

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the London Borough of Waltham Forest held at Walthamstow Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17 on Thursday, 3 March 2022.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Hather Ali, Liaquat Ali MBE, Umar Ali, Raja Anwar, Tony Bell, Karen Bellamy, Kastriot Berberi, Roy Berg, Emma Best, Rosalind Doré, Paul Douglas, Jacob Edwards, Marion Fitzgerald, Mitchell Goldie, Jenny Gray, Justin Halabi, Nick Halebi, Andy Hemsted, Whitney Ihenachor, Kay Isa, Tim James, Ahsan Khan, Johar Khan, Khevyn Limbajee, Sally Littlejohn, Clyde Loakes, Gerry Lyons, Anna Mbachu, Simon Miller, Louise Mitchell, John Moss, Jonathan O'Dea, Keith Rayner, Zia-Ur Rehman, Catherine Saumarez, Alan Siggers, Alistair Strathern, Richard Sweden, Steve Terry, Vicky Ashworth, Sharon Waldron, Terry Wheeler, Grace Williams and Whilby

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Masood Ahmad, Mohammed Asghar, Naheed Asghar, Elizabeth Baptiste, Clare Coghill, Tom Connor, Shabana Dhedhi, Patrick Edwards, Ros Flowers, Jemma Hemsted, Joe Lacey-Holland, Asim Mahmood, Saima Mahmud and Marie Pye.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Uzma Rasool.

54. ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was Moved by Councillor G Williams and Seconded by Councillor S Terry that Cllr S Littlejohn be appointed Chair for the meeting.

It was also Moved by A Siggers and Seconded by Councillor M Goldie that Cllr T James be appointed Chair for the meeting.

Upon being put to the vote, it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that Cllr S Littlejohn be appointed Chair for the meeting.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded that section 106 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 applied to this meeting, meaning that where, at the time of this meeting, a Councillor who had council tax arrears which had remained unpaid for at least two months must disclose the fact that this section applied to her/him as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and shall not vote on any question in respect

of the setting of the Council's council tax. Failure to do so was a criminal offence. No councillors indicated that this section applied to them.

All councillors had applied in writing for a dispensation from any pecuniary interest in setting council tax under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, in accordance with Appendix 4 of the Council's Code of Conduct. These dispensations were granted by the Monitoring Officer. Therefore councillors were not precluded from participating in the debates and voting on setting the council tax, allowances, pay or indemnity given to members by reason of their being council taxpayers and councillors.

56. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2021

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 December 2021 were approved as a correct record.

57. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL LEADER, CABINET MEMBERS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair began the meeting by sending out thoughts and prayers for everyone affected by the events in Ukraine and drew Council's attention to the Council website which had a number of links to ways that residents can support and show solidarity to the people of Ukraine by donating food or money.

On behalf of the Mayor, the Chair gave thanks to the Mayor's Youth Team for working independently in organising and hosting a sickle cell awareness event.

58. BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX SETTING

It was moved by Cllr G Williams and seconded by C Loakes that the Council

- 1.1 **agree** that the Waltham Forest basic amount of council tax, including the levying bodies, will be increased by 1.99% in 2022/23;
- 1.2 **agree** that the 1% permitted increase for Adult Social Care will be applied bringing the total increase to 2.99% and resulting in a council tax of £1,544.35 per Band D property in 2022/23;
- 1.3 **note** that the element of council tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £395.59 per Band D property in 2022/23 which reflects an increase of £31.93 (8.8%);
- 1.4 **agree** that the overall council tax to be set for 2022/23 will be £1,939.94 per Band D property, which represents an overall increase of 4.12%;
- 1.5 **agree** that the projected budget (as set out in Appendix 1) for 2022/23 of £413.661 million is approved;
- 1.6 **consider and note** the whole of the Strategic Director of Finance & Governance's report made under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in Appendix 6 and, in particular, their determination in the Financial Implications of this report on "the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations, and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves";
- 1.7 **note** the amount of 78,615 (an increase of 1,914 over the previous year), as the Council Tax Base for Waltham Forest for 2022/23, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).

1.8 **agree** that the following amounts be calculated for 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):

1.8.1 **Gross Expenditure**

£932.104 million - being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act;

1.8.2 **Gross Income**

£810.695 million - being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act;

1.8.3 **Net Expenditure**

£121.409 million - being the amount by which the aggregate at 1.8.1 above exceeds the aggregate at 1.8.2 above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its council tax requirement for the year;

1.8.4 **LBWF Basic Amount of Council Tax including the Adult Social Care Precept**

£1,544.35 - being the amount at 1.8.3 above, divided by 78,615 (the Council Tax Base), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year and includes the Adult Social Care Precept of £182.68;

1.8.5 **Valuation Bands**

| Band | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Basic | 907.77 | 1,059.08 | 1,210.37 | 1,361.67 | 1,664.26 | 1,966.86 | 2,269.44 | 2,723.34 |
| Social Care | 121.79 | 142.08 | 162.38 | 182.68 | 223.28 | 263.87 | 304.47 | 365.36 |
| Total LBWF | 1,029.56 | 1,201.16 | 1,372.75 | 1,544.35 | 1,887.54 | 2,230.73 | 2,573.91 | 3,088.70 |

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 1.8.4 above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the 1992 Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the 1992 Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

1.8.6 **Note** that for 2022/23 the Greater London Assembly (GLA) has stated (with formal ratification on 24 February 2022) that the following amounts in precepts be issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

| Band | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Total | 263.73 | 307.68 | 351.64 | 395.59 | 483.50 | 571.41 | 659.32 | 791.18 |

1.8.7 **agree**, that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 1.8.5 and 1.8.6 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 sets the following amounts of council tax for 2022/23

for each of the categories of dwellings shown:

| Band | A £ | B £ | C £ | D £ | E £ | F £ | G £ | H £ |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total | 1,293.29 | 1,508.84 | 1,724.39 | 1,939.94 | 2,371.04 | 2,802.14 | 3,233.23 | 3,879.88 |

- 1.8.8 **note** that the relevant basic amount of council tax for a Band D property (excluding precepts but now including levies) for the financial year 2022/23 be £1,544.35, which reflects a 1.99% increase, plus 1% Adult Social Care precept permitted increase for 2022/23 and therefore does not require a referendum;
- 1.8.9 **agree** that the Strategic Director of Finance & Governance and the officers nominated by him be authorised to finalise the necessary publicity as required by Section 38 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and to promote the first day of the month instalment dates, and the six date options within each month for Direct Debit payers, as previously agreed;
- 1.8.10 **note** that in order to ensure the required period of notice is given, council taxpayers will be requested to pay their instalments on the first of each month commencing on 1 April 2021;
- 1.8.11 **agree** the Capital Programme for 2021 - 2027 as set out in Appendix 8 of the report;
- 1.8.12 **note** Appendix 6 (Section 25 report) stating that the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance considers the proposed budget and level of reserves to be adequate for 2022/23;
- 1.8.13 **agree** the reserves strategy at Appendix 3 and note that the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has delegated responsibility for the use of reserves throughout the year;
- 1.8.14 **agree** in accordance with The Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 to continue to maintain the maximum percentage allowed by current legislation for the empty homes premium from 1 April 2021;
- 1.8.15 **agree** the Council's entry into a "8 Authority" business rates pool for 2022/23 only;
- 1.8.16 **note** the Capital Investment Strategy for 2021/22 to 2026/27 as shown in Appendix 9.
- 1.8.17 **agree** amended registrars fees and charges for 2022/23 as shown in Appendix 10.
- 1.8.18 **agree** £2 million funding to be made available from the earmarked reserves for the Families in Housing Need programme.
- 1.8.19 **note** that all specific Families in Housing Need programme funding from the £2 million will be requested via the monthly finance monitor at Cabinet.
- 1.8.20 **Note** the referral from Budget and Performance Scrutiny to Council in respect of:
- That the Committee supports the proposal for the Council to join the eight-borough Business Rates pool for 2022/23;
 - That the Committee notes the service pressure on Adult Social Care and; that the Committee supports the proposal to raise the Adult Social Care precept by the maximum of 1%;
 - That the Committee supports the Council's funding and lobbying commitments within the Fair Deal for Waltham Forest programme (previously Reset); that it notes the allocated funding to support the reduction of hate crime and violence against women and girls;

- That the Committee supports the proposal to allocate £2 million for the Families in Housing Need Programme;
- That the Committee has identified the following key external risks: A one-year funding settlement from central Government, leaving uncertainty for budget-setting after 2022/23; and Further delay to the Business Rates reset, originally due to occur in 2020.

It was then moved by Councillor T. James and seconded by Councillor E. Best that the motion be amended as follows:

(The scored through text will be removed. The text in Red will be added)

2.1 **agree** that the Waltham Forest basic amount of council tax, including the levying bodies, will be increased by ~~0 4.99%~~ in 2022/23;

2.2 **agree** that the 1% permitted increase for Adult Social Care will be applied bringing the total increase to ~~1 2.99%~~ and resulting in a council tax of ~~£1,544.35~~ **1,514.51** per Band D property in 2022/23;

2.3 **notes** that the element of council tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £395.59 per Band D property in 2022/23 which reflects an increase of £31.93 (8 2.4 agree that the overall council tax to be set for 2022/23 will be ~~£1,939.94~~ **1,910.10** per Band D property, which represents an overall increase of ~~4.12~~**2.52**%;

2.5 **agree** that the projected budget (~~as set out in Appendix 1~~) for 2022/23 of ~~£413.664~~ **410.043** million is approved.

The following alterations will be made to the Budget:

rejecting the new comms post - £100K

reducing communications budget - £570K.

The MTFs projects an extra £3m for Social Care to account for the increase in population but allocates £4m. Reduce this allocation to £3.5m by a £500K base reduction in Families Regeneration, Planning and Delivery functions are 80% self funded with a 20% contribution from general fund. Increase self funding - £550K

£300K from reserves. This keeps the reserve level between the expected 10-15 million while investigating savings to replace - £300K

Reductions in Members allowances and SRAs - 400K

Monies to reimburse AGEUK as a result of council's actions +£74K;

2.6 **considers and notes** the whole of the Strategic Director of Finance & Governance's report made under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in Appendix 6 and, in particular, their determination in the Financial Implications of this report on "the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations, and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves";

2.7 **notes** the amount of 78,615 (an increase of 1,914 over the previous year), as the Council Tax Base for Waltham Forest for 2022/23, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).

2.8 **agree** that the following amounts be calculated for 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):

2.8.1 **Gross Expenditure**

~~£932.104~~ **930.608** million - being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act;

2.8.2 **Gross Income**

£811.545 million - being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act;

2.8.3 Net Expenditure

£121.409 **119.063** million - being the amount by which the aggregate at 2.8.1 above exceeds the aggregate at 2.8.2 above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its council tax requirement for the year;

2.8.4 LBWF Basic Amount of Council Tax including the Adult Social Care Precept

£1,544.35 **1,514.46** - being the amount at 2.8.3 above, divided by 78,615 (the Council Tax Base), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year and includes the Adult Social Care Precept of £182.68;

2.8.5 Valuation Bands

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 2.8.4 above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the 1992 Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the 1992 Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

| Band | A £ | B £ | C £ | D £ | E £ | F £ | G £ | H £ |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Basic | 887.88 | 1035.87 | 1183.85 | 1331.83 | 1627.79 | 1923.75 | 2219.71 | 2663.66 |
| Social Care | 121.79 | 142.08 | 162.38 | 182.68 | 223.28 | 263.87 | 304.47 | 365.36 |
| Total LBWF | 1009.67 | 1177.95 | 1346.23 | 1514.51 | 1851.07 | 2187.62 | 2524.18 | 3029.02 |

2.8.6 **notes** that for 2022/23 the Greater London Assembly (GLA) has stated (with formal ratification on 24 February 2022) that the following amounts in precepts be issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

| Band | A £ | B £ | C £ | D £ | E £ | F £ | G £ | H £ |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 263.73 | 307.68 | 351.64 | 395.59 | 483.50 | 571.41 | 659.32 | 791.18 |

2.8.7 **agree**, that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.8.5 and 2.8.6 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 sets the following amounts of council tax for 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown:

| Band | A £ | B £ | C £ | D £ | E £ | F £ | G £ | H £ |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total | 1273.40 | 1485.63 | 1697.87 | 1910.10 | 2334.57 | 2758.03 | 3183.50 | 3820.20 |

2.8.8 **notes** that the relevant basic amount of council tax for a Band D property (excluding precepts but now including levies) for the financial year 2022/23 be £1,544.35 **1,514.51**, which reflects a ~~4.99~~ **0%** increase, plus 1% Adult Social Care precept permitted increase for 2022/23 and therefore does not require a referendum;

2.8.9 **agree** that the Strategic Director of Finance & Governance and the officers nominated by him be authorised to finalise the necessary publicity as required by Section 38 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and to promote the first day of the month instalment dates, and the six date options within each month for Direct Debit payers, as

previously agreed;

2.8.10 **note** that in order to ensure the required period of notice is given, council taxpayers will be requested to pay their instalments on the first of each month commencing on 1 April 2021;

2.8.11 **agree** the Capital Programme for 2021 - 2027 as set out in Appendix 8;

2.8.12 **note** Appendix 6 (Section 25 report) stating that the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance considers the proposed budget and level of reserves to be adequate for 2022/23;

2.8.13 **agree** the reserves strategy at Appendix 3 and note that the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has delegated responsibility for the use of reserves throughout the year;

2.8.14 **agree** in accordance with The Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 to continue to maintain the maximum percentage allowed by current legislation for the empty homes premium from 1 April 2021;

2.8.15 **agree** the Council's entry into a "8 Authority" business rates pool for 2022/23 only;

2.8.16 **note** the Capital Investment Strategy for 2021/22 to 2026/27 as shown in Appendix 9.

2.8.17 **agree** amended registrars fees and charges for 2022/23 as shown in Appendix 10.

2.8.18 **agree** £2 million funding to be made available from the earmarked reserves for the Families in Housing Need programme.

2.8.19 **note** that all specific Families in Housing Need programme funding from the £2 million will be requested via the monthly finance monitor at Cabinet.

2.8.20 **Note** the referral from Budget and Performance Scrutiny to Council in respect of:

- That the Committee supports the proposal for the Council to join the eight borough Business Rates pool for 2022/23;
- That the Committee notes the service pressure on Adult Social Care and; that the Committee supports the proposal to raise the Adult Social Care precept by the maximum of 1%;
- That the Committee supports the Council's funding and lobbying commitments within the Fair Deal for Waltham Forest programme (previously Reset); that it notes the allocated funding to support the reduction of hate crime and violence against women and girls;
- That the Committee supports the proposal to allocate £2 million for the Families in Housing Need Programme;
- That the Committee has identified the following key external risks: A one year funding settlement from central Government, leaving uncertainty for budget-setting after 2022/23; and Further delay to the Business Rates reset, originally due to occur in 2020.

There was debate, in which Councillors Bellamy, Moss, Waldron, Rayner, Siggers, Limbajee spoke, following which Councillor Williams exercised her right to reply.

Following debate a recorded vote was held in accordance with Paragraph 17.6 of Council Procedure Rules.

Vote on the amendment in the names of Councillor T James and Councillor E Best

For the Motion

Councillors: M. Fitzgerald, R Berg, E Best, M Goldie, J Halabi, N Halebi, A Hemsted, K Isa, T James, J Moss, C Saumarez and A Siggers

Against the Motion

Councillors: S Littlejohn, S Terry, H Ali, L Ali, U Ali, R Anwar, T Bell, K Berberi, T Connor, R Doré, P Douglas, J Edwards, J Gray, W Ihenachor, A Khan, J Khan, Limbajee, S Littlejohn, C Loakes, G Lyons, A Mbachu, S Miller, L Mitchell, J O’Dea, K Rayner, Z Rehman, A Strathern, R Sweden, V te Velde, S Waldron, T Wheeler, J Whilby and G Williams.

Abstentions

None.

As a result of voting the Chair declared the motion in the names of Councillor T James and Councillor E Best **LOST**.

Vote on the substantive motion in the names of Councillor G Williams and Councillor C Loakes

For the Motion

Councillors: S Littlejohn, S Terry, H Ali, L Ali, U Ali, R Anwar, T Bell, K Berberi, T Connor, R Doré, P Douglas, J Edwards, J Gray, W Ihenachor, A Khan, J Khan, Limbajee, S Littlejohn, C Loakes, G Lyons, A Mbachu, S Miller, L Mitchell, J O’Dea, K Rayner, Z Rehman, A Strathern, R Sweden, V te Velde, S Waldron, T Wheeler, J Whilby and G Williams.

Against the Motion

Councillors: M. Fitzgerald, R Berg, E Best, M Goldie, J Halabi, N Halebi, A Hemsted, K Isa, T James, J Moss, C Saumarez and A Siggers

Abstentions

None.

As a result of voting the Chair declared the motion in the names of Councillor G Williams and Councillor C Loakes **CARRIED**.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that for the reasons set out in the report, Council:

- 1.1 **agreed** that the Waltham Forest basic amount of council tax, including the levying bodies, will be increased by 1.99% in 2022/23;
- 1.2 **agreed** that the 1% permitted increase for Adult Social Care will be applied bringing the total increase to 2.99% and resulting in a council tax of £1,544.35 per Band D property in 2022/23;
- 1.3 **noted** that the element of council tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £395.59 per Band D property in 2022/23 which reflects an increase of £31.93 (8.8%);
- 1.4 **agreed** that the overall council tax to be set for 2022/23 will be £1,939.94 per Band D property, which represents an overall increase of 4.12%;
- 1.5 **agreed** that the projected budget (as set out in Appendix 1) for 2022/23 of £413.661 million is approved;
- 1.6 **considered and noted** the whole of the Strategic Director of Finance & Governance’s report made under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in Appendix 6 and, in particular, their determination in the Financial Implications of this report on “the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations, and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves”;

1.7 **noted** the amount of 78,615 (an increase of 1,914 over the previous year), as the Council Tax Base for Waltham Forest for 2022/23, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).

1.8 **agreed** that the following amounts be calculated for 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):

1.8.1 **Gross Expenditure**

£932.104 million - being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act;

1.8.2 **Gross Income**

£810.695 million - being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act;

1.8.3 **Net Expenditure**

£121.409 million - being the amount by which the aggregate at 1.8.1 above exceeds the aggregate at 1.8.2 above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its council tax requirement for the year;

1.8.4 **LBWF Basic Amount of Council Tax including the Adult Social Care Precept**

£1,544.35 - being the amount at 1.8.3 above, divided by 78,615 (the Council Tax Base), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year and includes the Adult Social Care Precept of £182.68;

1.8.5 **Valuation Bands**

| Band | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Basic | 907.77 | 1,059.08 | 1,210.37 | 1,361.67 | 1,664.26 | 1,966.86 | 2,269.44 | 2,723.34 |
| Social Care | 121.79 | 142.08 | 162.38 | 182.68 | 223.28 | 263.87 | 304.47 | 365.36 |
| Total LBWF | 1,029.56 | 1,201.16 | 1,372.75 | 1,544.35 | 1,887.54 | 2,230.73 | 2,573.91 | 3,088.70 |

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 1.8.4 above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the 1992 Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the 1992 Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

1.8.6 **noted** that for 2022/23 the Greater London Assembly (GLA) has stated (with formal ratification on 24 February 2022) that the following amounts in precepts be issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

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| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Total | 263.73 | 307.68 | 351.64 | 395.59 | 483.50 | 571.41 | 659.32 | 791.18 |

1.8.7 **agreed**, that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 1.8.5 and 1.8.6 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 sets the following amounts of council tax for 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown:

| Band | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Total | 1,293.29 | 1,508.84 | 1,724.39 | 1,939.94 | 2,371.04 | 2,802.14 | 3,233.23 | 3,879.88 |

1.8.8 **noted** that the relevant basic amount of council tax for a Band D property (excluding precepts but now including levies) for the financial year 2022/23 be £1,544.35, which reflects a 1.99% increase, plus 1% Adult Social Care precept permitted increase for 2022/23 and therefore does not require a referendum;

1.8.9 **agreed** that the Strategic Director of Finance & Governance and the officers nominated by him be authorised to finalise the necessary publicity as required by Section 38 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and to promote the first day of the month instalment dates, and the six date options within each month for Direct Debit payers, as previously agreed;

1.8.10 **noted** that in order to ensure the required period of notice is given, council taxpayers will be requested to pay their instalments on the first of each month commencing on 1 April 2021;

1.8.11 **agreed** the Capital Programme for 2021 - 2027 as set out in Appendix 8 of the report;

1.8.12 **noted** Appendix 6 (Section 25 report) stating that the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance considers the proposed budget and level of reserves to be adequate for 2022/23;

1.8.13 **agreed** the reserves strategy at Appendix 3 and note that the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has delegated responsibility for the use of reserves throughout the year;

1.8.14 **agreed** in accordance with The Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 to continue to maintain the maximum percentage allowed by current legislation for the empty homes premium from 1 April 2021;

1.8.15 **agreed** the Council's entry into a "8 Authority" business rates pool for 2022/23 only;

1.8.16 **noted** the Capital Investment Strategy for 2021/22 to 2026/27 as shown in Appendix 9.

1.8.17 **agreed** amended registrars fees and charges for 2022/23 as shown in Appendix 10.

1.8.18 **agreed** £2 million funding to be made available from the earmarked reserves for the Families in Housing Need programme.

1.8.19 **noted** that all specific Families in Housing Need programme funding from the £2 million will be requested via the monthly finance monitor at Cabinet.

1.8.20 **Noted** the referral from Budget and Performance Scrutiny to Council in respect of:

- That the Committee supports the proposal for the Council to join the eight-borough Business Rates pool for 2022/23;
- That the Committee notes the service pressure on Adult Social Care and; that the Committee supports the proposal to raise the Adult Social Care

precept by the maximum of 1%;

- That the Committee supports the Council's funding and lobbying commitments within the Fair Deal for Waltham Forest programme (previously Reset); that it notes the allocated funding to support the reduction of hate crime and violence against women and girls;
- That the Committee supports the proposal to allocate £2 million for the Families in Housing Need Programme;
- That the Committee has identified the following key external risks: A one-year funding settlement from central Government, leaving uncertainty for budget-setting after 2022/23; and Further delay to the Business Rates reset, originally due to occur in 2020.

59. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23

It was Moved by Councillor Williams and Seconded by Councillor Loakes and that the Council:

- (a) **adopt** the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23; and
- (b) **note** the government review of the Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payments Regulations 2020

There was debate, in which Councillor Best, spoke, following which Councillor Williams exercised her right to reply.

On being put to the vote, the motion was **CARRIED**.

60. CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

It was moved by Councillor A Strathern and seconded by Councillor A Khan, that the Council **note** the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board 2020-21.

There was debate, in which Councillor T James spoke.

On being put to the vote, the motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

61. NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN

It was moved by Councillor S Miller and seconded by Councillor Waldron, that the Council **adopt** the North London Waste Plan as part of the statutory development plan for the borough.

There was debate in which Councillors E Best and J Halabi spoke, following which Councillor S Miller exercised his right of reply. On being put to the vote, the motion was **CARRIED**.

62. 2021-22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT

It was Moved by Councillor K Rayner and Seconded by Councillor S Terry and

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the Council **agree and note** the treasury management activities from 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021 as detailed in 2021-22 Treasury Management Mid -Year Report.

63. 2020-21 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW

It was Moved by Councillor K Rayner and Seconded by Councillor S Terry and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the Council **approve** the content of Treasury Management activities and performance against targets for financial year 2020-21 as detailed in the report.

64. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

It was Moved by Councillor K Rayner and Seconded by Councillor S Terry and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the Council:

- a) **Approve** the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Report 2022-23.
- b) **Approve** the MRP strategy for 2022-23.
- c) **Approve** the Prudential Indicators as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy, which demonstrate that the Council's capital investment plans are affordable prudent and sustainable.
- d) **Agree** the approval that Strategic Director Finance and Governance (S151 Officer) may approve the pre-payment of employer Local Government pension scheme contributions for a period of up to three years.

65. CONSTITUTION UPDATE - CONTRACT PROCEDURES RULES

It was Moved by Councillor S Terry and Seconded by Councillor M Fitzgerald and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the Council **adopt** the new Contract Procedure Rules to take effect from 14 March 2022.

66. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

It was Moved by Councillor S Terry and Seconded by Councillor M Fitzgerald and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the Council **approve** opting-in to the sector led 'appointing person' regime operated by Public Sector Audit Appointments for the appointment of the external auditor (including Pension Fund) for the years 2023-28.

67. AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-21

It was Moved by Councillor S Terry and Seconded by Councillor M Fitzgerald and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the Council **note** the Audit and Governance Committee annual report.

68. DRAFT MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2022/23

It was Moved by Councillor S Terry and Seconded by Councillor M Fitzgerald and

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the Council:

- (a) **approve** the draft meetings programme for 2022-23 as set out in Appendix A of the report; and
- (b) **note** that the programme will be finalised at Annual Council on 25 May 2022.

69. APPOINTMENTS

None.

The Council rose at 9.06 pm having completed its business.