



**MINUTES of
COUNCIL
22 FEBRUARY 2023**

PRESENT

Chairman Councillor R G Boyce MBE

Vice-Chairman Councillor S P Nunn

Councillors M G Bassenger, Miss A M Beale, B S Beale MBE, V J Bell,
Mrs P A Channer, R P F Dewick, M F L Durham, CC,
Mrs J L Fleming, CC, A S Fluker, M S Heard, M W Helm,
B B Heubner, A L Hull, K M H Lagan, C Mayes,
S J N Morgan, C P Morley, N G F Shaughnessy, R H Siddall,
P L Spenceley, W Stamp, CC, E L Stephens, Mrs J C Stilts,
C Swain, Mrs M E Thompson and S White

1. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through some general housekeeping arrangements for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M R Edwards, J V Keyes and N J Skeens.

3. MINUTES - 15 DECEMBER 2022

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 December 2022 be received.

In response to a Point of Order raised by Councillor A S Fluker the Director of Resources advised that the last report to the Council on the Princes Road project outlined the progress made and advised that the Council would receive further updates as progress became available. He informed Members that there was nothing to update at this time.

Minute 457 – Area Planning Committees Review

Councillor Fluker raised a point of accuracy in the sixth paragraph of this Minute, noting that reference to "...a level requirement" should be 'legal'. This amendment was noted. Councillor Fluker queried the information Minuted regarding members' having a legal requirement and the Monitoring Officer clarified that this was the case, and the Minute was correct.

RESOLVED

- (ii) that subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 December 2022 be confirmed.

4. **MINUTES - 12 JANUARY 2023 (CONTINUATION OF 15 DECEMBER 2023 MEETING)**

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 January 2023 be received.

Councillor E L Stephens advised that her apologies were not included in the Minutes of this meeting. This was noted.

Minute 2 - Business by Reason of Special Circumstances Considered by the Chairman to be Urgent

Councillor A S Fluker drew Members' attention to the following errors which needed correcting:

- Reference in paragraph 2 of this Minute to 'lasted' should be last.
- The final sentence in paragraph 2 was incorrect as he had said that the Council should make provision for an additional meeting.

These were duly noted.

Minute No. 7 – Commercial Options for Princes Road

Councillor K M H Lagan advised that his declaration in respect of this Minute was incorrect and he had declared that his wife was an employee of Adult Community Learning. This amendment was noted.

RESOLVED

- (ii) that subject to the above amendments the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 January 2023 be confirmed.

5. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs P A Channer declared an interest in Agenda Item 12 - Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme specifically regarding future matters and advised she would not speak or vote on this item of business.

Councillor M F L Durham declared an interest as a Member of Essex County Council (ECC) because Maldon District Council had ongoing contracts with the County Council.

In response to a request for guidance on being an Essex County Councillor the Monitoring Officer reminded Members of the terminology for declaring an interest and that an Essex County Councillor would only need to declare an interest if an item on the agenda specifically touched on their role as a Member of ECC.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Council advised Members of the following past Councillors who had recently passed away and asked all Members to stand for a few moments in silent memory of them.:

- John Archer – who had been both Chairman and Leader of this Council
- Helen Elliott

Members' were advised by the Chairman that the card from the King following the letter of condolence sent was at the back of the Chamber.

At this point, Councillor W Stamp thanked the Chairman for being chairman for the past year, stating that he should be congratulated following a challenging year.

The Chairman advised Members that he was moving Agenda Item 9 – 2023 / 24 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy and this would therefore be considered next by the Council.

8. 2023 / 24 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 26 January 2023 relating to the revenue budget and the proposed level of Council for 2023 / 24.

The Chairman informed the Council that in accordance with Procedure Rule 1(13)b an alternative budget proposal had been received. He then proceeded to detail the order in which this item of business would be discussed.

The Leader of the Council made a budget speech (attached at **APPENDIX 1** to these Minutes), thanking the Director of Resources and his team for their hard work and commended the budget for 2023 / 24 to the Council. This proposal was duly seconded.

The Director of Resources provided a brief summary of the reports highlighting each of the appendices contained within Agenda Item 9c – Revised 2022 / 23 and Original 2023 / 24 Budget Estimates and Council Tax 2023 / 24 as well as:

- Member engagement that had taken place;
- Capital and Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) along with details of Capital Bids;
- Treasury Management Strategy;
- Council Tax for 2023 / 24 and the proposed 2.99% increase equating to £6.35 a week for a band D property.
- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and forecast budget changes over the next three years;

In response to the budget speech, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor R H Siddall, thanked the Leader of the Council and commented on the speech, referring to the:

- Cost of Living crisis and the pressure this put on the Council's finances. He noted the collaborative working that taken place in respect of preparing the 2023 / 24 budget.
- importance on focusing on delivery for services and the immediate year, including setting budgets intelligently.
- impact the transformation programme undertaken by the Council and how the new structure coming from it needed redesign. The transformation and Covid pandemic had both brought resource impacts across the organisation, and he acknowledged the work that Council staff did under pressurised resources and difficult circumstances.
- need for the Council to establish how it shared its services as all Council were in a similar position which had not been helped by the Government reducing funding to Local Authorities and advising that Councils should use their reserves.
- Importance of ensuring that future resources were clearly connected to strategy which could be delivered in a measured and sustainable way.

The Chairman then called on Councillor A S Fluker to move his alternative budget proposal. The Director of Resources circulated to Members hard copies containing details of the proposed amendment with Officer comments.

Councillor Fluker advised that he wished to make an additional proposal in accordance with Procedure Rule 1(13)(b). He referred to the significant draw down on reserves necessary over the forthcoming year which he felt was unsustainable and highlighted the comments of the Section 151 Officer who cautioned that unless the Council acted sooner its reserves would run out. Councillor Fluker then provided further explanation in respect of this. Referring to the work of the Finance Member Working Group (the Working Group) and given the Council's fiscal position he felt the membership of the Working Group should be expanded to include Members that did not sit on the Strategy and Resources Committee. Councillor Fluker advised that he had consulted with the Section 151 Officer and proposed that with immediate effect a full budget review be carried out by a cross chamber, cross Committee Working Group and that this Group report back to the Council with its recommendations in the spring. This proposal was duly seconded.

In response to a question and further discussion the Director of Resources advised that he had reviewed the alternative proposal that had come forward and Officers had made comments in response to the proposal. He explained he was unable to give assurance around some of the figures proposed and that the capital items shown as savings could not be used fund revenue.

Councillor Fluker responded to the discussion that ensued advising that his amendments had been submitted in accordance with the Council's constitution and outlined where some of them had originated. He felt it was important for the Section 151 to consider his amendments and requested that following agreement of the budget these amendments be taken to Working Groups for consideration. Councillor Fluker then withdrew his amendment to the proposed budget.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which further comments were made. Particular concern was raised regarding the potential financial position facing the Council in the future and the need for the new administration to review costs and ensure that further savings were identified, where possible. It was noted that that proposed budget

brought forward by the Section 151 Officer had been considered by the Finance Working Group

The Leader of the Council summed up and highlighted the work done by the Council to support residents, particularly during this cost of living crisis. She advised that the Council had made savings but was assuring through the budget that those services important to Members were kept.

At this point, the Chairman reminded Members of the need to declare any interests in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and Procedure Rule 13(5) which set out the requirement for any vote taken at a budget decision meeting (as defined by the Local Government Finance Act 1992) to be recorded in the Minutes.

In response to a Point of Order raised by Councillor Fluker, the Monitoring Officer explained that the Chairman had ruled that what was put forward by Councillor Fluker was an alternative proposal and not an amendment and it was within the rights of the Chairman to make this decision.

The Chairman of the Council the proposal, duly seconded, in the name of the Leader of the Council, advising that the recommendations as set out in reports 9a to 9f would be taken en-bloc. The voting was as follows:

For the recommendation:

Councillors M G Bassenger, Miss A M Beale, B S Beale, R G Boyce, Mrs P A Channer, M F L Durham, Mrs J L Fleming, M S Heard, B B Heubner, A L Hull, K M H Lagan, C Mayes, S J N Morgan, C P Morley, S P Nunn, N G F Shaughnessy, R H Siddall, P L Spenceley, E L Stephens, Mrs J C Stilts, C Swain, Mrs M E Thompson and S White.

Against the recommendation:

Councillor V J Bell, A S Fluker, M W Helm and W Stamp.

Abstention:

Councillor R P F Dewick.

Capital and Investment Strategies for 2022 / 23 and Minimum Revenue Statement 2023 / 24

RESOLVED

- (i) That the following be approved:
- the Capital Strategy (Appendix 1 to the report),
 - the Capital Project Bids (Appendix 2 to the report),
 - Investment Strategy (Appendix 3 to the report), and
 - Minimum Revenue Provision Statement (Appendix 4 to the report).

Treasury Management Strategy 2023 / 24

RESOLVED

- (ii) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2023 / 24 (Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.

Revised 2022 / 23 and Original 2023 / 24 Budget Estimates and Council Tax 2023 / 24

RESOLVED

- (iii) that the following be approved:
 - (a) the Revised 2022 / 23 and Original 2023 / 24 General Fund Revenue Budget Estimates (Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report),
 - (b) an average Band D council tax of £218.75 (excluding parish precepts) (£6.35 increase) for 2023 / 24 (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.
- (iv) that the Council gives due regard to the Director of Resources' (Section 151 Officer) statement on the robustness of budgets and adequacy of reserves in Appendix 5 (to the report).

Council Tax 2023 / 24

RESOLVED

- (v) that Maldon District Council's Council Tax Requirement for 2023 / 24 is set at £5,663,960;
- (vi) that the Maldon District Council's Band D Council Tax (excluding Parish precepts) is set at £218.75, reflecting an increase of £6.35 (2.99%), all other bands being determined in accordance with the relevant Sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended;
- (vii) 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;
- (viii) that the Council calculate its Council Tax Base for the year 2023 / 24 as follows:
 - (a) for the whole district as 25,892.3 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	511.0
Asheldham	64.1
Bradwell-on-Sea	340.7
Burnham-on-Crouch	3,602.0
Cold Norton	502.8
Dengie	48.9
Goldhanger	313.0

Great Braxted	179.7
Great Totham	1,290.7
Hazeleigh	60.4
Heybridge	2,830.1
Heybridge Basin	271.2
Langford	90.5
Latchingdon	506.6
Little Braxted	81.9
Little Totham	196.6
Maldon	5,660.2
Mayland	1,492.6
Mundon	149.6
North Fambridge	461.2
Purleigh	582.6
Southminster	1,634.1
St. Lawrence	590.0
Steeple	189.3
Stow Maries	88.9
Tillingham	394.5
Tollesbury	1,003.0
Tolleshunt D'arcy	449.4
Tolleshunt Knights	420.6
Tolleshunt Major	275.3
Ulting	76.0
Wickham Bishops	1,003.5
Woodham Mortimer	258.8
Woodham Walter	272.1
	25,892.3

1. Calculate that the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding Parish precepts) is £5,664,960.

2. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2022 / 23 in accordance with new Sections 31 to 36 of the Act as amended:
 - (a) £28,877,311 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) £21,560,384 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) £7,316,927 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) £282.59 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) £1,652,967 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) £218.75 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 2023 / 24

Town/Parish	Local Precept	Town/Parish Band D	District + Town/Parish Band D
Althorne	25,000.00	48.92	267.67
Asheldham	4,009.00	62.47	281.22
Bradwell-on-Sea	27,540.00	80.83	299.58
Burnham-on-Crouch	198,390.00	55.08	273.83
Cold Norton	41,600.00	82.74	301.49
Dengie	3,056.00	62.47	281.22
Goldhanger	10,500.00	33.55	252.30
Great Braxted	10,231.00	56.93	275.68
Great Totham	17,243.00	13.36	232.11
Hazeleigh	1,256.55	20.79	239.54
Heybridge	204,000.00	72.08	290.83
Heybridge Basin	34,000.00	125.37	344.12
Langford	6,183.00	68.31	287.06
Latchingdon	44,495.00	87.80	306.55
Little Braxted	4,775.00	58.30	277.05
Little Totham	8,790.00	44.71	263.46
Maldon	392,996.00	69.43	288.18
Mayland	102,254.00	68.51	287.26
Mundon	7,000.00	46.79	265.54
North Fambridge	22,330.00	48.42	267.17
Purleigh	47,000.00	80.67	299.42
Southminster	140,990.00	86.28	305.03
St. Lawrence	33,214.00	56.29	275.04
Steeple	11,064.00	58.44	277.19
Stow Maries	7,020.00	78.96	297.71
Tillingham	37,200.00	94.29	313.04
Tollesbury	107,510.34	107.19	325.94
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	22,721.40	50.56	269.31
Tolleshunt Knights	10,800.00	25.67	244.42
Tolleshunt Major	8,900.00	32.32	251.07
Ulting	4,317.00	56.80	275.55
Wickham Bishops	22,536.00	22.46	241.21
Woodham Mortimer	5,380.46	20.79	239.54
Woodham Walter	28,665.00	105.35	324.10

These amounts are calculated 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	178.44	208.19	237.92	267.67	327.15	386.63	446.11	535.34
Asheldham	187.48	218.73	249.97	281.22	343.71	406.20	468.70	562.44
Bradwell-on-Sea	199.72	233.01	266.29	299.58	366.15	432.72	499.30	599.16
Burnham-on-Crouch	182.55	212.98	243.40	273.83	334.68	395.53	456.38	547.66
Cold Norton	200.99	234.49	267.99	301.49	368.49	435.48	502.48	602.98
Dengie	187.48	218.73	249.97	281.22	343.71	406.20	468.70	562.44
Goldhanger	168.20	196.23	224.26	252.30	308.37	364.43	420.50	504.60
Great Braxted	183.78	214.42	245.04	275.68	336.94	398.20	459.46	551.36
Great Totham	154.74	180.53	206.32	232.11	283.69	335.27	386.85	464.22
Hazeleigh	159.69	186.31	212.92	239.54	292.77	346.00	399.23	479.08
Heybridge	193.88	226.20	258.51	290.83	355.46	420.09	484.71	581.66
Heybridge Basin	229.41	267.65	305.88	344.12	420.59	497.06	573.53	688.24
Langford	191.37	223.27	255.16	287.06	350.85	414.64	478.43	574.12
Latchingdon	204.36	238.43	272.48	306.55	374.67	442.79	510.91	613.10
Little Braxted	184.70	215.48	246.26	277.05	338.62	400.18	461.75	554.10
Little Totham	175.64	204.91	234.18	263.46	322.01	380.55	439.10	526.92
Maldon	192.12	224.14	256.16	288.18	352.22	416.26	480.30	576.36
Mayland	191.50	223.43	255.34	287.26	351.09	414.93	478.76	574.52
Mundon	177.02	206.53	236.03	265.54	324.55	383.56	442.56	531.08
North Fambridge	178.11	207.80	237.48	267.17	326.54	385.91	445.28	534.34
Purleigh	199.61	232.88	266.15	299.42	365.96	432.49	499.03	598.84
Southminster	203.35	237.25	271.13	305.03	372.81	440.60	508.38	610.06
St. Lawrence	183.36	213.92	244.48	275.04	336.16	397.28	458.40	550.08
Steeple	184.79	215.59	246.39	277.19	338.79	400.38	461.98	554.38
Stow Maries	198.47	231.55	264.63	297.71	363.87	430.02	496.18	595.42
Tillingham	208.69	243.48	278.25	313.04	382.60	452.17	521.73	626.08
Tollesbury	217.29	253.51	289.72	325.94	398.37	470.80	543.23	651.88
Tolleshunt D'arcy	179.54	209.46	239.38	269.31	329.16	389.00	448.85	538.62
Tolleshunt Knights	162.94	190.11	217.26	244.42	298.73	353.05	407.36	488.84
Tolleshunt Major	167.38	195.28	223.17	251.07	306.86	362.65	418.45	502.14
Ulting	183.70	214.32	244.93	275.55	336.78	398.01	459.25	551.10
Wickham Bishops	160.80	187.61	214.40	241.21	294.81	348.41	402.01	482.42
Woodham Mortimer	159.69	186.31	212.92	239.54	292.77	346.00	399.23	479.08
Woodham Walter	216.06	252.08	288.08	324.10	396.12	468.14	540.16	648.20

These amounts are calculated 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 2023 / 24 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	£966.78	E	£1,772.43
	B	£1,127.91	F	£2,094.69
	C	£1,289.04	G	£2,416.95
	D	£1,450.17	H	£2,900.34
Essex PFCC F&RA* Essex Police and Crime Commissioner	A	£155.64	E	£285.35
	B	£181.59	F	£337.23
	C	£207.53	G	£389.11
	D	£233.47	H	£466.93
Essex PFCC F&RA* Essex Fire and Rescue Authority	A	£53.52	E	£98.12
	B	£62.44	F	£115.96
	C	£71.36	G	£133.80
	D	£80.28	H	£160.56

* Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority

- 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 2023 / 24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwelling shown in Table A attached.
- Determines that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2023 / 24 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 2023 / 24 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 2023 / 24

Parish/Area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Althorne	1,354.38	1,580.13	1,805.85	2,031.59	2,483.05	2,934.51	3,385.97	4,063.17
Asheldham	1,363.42	1,590.67	1,817.90	2,045.14	2,499.61	2,954.08	3,408.56	4,090.27
Bradwell-on-Sea	1,375.66	1,604.95	1,834.22	2,063.50	2,522.05	2,980.60	3,439.16	4,126.99
Burnham-on-Crouch	1,358.49	1,584.92	1,811.33	2,037.75	2,490.58	2,943.41	3,396.24	4,075.49
Cold Norton	1,376.93	1,606.43	1,835.92	2,065.41	2,524.39	2,983.36	3,442.34	4,130.81
Dengie	1,363.42	1,590.67	1,817.90	2,045.14	2,499.61	2,954.08	3,408.56	4,090.27
Goldhanger	1,344.14	1,568.17	1,792.19	2,016.22	2,464.27	2,912.31	3,360.36	4,032.43
Great Braxted	1,359.72	1,586.36	1,812.97	2,039.60	2,492.84	2,946.08	3,399.32	4,079.19
Great Totham	1,330.68	1,552.47	1,774.25	1,996.03	2,439.59	2,883.15	3,326.71	3,992.05

Hazeleigh	1,335.63	1,558.25	1,780.85	2,003.46	2,448.67	2,893.88	3,339.09	4,006.91
Heybridge	1,369.82	1,598.14	1,826.44	2,054.75	2,511.36	2,967.97	3,424.57	4,109.49
Heybridge Basin	1,405.35	1,639.59	1,873.81	2,108.04	2,576.49	3,044.94	3,513.39	4,216.07
Langford	1,367.31	1,595.21	1,823.09	2,050.98	2,506.75	2,962.52	3,418.29	4,101.95
Latchingdon	1,380.30	1,610.37	1,840.41	2,070.47	2,530.57	2,990.67	3,450.77	4,140.93
Little Braxted	1,360.64	1,587.42	1,814.19	2,040.97	2,494.52	2,948.06	3,401.61	4,081.93
Little Totham	1,351.58	1,576.85	1,802.11	2,027.38	2,477.91	2,928.43	3,378.96	4,054.75
Maldon	1,368.06	1,596.08	1,824.09	2,052.10	2,508.12	2,964.14	3,420.16	4,104.19
Mayland	1,367.44	1,595.37	1,823.27	2,051.18	2,506.99	2,962.81	3,418.62	4,102.35
Mundon	1,352.96	1,578.47	1,803.96	2,029.46	2,480.45	2,931.44	3,382.42	4,058.91
North Fambridge	1,354.05	1,579.74	1,805.41	2,031.09	2,482.44	2,933.79	3,385.14	4,062.17
Purleigh	1,375.55	1,604.82	1,834.08	2,063.34	2,521.86	2,980.37	3,438.89	4,126.67
Southminster	1,379.29	1,609.19	1,839.06	2,068.95	2,528.71	2,988.48	3,448.24	4,137.89
St. Lawrence	1,359.30	1,585.86	1,812.41	2,038.96	2,492.06	2,945.16	3,398.26	4,077.91
Steeple	1,360.73	1,587.53	1,814.32	2,041.11	2,494.69	2,948.26	3,401.84	4,082.21
Stow Maries	1,374.41	1,603.49	1,832.56	2,061.63	2,519.77	2,977.90	3,436.04	4,123.25
Tillingham	1,384.63	1,615.42	1,846.18	2,076.96	2,538.50	3,000.05	3,461.59	4,153.91
Tollesbury	1,393.23	1,625.45	1,857.65	2,089.86	2,554.27	3,018.68	3,483.09	4,179.71
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	1,355.48	1,581.40	1,807.31	2,033.23	2,485.06	2,936.88	3,388.71	4,066.45
Tolleshunt Knights	1,338.88	1,562.05	1,785.19	2,008.34	2,454.63	2,900.93	3,347.22	4,016.67
Tolleshunt Major	1,343.32	1,567.22	1,791.10	2,014.99	2,462.76	2,910.53	3,358.31	4,029.97
Ulting	1,359.64	1,586.26	1,812.86	2,039.47	2,492.68	2,945.89	3,399.11	4,078.93
Wickham Bishops	1,336.74	1,559.55	1,782.33	2,005.13	2,450.71	2,896.29	3,341.87	4,010.25
Woodham Mortimer	1,335.63	1,558.25	1,780.85	2,003.46	2,448.67	2,893.88	3,339.09	4,006.91
Woodham Walter	1,392.00	1,624.02	1,856.01	2,088.02	2,552.02	3,016.02	3,480.02	4,176.03

Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023 / 24 to 2025 / 26

RESOLVED

- (viii) That the updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2023 / 24 to 2025 / 26 (as at 26 January 2023) at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

9. CORPORATE PLAN DRAFT 2023 - 2027

The Council considered the report of the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance presenting the Corporate Plan 2023 – 27 (Appendix 1 to the report) for approval. It was noted that at its meeting on 26 January 2023 the Strategy and Resources (S&R) Committee had agreed a Motion to bring forward a draft Corporate Plan for the period 2023 – 27, in line with 2023 / 24 budget reporting to the Council.

It was noted that the proposed 2023 / 24 budget presented to the S&R Committee on 26 January 2023 maintained services to enable delivery of the Corporate Plan 2023-27. A service by service review was being undertaken to ensure that financed remained stable and allowed resourcing decision to be based on the corporate priorities.

The Leader of the Council presented the report to the Council and thanked those Officers involved in bringing the Corporate Plan to this meeting of the Council. She also thanked the Corporate Leadership Team for their guidance throughout. The Leader proposed that the recommendations as set out in the report be agreed. This was duly seconded.

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance outlined the work undertaken by Officers to bring the Corporate Plan to this meeting following the Motion agreed at the last S&R Committee meeting and thanked all staff involved particularly Ms Button, the Strategy, Policy and Communications Manager. He explained how the plan set out the Council's vision for the District, identified six key priorities for delivering this and how the plan would be evidenced. Service Plans would work along the Corporate Plan which would also inform quarterly performance reporting and ensure all staff had SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) objectives.

Members congratulated Officers on the report, recognising the speed at which the document had been brought forward.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Corporate Plan 2023-2027 (Appendix 1 to the report) be approved;
- (ii) That to ensure the Council achieves strategy through to delivery, Members also support recommended next steps, including:
 - For Service Plans 2023 / 24 to be approved by the Corporate Leadership Team at the end of April 2023.
 - For a review of Key Performance Indicators to take place in June 2023.

10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 25 JANUARY 2023

Agenda Item 6 - Review of Scrutiny Workplan Item – Planning Decision Making

Councillor M W Helm, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the recommendation coming forward from his Committee for consideration by the Council.

Following a brief discussion, the Chairman put the recommendation to the Council and this was duly agreed.

RESOLVED that the Council adopts and pursues the following initiatives:

- Review and refresh of the Planning Appeals Protocol;
- Views and conclusions on Member Training – limited to concentrating on bespoke and specialised training (no references to related committee structure / decision making arrangements);
- Review and improvement of Officer Reports.

11. STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 26 JANUARY 2023

The Council considered the following recommendations coming forward from the Strategy and Resources Committee for consideration.

Agenda Item 6 – Notice of Motion

It was noted that this item of business had been dealt with under Agenda Item 15 – Corporate Plan Draft 2023 – 2027.

RESOLVED that the Council brings forward the 2023 / 24 Budget and a fully costed 2023 - 27 Corporate Plan at the same time and in advance of the 2023 municipal year.

Agenda Item 11 – Council Tax Support Scheme 2023 / 24

RESOLVED

- (i) That the following changes to the existing schemes 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 (LCTS) for 2023 / 24 for Pensioners only;
 - b. that any legislative changes being introduced to the Housing Benefit Scheme, for 2023 / 24 are mirrored in the Council's LCTS to ensure consistency;
 - c. minor technical amendments to ensure that we are able to administer the Scheme reflecting current local and national guidance and that we may disregard anything determined to be a local welfare payment from our calculation;
 - d. provision to award up to a £25 discount to eligible LCTS recipients for 2023 / 24 only.
- (ii) that these decisions have been made following Members careful reading of and regard to the Equality Impact Assessment at Appendix 1 to the report considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee);
- (iii) that the framework for the Hardship Provision at Appendix 2 (to the report considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee) **APPENDIX 2** be noted;
- (iv) that the Policy document at Appendix 3 to the report considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee), be approved.

Agenda Item 12 – Council Tax Discretionary Discount Levels

RESOLVED

- (i) That the following changes are approved to have effect from 1 April 2024:
 - a. An empty home premium of 100% is levied on properties empty longer than one year;
 - b. The Council Tax for second homes which are no one's sole or main residence is increased by 100% through the application of a premium at the maximum permitted amount.
- (ii) That no changes are made to the Councils Section 13a1C discretionary reduction policy to specifically deal with empty properties which are being marketed for sale;
- (iii) That these decisions are reviewed as part of the budget setting process for 2024 / 25 and annually thereafter.

Councillor Mrs P A Channer asked that it be noted in light of her earlier declaration of interest she had not voted on this item of business.

Agenda Item 13 – Pay Policy Statement

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix 4 to the report considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee), be adopted for 2023.

Agenda Item 14 – Maldon Citizens Advice – Funding Request

Councillor S White, Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee moved the recommendation coming forward from her Committee.

During the brief debate that ensued, Members noted the valuable work carried out by Maldon Citizen Advice and the support they provided to residents.

RESOLVED that Members consider applying an inflationary increase of 6% to the Advice Services Contract, totalling £4,500.

Members were reminded that the following recommendations coming forward from this Committee were not for consideration at this point as they formed part of Agenda Item 9 - 2023 / 24 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy:

- Capital and Investment Strategies for 2023 / 24 and Minimum Reserve Statement 2023 / 24;
- Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023 / 24 – 2025 / 26;
- Revised 2022 / 23 Estimates, Original 2023 / 24 Budget Estimates and Council Tax 2023 / 24;
- Treasury Management 2023 / 24.

12. STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 9 FEBRUARY 2023 (CONTINUATION OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY)

Agenda Item 16 – Statement of Consultation – Local Development Plan Review: Issues and Options Document

The Leader of the Council advised that at the Strategy and Resources Committee she had declared an interest in this item of business regarding the consultation responses received.

RESOLVED that the Statement of Consultation on the Maldon District Local Development Plan Review - Regulation 18 Issues and Options Document attached as Appendix 1 (to the report considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee) be noted.

13. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council noted the list of Committees that had met before and since the last meeting of the Council, up until Tuesday 14 February 2023 for which Minutes had been published.

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

There were none.

15. BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF SCHEME

In response to a question regarding declarations of interest if a Member owned a property in the District, the Monitoring Officer provided clarification of the three categories of interest.

Councillors R P F Dewick, Mrs J L Fleming, A S Fluker, M W Helm, and S White all declared an interest in this item of business as they owned businesses within the District and left the meeting at this point.

The Council considered the report of the Director of Resources seeking Members' approval of the updated Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief Scheme (attached at Appendix 1 to the report). It was noted that the updated scheme would replace existing policy to reflect changes announced by Central Government to support businesses. The new relief would be fully funded by Central Government.

The report outlined a number of measures announced by the Chancellor to support businesses from 1 April 2023. The Updated Scheme provided for the granting of the new reliefs in line with the published guidance.

The Chairman then put the recommendation set out in the report and this was duly agreed.

RESOLVED that the proposed Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief Scheme at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

Councillors R P F Dewick, Mrs J L Fleming, A S Fluker, M W Helm, and S White all returned to the Chamber.

16. DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 4 MAY 2023 - POLLING STATIONS

The Council considered the report of the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance requesting approval to change the location of the polling stations in Heybridge (East), Maldon (East) and Mayland. The report also sought delegated authority for the Council's Returning Officer to decide on an alternative polling station at the forthcoming elections in May 2023, in the event of any designated venues not being available for use.

The report provided background information and details of the Council's duty under the Representation of People Act 193 to designate Polling Places for each Polling District. It was noted that the next review of polling places is due to be completed by January 2025.

In response to a question, the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance advised that the pre-election was set to start on 13 March 2023 given the number of potential candidates registering.

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance agreed to review using Lawling Hall rather than Henry Samuel Hall for Mayland. It was noted that this report, if agreed, would give the Director delegated authority to make such changes.

Councillor A S Fluker referred to Southminster and requested that Officers liaise with the Parish Clerk to ensure that planned roadworks etc. were not due to be carried out on polling day. This was noted.

RESOLVED

- (i) That for the elections being held on 4 May 2023, the Returning Officer be granted delegated powers to decide on suitable alternative venues, should any designated polling stations become unavailable;
- (ii) That the following polling station designations be approved:

Polling Station	New designated location
Heybridge (East)	Heybridge Swifts Football Club House
Maldon (East)	Maldon Stadium
Mayland	Henry Samuel Hall

17. APPROVAL OF ABSENCE RELATING TO A MEMBER

The Chairman advised that this report was no longer required and would therefore not be considered.

18. BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED BY THE CHAIRMAN TO BE URGENT

There was none.

19. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

In response to a question regarding the following item of business, the Monitoring Officer clarified the consideration taken by Officers when bringing forward a matter under private business.

The Chairman then moved the following recommendation which was duly agreed.

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve 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.

20. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 24 JANUARY 2023

Item 13 – Notice of Motion Referral – Conduct Issue

In response to questions, the Monitoring Officer provided the Council with further information regarding this matter, its confidential nature and the discussions had regarding it at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He also outlined the tests that had to be carried out when considering if an item of business was confidential or not.

Following further discussion, the Chairman put the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and this was duly agreed.

RESOLVED that the Council was informed of this Committee's conclusion that the matters raised in the motion do not require to be added to the Committee's scrutiny workplan for the reasons as set out in the report.

21. RESUMPTION OF BUSINESS IN OPEN SESSION

RESOLVED that the meeting of the Council resumes in open session at 9:59pm.

22. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman advised that the Council meeting would continue on Thursday 23 February 2023 starting at 10am, to consider the remaining item on the agenda - Agenda Item 10 – Notice of Motions. He then closed the meeting at 10:02pm.

R G BOYCE MBE
CHAIRMAN

Budget Speech 22.2.2023

Dear Chairman, Members and Officers

The financial year of 2022/3 will be remembered first and foremost for the cost-of-living crisis that the country has faced. Like all individuals and institutions this Council has been impacted by the increased costs, which put pressure on the Council budget, and will also impact on future years. That has however not stopped the Council from continuing to deliver on the programme of work that I set out in my speech last year, and of which this Council, its Members and Officers can be rightly proud.

I set out in my speech at the beginning of this municipal year that 2022/3 would be a year of consolidation, building on the strategic priorities which had been embedded within our recently published Commercial Strategy, Climate Action Strategy and the emerging partnership of One Maldon District, developed with a view to bring together key partners across the District to address the strategic issues around health, economy and community safety and support that affect us all. I highlighted that the focus would be on health and wellbeing and quality of life, and building social value. We have also progressed the review of our Local Development Plan, approved a re-organisation of our Service Delivery Directorate to improve efficiency in the use of resources and to re-align our structure into a more cohesive operational approach. Have also updated our Corporate Plan, whilst this was brought forward it could be delivered so quickly because of the work officers had already done in building the evidence base ensuring we now have a Corporate Plan based on clear evidence, with clear priorities underpinned by clear guiding principles and a defined Golden Thread which will steer the Council over coming years and enable the budget challenges of future years to be addressed through a clear process of service planning to match resources to priorities. I will return to this theme as it is this evidence based, strategic prioritisation of outcomes and allocation of resources accordingly that will enable this Council to navigate the future successfully, not from unevidenced motions, rather than sound evidence.

The past year has seen the successful development and delivery of the One Maldon District Partnership. The partnership brings together key strategic Partners across the District, encompassing the public, private and voluntary sectors. The partnership has played a key role in the development of the Councils UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme and has been the focus for partnership working in addressing the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on Maldon District Residents. The One Maldon District Community Services guide has recently been featured by the Local Government Association as national best practice, alongside the innovative Storage Centre for Household Essentials, which was developed as a community resource. The Community guide provides key information and support on health and wellbeing, energy saving tips, financial support and community groups that can help residents across the District. The work of the Partnership is developing, and its emerging Plan includes priorities including, Health and wellbeing, focussing on obesity, mental health and addressing the suicide rate in the District. These issues as embedded in our Corporate Plan are vital to the overall wellbeing of our communities and it is through this partnership working, addressing the wider determinants of health such as Housing, economic opportunities, and community safety that we will address many of the issues and priorities within our Corporate Plan. Partnership working is enshrined in that document and One Maldon District is our primary partnership for the District.

We must also ensure that our services continue to be delivered effectively, and complement the wider initiatives and partnership working, this was so clearly demonstrated this year by the way in which the Council took a co-ordinated approach to the Cost-of-Living Crisis supporting the partnership actions above, with the effective management of cost-of-living grants and support to individuals through our Revenues and Benefits Team and the great work they do. It is this joined up thinking and working that will enable our services to have real impact and protect the quality of life of our residents. Of course, this is just one example

and across the board we have officers working hard to deliver services and support our residents. Whilst this is sometimes challenging I know our officers strive for excellent services and work hard whether that is in the office or remotely.

Council has also recently endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the North Essex Association of Councils. This initiative will bring together the Councils across the North half of Essex to work more closely, look at potential for greater strategic alignment and co-ordination on the key challenges we face around, housing, climate, and economic growth. It will also explore, at pace the opportunities for shared services to increase the capacity and resilience of all the partner organisations.

The two partnership examples I have outlined, alongside the Service Delivery review and the development of the Corporate Plan show the work that has gone in by Officers and this political administration over the last year to ensure that the Council is building the capacity, partnerships, and processes to enable us to manage the ongoing pressures that the Council will face as costs continue to increase, but real resource is reduced. It is so important that we have in place these building blocks I have outlined as they will form the strong foundation on which we can build the future of Maldon District Council and protect and enhance the quality of life of our residents.

The Councils new Corporate Plan puts Quality of Life at the heart of everything we do as a Council. Our vision is to be a sustainable council, promoting growth and investment at every opportunity. To support our communities through excellent partnership working and to maintain and improve quality of life. The six priorities for the Council will be:

- Supporting our communities
- Enhancing and connecting our place
- Helping the economy to thrive
- Smarter finances
- A greener future
- Provide good quality services.

As well as setting out within the document how we will deliver each of these priorities, the whole plan is underpinned by our ways of working.

We are committed to running a local authority that puts residents first, is a great place to work, providing quality services whilst working in partnership to support communities. To deliver this plan, we will build on good practice and continue to:

- Focus on the needs of our residents
- Make best use of resources
- Adopt modern and efficient ways of working
- Be digitally efficient
- Deliver commercial projects and be commercially focused
- Strengthen our partnership working to benefit the district
- Strive to be modern and innovative
- Champion our Core Values as they set our culture and behaviours and support the welfare of our Staff and Councillors
- As a smaller local authority in the county, we will lobby for infrastructure and state our case
- Bid for funding
- Be more visible and promote the good work we do.

This Plan has been shared with all Members over the past two weeks and whilst its development was accelerated it is a clear, robust, and evidence-based document that sets out what we will do, how we will do it and how we will measure success and it also sets out the process through which we will allocate our resources. As such it will provide a blueprint for the ongoing success of the Council. Given its importance I am asking the Chairman of

the Council to move the approval of the plan up the agenda of this Council, to be heard immediately following the budget items.

So to the budget itself. This budget has been developed through a collegiate and inclusive approach, encompassing, officers and Members and utilising the Finance Working Group, Strategy and Resources Committee and all member budget briefings before being brought here today for approval of Council. As Leader I have ensured that the Finance Member Working Group has included representatives from across the Council, including, Conservatives, Independents, and those Members unaligned to groups. The approach taken has been to develop a balanced budget that protects services, whilst also seeking savings and efficiencies. Some of these savings include:

- Increased income from Council assets.
- Increased income from recycling.
- A reduction in staffing numbers where efficiencies have been realised.

The Council is also using its reserves to maintain vital services to the public in the face of the cost-of-living crises and allow a proper and strategic review of budgets next year. Investment in public assets is also included such as new play equipment.

The Council tax increase is well below inflation and equates to an additional 12p a week.

It is part of an overall strategy that the budget avoids rash service cuts and salami slicing of budgets. That old fashioned approach is counter-productive and has no place in sensible budget making and is unlikely to be in the public interest. This budget, alongside the structural changes agreed for the Service Delivery Directorate, protects services, and builds resilience. Of course we will have to make savings in future years, but for the coming year we have brought stability and resilience and put in place those strong foundations I referred to earlier that will enable the Council to review future models for delivery, and reap the benefits of partnership working, the introduction of shared services and overheads, maximise the potential for appropriately outsourced services and build a cohesive and efficient business model for the future, within the resources available.

To facilitate this approach this budget is underpinned by the appropriate use of reserves, which is fully justified in the current cost of living crisis, as it utilises reserves built up over recent years and which belong to the local community as well as the Council and which now protect services for residents in these hard-pressed times. We will of course use the processes and the plans set out already in this speech to ensure ongoing sustainability for the council in future years.

With these strong foundations in place the Council is well placed for the future

I referred earlier to the inclusive, encompassing work, through representation on the Finance Working Group of Conservatives, Independents and Unaligned. Likewise, the Strategy and Resources Committee. Now is not the time for individual political point scoring. This budget, this time, now provides us an opportunity to show how we can collaboratively and successfully as a Council in the most challenging of times deliver support and the best outcomes for the residents of the Maldon District.

I thank Cllr White the Chairman of Strategy and Resources Committee and Mr Leslie, Director of Resources, and his team for all their hard work throughout the budget process. Chairman I commend this budget to Council for approval.