

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent County Council held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 22 February 2007.

PRESENT:

Mr F Wood-Brignall (Chairman)
Mr L B Ridings (Vice-Chairman) and Mr J A Davies (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs A D Allen, Mrs C Angell, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr T J Birkett, Mr R H C Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Lord Bruce-Lockhart, Mr J R Bullock, MBE, Mr C J Capon, Ms S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr L Christie, Mr B R Cope, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr D S Daley, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr M C Dance, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr K A Ferrin, MBE, Mr M J Fittock, Mr C G Findlay, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mrs E Green, Mr C Hart, Ms A Harrison, Mr M J Harrison, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr D A Hirst, Mr G A Horne MBE, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr I T N Jones, DL, Mr A J King, MBE, Mr R E King, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr P W A Lake, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, TD, Mr K G Lynes, Mr T A Maddison, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr W V Newman, DL, Mr M J Northey, Mr R J E Parker, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr A R Poole, Dr T R Robinson, Mrs E D Rowbotham, Mr G Rowe, Mr K Sansum, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr D Smyth, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P A V Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mr R Truelove, Mrs E M Tweed, Mr M J Vye, Mr C T Wells and Mr B P Wood

IN ATTENDANCE: The Chief Executive, Mr P Gilroy, OBE and the Director of Law and Governance, Mr G Wild.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

- 1. Minutes of the meetings held on 14 December 2006 and 23 January 2007 and if in order, to be approved as a correct record.**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings held on 14 December 2006 and 23 January 2007 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

- 2. Chairman's Announcements**

Mrs Christine Filmer

- (1) The Chairman announced the death on 20 February 2007 of Mrs Christine Filmer, Secretary to the Conservative Group Members.
- (2) The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect.

- (3) RESOLVED that this Council desires to record the sense of loss it feels on the death of Mrs Filmer and extends to her relatives its deepest sympathy on their sad bereavement.

Mr R Hansell

The Chairman informed the Council that Mr Hansell had been taken into hospital for surgery and that he would be writing to him on behalf of the Council wishing him a speedy recovery.

3. Questions

Under Procedure Rule 1.18, 12 questions were asked and replies were given. Question 9 fell as Mr Burgess was not in attendance at the meeting. One question remained unanswered at the end of thirty minutes and a written answer was given.

4. Draft Revenue and Capital Budgets 2007/08

- (1) The Chairman seconded by the Vice Chairman moved that:-
- (a) the Leader be allowed to speak for a maximum of 15 minutes, the Leader of the Labour Group for 10 minutes, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group for 7 minutes with the Leader of the Council having a 3 minute right of reply; and
 - (b) following presentations by the Cabinet Members on their portfolios, in the period of general debate that followed, Members speeches be limited to 3 minutes.
- (2) Mrs Dean moved Mr Vye seconded as an amendment that the following be added to the motion set out in (1) above:-
- (c) the Council agrees to permit amendments to be taken immediately after the Budget is moved and seconded.
- (3) The Chairman put to the vote the amendment set out in (2) above when the voting was as follows:-

For – 8

Mr J Curwood, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr R L H Long, Mr G Rowe, Mr M J Vye and Mr B P Wood.

Abstain – 2

Mr J R Bullock and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Against – 64

Mrs A D Allen, Mrs C Angell, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr T J Birkett, Mr R Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr B R Cope, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr A D Crowther, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Dr M R Eddy, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr C G Findlay, Mr M J Fittock, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mrs E Green, Mr

M J Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mr G A Horne, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr I T N Jones, Mr A J King, Mr R E King, Mr P W A Lake, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr K G Lynes, Mr T Maddison, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr W V Newman, Mr M Northey, Mr R J E Parker, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr A R Poole, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mrs E Rowbotham, Mr K Sansum, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr D Smyth, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P A Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mr R Truelove, Mrs E Tweed, and Mr C J Wells.

Lost

- (4) The motion set out in (1) above was carried without a vote.
- (5) Mr P B Carter moved Mr N J D Chard seconded the recommendations contained in the report.
- (6) Dr M R Eddy moved Mr D Smyth seconded the following amendment:-

The recommendations set out in paragraph 9.1(e) onwards be amended as follows:-

- (a) Add £0.190m to "Democratic Services" (Corporate Support Portfolio, p 39, line 6)
- (b) Add £0.584m to "Older People" (Adult Services Portfolio, p19, line 1) (*removal of proposed increased income from domiciliary charging*)
- (c) Add £0.011m to "People with a Learning Difficulty" (Adult Services Portfolio, p19, line 2) (*removal of proposed increased income from domiciliary charging*)
- (d) Add £0.033m to "People with a Physical Disability" (Adult Services Portfolio, p19, line 3) (*removal of proposed increased income from domiciliary charging*)
- (e) Add £0.580m to "Libraries, Information and Archives" (Communities Portfolio, p33, line 4)
- (f) Deduct £0.500m from "Workforce Reduction" (Finance Portfolio, p44, line 7)
- (g) Deduct £0.850m expenditure from "Kent Regeneration Fund" (Regeneration & Supporting Independence Portfolio p30, line 7)
- (h) Deduct £0.600m from "Corporate Management and Strategic Development" (Corporate Support Portfolio, p39, line 7) (*removal of proposal for Kent TV*)
- (i) Deduct £0.587m from "Local Priorities" (Finance Portfolio, p44, line 15)
- (j) Deduct £0.016m from "Economic Development Group" (Regeneration & Supporting Independence Portfolio, p30, line 3) (*removal of budget for Kent Ambassadors*)
- (k) Deduct £0.200m from "Corporate Communications" (Policy & Performance Portfolio, p42, line 3)
- (l) Deduct £0.250m from "Older People" (Adult Services Portfolio, p19, line 1) (*removal of proposed Adult Services Towards 2010 funding*)

- (m) Deduct £0.250m from “People with a Learning Difficulty ” (Adult Services Portfolio, p19, line 2) (*removal of proposed Adult Services Towards 2010 funding*)
- (n) Deduct £1.000m from “Debt charges” (Finance Portfolio, p45, line 1)
- (o) Deduct £1.000m from the budget requirement by inserting new budget line “Contribution from the Assistive Technology Earmarked Reserve” and providing for £1.000m income (Finance Portfolio, p45) by drawing down £1.000m from the Assistive Technology Reserve
- (p) Deduct £2.735m from the budget requirement by inserting new budget line “Contribution from the Asylum Reserve” and providing for £2.735m income (Finance Portfolio, p45) by drawing down £2.735m from the Asylum Reserve
- (q) Deduct £0.200m from “Develop a Kent TV pilot station” (Corporate Support Portfolio, p41, line 10) (*Capital budget 2007-08*)
- (r) Add £0.200m to “Rollout “Gateway” one stop shops” (Corporate Support Portfolio, p41, line 9) (*Capital budget 2007-08*)

The net effect of these amendments would be to reduce the budget requirement by £6.590m which consequentially amend the following recommendations to:

9.1 (b) the Revenue Budget requirement of £735,139,000

9.1 (g) a total requirement from Council Tax of £504,949,000 to be raised through precept to meet the 2007-08 budget requirement

9.1 (h) a Council Tax as set out below, for the listed property bands:

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	634.50	740.25	846.00	951.75	1,163.25	1,374.75	1,586.25	1,903.50

(7) The Chairman put to the vote the amendment set out in (6) above when the voting was as follows:-

For – 24

Mrs C Angell, Mr T Birkett, Mr L Christie, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr M J Fittock, Mrs E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr I T N Jones, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr T Maddison, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr R J E Parker, Mr W V Newman, Mr A R Poole, Mr G Rowe, Mr K Sansum, Mr D Smyth, Mr R Truelove, and Mr M J Vye,

Against – 50

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr R Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Lord Bruce-Lockhart, Mr J R Bullock, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr C G Findlay, Mr J B

O Fullarton, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr M J Harrison, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mr G A Horne, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, Mr R E King, Mr P W A Lake, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M Northey, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P A Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, and Mr C J Wells.

Lost

(8) Dr M R Eddy moved Mr D Smyth seconded the following amendment:-

That the recommendation set out in paragraph 9.1(e)(4) be amended as follows:-

(a) Environment, Highways and Waste, subject to the additional, one-off, £1.505m provided for Kent Highways Services Group, as set out in Table 1, flowing from the surplus of £1.505m reported in para 4.4 of the report being ring-fenced for the maintenance of roadways and footways.

(9) Dr M R Eddy with the consent of his seconder and the Council withdrew this amendment following an assurance from the Leader that this would be included in the resolution subject to the addition of the words "and general supported bus services".

(10) Mrs T Dean moved Mr M J Vye seconded the following amendment:-

"the Council are asked to amend the Budget and Medium Term Plan in order to increase spending on road and pavement maintenance, increase urban tree planting, establish plastics recycling and maintain current levels of support to pupils with Statements of Special Needs.

The recommendations set out in para 9.1(e) be amended as follows:-

- (a) Deduct £1m from "Debt Charges" (Finance Portfolio, p 45, line 1) (*through delaying capital programme and associated borrowing*)
- (b) Add £1m to "Additional Educational Needs and Resources" (Children and Family Services Portfolio, page 13, line 1) (*to reinstate the saving taken in the MTP to manage additional stated cost pressures*)
- (c) Deduct £0.2m from "Develop a Kent TV pilot" (Corporate Support Portfolio, p41, line 10) (*Capital budget 2007-08*)
- (d) Add £0.2m to "Improving Roads and Footpaths" (Environment, Highways and Waste Portfolio, p27, line 16)
- (e) Deduct £0.2m from "Other Capital Maintenance" (Environment, Highways and Waste Portfolio, p27, line 10) (*Capital budget 2007-08*)
- (f) Add £0.1m into the capital programme under Environment and Waste for "Compactors for plastics recycling" (Environment, Highways and Waste Portfolio, p27) (*Capital budget 2007-08*)
- (g) Add £0.1m into the capital programme under Kent Highways Services for "Urban Tree Planting" (Environment, Highways and Waste portfolio, p27) (*Capital budget 2007-08*).

(11) The Chairman put to the vote the amendment set out in (10) above when the voting was as follows:-

For – 23

Mrs C Angell, Mr T Birkett, Mr L Christie, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr M J Fittock, Mrs E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr I T N Jones, Mr T Maddison, Mrs M Newell, Mr W V Newman, Mr R J E Parker, Mr A R Poole, Mr G Rowe, Mr K Sansum, Mr D Smyth, Mr R Truelove, and Mr M J Vye.

Against – 48

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr R Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Lord Bruce-Lockhart, Mr J R Bullock, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr C G Findlay, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr M J Harrison, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mr G A Horne, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, Mr R E King, Mr P W A Lake, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M Northey, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P A Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed and Mr C J Wells.

(12) The Chairman the put to the vote the motion set out in (5) above when the voting was as follows:-

For – 49

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr R Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Lord Bruce-Lockhart, Mr J R Bullock, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr C G Findlay, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr M J Harrison, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mr G A Horne, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, Mr R E King, Mr P W A Lake, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr M Northey, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P A Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed and Mr C J Wells.

Against – 24

Mrs C Angell, Mr T Birkett, Mr L Christie, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr M J Fittock, Mrs E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr I T N Jones, Mr T Maddison, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr R J E Parker, Mr A R Poole, Mr W V Newman, Mr G Rowe, Mr K Sansum, Mr D Smyth, Mr R Truelove and Mr M J Vye.

(13) RESOLVED that the contents of the Medium Term Plan 2007-2010 and the following proposals be approved:-

- (a) the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for 2007-08;
- (b) the Revenue Budget requirement of £741,729,000;
- (c) the Capital Investment proposals of £351,984,000, together with the necessary use of borrowing, revenue, grants, capital receipts, renewals and

other earmarked capital funds, external funding and PFI subject to approval to spend arrangements;

- (d) the Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix B of the attached Medium Term Plan;
- (e) the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals as presented for:
 - (i) Education and School Improvement;
 - (ii) Children and Family Services;
 - (iii) Adult Services;
 - (iv) Environment, Highways and Waste, subject to the additional, one-off, £1.505m provided for Kent Highways Services Group, as set out in Table 1, flowing from the surplus of £1.505m reported in para 4.4 of the report being ring-fenced for the maintenance of roadways and footways and general supported bus services;
 - (v) Regeneration and Supporting Independence;
 - (vi) Communities;
 - (vii) Public Health;
 - (viii) Corporate Support;
 - (ix) Policy and Performance;
 - (x) Finance;
- (f) that final recommendations in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant be delegated to the Cabinet Members for Education and School Improvement;
- (g) a total requirement from Council Tax of £511,539,000 to be raised through precept to meet the 2007-08 budget requirement
- (h) a Council Tax as set out below, for the listed property bands:

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	642.78	749.91	857.04	964.17	1,178.43	1,392.69	1,606.95	1,928.34