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COUNCIL
28/02/2024 at 6.00 pm



Present: The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Moores (in the Chair)

Councillors Adams, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, Ali, Arnott, Ball, M. Bashforth, S. Bashforth, Birch, Bishop, Brownridge, Byrne, Charters, Cosgrove, Davis, Dean, Fryer, Ghafoor, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harkness, H. Harrison, J. Harrison, Hince, Hobin, Hurley, A Hussain, F Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Irfan, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Lancaster, Marland, McLaren, Murphy, Mushtaq, Nasheen, Quigg, Rea, Salamat, Shah, Sharp, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Surjan, Sykes, Taylor, Wahid, Williamson and Woodvine

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor (Councillor Chauhan) and Councillors Gloster, Hindle and Malik.

2 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER TO BE DETERMINED AT THE MEETING**

Councillor S. Bashforth and Councillor Arnott both declared an other-registerable interest insofar as they were Council appointees to the MioCare Board.

3 **TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, advised Council that Rebecca Fletcher had been appointed to the position of Director of Public Health.

4 **TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET CABINET MEETING HELD ON 12TH FEBRUARY 2024 AND TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET IN RELATION TO THE BUDGET FOR 2024/25 AND FURTHER TO THE FOLLOWING ATTACHED REPORTS**

The Deputy Mayor requested and it was **RESOLVED** that Council Procedure Rule 14 (Rules of Debate) be suspended to enable Councillor Shah, the Leader of the Council to exceed the time limit for her contribution in moving the Administration Budget to 15 minutes with a 30 second extension and the seconder, Councillor Jabbar, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources 7 minutes, the Mover of the Main Opposition Group in moving the opposition budget, a time limit of 7 minutes and 30 seconds if required and the seconder 6 minutes and the mover of the Conservative Group amendments 6 minutes with a right of reply of 6 minutes in each matters. All other speakers will be limited to 4 minutes.

The Deputy Mayor informed members that regulations had been implemented which required recorded votes on specific decision at the Budget Council meeting. Members would be advised when a recorded vote was required.

Prior to the consideration of the Budget Proposals, the Deputy Mayor asked the Council to note the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12th February 2024.



On a vote being taken, the recommendation was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12th February 2024 be noted.

a. Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2024/25 to 2028/29 and Projected Outturn for 2023/24

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED a joint report which, sets out for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the detailed budget estimates for 2024/25, the strategic estimates for the four years 2025/26 through to 2028/29 and the projected outturn for 2023/24. The report also set out the recommended dwelling, non-dwelling rents and service and concierge charges to be applied from April 2024.

The submitted report sets out the HRA 2024/25 proposed original budget and the forecast outturn for 2023/24. The opportunity is also taken to present the provisional strategic budgets for 2025/26 through to 2028/29. HRA activities are a key element of the Council's Housing Strategy (approved by Council on 10 July 2019) which aims to provide a diverse Oldham housing offer that is attractive and meets the needs of different sections of the population at different stages of their lives.

After taking all relevant issues into account, the projected financial position for 2023/24 was estimated to be a £0.032m favourable variance when compared to the original budget forecast for 2023/24 approved at the Budget Council meeting, 1st March 2023. Of this variance, £0.273m is due to higher utility costs and increased unitary charges. This adverse variance was offset by £0.305m higher than anticipated brought forward balances from 2022/23.

The estimated balance at the end of 2023/24 was projected to be £20.884m. The closing financial position for 2024/25 shows an estimated HRA closing balance of £19.571m which is sufficient to meet future operational commitments and the potential financial pressures identified in the risk assessment. The 2024/25 position has been presented after allowing for a proposed increase in dwelling rents of 7.7%, an increase in non-dwelling rents in line with individual contracts, a nominal increase of 2% on service charges and the setting of Extra Care Housing concierge charges to fully recover costs.

The majority of HRA tenants were either the recipient of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit, meaning that part or all of the increase will be covered by tenant's benefits. Coupled with the recent increase in the Local Housing Allowance, it is assumed that the proposed increase in rents will not represent an

unmanageable additional financial burden to tenants. In order for the Council to finance the construction of any new build social housing through the HRA, it is essential that increased costs are covered by rent increases so that the HRA could remain financially sustainable. The financial projections for the HRA over the period 2023/24 to 2028/29 showed an overall reduction in the level of balances from £22.584m at the start of 2023/24 to £16.872m at the end of 2028/29.

The HRA detailed budget for 2024/25 and strategic estimates for the four years 2025/26 to 2028/29 and the outturn estimate for 2023/24 were presented to the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board on 26th January 2024. The Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet without amendment. Cabinet duly considered and approved the report at its meeting on 12th February 2024 and commended the report to Council.

No Members spoke on this item.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Forecast HRA outturn for 2023/24, as outlined at Appendix A of the report, be approved.
2. The Proposed HRA budget for 2024/25, as outlined at Appendix B of the report, be approved.
3. The Strategic estimates for 2024/25 to 2028/29, as outlined at Appendix D of the report, be approved.
4. The proposed increase to dwelling rents for all properties of 7.7%, be approved.
5. The proposed increase to non-dwelling rents as per individual contracts be approved.
6. The proposal that service charges are increased by 2%, be approved.
7. The proposal to set Extra Care Housing concierge charges to fully recover actual costs, be approved.

b. Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance that outlined the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 including the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators together with linkages to the Capital Strategy.

The report outlined the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25, the Annual Investment Strategy, Borrowing Strategy and Prudential Indicators. The Council is required through regulations supporting the Local Government Act 2003 to 'have regard to' the Prudential Code. It is required to produce an annual Treasury Strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy setting out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to security and liquidity of those investments.

The Strategy for 2024/25 covers.

- Economic Update
- Prospects for Interest Rates
- The Current Balance Sheet and Treasury Position
- Liability Benchmark
- The Borrowing Strategy
- Debt Rescheduling
- The Borrowing Strategy
- The Investment Strategy
- Approved Counterparties, risk management and Investment Limits
- Treasury Indicators which limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council

The report therefore outlined the implications and key factors in relation to each of the above Capital and Treasury Management issues and made appropriate recommendations regarding the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25.

The report includes the most recently available economic background commentary which reflects the position as at December 2023.

The proposed Treasury Management Strategy had previously been presented to the Audit Committee on 15th January 2024 and to the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board on 25th January 2024, to enable scrutiny of the report before it's further consideration in the budget setting cycle. The report was then considered at the Cabinet meeting on 12th February 2024. The Cabinet was content to commend the report to Council.

No Members spoke on this item.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Capital Expenditure Estimates, as outlined at paragraph 2.4.1 of the report, be approved.
2. The Projected Balance Sheet position, as at 31st March 2024 and future years as per paragraph 2.4.1, of the report, be approved.
3. The Liability Benchmark, as per section 2.5, of the report, be approved.
4. The Borrowing Strategy for 2024/25 as per section 2.6, be approved.
5. The Annual Investment Strategy as per section 2.7 of the report, including counterparties and treasury limits, be approved.
6. The Treasury Management Prudential Indicators at section 2, be approved.

c. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance that presented to Council the proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2024/25.

There was a legal requirement to have a local Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme to support residents of working age on a low income who qualify for assistance in paying Council Tax.

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 requires that each year a billing authority must consider whether to revise its Council Tax Reduction scheme or to replace it with another scheme. Any change to the 2024/25 scheme must be agreed by full Council in line with budget setting arrangements and no later than 10 March 2024. Any proposed change must be subject to prior consultation with major preceptors (for Oldham this is the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on behalf of the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner) and with the public.

The scheme for those of pensionable age is set by the Government and cannot be changed. CTR is a demand led discount scheme so the greater the demand, the higher the impact on Council resources. If the number of CTR claimants increases, it impacts the amount of Council Tax that can be collected by reducing the Council's Council Tax Taxbase.

A major consultation exercise had not been undertaken regarding changes to the CTR scheme and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority has been provisionally advised that no change to the scheme is proposed. In this regard, the proposal is that the CTR scheme for 2024/25 remains the same as that operating in 2023/24 and therefore no consultation exercise was required. The current CTR scheme provides a maximum reduction equivalent to 85% of the Council Tax charge for a Band A property and this has been unchanged since 2014/15. This was considered at the Cabinet meeting of 13th November 2023. Cabinet had been content to commend the proposed CTR scheme to Council without amendment.

In order to inform this proposal, the Council had undertaken some initial analysis regarding a change to the CTR scheme and the appropriateness of introducing an income banded scheme. An income banded scheme would mean that the level of CTR would be based on a claimant's weekly household income assessed against pre-determined income bands. This means if a claimants household income varies but remains in the same band, the amount of support they get won't change. The amount of support only varies if their income changes and moves them into another income band.

In this regard, a modelling exercise has been undertaken. Firstly, leaving the 2023/24 scheme unchanged was modelled. Then two income banded scheme options were modelled (Model 1 and Model 2 as described at paragraph 2.14). The results of the exercise undertaken have been analysed and the results were presented at section 3 of the report.

There is significant uncertainty around the extent that the transition of residents from legacy welfare benefits onto Universal Credit would have on a claimants' household income and how this would then impact on the cost of an income banded scheme if it were to be introduced in 2024/25. The Council cannot currently accurately determine the level of

income those transitioning residents will ultimately receive, which will be critical for an appropriate scheme design.



In view of the continued uncertainty concerning Universal Credit and the marginal impact of any practical change to the CTR scheme at this stage, it was recommended that the Council maintains the current CTR scheme during 2024/25. This would provide continuity regarding entitlement to those residents on the lowest incomes and allow time for the impact of the roll out of UC to become clearer.

No Members spoke on this item.

RESOLVED:

That Council approves the proposal to keep the Council Tax Reduction Scheme unchanged in 2024/25.

d. The Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2024/25

- (i) Revenue Budget 2024/25 and 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29**
- (ii) Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29 and**

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which provided Council with the budget reduction requirement and the Administration's budget proposals for 2024/25 and a forecast of the 2025/26 position having regard to the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (PLGFS) published on 18th December 2023 and the subsequent Final Local Government Finance Settlement (FLGFS) published on 5th February 2024. The report also presents the financial forecasts for the remainder of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) period 2025/26 to 2028/29.

The report presented the Council's Revenue Budget for 2024/25 together with the budget reduction requirement and the Administration's budget proposals for 2024/25 including Council Tax intentions. It also provides a forecast of the 2025/26 position and the financial forecasts for the remainder of the MTFS period, 2026/27 to 2028/29. A version of the Revenue Budget 2024/25 and 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 was presented to the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board on 25 January 2024. The Board scrutinised the report and the other reports on the agenda that form a core part of the Council's strategic financial planning framework.

Section 1 presents an introduction to the report and explains the report format.

Section 2 sets out key Council Policies and Strategies including the Co-operative Council Values, Corporate Plan, Constitution and Rules of Procedure, as the framework within which the Budget has been prepared.

Section 3 presents Local Government Finance developments which have an impact on 2024/25 and future years budgets. It also highlights the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Financial Resilience Index, the CIPFA Financial Management Code.



Section 4 presents the Local Government Finance Policy Statement 2024 to 2025 which set out the Government's intentions to assist financial planning for Councils. It also details the impact of the 2024/25 FLGFS which was the sixth consecutive one-year Settlement. This included key information in relation to overall funding levels, Council Tax referendum limits and grants for 2024/25.

Section 5 presented the 2023/24 revised budget and year end forecasts. The 2023/24 Revenue Budget forecast outturn position at Table 5 highlights a current unfavourable projected variance of £16.2m; which will need to be financed from reserves. This is in addition to the general contribution from reserves of £9.5m approved by Council in March 2023, plus contributions from other earmarked reserves for specific projects/initiatives of some £7m. This means the total contribution from reserves in 2023/24 will be some £34m: a situation that is not sustainable and which has significantly reduced the financial resilience of the council.

Section 6 presented a range of expenditure pressures that contribute to the budget gap. In total they contribute £28.6m, an increase of £13.7m compared to the forecast presented to Full Council on 1st March 23. The expenditure pressures for 2025/26 are projected at a further £23.1m. The main pressures arise from pay, expenditure on Council buildings, increased demand and prices for Children's Social Care service provision and an increased demand for temporary accommodation.

Section 7 set out the confirmed impact of the payment of levies and contributions to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and a levy to the Environment Agency (EA). It showed a reduction in expenditure of £2.0m in the 2024/25 budget forecast compared to the March 2023 forecast, of which £1.4m relates to bus reform expenditure deferred until 2025/26. The final levies position will be confirmed during February 2024.

Section 8 presented the impact of the PLGFS announced on 18th December 2023 and FLGFS published on 5th February 2024 on in respect of central Government Grants. It provides a commentary on the grants announced by or derived from the PLGFS. There is no significant change from the assumptions reported to Council in March 2023.

Section 9 set out how the Locally Generated Income from both Business Rates and Council Tax will support the Council budget. The PLGFS confirmed referendum limits for general purpose Council Tax will remain at 3% each year from April 2024 without the need to hold a referendum. In addition, the threshold for Adult Social Care Precept (ASCP) will remain at a

maximum of 2% each year from April 2024. There remains a requirement to evidence that the funds generated from this precept are used for Adult Social Care expenditure. The section also sets out:

- A. the income to support the budget from Retained Business Rates and how this helps to reduce the level of budget reductions required. In total, Retained Business Rates income has increased from a forecast £50.2m to £56.3m as the Council continues to benefit from the GMCA Business Rates Retention Pilot Scheme. Most of the increase relates to increased transitional payments and a reduction in the provision in respect of appeals. The GMCA is entitled to part of this increase in Business Rates Income, currently estimated at £1.2m. The Business Rates income figure reflects the information contained within the NNDR1 Government submitted on 31 January 2024.
- B. the Council Tax position for 2024/25, advising that:
- The Council Tax Base is 59,380, up from 58,500 in 2023/24 and broadly in line with the position assumed in March 2023.
 - A 2.99% increase in general purposes Council Tax increase is proposed together with a 2% increase for the Adult Social Care Precept.
 - An increase of 4.99% would not require a Council Tax referendum as it would be within the referendum criteria issued by the Government in the PLGFS and not be an excessive increase under the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
 - The Council proposes to continue to provide no Council Tax Empty Property Discount and increase the Empty Property Premium from 1st April 2025.
 - Total Council Tax to be generated for use by the Council based on the Tax Base and the 4.99% increase (including the adult care social precept) is £116.2m in 2024/25.
 - The Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner precept was confirmed on 30 January 2024 with an increase of £13 for a Band D Council Tax.
 - The Greater Manchester Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) was confirmed on 9th February 2024.
 - Saddleworth Parish Council agreed its precept on 18th December 2023 and Shaw and Crompton Parish Council agreed its precept on 30th January 2024. Confirmed figures are presented in the report.

Section 10 outlines the impact of Collection Fund (the ringfenced account within which Council Tax and Business Rates are managed). The 2023/24 Collection Fund forecast outturn projection as outlined in the month 8 financial monitoring

report produces a net surplus of £0.75m of which the vast majority is Oldham Council's share and will be available to support the 2024/25 Revenue Budget.



Section 11 outlined the review of previously approved 2024/25 and 2025/26 Budget Reductions agreed in the 2021/22 and 2023/24 Revenue Budget Reports and advises that there has been some reprofiling of anticipated benefits.

Section 12 outlined the proposal to use Capital Receipts flexibly to finance expenditure leading to transformation in the sum of £2.6m for 2024/25 and a further £2.6m in 2025/26.

Section 13 details the revision to estimates for the financial years 2024/25 to 2025/26 compared to the position previously reported to Council on the 01 March 2023. This presents a revised Budget Reduction requirement (before the use of reserves) of £21.8m for 2024/25 and £6.8m for 2025/26. Having regard to the proposed increase in Council Tax,

Section 14 presents the Administration's approach to balancing the budget for 2024/25 via the Budget Reduction process. There are a total of 34 proposals presented in accordance with Political Portfolios. These are expected to deliver savings totalling £11.0m and impact approximately 90 FTEs in 2024/25. The proposals also have an impact on 2025/26 of £4.8m. All the proposals are presented in summary at Appendix 5 and in detail at Appendix 6. Assuming approval of the 2024/25 Budget Reduction proposals and taking into account the impact of one-off Budget Reduction proposals, the budget reduction requirement for 2024/25 reduces to £10.8m and 2025/26 to £2.2m as set out at Table 17.

Section 15 advises how the budget for 2024/25 is balanced and the final position for 2025/26 as follows:

- The first step in balancing 2024/25 is however, to increase the budget gap by introducing a contribution to reserves in 2024/25 of £1.2m, payable to the GMCA in relation to 100% Business Rates Pilot Gain.
- This increases the budget gap to £10.8m which is then balanced using:
 - a. £2.5m general reserves (approved as part of the 2023/23 budget).
 - b. Additional general reserves of £8.2m to balance the 2024/25 budget.
- After all the budget adjustments and impact of the use of reserves to balance 2024/25, there remains a budget gap still to be addressed of £11.3m for 2025/26.

Section 16 presented the expected level of earmarked reserves at the end of 2023/24 at £36.8m that can support the 2024/25 budget including the Balancing Budget and Fiscal Mitigation reserves for 2024/25.

Section 17 presents the Statement of Robustness, a requirement under Section 25 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 which is the assurance by the Director of Finance on the robustness of the estimates used for the purposes of the Revenue Budget calculations and the adequacy of proposed reserves and balances. General reserves are recommended to be increased from £19m to £30m reflecting the increasingly volatile expenditure pressures the Council faces and the low tax base from which the Council is able to raise additional income. A strategy will need to be developed in 2024/25 to raise the level of general reserves over the MTFS period and increase the financial resilience of the Council. The Director of Finance is able to provide Members with the necessary assurances in respect of the 2024.25 but the Council's financial position in later years is far less certain. A more detailed commentary is provided in Section 17 and at Appendix 9.

Section 18 sets out the proposed fees and charges for the financial year 2024/25.

Sections 19 and 20 set out the Medium-Term Financial Strategy covering the financial years 2025/26 to 2028/29 including the plans for the transformation programme that will begin to help deliver the savings required to balance the budgets in future years.

Section 21 set out the Council's Pay Policy Statement in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 to 43 of the Localism Act 2011, which requires full Council approval.

Sections 22 to the end of the report include options to consider, consultation comments and Legal and Procurement comments in accordance with standard practice. Given the importance of delivering budget reductions and embedding the programme of transformational change, during 2024/25, a Delivery Board chaired by the Leader of the Council will regularly review of the progress of existing change programmes against the delivery milestones and financial targets. It will also ensure that there is continuous emphasis on the delivery of change and the achievement of the budget reductions required in line with the three-year strategy.

As advised above, the Revenue Budget 2024/25 and 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 was presented to the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board on 25TH January 2024 based on the information available at that time.

The Board scrutinised the report and the other reports on the agenda that form a core part of the Council's strategic financial planning framework. The Board considered in detail the Administration's 34 budget reduction proposals and was content to commend to Cabinet at a value of £11.0m in 2024/25 and a further £4.8m in 2025/26.

The Board was also content with all other aspects of the report, including the proposed changes to fees and charges and therefore commended it to Cabinet.



Cabinet duly considered the Revenue Budget 2024/25 and 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 at its meeting on 12th February 2024 and was content to commend the report in full to this Council meeting. This report to Council, therefore, presented a fully balanced budget for 2024/25, an estimated budget reduction requirement of £11.3m for 2025/26 and indicative forecasts for 2026/27 to 2028/29.

AMENDMENT

AMENDMENT Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the amendment to the budget as circulated and detailed in the Council Summons. Councillor Al-Hamdani expressed his thanks to staff who had assisted in the preparation of the report.

Councillors Harkness, Kenyon, Murphy and Williamson spoke in support of the Amendment.

Councillors Lancaster, Hince, Jabbar, Salamat, Iqbal, Goodwin and Charters spoke against the Amendment.

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.

Councillor Al-Hamdani exercised his right of reply.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the AMENDMENT as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	ABSTAINED	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	ABSTAINED	Irfan Muhammed	ABSTAINED
Ball Sandra	AGAINST	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth Steven	AGAINST	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Birch Ros	AGAINST	Lancaster Luke	ABSTAINED
Bishop Helen	FOR	Malik Abdul	APOLOGIES
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	FOR
Byrne Pam	ABSTAINED	McLaren Colin	AGAINST

Charters Josh	AGAINST	Moores Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	AGAINST
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Fryer Paul	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	ABSTAINED
Ghafoor Kamran	ABSTAINED	Rea Lucia	AGAINST
Gloster Hazel	APOLOGIES	Salamat Ali Aqeel	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sharp Beth	ABSTAINED
Harkness Garth	FOR	Sheldon Graham	ABSTAINED
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Jennifer	AGAINST	Surjan Ruji Sapna	AGAINST
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	ABSTAINED
Hurley Maggie	AGAINST	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Woodvine Max	ABSTAINED
Hussain Fida	AGAINST	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES

On a recorded VOTE being taken 9 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RECOMMENDATIONS with 36 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 11 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Woodvine MOVED and Councillor Quigg SECONDED the amendment to the budget as circulated and detailed in the Council Summons. Councillor Woodvine expressed his thanks to staff who had assisted in the preparation of the report.

Councillor Arnott spoke in support of the Amendment.

Councillors Kenyon, Al-Hamdani, Hobin, Jabbar, Holly Harrison, Akhtar, Junaid Hussain, Islam, Shuttleworth, Taylor and Mushtaq spoke against the Amendment.

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.

Councillor Woodvine exercised his right of reply.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the AMENDMENT as follows:



COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	ABSTAINED	Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	FOR	Irfan Muhammed	FOR
Ball Sandra	ABSTAINED	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth Steven	AGAINST	Kenyon Mark	ABSTAINED
Birch Ros	AGAINST	Lancaster Luke	FOR
Bishop Helen	ABSTAINED	Malik Abdul	APOLOGIES
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	ABSTAINED
Byrne Pam	FOR	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Moore's Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	AGAINST
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	ABSTAINED
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Fryer Paul	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	FOR
Ghafoor Kamran	FOR	Rea Lucia	AGAINST
Gloster Hazel	APOLOGIES	Salamat Ali Aqeel	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Hamblett Louie	ABSTAINED	Sharp Beth	FOR
Harkness Garth	ABSTAINED	Sheldon Graham	FOR
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Jennifer	AGAINST	Surjan Ruji Sapna	AGAINST
Hince Marc	ABSTAINED	Sykes Howard	ABSTAINED
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	FOR
Hurley Maggie	ABSTAINED	Williamson Diane	ABSTAINED
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Fida	AGAINST	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES

On a recorded VOTE being taken 11 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RECOMMENDATIONS with 33 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 12 ABSTENTIONS.

The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

The following Councillors then spoke on the ORIGINAL MOTION:

Councillors Birch, Marie Bashforth, Surjan, Jenny Harrison, Charters and Dean spoke in support of the Original Motion.

Councillors Hobin, Sharp, Quigg, Hince, Hamblett, Ghafoor, Bishop, Al-Hamdani and Arnott spoke against the Original Motion.

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.

A recorded VOTE, in line with regulations was then taken on the ORIGINAL MOTION as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	AGAINST	Hussain Junaid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Sajed	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	AGAINST	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR
Ali Mohon	FOR	Iqbal Nadeem	FOR
Arnott Dave	AGAINST	Irfan Muhammed	AGAINST
Ball Sandra	AGAINST	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Bashforth Marie	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Bashforth Steven	FOR	Kenyon Mark	AGAINST
Birch Ros	FOR	Lancaster Luke	AGAINST
Bishop Helen	AGAINST	Malik Abdul	APOLOGIES
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Marland Alicia	AGAINST
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	FOR
Charters Josh	FOR	Moore Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Murphy Dave	AGAINST
Davis Peter	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Dean Peter	FOR	Nasheen Umar	FOR
Fryer Paul	FOR	Quigg Lewis	AGAINST
Ghafoor Kamran	AGAINST	Rea Lucia	AGAINST
Gloster Hazel	APOLOGIES	Salamat Ali Aqeel	FOR

Goodwin Chris	FOR	Shah Arooj	FOR
Hamblett Louie	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	AGAINST
Harkness Garth	AGAINST	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Holly	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Harrison Jennifer	FOR	Surjan Ruji Sapna	FOR
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	AGAINST
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	AGAINST
Hurley Maggie	AGAINST	Williamson Diane	AGAINST
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Hussain Fida	FOR	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES

On a recorded VOTE being taken 31 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RECOMMENDATIONS with 25 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS.

The MOTION (and the reports) was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

That Council approves:

- 1 The policy landscape and context in which the Council is setting its Revenue Budget for 2024/25.
- 2 The Budget Reduction requirement for 2024/25 and 2025/26 having regard to funding announcements including the Provisional and Final Local Government Finance Settlements.
- 3 The financial forecasts and Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 to 2028/29.
- 4 The additional revenue expenditure required to support the proposed Capital Programme of £1.45m for 2024/25 and a further £3.50m in 2025/26 as included at Table 6 of this report.
- 5 The use of £0.75m of surplus Collection Fund resources to support the balancing of the 2024/25 Revenue Budget.
- 6 The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts at a value of £2.60m for 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- 7 Revisions to previously approved Budget Reduction proposals resulting in a budgetary impact of £8.80m in 2024/25 and £6.32m in 2025/26.
- 8 The 2024/25 Budget Reduction proposals at a value of £11.02m with a further £4.82m for 2025/26 - this includes the proposed dismissal of statutory officers as set out at Appendix 6, BR1-731.
- 9 The proposed use of £10.75m of reserves to balance the 2024/25 budget as set out in Table 18 of this report.
- 10A proposed overall 2024/25 Council Tax increase of 4.99% for Oldham Council services (2.99% for general purposes and 2% Adult Social Care Precept) resulting

in the charges set out at Table 12 of the report and the detailed charges set out at Appendix 3.

- 11 The proposed net revenue expenditure budget for 2024/25 for the Council set at £299.82m as set out at paragraph 15.6 and at Appendix 8.
- 12 The proposal to draw on the Collection Fund for major preceptors of £138.08m for Borough Wide services and £116.16m for Council services.
- 13 To confirm the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2024/25 identified at paragraph 9.30.
- 14 To approve the introduction of a 100% Council Tax Premium to be levied on Periodically Occupied Properties from 1st April 2025.
- 15 The proposed fees and charges as set out in the schedule included at Appendix 10.
- 16 The level of balances supporting the 2024/25 budget to be retained at £18.86m underpinned by the agreed policy on Earmarked Reserves.
- 17 The Pay Policy statement included at Appendix 12; and
- 18 The delegation to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources and the Director of Finance to make a final decision on the feasibility of a pensions pre-payment if it represents value for money to the Council as set out at 6.2-n.

Resolution related to the Council Tax Base for the Financial Year 2024/2025 as approved by the Cabinet on 22nd January 2024 and the Resolution related to the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/2025, as detailed in the summons.

No members spoke on this item.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations, was then taken on the Resolution 2 as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Junaid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Sajed	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR
Ali Mohon	FOR	Iqbal Nadeem	FOR
Arnott Dave	FOR	Irfan Muhammed	FOR
Ball Sandra	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Bashforth Marie	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Bashforth Steven	FOR	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Birch Ros	FOR	Lancaster Luke	FOR
Bishop Helen	FOR	Malik Abdul	APOLOGIES

Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Marland Alicia	FOR
Byrne Pam	FOR	McLaren Colin	FOR
Charters Josh	FOR	Moores Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Murphy Dave	FOR
Davis Peter	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Dean Peter	FOR	Nasheen Umar	FOR
Fryer Paul	FOR	Quigg Lewis	FOR
Ghafoor Kamran	FOR	Rea Lucia	FOR
Gloster Hazel	APOLOGIES	Salamat Ali Aqeel	FOR
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Shah Arooj	FOR
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sharp Beth	FOR
Harkness Garth	FOR	Sheldon Graham	FOR
Harrison Holly	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Harrison Jennifer	FOR	Surjan Ruji Sapna	FOR
Hince Marc	FOR	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hobin Brian	FOR	Wahid Abdul	ABSTAINED
Hurley Maggie	FOR	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Fida	FOR	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES

On a recorded VOTE being taken 55 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RECOMMENDATIONS with 0 VOTES cast AGAINST and there was 1 ABSTENTION.

The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED

1. That it be noted that on 22nd January 2024, the following amounts were approved by the Cabinet as the Council's Council Tax Base for the financial year 2024/25:
 - a) 59,380 for the whole Council area [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")].
 - b) 9,150 for dwellings in the Saddleworth Parish area to which a Parish precept relates.
 - c) 5,724 for dwellings in the Shaw and Crompton Parish area to which a Parish precept relates.
2. That it be approved that the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish precepts) is £116,154,999.

Resolution 3 related to the amounts calculated by the Council for the year 2023/2024 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992



No members spoke on the item.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations, was then taken on the RESOLUTION as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Junaid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Sajed	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR
Ali Mohon	FOR	Iqbal Nadeem	FOR
Arnott Dave	FOR	Irfan Muhammed	FOR
Ball Sandra	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Bashforth Marie	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Bashforth Steven	FOR	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Birch Ros	FOR	Lancaster Luke	FOR
Bishop Helen	FOR	Malik Abdul	APOLOGIES
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Marland Alicia	FOR
Byrne Pam	FOR	McLaren Colin	FOR
Charters Josh	FOR	Moore's Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Murphy Dave	FOR
Davis Peter	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Dean Peter	FOR	Nasheen Umar	FOR
Fryer Paul	FOR	Quigg Lewis	FOR
Ghafoor Kamran	FOR	Rea Lucia	FOR
Gloster Hazel	APOLOGIES	Salamat Ali Aqeel	FOR
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Shah Arooj	FOR
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sharp Beth	FOR
Harkness Garth	FOR	Sheldon Graham	FOR
Harrison Holly	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Harrison Jennifer	FOR	Surjan Ruji Sapna	FOR
Hince Marc	FOR	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hobin Brian	FOR	Wahid Abdul	FOR

Hurley Maggie	FOR	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Fida	FOR	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES



On a recorded VOTE being taken 56 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RECOMMENDATIONS with 0 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS.

The MOTION was therefore CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED

That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with the Sections 31A to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 be approved as follows:

- a) £716,905,666 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account any Precepts for the Saddleworth and Shaw & Crompton Parish areas
- b) £600,396,029 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act.
- c) £116,509,637 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- d) £1,962.10 being the amount at 3(c) above, all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- e) £354,638 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 34(1) of the Act, being the Saddleworth and Shaw & Crompton Parish precepts.
- f) £1,956.13 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the amount by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(2) of the Act, 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) £1,983.14 Saddleworth Parish area being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, 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) £1,974.91 Shaw & Crompton Parish area being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those

parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, 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.



Resolution 4 – Relating to the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and the Mayor General Precept (including Fire Services)

Councillor Sykes and Councillor Shah spoke in relation to a security incident that had occurred earlier in the meeting, which it was agreed would be considered at a meeting of Group Leaders.

On being put to the VOTE, the RESOLUTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

That for the year 2024/25 the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and the Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) for Greater Manchester had been issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below be noted.

Resolution 5 – Relating to the Setting of the Council Tax for 2024/25

No members spoke on this item.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations, was then taken on the RESOLUTION as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	AGAINST	Hussain Junaid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Sajed	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR
Ali Mohon	FOR	Iqbal Nadeem	FOR
Arnott Dave	AGAINST	Irfan Muhammed	ABSTAINED
Ball Sandra	AGAINST	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Bashforth Marie	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Bashforth Steven	FOR	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Birch Ros	FOR	Lancaster Luke	AGAINST
Bishop Helen	FOR	Malik Abdul	APOLOGIES
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Marland Alicia	FOR
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	FOR

Charters Josh	FOR	Moore's Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Murphy Dave	FOR
Davis Peter	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Dean Peter	FOR	Nasheen Umar	FOR
Fryer Paul	FOR	Quigg Lewis	AGAINST
Ghafoor Kamran	ABSTAINED	Rea Lucia	AGAINST
Gloster Hazel	APOLOGIES	Salamat Ali Aqeel	FOR
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Shah Arooj	FOR
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sharp Beth	AGAINST
Harkness Garth	FOR	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Holly	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Harrison Jennifer	FOR	Surjan Ruji Sapna	FOR
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	AGAINST
Hurley Maggie	AGAINST	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Hussain Fida	FOR	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES

On a recorded VOTE being taken 40 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RECOMMENDATIONS with 14 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 2 ABSTENTIONS.

The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED

That the Council, in accordance with sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Authority/Parish	Council Tax Bands (£)							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Oldham Council	1,304.08	1,521.43	1,738.78	1,956.13	2,390.82	2,825.52	3,260.21	3,912.26
Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	170.86	199.34	227.82	256.30	313.25	370.21	427.16	512.60
Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)	75.30	87.85	100.40	112.95	138.05	163.15	188.25	225.90
Saddleworth Parish Precept	18.00	21.00	24.00	27.01	33.01	39.01	45.01	54.02
Shaw and Crompton Parish Precept	12.52	14.60	16.69	18.78	22.95	27.12	31.30	37.56

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS



Authority/Parish	Council Tax Bands (£)							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Saddleworth Parish Area	1,568.24	1,829.62	2,091.00	2,352.39	2,875.13	3,397.89	3,920.63	4,704.78
Shaw & Crompton Parish Area	1,562.76	1,823.22	2,083.69	2,344.16	2,865.07	3,386.00	3,906.92	4,688.32
All other parts of the Council's Area	1,550.24	1,808.62	2,067.00	2,325.38	2,842.12	3,358.88	3,875.62	4,650.76

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.30pm