
Great Totham	1,229.40	1,434.29	1,639.20	1,844.09	2,253.89	2,663.69	3,073.49	3,688.18
Hazeleigh	1,232.18	1,437.54	1,642.91	1,848.27	2,259.00	2,669.73	3,080.45	3,696.54
Heybridge	1,269.05	1,480.55	1,692.07	1,903.57	2,326.59	2,749.60	3,172.62	3,807.14
Heybridge Basin	1,304.60	1,522.02	1,739.46	1,956.89	2,391.76	2,826.62	3,261.49	3,913.78
Langford	1,260.45	1,470.52	1,680.60	1,890.67	2,310.82	2,730.97	3,151.12	3,781.34
Latchingdon	1,296.05	1,512.05	1,728.07	1,944.07	2,376.09	2,808.10	3,240.12	3,888.14
Little Braxted	1,254.80	1,463.92	1,673.06	1,882.19	2,300.46	2,718.72	3,136.99	3,764.38
Little Totham	1,249.56	1,457.81	1,666.08	1,874.33	2,290.85	2,707.37	3,123.89	3,748.66
Maldon	1,266.16	1,477.19	1,688.22	1,899.24	2,321.29	2,743.35	3,165.40	3,798.48
Mayland	1,266.27	1,477.31	1,688.36	1,899.40	2,321.49	2,743.58	3,165.67	3,798.80
Mundon	1,240.98	1,447.81	1,654.64	1,861.47	2,275.13	2,688.79	3,102.45	3,722.94
North Fambridge	1,249.31	1,457.52	1,665.75	1,873.96	2,290.40	2,706.83	3,123.27	3,747.92
Purleigh	1,272.72	1,484.84	1,696.96	1,909.08	2,333.32	2,757.56	3,181.80	3,818.16
Southminster	1,280.76	1,494.21	1,707.68	1,921.13	2,348.05	2,774.97	3,201.89	3,842.26
St. Lawrence	1,248.46	1,456.54	1,664.62	1,872.69	2,288.84	2,705.00	3,121.15	3,745.38
Steeple	1,251.51	1,460.09	1,668.68	1,877.26	2,294.43	2,711.60	3,128.77	3,754.52
Stow Maries	1,269.46	1,481.03	1,692.61	1,904.18	2,327.33	2,750.48	3,173.64	3,808.36
Tillingham	1,280.02	1,493.35	1,706.69	1,920.02	2,346.69	2,773.36	3,200.04	3,840.04
Tollesbury	1,281.57	1,495.16	1,708.76	1,922.35	2,349.54	2,776.73	3,203.92	3,844.70
Tolleshunt D'arcy	1,253.16	1,462.02	1,670.88	1,879.74	2,297.46	2,715.18	3,132.90	3,759.48
Tolleshunt Knights	1,236.24	1,442.27	1,648.32	1,854.35	2,266.43	2,678.51	3,090.59	3,708.70
Tolleshunt Major	1,241.01	1,447.84	1,654.68	1,861.51	2,275.18	2,688.85	3,102.52	3,723.02
Ulting	1,254.30	1,463.34	1,672.40	1,881.44	2,299.54	2,717.64	3,135.74	3,762.88
Wickham Bishops	1,234.29	1,440.00	1,645.72	1,851.43	2,262.86	2,674.29	3,085.72	3,702.86
Woodham Mortimer	1,232.18	1,437.54	1,642.91	1,848.27	2,259.00	2,669.73	3,080.45	3,696.54
Woodham Walter	1,278.72	1,491.83	1,704.96	1,918.07	2,344.31	2,770.55	3,196.79	3,836.14

281. HIGH STREET RESET AND RECOVERY - MALDON HIGH STREET CONSULTATION

The Council received the report of the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance detailing the headline results of the Maldon High Street consultation as part of the Member-led High Street Reset and Recovery Group's response to necessary restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 response and the funding opportunity to widen Maldon's High Street. The report also highlighted existing work programmes and the partnership working with Essex County Council's Strategic Highways and Transportation Team to move forward with a sustainable future for Maldon's High Street and connectivity to the wider area.

The Leader of the Council presented the report and proposed it be noted in accordance with the recommendation set out within it. This was duly seconded.

In response to comments the Chairman reminded Members that this report was for noting and further reports would be brought back to the Council for consideration. Councillor Mrs J L Fleming provided an update on the work of the Covid-19 Working Group and the suggestion to undertake some pedestrian surveys.

The report was duly noted, by assent.

RESOLVED that Members note the significant work that has been undertaken to support Maldon High Street, including the survey undertaken and to note that this work will now be taken forward as part of business as usual and with the already agreed policies within the Local Development Plan.

282. BRADWELL B PROGRAMME CLOSEDOWN AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

The Council considered the report of the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance seeking Members' consideration of the implications of the Bradwell B Programme closedown and the opportunity to bring forward the review of the Local Development Plan (LDP), utilising work that had already commenced as much as possible and redeploying the fixed term staffing resources from the Bradwell B project.

Members were reminded of the letter received on 29 January 2021 from BRB advising the Council that due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, engagement with local authorities was to pause and the current funding agreement would be withdrawn for at least 12 months.

The report outlined:

- the impacts of the Bradwell B project closedown and BRB funding withdrawal;
- Local Development Plan review;
- staffing implications of delivering the LDP Reviewing;
- next steps.

The Leader of the Council presented the report and moved the recommendations as set out in report. This was duly seconded and agreed by assent.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the impacts of the Bradwell B project closedown and funding withdrawal be noted;
- (ii) that Members agree there is an opportunity to bring forward the review of the Maldon District Local Development Plan, including utilising staff from the Bradwell Team where possible to accelerate delivery;
- (iii) that Members consider and approve the Maldon District Local Development Scheme 2021 - 2024 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.56 pm.

**M S HEARD
CHAIRMAN**

This page is intentionally left blank

Budget Speech from the Leader of the Council to the extraordinary meeting of the Council on Tuesday 23 February 2020.

Just before I go onto the actual speech that I am going to make, I thought I would pay prudence to last year's budget speech that was delivered by previous Leader. Only a couple of things, I won't go repeating it again, but it was a very good budget and one of the things I do wish to refer to when Councillor Fluker stood up was the recommendation or how they were looking to meet with Thames Sailing barge operators on a regular basis to ensure that their needs of the Council are properly understood. So I think that was an excellent part, I think the whole budget was very good Councillor Fluker but I thought I would give that a mention of you taking consideration part of the Wharfage fees that we're actually looking at tonight. So rather than steal Councillor Fluker's thunder I will deliver my speech.

I present the 2021/22 Budget to you.

It's difficult to imagine a more challenging time in which to prepare a budget. However, what we have achieved as a District over the past year has been incredible. We have come to the aid of those most vulnerable, assisting those without a home, supporting the delivery of food parcels to those shielding and made payments to individuals and businesses hardest hit by the pandemic, to name but a few. Over £20m of support grants were paid out to local businesses over the year. We have also maintained the core services throughout the pandemic and we thank our partners including Suez and Appletons for continuing without interruption despite the challenges of Covid to collect waste and recycling from the kerbside and emptying the bins around our towns and villages. So thank you.

In addition to the grants provided we have worked to support business in other ways. We have made changes in areas such as the High Street in Maldon to create a safer shopping environment by slowing traffic and helping people social distance. Signage and reminders have been added to footways and our website has been adapted to keep the public informed. Our parks and open spaces have remained open with only minor adaptations throughout 2020 allowing people to exercise safely with their families. It hasn't only happened in Maldon High Street, it's also happened in Burnham- and our other villages as well. So thank you for that.

The community has come together to unite in its response. The Council is leading the way in the recovery efforts recording, testing and vaccination centres. The Council offices have been provided to enable the NHS to start vaccinating people since December and has been a model centre, demonstrating the excellent corporation between the Council and the NHS.

The response, of course, has not been without its financial costs and although it is absolutely right that we continue to put people before pounds, we are forecasting a £700k overspend as a result of the pandemic despite government support.

As we enter 2021/22 it is clear that uncertainty will remain, and we must recognise that and the inevitable increased demand on our services. There is significant financial risk in particular around our leisure centres, car parking and events. The pressures are outlined in more detail in sections 5 and 7 of the budget setting report. A COVID contingency fund of £371k has been created for next year from the government COVID support grant to allow a cushion for the budget pressures that will be faced, albeit unknown, Chairman. 2021/22 has seen another one-year settlement from central government and as we look beyond next year the future of the New Homes Bonus grant is worth £930k to the Council will remain and have

significant implications. Though the Medium Term Financial Strategy assumes the grant will go completely by 2023/24 it is expected that funding will remain in some form which will improve the financial outlook, and I look forward to the outcome of the government's consultation on the future of the New Homes Bonus.

During the budget setting process the cross-party Finance Member Working Group has met on several occasions to provide input into the budget. I'm pleased that members have had the opportunity to work together and collaboratively and share their views at these and other meetings. Part of the process has been ensuring that any growth is kept to a minimum recognising significant financial challenges and unknowns ahead of us.

However, where it is right to invest we have done so. This includes additional staffing to ensure our services have the capacity to operate. Continuing with process improvement, which will be so vital in meeting future challenges and driving efficiencies. Investing in our commercial activity to bring forward income generation and wider benefits for the District.

Our Local Development Plan is due for review and the news that our housing land supply has fallen below five years highlights the importance of doing this. With this in mind we have allocated £1m from reserves over the next three years to complete the vital work. It is essential that we have an up to date Local Development Plan to ensure that development is appropriate, housing needs are met and that we maximise the benefits for our community. The new plan will also reflect the climate and environmental challenges we face and seek to bring forward development that supports the aspirations of the District to move towards a zero carbon future as set out in the Climate Energy Statement declared by this Council in February this year.

Given the significant financial pressures and need for sustainability, we are therefore proposing that 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.

This budget provides increased resources for our services, so they can deliver for our community. Investment, to bring forward commercial aspirations and make efficiencies. A break-even budget with robust reserves for next year. And, although we cannot predict what will happen in the future we have given ourselves a strong foundation to respond to all these challenges and capacities to support our community.

This budget meets our fiscal responsibility and follows the advice and guidance of the Section 151 officer as it has in previous years Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN I COMMEND THE BUDGET TO THE COUNCIL.