

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, 29 February 2024.

PRESENT:

Mayor: Councillor Roy Berg

Councillors: Afzal Akram, Raja Anwar, Naheed Asghar, Vicky Ashworth, Elizabeth Baptiste, Tony Bell, Karen Bellamy, Kastriot Berberi, Marsela Berberi, Roy Berg, Emma Best, Catherine Deakin, Rosalind Doré, Paul Douglas, Shabana Dhedhi, Rhiannon Eglin, Marion Fitzgerald, Kizzy Gardiner, Mitchell Goldie, Jenny Gray, Kisha Green, Justin Halabi, Jemma Hemsted, Crystal Ihenachor, Whitney Ihenachor, Kay Isa, Tim James, Ahsan Khan, Johar Khan, Kira Lewis, Khevyn Limbajee, Sally Littlejohn, Clyde Loakes, Gerry Lyons, Zafran Malik, Anna Mbachu, Miriam Mirwitch, Louise Mitchell, John Moss, Sam O'Connell, Jonathan O'Dea, Yusuf Patel, Jack Phipps, Marie Pye, Caramel Quin, Uzma Rasool, Keith Rayner, Sebastian Salek, Richard Sweden, Steve Terry, Katy Thompson, Sharon Waldron, Terry Wheeler, Grace Williams and Jennifer Whilby

58. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tom Connor, Andrew Dixon, Sazimet Paltra Imre and Catherine Saumarez.

59. 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.

60. Minutes of the council meeting held on 14th December 2023

The minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 14 December 2023 were approved as a correct record.

61. Announcements from the Mayor, Council Leader, Cabinet Members and Chief Executive

The Mayor spoke of the events he had recently attended including Waltham Forest Twinning Association - Tea & CHAT at William Morris gallery; 100th Birthday visit to see Sophia Clark at Albany Nursing Home; Holocaust Memorial Event; and London Mayors Association Annual Dinner

The Mayor also gave information on his forthcoming charity events which included hosting the Mayor's Charity Appeal on Thursday 28th March 2024 via School Fundraising and a Charity Quiz Night on 17th May 2024.

Cllr Asghar, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing made an announcement about the Healthy Start Schemes.

62. Public statements

The Director of Governance and Law read out a statement on behalf of Richard Ashden, Chair of Trustees at South Chingford Community Library requesting that the Council reconsider its decision not to renew the lease on their current premises.

63. Budget and Council Tax Setting 2024/25

It was moved by Cllr Douglas and seconded by Cllr Williams that the Council

- 1.1** **agree** that the Waltham Forest basic amount of council tax, including the levying bodies, will be increased by 2.99% in 2024/25;
- 1.2** **agree** that the 2% permitted increase for Adult Social Care will be applied bringing the total increase to 4.99% and resulting in a council tax of £1,702.32 per Band D property in 2024/25;
- 1.3** **note** that the element of council tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £471.40 per Band D property in 2024/25 which reflects an increase of £37.26 (8.58%);
- 1.4** **agree** that the overall council tax to be set for 2024/25 will be £2,173.72 per Band D property, which represents an overall increase of 5.75%;
- 1.5** **agree** that the projected budget (as set out in Appendix 1) for 2024/25 of £474.984 million is approved;
- 1.6** **consider and note** the whole of the Strategic Director of Resources report made under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in Appendix 2 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 81,322 (an increase of 1,201 over the previous year), as the Council Tax Base for the Council for 2024/25, 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 to be approved for 2024/25 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Act 1992, as amended (the Act);

1.8.1 Gross Expenditure

£1,044.581 million – being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items in Sections 31A (2) of the Act;

1.8.2 Gross Income

£906.145 million – being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items in Sections 31A (3) of the Act;

1.8.3 Net Expenditure

£138.436 million – being the amounts by which the aggregate at 1.8.1, 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

£1,702.32 – being the amount at 1.8.3 above, divided by 81,322 (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 £246.00.

1.8.5 Valuation Bands

Band		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Basic	£	970.88	1,132.70	1,294.51	1,456.32	1,779.94	2,103.58	2,427.20	2,912.64
Social Care	£	164.00	191.33	218.67	246.00	300.67	355.33	410.00	492.00
Total LBWF	£	1,134.88	1,324.03	1,513.18	1,702.32	2,080.61	2,458.91	2,837.20	3,404.64

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's for 2024/25 the Greater London Assembly (GLA) has stated that (with formal ratification on 22 February 2024) that the following amounts in precepts be issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below;

Band		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Total	£	314.27	366.64	419.02	471.40	576.16	680.91	785.67	942.80

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 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown:

Band		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Total	£	1,449.15	1,690.67	1,932.20	2,173.72	2,656.77	3,139.82	3,622.87	4,347.44

- 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 2024/25 be £1,702.32, which reflects a 2.99% increase, plus 2% Adult Social Care precept permitted increase for 2024/25 and therefore does not require a referendum;
- 1.9 agree** that the Strategic Director of Resources 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;
- 1.10 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 2024;
- 1.11 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 home's premium from 1 April 2024;
- 1.12 agree** in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Clause 76) to charge a premium of 100% on dwellings that have been empty for one year from 1 April 2024;
- 1.13 agree** in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Clause 77) to give notice of the intention to charge a premium of 100% on dwellings which are "substantially furnished" but have no "resident" (e.g., second homes) from 1 April 2025;
- 1.14 agree** for the purposes of calculating entitlement to Housing Benefit, any war disablement pension, war widow's or war widower's pension which would otherwise be treated as income for the purposes of calculating entitlement to housing benefit should be disregarded in its entirety.
- 1.15 agree** to the inclusion of collection fund surpluses and deficits (as per paragraphs 6.21 and 6.22) within the budget from 1st April 2024 which have previously been transferred to the taxation fluctuation reserve;
- 1.16 agree** the Capital Programme for 2023-2034 as set out in Appendix 9;
- 1.17 agree** the reserves strategy at Appendix 6 and note that the Strategic Director of Resources has delegated responsibility for the use of reserves throughout the year;
- 1.18 agree** the amended fees and charges for 2024/25 as shown in Appendix 5;

Amendment A: It was then moved by Councillor Best and seconded by Councillor James that the motion be amended as follows by deleting the words and figures struck through and adding the words and figures in red:

That Council;

2.1 agrees that the Waltham Forest basic amount of council tax, including the levying bodies, will be increased by ~~2.99%~~ **0%** in 2024/25;

2.2 agrees that the 2% permitted increase for Adult Social Care will be applied bringing the total increase to ~~4.99%~~ **2%** and resulting in a council tax of ~~£1,702.32~~ **1,653.84** per Band D property in 2024/25;

2.3 notes that the element of council tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £471.40 per Band D property in 2024/25 which reflects an increase of £37.26 (8.58%);

2.4 agrees that the overall council tax to be set for 2024/25 will be ~~£2,473.72~~ **2,125.24** per Band D property, which represents an overall increase of ~~5.75~~ **3.39**%;

2.5 agrees that the projected budget (as set out in Appendix 1) for 2024/25 of ~~£474.969~~ **471,027** million is approved **with the following amendments:**

Reduce Agency Staff Budget by £100,000.

Reduce Furniture and Equipment budget by £1,600,000.

Reduce Office Expenses budget by £150,000.

Reduce Fees and Services Budget by £1,892,000.

Reduce SRAs budget by £200,000;

2.6 considers and notes the whole of the Strategic Director of Resources report made under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in Appendix 2 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 81,322 (an increase of 1,201 over the previous year), as the Council Tax Base for the Council for 2024/25, 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 agrees that the following amounts to be approved for 2024/25 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Act 1992, as amended (the Act);

2.8.1 Gross Expenditure

~~£1,043.416~~ **1,039.474** million – being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items in Sections 31A (2) of the Act;

2.8.2 Gross Income

£904.980 million – being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items in Sections 31A (3) of the Act;

2.8.3 Net Expenditure

~~£138.436~~ **134,494** million – being the amounts by which the aggregate at 2.8.1, 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

~~£1,702.32~~ **1,653.84** – being the amount at 2.8.3 above, divided by 81,322 (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

£246.00.

2.8.5 Valuation Bands

Band		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Basic	£	970.88	1,132.70	1,294.51	1,456.32	1,779.94	2,103.58	2,427.20	2,912.64
		938.56	1,094.99	1,251.42	1,407.84	1,720.69	2,033.55	2,346.40	2,815.68
Social Care	£	164.00	191.33	218.67	246.00	300.67	355.33	410.00	492.00
Total LBWF	£	1,134.88	1,324.03	1,513.18	1,702.32	2,080.61	2,458.91	2,837.20	3,404.64
		1,102.56	1,286.32	1,470.09	1,653.84	2,021.36	2,388.88	2,756.40	3,307.68

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;

2.8.6 notes that's for 2024/25 the Greater London Assembly (GLA) has stated that (with formal ratification on 22 February 2024) that the following amounts in precepts be issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below;

Band		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Total	£	314.27	366.64	419.02	471.40	576.16	680.91	785.67	942.80

2.8.7 agrees, 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 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown:

Band		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Total	£	1,449.15	1,690.67	1,932.20	2,173.72	2,656.77	3,139.82	3,622.87	4,347.44
		1,416.83	1,652.96	1,889.11	2,125.24	2,597.52	3,069.79	3,542.07	4,250.48

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 2024/25 be £1,653.84 1,702.32, which reflects a 2.99 0% increase, plus 2% Adult Social Care precept permitted increase for 2024/25 and therefore does not require a referendum;

2.8.9 agrees that the Strategic Director of Resources 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 2024;

2.9 agrees in accordance with the Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 to continue to maintain the maximum percentage allowed by current legislation for the empty home's premium from 1 April 2024;

2.10 agrees in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Clause 76) to charge a premium of 100% on dwellings that have been empty for one year from 1 April 2024;

2.11 agrees in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Clause 77) to give notice of the intention to charge a premium of 100% on dwellings which are "substantially furnished" but have no "resident" (e.g., second homes) from 1 April 2025;

2.12 agrees for the purposes of calculating entitlement to Housing Benefit, any war disablement pension, war widow's or war widower's pension which would otherwise be treated as income for the purposes of calculating entitlement to housing benefit should be disregarded in its entirety.

2.13 agrees to the inclusion of collection fund surpluses and deficits (as per paragraphs 6.21 and 6.22) within the budget from 1st April 2024 which have previously been transferred to the taxation fluctuation reserve;

2.14 agrees the Capital Programme for 2023-2034 as set out in Appendix 9;

2.15 agrees the reserves strategy at Appendix 6 and note that the Strategic Director of Resources has delegated responsibility for the use of reserves throughout the year;

2.16 agrees the amended fees and charges for 2024/25 as shown in Appendix 5;

2.17 agrees funding of £2.518 million, as the initial mobilisation investment, to drive forward work across the 12 identified transformation areas. The purpose of this investment is to; (1) begin to unlock any immediate savings opportunities related to each programme, (2) mobilise each programme through an initial discovery and design phase, including the development of robust business cases targeted at broader financial sustainability, and (3) ensure overall leadership and assurance across the programmes to enable monitoring and tracking of benefits and impact;

2.18 Reconfirms that on winding up of the Mears JV (More Homes Waltham Forest LLP) once any outstanding debt financing relating to the assets has been cleared the Balance of the Capital Return Allocation be transferred or paid to the London Borough of Waltham Forest Pension Fund. This is required to be reconfirmed annually within the budget report by the fund actuaries noting the original decision was made in February 2019 Council meeting.

Amendment B: It was then moved by Councillor Akram and seconded by Councillor Moss that the motion be amended by adding the following words in red:

2.5 agrees that the projected budget (as set out in Appendix 1) for 2024/25 of £474.969 million is approved **with the following amendment:**

Council agrees to take £108,350 from General Fund Balances to pay for the purchase of an extra CCTV Camera for each ward across the Borough with a budget for an average of 3 moves per camera per year.

In order to not change the overall budget or the level of Council Tax the ongoing costs of £101,640 will be paid for by a reduction of the same amount in the SRA Budget;

Amendment C: It was then moved by Councillor Hemsted and seconded by Councillor O'Connell that the motion be amended by adding the following words in red **as follows**

Cllr Jemma Hemsted will propose and Cllr Sam O'Connell will second that recommendation be amended by adding the following words in red:

2.5 agrees that the projected budget (as set out in Appendix 1) for 2024/25 of £474.969 million is approved **with the following amendment:**

Council agrees to use £80,000 from the Leaders Priority Fund to fund South Chingford Community Library to ensure that South Chingford retains Library provision.

There was debate, in which Councillors Rayner, Deakin, Mitchell, Isa, Loakes, Limbajee, Halabi, Rasool, Goldie and A Khan spoke, following which Councillor Douglas exercised his 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 Best and Councillor James

For the Motion

Councillors: A Akram, E Best, M Fitzgerald, M Goldie, J Halabi, J Hemsted, K Isa, T James, J Moss, S O'Connell

Against the Motion

Councillors: S Ali-Rahman, R Anwar, N Asghar, V Ashworth, E Baptiste, T Bell, K Bellamy, K Berberi, M Berberi, C Deakin, S Dhedhi, A Dixon, R Doré, P Douglas, R Eglin, K Gardiner, J Gray, K Green, C Ihenachor, W Ihenachor, A Khan, J Khan, K Lewis, K Limbajee, S Littlejohn, C Loakes, G Lyons, Z Malik, A Mbachu, M Mirwitch, L Mitchell, J O'Dea, Y Patel, J, Phipps, M Pye, C Quin, U Rasool, K Rayner, S Salek, R Sweden, S Terry, K Thompson, S Waldron, T Wheeler, J Whilby and G Williams.

Abstentions

None

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

Vote on the amendment in the names of Councillor Akram and Councillor Moss

For the Motion

Councillors: A Akram, E Best, M Fitzgerald, M Goldie, J Halabi, J Hemsted, K Isa, T

James, J Moss, S O'Connell

Against the Motion

Councillors: S Ali-Rahman, R Anwar, N Asghar, V Ashworth, E Baptiste, T Bell, K Bellamy, K Berberi, M Berberi, C Deakin, S Dhedhi, A Dixon, R Doré, P Douglas, R Eglin, K Gardiner, J Gray, K Green, C Ihenachor, W Ihenachor, A Khan, J Khan, K Lewis, K Limbajee, S Littlejohn, C Loakes, G Lyons, Z Malik, A Mbachu, M Mirwitch, L Mitchell, J O'Dea, Y Patel, J, Phipps, M Pye, C Quin, U Rasool, K Rayner, S Salek, R Sweden, S Terry, K Thompson, S Waldron, T Wheeler, J Whilby and G Williams.

Abstentions

None

As a result of voting the Mayor declared the motion in the names of Councillor Akram and Councillor Moss **LOST**.

Vote on the amendment in the names of Councillor Hemsted and Councillor O'Connell

For the Motion

Councillors: A Akram, E Best, M Fitzgerald, M Goldie, J Halabi, J Hemsted, K Isa, T James, J Moss, S O'Connell

Against the Motion

Councillors: S Ali-Rahman, R Anwar, N Asghar, V Ashworth, E Baptiste, T Bell, K Bellamy, K Berberi, M Berberi, C Deakin, S Dhedhi, A Dixon, R Doré, P Douglas, R Eglin, K Gardiner, J Gray, K Green, C Ihenachor, W Ihenachor, A Khan, J Khan, K Lewis, K Limbajee, S Littlejohn, C Loakes, G Lyons, Z Malik, A Mbachu, M Mirwitch, L Mitchell, J O'Dea, Y Patel, J, Phipps, M Pye, C Quin, U Rasool, K Rayner, S Salek, R Sweden, S Terry, K Thompson, S Waldron, T Wheeler, J Whilby and G Williams.

Abstentions

None

As a result of voting the Mayor declared the motion in the names of Councillor Hemsted and Councillor O'Connell **LOST**.

Vote on the substantive motion in the names of Councillor Douglas and Councillor Williams.

For the Motion

Councillors: S Ali-Rahman, R Anwar, N Asghar, V Ashworth, E Baptiste, T Bell, K Bellamy, K Berberi, M Berberi, C Deakin, S Dhedhi, A Dixon, R Doré, P Douglas, R Eglin, K Gardiner, J Gray, K Green, C Ihenachor, W Ihenachor, A Khan, J Khan, K Lewis, K Limbajee, S Littlejohn, C Loakes, G Lyons, Z Malik, A Mbachu, M Mirwitch, L Mitchell, J O'Dea, Y Patel, J, Phipps, M Pye, C Quin, U Rasool, K Rayner, S Salek, R Sweden, S Terry, K Thompson, S Waldron, T Wheeler, J Whilby and G Williams.

Against the Motion

Councillors: A Akram, E Best, M Fitzgerald, M Goldie, J Halabi, J Hemsted, K Isa, T James, J Moss, S O'Connell

Abstentions

None

As a result of voting the Mayor declared the motion in the names of Councillor Douglas and Councillor Williams **CARRIED**. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that for the reasons set out in the report, that the Council

1.1 agreed that the Waltham Forest basic amount of council tax, including the levying bodies, will be increased by 2.99% in 2024/25;

1.2 agreed that the 2% permitted increase for Adult Social Care will be applied bringing the total increase to 4.99% and resulting in a council tax of £1,702.32 per Band D property in 2024/25;

1.3 noted that the element of council tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £471.40 per Band D property in 2024/25 which reflects an increase of £37.26 (8.58%);

1.4 agreed that the overall council tax to be set for 2024/25 will be £2,173.72 per Band D property, which represents an overall increase of 5.75%;

1.5 agreed that the projected budget (as set out in Appendix 1) for 2024/25 of £474.984 million is approved;

1.6 considered and noted the whole of the Strategic Director of Resources report made under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in Appendix 2 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 81,322 (an increase of 1,201 over the previous year), as the Council Tax Base for the Council for 2024/25, 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 to be approved for 2024/25 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Act 1992, as amended (the Act);

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1.8.2 Gross Income

£906.145 million – being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items in Sections 31A (3) of the Act;

1.8.3 Net Expenditure

£138.436 million – being the amounts by which the aggregate at 1.8.1, 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

£1,702.32 – being the amount at 1.8.3 above, divided by 81,322 (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 £246.00.

1.8.5 Valuation Bands

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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's for 2024/25 the Greater London Assembly (GLA) has stated that (with formal ratification on 22 February 2024) that the following amounts in precepts be issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below;

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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 2024/25 be £1,702.32, which reflects a 2.99% increase, plus 2% Adult Social Care precept permitted increase for 2024/25 and therefore does not require a referendum;

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1.10 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 2024;

1.11 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 home's premium from 1 April 2024;

1.12 agreed in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Clause 76) to charge a premium of 100% on dwellings that have been empty for one year from 1 April 2024;

1.13 agreed in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Clause 77) to give notice of the intention to charge a premium of 100% on dwellings which are "substantially furnished" but have no "resident" (e.g., second homes)

from 1 April 2025;

1.14 agreed for the purposes of calculating entitlement to Housing Benefit, any war disablement pension, war widow's or war widower's pension which would otherwise be treated as income for the purposes of calculating entitlement to housing benefit should be disregarded in its entirety.

1.15 agreed to the inclusion of collection fund surpluses and deficits (as per paragraphs 6.21 and 6.22) within the budget from 1st April 2024 which have previously been transferred to the taxation fluctuation reserve;

1.16 agreed the Capital Programme for 2023-2034 as set out in Appendix 9 of the report;

1.17 agreed the reserves strategy at Appendix 6 and note that the Strategic Director of Resources has delegated responsibility for the use of reserves throughout the year;

1.18 agreed the amended fees and charges for 2024/25 as shown in Appendix 5 of the report.

64. Local Plan 1 Adoption

RESOLVED:

It was moved by Councillor A Khan and seconded by Councillor Pye that the Council

- **Note** the content of the Inspectors' Final Report into the soundness of the Waltham Forest Local Plan (Part 1) (LP1) (Appendix 2), including their conclusion that subject to Main Modifications (Appendix 3), the Plan is sound, legally compliant and capable of adoption and satisfies the requirements referred to in Section 20(5)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
- **Adopt** the Waltham Forest Local Plan (Part 1) (LP1) (Appendix 1) in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), which includes:
 - The Main Modifications to the submission version of the Local Plan, as recommended in the Inspectors' Final Report and set out in Appendix 3; and
 - The additional modifications proposed by Officers, as set out in Appendix 4;
- From 12th April 2024 (the expiry of the statutory six week legal challenge period), **revoke** the Council's current adopted Core Strategy (2012), the Waltham Forest Development Management Policies (2013), the Walthamstow Town Centre Area Action Plan (2014) and the Blackhorse Lane Area Action Plan (2015) provided that no challenge has been lodged during the six week period;
- **Authorise** the Corporate Director – Regeneration, Planning & Delivery to make further typographical amendments necessary to the Plan prior to its adoption;
- **Authorise** the Corporate Director – Regeneration, Planning & Delivery, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration, to finalise and publish an Adoption Statement (draft at Appendix 6) and Sustainability

Appraisal Adoption Statement (draft at Appendix 7) in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012;

- **Authorise** the Corporate Director – Regeneration, Planning & Delivery, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration, to finalise and publish an updated Policies Map, reflecting the adopted Plan, including Main Modifications set out in Appendix 3;
- From 12th April 2024 (the expiry of the statutory six week legal challenge period) **revoked** the superseded Supplementary Planning Documents listed in paragraph 3.32 of this report provided that no challenge has been lodged during the six weeks; and
- **Approve** the Waltham Forest Local Development Scheme (LDS) at Appendix 8 to take effect immediately

There was debate, in which Councillors Moss, following which Councillor A Khan exercised his right to reply.

Following debate a recorded vote was asked for by members of the Conservative Group.

For the Motion

Councillors: S Ali-Rahman, R Anwar, N Asghar, V Ashworth, E Baptiste, T Bell, K Bellamy, K Berberi, M Berberi, C Deakin, S Dhedhi, A Dixon, R Doré, P Douglas, R Eglin, K Gardiner, J Gray, K Green, C Ihenachor, W Ihenachor, A Khan, J Khan, K Lewis, K Limbajee, S Littlejohn, C Loakes, G Lyons, Z Malik, A Mbachu, M Mirwitch, L Mitchell, J O’Dea, Y Patel, J, Phipps, M Pye, C Quin, U Rasool, K Rayner, S Salek, R Sweden, S Terry, K Thompson, S Waldron, T Wheeler, J Whilby and G Williams.

Against the Motion

Councillors: A Akram, E Best, M Fitzgerald, M Goldie, J Halabi, J Hemsted, K Isa, T James, J Moss, S O’Connell

Abstentions

None

As a result of voting the Mayor declared the motion in the names of Councillor A Khan and Councillor Pye **CARRIED**.

65. Mission Waltham Forest

RESOLVED:

It was moved by Councillor Williams and seconded by Councillor Douglas that the Council

Agree Mission Waltham Forest: our plan for a more equal borough, at Appendix 1 of the report

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

Following debate a recorded vote was asked for by members of the Conservative Group.

For the Motion

Councillors: S Ali-Rahman, R Anwar, N Asghar, V Ashworth, E Baptiste, T Bell, K Bellamy, K Berberi, M Berberi, C Deakin, S Dhedhi, A Dixon, R Doré, P Douglas, R Eglin, K Gardiner, J Gray, K Green, C Ihenachor, W Ihenachor, A Khan, J Khan, K Lewis, K Limbajee, S Littlejohn, C Loakes, G Lyons, Z Malik, A Mbachu, M Mirwitch, L Mitchell, J O’Dea, Y Patel, J, Phipps, M Pye, C Quin, U Rasool, K Rayner, S Salek, R Sweden, S Terry, K Thompson, S Waldron, T Wheeler, J Whilby and G Williams.

Against the Motion

Councillors: A Akram, E Best, M Fitzgerald, M Goldie, J Halabi, J Hemsted, K Isa, T James, J Moss, S O’Connell

Abstentions

None

As a result of voting the Mayor declared the motion in the names of Councillor Williams and Councillor Douglas **CARRIED**.

66. Pay Policy

RESOLVED:

It was moved by Councillor Douglas and seconded by Councillor Terry that the Council **adopt** the Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 at Appendix A of the report with supporting documents and **note** that the increment progression will be applied as outlined within the increment policy for April 2024 at Appendix B of the report.

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

67. Councillor Allowances

RESOLVED:

It was moved by Councillor Phipps and seconded by Councillor Malik that the Council **agree:**

- To increase the basic allowance by 6% to £12,766.64 per annum from 1 April 2024,
- To increase special responsibility allowances by 3.88% as set out in Appendix 1 from 1 April 2024, excluding:
 - the Chair of the Coordinating Scrutiny Committee, where the increase will take effect following the AGM in May 2024 when the role is appointed to,
 - Cabinet Commissioners and the Chair of the Transport Liaison Consultative Group, which will be excluded from the scheme in AGM in May 2024,
- To re-band the SRA for the majority group Chief Whip to match that of the

Chair of the Coordinating Scrutiny Committee; and

- To adopt the proposed amended 2024/25 Scheme of Members' Allowances for implementation from 1 April 2024 as set out in Appendix 2.

There was debate, in which Councillors Akram, Waldron, Goldie and Williams spoke, following which Councillor Phipps exercised his right to reply.

Following debate a recorded vote was asked for by members of the Conservative Group.

For the Motion

Councillors: S Ali-Rahman, R Anwar, N Asghar, V Ashworth, E Baptiste, T Bell, K Bellamy, K Berberi, M Berberi, C Deakin, S Dhedhi, A Dixon, R Doré, P Douglas, R Eglin, K Gardiner, J Gray, K Green, C Ihenachor, W Ihenachor, A Khan, J Khan, K Lewis, K Limbajee, S Littlejohn, C Loakes, G Lyons, Z Malik, A Mbachu, M Mirwitch, L Mitchell, J O'Dea, Y Patel, J, Phipps, M Pye, C Quin, U Rasool, K Rayner, S Salek, R Sweden, S Terry, K Thompson, S Waldron, T Wheeler, J Whilby and G Williams.

Against the Motion

Councillors: A Akram, E Best, M Fitzgerald, M Goldie, J Halabi, J Hemsted, K Isa, T James, J Moss, S O'Connell

Abstentions

None

As a result of voting the Mayor declared the motion in the names of Councillor Phipps and Councillor Malik **CARRIED**.

68. Treasury Management Strategy

RESOLVED:

It was moved by Councillor Phipps and seconded by Councillor Malik that the Council:

- **Approve** the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Report 2024-25.
- **Approve** the MRP strategy for 2024-25.
- **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.

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

69. Draft Meetings Programme 2024/25

RESOLVED:

It was moved by Councillor Terry and seconded by Councillor Goldie that the Council:

- **approve** the draft meetings programme for 2024-25 as set out in Appendix

- 1 along with the amendments published with the Order Paper; and
- **note** that the programme will be finalised at the Annual Council Meeting on 23 May 2024.

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

70. Appointments

None.

71. Senior Management Structure

The Council noted for information the senior management structure included with the order paper following changes agreed by Cabinet on 22 February 2024 and that changes would be incorporated into the [constitution](#).

The Council rose at 10.02 pm having completed its business.