

COUNCIL
4 MARCH 2020

(7.15 pm - 10.05 pm)

PRESENT The Mayor, Councillor Janice Howard
 The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Edward Foley

Councillor Agatha Mary Akyigyina OBE, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Eloise Bailey, Thomas Barlow, Nigel Benbow, Hina Bokhari, Kelly Braund, Mike Brunt, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, Ben Butler, Tobin Byers, Billy Christie, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Stephen Crowe, Mary Curtin, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Anthony Fairclough, Jenifer Gould, Edward Gretton, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Andrew Howard, Natasha Irons, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Paul Kohler, Rebecca Lanning, Najeeb Latif, Edith Macauley MBE, Russell Makin, Peter McCabe, Simon McGrath, Nick McLean, Oonagh Moulton, Aidan Mundy, Hayley Ormrod, Dennis Pearce, Owen Pritchard, Carl Quilliam, David Simpson CBE, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Eleanor Stringer, Dave Ward, Martin Whelton, Dickie Wilkinson and David Williams MBE JP

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Dean, Brenda Fraser, Joan Henry and Marsie Skeete.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2020 are agreed as an accurate record.

4 BUSINESS PLAN 2020-24 (Agenda Item 4)

The Mayor outlined the procedure for this Budget Council meeting. She also reminded the Council that all budget related decisions, including proposed amendments, were required to be recorded within the minutes with a list of the names of those who voted for or against the decision or who abstained from voting. To accommodate that, a roll call vote would be taken for the substantive budget motion and any amendments to it.

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Director of Corporate Services presented the Business Plan 2020-2024. The Director then responded to questions from

Councillors David Chung, Adam Bush, Mike Brunt, Jenifer Gould, Stan Anderson, Oonagh Moulton, Paul Kohler, Edith Macauley, Najeeb Latif and Ben Butler.

The Leader of the Council presented the Business Plan 2020-24 and formally moved the recommendations in the report whilst making his budget speech to Council, a copy of which is appended to the minutes as Appendix A.

Councillor Eleanor Stringer formally seconded the recommendations, and reserved her right to speak.

The Mayor then invited the opposition Group Leaders in turn to respond to the Budget proposal and the Business Plan.

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Nick McLean addressed the meeting and his speech is attached to the minutes, as Appendix B. As part of his speech, he presented the proposed amendment to the Business Plan 2020-24.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Anthony Fairclough, addressed the meeting, and his speech is attached to the minutes, as Appendix C. As part of his speech, he presented the proposed amendments to the Business Plan 2020-24

The Leader of the Merton Park Ward Independent Residents Group, Councillor Peter Southgate, addressed the meeting and his speech is attached to the minutes, as Appendix D.

The following members of the Cabinet addressed the meeting: Councillors Mark Allison and Laxmi Attawar.

The Mayor then invited members to move proposed amendments to the Business Plan.

Councillor Nick McLean moved the Conservative amendment which was seconded by Councillor Edward Gretton.

Councillor Anthony Fairclough moved the Liberal Democrat amendment 1 which was seconded by Councillor Eloise Bailey.

Councillor Anthony Fairclough moved the Liberal Democrat amendment 2 which was seconded by Councillor Eloise Bailey.

Councillor Anthony Fairclough moved the Liberal Democrat amendment 3 which was seconded by Councillor Eloise Bailey.

The Mayor then opened up the general debate on the proposed amendments and on the proposed substantive Business Plan. The following members spoke in the debate: Councillors Owen Pritchard, Daniel Holden, Agatha Akyigyina, Hayley Ormrod, Hina Bokhari, Aidan Mundy, David Simpson, Nick Draper, Nigel Benbow, Carl Quilliam, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, James Holmes, David Ward, Peter Southgate, John Dehaney, Andrew Howard, Rebecca Lanning, Thomas Barlow, Martin Whelton, Simon McGrath, Dennis Pearce, Stephen Crowe, Mary Curtin, David Williams, Paul Kohler, Tobin Byers, Peter McCabe, Natasha Irons, Billy Christie and Eleanor Stringer.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Mayor called for a roll-call vote on the Conservative amendment to the Business Plan 2020-2024. Voting was as follows:

Votes in favour: Councillors Thomas Barlow, Nigel Benbow, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, Stephen Crowe, Edward Gretton, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Andrew Howard, Najeeb Latif, Nick McLean, Oonagh Moulton, Hayley Ormrod, David Simpson, David Williams and the Mayor, Councillor Janice Howard (16)

Votes against: Councillors Agatha Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Kelly Braund, Mike Brunt, Ben Butler, Tobin Byers, Billy Christie, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Mary Curtin, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Natasha Irons, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Rebecca Lanning, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Peter McCabe, Russell Makin, Dennis Pearce, Owen Pritchard, Geraldine Stanford, Eleanor Stringer, Dave Ward and Martin Whelton (30)

Not voting: Councillors Eloise Bailey, Hina Bokhari, Anthony Fairclough, Jenifer Gould, Paul Kohler, Simon McGrath, Carl Quilliam, Peter Southgate, Dickie Wilkinson and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ed Foley (10)

The Mayor declared the amendment to be lost.

The Mayor then called for a roll-call vote on the Liberal Democrat amendment 1 to the Business Plan 2020-2024. Voting was as follows:

Votes in favour: Councillors Eloise Bailey, Hina Bokhari, Anthony Fairclough, Jenifer Gould, Paul Kohler, Simon McGrath, Carl Quilliam, Peter Southgate, Dickie Wilkinson and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ed Foley (10)

Votes against: Councillors Agatha Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Kelly Braund, Mike Brunt, Ben Butler, Tobin Byers, Billy Christie, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Mary Curtin, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Natasha Irons, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Rebecca Lanning,

Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Peter McCabe, Russell Makin, Dennis Pearce, Owen Pritchard, Geraldine Stanford, Eleanor Stringer, Dave Ward and Martin Whelton (30)

Not voting: *Councillors Thomas Barlow, Nigel Benbow, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, Stephen Crowe, Edward Gretton, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Andrew Howard, Najeeb Latif, Nick McLean, Oonagh Moulton, Hayley Ormrod, David Simpson, David Williams and the Mayor, Councillor Janice Howard (16)*

The Mayor declared the amendment to be lost.

The Mayor then called for a roll-call vote on the Liberal Democrat amendment 2 to the Business Plan 2020-2024. Voting was as follows:

Votes in favour: *Councillors Eloise Bailey, Thomas Barlow, Nigel Benbow, Hina Bokhari, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, Stephen Crowe, Anthony Fairclough, Edward Gretton, Jenifer Gould, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Andrew Howard, Paul Kohler, Najeeb Latif, Simon McGrath, Nick McLean, Oonagh Moulton, Hayley Ormrod, Carl Quilliam, David Simpson, David Williams and the Mayor, Councillor Janice Howard (23)*

Votes against: *Councillors Agatha Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Kelly Braund, Mike Brunt, Ben Butler, Tobin Byers, Billy Christie, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Mary Curtin, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Natasha Irons, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Rebecca Lanning, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Peter McCabe, Russell Makin, Dennis Pearce, Owen Pritchard, Geraldine Stanford, Eleanor Stringer, Dave Ward and Martin Whelton (30)*

Not voting: *Councillors Peter Southgate, Dickie Wilkinson and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ed Foley (3)*

The Mayor declared the amendment to be lost.

The Mayor then called for a roll-call vote on the Liberal Democrat amendment 3 to the Business Plan 2020-2024. Voting was as follows:

Votes in favour: *Councillors Eloise Bailey, Thomas Barlow, Nigel Benbow, Hina Bokhari, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, Stephen Crowe, Anthony Fairclough, Edward Gretton, Jenifer Gould, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Andrew Howard, Paul Kohler, Najeeb Latif, Simon McGrath, Nick McLean, Oonagh Moulton, Hayley Ormrod, Carl Quilliam, David Simpson, Peter Southgate, David Wilkinson, David Williams, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ed Foley and the Mayor, Councillor Janice Howard (26)*

Votes against: *Councillors Agatha Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Kelly Braund, Mike Brunt, Ben Butler, Tobin Byers, Billy*

Christie, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Mary Curtin, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Natasha Irons, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Rebecca Lanning, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Peter McCabe, Russell Makin, Dennis Pearce, Owen Pritchard, Geraldine Stanford, Eleanor Stringer, Dave Ward and Martin Whelton (30)

The Mayor declared the amendment to be lost.

The Mayor then called for a roll-call vote on the substantive motion for the Business Plan 2020-24. Voting was as follows:

Votes in favour: *Councillors Agatha Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Kelly Braund, Mike Brunt, Ben Butler, Tobin Byers, Billy Christie, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Mary Curtin, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Natasha Irons, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Rebecca Lanning, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Peter McCabe, Russell Makin, Dennis Pearce, Owen Pritchard, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Eleanor Stringer, Dave Ward, Dickie Wilkinson, Martin Whelton and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ed Foley (33)*

Votes against: *Councillors Eloise Bailey, Hina Bokhari, Anthony Fairclough, Jenifer Gould, Paul Kohler, Simon McGrath and Carl Quilliam (7)*

Not voting: *Councillors Thomas Barlow, Nigel Benbow, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, Stephen Crowe, Edward Gretton, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Andrew Howard, Najeeb Latif, Nick McLean, Oonagh Moulton, Hayley Ormrod, David Simpson, David Williams and the Mayor, Councillor Janice Howard (16)*

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council agrees the Business Plan 2020-24 including:-
 - A) the General Fund Budget;
 - B) the Council Tax Strategy for 2020/21 equating to a Band D Council Tax of £1,276.92, which is an increase of below 4%, inclusive of 2% Adult Social Care flexibility;
 - C) the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2020-24;
 - D) the Capital Investment Programme (as detailed in Annex 1 to the Capital Strategy);
 - E) the Capital Strategy (Section 1, A)
 - F) the Treasury Management Strategy (Section 1, A), including the detailed recommendations in that Section, incorporating the Prudential Indicators as set out in the Council report;and agrees the formal resolutions as set out in Appendix 1 to the Council report.