

DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET)**

**MINUTES** of the proceedings of the meeting of the General Assembly of the Council (Budget) held on Monday 24 February 2014.

**PRESENT:**

The Mayor

Councillor Mrs P A Thurlow

The Deputy Mayor

Councillor A S Sandhu, MBE

Councillor Mrs A D Allen

Councillor T A Maddison

Councillor D J Baker

Councillor A R Martin

Councillor A Bardoe

Councillor D J Mote

Councillor S H Brown

Councillor Mrs A Muckle

Councillor M J Bryant

Councillor J I Muckle

Councillor R Bryant

Councillor J M Ozog

Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill

Councillor R S L Perfitt

Councillor P J Cannon

Councillor M I Peters

Councillor P F Coleman

Councillor G T Prout

Councillor P Cutler

Councillor B E Read

Councillor M J Davis

Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood

Councillor D A Hammock

Councillor Mrs R L Shanks

Councillor J S Hawkes

Councillor C J Shippam

Councillor K M Kelly

Councillor M J Street

Councillor P Kelly

Councillor D Swinerd

Councillor J A Kite, MBE

Councillor A Wells

Councillor E J Lampkin

Councillor R J Wells

Councillor A R Lloyd

Councillor Mrs N C Wightman

**ABSENT:**

Councillor I D Armitt JP

Councillor J Burrell

Councillor J A Hayes

Councillor D E Hunnisett

**83. PRAYERS: FATHER NICK WILLIAMS**

Father Williams led the Council in prayer.

**84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Head of Legal Services declared a personal interest, on behalf of all Officers present at the meeting, in staffing matters referred to in Agenda Item 6, Revenue and Capital Budgets 2014/2015.

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The following interests were also declared by Members:

Councillor P A Coleman declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6, Revenue and Capital Budgets 2014/2015, as he is a trustee of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sutton-at-Hone Scout Group.

Councillor P Kelly declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6, Revenue and Capital Budgets 2014/2015, as he is a trustee and member of the Unit Management Committee of Dartford & Crayford Sea Cadets who receive grants/funding from the Council.

Councillor J A Kite declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6, Revenue and Capital Budgets 2014/2015, as he is a director of Dartford Football Club and a director of the Leigh Technology Academy.

Councillor E J Lampkin declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6, Revenue and Capital Budgets 2014/2015, as he is a trustee of Dartford Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor D J Mote declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Appendices K(i),(ii) and (iii) of Agenda item 6, Revenue and Capital Budgets 2014/2015, as his wife is an employee of Stone Parish Council and a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6 in respect of his involvement with the Stone Scout Group.

Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6, Revenue and Capital Budgets 2014/2015, as she is a trustee of Dartford Citizens Advice Bureau.

## 85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Armitt, Burrell, Hayes and Hunnisett.

## 86. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- **Forthcoming Events**

The Mayor invited Members to support the following forthcoming events for her Charity:

- Charity Quiz Night at St. Vincent's Church Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> March
- Chinese Night at Twins Restaurant on 12 March
- Cabaret evening at Wilmington Grammar School on 23<sup>rd</sup> March

- **Lizzie Yarnold, Olympic Gold Medallist**

The Mayor informed Members that she had written to congratulate Lizzie Yarnold on winning the gold medal in the Women's Skeleton event at the Winter Olympics in Sochi and that she had invited her to attend the Dartford

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Festival in view of her avowed wish to inspire and motivate young people to participate in sport.

- **Recent Visit to Shepheard Neame Brewery**

The Mayor advised Members that she had recently visited the Shepheard Neame brewery to learn how the brewery contributed to the Kent economy.

### **87. URGENT ITEMS**

The Mayor announced that no urgent items had been submitted for consideration.

### **88. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2014/2015**

The General Assembly of the Council considered a report which set out the Council's capital and revenue budgets for 2014/2015. The report, which included the revenue and capital estimates, identified the level of precepts for Kent County Council, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent Fire and Rescue and the Town and Parish Councils within the Borough.

Members were asked to set the level of expenditure for Dartford Borough Council Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2014/15, to approve the level of rents chargeable for Housing Revenue Account dwellings for 2014/15, to agree the level of Council Tax for Dartford Borough in its parished and unparished areas, and to determine sundry related matters. Members were also asked to approve the Council's Pay Policy Statement.

In accordance with Standing Order 16(4), a motion was proposed, seconded and carried, to allow extra time for Leaders of the Political Groups to deliver their speeches on the Budget report.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor J A Kite, expressed his thanks to Steve Brooks, Head of Finance and Resources for his hard work and loyal service to the Council over many years and for his work on the budget process and sound advice. He wished Mr Brooks a long and happy retirement.

The Leader proposed the budget for 2014/2015 to the Council and explained that his speech would be shorter than normal because the budget process was now a well-established one which was familiar to Members. For the 5<sup>th</sup> year running no increase in the Dartford Council Tax was proposed although it had been disappointing that the Police and Fire Authority precepts had increased. The budget also contained no cuts in services, more capital projects to benefit the town building on a decade of successful project delivery including the Judo Club, Princes Park, the improvements in Central Park including the bandstand, the bridges, the Café in the Park, the improvements at Brooklands Lakes, and the skatepark as well as other amenities throughout the borough. In the coming year there would be further important works which would benefit local residents including the refurbishment of the Fairfield Pool

and Leisure Centre by March 2015, the building of a new pavilion and community facility at Hesketh Park and the multi-use open air theatre and picnic grounds in Central Park. It was also proposed to fund a refurbishment of the Dartford Harriers athletics facilities including renewing the running track. The Leader expressed his thanks to Tony Durey from Dartford Harriers for his help in taking this forward.

The Leader also welcomed the progress made in regenerating the Town Centre and the progression with the redevelopment of Lowfield Street. Whilst this had taken longer than anyone would have wished he felt that important steps forward had been taken and he hoped that Tesco would have a better understanding of how to work with local communities in future. He also felt saddened that some people sought to belittle the regeneration initiatives and the work of local traders to advance the economic prospects of Dartford when there had been so much activity to promote the town. He highlighted initiatives such as the community shop in the town centre, market bursaries to encourage local entrepreneurs and work being carried out in conjunction with Bluewater. The Leader welcomed the efforts of the Town Centre Team and confirmed that a further £250,000 was available to support town centre initiatives.

The Leader also commented on the strength of the position of the Housing Revenue Account and the benefits accruing from the changes to the financing of the housing stock and the end to negative subsidy. Housing Services had become more responsive and efficient in recent years and had benefitted from the active involvement of tenants. The Council had also introduced housing policies which whilst prioritising local people sought to match provision to actual need. He was also pleased to announce the first additions to the Council's housing stock in over 30 years. Benefitting from being able to use receipts from right-to-buy a realistic and affordable building programme had been put in place on the basis of the anticipated level of receipts, capital resources available to the Council and the effects of the Housing Business Plan.

The Leader also explained that the Council valued the efforts of the Council's workforce and announced that the Council would be implementing the increase to the living wage to £7.64 per hour for Council staff. He also recognised that in recent years staff had not received pay increases and was grateful that staff had accepted this in return for a commitment to preserve jobs. However he was pleased to recognise the efforts of the Council's workforce and the budget proposed a 1% pay award this year. At the same time the Leader announced that he would be proposing an amendment to recommendation 3.7 to the effect that Members Allowances should not be increased and he invited the other political groups to support this amendment. The Leader commended the budget to the Council and moved the amendment to recommendation 3.7.

The Deputy Leader of the Council seconded the motion and the amendment to recommendation 3.7.

The Shadow Leader of the Council supported the Leader's comments about the achievements of the Head of Finance and Resources and added his congratulations for a long and happy retirement.

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The Shadow Leader also paid tribute to former Councillor Frank Byrne who had died recently. Councillor Byrne had represented Miskin Ward and more latterly West Hill from 1985 until 2007 and had been a hard-working and highly respected local councillor with a strong sense of social justice. The Shadow Leader sent his condolences to Mr Byrne's family and these sentiments were shared across the chamber and by the Mayor.

The Shadow Leader drew attention to recent comments by the Chairman of the LGA regarding the deleterious effect of public sector spending cuts on the future of local government and services. The Shadow Leader noted that in 2014/15 the Revenue Support Grant for Dartford had been reduced by 22.3% and the provisional settlement for 2015/2016 showed a further reduction of 31.3% from the 2014/2015 figure. The shortfall in funding was currently being met from balances, retained business rates and the Homes Bonus fund but the Shadow Leader questioned how long it would be possible to balance the books using these uncertain revenue streams without cuts to services and how long it would be possible to protect valuable initiatives such as SureStart. Whilst welcoming the freezing of the Dartford Council Tax in the coming year he highlighted the increases by precepting authorities and increases of 22% and 26% respectively by Sutton-at-Hone and Bean Parish Council's. He also drew attention to the impact of the Council Tax Support Scheme upon 4,000 local people on the margins of poverty particularly when the full impact of the scheme would be felt after the ending of transitional arrangements. He also criticised the "bedroom tax" which he said impacted upon 400 local residents who could not escape these requirements by finding smaller properties. The Shadow Leader supported the Living Wage and looked forward to the day when the Council became a Living Wage Council rather than simply a Living Wage employer. The Shadow Leader also welcomed the refurbishment of the Fairfield Pool and in particular the genuine consultation exercise on the design and use of the facility. He also explained that his group had also intended to propose a zero increase in Members Allowances as they believed that resources should be focussed on meeting the needs of local residents. The Shadow Leader also felt that the budget making process would benefit from a more inclusive approach and that he had been willing to participate in this before the proposals were formulated and that this could have resulted in a better consensus over the budget. As a result he would be proposing two further amendments to the budget.

At this stage a vote was taken on the amendment proposed by the Leader of the Council and seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council that recommendation 3.7 be amended. It was agreed unanimously and

**RESOLVED:** That recommendation 3.7 be amended to read "that no increase be applied to Members' and Mayoral allowances for 2014/2015".

A further amendment to the budget proposals was moved by the Shadow Leader and seconded by the Deputy Shadow Leader in the following terms:

“That the Housing capital programme (page 153 of the budget report) be amended as follows:

- New Homes – Increase 2014/15 budget from nil to £1,000,000
- New Homes – Increase 2015/16 budget from £2,000,000 to £3,000,000
- New Homes – Reduce 2016/17 budget from £2,000,000 to nil”

The Shadow Leader explained that last year he had welcomed provisions in the budget for building new homes but that given the size of the current waiting list and the urgent need many families had for housing he felt that the proposed programme should be accelerated. He highlighted the plight of young families requiring homes but facing rising private rents which either resulted in them living with parents for longer or moving away from the area in search of cheaper rentals.

The Leader of the Council explained that the Council had already delivered new homes for the first time in over 30 years and that people were already living in these properties. The Council was delivering both excellent housing services and new homes. However the pace of this new development had to be sensible as the scheme involved match funding right-to-buy monies and therefore it was important to proceed at the same rate as right-to-buy sales in order to maximise the benefits of this scheme. If building were to take place at a faster rate this would effectively cost the Council more money but if house sales were higher it might be possible to accelerate the building programme as well. The Leader also noted that the Labour proposal would result in nil investment in Council Housing in 2016/17. He said he could not possibly support an amendment that would dry up the supply of Council homes in future years and commit the Council to zero investment.

The Deputy Shadow Leader asserted that money for providing new homes had been in the medium term financial plans but had been pushed back. He felt that if the Leader of the Council had wished this to be a priority this would not have been the case. It was good that some new homes had been provided in Darenth but he felt that there should have been more of them and built sooner to reflect the urgent need for housing. The Deputy Shadow Leader re-iterated the need to bring the programme forward to meet immediate need.

At the request of 5 members of the Labour Group a recorded vote was taken on the amendment of those members present who voted as follows:

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor D Baker	Councillor Mrs A D Allen
Councillor M J Bryant	Councillor A Bardoe
Councillor R Bryant	Councillor S H Brown
Councillor S Doran	Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill
Councillor J S Hawkes	Councillor P J Cannon
Councillor P Kelly	Councillor P F Coleman
Councillor T Maddison	Councillor P Cutler
Councillor Mrs A Muckle	Councillor M J Davis
Councillor J I Muckle	Councillor D A Hammock
Councillor G T Prout	Councillor K Kelly
	Councillor J A Kite

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		Councillor E J Lampkin Councillor A R Lloyd Councillor A R Martin Councillor D J Mote Councillor J M Ozog Councillor R S L Perfitt Councillor M I Peters Councillor B E Read Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood Councillor Mrs R L Shanks Councillor C J Shippam Councillor M J Street Councillor D Swinerd Councillor A Wells Councillor R J Wells Councillor Mrs N C Wightman The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Sandhu The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Thurlow
TOTAL	10	TOTAL 29

The amendment was therefore lost.

Another amendment to the budget proposals was moved by the Shadow Leader and seconded by the Deputy Shadow Leader in the following terms:

“Delete recommendation 3.11 and replace with:

This Council regrets the complete lack of detail in the budget relating to the current distribution of and the future allocation of the Identified Initiatives Reserve and the consequent lack of accountability. It requests that the Managing Director report to the GAC meeting on March 17 2014:

The total budget for 2013/14 and the proposed expenditure on each item agreed at the 2013/14 budget meeting  
The total proposed outturn for 2013/14 and the proposed outturn for each item agreed at the 2013/14 budget meeting  
The proposed budget for 2014/15 and the proposed expenditure for 2014/15 on each item agreed at the 2013/14 budget meeting  
The proposed budget for 2015/16 and the proposed expenditure for 2015/16 on each item agreed at the 2013/14 budget meeting.”

The Shadow Leader reminded Members that in previous years they had had the opportunity to review expenditure from the Identified Initiatives Reserve (IIR) but that this year the budget papers contained no breakdown of actual and proposed expenditure from this reserve, just a reference to increasing the reserve by £150,000 and a recommendation delegating authority to the Managing Director to determine funding from the reserve. He highlighted that last year it had been proposed that nearly £1M from this reserve should be spent in 2013/14 and £1.7M in succeeding years yet Members had no

information on what had actually been spent and what projects were being supported. He felt that this was significant expenditure and that there was a consequent lack of accountability. In view of this he announced that if the amendment was not carried his group would have no choice but to vote against the budget proposals in their entirety.

The Deputy Leader of the Council took exception to the implication that there had been any lack of propriety in developing the budget proposals and stated that they were clearly explained in the papers and that any Member could seek advice and clarification from officers if they had required information. He felt passionate about the budget proposals and the many positive initiatives they contained.

Another Member explained that he would be supporting the amendment because he simply wished there to be greater transparency about how funding from the IIR would be used. The Deputy Shadow Leader also called for the amendment to be supported as he felt that the budget should be clear and transparent for the benefit of local residents.

The Shadow Leader repeated the need for transparency and said that he had asked for more information from an officer at his group meeting and had been told that the reason for the lack of detail on the use of the IIR was that this was necessary to allow greater flexibility in the use of the reserve. He felt that this explanation was insufficient and that the Council was entitled to know what monies had been spent from the reserve and what future expenditure was planned.

The Leader of the Council responded that there seemed to be a lack of understanding about how reserves work. The whole point of having a reserve was that it made money available for use in areas where more money needed to be spent, often at short notice or because of unforeseen events. In order to achieve this, reserves needed to be managed flexibly and it was not possible to predict future spending from reserves. The budget was also underpinned by a whole series of protocols and processes which should have been familiar to leading Members and the Shadow Leader, as Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, had the opportunity throughout the year to call-in and challenge any budgetary decisions made by the Cabinet but had not done so. He felt that the issue of transparency was being raised to disguise the fact that the budget proposals contained so many positives that they were difficult to oppose and hoped that all Members would support the budget.

At the request of 5 members of the Labour Group a recorded vote was taken on the amendment of those members present who voted as follows:

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor D Baker	Councillor Mrs A D Allen
Councillor M J Bryant	Councillor A Bardoe
Councillor R Bryant	Councillor S H Brown
Councillor S Doran	Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill
Councillor J S Hawkes	Councillor P J Cannon
Councillor P Kelly	Councillor P F Coleman
Councillor T Maddison	Councillor P Cutler
Councillor Mrs A Muckle	Councillor M J Davis

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Councillor J I Muckle Councillor G T Prout	Councillor D A Hammock Councillor K Kelly Councillor J A Kite Councillor E J Lampkin Councillor A R Lloyd Councillor A R Martin Councillor D J Mote Councillor J M Ozog Councillor R S L Perfitt Councillor M I Peters Councillor B E Read Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood Councillor Mrs R L Shanks Councillor C J Shippam Councillor M J Street Councillor D Swinerd Councillor A Wells Councillor R J Wells Councillor Mrs N C Wightman The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Sandhu The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Thurlow
TOTAL 10	TOTAL 29

The amendment was therefore lost.

The Leader of the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Residents Association spoke in favour of the budget proposals. He also addressed concerns raised about the increases in some Parish precepts and the good work carried out by the Parishes and Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council in conjunction with the Borough Council. He was proud of these achievements and hoped that Members would support the budget proposals.

The Deputy Leader of the Council expressed his thanks to Steve Brooks in compiling the budget and wished him a happy retirement. He welcomed Tim Sams, Financial Services Manager and also recorded his condolences for the family of former Councillor Frank Byrne. He asked Members to support the budget and found it difficult to understand why it should not be supported across the chamber in view of the positive content.

A Member provided clarification about the 26% rise in the Bean Parish Council precept which he explained was partly as a result of the Parish Council taking over responsibility for maintaining Darenth Country Park and that it equated to an additional £6 per household over the year.

Another Member pointed to the many achievements of the Council in providing amenities for local people over the last 30 years and also that although the Council had not directly built new homes during that time this had been because it had not been allowed to do so and, in fact, the Council had worked closely with developers to provide social housing.

The Deputy Shadow Leader welcomed the fact that Dartford would not be increasing its own Council tax but pointed out that Kent County Council had increased its precept by almost 2% with the support of some dual-hatted Members.

Another Member spoke in favour of the budget and commended officers for their work in finding funding for initiatives such as the refurbishment of the Fairfield Pool whilst having to balance the books without any increase in council tax during the last five years. He reminded Members that committees received regular reports on funding and that decisions were also open to scrutiny so it was difficult to see the grounds for claiming lack of transparency in the proposals.

The Leader of the Council responded to the debate. He reminded the meeting of the many positives he had outlined in his earlier speech, the zero Council tax increase, the many infrastructure projects, the protection of services against cuts. He reminded Members that in the face of criticism against the speed on the programme to build new houses he had stated that the pace of this programme could move forward more quickly if conditions allowed for this. In terms of concerns raised about the “bedroom tax” he explained that the Council had introduced fairer housing policies to match supply to actual need rather than aspirational demand. He clarified that the increase in the Living Wage would be applied after the 1% pay award had been made. The Leader also responded to criticism of the increase in the Kent County Council precept but explained that where small increases were justified in order to retain important services, such as Kent’s decision to retain the Freedom Pass, this was sometimes necessary. In terms of transparency he re-iterated the many opportunities available for budgetary decisions to be scrutinised and information requested and felt that the achievements of the Council were transparent and self-evident. He commended the budget to the General Assembly of the Council.

At the request of 5 members of the Labour Group a recorded vote was taken of those members present upon the recommendations contained in the agenda, excepting recommendation 3.7 which had already been unanimously amended and agreed. The voting was as follows:

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Mrs A D Allen	Councillor D Baker
Councillor A Bardoe	Councillor M J Bryant
Councillor S H Brown	Councillor R Bryant
Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill	Councillor S Doran
Councillor P J Cannon	Councillor J S Hawkes
Councillor P F Coleman	Councillor P Kelly
Councillor P Cutler	Councillor T Maddison
Councillor M J Davis	Councillor Mrs A Muckle
Councillor D A Hammock	Councillor J I Muckle
Councillor K Kelly	Councillor G T Prout
Councillor J A Kite	
Councillor E J Lampkin	
Councillor A R Lloyd	
Councillor A R Martin	

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Councillor D J Mote Councillor J M Ozog Councillor R S L Perfitt Councillor M I Peters Councillor B E Read Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood Councillor Mrs R L Shanks Councillor C J Shippam Councillor M J Street Councillor D Swinerd Councillor A Wells Councillor R J Wells Councillor Mrs N C Wightman The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Sandhu The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Thurlow	
TOTAL 29	TOTAL 10

The motion was therefore carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the probable outturn and overall financial position for 2013/2014, as set out in Section 6 of the report, be noted.
2. That, in the light of the probable outturn of the General Fund for 2013/2014, the estimated General Fund balance of £3.0m at 31 March 2014 be noted, as set out in paragraph 7.6.1 of the report.
3. That the main changes to the General Fund Budget, as set out in Appendix A (ii) to the report, be noted.
4. That the council tax requirement of £5,269,769 for 2014/2015, as set out in Appendix B (i) to the report, be approved.
5. That the Pay Policy Statement 2014/15, at Appendix P to the report, be approved.
6. That an increase of 1.0% be applied to local salary levels and other relevant allowances with effect from 1 April 2014.
7. That no increase be applied to Members' and Mayoral allowances for 2014/2015.
8. That the Managing Director be given delegated authority to agree fees payable for elections as outlined in the Pay Policy Statement at Appendix P to the report.

9. That the level of Mayoral allowances be based on a standard rate income tax payer, and this be adjusted to reflect individual tax circumstances, as required.
10. That the fees and charges as set out in Appendix B (ii) to the report, be approved with effect from 1 April 2014, or from any alternative dates set out in the Appendix; that the Managing Director be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Deputy Leader, to set and amend fees and charges at Acacia to meet business demand and to set fees for the Dartford Festival and the Princes Park mini pitches.
11. That the Managing Director be given delegated authority to determine individual sums to be met from the Identified Initiative Reserve in accordance with the agreed general purpose for which it was established.
12. That the Managing Director be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine any expenditure funded from the Homes Bonus, to vire between the individual items during the year, and to report such determinations to Cabinet.
13. That the Community Grants budget, as set out in Appendix B (iii) to the report, be approved.
14. That the Housing Revenue Account Budget, at Appendix C (ii) to the report, be approved.
15. That, in accordance with the Government's rent restructuring methodology the average rent increase of 3.56% for Housing Revenue Account dwellings, be approved; that the fees and charges relating to Housing Revenue Account properties, as set out in Appendix C (iv) to the report be approved. That the rent chargeable for pitches at Claywood Lane Caravan Site, Bean be increased by 3.56% from the first rent week in 2014/2015.
16. That the Corporate Property Maintenance and Improvement Programme be noted, as set out in Appendix E to the report, and the Managing Director be given delegated authority to vire between individual items during the year.
17. That the Capital Programme and budget for 2014/2015 to 2016/2017 be agreed, as set out in Appendices D (i) and D (ii) to the report.
18. That the Medium Term Financial Plan shown at Appendix B (iv) to the report be noted.
19. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement shown at Appendix D (iii) to the report, and the Prudential Indicators detailed therein, be approved, and that the Managing Director be given delegated authority to borrow for capital investment purposes, in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy, should it be in the interest of the Council to do so.

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20. That the Council agrees to use its discretionary powers under Section 47 of the Local Government Act 1988 to implement the changes to business rates proposed by the Government in the Autumn Statement on 5 December 2013, and that the Managing Director be given delegated authority to implement such changes providing the Government fully funds them.
21. That the Managing Director be authorised to charge such sums which are currently anticipated to be met from revenue, balances or reserves, or capital accounts, to other accounts, as is deemed to be in the interest of the authority.
22. That the budget amendment rules for 2014/2015, as set out in Appendix G to the report, be agreed.
23. That the special expense General Fund budget (parish precepts) as set out in Appendix K(i) to the report, totalling £1,068,818, be noted.
24. That the requirement of major preceptors, as detailed in Appendix K (i) to the report, be noted.
25. That the CIPFA statement on the role of the Chief Financial Officer, reproduced as Appendix N to the report, be noted.
26. That the financial threshold for the definition of a key decision, in accordance with Article 13.03(b) of the Constitution, be set at £500,000.
27. That it be noted that at its meeting on 16 December 2013, the General Assembly of the Council calculated the following amounts as its Council Tax Base for the year 2014/2015 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31 B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act)
  - (a) 32,349.72 - being the Council Tax Base for 2014/2015, for the whole Council area.and
  - (b) the aggregate of the amounts for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates, as follows:

	£
Bean Parish	549.12
Darenth Parish	1,455.77
Longfield and New Barn Parish	2,375.88
Southfleet Parish	550.29
Stone Parish	3,535.55
Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley Parish	1,420.58
Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council	4,420.07
Wilmington Parish	2,867.09

28. That the following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2014/2015 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended:-

(a) £51,069,576 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the amounts set out in Section 31 A (2) of the Act, taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.

(b) £44,730,989 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31 A (3) of the Act.

(c) £6,338,587 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with sections 31 A (4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.

(d) £195.94 being the amount at (c) above, divided by 27 (a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with section 31 B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts)

(e) £1,068,818 being the aggregate amount of all special items, i.e. the total of the parish and town council precepts, referred to in Section 34(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

(f) £162.90 being the amount at (d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at 27 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates

(g) Part of the Borough's area:

£194.40	Bean Parish
£208.53	Darenth Parish
£190.23	Longfield and New Barn Parish
£177.95	Southfleet Parish
£233.91	Stone Parish



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£228.07 Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley Parish  
 £273.53 Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council  
 £190.54 Wilmington Parish

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 28(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above, divided in each case by the amount at 28 (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- (h) That the following amounts, given by multiplying the amounts at 28(f) and 28(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, 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 Local Government Finance Act 1992, be the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands:

Bean Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
129.60	151.20	172.80	194.40	237.60	280.80	324.00	388.80

Darenth Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
139.02	162.19	185.36	208.53	254.87	301.21	347.55	417.06

Longfield and New Barn Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
126.82	147.96	169.09	190.23	232.50	274.78	317.05	380.46

Southfleet Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H

118.63	138.41	158.18	177.95	217.49	257.04	296.58	355.90
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Stone Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
155.94	181.93	207.92	233.91	285.89	337.87	389.85	467.82

Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
152.05	177.39	202.73	228.07	278.75	329.43	380.12	456.14

Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
182.35	212.75	243.14	273.53	334.31	395.10	455.88	547.06

Wilmington Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
127.03	148.20	169.37	190.54	232.88	275.22	317.57	381.08

Unparished Parts of the Borough

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
108.60	126.70	144.80	162.90	199.10	235.30	271.50	325.80

29. That it be noted that, for the year 2014/2015, the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts 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:-

Precepting Authorities

Kent County Council

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
712.44	831.18	949.92	1068.66	1306.14	1543.62	1781.10	2137.32

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
96.19	112.22	128.25	144.28	176.34	208.40	240.47	288.56

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET)

MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2014

Kent Fire and Rescue

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
46.20	53.90	61.60	69.30	84.70	100.10	115.50	138.60

30. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 28(h) and 29 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014/2015 for each of the categories of dwellings shown on the following page.

Bean Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
984.43	1148.50	1312.57	1476.64	1804.78	2132.92	2461.07	2953.28

Darenth Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
993.85	1159.49	1325.13	1490.77	1822.05	2153.33	2484.62	2981.54

Longfield and New Barn Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
981.65	1145.26	1308.86	1472.47	1799.68	2126.90	2454.12	2944.94

Southfleet Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
973.46	1135.71	1297.95	1460.19	1784.67	2109.16	2433.65	2920.38

Stone Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1010.77	1179.23	1347.69	1516.15	1853.07	2189.99	2526.92	3032.30

Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1006.88	1174.69	1342.50	1510.31	1845.93	2181.55	2517.19	3020.62

Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1037.18	1210.05	1382.91	1555.77	1901.49	2247.22	2592.95	3111.54

Wilmington Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
981.86	1145.50	1309.14	1472.78	1800.06	2127.34	2454.64	2945.56

Unparished Parts of the Borough

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
963.43	1124.00	1284.57	1445.14	1766.28	2087.42	2408.57	2890.28

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

MAYOR

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS