

## Taunton Deane Borough Council

At a meeting of Taunton Deane Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Shire Hall, Shuttern, Taunton on 22 February 2018 at 6.30 p.m.

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

Mrs A Elder – Chairman of the Standards Advisory Committee

### 1.     **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of Taunton Deane Borough Council held on 12 December 2017, copies having been sent to each Member, were signed by the Mayor.

### 2.     **Apologies**

Councillors Mrs Adkins, M Adkins, Brown, Coombes, Ms K Durdan, Gaines, Ms Webber and Wren.

### 3.     **Communications**

The Mayor drew the attention of Members to three matters:-

- (1)     The recent resignation of Steve Ross as a Councillor;
- (2)     The success of the Swimathon. Councillors who had sponsored Members of the Mayor's Team were encouraged to 'pay their dues' as soon as possible; and
- (3)     The Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir Concert that had been arranged for the evening of Saturday, 24 March 2018 at the St James Church, Taunton. She hoped as many Councillors as possible would be able to attend.

### 4.     **Declaration of Interests**

Councillors Coles, Govier, Hunt and Prior-Sankey declared personal interests as Members of Somerset County Council. Councillors Bowrah, Cavill, Govier, Henley, Hunt, James, Nicholls, Mrs Reed, Mrs Stock-Williams, Stone, Townsend, Mrs Warmington and Watson all declared personal interests as Members of Town or Parish Councils.

Members were reminded that they all had Pecuniary Interests as far as the

setting of the Council Tax rate was concerned but that a specific exemption existed to enable the item to be considered and voted upon.

## 5. Public Question Time

- (a) Beverley Milner-Simonds drew the attention of Members to this year's 'Eat Taunton' Food and Drink Festival which was due to take place on Saturday, 12 May 2018 in and around St Mary Magdalene Church in the town centre.

She thanked Councillors Edwards and Habgood and various officers for their support in making a part of the town which would not normally be used for public events to be made available on the day.

She was aware that many local people had no idea of the quality of food produced by local businesses. The idea of the event was to showcase up to 70 primary food producers, all within 25 miles of Taunton to persuade people to shop locally rather than travelling further afield.

There would be a 'demo' kitchen in the church showcasing local cooks and many stalls and displays outside. This year the event would be 100% single use plastic free, all waste would be fully compostable and people would be encouraged to travel to the festival either by cycling or by bus – great environmental credentials.

The festival was a fully accessible and free event and would showcase Taunton in a very positive light.

Ms Milner-Simonds asked Councillors to support her endeavours by attending the festival on 12 May 2018.

- (b) Liz Payne-Ahmadi referred to the Council's General Fund Budget proposals. She noted that the approach of Taunton Deane to the need to make savings in respect of the Revenue Budget going forward had been to avoid the need for service saving plans while making key savings through 'Transformation'.

She understood from media reports that 'Transformation' would entail a reduction by 22% of the staff budget (30% of current staff). Was this true? If there were to be large staff losses, did this not mean that services would be reduced? If so, the real distinction between transformation and service saving plans was not understood. Was not the end result the same?

Your various impact assessments found more or less zero impact from the savings. How could this be? Could you clarify how many jobs would be lost and the implication for services? If services are not to be impacted, how would such a reduced staff be able to provide the range and quality of current services? It would be useful if transformation plans with detailed impacts could be made public.

It was noted that if a new Council was formed, some £550,000 of savings

would be made. What would be the impact of these cuts to jobs and services?

In reply Councillor Williams stated that the reduction in the size of the Council had been detailed in the original Business Case where a 20% reduction had been outlined.

He was unable to provide precise details as to the number of staff who would continue to be employed by the Council at this time.

In terms of services being reduced, this was unlikely although there would be a noticeable change with an emphasis on service delivery in a smarter and leaner way through the greater use of technology. The transition to this form of delivery would be difficult, but once the Council had come through this, the expectation was the same level of service would be delivered for less cost.

Such action was necessary as the Council simply did not have the funds to stay as they were.

Councillor Williams went on to say that after five years of the Government reducing its funding to Local Government, he was proud that the Council had been able to maintain the services that were so valued by the community and would be very disappointed if local residents noticed a difference in service delivery in the future.

Finally, should a new Council be formed, the predicted saving of £550,000 would be achieved simply by cutting out the duplication of work which currently took place.

(c) Alan Debenham asked the following four questions:-

(i) Yet again we see the Government continuing with its hard-right Austerity programme of cuts upon cuts against Local Government via the systematic cutting of the Revenue Support Grant, reducing year-on-year to zero by 2020. When there were clear economic alternatives to this hard-right slaughter of public services and jobs, what had this Council or its individual Councillors done, or was doing, or would do, to fight back against this extremism and defend the jobs and services they had been elected to maintain?

(ii) How was it the proposed Council Tax demand was to be increased yet again above inflation, simultaneous with continued big cuts in services, temporarily masked by the use of earmarked reserves but, in future years, to be fully revealed by the so-called 'Transformation Project'? This was predicted to bring annual savings of some £1,465,000 by 2020 but at the horrendous cost of not only an overall upheaval for all staff having to re-apply for their jobs, but entailing a forecast savage reduction in posts of from 20 to 30% of the current establishment. Where were the tables describing the detail of Transformation's job losses to 2020 and the staff to be sacrificed?

- (iii) The local Green Party and Friends of the Earth Group had waited for over a decade for the redesign of Taunton Town Centre to make it more pedestrian and shopper friendly, plus of cultural quality befitting our County Town, but the latest news appears to proclaim yet more delay and still no full pedestrianisation to include Corporation Street and North Street. What was the latest position and why were the results of the public consultation exercise not fully published?
- (iv) We had all heard the ominous new range of service cuts to be made by the Somerset County Council regarding libraries, children's Sure Start Centres and bus services which would impact on local residents. What had been Taunton Deane's reaction to these further austerity cuts?

With regard to question (iii), Councillor Habgood confirmed that the Council was working with the County Highway Authority to bring the scheme forward as soon as possible. He added that there was still a great deal of detail to be dealt with even though the scheme would initially be introduced on an experimental basis. He was due to meet with the County Council shortly and would press for dates as to when the trial could begin.

He understood the frustrations of Mr Debenham but it was, in his view, vital for all issues to be addressed at this stage to achieve the real benefits such a scheme would offer. As an example, it was predicted that traffic levels in North Street and Corporation Street was likely to drop by 80% which might necessitate a 20 m.p.h. zone being introduced.

As to the other three questions, Councillor Williams was surprised to receive them as they were broadly the same as those Mr Debenham had asked at the last meeting of the Executive which had been answered in some detail.

In respect of question (ii), Councillor Williams refuted that reserves were being used and confirmed that there were no cuts to services proposed in the budget.

As far as question (iv) was concerned, he felt that this ought to be directed at the County Council. In terms of what Taunton Deane proposed to do, Councillor Williams said that they would send regrets to the County Council but fully understood the position they were in especially in dealing with social services, the elderly, children and the vulnerable. A huge proportion of its budget had to be used for these services and very little was left to fund all the other services that had to be provided. In such circumstances, he applauded their good fiscal management.

- (d) On behalf of the Residents of Staplegrove Action Group (RoSAG), Jackie Calcroft congratulated all involved in securing Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) of £7,200,000 to enable the spine road for the new Staplegrove development to be built in advance of and negate the need for a temporary access onto Corkscrew Lane.

The Leader's report stated that this funding would "help towards the delivery of the spine road". This statement came as somewhat of a surprise given what was said by Councillors in recent media interviews.

Her understanding of the HIF marginal viability funding was that a list of all in line to receive such monies actually had yet a further final stage to go through to ensure the schemes concerned complied with set criteria.

Could the Council therefore clarify how its bid for funding could be considered within the criterion "getting existing sites unblocked quickly" when outline planning permission had already been granted. Were the Council confident they would pass the next scrutiny stage?

Secondly, if the HIF bid was successful, this would enable the proposed 25% level of affordable housing to be reinstated.

If the total cost of reinstating did not equate to the full extent of the funding, could it be confirmed that any residue would be used to mitigate the effects of the new development on Staplegrove? Would this include serious consideration of the construction of a short stretch of road from Kingston Road across to Cheddon Road thus enabling the new spine road to connect with the Nerrols Farm development which appeared to have been omitted from the latest Transport Strategy which included plans for the new Garden Communities.

Both RoSAG and Staplegrove Parish Council would welcome an opportunity to work with the Council and Somerset County Council in regard to this matter.

In response Councillor Habgood warmly accepted the invitation to work with RoSAG and the Parish Council although further consideration of this link would be needed involving the County Highways Authority. He added that a strong Business Case would be needed to pursue this idea.

With regard to the funding of the spine road, the application for this money preceded consideration of the planning applications. As far as he was aware the funding had been awarded, although officers were currently in communication with the Government to establish what had to happen before the money was actually received.

Councillor Williams confirmed that this was his understanding too. He had been assured that the spine road funding had been part of a single stage process. However, bids made for 'forward funding' from the HIF for major schemes was a two stage process.

- (e) Mr Michael Pitt referred to the proposed Transport Strategy which did not include any plans for linking Trull/Honiton Road with South Road and Kingston Road with Cheddon Road (as recommended by Somerset County Council's Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2018). He asked the Council to instruct the relevant officers to consult on a face to face basis with the public and the Parish Councils of the areas affected by the

absence of such plans in the hope that proposals were added to the Strategy. He also asked for Variable Message Signage (VMS) to be installed in Station Road, Trull Road and South Road as well as the locations detailed in the Strategy.

Councillor Habgood stated that he was very happy to discuss other proposals with Parish Councils and Ward Councillors. Further debate would undoubtedly result in a diverse set of requirements from different parts of the community.

He added that production of a strategic document often sparked a level of interest. Personally he would have liked the Strategy to have been more aspirational, but the stage was reached with the County Council where the proposals in the Strategy were agreed.

With regard to VMS, there was a particular need to direct traffic to car parks and manage traffic flows. Work on the current project was due to commence shortly. He added that he would be happy to have a further conversation with Mr Pitt with regard to VMS.

**6. Receipt of Petition – Taunton Deane to become a ‘single-use plastic free Local Authority**

Mr Dave Mansell on behalf of Transition Athelney, Quantock Eco, Taunton Transition Town, Transition Town Wellington and Wivey Action on Climate and Environment presented a petition containing over 200 signatures to the Council which called upon Taunton Deane - recognising the waste and pollution caused by plastics - to become a 'single-use plastic free' Council by:-

- (a) Phasing out single-use plastic products, such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws and the unnecessary use of plastic bags in all Council activities, where reasonable and possible, by April 2019;
- (b) Encouraging users of Council facilities, local businesses and other local public agencies to do the same, by championing alternatives, such as reusable water bottles, cups, cutlery and bags; and
- (c) Submitting a public report to the Council by October 2018, which summarised single-use plastic within the Council, progress and plans for phasing it out, including by encouraging others; with a further update by April 2019.

The aims of the petition were welcomed by Members and following a proposal by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Berry, it was

**Resolved** that the petition be endorsed.

**7. Motion - Tackling our throw-away culture by providing incentives to reduce, reuse and recycle to safeguard our health and environment**

Moved by Councillor Habib Farbahi, seconded by Councillor Simon Nicholls.

“The Council notes:-

There are now 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic in the World’s Oceans, with an estimated 10% of the plastics we produce ending up in the oceans. Research from the University of Exeter shows that plastic damages marine life; in particular micro-plastics can enter the food chain at the zooplankton stage and by stunting growth may cause damage all the way up the chain<sup>1</sup>. There is universal agreement that this must be stopped.

Professor Galloway and her colleagues of Exeter University gave evidence to the Government’s Environment Audit Committee, as well as delivering a high-level presentation at the United Nations headquarters in America, outlining the effect micro-plastics have on the ocean environments<sup>4</sup>.

We want to raise awareness of the issue of micro-plastics, as it is one of the major threats to the health of our oceans and is something everyone, including school children, can all do something about. Potentially hazardous chemicals used in plastic food packaging have been found in the digestive system of 86% of teenagers who took part in a recent study at Exeter University<sup>2</sup>. These chemicals could be linked to breast cancer and heart diseases<sup>3</sup>.

The plastic bag charge reduced usage by 85% in the first year and the recent disposable coffee cups campaign has led to a “latte levy” being proposed by a group of influential cross-party MPs, and indeed to our own recycling centres accepting these cups. Now we need local government to commit to a Plastic-Free Charter.

This could include a plastic bottle return scheme. Tackling plastic pollution will require us to work closely with local businesses to find non-plastic alternatives. It will take research and investment, but most of all it will take a willingness to change.

We all recognise and accept that action needs to be taken and welcome the petition on the single use plastic and wish to go a step further by:-

Recommending that:-

- 1) This Council will set up a cross-party working group including, parish representatives, to research ways and costs of reducing or eliminating not only single use plastic on its premises but the wider implications which the Council may wish to become involved with. To engage with small, independent businesses such as coffee shops, pubs and restaurants and give the working group a practical time scale to work to;
- 2) This Council supports the potential idea of working with the University of Exeter on an advisory basis to achieve this goal with no costs to Taunton Deane taxpayers; and
- 3) This Council widely promotes through Council-wide email footers and footers on all news releases that both Taunton (Priorswood) and Poole Household Waste Recycling Centres and twelve other Recycling Centres

across the County can now accept plastic-lined paper cups and emphasise that plastic can damage our health.

The motion was put and was carried.

## 8. **Capital Improvements – Cemetery and Crematorium**

Considered report previously circulated, which sought support for capital improvement works to the waiting room and toilet facilities within the Chapel complex at Taunton Crematorium.

This work was necessary to support the increased volume of people who attended services and meet their needs in terms of accessible toilet facilities.

The current waiting room did not have the same capacity as the Chapel leading to frequent instances of the public having to wait outside until the prior funeral had come to an end. It also led to mourners from different services having to co-mingle.

The request was greater than just one of convenience for service users. The ability to manage the flow of people through the site was important especially where services had often to be planned back to back. There were approximately 2,000 services per year and around half of these services could not be fully accommodated within the waiting room without leaving people standing outside.

This situation would only get worse unless appropriate action was taken as there was an increasing trend towards greater numbers of mourners attending services. It was possible that unless the proposed improvements were introduced, the Crematorium might begin to lose some of its current business to other local providers.

Noted that the changes would nearly double the amount of waiting room space available to the public.

The additional resources being requested took account of the need for out of hours working and the provision of temporary toilets and a temporary waiting room. This was necessary to ensure the impacts on services were kept to a minimum.

Reported that whilst the work had yet to be competitively tendered, the design had been drawn up by Stone and Partners along with a quantity surveyors assessment. The build timeline was estimated at five months with additional time for tendering.

The budget request might appear high as this was fundamentally a reuse of existing space. There were however a number of factors which would increase the costs but were considered unavoidable for operational purposes. These factors were set out in the report.

**Resolved** that a supplementary estimate of £400,000 to be added to the Capital Programme be approved. £20,000 of this sum to be reallocated from



the Capital approval for the Cremator brickwork which was now being funded from revenue resources and another £20,000 for the Chapel roof which was no longer required in the Capital Programme. The residual Capital sum of £360,000 to be funded from borrowing.

## 9. Refresh of Taunton Parking Strategy

Considered report previously circulated, which sought adoption of a refreshed Parking Strategy for Taunton.

The Parking Strategy was a key component of the Council's plans for Taunton and covered the period to 2027. This document would replace the current strategy which had been adopted in 2011.

There had been significant change since 2011 related to development activity in the town which meant that this new document was required to give clear guidance on the approach to parking over the strategy period. Whilst this period was for ten years, the strategy actions would become part of the Council's overall approach to management of its objectives.

The strategy had been produced using five key objectives which were derived from national and local policy. These objectives were:-

- (1) Prioritise town centre spaces for short term visitors shoppers and visitors;
- (2) Provide for specific users for example disabled spaces and motorcycle bays;
- (3) Reduce the impact of congestion and pollution;
- (4) Improve actual and perceived safety and security of car parking; and
- (5) Improve the quality of car parks and the customer experience.

A range of data had been analysed which was outlined in the strategy and enabled the evaluation of a range of options matched to the Council's objectives. This gave a comprehensive view of current provision, costs and existing issues.

There were a number of key statistics which were of interest within the strategy documents:-

- There were 4000 publicly accessible off-street parking bays in Taunton Town Centre. 2800 (68%) were owned by the Council with the remaining 1200 being associated with major supermarkets;
- There were 1600 Park and Ride spaces. 1000 at Gateway (Junction 25) and 600 at Silk Mills;
- There were 145 on-street bays owned by Somerset County Council;
- 25% of income was derived by 'Pay and Phone' and 75% through 'Pay and Display' terminals;
- Shopper Car Parks 70% of all stays were 2 hours and below and 10% of all stays averaged 4 hours;
- Commuter sites – On average 50% paid for 4 hours. Kilkenny had the highest average at 6 hours;
- Park and Ride use at Silk Mills was 75% Monday – Friday and 32% on Saturday;

- Park and Ride use at Gateway was 37% Monday – Friday and 15% on Saturday;
- Variable Message Signing would service nine sites – the two Park and Rides and seven Council owned sites;
- There was 25% capacity in the Council car parks and 17% spare capacity in privately owned car parks at peak times; and
- The strategy accounted for 425 spaces at Firepool and a reduction of 70 at Coal Orchard.

Analysis of these statistics and application of the Taunton Strategic Transport model, which indicated a rise of 10% traffic through to 2031 meant that there was adequate town centre stock for demand across the strategy period.

Building on the statistics and using the objectives a range of options had been assessed to address parking requirements in the town centre. These had resulted in nine areas that were recommended for action by Taunton Deane or partners:-

- (1) The proposed creation of long and short stay tariffs/designations to simplify the tariff approach for customers. Short stay would be a maximum of three hours;
- (2) Visitor Management Plans for major events - for example cricket and the Flower Show were needed and further development of these was required to ensure that adequate travel plans were in place for these activities;
- (3) It was suggested that the Council should explore incentives for the use of the Orchard (Paul Street) and High Street sites due to available capacity. This should include addressing their appearance and reviewing tariff rates;
- (4) Extend the use of the Variable Message Signage to utilise live data or App`s when generating parking data.
- (5) Review the provision of Blue Badge spaces and motorcycle spaces to provide them in suitable and appropriate locations;
- (6) Improve the maintenance and aesthetic environment of the car parks. Improve wayfinding and information for those leaving the car parks.
- (7) Installation of electric points. Review how to deliver these, the most appropriate route to do so and implement spaces in appropriate locations;
- (8) More efficient use of the spaces by possible consolidation into larger car parks and reduce the use of smaller car parks;
- (9) In partnership with Somerset County Council, review the model of operation of the Park and Ride sites to enable delivery of a comprehensive solution for parking.

These recommendations would now be formed into a five year Action Plan which would be reviewed annually or at a frequency in line with the performance approach of the Transformed Council. This would be progressed by the operational Car Park Team in association with the necessary partner organisations.

**Resolved that:-**

- (a) The refreshed Taunton Parking Strategy be adopted; and
- (b) The nine recommended areas for action within the Taunton Parking Strategy and the proposed creation of a five year Action Plan to address them be noted.

10. **Designation of Car Parks into Short and Long Stay and Pricing Strategy**

Considered report previously circulated, which proposed the re-designation of the Council’s Car Parks into either ‘short’ and ‘long’ stay together with a corresponding pricing strategy.

The Taunton Car Parking Strategy 2017 had highlighted the creation of dedicated short stay tariff car parks as desirable to ensure ‘that spaces were available and used for short stay visits and to give certainty to customers’. In parallel a small number of car parks would be dedicated to long stay users.

As part of the Pay on Foot (POF) and Variable Message Signing (VMS) project it was desirable to also simplify the designations of the car parks for the benefit of visitors to the town and achieve the maximum benefit of VMS.

Currently the following designations were used:-

- Shopper 1;
- Shopper 2; and
- Commuter.

These designations did not mean a great deal to the public and if they continued to be used with on the VMS signs they would not support customer choice in selecting the most appropriate car park for their needs.

The universal language of short stay and long stay was much more descriptive and better recognised.

It was therefore proposed that all car parks were re-designated with this language, including those not within the POF and VMS project. This would mean that signage in the VMS scheme and fixed finger post signs would be updated to reflect this.

The proposed designations were:-

**Long Stay**

Canon Street  
 High Street  
 Orchard  
 Belvedere Road  
 Castle Street  
 Wood Street  
 Enfield  
 Firepool  
 Kilkenny

**Short Stay**

Coal Orchard\*<sup>1</sup>  
 Crescent  
 Ash meadows  
 Duke Street  
 Elms Parade  
 Whirligig  
 Fons George

Tangier  
Victoria Gate

Further reported that a number of pricing options had been explored. It had become apparent that two principles should underpin the process.

Firstly, that the changes should aim to be neutral in terms of income to the Council and therefore overall costs to the motorist, even though the service to the public should be enhanced by VMS and POF. Secondly, that the public in Wellington should not have to bear any cost through their car parking charges for a project that only had benefits in Taunton. These options were nonetheless originally costed and explored before being rejected.

It was considered that these changes could support the POF project and business case, whilst providing the necessary mix of parking opportunities.

The Fons George Car Park was considered an exception to the above rules due to it serving both Vivary Park and the golf course. It was therefore proposed that this car park should be classified as a short stay car park with relaxed limits to six hours in recognition of the area it served. It was further proposed that the pricing structure was maintained at £1 per hour.

To enable these changes, the Council would require a new Off Street Parking Place Order prior to implementation of POF to the Canon Street, Castle Street, Enfield, High Street, Orchard Multi Storey, Tangier and Wood Street Car Parks.

**Resolved** that the proposed change in designation from Shopper 1, Shopper 2 and Commuter to the more readily understood Short and Long Stay, alongside changes to the charging regime to allow this to be carried out with a neutral effect on income, be supported.

11. **Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy 2018/2019**

Considered report previously circulated, concerning the recommended strategy for managing the Council's cash resources including the approach to borrowing and investments. Approval was also sought for the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy (TMSS), the Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy.

It was noted that the Council currently held £85,500,000 of loans, which related solely to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). This sum had increased significantly in March 2012 when the Council took on £82,000,000 of loans through the introduction of HRA Self Financing and the abolition of the old Housing Subsidy system.

General Fund borrowing might therefore be required in 2018/2019 to support new projects which had been approved in 2018/2019 although the TMSS had suggested that this might be covered initially from internal funds.

Also noted that the Council's investment balances had ranged between £34,400,000 and £55,400,000. This was expected to reduce in 2016/2017 as more of the Capital Programme was delivered.

The Council's Treasury Management Advisor, Arlingclose, had advised that its central case was for the UK Bank Rate to remain at 0.5% during 2018/2019.

The TMSS and related policies had been prepared taking into account the 2011 revised Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes ("the Code") and the Department of Communities and Local Government's Guidance on Local Government Investments ("the Guidance").

The key principles of the Code were as follows:-

- Ensuring that public bodies put in place the necessary framework to ensure the effective management and control of treasury management activities;
- That the framework clearly stated that responsibility for treasury management lay clearly within the organisation and that the Strategy clearly stated the appetite for risk; and
- That value for money and suitable performance measures were reflected in the framework.

The Council's Finance Officers had worked closely with Arlingclose to consider the requirements of the Code and Guidance and determine the proposed TMSS, AIS and MRP Policy that would ensure compliance and provide a set of 'rules' for the Council to follow in dealing with investments, borrowing and cash flow management.

The TMSS for 2018/2019 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.

**Resolved** that:-

- (a) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Reserve Provision Policy as set out in the Appendix to the report be approved; and
- (b) The Prudential Indicators included within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement which included limits for borrowing and investments be also approved.

## 11. **General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Estimates 2018/2019**

Considered report previously circulated, which set out the General Fund Revenue budget proposals and the Council's Capital Programme for 2018/2019.

### **General Fund Revenue Budget**

The final budget proposals had 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 2018/2019 Budget had been prepared within the context of priorities identified by Members which were embedded in the Council's current Corporate Plan.

The budget contained details on:-

- (i) the General Fund Revenue Budget proposals for 2018/2019, 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 considered the draft budget proposals at its meeting on 25 January 2018. The proposals had been noted.

Details of the final "Settlement Funding Assessment" for 2018/2019 had recently been announced by the Department of Communities and Local Government and this was reflected within the budget proposals.

Alongside the Finance Settlement, the Government had confirmed that it was looking to implement the Fair Funding Review in April 2020 and had published the consultation: Fair funding review: a review of relative needs and resources which focussed specifically on potential approaches that had been identified to measure the relative needs of local authorities.

The consultation did not cover the relative resources adjustment, transition or other technical matters but these would be the subject of a later series of discussion papers.

The grant funding from the Government was in line with the confirmed multi-year settlement (2016/2017 to 2019/2020), with the expected reduction in 2018/2019 as shown below – a 55% reduction in General Revenue Grant funding:-

### **General Government Grant**

	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Change £	
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	644,801	279,788	-365,013	-48%
Rural Services Delivery Grant (RSDG)	22,271	27,754	5,483	+25%
Transition Grant	16,864	0	-16,864	-100%
<b>Total General Revenue Grant Funding</b>	<b>683,936</b>	<b>307,542</b>	<b>-376,394</b>	<b>-55%</b>

The multi-year settlement included further reductions in subsequent years. The following table summarised how these grants were projected to reduce from 2013/2014. During this period the settlement had reduced by 55% in cash terms (estimated 61% in real terms).

### Settlement Funding

	13/14 £k	14/15 £k	15/16 £k	16/17 £k	17/18 £k	18/19 £k	19/20 £k
RSG	3,556	2,766	1,911	1,235	645	280	0
RSDG*	0	0	5	28	22	28	22
Transition Grant	0	0	0	17	17	0	0
BR Baseline	2,366	2,412	2,458	2,478	2,529	2,605	2,665
<b>Govt Settlement</b>	<b>5,922</b>	<b>5,178</b>	<b>4,374</b>	<b>3,758</b>	<b>3,213</b>	<b>2,913</b>	<b>2,687</b>

Reported that following an invitation from Central Government a bid to become a 100% Business Rates (BR) Retention Pilot, had been submitted in conjunction with Somerset County Council and our other Somerset district partners.

Unfortunately, despite putting forward a strong case, the bid had been unsuccessful. The Government had however approved the formation of a new Somerset Business Rates Pool under the existing 50% retention scheme. This provided potential benefits which would accrue from the mixture of tariff and top-up authorities from the lower and upper tiers, resulting in a lower levy rate for the Pool.

From initial estimates the potential gain was forecast in the region of £100,000 to £200,000. The Council was confident that the potential gains far outweighed the risk of being in a pool, but prudently any gain had not been factored into budget at this stage and would be monitored carefully during the year.

Noted that the Provisional Settlement announcement by the Government had incorporated adjustments to both the baseline and tariff methodology.

Further reported that the New Homes Bonus (NHB) had incentivised and rewarded housing growth. The Council only used £392,000 of its NHB allocations each year to help fund the revenue budget. The remaining grant was allocated to the Growth Earmarked reserve.

The confirmed NHB Grant for 2018/2019 was £3,564,556, which was £470,176 or 12% less than 2017/2018 but above the initial budget estimates.

The Government had not changed the NHB methodology this year with a “top-

slice” of 0.4% of growth. In addition to the top-slice confirmation had been received that the legacy amounts included in the annual grant allocation had reduced to four years from 2018/2019.

The impact of this new growth baseline was significant. Housing growth of 196.7 Band D equivalents had not been rewarded in 2018/2019 resulting in a loss of funding of approximately £250,289.

Despite the reduction in the level of “reward” for housing growth, the growth trajectory indicated that the level of receipts would be fairly static in future years.

The budget for Taunton Deane contained a proposed Council Tax increase of 3.34% of the basic Council Tax element (£5 on a Band D) for 2018/2019 which would mean that the Band D Council Tax would rise to £154.62 per year. This figure again included the sum of £1.74 in respect of the Somerset Rivers Authority because it was still unable to raise its own precept. The Band D taxpayer would, therefore, receive all the services provided by the Council in 2018/2019 at a cost of £2.97 per week.

The approved Tax Base for 2018/2019 was 41,486.3 Band D Equivalents, an increase of 643.1 (1.6%) compared to 2017/2018. The draft budget estimates for Council Tax income was therefore  $41,486.3 \times £152.88 = £6,342,426$  (rounded). This represented a total increase of £302,539 compared to the previous year.

The Executive had proposed an increase to the Special Expenses (Unparished Area) precept by 2p (to £3.02) on a Band D property, raising an additional £302 whilst still remaining within the £5 Band D referendum trigger level.

Following the phasing out of the Council Tax Support grant funding provided to Town and Parish Councils the proposed budget for 2018/2019 would be £45,534 entirely funded through Special Expenses levied within the Unparished Area.

### **Revenue Budget 2018/2019**

The following table provided a summary of the Budget position for 2018/2019:-



	<b>Revised Budget 2017/18 £</b>	<b>Estimates 2018/19 £</b>
Total Spending on TDBC Services	11,786,444	10,150,489
Somerset Rivers Authority Contribution	71,067	72,186
Revenue Contribution to Capital	401,500	401,500
Capital Debt Repayment Provision (MRP)	235,060	400,010
Interest Costs	0	170,420
Interest Income	-380,875	-614,000
Parish Precepts	766,134	766,134
Grants to Parishes for CTS	12,990	0
Special Expenses	44,901	45,534
Grants to Unparished Area	2,010	0
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	1,868,242	2,425,878
Transfer to/from General Reserves	0	0
<b>AUTHORITY EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>14,807,473</b>	<b>13,818,151</b>
Retained Business Rates	-3,038,286	-3,592,545
Revenue Support Grant	-644,801	-279,788
Rural Services Delivery Grant	-22,271	-27,754
Transition	-16,864	0
New Homes Bonus	-4,034,730	-3,564,560
Surplus(-)/Deficit on Collection Fund – Council Tax	-166,957	-64,664
Surplus(-)/Deficit on Collection Fund – Business Rates	38,425	937,440
Demand on Collection Fund – Parishes and SER	-811,035	-811,668
Total Council Tax Raised by TDBC	<b>6,110,954</b>	<b>6,414,612</b>
Divided by Council Tax Base	40,843.2	41,486.3
<b>Council Tax Band D – Taunton Deane Services</b>	<b>147.88</b>	<b>152.88</b>
<b>Council Tax Band D – Somerset Rivers Authority</b>	<b>1.74</b>	<b>1.74</b>
<b>Council Tax Band D – TDBC including SRA</b>	<b>149.62</b>	<b>154.62</b>
<b>Cost per week per Band D equivalent</b>	<b>2.87</b>	<b>2.97</b>

	<b>£k</b>	<b>£k</b>
<b>Net Expenditure Base Budget 2017/18</b>		<b>14,807</b>
Inflation costs	422	
SRA Contribution tax base increase	1	
Annual pension deficit payment increase	31	
Assets – Void Pressure	46	
SHAPE Contract	89	
DLO Trading	51	
Assets – Void Pressure	40	
Other Service Changes	261	
Transformation savings	-152	
Increase fees and charges	-250	
Other Service savings	-295	
Remove 17/18 one-off Deane House project and maintenance costs	-1,893	
Financing Costs (net interest income and repayment of borrowing)	102	
<b>Subtotal costs</b>		<b>-1,547</b>
Transfer from Business Rates Smoothing Reserve	-665	

Reduction in NHB contribution to reserves	-470	
Remove previous year transfers to reserves	50	
Remove 17/18 one-off transfer from Capital Financing Reserve for Deane House project	1,643	
<b>Subtotal Reserve movement</b>		<b>558</b>
<b>Net Expenditure Base Budget 2018/19</b>		<b>13,818</b>

	<b>£k</b>	<b>£k</b>
<b>Total Funding 2017/18</b>		<b>-14,807</b>
Reduction in RSG	365	
RSDG	-6	
Increased Retained Business Rates	-554	
Transition Grant	17	
Reduction in NHB	470	
Increased funding from Council Tax	-303	
SRA tax base	-1	
Collection Fund Deficit	1,001	
<b>Subtotal - change in funding</b>		<b>989</b>
<b>Total Funding 2017/18</b>		<b>-13,818</b>

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 MTFP provided an indication of the expected budget gap going forward into 2018/2019 and beyond and a summary of this position was reflected in the following table:-

#### MTFP Summary as at 8 February 2018

	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	2022/23 £
Services Costs	11,786,444	10,150,489	9,671,585	10,067,896	10,266,292	10,773,017
Net Financing Costs	255,685	357,930	351,040	327,275	306,010	304,120
SRA Contribution	71,067	72,186	0	0	0	0
Special Expenses	44,901	45,534	45,534	45,534	45,534	45,534
CTRS Grants	15,000	0	0	0	0	0
Earmarked Reserves-Growth	3,642,752	3,172,576	2,937,042	3,302,435	3,087,062	2,987,957
Earmarked Reserves-Other	-1,774,510	-752,181	302,718	302,725	302,718	302,723
General Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>14,041,339</b>	<b>13,046,534</b>	<b>13,307,919</b>	<b>14,045,865</b>	<b>14,007,616</b>	<b>14,413,351</b>
Retained Business Rates	-3,038,286	-3,592,545	-3,463,975	-3,531,314	-3,595,008	-3,655,133
Business Rates prior year surplus/deficit	38,425	937,440	0	0	0	0
Revenue Support Grant	-644,801	-279,788	0	0	0	0
Rural Services Delivery Grant	-22,271	-22,271	-22,271	-22,271	-22,271	-22,271
Transitional Grant	-16,864	0	0	0	0	0
New Homes	-4,034,730	-3,564,560	-3,329,020	-3,694,420	-3,479,040	-3,379,940

	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	2022/23 £
Bonus						
Council Tax– TDBC	-6,039,887	-6,342,426	-6,533,235	-6,729,758	-6,932,125	-7,140,450
Council Tax–SRA	-71,067	-72,186	0	0	0	0
Council Tax– Special Expenses	-44,901	-45,534	-45,534	-45,534	-45,534	-45,534
Council Tax prior year surplus/deficit	-166,957	-64,664	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Funding</b>	<b>14,041,339</b>	<b>13,046,534</b>	<b>13,394,035</b>	<b>14,023,297</b>	<b>14,073,978</b>	<b>14,243,328</b>
<b>Budget Gap</b>	0	0	-86,116	22,568	-66,362	170,023
Budget Gap Increase	0	0	-86,116	108,684	-88,930	236,385

The MTFP position above already included the projected savings arising through the implementation of the Transformation Business Case. Without these savings the forecast budget gap would be a deficit of £1,729,000 per year by 2022/2023.

Noted that the Transformation savings for 2018/2019 included a prudent contingency for the phasing of implementation and transitional costs. It was anticipated that the savings would be delivered in full in 2019/2020.

These figures did not include the further savings that were identified in the Business Case that would be delivered through the creation of a new Council.

### **DLO Trading Account**

The General Fund budget included the trading surplus of £50,000 providing a contribution to the net income for the Council. Any additional surplus would be transferred to the Deane DLO Trading Reserve.

The forecast reserves position of Deane DLO for 2018/2019 remained positive, and provided some resilience to volatility in trading performance and future investment needs.

### **Deane Helpline Trading Account**

The budget had assumed no increase in fees to private customers which was currently £5.86 per week and no increase in the charge to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for Taunton Deane Tenants which was currently £4.86 per week. This had been approved by Full Council in December 2017.

Reported the current reserves position which was shown below. The forecast Outturn for the 2017/2018 budget was currently being reviewed but recent projections predicted an underspend of £318,000. Any final projected under/overspend would be adjusted through General Reserves.

	£
Balance Brought Forward 1 April 2017	2,186,155
<b>Current Budgeted Balance</b>	<b>2,186,155</b>

	£
2017/18 Projected Outturn Variance	318,000
2017/18 Earmarked Reserves returned to general balances	91,649
<b>Projected Balance 31 March 2018</b>	<b>2,595,804</b>
Recommended Minimum Balance	1,700,000
Projected Balance above recommended minimum	895,804

A review of the level of General Reserves had recently been undertaken and it was recommended that the minimum balance of General Reserves was increased from £1,600,000 to £1,700,000. Given the future funding risks it was strongly advised to maintain reserves above the minimum.

### **2018/2019 General Fund Capital Programme**

The current General Fund Capital Programme in 2017/2018 included approved projects totalling £33,320,000.

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 2018/2019 totalled £3,797,000 split between Deane DLO Schemes, General Fund Schemes and Growth Schemes, full details of which were submitted for the information of Councillors.

Funding for capital investment by the Council could come from a variety of sources including:-

- Capital Receipts;
- Grant Funding;
- Capital Contributions (for example from another Local Authority or Section 106 Agreement funding);
- Revenue budgets/reserves (often referred as RCCO – Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay); and
- Borrowing.

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 2018/2019**

In December 2015 the Council had approved an allocation £16,600,000 of New Homes Bonus (NHB) funding over the five year period 2016/2017 to 2020/2021, to support its priorities relating to growth and regeneration. A number of 'spend categories' had been approved, as follows:-

- Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation;
- Major Transport Schemes;
- Town Centre Regeneration;
- Employment site enabling and promoting enterprise and innovation;
- Marketing, promotion and inward investment;
- Supporting urban extension delivery; and
- Preparation of Local Development Orders.

Reported that the profile of spending over the five year period was indicative and needed to be refreshed annually, to ensure that spending plans remained aligned with an evolving picture of external funding secured, opportunities for new funding and new growth priorities.

The Growth and Regeneration Capital Budget approved to date totalled £3,900,000. If approved, a further £2,470,000 would bring the total budget to £6,370,000.

Having now carried out the above mentioned annual review, a refreshed annual profile of spending on growth was proposed. Although the spending categories and the overall allocation of £16,600,000 remained the same, a number of changes to the original profile were proposed in some categories, as follows:-

- **Taunton Strategic Flood Allocation** – The allocation had been increased to £5,000,000 in line with the Councils commitment to flood relief, by reallocation from the Urban Extension Project;
- **Major Transport Schemes** – The overall allocation had increased from £3,500,000 to £3,900,000 mainly due to the Access and Signage Project to provide the Variable Messaging System and Pay on Foot system;
- **Town Centre Regeneration** – The allocation had increased from £2,500,000 to £3,500,000 to enable the delivery of major Town Centre schemes, such as Firepool and Coal Orchard;
- **Employment sites, enterprise and innovation** – A reduction to the overall allocation (now £3,500,000) due to a reduction in the Junction 25 Nexus allocation; and
- **Supporting Urban Extension delivery** – The previous allocation of £2,000,000 had been reallocated to the Strategic Flood Alleviation Project in 2020/2021.

Noted that subject to a Business Case, the Council could also consider the use of prudential borrowing to provide additional resources.

The Council's Section 151 Officer had a duty to comment, as part of the budget setting process on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves. In his response, Paul Fitzgerald had stated that he believed the Council's reserves to be adequate and the budget estimates used in preparing the 2018/2019 budget to be robust.

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.

The recommendations, which are detailed below, were put and were carried with twenty six Councillors in favour, sixteen Councillors voting against and two abstaining:-

**Resolved** that the General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2018/2019 be agreed and that:-

- (a) The forecast Medium Term Financial Plan and Reserves position and the Section 151 Officer's Robustness Statement both be noted;
- (b) The General Fund Net Revenue Budget 2018/2019 be approved;
- (c) A Council Tax increase of 3.34%, increasing the Band D tax rate by £5 to £154.62 per year be approved. This comprised £152.88 for services and £1.74 on behalf of the Somerset Rivers Authority;
- (d) An increase to the Special Expenses Precept of 0.7% increasing the Band D rate from £3.00 to £3.02 for the Unparished Area of Taunton be approved;
- (e) The minimum General Reserves level be increased to £1,700,000;
- (f) The new capital schemes of the General Fund Capital Programme Budget of £3,796,711 for 2018/2019 be approved; and
- (g) Authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer to the 2018/2019 Disabled Facilities Grant Capital Budget to reflect the final grant funding received from the Better Care Fund.

Yes	No	Abstain
Councillor Beale	Councillor Booth	Councillor Aldridge
Councillor Berry	Councillor Coles	Councillor Prior-Sankey
Councillor Mrs Blatchford	Councillor Farbahi	
Councillor Bowrah	Councillor Mrs Floyd	
Councillor Cavill	Councillor Govier	
Councillor Davies	Councillor Henley	
Councillor D Durdan	Councillor Mrs Hill	
Councillor Edwards	Councillor Horsley	
Councillor Gage	Councillor R Lees	

Councillor Mrs Gunner	Councillor Mrs Lees	
Councillor Habgood	Councillor Ms Lisgo	
Councillor Hall	Councillor Morrell	
Councillor Mrs Herbert	Councillor Nicholls	
Councillor C Hill	Councillor Mrs Smith	
Councillor Hunt	Councillor Mrs Smith-Roberts	
Councillor James	Councillor Wedderkopp	
Councillor Parrish		
Councillor Mrs Reed		
Councillor Ryan		
Councillor Mrs Stock-Williams		
Councillor Sully		
Councillor Townsend		
Councillor Mrs Tucker		
Councillor Mrs Warmington		
Councillor Watson		
Councillor Williams		

**12. Housing Revenue Account Budget Estimates and Capital Programme 2018/2019**

Considered report previously circulated, concerning the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for the 2018/2019 Financial Year.

**2018/2019 HRA Budget**

In 2012 Taunton Deane moved away from a national subsidy system to be 'self-financing'. As part of the self-financing agreement, a one-off payment of £85,120,000 was made to the Government, in return for being able to retain all income locally to manage and maintain the housing stock. The total debt in the HRA at the start of self-financing was £99,700,000.

In order to manage the freedoms gained by the HRA through self-financing, a new 30 year Business Plan (2012-2042) was introduced. This set out the Council's overall aims and objectives for Housing Services, as well as laying out plans to manage the increased risks and opportunities.

The Business Plan had been reviewed and updated annually since 2012, but since 2015 there had been many changes in national policies and local aspiration and a full review of the Business Plan was undertaken in 2016. The draft estimates for 2018/2019 therefore reflected the amendments approved in the Business Plan.

**Business Plan Review 2016**

A full review of the HRA 30 Year Business Plan was approved by Council in July 2016.

This had included a number of changes which affected the base budget for 2018/2019. The key amendments were summarised below:-

**2018/2019 Changes in Approved Business Plan**

	£k
<b>Impact in 2018/19 of key changes within the Business Plan</b>	0.0
Starting position - balanced budget	-15.3
Social Housing Development Fund	-528.4
Repairs and Maintenance savings	-672.3
Management savings	396.8
Decrease in operating income	821.7
Reduction in movement in reserves	56.6
Depreciation	24.9
Other minor changes	<b>84.0</b>
<b>Position in Business Plan - approved by Council in July 2016 (budgeted transfer from HRA General Reserves)</b>	0.0

Full details of these changes were detailed in the report.

**Dwelling Rents for 2018/2019**

Dwelling rents for approximately 5,800 properties provided annual income of approximately £23,700,000 for the HRA.

The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 had set out a 1% reduction in social housing rents from 1 April 2016 for four years. For the first year, 2016/2017, supported housing rents were exempt, but all social rents were to be included for the remaining three years.

During the four year period, rents had to be set with at least a 1% reduction. However, each additional 0.5% decrease would reduce the average weekly rent for tenants by £0.42, or £21.84 per year, and decrease dwelling rent income to the HRA by £123,000 per year.

In line with the national rent guidance, it was proposed that the average weekly rent for dwellings for 2018/2019 should be set at the guideline rent of £81.69, a decrease of 1.0%, or £0.83 per week.

It had been expected from the Housing and Planning Act that from April 2017 tenants with a household income of over £31,000 would need to pay additional rent under 'Pay to Stay'. However, it was announced in November 2016 that this policy would no longer be implemented and social housing providers would continue to have discretion to charge a higher rent on tenants with a household income of over £60,000.

Any additional income raised from the Pay to Stay policy would have been repaid to the Government and so this would not have directly affected the Business Plan. However it was expected that this policy would increase Right to Buys in the short term as the tenants who would have been affected by



higher rents would have been likely to be those more able and willing to secure a mortgage.

As this policy was no longer being implemented the assumption of Right to Buys (RTBs) had been reduced in the Business Plan to reflect the current level. Noted that for 2018/2019 this equated to expected additional income of £128,000, although expected capital receipts from RTB would reduce.

Rent lost through void periods continued to be lower than the 2% allowed in the Business Plan. Future changes, such as the introduction of flexible tenancies, where new tenants were offered a fixed term tenancy which was renewed if appropriate might affect this in the future, but it was deemed appropriate to reduce the expected void rate to 1% for a two year period. This would be reviewed within future Business Plan reviews. This reduction in void rate from 2% to 1% would increase the rental expectation in 2018/2019 by £205,000.

These changes would give a total forecasted dwelling rent income of £24,100,000.

Further reported that in October 2017 the Department for Communities and Local Government announced that “increases to social housing rents would be limited to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus 1% for five years from 2020.” Dwelling rents were therefore forecast to increase by £237,000 over the current Business Plan to £24,300,000.

### **Other Income**

About 9.8% of HRA income, amounting to £2,600,000 in total, came from non-dwelling rent (mainly garages, but also shops and land), charges for services and facilities, and contributions to HRA costs from leaseholders and others. The proposed changes to specific budget lines reflected changes agreed by Full Council in the Fees and Charges report on 12 December 2017.

### **Expenditure 2018/2019**

The main areas of spending planned for the 2018/2019 financial year included:-

- Management expenses;
- Maintenance;
- Transformation;
- Special services;
- Provision for bad debts;
- Depreciation;
- Debt Management Expenses;
- Repayment of Borrowing and Interest;
- Interest receivable; and
- Social Housing Development Fund.

The following table provided a summary of the main changes to the budget estimates for the HRA Revenue Account since the approval of the HRA

Business Plan.

### ***HRA Budget 2018/2019 Changes***

	<b>£k</b>
<b>Position in Business Plan (budgeted transfer from HRA General Reserves)</b>	<b>84.0</b>
<b><u>Proposals included in the report</u></b>	
Service charges	-352.2
Garages	-9.4
Leasehold Charges	-50.1
Repairs and maintenance savings	-626.4
Management savings	-185.5
Depreciation	-55.1
Increase in pension deficit contribution	45.9
Inflation costs excluding salaries	936.6
Staff 2% pay award and pay grade change	250.0
Other minor changes	-51.4
<b>Balanced budget for 2018/19 ie net transfer to reserves</b>	<b>-13.6</b>

The HRA Business Plan recommended that the minimum unearmarked reserve balance for the HRA should be £1,800,000. If the HRA budget was approved by Council, the balance would increase by £136,000, to £3,400,000.

Further reported that the HRA faced a number of risks and uncertainties, both external to the Council and internal changes.

A number of legislative changes were being implemented, as follows:-

Universal Credit – It was not known what impact the full roll out of Universal Credit would have on the HRA although steps had already been taken to try and prevent loss of income where possible. These were set out in the report.

Higher Value Asset Sales (Housing and Planning Act 2016) – This was the sale of vacant social housing with some of the proceeds being returned to the Government in order to fund the extension of Right to Buy in Housing Associations.

The regulations had not yet been published, but it was expected that an amount would be payable to the Government based on the value of the housing held by the Council. It was currently expected that this would commence from April 2019.

Local Housing Allowance (LHA) Rates - Tenants in social housing would in future only be able to claim Housing Benefit up to the LHA rate. Currently the LHA rates were only applicable for Housing Benefit claims in private rented stock. From April 2019, this would also apply to tenants in social housing. This might have an impact on some of our Supported Housing residents, but the majority of Taunton Deane housing was within the LHA rates for the area.

Fixed term tenancies (Housing and Planning Act 2016) – Councils would be required to review tenancies every five years rather than granting a lifetime tenancy, with extensions for tenants with a disability or school age children. This was expected to be in place for April 2018 and would impact on the way in which tenancies are managed.

The HRA also faced a number local risks including Transformation, Extra Care Housing and Asbestos, details of which were provided.

### **HRA Borrowing**

In 2012 Taunton Deane took out additional borrowing of £85,200,000 as part of the self-financing settlement with the Government. This brought the total borrowing in the HRA up to £99,600,000 at the start of self-financing, including £5,500,000 internal borrowing from the General Fund.

The opening balance of external borrowing currently totalled £91,000,000 with an additional £10,500,000 of internal borrowing within the HRA (for approved capital schemes such as Creechbarrow Road, Taunton). This internal borrowing was currently funded from reserves held by the HRA, but external borrowing would be required in the short term. Repayment of £3,000,000 would be made during 2018/2019.

An annual provision of £1,800,000 for repayment of debt was included in the Business Plan, and ongoing repayments of borrowing would be made.

The headroom was due to increase annually, as no additional borrowing was included within the Business Plan. In 2018/2019 this was expected to be £19,300,000, and would increase annually by £1,800,000 until further borrowing was agreed by the Council. The intention was for this borrowing headroom to be available for the larger regeneration schemes that could not be funded from the Social Housing Development Fund budget.

### **Right to Buy (RTB) Receipts**

In 2012 the maximum discounts offered to tenants who exercised their Right to Buy increased significantly to £77,000. Taunton Deane had signed up to retain the additional receipts, and agreed that these receipts would be used to fund new affordable housing. The additional RTB receipts could only account for 30% of spend on new housing, with the remaining 70% coming from other funds such as revenue funding or borrowing. The RTB receipts could not be used in the same scheme as other Government funding such as Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) funding.

The full spend on new housing had to be spent within three years of the capital receipt, or the RTB receipt had to be returned to the Government with interest at 4% over base rate from the date of the receipt.

The latest forecast showed that spend would be enough to meet the match funding requirements to quarter 3 of 2019/2020.

Noted that new housing did not need to be provided by the Council. The 30%

RTB funding could also be used by Housing Associations in the area, provided they met the same match funding requirements.

Further options for the 70% match funding of RTB receipts in excess of planned development expenditure included:-

- Increasing spend through borrowing – limited to debt cap;
- Increasing spend from revenue – which would lead to reduced service provision as revenue was allocated within the Business Plan;
- The use of other Council funding; or
- Return funding to Government.

The requirement for the funding to be spent within three years did mean that there was flexibility to allocate funding after the capital receipts were retained. However development schemes usually had large lead in times receipts therefore needed to be allocated as soon as possible to reduce the risk of having to repay the capital receipt to the Government with interest payments.

### **2018/2019 HRA Capital Programme**

The HRA Capital Programme 2018/2019 totalled £8,973,000 and was shown in the table below. This was provided to deliver the prioritised capital investment requirements included in the current Business Plan for the next budget year.

#### **Draft HRA Capital Programme 2018/2019**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Cost £k</b>
Major Works	5,800
Improvements	150
Exceptional Extensive Works	492
Disabled Facilities Grants and Aids and Adaptations	381
Building Services Vehicles	121
Social Housing Development Fund	2,029
<b>Total Proposed HRA Capital Programme 2018/19</b>	<b>8,973</b>

Full details of proposed spending under the above project categories were set out in the report. The current five-year HRA Capital Programme included forecast capital expenditure requirements for the period 2018/2019 to 2022/2023, as identified in the Business Plan.

The programme would be funded from the Major Repairs Reserve (from depreciation), revenue contribution (RCCO) from the Social Housing Development Fund and capital receipts (Right to Buy).

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.

The recommendations, which are detailed below, were put and were carried

with forty one Councillors in favour and three abstaining:-

**Resolved** that that the Housing Revenue Account Budget and Capital Programme for 2018/2019 be agreed and that:-

- (a) The proposed rent decrease of 1%, with proposed average rents of £81.69 per week in 2018/2019 be approved;
- (b) The Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2018/2019 be approved; and
- (c) The new capital schemes of the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme of £8,973,000 for 2018/2019 be also approved.

Yes	Yes	Abstain
Councillor Beale	Councillor James	Councillor Aldridge
Councillor Berry	Councillor R Lees	Councillor Henley
Councillor Mrs Blatchford	Councillor Mrs Lees	Councillor Horsley
Councillor Booth	Councillor Ms Lisgo	
Councillor Bowrah	Councillor Morrell	
Councillor Cavill	Councillor Nicholls	
Councillor Coles	Councillor Parrish	
Councillor Davies	Councillor Prior-Sankey	
Councillor D Durdan	Councillor Mrs Reed	
Councillor Edwards	Councillor Ryan	
Councillor Farbahi	Councillor Mrs Smith	
Councillor Mrs Floyd	Councillor Mrs Smith-Roberts	
Councillor Gage	Councillor Mrs Stock-Williams	
Councillor Govier	Councillor Sully	
Councillor Mrs Gunner	Councillor Townsend	
Councillor Habgood	Councillor Mrs Tucker	
Councillor Hall	Councillor Mrs Warmington	
Councillor Mrs Herbert	Councillor Watson	
Councillor C Hill	Councillor Wedderkopp	
Councillor Mrs Hill	Councillor Williams	
Councillor Hunt		

**13. Council Tax Setting 2018/2019**

Considered report previously circulated, which made recommendations on the level of Council Tax for 2018/2019.

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 2018/2019 which totalled £819,022.

The increase in the average Band D Council Tax for Town and Parish Councils was 5.22% which resulted in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £19.74 (£18.76 for 2017/2018).

Reported that the Precept for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had approved its tax requirement on 1 February 2018. The precept would be £8,040,307.93 which would result in a Band D Council Tax of £193.81, an increase of 6.60%. The Precept would be adjusted by a Collection Fund contribution of £69,821.

The County Council had approved its Council Tax requirement on 21 February 2018 and had set its precept at £49,458,314.77, adjusted by a Collection Fund surplus of £431,963. This was calculated as an increase on base of 2.99% for the general precept and 3% for Adult Social Care and had resulted in a total Band D Council Tax of £1,192.16. This figure included a precept of £12.84 (1.25%) in respect of the Somerset Rivers Authority which was unchanged from the 2017/2018 precept.

Noted that the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority had approved its Council Tax requirement on 16 February 2018. The precept would be £3,485,264, which resulted in a Band D Council Tax of £84.01. The Precept would be adjusted by a Collection Fund contribution of £31,326.

As far as Taunton Deane Borough Council was concerned, Members were being asked to approve a total Council Tax requirement of £6,414,612 for 2018/2019. This incorporated an increase of 3.38% in the basic Council Tax rate and also included £1.74 in respect of the Somerset Rivers Authority. Together this equated to a Band D equivalent of £154.62, a total increase of £5.00 for 2018/2019.

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 £597,774. Taunton Deane's share of this amounted to £64,664, 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 Councillors in favour, six Councillors voting against and nine 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:-

	2017/18	2018/19	Increase
	£	£	%
Taunton Deane Borough Council	147.88	152.88	3.38
Taunton Deane Borough Council - SRA	1.74	1.74	0.00
Somerset County Council	1,069.52	1,103.15	2.99
Somerset County Council – Social Care	42.43	76.17	3.00
Somerset County Council – SRA	12.84	12.84	0.00
Police and Crime Commissioner	181.81	193.81	6.60
Devon & Somerset Fire Authority	81.57	84.01	2.99
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,537.79</b>	<b>1,624.60</b>	<b>5.65</b>
Town and Parish Council (average)	18.76	19.74	5.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,556.55</b>	<b>1,644.34</b>	<b>5.64</b>

Yes	No	Abstain
Councillor Beale	Councillor Booth	Councillor Aldridge
Councillor Berry	Councillor Coles	Councillor Farbahi
Councillor Mrs Blatchford	Councillor Govier	Councillor Mrs Floyd
Councillor Bowrah	Councillor Henley	Councillor Prior-Sankey
Councillor Cavill	Councillor Mrs Hill	
Councillor Davies	Councillor Horsley	
Councillor D Durdan	Councillor R Lees	
Councillor Edwards	Councillor Mrs Lees	
Councillor Gage	Councillor Ms Lisgo	
Councillor Mrs Gunner	Councillor Morrell	
Councillor Habgood	Councillor Nicholls	
Councillor Hall	Councillor Mrs Smith	
Councillor Mrs Herbert	Councillor Mrs Smith-Roberts	
Councillor Hunt	Councillor Wedderkopp	
Councillor James		
Councillor Parrish		
Councillor Mrs Reed		
Councillor Ryan		
Councillor Miss Smith		
Councillor Mrs Stock-Williams		

Councillor Sully		
Councillor Townsend		
Councillor Mrs Tucker		
Councillor Mrs Warmington		
Councillor Watson		
Councillor Williams		

14. **Written Questions to Members of the Executive**

**From Councillor Horsley to Councillor Williams**

Under a Press Release dated 1 February 2018, the Leader informed us of the success of the Council earning £7,200,000 for the new Garden Community development for North Taunton to provide vital infrastructure and thus achieving our desired Garden Town status.

I warmly congratulate our officer team for putting together so quickly a bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to attaining this Housing Infrastructure Fund Marginal Viability Scheme as it simultaneously means that there is a real prospect of meeting our corporate strategy of providing 25% affordable housing on all sites.

Can he reassure me that we do have “the money in the bag” for this when we were informed that the bids nationally for this pot of money was a two stage proposal?

As I understand it, the first part was to be announced at the end of January and this would simply identify those Councils whose bids would be shortlisted and that the final determination of the successful Councils would not be known until late June/July?

Bearing in mind the extraordinary pressures around the country and the overall severe reductions/cuts especially in Local Government expenditure by Whitehall, is this yet another indication of premature Tory promises of over claiming and under delivering as they have done on both Firepool and Coal Orchard to date and the whole regeneration of the Taunton Town Centre?

**Reply** – I thank Councillor Horsley for notice of his question.

Far from being premature, it demonstrates we have a good track record of delivering continued services and investment so funding such as this is won.

For the record a detailed planning application for the re-development of Coal Orchard, Taunton is imminent, as is an outline application for Firepool, Taunton.

There seems to be some confusion as to the two Housing Infrastructure Funds. We have secured £7,200,000 Marginal Viability funding which was a single stage process – so the funds are secure.



However, a Forward Funding bid of approximately £80,000,000 submitted jointly by Somerset County Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and Sedgemoor District Council has recently been submitted. This is a two stage bid and we currently await the announcement as to whether the bid has been shortlisted for the second stage.

**15. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**Resolved** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it included exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

**16. Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 – Listed Buildings at Tonedale Mill, Milverton Road, Wellington**

Considered report previously circulated, relating to proposed actions proposed to be taken to secure the repair of the historic buildings at Tonedale Mill, Milverton Road, Wellington.

An Urgent Works Notice was to be served on the owner of the property identified in the report requiring the execution of works which were urgently necessary for the preservation of the building.

If the works were not carried out, the Council would need to step in and carry out the required works.

Historic England (HE) had confirmed that, in such circumstances, it would provide grant funding subject to match funding being provided by Taunton Deane.

The action proposed was the first step of a large programme of works with HE to secure the buildings on the site.

**Resolved** that a supplementary estimate to the Capital Programme be approved at the level set out in the report, in the event that the owner of the property failed to carry out the required works. The funding of these works to come from Historic England as detailed, with the remainder from a virement to the Council's Revenue Contribution to Capital in 2017/2018 funded from additional investment interest receipts.

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Mayor suggested that rather than extend the duration of the meeting, questions for the Executive Councillors in respect of their reports (details follow) could be dealt with via e-mail. This was agreed.

**17. Reports of the Leader of the Council and Executive Councillors**

**(i) Leader of the Council (Councillor Williams)**

Councillor Williams's report covered the following topics:-

- Formation of a Single Council;
- Budget Setting 2018/2019;
- Housing Infrastructure Funding – Successful Bid;
- Firepool, Taunton;
- Lisieux Way Business Park, Taunton;
- The Deane House Accommodation Project; and
- Nexus 25.

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

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

- Environmental Health (Dog Warden Service; Public Health Funerals; Food – New Registrations and Tattoo Safety);
- Licensing (Staffing; Performance; and HM Revenues and Customs);
- Street Sweeping and Toilet Cleaning;
- Somerset Waste Partnership (New Resource Recovery Centre; and Food Waste; and
- Cemeteries and Crematorium.

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

The report from Councillor Edwards covered:-

- Communications;
- Business Development - Productivity Strategy; and Taunton Deane Business Awards;
- Events, Place, Retail Marketing and Visitor Centre – Events; Place and Retail Marketing; and Visitor Centre;
- Growth Strategy and Specific Projects – Coal Orchard Redevelopment, Taunton; Lisieux Way Site, Taunton; Crown Industrial Estate; Taunton Vale (Throup's Site); Wiveliscombe; and Asset Management Service Update – February 2018.

(iv) **Planning Policy and Transportation (Councillor Habgood)**

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

- Planning Policy;
- Garden Town Strategy and Plan;
- Nexus 25 – Local Development Order;
- Junction 25 Upgrade – Somerset County Council Highways Authority;
- Highways England Consultation – Taunton to Southfields

- Dualling Scheme;
- Taunton Urban Realm;
- Car Park Pay on Foot and Variable Message Signage and Pay on Exit parking;
- Neighbourhood Plans; and
- Major Planning – Staplegrove; Firepool, Taunton; and Tonedale Mill, Wellington.

(v) **Sport, Parks and Leisure (Councillor Mrs Stock-Williams)**

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

- Community Leisure – Play and Recreation; Summer Sunday Bandstand Concerts; Council's Capital Grant Scheme; and Parish Play Area Grant Scheme;
- GLL (Taunton Deane) – Community Sport and Health; and Facilities;
- Parks and Open Spaces – Grass Cutting; Streams; Vivary Park; and Wellington Park;
- Property – Wilton Lands, Taunton; and
- Transition Town Wellington – Working in Partnership.

(vi) **Corporate Resources (Councillor Parrish)**

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

- Revenues and Benefits;
- Corporate Services;
- Corporate Performance – General Data Protection Regulations;
- Customer Services;
- Facilities Management;
- ICT/Technology;
- Member Case Management;
- HR and Organisational Development;
- The Mayoralty and Democratic Services;
- Procurement Team; and
- Finance.

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

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

- Voluntary Sector Partners with Funding Agreements;
- Community Council for Somerset;
- Compass Disability;
- Engage;

- Fuse Streetlinkz;
- North Taunton Partnership, Priorswood, Taunton;
- Taunton East Development Trust, Link Centre;
- Taunton Citizens Advice; and
- Wiveliscombe Area Partnership and Wivey Link Community Transport.

(viii) **Housing Services (Councillor Beale)**

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

- Deane Housing Development – Weavers Arms, Rockwell Green, Wellington; 12 Moorland Close, Taunton; North Taunton; and Housing Enabling;
- Welfare Reform – Discretionary Housing Payment; and Universal Credit;
- Deane Helpline;
- Anti-Social Behaviour Service; and
- Somerset West Private Sector Housing Partnership.

(Councillor Stone left the meeting at 8.11 p.m.)

(The meeting ended at 9.34 p.m.)

## APPENDIX A

### The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. It be noted that the Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2018/19
  - (a) for the whole Council area as **41,486.30** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act)] (**the tax base for the whole district**); and
  - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix C (**the tax base for each parish or town council area**).
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018/19 (excluding Parish precepts) is £6,414,612.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

(a)	£58,875,808	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act; (expenditure, including all precepts issued to it by parish and town councils).
(b)	£51,642,174	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (income, including government grants, benefits subsidy and adjustments for surpluses on the Collection Fund).
(c)	£7,233,634	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); (expenditure less income).
(d)	£174.36	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; (this is an overall average amount of Council Tax, per Band D property including Parish precepts).
(e)	£819,022	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).
(f)	£154.62	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 (the District Council element of the tax for Band D dwellings).

4. To note that the County Council, the Police Authority and the Fire Authority 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.

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2018/19 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings. The table excludes parish and town precepts and special expenses.

**VALUATION BANDS**

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£103.08	£120.26	£137.44	£154.62	£188.98	£223.34	£257.70	£309.24

**SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£794.76	£927.24	£1,059.70	£1,192.16	£1,457.08	£1,722.01	£1,986.93	£2,384.32

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR AVON AND SOMERSET**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£129.21	£150.74	£172.28	£193.81	£236.88	£279.95	£323.02	£387.62

**DEVON AND SOMERSET FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£56.01	£65.34	£74.68	£84.01	£102.68	£121.35	£140.02	£168.02

**AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£1,083.06	£1,263.58	£1,444.10	£1,624.60	£1,985.62	£2,346.65	£2,707.67	£3,249.20

Valuation Bands								
Council Tax Schedule 2018/19	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Taunton Deane Borough Council	101.92	118.91	135.89	152.88	186.85	220.83	254.80	305.76
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	735.43	858.01	980.58	1,103.15	1,348.29	1,593.44	1,838.58	2,206.30
Somerset County Council (Social Care)	50.78	59.24	67.71	76.17	93.10	110.02	126.95	152.34
Somerset County Council (Somerset Rivers Authority)	8.55	9.99	11.41	12.84	15.69	18.55	21.40	25.68
Police and Crime Commissioner	129.21	150.74	172.28	193.81	236.88	279.95	323.02	387.62
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	56.01	65.34	74.68	84.01	102.68	121.35	140.02	168.02
<b>Totals excluding Parish/Town Precepts</b>	<b>1,083.06</b>	<b>1,263.58</b>	<b>1,444.10</b>	<b>1,624.60</b>	<b>1,985.62</b>	<b>2,346.65</b>	<b>2,707.67</b>	<b>3,249.20</b>
Average Parish / Town	13.16	15.35	17.54	19.74	24.13	28.52	32.90	39.48
<b>Total including Average Parish/Town Precept</b>	<b>1,096.22</b>	<b>1,278.93</b>	<b>1,461.64</b>	<b>1,644.34</b>	<b>2,009.75</b>	<b>2,375.17</b>	<b>2,740.57</b>	<b>3,288.68</b>
<b>Parish:</b>								
Ash Priors	1,083.06	1,263.58	1,444.10	1,624.60	1,985.62	2,346.65	2,707.67	3,249.20
Ashbrittle	1,097.99	1,281.00	1,464.01	1,647.00	2,013.00	2,379.01	2,745.00	3,294.00
Bathealton	1,086.87	1,268.02	1,449.18	1,630.31	1,992.60	2,354.90	2,717.19	3,260.63
Bishops Hull	1,095.57	1,278.17	1,460.78	1,643.36	2,008.55	2,373.75	2,738.94	3,286.72
Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone	1,111.51	1,296.78	1,482.04	1,667.28	2,037.78	2,408.30	2,778.80	3,334.56
Bradford on Tone	1,098.28	1,281.34	1,464.39	1,647.43	2,013.52	2,379.63	2,745.72	3,294.86
Burrowbridge	1,103.01	1,286.85	1,470.70	1,654.52	2,022.19	2,389.87	2,757.54	3,309.04
Cheddon Fitzpaine	1,103.01	1,286.86	1,470.70	1,654.53	2,022.20	2,389.88	2,757.55	3,309.06
Chipstable	1,099.48	1,282.74	1,465.99	1,649.23	2,015.72	2,382.23	2,748.72	3,298.46
Churchstanton	1,100.32	1,283.72	1,467.11	1,650.49	2,017.26	2,384.05	2,750.82	3,300.98
Combe Florey	1,104.85	1,289.00	1,473.15	1,657.28	2,025.56	2,393.85	2,762.14	3,314.56
Comeytrowe	1,090.96	1,272.80	1,454.63	1,636.45	2,000.10	2,363.77	2,727.42	3,272.90
Corfe	1,097.89	1,280.88	1,463.87	1,646.84	2,012.80	2,378.77	2,744.74	3,293.68
Cotford St Luke	1,102.99	1,286.84	1,470.68	1,654.50	2,022.16	2,389.84	2,757.50	3,309.00
Creech St Michael	1,113.09	1,298.62	1,484.14	1,669.65	2,040.68	2,411.72	2,782.75	3,339.30
Durston	1,098.22	1,281.27	1,464.31	1,647.34	2,013.41	2,379.50	2,745.57	3,294.68
Fitzhead	1,109.84	1,294.82	1,479.81	1,664.77	2,034.72	2,404.67	2,774.62	3,329.54
Halse	1,095.49	1,278.08	1,460.67	1,643.24	2,008.40	2,373.57	2,738.74	3,286.48
Hatch Beauchamp	1,099.50	1,282.76	1,466.02	1,649.26	2,015.76	2,382.27	2,748.77	3,298.52
Kingston St Mary	1,098.53	1,281.63	1,464.73	1,647.81	2,013.99	2,380.18	2,746.35	3,295.62
Langford Budville	1,099.95	1,283.29	1,466.62	1,649.94	2,016.59	2,383.25	2,749.90	3,299.88
Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	1,095.92	1,278.58	1,461.25	1,643.89	2,009.20	2,374.51	2,739.82	3,287.78
Milverton	1,111.80	1,297.11	1,482.42	1,667.71	2,038.31	2,408.92	2,779.52	3,335.42
Neroche	1,095.38	1,277.95	1,460.53	1,643.08	2,008.21	2,373.34	2,738.47	3,286.16
North Curry	1,099.25	1,282.46	1,465.68	1,648.88	2,015.30	2,381.72	2,748.14	3,297.76
Norton Fitzwarren	1,100.85	1,284.33	1,467.82	1,651.28	2,018.23	2,385.19	2,752.14	3,302.56
Nynehead	1,096.13	1,278.83	1,461.53	1,644.21	2,009.59	2,374.98	2,740.35	3,288.42
Oake	1,094.67	1,277.12	1,459.58	1,642.01	2,006.90	2,371.80	2,736.69	3,284.02
Otterford	1,083.06	1,263.58	1,444.10	1,624.60	1,985.62	2,346.65	2,707.67	3,249.20
Pitminster	1,094.65	1,277.10	1,459.55	1,641.98	2,006.86	2,371.75	2,736.64	3,283.96
Ruishton/Thornfalcon	1,107.65	1,292.27	1,476.89	1,661.49	2,030.71	2,399.94	2,769.15	3,322.98
Sampford Arundel	1,113.73	1,299.36	1,484.99	1,670.60	2,041.84	2,413.09	2,784.34	3,341.20
Staplegrave	1,090.80	1,272.61	1,454.42	1,636.21	1,999.81	2,363.42	2,727.02	3,272.42
Stawley	1,094.65	1,277.10	1,459.55	1,641.98	2,006.86	2,371.75	2,736.64	3,283.96
Stoke St Gregory	1,110.43	1,295.51	1,480.59	1,665.65	2,035.79	2,405.94	2,776.09	3,331.30
Stoke St Mary	1,093.29	1,275.52	1,457.74	1,639.95	2,004.38	2,368.82	2,733.25	3,279.90
Taunton	1,085.07	1,265.93	1,446.78	1,627.62	1,989.31	2,351.01	2,712.70	3,255.24
Trull	1,101.30	1,284.86	1,468.42	1,651.96	2,019.06	2,386.17	2,753.27	3,303.92
Wellington	1,110.81	1,295.95	1,481.10	1,666.22	2,036.49	2,406.77	2,777.04	3,332.44
Wellington Without	1,097.11	1,279.97	1,462.83	1,645.67	2,011.37	2,377.08	2,742.79	3,291.34
West Bagborough	1,096.65	1,279.43	1,462.22	1,644.98	2,010.53	2,376.09	2,741.64	3,289.96
West Buckland	1,094.95	1,277.46	1,459.96	1,642.44	2,007.42	2,372.42	2,737.40	3,284.88
West Hatch	1,095.81	1,278.46	1,461.10	1,643.73	2,009.00	2,374.28	2,739.55	3,287.46
West Monkton	1,102.22	1,285.93	1,469.65	1,653.34	2,020.75	2,388.16	2,755.57	3,306.68
Wiveliscombe	1,106.82	1,291.30	1,475.78	1,660.24	2,029.18	2,398.13	2,767.07	3,320.48

## APPENDIX C

## TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS

Parish/Town Council	2017/18			2018/19			Council Tax Increase
	Tax Base	Precept Levied	Council Tax Band D	Tax Base	Precept Levied	Council Tax Band D	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Ash Priors	79.67	-	-	81.39	-	-	0.00%
Ashbrittle	94.01	2,053	21.84	92.84	2,080	22.40	2.59%
Bathealton	89.05	650	7.30	87.51	500	5.71	-21.72%
Bishops Hull	1,136.89	21,328	18.76	1,167.36	21,900	18.76	0.00%
Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone	1,131.59	44,132	39.00	1,148.11	49,000	42.68	9.43%
Bradford on Tone	306.68	7,000	22.83	306.67	7,000	22.83	0.00%
Burrowbridge	201.47	5,500	27.30	200.53	6,000	29.92	9.60%
Cheddon Fitzpaine	633.46	18,929	29.88	648.13	19,401	29.93	0.17%
Chipstable	131.97	3,156	23.92	131.32	3,235	24.63	3.00%
Churchstanton	363.47	9,410	25.89	366.53	9,489	25.89	0.00%
Combe Florey	122.69	4,000	32.60	122.41	4,000	32.68	0.23%
Comeytrove	2,019.81	23,915	11.84	2,017.29	23,896	11.85	0.05%
Corfe	133.32	2,750	20.63	134.92	3,000	22.24	7.80%
Cotford St Luke	780.75	20,300	26.00	789.35	23,600	29.90	14.99%
Creech St Michael	1,091.37	46,165	42.30	1,104.06	49,738	45.05	6.50%
Durstun	55.39	600	10.83	57.17	1,300	22.74	109.92%
Fitzhead	118.66	3,600	30.34	117.15	4,706	40.17	32.41%
Halse	140.42	2,600	18.52	139.50	2,600	18.64	0.66%
Hatch Beauchamp	262.82	6,500	24.73	263.63	6,500	24.66	-0.31%
Kingston St Mary	461.36	8,061	17.47	442.68	10,274	23.21	32.83%
Langford Budville	235.31	6,840	29.07	236.78	6,000	25.34	-12.83%
Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	210.12	4,053	19.29	212.72	4,103	19.29	-0.02%
Milverton	584.24	20,000	34.23	579.97	25,000	43.11	25.92%
Neroche	247.67	4,446	17.95	247.79	4,580	18.48	2.96%
North Curry	722.57	17,312	23.96	741.42	18,000	24.28	1.33%
Norton Fitzwarren	1,139.35	30,400	26.68	1,193.69	31,850	26.68	0.00%
Nynehead	165.00	3,300	20.00	173.38	3,400	19.61	-1.95%
Oake	317.06	5,300	16.72	321.69	5,600	17.41	4.14%
Otterford	186.45	-	-	190.57	-	-	0.00%
Pitminster	479.45	7,973	16.63	489.03	8,500	17.38	4.52%
Ruishton/Thornfalcon	584.09	21,210	36.31	592.28	21,852	36.89	1.60%
Sampford Arundel	128.38	6,000	46.74	130.43	6,000	46.00	-1.57%
Staplegrove	806.61	8,500	10.54	809.47	9,400	11.61	10.20%
Stawley	139.45	2,400	17.21	138.08	2,400	17.38	0.99%
Stoke St Gregory	367.69	10,500	28.56	369.85	15,181	41.05	43.74%
Stoke St Mary	208.98	3,236	15.48	210.79	3,236	15.35	-0.86%
Taunton	14,966.85	44,901	3.00	15,077.37	45,534	3.02	0.67%
Trull	1,068.96	29,000	27.13	1,060.12	29,000	27.36	0.83%
Wellington	5,012.27	200,490	40.00	5,132.95	213,633	41.62	4.05%
Wellington Without	307.12	6,150	20.02	306.12	6,450	21.07	5.22%
West Bagborough	166.05	3,500	21.08	171.75	3,500	20.38	-3.32%
West Buckland	432.70	7,720	17.84	438.05	7,815	17.84	-0.01%
West Hatch	135.06	2,330	17.25	133.96	2,563	19.13	10.90%
West Monkton	1,757.15	49,923	28.41	1,973.12	56,707	28.74	1.16%
Wiveliscombe	1,119.72	40,000	35.72	1,136.37	40,500	35.64	-0.23%
Totals	40,843.15	766,134	18.76	41,486.31	819,022	19.74	5.22%