

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 25 February 2019.

PRESENT:

The Mayor

Councillor D J Mote

The Deputy Mayor

Councillor R S L Perfitt

Councillor Mrs A D Allen, MBE

Councillor M B Kelly

Councillor I D Armitt JP

Councillor P Kelly

Councillor A Bardoe

Councillor J A Kite, MBE

Councillor S H Brown

Councillor E J Lampkin

Councillor J Burrell

Councillor R Lees

Councillor L A Canham

Councillor A R Lloyd

Councillor P F Coleman

Councillor M A Maddison

Councillor R M Currans

Councillor C S McLean

Councillor Paul Cutler

Councillor J M Ozog

Councillor M J Davis

Councillor Mrs J A Ozog

Councillor D A Hammock

Councillor M I Peters

Councillor J S Hawkes

Councillor L J Reynolds

Councillor J A Hayes

Councillor A S Sandhu, MBE

Councillor D E Hunnisett

Councillor C J Shippam

Councillor S R Jarnell

Councillor Mrs R F Storey

Councillor J Jones

Councillor D Swinerd

Councillor Dr B K Kaini

Councillor Mrs P A Thurlow

Councillor K M Kelly

Councillor R J Wells

ABSENT:

Councillor B Garden

Councillor T A Maddison

Councillor D Page

Councillor B E Read

Councillor D J Reynolds

Councillor Mrs R L Shanks

1. PRAYERS: REVEREND AVERY

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Managing Director declared a personal interest on behalf of all Officers present at the meeting in staffing matters referred to in Agenda item 9, Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20.

It was noted that the Managing Director in the exercise of his delegated authority, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, had granted a dispensation to all Councillors to speak and vote on Agenda item 9, Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20, in respect of their receipt of Members' Allowances paid by the Council on the ground that without the dispensation, the number of persons prohibited from participating in the discussion and voting on Members' Allowances would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of business (see agenda item 9).

Councillor I D Armitt declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Appendices J(i),(ii) and (iii) of Agenda item 9 as he is an employee of Wilmington Parish Council.

Councillor J Burrell declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9 as he is a trustee of the Dartford Citizens Advice Bureau which receives grants/funding from the Council.

Councillor R M Currans declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9 as she is a trustee of Home-Start which receives grants/funding from the Council.

Councillor P Kelly declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9 as he is a trustee and Chairman of the Unit Management Committee of the Dartford & Crayford Sea Cadets who receive grants/funding from the Council.

Councillor J A Kite MBE declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9 as he is a director of Dartford Football Club which receives grant funding from the Council.

Councillor R Lees declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9 as he is a trustee of Greenhithe Community Association which is a tenant of the Council and receives grants/funding from the Council.

Councillor D J Mote declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9 as he is a trustee of Greenhithe Community Association which is a tenant of the Council and Chairman of Stone (Dartford) Scout Group, both of which receive grants/funding from the Council.

Councillor A S Sandhu MBE declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9 as he is a trustee of the Kent People's Trust and as Vice-President of Dartford Valley Rugby Football Club as they receive grants/funding from the Council.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Garden, T A Maddison, Page, Read, Denzil Reynolds and Shanks.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET)

MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2019

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded Members that he was coming to the end of his term of office and encouraged Members to support forthcoming events in support of his Charity. In particular the Greek Party Night on 28 February and the Mayor's Charity Ball on 20th April.

5. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

6. MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS - COUNCILLOR B E READ

Members were advised that Councillor B E Read had not attended a council meeting since 27 September 2018 due to ill-health and was unlikely to be able to attend meetings before the end of the six-month period required for him to remain a Councillor. The General Assembly of the Council was therefore asked to grant a dispensation to Councillor Read until the end of his current term in office. Members sent their best wishes to Councillor Read.

RESOLVED:

That the General Assembly of the Council notes Councillor Read's current indisposition for medical reasons and that the Councillor's failure to attend meetings of the Council by reason of that indisposition be approved for the remainder of his current term of office for the reasons detailed in the report.

7. APPOINTMENT OF A NEW MEMBER TO THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The General Assembly of the Council noted the request of the Independent Remuneration Panel for the appointment of an additional member to serve on the Panel to provide greater resilience. Following a recruitment process, including interview by a panel comprising of the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council, the Shadow Leader and the Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel, the General Assembly of the Council was asked to appoint Miss Claire Metcalf to serve as the fourth member of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RESOLVED:

That Miss Claire Metcalf be appointed to membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

8. COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS FOR EMPTY AND UNINHABITABLE DWELLINGS AND EMPTY PREMIUM

The General Assembly of the Council considered a report which proposed reducing the level of Council Tax discount for unoccupied and unfurnished

dwellings and for dwellings undergoing or requiring major structural repair from 1 April 2019. It was proposed to reduce the level of Council Tax discount for unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings from 100% for three months to 100% for one month and the discount for unoccupied dwellings undergoing or requiring major structural repair from 100% for 12 months to 0% for 12 months. It was also proposed to increase the additional charge for dwellings that were unoccupied and unfurnished for 2 years or more from 50% to 100%. The existing discounts had had the effect of providing a cushion to owners of these dwellings and acted as a disincentive for bringing the properties into occupation more quickly. The reduction of the discount would help to counter this and support the Council's empty homes strategy. Kent County Council also supported reducing empty property discounts and had committed to give those authorities who had done so an incentive of 25% of the County's share of additional Council Tax proceeds in 2019/20 (subject to review in future years).

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council Tax discount for unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings be reduced from 100% for three months to 100% for one month;
2. That the Council Tax discount for unoccupied dwellings undergoing or requiring major structural repair be reduced from 100% for 12 months to 0% for 12 months; and
3. That the Cabinet recommends to the General Assembly of the Council that the additional charge for dwellings that are unoccupied and unfurnished for 2 years or more be increased from 50% to 100%.

9. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2019/20

The General Assembly of the Council considered a report which set out the Council's capital and revenue budgets for 2019/20. 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 2019/20, to approve the level of rents chargeable for Housing Revenue Account dwellings for 2019/20, 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.

The Leader of the Council introduced the budget report which he said set the overall framework of the resources available to the Council for the forthcoming year. He said that when Labour had last been in charge of the Council they had put up Council tax by 9.98% in a single year and that had Council Tax been put up by 9% per year in the intervening years the average Band D Council tax for 2019/20 would be around £550 in contrast to the actual rate of £177. Although the Government had capped Council Tax increases Dartford's Council tax had remained below the cap and had been frozen for seven years

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET)

MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2019

and that, although it had been necessary to increase Council Tax the benefit of the earlier freeze on Council Tax was still being felt by residents in having a lower base rate of Council Tax. At the same time the Council had not cut services but instead had continued to invest and improve which was reflected in the provision of family facilities, the retention of weekly bin collections and a wide array of events and festivals. There were financial pressures on services but the Council had been honest with residents and explained that an increase in Council tax of £5 per annum would allow the Council to continue to invest and grow services and he felt that residents understood this approach. It was the intention to return to a freeze in Council tax in the future and this was included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Leader turned to capital expenditure and said that since 2003 the Council had invested heavily in providing facilities such as Princes Park, which delivered a wide range of community programmes, the Dartford Dojo, a new pavilion for Dartford Cricket Club, a new café in Central Park, an outdoor gym and new Bandstand, and the refurbishment of the Fairfield Leisure Centre. The proposed budget included funding to complete the renovation of Central Park and works at Acacia Hall and for major improvements to the Town Centre to deliver quality public space for local residents.

The Leader then outlined some of the community facilities provided by the Council since 2003. He highlighted the construction of the new community club and base for Dartford Valley Rugby Club at Stone Lodge which would provide valuable community space. The budget also included further money to provide for improvements to the car parking at Fairfield Sports Centre to meet popular demand since its refurbishment, and money for improvements to playgrounds to ensure that they were fully accessible and for the refurbishment of the Civic Centre to ensure that it was fit-for-purpose.

The Leader of the Council announced support for two new projects. The first sought to return Dartford Creek to recreational and leisure use and the preservation of this important heritage asset by providing funds for the creation of a master plan to deliver capital works in partnership with the Dartford & Crayford Creek Restoration Trust. He also announced the intention to create a base for the Dartford Arts community building upon work previously carried out to support the arts such as the Dartford Creative and Artsmark initiatives, the refurbishment of the Peter Blake gallery and the national Silk River project.

The Leader highlighted the provision of the first new housing in the borough for over 40 years and an ongoing commitment to deliver high quality council homes at affordable rents. He addressed the issue of homelessness which presented significant challenges and costs for the Council and the steps being taken by the Council to tackle this along with the Council's partners. As a result of this the number of people on the Council's housing list had fallen from 1134 to 786 in a single year and the number of families in temporary accommodation had fallen from 108 to 67. In the last year the Council's Housing Team had prevented homelessness in 198 cases, up from 78 in the previous year.

The Leader turned to revenue spending and explained the extensive services delivered by the Council for less than £3.50 per week for a Band D Council tax payer. He highlighted the many events organised by the Council including the Outdoor theatre and Cinema in the Park, the Steam Fair, Santa's Christmas tour and the Dartford Festival. He also announced that the Council would hold a Dartford Children's Book Festival in the summer to help preserve traditional learning experiences for children and continuing support for the Dartford Business Awards and the activities of voluntary groups within the borough. He highlighted the Council's commitment to continue to retain weekly bin collections, one of only two authorities in Kent to do so, and the importance of effective waste and litter collection services. This was reflected in the award of a new contract for waste collection to Urbaser, who would take over waste collection in the summer, which placed a strong emphasis on delivering better services and cleaner neighbourhoods. There was also an ongoing audit of street litter bins in the Borough which would see new and better bins installed where they were needed and regular bin emptying. He recognised the valuable work carried out by voluntary litter pickers and his intention to support these activities by supporting the great British Spring Clean initiative promoted by the Daily Mail to work with schools and local people in March. Finally he explained the rationale behind proposals to improve road safety around schools and the work of the Leader's Working Group on School Safety. The Working Group had brought together schools, parents, the police and other key partners and as a result plans had been prepared to introduce safety zones around nine schools with new 20 mile per hour speed limits, signage and toolkits for schools supported by funding by the Council. In closing the Leader of the Council commended the budget to the Council and proposed the recommendations contained in the report.

The Deputy Leader of the Council seconded the motion.

The Shadow Leader of the Council responded to the proposed budget and said that since 2015 Council Tax had been increased by 10% despite the Council claiming to be a low tax authority and accused the administration of breaking its promises to local residents on squeezed budgets. He said that the report justified the increase in Council tax by saying that this would protect services but cited examples which, he said, disproved this. He said that people were being asked to pay more but were getting less. He saw little common sense in a budget which sought to generate an extra £1M but which put £4M into reserves and would have an impact on those least able to deal with the increase. Council tax had a regressive impact and the proposed increase seemed to be designed to meet a projected shortfall in Council funding of £4M by 2023. He claimed that the budget failed to address the concerns of local people who, he said, were dissatisfied with the performance of the Council in dealing with litter, late bin collections, the lack of CCTV and failure to deal with irresponsible parking around schools. There was nothing in the proposed budget to deal with these concerns and local people deserved better. He said that his Group would be voting against the budget proposals.

Members debated the budget proposals and thanked the Managing Director, the Management Team and Finance staff for delivering a comprehensive budget. A Member challenged the Shadow Leader's view of the budget and suggested that if he was dissatisfied he should suggest alternatives rather

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET)

MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2019

than just being critical. Another Member criticised the lack of Member involvement in preparing the budget and the lack of engagement and consultation. He also said that there was a projected underspend in 2018/19 of £982,000 despite having put £700,000 into reserves that year and that it was proposed to put a further £350,000 into reserves in 2019/20 despite increasing Council tax. There had also been an underspend of £2.6M in 2017/18 so he questioned why the Council was maintaining such high levels of money in reserves which were not adequately explained rather than delivering services. Another Member said that the same issues and questions had been raised by him during the last 3 budget meetings and continued to fail to be addressed whilst other Members spoke in support of the budget.

The Shadow Leader of the Council moved the following amendment to page 109 (Fees and Charges) of the budget report:

“Litter Enforcement

Litter (within 14 days) – increase proposed new charges from £75 to £100.

Additional income generated to be allocated to the Waste and Parks budget to be used toward funding a programme of new litter bins throughout the Borough”

The Shadow Leader explained that authorities had the power to increase fines and that the Council could recommend an increase for consideration by the Cabinet. He said that there was an issue with street litter and that a higher penalty would encourage people to act more responsibly. The money collected should be ringfenced and used to provide more street bins.

The amendment was seconded by the Deputy Shadow Leader of the Council.

A Member said that a consultation had been carried out in England and Wales when penalties had been introduced and most Council’s had opted to set their charges in the middle of the permissible range to be proportionate to the offence and realistic to encourage people to pay the penalty without further action being required. The current charge was realistic and attracted a high level of payment which would be less likely if the charge was increased to £100. Another Member asked how much money might be raised by increasing the charge as the Shadow Leader seemed unable to provide this information. Another Member was critical of the performance of the Council’s current contractor, Kingdom, and cited unacceptable working practices by the contractor elsewhere.

The Shadow Leader of the Council said that he heard from residents every week who complained about full bins and missed waste collections and this needed to be addressed. He also questioned the low level of actual expenditure of money from the Identified Initiatives Reserve for Litter/Waste.

The Leader of the Council asked how the Shadow Leader intended to collect the increased fines if he got rid of Kingdom, which he suggested was his real

wish. He said that the unacceptable practices cited did not apply in Dartford and that the contract with Kingdom set out clear parameters within which Kingdom had to work. He also explained that there was already a bin replacement programme in place and that the level of penalties needed to be set at the level at which they could be most effective. The current penalties were being paid and the number of repeat offenders was zero.

The amendment was put to the vote and Members voted as follows:

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor J S Hawkes Councillor J Jones Councillor Dr B K Kaini Councillor P Kelly Councillor M Maddison	Councillor Mrs A D Allen, MBE Councillor I D Armitt JP Councillor A Bardoe Councillor S H Brown Councillor J Burrell Councillor L A Canham Councillor P F Coleman Councillor R M Currans Councillor Paul Cutler Councillor M J Davis Councillor D A Hammock Councillor J A Hayes Councillor D E Hunnisett Councillor S R Jarnell Councillor K M Kelly Councillor M B Kelly Councillor J A Kite OBE Councillor E J Lampkin Councillor R Lees Councillor A R Lloyd Councillor C S McLean Councillor J A Ozog Councillor J M Ozog Councillor Mrs M I Peters Councillor L J Reynolds Councillor A S Sandhu Councillor C J Shippam Councillor Mrs R F Storey Councillor D Swinerd Councillor Mrs P A Thurlow Councillor R J Wells The Deputy Mayor, Councillor R S L Perfitt The Mayor, Councillor D J Mote
TOTAL: 5	TOTAL: 33

The amendment was lost.

The Shadow Leader of the Council moved a further amendment to page 43 of the budget report (General Fund Summary) as follows:

“Reduce contribution to reserves by £500,000

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET)

MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2019

Increase Waste and Parks Management Budget by same amount.

To fund a street clean blitz campaign to deep clean those areas of the Borough where litter, fly tipping and graffiti have made lives a misery for local people.”

The Shadow Leader of the Council explained that it was necessary to undertake a deep clean to return the condition of some areas of the borough which could then be maintained and suggested that this was the best way forward.

The amendment was seconded by the Deputy Shadow Leader of the Council.

A Member suggested that the proposal sought to deal with outcomes rather than preventing the build-up of litter and the way ahead was to educate people not to litter. A Member also explained that the purpose of having money in reserves was to smooth out the peaks and troughs in expenditure and said that the proposal to spend £500,000 on one deep clean would only provide a temporary solution which would need to be repeated very quickly which was not sustainable. Another Member felt that a deep clean was the only way to bring the condition of certain parts of the borough back to an acceptable level and that spending to accomplish this would not be a waste of resources given the high level of money in reserves.

The Shadow Leader of the Council said that he was disappointed by the lack of support given that deep cleans had previously been instigated by the administration.

The Leader of the Council said that asking the Council to spend £500,000 on a deep clean just as the Council had announced participation in the biggest spring clean ever carried out in the Borough as part of the Daily Mail Great British Spring Clean was not sensible as litter picking was an integral part of that project. The new waste collection contract with Urbaser was also designed to improve collection services and that it was important to get the community behind the spring clean and to educate people to act responsibly.

The amendment was put to the vote and Members voted as follows:

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor J S Hawkes	Councillor Mrs A D Allen, MBE
Councillor J Jones	Councillor I D Armitt JP
Councillor Dr B K Kaini	Councillor A Bardoe
Councillor P Kelly	Councillor S H Brown
Councillor M Maddison	Councillor J Burrell
	Councillor L A Canham
	Councillor P F Coleman

	Councillor R M Currans Councillor Paul Cutler Councillor M J Davis Councillor D A Hammock Councillor J A Hayes Councillor D E Hunnisett Councillor S R Jarnell Councillor K M Kelly Councillor M B Kelly Councillor J A Kite OBE Councillor E J Lampkin Councillor R Lees Councillor A R Lloyd Councillor C S McLean Councillor J A Ozog Councillor J M Ozog Councillor Mrs M I Peters Councillor L J Reynolds Councillor A S Sandhu Councillor C J Shippam Councillor Mrs R F Storey Councillor D Swinerd Councillor Mrs P A Thurlow Councillor R J Wells The Deputy Mayor, Councillor R S L Perfitt The Mayor, Councillor D J Mote
TOTAL: 5	TOTAL: 33

The amendment was lost.

The Shadow Leader of the Council moved a further amendment to pages 91-92 (Fees and Charges) of the budget report as follows:

“Purchased Graves

Interment to depth up to 4’6”

- Children over 12 months, up to 16 years – amend proposed new charges to FREE

Interment to depth up to 6’6”

- Stillborn and up to 12 months – amend proposed new charges to FREE
- Children over 12 months, up to 16 years – amend proposed new charges to FREE

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET)

MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2019

Interment to depth up to 8'6"

- Stillborn and up to 12 months – amend proposed new charges to FREE
- Children over 12 months, up to 16 years – amend proposed new charges to FREE

Unpurchased Graves

- Children over 12 months, up to 16 years – amend proposed new charges to FREE

As a result of this amendment, Council notes that cemeteries income is estimated to be £9,000 lower than current projections until such a time that the government commitment to a Children's Social Fund is delivered. Any shortfall in income to be taken from reserves."

The Leader of the Council thanked the Shadow Leader for drawing this matter to his attention and said that if he was happy for him to second the amendment he would support this matter being referred to Cabinet for consideration.

The amendment was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Further debate continued on the original motion. A Member pointed out that funding by the Government by way of direct grant may have fallen in recent years but that this had been replaced by funding through the New Homes Bonus and Retained National Non-Domestic Rates. This meant that, whilst the Council had received £6.3M from Government sources 5 years ago, it would receive £9.7M from Government this year. He said that the Shadow Leader had spoken about cuts to the CCTV budget but that the reality was that the Council had entered into a contract which delivered the same level of service but at a cheaper cost. He re-iterated the need to maintain prudent reserves to smooth out peaks and troughs in revenue and expenditure.

The Leader of the Council stressed the achievements of the Council since 2003 and compared previous high levels of Council tax increases with the seven years that Council Tax had not risen under the current administration to the benefit of Dartford's residents. It was intended to freeze Council tax and the Council's Medium Term Plan provided for this, although it had to be recognised that it would be necessary to increase the level of Council tax at some point in the future and he felt that the people of Dartford recognised this necessity. Dartford's Council tax was the second lowest of the authorities in Kent and residents continued to benefit from seven years of frozen Council tax. The Council needed to retain some money in reserves as a prudent measure which reflected the Council's strong financial management and directed resources to the areas where they were most needed and had the greatest impact. He commended the budget to the Council.

The Council voted on the budget proposals en bloc as follows:

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Mrs A D Allen, MBE	Councillor J S Hawkes
Councillor I D Armitt JP	Councillor J Jones
Councillor A Bardoe	Councillor Dr B K Kaini
Councillor S H Brown	Councillor P Kelly
Councillor J Burrell	Councillor M Maddison
Councillor L A Canham	
Councillor P F Coleman	
Councillor R M Currans	
Councillor Paul Cutler	
Councillor M J Davis	
Councillor D A Hammock	
Councillor J A Hayes	
Councillor D E Hunnisett	
Councillor S R Jarnell	
Councillor K M Kelly	
Councillor M B Kelly	
Councillor J A Kite, OBE	
Councillor E J Lampkin	
Councillor R Lees	
Councillor A R Lloyd	
Councillor C S McLean	
Councillor J A Ozog	
Councillor J M Ozog	
Councillor Mrs M I Peters	
Councillor L J Reynolds	
Councillor A S Sandhu	
Councillor C J Shippam	
Councillor Mrs R F Storey	
Councillor D Swinerd	
Councillor Mrs P A Thurlow	
Councillor R J Wells	
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor R S L Perfitt	
The Mayor, Councillor D J Mote	
TOTAL: 33	TOTAL: 5

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the probable outturn and overall financial position for 2018/19, as set out in Section 6 of this report, be noted.
2. That, in the light of the probable outturn of the General Fund for 2018/19, the estimated General Fund balance of £3m at 31 March 2019 be noted, as set out in paragraph 7.6.1 of this report.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET)

MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2019

3. That the main changes to the General Fund Budget, as set out in Appendix A (ii), be noted.
4. That the Council Tax requirement of £6,709,535 for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix B (i) to this report, be approved.
5. That the Pay Policy Statement 2019/20, at Appendix P, be approved.
6. That an increase of 2.5% be applied to all salary levels and associated allowances excluding protected pay.
7. That a 2.5% increase be applied to Members' and Mayoral allowances and other relevant allowances for 2019/2020.
8. 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.
9. That it be noted that the Managing Director is given delegated authority to agree fees payable for elections as outlined in the Pay Policy Statement at Appendix P.
10. That the fees and charges as set out in Appendix B (ii), be noted with effect from 1 April 2019 .
11. That it be noted that the Managing Director has 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 it be noted that the Managing Director has delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader, to determine any expenditure funded from the New Homes Bonus.
13. That the Community Grants budget, as set out in Appendix B (iii), be noted.
14. That the overall Housing Revenue Account Budget, at Appendix C (ii), be approved.
15. That it be noted that the rent charges relating to Housing Revenue Account properties will be reduced by 1% in line with government regulations.
16. That the fees and charges relating to Housing Revenue Account properties, as set out in Appendix C (iii) be noted
17. That the 2% increase in rent chargeable for pitches at Claywood Lane Caravan Site, Bean be noted.

18. That the Corporate Property Maintenance and Improvement Programme be noted, as set out in Appendix E.
19. That the overall Capital Programme and budget for 2019/20 to 2021/22 be agreed and the detail noted as set out in Appendices D (i) and D (ii).
20. That the Medium Term Financial Plan shown at Appendix B (iv) be noted.
21. That the Capital Strategy shown at Appendix D (iii), Treasury Management Strategy Statement shown at Appendix D (v), and the Investment Strategy at Appendix D(iv), 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.
22. That it be noted that the Managing Director is 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.
23. That the budget amendment rules for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix G, be agreed.
24. That the special expense General Fund budget (parish precepts) as set out in Appendix J(i), totalling £1,167,348 be noted.
25. That the requirement of major preceptors, as detailed in Appendix J(i) to this report, be noted.
26. That the CIPFA statement on the role of the Chief Financial Officer, reproduced as Appendix N, be noted.
27. 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.
28. That it be noted that, at its meeting on 10 December 2018, the General Assembly of the Council calculated the following amounts as its Council Tax Base for the year 2019/20 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31 B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act):
 - (a) 37,747.03 being the Council Tax Base for 2018/2019, 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	557.41
Darenth Parish	1,272.18
Longfield and New Barn Parish	2,498.54

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET)

MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2019

Southfleet Parish	628.29
Stone Parish	4,174.46
Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley Parish	1,477.42
Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town	4,469.50
Wilmington Parish	2,989.35

29. That the following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended:-

- (a) £53,004,732 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) £45,127,849 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31 A (3) of the Act.
- (c) £7,876,883 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) £206.68 being the amount at (c) above, divided by 3.28 (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) £1,167,348 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) £177.75 being the amount at (d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at 3.28 (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:

£213.05	Bean Parish
£230.89	Darenth Parish
£205.55	Longfield and New Barn Parish
£191.60	Southfleet Parish
£268.63	Stone Parish
£249.15	Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley Parish
£273.24	Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town
£207.94	Wilmington Parish

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3.29 (f) above to 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 3.28 (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 3.29 (f) and 3.29 (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
142.03	165.71	189.38	213.05	260.39	307.74	355.08	426.10

Darenth Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
153.93	179.58	205.24	230.89	282.20	333.51	384.82	461.78

Longfield and New Barn Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
137.03	159.87	182.71	205.55	251.23	296.91	342.58	411.10

Southfleet Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
127.73	149.02	170.31	191.60	234.18	276.76	319.33	383.20

--

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET)

MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2019

Stone Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
179.09	208.93	238.78	268.63	328.33	388.02	447.72	537.26

Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
166.10	193.78	221.47	249.15	304.52	359.88	415.25	498.30

Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
182.16	212.52	242.88	273.24	333.96	394.68	455.40	546.48

Wilmington Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
138.63	161.73	184.84	207.94	254.15	300.36	346.57	415.88

Unparished Parts of the Borough

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
118.50	138.25	158.00	177.75	217.25	256.75	296.25	355.50

30. That it be noted that, for the year 2019/20, 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 – including social care precept

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
866.28	1010.66	1155.04	1299.42	1588.18	1876.94	2165.70	2598.84

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

128.77	150.23	171.69	193.15	236.07	278.99	321.92	386.30
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Kent Fire and Rescue

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
51.84	60.48	69.12	77.76	95.04	112.32	129.60	155.52

31. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.29(h) and 3.30 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 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwellings shown on the following page.

Bean Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1188.92	1387.08	1585.23	1783.38	2179.68	2575.99	2972.30	3566.76

Darenth Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1200.82	1400.95	1601.09	1801.22	2201.49	2601.76	3002.04	3602.44

Longfield and New Barn Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1183.92	1381.24	1578.56	1775.88	2170.52	2565.16	2959.80	3551.76

Southfleet Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1174.62	1370.39	1566.16	1761.93	2153.47	2545.01	2936.55	3523.86

Stone Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1225.98	1430.30	1634.63	1838.96	2247.62	2656.27	3064.94	3677.92

Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1212.99	1415.15	1617.32	1819.48	2223.81	2628.13	3032.47	3638.96

Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET)

MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2019

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1229.05	1433.89	1638.73	1843.57	2253.25	2662.93	3072.62	3687.14

Wilmington Parish

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1185.52	1383.10	1580.69	1778.27	2173.44	2568.61	2963.79	3556.54

Unparished Parts of the Borough

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1165.39	1359.62	1553.85	1748.08	2136.54	2525.00	2913.47	3496.16

32. That consideration of the cemetery fees for children's graves contained in pages 91-92 of the budget be referred to Cabinet for reconsideration with a recommendation that charges should be amended to be free of charge.

The meeting closed at 8.57 pm

MAYOR

This page is intentionally left blank