

Taunton Deane Borough Council

At a meeting of Taunton Deane Borough Council held in the John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton on 23 February 2016 at 6.30 p.m.

Present The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Hill)
 The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs Stock-Williams)
 Councillors Mrs Adkins, M Adkins, Aldridge, Beale, Berry,
 Mrs Blatchford, Bowrah, Brown, Cavill, Coles, Coombes, Davies,
 D Durdan, Miss Durdan, Mrs Edwards, Edwards, Farbahi, Mrs Floyd,
 Gage, Govier, Mrs Gunner, Habgood, Hall, Mrs Herbert, C Hill, Horsley,
 Hunt, James, R Lees, Mrs Lees, Ms Lisgo, Martin-Scott, Morrell,
 Nicholls, Parrish, Prior-Sankey, Mrs Reed, Ross, Ryan,
 Miss Smith, Mrs Smith, Stone, Sully, Townsend, Mrs Tucker,
 Mrs Warmington, Watson, Ms Webber, Wedderkopp, Williams and
 Wren

Mrs A Elder – Chairman of the Standards Advisory Committee

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of Taunton Deane Borough Council held on 15 December 2015 and 26 January 2016, copies having been sent to each Member, were signed by the Mayor.

2. Apologies

Councillors Cossey and Gaines.

3. Communciations

The Mayor drew attention to the following three matters:-

- (i) Nominations were currently being sought for this year's Citizenship Awards;
- (ii) Taunton Food Bank had recently installed a collecting box in the main Reception of The Deane House – donations welcomed; and
- (iii) The annual Mayor's Patronage Concert arranged by the Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir would be taking place on Saturday, 19 March 2016 at St. James Church, Taunton. Tickets were available from the Civic Officer.

4. Declaration of Interests

Councillors M Adkins, Coles, Govier, Hunt, Prior-Sankey and Wedderkopp declared personal interests as Members of Somerset County Council. Councillor Mrs Herbert declared a personal interest as an employee of the Department of Work and Pensions. Councillor Wren declared a personal

interest as Clerk to Milverton Parish Council. Councillors Gage and Stone declared prejudicial interests as Tone Leisure Board representatives. Councillor Ms Lisgo declared a personal interest as a Director of Tone FM. Councillor Beale declared personal interests as a Board Member and Director of Tone FM and as a Governor of the South West Ambulance NHS Trust. Councillor Edwards declared a personal interest as the Chairman of Governors of Queens College. Councillor Farbahi declared a personal interest as the owner of land in Taunton Deane. Councillor Hall declared a personal interest as a Director of Southwest One. Councillor Coombes declared a personal interest as a Stoke St Mary Parish Councillor and as the owner of land at Haydon. Councillor Parrish declared a personal interest as the District Council's representative on the Somerset Pensions Committee. Councillor Mrs Stock-Williams declared a prejudicial interest as a Citizens' Advice Trustee and left the meeting during the consideration of the Liberal Democrat Group amendment in connection with the proposed reduction in the Voluntary and Community Centre Grants.

5. Public Question Time

- (1) Mr Paul Partington again raised the issue of the roundabout on the A358 for the Station Farm Development, Bishops Lydeard, the construction of which was still awaited.

Mr Partington referred to his previous appearance at Full Council in April 2014 and, more recently, at a Somerset County Council meeting where he had raised the issue. Details of the responses he had received were reported. He also referred to the information contained in a report to Taunton Deane's Planning Committee concerning off-site highways works in relation to an application which was due to be determined.

There were four questions Mr Partington requested answers upon. These were:-

- (i) What enforcement steps were being taken by Taunton Deane Borough Council to get the developer to implement the roundabout?
- (ii) Please could Taunton Deane Borough Council confirm that there is condition/requirement for the developer to provide a footway at the edge of the highway at Greenway Housing Estate, i.e. the removal of the hedge, new hedge set back and the provision of a footway to provide a safe crossing into Station Farm when crossing the Bishops Lydeard to Ash Priors Road?
- (iii) In the interest of pedestrian safety, rather than wait for the footway works to be carried out under the present development, could the hedge at the Greenway Estate be removed now by Taunton Deane?
- (iv) Somerset County Council is only a statutory consultee to the Local Planning Authority. It is the role of the Planning Authority to weigh up all the elements of the planning application and

provide a balanced judgement of the overall merits of the development. If it is known that there are highway requirements in a previous planning application and a new application is going to result in more vehicular access and access for construction vehicles, can there be planning consent granted with a condition that the previous off-site works are completed before any on-site works are started?

In response, Councillor Habgood reported that he was unfamiliar with the issue but would gladly meet up with Mr Partington to fully understand his concerns with a written response to the points he had made to then follow.

- (2) Mr Alan Debenham was of the view that everybody now fully appreciated that Local Government jobs and services continued to be the soft target for a sustained attack from Tory-led Central Government via the ideologically driven systematic reduction in Revenue Support Grant from 2010.

When local residents like myself want Councillors to protect, maintain and enhance our local public services, why was it these hard right-wing year-on-year cuts had not been actively and publicly opposed by the Council, especially in coordinated anti-cuts campaigning with the other 22 South West local authorities with whom close joint working now has been established - but unfortunately to obey the Government's call for undemocratic, sham-devolution; a key element of which was yet more financial stringency and savings?

In addition, how can the Council now reconcile its further lap-dog like obedience to Government dictat by imposing an above inflation, 5% increase in Council Tax, at the same time as overseeing cuts in services and big hikes in fees, when previously it had adhered so devotedly to hard-right politically engineered Council Tax freezes?

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Williams, thanked Mr Debenham for his questions and acknowledged that the Revenue Support Grant had been cut in recent years. However, the Government had put in place a number of other funding streams which the Council was able to compete for. Despite the reductions in funding, the Council had managed to maintain front line services. He added that the effects of the last recession were still being felt and the Council was trying its utmost to ensure that its expenditure matched its income.

- (3) The Reverend David Fayle spoke in support of the Taunton East Development Trust which had carried out much good work in the locality. He hoped that the financial support provided by Taunton Deane in the past would be continued to allow further works to be provided in the future.

Councillor Mrs Warmington replied by stating that the work done by organisations like the Taunton East Development Trust was highly valued. However, there was a need to reduce the current budget for Voluntary and

Community Centre Grants by 10%. There had been no cuts for the past three years. She hoped that applying the reduction now would be a prudent and pragmatic approach which would enable the Council to hold the budget at the same level for at least a further three years. Councillor Mrs Warmington added that the Council was also commissioning services.

6. **Heart of the South West Devolution – A Prospectus for Productivity**

Considered report previously circulated, concerning proposals for devolution for the Heart of the South West (HotSW).

The Government wished to devolve powers and budgets from Westminster to local authorities, using Local Enterprise Partnership geographies. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was particularly interested in devolution as a driver of:-

- Increased productivity;
- Skills and employment;
- Housing; and
- Reducing the cost of the public sector.

Devolution for the HotSW was being led by the Leaders of Somerset and Devon County Councils, all Somerset and Devon Boroughs and Districts, Torbay Council, Plymouth City Council, Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Reported that a shared Devolution Statement of Intent had been submitted to the Government on 4 September 2015 in response to announcements in the July Budget and a deadline set by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Government had subsequently asked partners to produce formal devolution proposals with a view to negotiating a formal deal thereafter.

Partners had agreed to move forward quickly and after a recent decision to allow more time, to complete a prospectus by late January 2016 with a view to subsequent approvals by participating Councils in February, followed by submission to the Government.

The report was accompanied by the completed prospectus document. Noted that the prospectus was not the final devolution 'deal' – it was a deliberately 'high-level' (and evidenced) document, the purpose of which was to open a conversation and negotiation with the Government about a potential devolution deal for the HotSW area.

The Leaders of the various Councils had considered a number of options for the governance of any devolution deal. No decision would be made on a governance model until the deal was agreed. However a form of Combined Authority was proposed, subject to the nature of the final devolution deal and a formal governance review. As any deal would need to be ratified by the Council, Members would have an opportunity to consider the detail of governance at that time.

The Council had an opportunity to benefit from devolution across a wide range of topics and services. The HotSW devolution prospectus proposed benefits in the following key areas:-

- Health, social care and wellbeing;
- Skills and employment;
- Business support;
- Resilience and connectivity; and
- Housing and planning.

Devolution had clear links to, and the potential to enhance the benefit from, key strategic work already under way, including the Broadband roll-out, Hinkley Point C, A303/A358/A30 investment, health and social care integration and flood defence and resilience.

The prospectus was a first draft 'heads of terms' - not an endgame - and a signal of readiness for serious negotiation with the Government. The prospectus would be submitted at the end of February 2016, and the negotiations with Government would take place over the course of the following months.

Any final devolution deal with the Government would be subject to further approval / ratification by all partners individually.

Resolved that:-

- (a) The 'Prospectus for Productivity' be noted and that it be endorsed as the basis for starting a negotiation with Government; and
- (b) It be noted that any devolution 'deal' emerging from negotiations with the Government would come back to Full Council (and all Councils in the Heart of the South West) for approval.

(The Chief Executive (Penny James), Section 151 Officer (Shirlene Adam) and Assistant Chief Executive (Bruce Lang) all declared prejudicial interests in the following item and left the meeting during its consideration.)

7. Staff Severance / Compensation Policies Updates and Pay Policy Statement

Considered report previously circulated, regarding proposed changes to the Severance and Compensation Policies as set out in the Redundancy and Retirement Policies of both Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils.

West Somerset Council's Severance policy was last reviewed in April 2011 and Taunton Deane's Compensation Policy in March 2007.

Following a period of significant change for both Councils with Taunton Deane's Core Council Review in 2010, the implementation of a Joint Management and Shared Services arrangement (JMaSS) for both Councils

between November 2013 and April 2015 and the recent Spending Review, it was considered appropriate to review and recommend changes to both of these policies.

Further reported that Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 required local authorities to prepare and publish a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year, approved by Full Council. This detailed the pay arrangements and policies that related to the pay of the workforce which served the JMaSS Partnership between Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Council.

As a result of the JMaSS project all staff previously employed by West Somerset Council had transferred under TUPE regulations to Taunton Deane Borough Council. Although employed by Taunton Deane, a small number of transferring staff opted to remain on West Somerset Council's terms and conditions. It was therefore necessary for both Councils to review their Compensation/ Severance Policies as the West Somerset Council Policy would be applicable for these staff.

Reported that West Somerset Council's Severance Policy currently applied the 30 week statutory redundancy table using a multiplier of 2. Early retirement in the interests of the efficiency of the service used no multiplier.

Taunton Deane's Compensation Policy applied the 30 week statutory redundancy table using a multiplier of 3. Early retirement in the interests of the efficiency of the service used a multiplier of 2.

It was proposed to change West Somerset Council's Severance Policy by:-

- (i) Reducing the multiplier to 1.5 times the statutory redundancy payment for redundancies; and
- (ii) Introducing pay protection where employment on less favourable terms was offered to an employee as an alternative to redundancy. An employee's basic pay would be protected for up to two years if the reduction in their basic pay did not exceed 17.5%.

It was proposed to change Taunton Deane's Compensation Policy by:-

- (i) Reducing the multiplier to 1.5 times the statutory redundancy payment for redundancies;
- (ii) Removing the multiplier for early retirement in the interests of the efficiency of the service; and
- (iii) Introducing pay protection where employment on less favourable terms was offered to an employee as an alternative to redundancy. An employee's basic pay would be protected for up to two years if the reduction in their basic pay did not exceed 17.5%

The comparative details for the redundancy multiplier of other local authorities in Somerset were reported for the information of Members.

Further reported that Staff and UNISON had been consulted on these changes. Submitted details of the responses that had been received against

these proposals. Noted that UNISON had not given its support for the proposals outlined in the report and had recently submitted its full written comments which were reported for the information of Councillors..

Reported that the item had been considered at the meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 18 February 2016 where the proposals had been supported.

Resolved that:-

- (1) The recommended changes to the West Somerset Council's Severance Policy and Taunton Deane Borough Council's Compensation Policy as set out in the Redundancy and Retirement Policies be approved; and
- (2) The Pay Policy Statement 2016/2017 also be approved.

8. Written Questions to Members of the Executive

(1) Questions to Councillor Richard Parrish from Councillor Richard Lees

- (a) Paragraph 1.5 of Councillor Parrish's Report – Corporate Complaints - You said this is still off target but had improved to 75%. Can this be improved further, and if so how?

Reply

Our target is 90%. In the short term we are working with Managers to improve our recording of and response times to complaints. It is worth noting however that we continue to receive only a very small number of complaints from the Local Government Ombudsman. This indicates that we are largely getting it right with our responses to complaints, as the majority are not progressing to the Ombudsman.

In the longer term, through the delivery of a new approach to customer access, we are aiming to significantly reduce the number of complaints.

- (b) Paragraph 4.2 – Platform Schedule – You said this was going to go live later in the year – Any idea when?

Reply

We have already "soft" launched elements of the new site and are gradually migrating information from the old to the new site. The "hard" launch is scheduled for the end of April 2016 when we switch off the old site. (NB. Please note that this work relates to our internal Intranet and not our external website).

- (c) Throughout your report you use initials - it is littered with them, for example CCA, FM. Could you please remember that there may be Members who are not familiar with such initials and would need them explaining?

Reply

We will endeavour to avoid using acronyms in the future.

(2) Questions to Councillor Patrick Berry from Councillor Federica Smith

- (a) What are the current air quality measurements with regard to traffic pollution running from Junction 25, along the Toneway corridor and into the town centre along East Reach. Are these within the required standard and have these increased or decreased in the past two years?

Reply

A spreadsheet showing the monitoring results from 2003 up to 2014 is available where the tubes on that side of Taunton have been highlighted. A map showing the location of the tubes in the area is also available. Currently, the data for 2015 was not available.

We have the results of the monthly monitoring so can produce an annual average, however, this will need to be corrected to take into account the variation between different companies and methods of monitoring. The Department of Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs does this adjustment and the adjusted data has not yet been received.

The guidance level is 40ug/m³. This has only been exceeded at East Reach Lights (at the junction of East Reach and East Street). The other sites show some levels lower for 2014 and some higher. A variation of a few ug/m³ can easily be due to local variation (these are not the most accurate way of monitoring air quality) and the weather can also make quite a difference to air quality.

- (b) With reference to the 'Dog Action Day', have we undertaken in the past year any enforcement/prosecution for dog fouling?

Reply

Dog Action Day was cancelled due to poor weather and staff sickness and is planned to be rescheduled April/May. It is hoped to get the Somerset Dog Warden Service on board and possibly combine it with some promotional work that is being planned by the Licensing Department around boarding kennel establishments. As for enforcement action we have not taken any in the last year but we do carry out regular patrols of the parks, areas where we receive complaints and open spaces. We hand out dog waste bags and give advice to dog owners regarding responsible dog ownership. Dog patrols and enforcement are part of the Pest Control Officer's duties

- (c) What is the current budget allocated for dog enforcement/hygiene and what does this service provide, for example FTE hours and role to the public.

Reply

Below is the Budget data:-

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| * 112119 TD Dog Wardens | | |
| 25000 | C S Prem Trading Charge | |
| 44544 | Vet Fees and Supplies | |
| 44583 | Maintenance of dogs/cats | £10,140.00 |
| 45000 | Inter-Depart Recharge | |
| 45003 | Cross Service Trading Charge | £45,580.00 |
| 50610 | Contract Payment | £29,930.00 |

£10,140 is for kennelling and picking up strays;
£ 29,930 is the cost of the actual contract with St Giles to provide the service;
£ 45,580 is what it costs to empty dog bins per year (for the ones owned by Environmental Health – 159 in number, which is the majority).
There are others owned by Parishes which are not included in this budget or calculation.

(3) Questions to Councillor Terry Beale from Councillor Fraca Smith

- (a) Please can Councillor Beale update the Council on the number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) cases the officers are dealing with and how many are linked to mental health issues?

Reply

ASB cases recorded between 01/10/15 – 31/01/16

30 cases were opened during the period:-

- Two Alcohol;
- One Communal Areas;
- Three Drugs – One now closed resolved. Two continuing investigations;
- Two Garden Nuisance;
- Eight Harassment – Four cases closed resolved. One case mediation taken place, both perpetrator and victim have mental health issues; officer still working with both parties and mental health team to resolve. One case counter allegations have been made, officer investigating. One case perpetrator is likely to be evicted due to rent arrears. One case early stages, working with Police, perpetrator hard to engage.
- One Hate Crime – Tenancy terminating, perpetrator awaiting court case.
- Five Noise
- Four Physical Violence – One case domestic dispute, two cases closed, one case victim has had housing application banding increased to gold, perpetrators x 2 remanded in custody and charged with robbery.

- (b) Can you please provide more details regarding the reasons for delays at Creechbarrow Road, Taunton and when will the whole site be completed?

Reply

Labour shortages – There is a booming residential new-build market in Taunton and this pressurises a depleted labour pool, which declined in numbers during the recession and takes a long time to be replenished through new apprentices.

Service Diversions - Several instances of services being uncovered that were not where they were indicated to be on the utility company records, including gas pipes, fibre optic and electric cables.

This is not exceptional as the records only indicate positions and do not accurately record the routes of cables or pipes, therefore until all are traced and uncovered you cannot fully rely on the data provided. These instances will however cause delays as contractors will then have to wait for the utility company to divert their pipes/ cables, and in periods of bad weather etc such works will not be their priority.

Asbestos finds within the old buildings. Additional asbestos not shown in the records was found, some of these finds could not have been foreseen as they were in effect built in to the structure, for example formwork in asbestos material creating pipe ducts within the floor slabs of the buildings. On discovery, work has to halt and full health and safety procedures be followed including tenting the affected areas to allow safe removal. This will slow the demolition phase.

Ground conditions – The made ground that was in the area of the old route of Roman Road meant the increased levels of dig were required to complete foundations in that area.

Works within Moorland Road to make off site drainage connections were also complicated by this.

Moorland House drainage connection – The indicated drainage connection point is not adequate to fulfil its purpose, requiring a re-engineering exercise to find a suitable alternative method of providing drainage to the building.

Ecological matters – The translocation of Slow Worms from the Moorland House site took longer than the ecologist anticipated due to the very large numbers of Slow Worms (over 300 found and relocated). Nesting birds in the eaves of 2 and 4 Moorland Road meant the demolition of these units was delayed until the end of the nesting season. Work involving boundary hedges was also delayed for this reason.

8. **Recommendations to Council from the Executive**

(a) Earmarked Reserves Review

A review of a number of earmarked reserves held by the Council for various purposes had recently been undertaken with a view to balances being returned to the General Fund.

As a result of the review, there were various earmarked reserves, totalling £92,000, that were no longer required. These related to the Stable Pensions Payroll Reserve, the Community Right to Challenge and the Bursary Account.

On the motion of Councillor Williams, it was

Resolved that a Budget Return of £92,000 to General Reserves of surplus balances currently held in Earmarked Reserves be approved.

(b) Draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy 2016/2017

The Executive had recently considered the recommended strategy for managing the Council's cash resources including the approach to borrowing and investments. Approval had also been sought for the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy (TMSS), the Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy.

The Council's Finance Officers had worked closely with Arlingclose, the Council's Treasury Advisor, to determine the proposed TMSS, AIS and MRP Policy that ensured compliance and provided a set of 'rules' for the Council to follow in dealing with investments, borrowing and cash flow management.

The TMSS for 2016/2017 continued to recognise the increasing risks due to the new regulations in respect of 'bail in' for banks. In response to this risk and the wider continuing risks in the financial sector, the TMSS continued to build in greater "diversification" – so that surplus funds were held in a wider range of investments/accounts.

With regard to the MRP Policy, it was felt that the current approach which charged MRP at 4% per year, should be moved to a new approach which proposed calculating MRP based on a weighted average asset life of 45.57 years. This equated to an MRP rate of 2.19% and had enabled the Council to release budget savings of £382,000 in 2015/2016 with continuing annual savings of £234,000 from 2016/2017.

On the motion of Councillor Williams, it was

Resolved that:-

- (1) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and revised Minimum Reserve Provision Policy as set out in the Appendix to the report considered by the Executive be approved;
- (2) The Prudential Indicators included within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement which includes limits for borrowing and Investments be approved; and
- (3) The change to the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy to be applied with effect from 1 April 2015, be also approved.

(c) Corporate Strategy 2016-2020

The Executive has recently discussed the contents of the Council's draft Corporate Strategy 2016-2020.

This Strategy - which had been developed with input from Members - provided a clear direction for the organisation to follow; with four key priority areas where the Council should concentrate its efforts and resources between April 2016 and March 2020.

The key elements of the Strategy were:-

- refreshed high-level Corporate Priorities for the Council;
- design principles for the organisation;
- a refreshed vision; and
- clarity on the role and purpose of the Council.

It was felt the Strategy would lead to a more resourceful and responsive organisation that delivered outcomes to our communities in the most efficient and effective way and continued to play a key role in shaping Taunton Deane.

The Corporate Strategy was the key part of the 'Golden Thread' which set the corporate objectives from which key actions flowed. This was illustrated in the following diagram:-



The Strategy was the product of a series of Member workshops which took place during the course of last year. From these workshops an initial draft of the Corporate Strategy was prepared and consulted upon both internally and externally.

The draft Strategy had been considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee where a number of specific comments had been made for consideration by the Executive. A number of these comments had now been included in the latest version of the Corporate Strategy.

On the motion of Councillor Williams, it was

Resolved that the revised Corporate Strategy be adopted.

(d) General Fund Revenue Estimates 2016/2017

The Executive had considered its final 2016/2017 budget proposals which recognised the continuing financial challenges, with annual reductions in Government funding for Local Council services as the Government sought to reduce the national deficit.

The 2016/2017 Budget had been prepared within the context of priorities identified by Members which were embedded in the Council's Corporate Business Plan.

The budget contained details on:-

- (i) the General Fund Revenue Budget proposals for 2016/2017, including a proposed Council Tax increase; and
- (ii) draft figures on the predicted financial position of the Council for subsequent years.

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee had made specific recommendations relating to a request for the proposal to spend £40,000 on a Railway Feasibility Study to be removed from the draft budget and the savings option to reduce the Voluntary and Community Organisation Grants by £40,000 to also be removed.

The Final "Settlement Funding Assessment" had been announced on 8 February 2016 from which the key messages were:-

- As well as permitting Councils to increase Council Tax beyond previous levels where a referendum was required, the Government had also indicated that it was prepared to offer any Council a four-year funding settlement to 2019/2020 if they published an efficiency plan.
- Transitional grant had been given to Councils with the sharpest drop in Revenue Support Grant (RSG). The grant would be worth £150,000,000 a year paid for the first two years (2016/2017 and 2017/2018).
- The Department of Communities and Local Government would conduct a review of what the Needs Assessment formula should be and use it to determine the transition to 100% Business Rates retention.
- The Rural Services Delivery Grant would be increased from £15,500,000 in 2015/2016 to £80,500,000 in 2016/2017. This was to recognise the difficulty of providing services in sparse rural areas.
- The Minister would also consult on allowing well-performing Planning Departments to increase their fees in line with inflation at the most, providing that the revenue reduced the cross subsidy that the Planning function already received from Council Tax payers.
- The Minister had also confirmed that there would be no "tariff adjustment"/negative Rate Support Grant in 2017/2018 and 2018/2019. This had no effect for Taunton Deane as our "tariff" would not take effect until 2019/2020.

The proposed budget for Taunton Deane contained a proposed Council Tax increase of 3.62% (£5 on a Band D) for 2016/2017 which would mean that the Band D Council Tax would rise to £142.88 per year. The Band D taxpayer would, therefore, receive all the services provided by the Council in 2016/2017 at a cost of £2.74 per week.

The Government had announced that Somerset County Council and the five District Councils in Somerset could raise additional funding for the new Somerset Rivers Authority by setting a precept based on up to 1.25% of each Council's 2015/2016 basic tax rate – which for Taunton Deane was £1.74 a year for a Band D. This would fund the Somerset Rivers Authority in 2016/2017 pending its establishment as a precepting body.

An increase in the Council's own basic Band D tax of £5 plus the £1.74 increase to precept for the Somerset Rivers Authority would mean a combined increase of £6.74 (4.89%) a year for a Band D. This would result in a total Band D charge for Taunton Deane of £144.62 on the Council Tax bills in 2016/2017.

The estimated Special Expenses chargeable to the non-parished area of Taunton in 2016/2017 amounted to £43,362, which reflected a zero increase in the special expenses per Band D equivalent of £2.98 per property per year in the Unparished Area. In addition, the Unparished Area Budget had received a notional Council Tax Support Grant of £4,020 in 2016/2017 giving a total budget for the year of £47,382.

It was a requirement for the Council to prepare not only budgets for the following financial year but to also provide indicative figures into future years. The Medium Term Financial Plan provided an indication of the expected budget gap going forward into 2016/2017 and beyond and a summary of this position was reflected in the following table:-

| | 2016/17 £ | 2017/18 £ | 2018/19 £ | 2019/20 £ | 2020/21 £ |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Forecast Net Expenditure | 10,280,063 | 10,633,062 | 11,439,334 | 11,962,163 | 12,381,794 |
| SRA Contribution | 67,987 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Earmarked Reserves | 3,334,152 | 3,007,050 | 2,260,100 | 1,900,480 | 1,717,700 |
| General Reserves | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unparished CTRS Grant | 4,020 | 2,010 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unparished Precept (SER) | 43,360 | 44,230 | 45,110 | 45,980 | 46,850 |
| Parish CTRS Grant | 25,980 | 12,990 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TDBC NET EXPENDITURE | 13,755,562 | 13,699,342 | 13,744,544 | 13,908,623 | 14,146,344 |
| Parish precepts | 640,320 | 640,320 | 640,320 | 640,320 | 640,320 |
| TOTAL NET BUDGET | 14,395,882 | 14,339,662 | 14,384,864 | 14,548,943 | 14,786,664 |
| Retained Business Rates | -2,959,304 | -2,977,089 | -3,119,534 | -3,060,691 | -3,130,802 |
| Collection Fund Surplus – BR | 191,668 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revenue Support Grant | -1,235,137 | -644,801 | -279,788 | 0 | 0 |
| Rural Services Delivery Grant | -27,582 | -22,271 | -17,132 | -22,271 | -22,271 |
| Transition Grant | -16,930 | -16,864 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Homes Bonus | -3,883,310 | -3,416,310 | -2,669,360 | -2,309,740 | -2,126,960 |
| Council Tax – TDBC | -5,582,730 | -5,750,630 | -5,923,320 | -6,101,310 | -6,284,720 |
| Council Tax – To Fund SRA | -67,987 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Council Tax – Special Expenses | -43,360 | -44,230 | -45,110 | -45,980 | -46,850 |
| Collection Fund Bal – CTax | -130,890 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TDBC NET FUNDING | -13,755,562 | -12,872,195 | -12,054,244 | -11,539,992 | -11,611,603 |
| Council Tax – Parishes | -640,320 | -640,320 | -640,320 | -640,320 | -640,320 |
| TOTAL FUNDING | -14,395,882 | -13,512,515 | 12,694,564 | 12,180,312 | -12,251,923 |
| Budget Gap – In Year | 0 | 827,147 | 863,152 | 678,331 | 166,110 |
| Budget Gap – Cumulative | 0 | 827,147 | 1,690,300 | 2,368,631 | 2,534,742 |

The above estimates included the following main assumptions related to funding:-

- Revenue Support Grant for 2016/2017 was as set out in the Final Finance Settlement, and would diminish to nil by 2019/2020.
- The updated estimates for Business Rates funding for 2016/2017 took into account the RPI increase at 0.80%, and the anticipated tariff adjustment in 2019/2020.
- The updated estimates for New Homes Bonus funding assumed that the number of years allocation would drop, therefore in 2017/2018 Taunton Deane would only receive five years allocation and in 2018/2019 and subsequent years the Council would only receive a four year allocation.
- Council Tax was assumed to increase by £5 (3.62%) in 2016/2017 then 1.99% each subsequent year.

It was proposed that the minimum acceptable reserves position should be increased to £1,600,000. Although the current Budget for 2016/2017 would seek to maintain reserves above this minimum, currently the General Fund Reserves would only be £314,000 above the new recommended minimum balance.

Based on the MTFP position set out above the General Reserves forecast was summarised as follows:-

General Reserves Forecast

| | 2016/17 £k | 2017/18 £k | 2018/19 £k | 2019/20 £k | 2020/21 £k |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Estimated Balance B/F | 1,914 | 1,914 | 1,087 | -603 | -2,972 |
| Predicted Budget Gap | 0 | -827 | -1,690 | -2,369 | -2,534 |
| Estimated Balance C/F | 1,914 | 1,087 | -603 | -2,972 | -5,506 |

Clearly the Council would need to ensure action was taken to ensure the projected financial deficit over the medium term was avoided and minimum balances were maintained.

The Council's Section 151 Officer had a duty to comment on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves. In her response, Shirlene Adam had stated that she believed the Council's reserves to be adequate and the budget estimates used in preparing the 2016/2017 budget to be robust.

A number of Equalities Impact Assessments had been prepared in relation to the budget proposals and these had been taken into account by the Executive when the budget proposals were considered.

- (i) Moved by Councillor Coles, seconded by Councillor Miss Smith, that the budget proposals be amended as follows:-

“That the Additional Final Settlement Additional Funding was not transferred to Reserves”.

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(b), the Mayor called for a formal roll call of votes to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

The amendment was put and was lost with sixteen Councillors in favour, thirty six against and one abstaining, as follows:-

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| | | |
| Councillor Coles | Councillor Mrs Adkins | Councillor Aldridge |
| Councillor Farbahi | Councillor M Adkins | |
| Councillor Mrs Floyd | Councillor Beale | |
| Councillor Govier | Councillor Berry | |
| Councillor Mrs Hill | Councillor Mrs Blatchford | |
| Councillor Horsley | Councillor Bowrah | |
| Councillor R Lees | Councillor Brown | |
| Councillor Mrs Lees | Councillor Cavill | |
| Councillor Ms Lisgo | Councillor Coombes | |
| Councillor Nicholls | Councillor Davies | |

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| Councillor Prior-Sankey | Councillor D Durdan | |
| Councillor Ross | Councillor Miss Durdan | |
| Councillor Miss Smith | Councillor Mrs Edwards | |
| Councillor Mrs Smith | Councillor Edwards | |
| Councillor Stone | Councillor Gage | |
| Councillor Wedderkopp | Councillor Mrs Gunner | |
| | Councillor Habgood | |
| | Councillor Hall | |
| | Councillor Mrs Herbert | |
| | Councillor C Hill | |
| | Councillor Hunt | |
| | Councillor James | |
| | Councillor Martin-Scott | |
| | Councillor Morrell | |
| | Councillor Parrish | |
| | Councillor Mrs Reed | |
| | Councillor Ryan | |
| | Councillor Mrs Stock-Williams | |
| | Councillor Sully | |
| | Councillor Townsend | |
| | Councillor Mrs Tucker | |
| | Councillor Mrs Warmington | |
| | Councillor Watson | |
| | Councillor Ms Webber | |
| | Councillor Williams | |
| | Councillor Wren | |

(Councillor Mrs Stock-Williams declared a prejudicial interest in the following proposed amendment as a Citizens Advice Trustee. She left the meeting during the consideration of this amendment.)

- (ii) Moved by Councillor Miss Smith, seconded by Councillor Coles that the budget proposals be amended as follows:-

“That the proposed £40,000 reduction in the Voluntary and Community Centre Grants be restored”.

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(b), the Mayor called for a formal roll call of votes to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

The amendment was put and was lost with eighteen Councillors in favour and thirty four against, as follows:-

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| | | |
| Councillor Aldridge | Councillor Mrs Adkins | |
| Councillor Coles | Councillor M Adkins | |
| Councillor Farbahi | Councillor Beale | |
| Councillor Mrs Floyd | Councillor Berry | |
| Councillor Govier | Councillor Mrs Blatchford | |
| Councillor Mrs Hill | Councillor Bowrah | |
| Councillor Horsley | Councillor Brown | |
| Councillor R Lees | Councillor Cavill | |
| Councillor Mrs Lees | Councillor Coombes | |
| Councillor Ms Lisgo | Councillor Davies | |
| Councillor Morrell | Councillor D Durdan | |
| Councillor Nicholls | Councillor Miss Durdan | |
| Councillor Prior-Sankey | Councillor Mrs Edwards | |
| Councillor Ross | Councillor Edwards | |
| Councillor Miss Smith | Councillor Gage | |
| Councillor Mrs Smith | Councillor Mrs Gunner | |
| Councillor Stone | Councillor Habgood | |
| Councillor Wedderkopp | Councillor Hall | |
| | Councillor Mrs Herbert | |
| | Councillor C Hill | |
| | Councillor Hunt | |
| | Councillor James | |
| | Councillor Martin-Scott | |
| | Councillor Parrish | |
| | Councillor Mrs Reed | |
| | Councillor Ryan | |
| | Councillor Sully | |
| | Councillor Townsend | |
| | Councillor Mrs Tucker | |
| | Councillor Mrs Warmington | |
| | Councillor Watson | |
| | Councillor Ms Webber | |
| | Councillor Williams | |
| | Councillor Wren | |

(iii) Moved by Councillor R Lees, seconded by Councillor Nicholls that the budget proposals be amended as follows:-

“That the proposed £10,000 reduction in the hanging basket displays in Taunton and Wellington be restored”.

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(b), the Mayor called for a formal roll call of votes to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

The amendment was put and was lost with eighteen Councillors in favour and thirty five against, as follows:-

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| | | |
| Councillor Aldridge | Councillor Mrs Adkins | |
| Councillor Coles | Councillor M Adkins | |
| Councillor Farbahi | Councillor Beale | |
| Councillor Mrs Floyd | Councillor Berry | |
| Councillor Govier | Councillor Mrs Blatchford | |
| Councillor Mrs Hill | Councillor Bowrah | |
| Councillor Horsley | Councillor Brown | |
| Councillor R Lees | Councillor Cavill | |
| Councillor Mrs Lees | Councillor Coombes | |
| Councillor Ms Lisgo | Councillor Davies | |
| Councillor Morrell | Councillor D Durdan | |
| Councillor Nicholls | Councillor Miss Durdan | |
| Councillor Prior-Sankey | Councillor Mrs Edwards | |
| Councillor Ross | Councillor Edwards | |
| Councillor Miss Smith | Councillor Gage | |
| Councillor Mrs Smith | Councillor Mrs Gunner | |
| Councillor Stone | Councillor Habgood | |
| Councillor Wedderkopp | Councillor Hall | |
| | Councillor Mrs Herbert | |
| | Councillor C Hill | |
| | Councillor Hunt | |
| | Councillor James | |
| | Councillor Martin-Scott | |
| | Councillor Parrish | |
| | Councillor Mrs Reed | |
| | Councillor Ryan | |
| | Councillor Mrs Stock – | |
| | Williams | |
| | Councillor Sully | |
| | Councillor Townsend | |
| | Councillor Mrs Tucker | |
| | Councillor Mrs Warmington | |
| | Councillor Watson | |
| | Councillor Ms Webber | |
| | Councillor Williams | |

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| | Councillor Wren | |
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- (iv) Moved by Councillor Horsley, seconded by Councillor Farbahi that the budget proposals be amended as follows:-

“That the proposed £6,000 reduction in Local Business Networks be restored”.

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(b), the Mayor called for a formal roll call of votes to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

The amendment was put and was lost with eighteen Councillors in favour and thirty five against, as follows:-

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| | | |
| Councillor Aldridge | Councillor Mrs Adkins | |
| Councillor Coles | Councillor M Adkins | |
| Councillor Farbahi | Councillor Beale | |
| Councillor Mrs Floyd | Councillor Berry | |
| Councillor Govier | Councillor Mrs Blatchford | |
| Councillor Mrs Hill | Councillor Bowrah | |
| Councillor Horsley | Councillor Brown | |
| Councillor R Lees | Councillor Cavill | |
| Councillor Mrs Lees | Councillor Coombes | |
| Councillor Ms Lisgo | Councillor Davies | |
| Councillor Morrell | Councillor D Durdan | |
| Councillor Nicholls | Councillor Miss Durdan | |
| Councillor Prior-Sankey | Councillor Mrs Edwards | |
| Councillor Ross | Councillor Edwards | |
| Councillor Miss Smith | Councillor Gage | |
| Councillor Mrs Smith | Councillor Mrs Gunner | |
| Councillor Stone | Councillor Habgood | |
| Councillor Wedderkopp | Councillor Hall | |
| | Councillor Mrs Herbert | |
| | Councillor C Hill | |
| | Councillor Hunt | |
| | Councillor James | |
| | Councillor Martin-Scott | |
| | Councillor Parrish | |
| | Councillor Mrs Reed | |
| | Councillor Ryan | |
| | Councillor Mrs Stock – | |
| | Williams | |
| | Councillor Sully | |

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| | Councillor Townsend | |
| | Councillor Mrs Tucker | |
| | Councillor Mrs Warmington | |
| | Councillor Watson | |
| | Councillor Ms Webber | |
| | Councillor Williams | |
| | Councillor Wren | |

- (v) Moved by Councillor Coles, seconded by Councillor Farbahi that the budget proposals be amended as follows:-

“That the proposed £2,000 reduction in Supporting Inward Investment and Fulfilment be restored”.

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(b), the Mayor called for a formal roll call of votes to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

The amendment was put and was lost with eighteen Councillors in favour and thirty five against, as follows:-

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| | | |
| Councillor Aldridge | Councillor Mrs Adkins | |
| Councillor Coles | Councillor M Adkins | |
| Councillor Farbahi | Councillor Beale | |
| Councillor Mrs Floyd | Councillor Berry | |
| Councillor Govier | Councillor Mrs Blatchford | |
| Councillor Mrs Hill | Councillor Bowrah | |
| Councillor Horsley | Councillor Brown | |
| Councillor R Lees | Councillor Cavill | |
| Councillor Mrs Lees | Councillor Coombes | |
| Councillor Ms Lisgo | Councillor Davies | |
| Councillor Morrell | Councillor D Durdan | |
| Councillor Nicholls | Councillor Miss Durdan | |
| Councillor Prior-Sankey | Councillor Mrs Edwards | |
| Councillor Ross | Councillor Edwards | |
| Councillor Miss Smith | Councillor Gage | |
| Councillor Mrs Smith | Councillor Mrs Gunner | |
| Councillor Stone | Councillor Habgood | |
| Councillor Wedderkopp | Councillor Hall | |
| | Councillor Mrs Herbert | |
| | Councillor C Hill | |
| | Councillor Hunt | |
| | Councillor James | |
| | Councillor Martin-Scott | |

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| | Councillor Parrish | |
| | Councillor Mrs Reed | |
| | Councillor Ryan | |
| | Councillor Mrs Stock – | |
| | Williams | |
| | Councillor Sully | |
| | Councillor Townsend | |
| | Councillor Mrs Tucker | |
| | Councillor Mrs Warmington | |
| | Councillor Watson | |
| | Councillor Ms Webber | |
| | Councillor Williams | |
| | Councillor Wren | |

(vi) Moved by Councillor Mrs Smith, seconded by Councillor Coles that the budget proposals be amended as follows:-

“That the proposed £4,000 reduction to The Brewhouse Theatre Annual Grant be restored”.

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(b), the Mayor called for a formal roll call of votes to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

The amendment was put and was lost with seventeen Councillors in favour and thirty five against and one abstaining as follows:-

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | | |
| Councillor Aldridge | Councillor Mrs Adkins | Councillor Govier |
| Councillor Coles | Councillor M Adkins | |
| Councillor Farbahi | Councillor Beale | |
| Councillor Mrs Floyd | Councillor Berry | |
| Councillor Mrs Hill | Councillor Mrs Blatchford | |
| Councillor Horsley | Councillor Bowrah | |
| Councillor R Lees | Councillor Brown | |
| Councillor Mrs Lees | Councillor Cavill | |
| Councillor Ms Lisgo | Councillor Coombes | |
| Councillor Morrell | Councillor Davies | |
| Councillor Nicholls | Councillor D Durdan | |
| Councillor Prior-Sankey | Councillor Miss Durdan | |
| Councillor Ross | Councillor Mrs Edwards | |
| Councillor Miss Smith | Councillor Edwards | |
| Councillor Mrs Smith | Councillor Gage | |
| Councillor Stone | Councillor Mrs Gunner | |
| Councillor Wedderkopp | Councillor Habgood | |

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| | Councillor Hall | |
| | Councillor Mrs Herbert | |
| | Councillor C Hill | |
| | Councillor Hunt | |
| | Councillor James | |
| | Councillor Martin-Scott | |
| | Councillor Parrish | |
| | Councillor Mrs Reed | |
| | Councillor Ryan | |
| | Councillor Mrs Stock – | |
| | Williams | |
| | Councillor Sully | |
| | Councillor Townsend | |
| | Councillor Mrs Tucker | |
| | Councillor Mrs Warmington | |
| | Councillor Watson | |
| | Councillor Ms Webber | |
| | Councillor Williams | |
| | Councillor Wren | |

(vii) Moved by Councillor Horsley, seconded by Councillor Coles that the budget proposals be amended as follows:-

“That the proposed £2,000 reduction in marketing the area through culture be restored”.

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(b), the Mayor called for a formal roll call of votes to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

The amendment was put and was lost with eighteen Councillors in favour and thirty five against, as follows:-

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| | | |
| Councillor Aldridge | Councillor Mrs Adkins | |
| Councillor Coles | Councillor M Adkins | |
| Councillor Farbahi | Councillor Beale | |
| Councillor Mrs Floyd | Councillor Berry | |
| Councillor Govier | Councillor Mrs Blatchford | |
| Councillor Mrs Hill | Councillor Bowrah | |
| Councillor Horsley | Councillor Brown | |
| Councillor R Lees | Councillor Cavill | |
| Councillor Mrs Lees | Councillor Coombes | |
| Councillor Ms Lisgo | Councillor Davies | |
| Councillor Morrell | Councillor D Durdan | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Councillor Nicholls | Councillor Miss Durdan | |
| Councillor Prior-Sankey | Councillor Mrs Edwards | |
| Councillor Ross | Councillor Edwards | |
| Councillor Miss Smith | Councillor Gage | |
| Councillor Mrs Smith | Councillor Mrs Gunner | |
| Councillor Stone | Councillor Habgood | |
| Councillor Wedderkopp | Councillor Hall | |
| | Councillor Mrs Herbert | |
| | Councillor C Hill | |
| | Councillor Hunt | |
| | Councillor James | |
| | Councillor Martin-Scott | |
| | Councillor Parrish | |
| | Councillor Mrs Reed | |
| | Councillor Ryan | |
| | Councillor Mrs Stock – | |
| | Williams | |
| | Councillor Sully | |
| | Councillor Townsend | |
| | Councillor Mrs Tucker | |
| | Councillor Mrs Warmington | |
| | Councillor Watson | |
| | Councillor Ms Webber | |
| | Councillor Williams | |
| | Councillor Wren | |

(viii) Moved by Councillor Prior-Sankey, seconded by Councillor Coles that the budget proposals be amended as follows:-

“That the Unparished Area of Taunton Fund Levy be increased by £13,000”.

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(b), the Mayor called for a formal roll call of votes to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

The amendment was put and was lost with eighteen Councillors in favour and thirty four against, as follows:-

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| | | |
| Councillor Aldridge | Councillor Mrs Adkins | |
| Councillor Coles | Councillor M Adkins | |
| Councillor Farbahi | Councillor Beale | |
| Councillor Mrs Floyd | Councillor Berry | |
| Councillor Govier | Councillor Mrs Blatchford | |

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Councillor Mrs Hill | Councillor Bowrah | |
| Councillor Horsley | Councillor Brown | |
| Councillor R Lees | Councillor Cavill | |
| Councillor Mrs Lees | Councillor Coombes | |
| Councillor Ms Lisgo | Councillor Davies | |
| Councillor Morrell | Councillor D Durdan | |
| Councillor Nicholls | Councillor Miss Durdan | |
| Councillor Prior-Sankey | Councillor Mrs Edwards | |
| Councillor Ross | Councillor Edwards | |
| Councillor Miss Smith | Councillor Mrs Gunner | |
| Councillor Mrs Smith | Councillor Habgood | |
| Councillor Stone | Councillor Hall | |
| Councillor Wedderkopp | Councillor Mrs Herbert | |
| | Councillor C Hill | |
| | Councillor Hunt | |
| | Councillor James | |
| | Councillor Martin-Scott | |
| | Councillor Parrish | |
| | Councillor Mrs Reed | |
| | Councillor Ryan | |
| | Councillor Mrs Stock – | |
| | Williams | |
| | Councillor Sully | |
| | Councillor Townsend | |
| | Councillor Mrs Tucker | |
| | Councillor Mrs Warmington | |
| | Councillor Watson | |
| | Councillor Ms Webber | |
| | Councillor Williams | |
| | Councillor Wren | |

(ix) Moved by Councillor Coles, seconded by Councillor Miss Smith that the budget proposals be amended as follows:-

“That the proposed allocation of £40,000 to undertake a feasibility study into the re-opening of a railway station at Wellington be removed.”

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(b), the Mayor called for a formal roll call of votes to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

The amendment was put and was lost with fourteen Councillors in favour and thirty four against, and five abstaining as follows:-

| | | |
|------------|-----------|----------------|
| | | |
| Yes | No | Abstain |
| | | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Councillor Coles | Councillor Mrs Adkins | Councillor Aldridge |
| Councillor Farbahi | Councillor M Adkins | Councillor Govier |
| Councillor Mrs Floyd | Councillor Beale | Councillor Ms Lisgo |
| Councillor Mrs Hill | Councillor Berry | Councillor Ross |
| Councillor Horsley | Councillor Mrs Blatchford | Councillor Wren |
| Councillor R Lees | Councillor Bowrah | |
| Councillor Mrs Lees | Councillor Brown | |
| Councillor Morrell | Councillor Cavill | |
| Councillor Nicholls | Councillor Coombes | |
| Councillor Prior-Sankey | Councillor Davies | |
| Councillor Miss Smith | Councillor D Durdan | |
| Councillor Mrs Smith | Councillor Miss Durdan | |
| Councillor Stone | Councillor Mrs Edwards | |
| Councillor Wedderkopp | Councillor Edwards | |
| | Councillor Gage | |
| | Councillor Mrs Gunner | |
| | Councillor Habgood | |
| | Councillor Hall | |
| | Councillor Mrs Herbert | |
| | Councillor C Hill | |
| | Councillor Hunt | |
| | Councillor James | |
| | Councillor Martin-Scott | |
| | Councillor Parrish | |
| | Councillor Mrs Reed | |
| | Councillor Ryan | |
| | Councillor Mrs Stock – | |
| | Williams | |
| | Councillor Sully | |
| | Councillor Townsend | |
| | Councillor Mrs Tucker | |
| | Councillor Mrs Warmington | |
| | Councillor Watson | |
| | Councillor Ms Webber | |
| | Councillor Williams | |

(The Mayor called a ten minute comfort break at 9.35 p.m.)

After re-convening, Members went on to discuss the substantive Budget of the Council.

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(i), the Mayor called for a formal roll call of votes to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

On the motion of Councillor Williams, the substantive Motion, which is detailed below, was put and was carried with thirty five Councillors in favour, fourteen Councillors voting against and one abstaining:-

Resolved that the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2016/2017 be agreed and that Full Council:-

- (a) Note the forecast Medium Term Financial Plan and Reserves position, and note the S151 Officer's Robustness Statement as set out in Appendix A of the report considered by the Executive;
- (b) Approve the General Fund Net Revenue Budget 2016/2017 of £14,395,882, and including a Basic Council Tax Requirement budget of £5,582,700 and Special Expenses of £43,630, and net reserve transfers totalling £3,334,152;
- (c) Approve a Council Tax increase of 3.62%, increasing the Band D basic tax rate by £5 to £142.88 per year;
- (d) Approve a further 2016/2017 one-off Council Tax increase of 1.25% in respect of funding for the Somerset Rivers Authority, adding £1.74 to a Band D tax charge per year;
- (e) Approve the transfer of any unallocated year end under-/overspend in the 2015/2016 General Fund Revenue Account Outturn to/from the General Fund reserves;
- (f) Approve the minimum reserves level at £1,600,000; and
- (g) Delegate a decision to the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Resources and the Section 151 Officer regarding acceptance of a four year settlement provided it was in the Council's interests to do so.

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | | |
| Councillor Mrs Adkins | Councillor Coles | Councillor Aldridge |
| Councillor M Adkins | Councillor Farbahi | |
| Councillor Beale | Councillor Mrs Floyd | |
| Councillor Berry | Councillor Mrs Hill | |
| Councillor Mrs Blatchford | Councillor Horsley | |
| Councillor Bowrah | Councillor R Lees | |
| Councillor Brown | Councillor Mrs Lees | |
| Councillor Cavill | Councillor Ms Lisgo | |
| Councillor Coombes | Councillor Morrell | |
| Councillor Davies | Councillor Nicholls | |
| Councillor D Durdan | Councillor Prior-Sankey | |
| Councillor Miss Durdan | Councillor Miss Smith | |
| Councillor Mrs Edwards | Councillor Mrs Smith | |

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Councillor Edwards | Councillor Wedderkopp | |
| Councillor Gage | | |
| Councillor Mrs Gunner | | |
| Councillor Habgood | | |
| Councillor Hall | | |
| Councillor Mrs Herbert | | |
| Councillor C Hill | | |
| Councillor Hunt | | |
| Councillor James | | |
| Councillor Martin-Scott | | |
| Councillor Parrish | | |
| Councillor Mrs Reed | | |
| Councillor Ryan | | |
| Councillor Mrs Stock – Williams | | |
| Councillor Sully | | |
| Councillor Townsend | | |
| Councillor Mrs Tucker | | |
| Councillor Mrs Warmington | | |
| Councillor Watson | | |
| Councillor Ms Webber | | |
| Councillor Williams | | |
| Councillor Wren | | |

9. Suspension of Standing Order

Resolved that Standing Order 28, Time limits for all meetings be suspended to enable the meeting to continue for a further half an hour.

(e) Capital Programme Budget Estimates 2016/2017

Consideration had also been given to the proposed General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programmes for 2016/2017.

2016/2017 Draft General Fund Capital Programme

The current capital strategy included the following basis for prioritising schemes:-

- 1) Business Continuity (corporate/organisational/health and safety);
- 2) Statutory Service Investment (to get statutory minimum/contractual/continuity);
- 3) Growth / Transformation;
- 4) Invest to Save; and
- 5) Other.

The recommended General Fund Capital Programme for 2016/2017 included

bids totalling £1,323,000 split between Deane DLO Schemes and General Fund Schemes.

All of the schemes in the Capital Programme could be fully funded through a combination of revenue contributions (DLO and General), capital reserves plus grant funding provided via Somerset County Council. As a result, the Capital Programme which incorporated all of the reported bids was supported by the Executive.

Capital Programme for Growth and Regeneration 2016/2017

In addition to the above schemes, Growth and Regeneration remained a top priority for the Council. This commitment had been reflected over recent years, by the allocation of New Homes Bonus (NHB) funding for these purposes.

Members had recently supported investment in principle of £16,600,000 from projected NHB receipts towards a number of growth spend categories reflecting the priorities established in the Taunton Growth Prospectus and aligned with the relevant plans and priorities of key partners.

£16,000,000 of the proposed spend was expected to be recognised as capital expenditure (with revenue costs of £500,000 for marketing, promotion and inward investment and £100,000 for the preparation of Local Development Orders) and as such was included in the proposed Growth Capital Programme – shown below:-

Proposed NHB Allocation and Indicative Spend Profile

| Growth project / category | 2016/17 £ | 2017/18 £ | 2018/19 £ | 2019/20 £ | 2020/21 £ | Total NHB allocation £ |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation | | | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 3,000,000 |
| Major transport schemes | 400,000 | 800,000 | 1,000,000 | 300,000 | | 2,500,000 |
| Town Centre regeneration | 500,000 | 750,000 | 750,000 | 500,000 | | 2,500,000 |
| Employment site enabling and innovation to promote Growth | | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | | | 4,000,000 |
| Urban Extensions | | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 4,000,000 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS | 900,000 | 4,550,000 | 5,750,000 | 2,800,000 | 2,000,000 | 16,000,000 |

The Autumn Statement and subsequent Provisional Settlement announcements had suggested that Government consultation on a revision of the NHB grant funding would effectively reduce the grant by a 1/3rd in the future.

Any reduced NHB would therefore result in insufficient funds to cover all of the proposed £16,600,000 spend within the anticipated timeframe. The Council had acknowledged this funding risk when it approved the investment and had accepted that plans would need to be reviewed when updated funding information was confirmed.

It was nevertheless proposed to include £900,000 within the approved Capital Programme for 2016/2017. Investment in future years would remain indicative and subject to annual review.

2016/2017 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme

The HRA Capital Programme 2016/2017 totalled £8,794,000. This was provided to deliver the prioritised capital investment requirements included in the current Business Plan for the next budget year. The current five-year HRA Capital Programme included forecast capital expenditure requirements for the period 2016/2017 to 2020/2021, as identified in the Business Plan. The programme would be subject to change pending the outcome of the recently approved stock survey.

The programme would be funded from the Major Repairs Reserve (from depreciation), revenue contribution (RCCO) from the base budget and capital receipts.

The Capital Programme Budget Estimates 2016/2017 had been presented to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 21 January 2016 for review and comment. No specific amendments to the Budget had formally been recommended by the Committee.

Noted that since the Executive's Budget meeting on 4 February 2016, an additional budget of £134,000 had been requested in respect of the Weavers Arms, Rockwell Green, Wellington redevelopment and was included within this recommendation along with a budget of £71,000 for Meeting Halls. If the proposed rental increase of 0.9% in Supported Housing was not approved, this budget would be reviewed.

On the motion of Councillor Williams, it was

Resolved that:-

- (a) The General Fund Capital Programme Budget of £1,323,000 for 2016/2017, plus £900,000 in respect of the Growth and Infrastructure Capital Budget in 2016/2017 be approved; and
- (b) The Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme of £8.794,000 for 2016/2017 be also approved.

(f) Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2016/2017

The Executive had given consideration to the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) estimates for the 2016/2017 Financial Year.

2016/2017 would be the fifth year of operating the HRA under self-financing arrangements. The Council had taken on debt of £85,000,000 in March 2012 to enable the Council to operate self-financing arrangements.

However, changes in national policy announced in 2015 – particularly the Welfare Reform and Work Bill and the Housing and Planning Bill – had greatly affected the long term financial position of the HRA Business Plan.

Dwelling rents for more than 5,800 properties provide annual income of over £24,000,000 for the HRA.

The Welfare Reform and Work Bill in its original form set out a 1% annual reduction in all social rents from 1 April 2016 for four years. This would negate the 10 year national rent policy for social housing that was implemented in April 2015, and would therefore greatly reduce the income expectations for the HRA as shown in the table below:-

Reduction in Dwelling Rent Income Compared to the Business Plan

| | Reduction in Rent Income Compared to Business Plan | | | | |
|---|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
| Impact of lower inflation (-0.1%) | 439,900 | 459,000 | 472,400 | 487,000 | 501,800 |
| Additional impact of change in social housing rent policy:- | | | | | |
| If rent policy is returned to CPI + 1% from 2020/2021 to end of 10 year Rent Policy | 461,100 | 1,465,500 | 2,480,000 | 3,510,100 | 3,609,200 |
| If rent policy is returned to CPI only from 2020/2021 | 461,100 | 1,465,500 | 2,480,000 | 3,510,100 | 3,845,600 |

When forecast over the full 30 year length of the Business Plan, this reduction in rent represented a significant reduction in income to the HRA.

Noted that in January 2016, the Government had announced that the Welfare Reform and Work Bill would be amended to exempt Supported Housing from the 1% cut in rent for one year.

Taunton Deane’s rent policy, as approved in the HRA Business Plan, was for annual increases of CPI plus 1%. This would equate to an increase of 0.9% for 2016/2017 (with CPI of -0.1%).

The Council would be able to increase rents in line with the existing rent policy for Supported Housing Schemes, including sheltered housing, by up to CPI +1% for one year only from April 2016.

In line with the amended national rent guidance it was proposed that the average weekly rent for dwellings for 2016/2017 should be set at the guideline rent of £83.31, a decrease of 0.7% or £0.59 per week. This was based on a 0.9% increase in Supported Housing rents, which was in line with the approved rent policy in the Business Plan, and a decrease of 1% in General Needs rents, in line with the Welfare Reform and Work Bill.

Around 8.1% of HRA income – or £2,150,000 – came from non-dwelling rents, charges for services and facilities and contributions to HRA costs from leaseholders and others. It was proposed to increase these budget lines

generally by 0.8%.

A separate review of Sheltered Housing had been undertaken and service charges have been set at a flat rate of £10.93 for 2016/2017.

The Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget was presented to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 21 January 2016 for review and comment. No specific amendments to the Draft Budget were formally recommended by the Committee.

On the motion of Councillor Beale, it was

Resolved that:-

- (a) The average rent decrease of 0.7% for 2016/17, with increases of 0.9% in Supported Housing and decreases of 1% in General Needs housing be approved; and
- (b) The Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2016/2017 be also approved.

(g) Taunton Youth and Community Centre Funds

Before Christmas the Executive considered a report concerning the options for allocating the remaining funding from the sale of the former Taunton Youth and Community Centre (TYCC) site in Castle Street, Taunton which had been received from the Trustees of the TYCC.

In 2013, it had been agreed to accept the Trustees' proceeds from the sale of the site at Castle Street, Taunton on the understanding that the money would be ring fenced by the Council for capital funding of youth projects to be agreed at the appropriate time. This funding amounted to £531,472.84.

Full Council had agreed in August 2014 to allocate £200,000 to the COACH Project in French Weir Park, Taunton and a further £50,000 in March 2015, leaving £281,472.84 to be committed to youth capital projects.

Following detailed consideration, the Executive had agreed that the Somerset Community Foundation should be requested to administer the distribution of the remaining funding by way of a Capital Grant Fund, overseen by a cross party Grants Panel who would agree the application process and grant awards.

On the motion of Councillor Mrs Warmington, it was

Resolved that a supplementary estimate of £281,472.84 be approved for the 2015/2016 Capital Programme for Youth Project Capital Grants to be funded by the Taunton Youth and Community Centre allocation arising from the sale of land at Castle Street, Taunton.

10. Council Tax Setting 2016/2017

Considered report previously circulated, which made recommendations on the level of Council Tax for 2016/2017.

The Localism Act 2011 had made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and now required the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year.

Submitted details of the Town and Parish Council Precepts that had been received for 2016/2017 which totalled £683,678.

The increase in the average Band D Council Tax for Town and Parish Councils was 16.82% which resulted in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £17.50 (£14.98 for 2015/2016).

Reported that the Precept for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had approved its tax requirement on 8 February 2016. The precept would be £6,965,063.79 which would result in a Band D Council Tax of £178.26, an increase of 1.99%. The Precept would be adjusted by a Collection Fund contribution of £149,660.

The County Council had approved its Council Tax requirement on 17 February 2016. For 2016/2017 two additional elements of the Council Tax requirement had been introduced. The first which allowed Councils responsible for Social Care to raise an additional 2% from Council Tax, the second being the formation of the Somerset Rivers Authority in January 2015 as a response to the winter floods of 2013/2014 which had resulted in an additional one off precept of 1.25% in 2016/2017.

The total precept for Somerset County Council would be £42,262,776.88 which resulted in total Band D Council Tax of £1,081.64. The Precept will be adjusted by a Collection Fund contribution of £879,660.

Noted that the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority had approved its Council Tax requirement on 19 February 2016. The precept would be £3,125,047, which resulted in a Band D Council Tax of £79.98. The Precept would be adjusted by a Collection Fund contribution of £67,150.

As far as Taunton Deane Borough Council was concerned, Members were being asked to approve a total Council Tax requirement of £5,650,717 for 2016/2017. This incorporated an increase of 3.62% in the basic Council Tax rate and also included an additional 1.25% in respect of the Somerset Rivers Authority. Together this equated to a Band D equivalent of £144.62, a total increase of £6.74.

The estimated balance on the Council Tax Collection Fund was forecast on 15 January each year. Any surplus or deficit was shared between the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire Authority and the Council, in shares relative to the precept levels.

The estimated balance on the Council Tax Collection Fund was a surplus of £1,227,360. Taunton Deane's share of this amounted to £130,890, and this had been reflected in the General Fund Revenue Estimates.

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(i), the Mayor called for a formal roll call of votes to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

On the motion of Councillor Williams, the substantive Motion, which is detailed below, was put and was carried with thirty five Councillors in favour, thirteen Councillors voting against and one abstaining:-

Resolved that:-

- (1) The formal Council Tax Resolution set out in Appendix A to these Minutes be approved; and
- (2) The total Band D Council Tax would be:-

| | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | Increase |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ | % |
| Taunton Deane Borough Council | 137.88 | 142.88 | 3.62 |
| Taunton Deane Borough Council - SRA | 0.00 | 1.74 | 1.25 |
| Somerset County Council | 1,027.30 | 1,048.00 | 1.99 |
| Somerset County Council – Social Care | 0.00 | 20.80 | 2.00 |
| Somerset County Council – SRA | 0.00 | 12.84 | 1.25 |
| Police and Crime Commissioner | 174.78 | 178.26 | 1.99 |
| Devon & Somerset Fire Authority | 78.42 | 79.98 | 1.99 |
| Sub-Total | 1,418.38 | 1,484.50 | 4.63 |
| Town and Parish Council (average) | 14.98 | 17.50 | 16.82 |
| Total | 1,433.36 | 1,502.00 | 4.75 |

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | | |
| Councillor Mrs Adkins | Councillor Coles | Councillor Aldridge |
| Councillor M Adkins | Councillor Farbahi | |
| Councillor Beale | Councillor Mrs Floyd | |
| Councillor Berry | Councillor Mrs Hill | |
| Councillor Mrs Blatchford | Councillor R Lees | |
| Councillor Bowrah | Councillor Mrs Lees | |
| Councillor Brown | Councillor Ms Lisgo | |
| Councillor Cavill | Councillor Morrell | |
| Councillor Coombes | Councillor Nicholls | |
| Councillor Davies | Councillor Prior-Sankey | |
| Councillor D Durdan | Councillor Miss Smith | |
| Councillor Miss Durdan | Councillor Mrs Smith | |
| Councillor Mrs Edwards | Councillor Wedderkopp | |
| Councillor Edwards | | |

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Councillor Gage | | |
| Councillor Mrs Gunner | | |
| Councillor Habgood | | |
| Councillor Hall | | |
| Councillor Mrs Herbert | | |
| Councillor C Hill | | |
| Councillor Hunt | | |
| Councillor James | | |
| Councillor Martin-Scott | | |
| Councillor Parrish | | |
| Councillor Mrs Reed | | |
| Councillor Ryan | | |
| Councillor Mrs Stock – | | |
| Williams | | |
| Councillor Sully | | |
| Councillor Townsend | | |
| Councillor Mrs Tucker | | |
| Councillor Mrs Warmington | | |
| Councillor Watson | | |
| Councillor Ms Webber | | |
| Councillor Williams | | |
| Councillor Wren | | |

11. Reports of the Leader of the Council and Executive Councillors

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Mayor suggested that responses to questions asked of the Executive Councillors should be made in writing outside of the meeting and circulated to all Members. This was agreed.

(i) Leader of the Council (Councillor Williams)

Councillor Williams’s report covered the following topics:-

- Budget Setting;
- Somerset Rivers Authority;
- Proposed Development of Firepool;
- A358, Junction 25 and Strategic Employment Site Progress;
- Devolution Update;
- Broadband Provision; and
- Work to the Northern Inner Distributor Road.

(ii) Sport, Parks and Leisure (Councillor Mrs Herbert)

The report from Councillor Mrs Herbert dealt with activities taking place in the following areas:-

- Community Leisure and Play;
- Parks and Open Spaces; and
- Tone Leisure (Taunton Deane) Limited Activities.

(iii) **Corporate Resources (Councillor Parrish)**

The report from Councillor Parrish provided information on the following areas within his portfolio:-

- Corporate Strategy and Performance;
- Facilities Management;
- HR and Organisational Development;
- ICT and Information;
- JMASS Project and Transformation Project Management;
- Southwest One;
- Democratic Services;
- Law and Governance – Shape Partnership Services;
- Customer Contact Service Report;
- Revenues and Benefits Service; and
- Finance and Procurement.

(iv) **Community Leadership (Councillor Mrs Jane Warmington)**

Councillor Mrs Warmington presented the Community Leadership report which focused on the following areas within that portfolio:-

- Weekly Bulletin – Additional Section;
- Taunton Deane Citizenship Awards
- National Iese Award Finalist – Think differently, do differently;
- Refugee Aid from Taunton (#raft);
- Syrian Resettlement;
- Improving employability in the long term unemployed;
- Supporting more school and college leavers into jobs;
- Wellington One Team Business Lunch;
- Read Easy Taunton North Group – The story so far;
- Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Neighbourhood Plan; and
- Register to Vote.

(v) **Housing Services (Councillor Beale)**

Councillor Beale submitted his report which drew attention to the following:-

- Deane Housing Development – Creechbarrow Road, Taunton, Weavers Arms, Wellington, Extensions, Scooter Storage and Car Parking;
- Affordable Housing; and
- Landlord Health and Safety Compliance.

(vi) **Environmental Services and Climate Change (Councillor Berry)**

The report from Councillor Berry drew attention to developments in the following areas:-

- Environmental Health / Licensing;
- Somerset Waste Partnership;
- Deane DLO; and
- Crematorium.

(vii) **Economic Development, Asset Management, Arts and Tourism and Communications (Councillor Edwards)**

The report from Councillor Edwards covered:-

- Supporting Business Investment;
- Taunton Town Centre;
- Assets of Community Value;
- South West Regional Tourism Growth Fund;
- Staff Changes; and
- Asset Management Service General Fund Activities.

(viii) **Planning, Transportation and Communications (Councillor Habgood)**

The report from Councillor Habgood provided information on the following areas within his portfolio:-

- Planning Policy;
- Regulation 123 List Revision and Community Infrastructure Levy Governance;
- Neighbourhood Planning : Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Neighbourhood Plan : Recommendation from Inspector John Mattocks;
- Trull and Staplehay Neighbourhood Plan;
- West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine Neighbourhood Plan;
- Major Applications;
- Regeneration; and
- Transportation.

(Councillors Govier, Horsley and Ross left the meeting at 9.45 p.m. Councillor Mrs Floyd and Farbahi left at 10.23 p.m. and 10.28 p.m. respectively.)

(The meeting ended at 10.30 p.m.)

Appendix A

Council Tax Resolution 2016/2017

As per section 10.1 in the main report, the Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. That it be noted that on 15 January 2016 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for 2016/17:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 39,072.86 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and,
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix C.
2. Calculate the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish precepts) is £5,650,719.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £95,434,046 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. (*Gross Expenditure including amount required for working balance*)
 - (b) £89,099,651 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act. (*Gross Income including reserves to be used to meet Gross Expenditure*)
 - (c) £6,334,395 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). (*Total Demand on Collection Fund.*)
 - (d) £162.12 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts). (*Council Tax at Band D for Borough Including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses*)

- (e) £683,678 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C). (*Parish Precepts and Special Expenses*).
- (f) £144.62 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 Parish precept relates. (*Council Tax at Band D for Borough Excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses*)

4. To note that Somerset County Council, Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority will issue 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.
5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate provisional amounts shown in the table in Appendix B as the amounts of Council Tax for 2016/17 for each part of its area and for each categories of dwellings (subject to final adjustments to be reported to Full Council).
6. Determine that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

VALUATION BANDS

TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| £96.41 | £112.48 | £128.55 | £144.62 | £176.76 | £208.90 | £241.03 | £289.24 |

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| £721.09 | £841.28 | £961.46 | £1,081.64 | £1,322.00 | £1,562.37 | £1,802.73 | £2,163.28 |

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR AVON AND SOMERSET

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| £118.84 | £138.65 | £158.45 | £178.26 | £217.87 | £257.49 | £297.10 | £356.52 |

DEVON AND SOMERSET FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| £53.32 | £62.21 | £71.09 | £79.98 | £97.75 | £115.53 | £133.30 | £159.96 |

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| £989.67 | £1,154.61 | £1,319.56 | £1,484.50 | £1,814.39 | £2,144.28 | £2,474.17 | £2,969.00 |

APPENDIX B

| Valuation Bands | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Council Tax Schedule | Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
| 2016/17 | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Taunton Deane Borough Council | 95.25 | 111.13 | 127.00 | 142.88 | 174.63 | 206.38 | 238.13 | 285.76 |
| Taunton Deane Borough Council (Somerset Rivers Authority) | 1.16 | 1.35 | 1.55 | 1.74 | 2.13 | 2.51 | 2.90 | 3.48 |
| Somerset County Council | 698.67 | 815.11 | 931.56 | 1,048.00 | 1,280.89 | 1,513.78 | 1,746.67 | 2,096.00 |
| Somerset County Council (Social Care) | 13.87 | 16.18 | 18.49 | 20.80 | 25.42 | 30.04 | 34.67 | 41.60 |
| Somerset County Council (Somerset Rivers Authority) | 8.56 | 9.99 | 11.41 | 12.84 | 15.69 | 18.55 | 21.40 | 25.68 |
| Police and Crime Commissioner | 118.84 | 138.65 | 158.45 | 178.26 | 217.87 | 257.49 | 297.10 | 356.52 |
| Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority | 53.32 | 62.21 | 71.09 | 79.98 | 97.75 | 115.53 | 133.30 | 159.96 |
| Totals excluding Parish/Town Precepts | 989.67 | 1,154.61 | 1,319.55 | 1,484.50 | 1,814.39 | 2,144.28 | 2,474.17 | 2,969.00 |
| Average Parish / Town | 11.67 | 13.61 | 15.55 | 17.50 | 21.39 | 25.27 | 29.16 | 35.00 |
| Total including Average Parish/Town Precept | 1,001.33 | 1,168.22 | 1,335.11 | 1,502.00 | 1,835.77 | 2,169.55 | 2,503.33 | 3,004.00 |
| Parish: ** | | | | | | | | |
| Ash Priors | 989.67 | 1,154.62 | 1,319.55 | 1,484.50 | 1,814.38 | 2,144.28 | 2,474.17 | 2,969.00 |
| Ashbrittle | 1,004.06 | 1,171.40 | 1,338.73 | 1,506.08 | 1,840.76 | 2,175.45 | 2,510.14 | 3,012.16 |
| Batheaton | 993.66 | 1,159.28 | 1,324.87 | 1,490.49 | 1,821.70 | 2,152.93 | 2,484.15 | 2,980.98 |
| Bishops Hull | 1,002.18 | 1,169.21 | 1,336.23 | 1,503.26 | 1,837.31 | 2,171.38 | 2,505.44 | 3,006.52 |
| Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone | 1,014.34 | 1,183.40 | 1,352.44 | 1,521.50 | 1,859.60 | 2,197.72 | 2,535.84 | 3,043.00 |
| Bradford on Tone | 1,005.22 | 1,172.76 | 1,340.28 | 1,507.82 | 1,842.88 | 2,177.96 | 2,513.04 | 3,015.64 |
| Burrowbridge | 1,008.15 | 1,176.18 | 1,344.19 | 1,512.22 | 1,848.26 | 2,184.32 | 2,520.37 | 3,024.44 |
| Cheddon Fitzpaine | 1,006.16 | 1,173.86 | 1,341.54 | 1,509.24 | 1,844.62 | 2,180.02 | 2,515.40 | 3,018.48 |
| Chipstable | 1,001.83 | 1,168.81 | 1,335.76 | 1,502.74 | 1,836.67 | 2,170.63 | 2,504.57 | 3,005.48 |
| Churchstanton | 1,006.59 | 1,174.36 | 1,342.11 | 1,509.88 | 1,845.40 | 2,180.94 | 2,516.47 | 3,019.76 |
| Combe Florey | 1,003.38 | 1,170.61 | 1,337.83 | 1,505.06 | 1,839.51 | 2,173.98 | 2,508.44 | 3,010.12 |
| Comeytrowe | 997.56 | 1,163.83 | 1,330.07 | 1,496.34 | 1,828.85 | 2,161.38 | 2,493.90 | 2,992.68 |
| Corfe | 1,002.15 | 1,169.18 | 1,336.19 | 1,503.22 | 1,837.26 | 2,171.32 | 2,505.37 | 3,006.44 |
| Cotford St Luke | 1,006.08 | 1,173.77 | 1,341.43 | 1,509.12 | 1,844.47 | 2,179.84 | 2,515.20 | 3,018.24 |
| Creech St Michael | 1,018.12 | 1,187.81 | 1,357.48 | 1,527.17 | 1,866.53 | 2,205.91 | 2,545.29 | 3,054.34 |
| Durston | 996.91 | 1,163.07 | 1,329.20 | 1,495.36 | 1,827.65 | 2,159.97 | 2,492.27 | 2,990.72 |
| Fitzhead | 1,010.52 | 1,178.95 | 1,347.35 | 1,515.78 | 1,852.61 | 2,189.46 | 2,526.30 | 3,031.56 |
| Halse | 1,002.58 | 1,169.69 | 1,336.77 | 1,503.87 | 1,838.05 | 2,172.26 | 2,506.45 | 3,007.74 |
| Hatch Beauchamp | 999.84 | 1,166.49 | 1,333.11 | 1,499.76 | 1,833.03 | 2,166.32 | 2,499.60 | 2,999.52 |
| Kingston St Mary | 998.13 | 1,164.49 | 1,330.83 | 1,497.19 | 1,829.89 | 2,162.61 | 2,495.32 | 2,994.38 |
| Langford Budville | 1,009.62 | 1,177.89 | 1,346.15 | 1,514.42 | 1,850.95 | 2,187.50 | 2,524.04 | 3,028.84 |
| Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland | 1,002.53 | 1,169.62 | 1,336.70 | 1,503.79 | 1,837.96 | 2,172.14 | 2,506.32 | 3,007.58 |
| Milverton | 1,005.79 | 1,173.43 | 1,341.04 | 1,508.68 | 1,843.93 | 2,179.21 | 2,514.47 | 3,017.36 |
| Neroche | 1,001.64 | 1,168.59 | 1,335.51 | 1,502.46 | 1,836.33 | 2,170.22 | 2,504.10 | 3,004.92 |
| North Curry | 1,005.33 | 1,172.89 | 1,340.43 | 1,507.99 | 1,843.09 | 2,178.21 | 2,513.32 | 3,015.98 |
| Norton Fitzwarren | 1,007.47 | 1,175.39 | 1,343.28 | 1,511.20 | 1,847.01 | 2,182.85 | 2,518.67 | 3,022.40 |
| Nynehead | 1,003.19 | 1,170.39 | 1,337.58 | 1,504.78 | 1,839.17 | 2,173.57 | 2,507.97 | 3,009.56 |
| Oake | 1,000.07 | 1,166.75 | 1,333.42 | 1,500.10 | 1,833.45 | 2,166.81 | 2,500.17 | 3,000.20 |
| Otterford | 989.67 | 1,154.62 | 1,319.55 | 1,484.50 | 1,814.38 | 2,144.28 | 2,474.17 | 2,969.00 |
| Pitminster | 1,000.86 | 1,167.67 | 1,334.47 | 1,501.28 | 1,834.89 | 2,168.52 | 2,502.14 | 3,002.56 |
| Ruishon/Thornfalcon | 1,006.24 | 1,173.96 | 1,341.65 | 1,509.36 | 1,844.76 | 2,180.19 | 2,515.60 | 3,018.72 |
| Sampford Arundel | 1,016.60 | 1,186.03 | 1,355.45 | 1,524.89 | 1,863.75 | 2,202.62 | 2,541.49 | 3,049.78 |
| Staplegrave | 1,000.64 | 1,167.42 | 1,334.18 | 1,500.96 | 1,834.50 | 2,168.06 | 2,501.60 | 3,001.92 |
| Stawley | 1,001.16 | 1,168.03 | 1,334.87 | 1,501.74 | 1,835.45 | 2,169.18 | 2,502.90 | 3,003.48 |
| Stoke St Gregory | 1,008.01 | 1,176.02 | 1,344.00 | 1,512.01 | 1,848.00 | 2,184.02 | 2,520.02 | 3,024.02 |
| Stoke St Mary | 1,000.16 | 1,166.85 | 1,333.53 | 1,500.23 | 1,833.61 | 2,167.00 | 2,500.39 | 3,000.46 |
| Taunton | 991.66 | 1,156.94 | 1,322.22 | 1,487.48 | 1,818.02 | 2,148.58 | 2,479.14 | 2,974.96 |
| Trull | 1,007.66 | 1,175.60 | 1,343.53 | 1,511.48 | 1,847.36 | 2,183.25 | 2,519.14 | 3,022.96 |
| Wellington | 1,016.34 | 1,185.73 | 1,355.11 | 1,524.50 | 1,863.27 | 2,202.06 | 2,540.84 | 3,049.00 |
| Wellington Without | 1,002.81 | 1,169.95 | 1,337.07 | 1,504.21 | 1,838.47 | 2,172.75 | 2,507.02 | 3,008.42 |
| West Bagborough | 1,004.03 | 1,171.37 | 1,338.70 | 1,506.04 | 1,840.71 | 2,175.39 | 2,510.07 | 3,012.08 |
| West Buckland | 1,001.56 | 1,168.50 | 1,335.41 | 1,502.34 | 1,836.18 | 2,170.05 | 2,503.90 | 3,004.68 |
| West Hatch | 1,001.52 | 1,168.44 | 1,335.35 | 1,502.27 | 1,836.10 | 2,169.95 | 2,503.79 | 3,004.54 |
| West Monkton | 1,006.54 | 1,174.31 | 1,342.05 | 1,509.81 | 1,845.31 | 2,180.84 | 2,516.35 | 3,019.62 |
| Wiveliscombe | 1,006.38 | 1,174.12 | 1,341.83 | 1,509.57 | 1,845.02 | 2,180.49 | 2,515.95 | 3,019.14 |

APPENDIX C

TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS

| Parish/Town Council | 2015/16 | | | 2016/17 | | | Council Tax Increase |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Tax Base | Precept Levied | Council Tax Band D | Tax Base | Precept Levied | Council Tax Band D | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| Ash Priors | 80.62 | - | - | 82.03 | - | - | 0.00% |
| Ashbrittle | 91.07 | 1,905 | 20.92 | 92.69 | 2,000 | 21.58 | 3.15% |
| Bathealton | 86.75 | 500 | 5.76 | 83.53 | 500 | 5.99 | 3.85% |
| Bishops Hull | 1,098.26 | 21,000 | 19.12 | 1,119.27 | 21,000 | 18.76 | -1.88% |
| Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone | 1,075.15 | 36,176 | 33.65 | 1,090.84 | 40,361 | 37.00 | 9.96% |
| Bradford on Tone | 284.52 | 6,250 | 21.97 | 300.13 | 7,000 | 23.32 | 6.17% |
| Burrowbridge | 203.92 | 5,000 | 24.52 | 198.39 | 5,500 | 27.72 | 13.07% |
| Cheddon Fitzpaine | 611.88 | 13,874 | 22.67 | 619.18 | 15,317 | 24.74 | 9.10% |
| Chipstable | 127.21 | 2,350 | 18.47 | 131.43 | 2,397 | 18.24 | -1.28% |
| Churchstanton | 353.59 | 8,974 | 25.38 | 356.92 | 9,059 | 25.38 | 0.01% |
| Combe Florey | 119.75 | 2,500 | 20.88 | 121.59 | 2,500 | 20.56 | -1.51% |
| Comeytrove | 1,955.48 | 23,153 | 11.84 | 1,980.74 | 23,452 | 11.84 | 0.00% |
| Corfe | 128.91 | 2,000 | 15.51 | 133.53 | 2,500 | 18.72 | 20.68% |
| Cotford St Luke | 755.37 | 16,626 | 22.01 | 772.68 | 19,025 | 24.62 | 11.87% |
| Creech St Michael | 957.82 | 29,111 | 30.39 | 970.19 | 41,397 | 42.67 | 40.39% |
| Durstun | 58.23 | 600 | 10.30 | 55.23 | 600 | 10.86 | 5.43% |
| Fitzhead | 116.86 | 2,995 | 25.63 | 115.10 | 3,600 | 31.28 | 22.04% |
| Halse | 143.01 | 2,000 | 13.99 | 144.59 | 2,800 | 19.37 | 38.47% |
| Hatch Beauchamp | 257.15 | 4,000 | 15.56 | 262.20 | 4,000 | 15.26 | -1.93% |
| Kingston St Mary | 428.70 | 5,508 | 12.85 | 433.96 | 5,508 | 12.69 | -1.21% |
| Langford Budville | 228.61 | 4,500 | 19.68 | 228.59 | 6,840 | 29.92 | 52.01% |
| Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland | 207.41 | 3,995 | 19.26 | 210.55 | 4,061 | 19.29 | 0.14% |
| Milverton | 574.56 | 14,000 | 24.37 | 579.03 | 14,000 | 24.18 | -0.77% |
| Neroche | 237.51 | 4,446 | 18.72 | 247.61 | 4,446 | 17.96 | -4.08% |
| North Curry | 706.54 | 16,469 | 23.31 | 700.82 | 16,463 | 23.49 | 0.78% |
| Norton Fitzwarren | 946.60 | 25,292 | 26.72 | 988.39 | 26,390 | 26.70 | -0.07% |
| Nynehead | 165.76 | 3,200 | 19.31 | 162.74 | 3,300 | 20.28 | 5.04% |
| Oake | 322.36 | 5,000 | 15.51 | 320.55 | 5,000 | 15.60 | 0.56% |
| Otterford | 166.18 | - | - | 176.74 | - | - | 0.00% |
| Pitminster | 459.77 | 8,400 | 18.27 | 473.86 | 7,950 | 16.78 | -8.17% |
| Ruishton/Thornfalcon | 577.61 | 14,000 | 24.24 | 578.03 | 14,369 | 24.86 | 2.56% |
| Sampford Arundel | 123.72 | 4,800 | 38.80 | 123.79 | 5,000 | 40.39 | 4.11% |
| Staplegrove | 788.65 | 9,500 | 12.05 | 789.84 | 13,000 | 16.46 | 36.64% |
| Stawley | 139.56 | 2,400 | 17.20 | 139.18 | 2,400 | 17.24 | 0.27% |
| Stoke St Gregory | 355.72 | 9,600 | 26.99 | 361.27 | 9,940 | 27.51 | 1.95% |
| Stoke St Mary | 199.43 | 3,236 | 16.23 | 205.69 | 3,236 | 15.73 | -3.04% |
| Taunton | 14,395.62 | 42,900 | 2.98 | 14,550.91 | 43,362 | 2.98 | 0.00% |
| Trull | 1,004.56 | 22,000 | 21.90 | 1,000.79 | 27,000 | 26.98 | 23.19% |
| Wellington | 4,482.33 | 122,816 | 27.40 | 4,652.51 | 186,100 | 40.00 | 45.98% |
| Wellington Without | 300.18 | 6,000 | 19.99 | 304.45 | 6,000 | 19.71 | -1.40% |
| West Bagborough | 157.40 | 3,500 | 22.24 | 162.47 | 3,500 | 21.54 | -3.12% |
| West Buckland | 416.48 | 7,428 | 17.84 | 423.89 | 7,562 | 17.84 | 0.02% |
| West Hatch | 132.29 | 2,330 | 17.61 | 131.14 | 2,330 | 17.77 | 0.88% |
| West Monkton | 1,276.68 | 28,379 | 22.23 | 1,441.55 | 36,485 | 25.31 | 13.86% |
| Wiveliscombe | 1,048.77 | 25,910 | 24.71 | 1,054.25 | 26,428 | 25.07 | 1.47% |
| Totals | 38,348.55 | 574,623 | 14.98 | 39,072.86 | 683,678 | 17.50 | 16.82% |