

**NORTH DEVON COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of NORTH DEVON COUNCIL held at Crematorium Meeting Room - North Devon Crematorium on Wednesday, 23rd February, 2022 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Members:

Councillor Hunt (Chair)

Councillors Barker, Bushell, Campbell, Cann, Davies, Fowler, Gubb, Henderson, Knight, Lane, Ley, Lofthouse, Lovering, Mack, Mackie, Patrinos, Pearson, Roome, D. Spear, L. Spear, Topham, Topps, Tucker, Turton, Walker, Wilkinson, Worden, Yabsley and York

Officers:

Chief Executive, Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive and Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

**99. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Biederman, Bulled, Davis, Leaver, Orange, Phillips, Prowse and Saxby.

**100. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2022 (ATTACHED)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**101. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**(a) Chairs Civic Service: 27 February 2022**

The Chair reminded Councillors that it was her Civic Service on Sunday 27 February 2022 and asked if that any Councillors who had not yet responded to the invitation to do so to either herself or the Senior Corporate and Community Services Officer this evening.

**(b) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy**

The Chair advised that she was taking part in a number of tree planting ceremonies as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy around North Devon in parks, care homes and some schools. She encouraged other local communities to become involved.

**(c) Western Power Distribution**

The Chair passed on the Council's sincere gratitude to Western Power's hard work in re-instating power at homes in all weathers following the recent disruptions caused by Storm Eunice.

**102. BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY OR WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CHAIR**

There were no items of business brought forward by or with the consent of the Chair.

**103. REPLIES TO ANY QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC AND/OR TO RECEIVE PETITIONS UNDER PART 4, COUNCIL PROCEDURES RULES, PARAGRAPHS 8 AND 9 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

There were no questions submitted by the Public, or Petitions received under part 4 of the Council Procedure Rules, Paragraph 8 and 9 of the Constitution.

**104. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 4, COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES, PARAGRAPH 11 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

**(a) To consider the following notice of motion from Councillor Wilkinson**

Councillor Wilkinson presented his notice of motion to Council.

It was moved by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Yabsley "that the notice of motion be referred to the Strategy and Resources Committee for consideration".

RESOLVED that the notice of motion be referred to the Strategy and Resources Committee for consideration.

**(b) To consider the following notice of motion from Councillor Lofthouse**

Councillor Lofthouse presented his notice of motion to Council.

It was moved by Councillor Lofthouse and seconded by Councillor Walker "that the notice of motion be referred to the Strategy and Resources Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED that the notice of motion be referred to the Strategy and Resources Committee for consideration.

**105. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**106. CHAIR'S REPLIES TO ANY QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL BY MEMBERS SUBMITTED UNDER PART 4, COUNCIL PROCEDURES RULES, PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

There were no questions received by Members submitted under Part 4, Council Procedure Rules, Paragraph 10 of the Constitution.

**107. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Council considered and noted a report by the Leader of the Council (circulated previously) regarding work that had been undertaken since the last Council meeting.

The Leader updated Council on devolutions discussions that were taking place with Devon County Council, Torbay Council and other District Councils. An update would be provided at the next Strategy and Resources Committee on 7 March 2022 and he invited Members to attend that meeting.

It was agreed that if any other Members of the Council wished to attend the meeting on Strategy and Resources Committee on 7 March 2022 that they attend virtually.

**108. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

There were no questions submitted by Members to the Leader or the Chair of a Committee under Part 4, Council Procedure Rules, paragraph 10.4 of the Constitution.

**109. PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT QUARTER 3 OF 2021/22**

Council considered the Performance and Financial Management report for Quarter 3 of 2021/22 to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 7 February 2022 (circulated previously).

(a) **Report of the Policy Development Committee**

Councillor D. Spear, Chair of the Policy Development Committee presented the Committee's report on the Performance and Financial Management for Quarter 3 of 2021/22 to the Policy Development Committee on 10 February 2022 (circulated previously).

(b) **Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee**

Councillor Worden, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee reported the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee on the Performance and Financial Management for Quarter 3 of 2021/22 (circulated previously).

It was moved by Councillor Worden and seconded by Councillor Bushell “that minute 104 (f) of the report of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022 regarding the Performance and Financial for Quarter 3 of 2021/22 be adopted.”

Councillor Worden advised Council that it was a very encouraging report and thanked the Finance team for their hard work.

RESOLVED that minute 104 (f) of the report of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022 regarding the Performance and Financial for Quarter 3 of 2021/22 be adopted.

**110. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES 2022/23**

Council considered the Review of Fees and Charges for Services 2022/23 report to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 7 February 2022 (circulated previously).

(a) **Pannier Market Traders Committee consultation response**

Council received the Pannier Market Traders Committee consultation response (circulated previously).

The Director of Resources advised that the Pannier Market Traders Committee had requested that the Pannier Market fees not be increased. He advised that both the Strategy and Resources Committee and Policy Development Committee had recommended that the Pannier Market fees were not increased.

(b) **Report of meeting of the Harbour Board**

Councillor Fowler, Chair of the Harbour Board presented the report of the meeting of the Harbour Board held on 1 February 2022 (circulated previously).

(c) **Report of the Policy Development Committee**

Councillor D. Spear, Chair of the Policy Development Committee presented the Committee’s report on the review of Fees and Charges for services 2022/23 to the Policy Development Committee on 10 February 2022 (circulated previously).

The Director of Resources confirmed that the Policy Development Committee at its meeting on 10 February 2022 had endorsed the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022.

(d) **Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources**

**Committee**

Councillor Worden, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee reported the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee on the review of Fees and Charges for Services 2022/23 (circulated previously).

It was moved by Councillor Worden and seconded by Councillor York “that minute 105 of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022 regarding the Review of Fees and Charges for Services 2022/23 be adopted.”

RESOLVED that minute 105 of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022 regarding the Review of Fees and Charges for Services 2022/23 be adopted.

**111. REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022-23 TO 2027-28**

Councillor Worden, provided an introduction to the Revenue Budget 2022/23, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2027/28 to Council which had been considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee and Policy Development Committee. He thanked the Director of Resources and the Finance Team for producing a balanced budget.

Council received a presentation by the Director of Resources regarding the Revenue Budget 2022/23, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2027/28 (circulated previously).

The Director of Resources advised Council that a copy of the presentation had also been circulated to all Members via email.

- Government Finance Settlement December 2021. The Revenue Support Grant and baseline funding was predominantly the same as for 2021/22. The Rural Services Delivery grant was same as for 2021/22. The New Homes Bonus (Medium Term Financial Strategy refresh assumed £812,000 which was legacy payment of £435,000 plus approximately £400,000 for 2022/23. The actual New Homes Bonus award was £1.45m. Lower Tier Services grant of £134,000 had been retained in the funding. The Government had previously advised that this grant would only be received for 2021/22. New “Services” grant had been provided of £206,000 for a one year period only. All Covid 19 additional grant support had been removed.
- In relation to Council Tax, a referendum was required for Shire Districts if the Authority set an increase of 2% (or more than 2%), or more than £5, whichever was greater. The draft revenue budget for 2022/23 assumed an increase of £5. The overall council Tax income would increase by £244,000 of which £172,000 came from the additional £5 and £72,000 from the increase in Council Tax base.
- The draft budget factored in £1.750m for retained income growth for Business Rates. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) assumed £1.8m which was made up of £1.2m National Non Domestic Rates growth, Renewable Energy schemes of £400,000 and Devon pool retained income of £200,000.

- Analysis of national Local Government funding from 2012/13 to 2022/23. Funding had reduced from £28.1billion in 2012/13 to £18.5billion in 2019/20 which was a 34% cut. There had been rises in funding since 2019/20, the largest in 2021/22 to 2022/23 of £2.1billion which reduced the overall cut to 20%.
- Core Spending Power analysis by region and authority type for England.
- The MTFS model had been refreshed in October 2021 based upon: the Fair Funding Review which had been planned for 2022/23 had now slipped by one year to 2023/24 and the New Homes Bonus Review that had been planned for 2022/23 which had now slipped to 2023/24. The MTFS refresh had not included: any financial net benefit of further reviews to service areas; income generation and net revenue gains through projects from the Commercialisation Strategy; any new Business Rates growth following the 2023/24 Fair Funding Review; and review and/or price increases to income streams.
- New Homes Bonus provisional level of funding of £1,451,083 for 2022/23. The level of funding 2021/22 was £1,354,430. The MTFS assumed £812,000 for 2022/23, therefore, there was an additional £639,000 compared to the MTFS. In 2023/24 the projected New Homes Bonus income was £506,000, potential reduction of over £945,000 funding on the current level. There was uncertainty regarding future funding and the scheme design.
- Business Rates Retention and forecast levels of income for 2022/23 year.
- Reform of Local Government funding for 2023/24 onwards.
- In 2021/22 Council Tax levels Band D properties had been increased by £5 (equivalent of 2.65%). Rural Councils could increase Council Tax by up to 2% or £5 (whichever higher). By increasing the level by £5 for 2022/23 would increase NDC's proportion of Council Tax for Band D properties from £193.35 to £198.35 (increase of 2.59%). Devon County Council had approved an increase of 2.99%, Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner had approved an increase of £10 for Band D properties and Devon and Somerset Fire Authority had approved an increase of 1.99%. The average Council Tax for Band D overall would increase by 3%.
- Revenue budget cost pressures versus the assumptions included within the MTFS:
  - Salaries pay award and increments now slightly higher than estimated and £612,000 had been built into the draft budget. The MTFS refresh assumed £535,000 increase which was based upon 1.75% in 2021/22 and a further 2% in 2022/23.
  - National Insurance increase of 1.25% which was an additional cost to the draft budget of £76,000.
  - Inflation pressure on services for utilities, fuel, contractors as a result of the consumer price index rises (5.1% in November 2020)
  - Borrowing costs built into draft budget increased to £722,000. The MTFS refresh assumed £328,000 increase which did not include the impact of the Green Lanes acquisition which would add a further £400,000 to the annual borrowing costs. This increase to borrowing cost being offset by income generated through the Centre.
  - Planning income - £100,000 had been included within the draft budget. The MTFS refresh assumed an additional £100,000 increased income. The current year income was up on budget by £180,000.
- Green Lanes - financial implications following the acquisition of Green Lanes in November 2021 and the draft budget for 2022/23. The net rental income for the current year was circa £400,000. £32,000 was required to pay asset management Praxis from November to March. There was minimal borrowing costs for 2021/22 year. It was proposed that £300,000 would be placed into an earmarked reserve for asset management initiatives and legal costs and that £70,000 be placed into an earmarked reserve for income volatility.
- Corporate programmes and resources. Council resources needed to be aligned to enable delivery of priorities within the financial envelope such as: financial planning (capital and revenue budget, MTFS); manpower planning (current teams, capacity and

growth). There was a need to plan for medium and long term and not to be reactive to short-term priorities. The resourcing of priorities was longer than a political cycle of 4 years.

- Council staff reductions as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review. In 2010-11 the Council employed 499 full time equivalent employees. In 2020/21 this had reduced to 405 full time equivalent employees which was a reduction of 94 (19% reduction) since 2010/11.
- Proposed resource changes within the service areas. In 2022/23 an increase of 17 full time equivalent employees (4% increase) was proposed across the service areas. This would result in an increase of £463,000 (3.2% increase) on the £14.3m salary budget. How the additional resource would be funded within the base budget
- How the draft Revenue Budget for 2022/23 was funded.
- Draft Revenue Budget for 2022/23 (Appendix A) showed a balanced budget and assumed: £5 increase on Band D Council Tax (as in previous years); fees and charges uplift by 2% and Garden Waste subscription increase from £40 (2021/22) to £45 as originally outlined in the MTFs; proposed increase on coastal car parks to £1.50 per hour in summer months and work with Devon County Council colleagues to support measures to alleviate parking issues being experienced; no reductions to Strategic Grants, Climate and Environment, or Community Councillor Grants (Appendix B). The risks of the ongoing impact of Covid 19 on the revenue budget.
- The Strategy and Resources Committee had not recommended the proposed increase in fees for coastal car parks, however had requested that the review of charges be included within an overall review of the car parking strategy and be brought back to a future meeting. The Policy Development Committee had recommended the adoption of the original recommendations within the report which included the proposed increase on coastal car parks in the summer months. Devon County Council had not come forward with any guarantees for the enforcement of coastal areas and it was unknown if there would be an increase in the number of visitors this year. The estimated additional income generated would be around £65,000 and the estimated total cost of enforcement would be £65,000. Therefore if Council agreed to approve the proposed increase in fees in coastal car parks for the summer months, both these sums would be included within the budget. If Council agreed not to approve the proposed increase in coastal fees, it would be removed from the income and expenditure of the budget.
- Reserves (Appendix C). General fund balance forecast level at 31 March 2023 was £1.211m (8.8% of the net budget). The recommended level was 5%-10%. Earmarked reserves forecast level at 31 March 2023 was £5.851m. In compliance with the Local Government Act 2003, the Chief Financial Officer assured members of the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- The MTFs 2022-28 (Appendix D) had now been refreshed and extended for the 2022-28 period. It had been based on a number of assumptions about the future which included: Fair Funding review/New Homes Bonus review planned for 2023/24 (assumed -£2.009m reduction); and ongoing 2% increases in employee salaries (each 1% equated to £140,000). The MTFs in February 2021 originally included gaps of £2.8m (for 2023/24) and £2.9m (for 2024/25) and only assumed a 1% salary increase. Paragraph 4.1.5.7 of the report provided further detail on the budget gap and paragraph 4.1.5.16 provided further detail on what had not been included. Fundamental to bridging future year budget gaps would be further income generation and net revenue gains through the Commercialisation Strategy. Appendix D detailed the modelled projections.
- Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2024/25. Investment plans for 2021/22 to 2024/25 totalled £47.013m. One business case for capital funding had been submitted for the provision of a rock fall catch fence at South Quay, Ilfracombe and the cost to the Council was £55,000.
- Draft Capital Programme (Appendix E). The total programme for 2021/22 to 2024/25 was £47.068m which was recommended to Council for approval.

- How the total Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2024/25 would be funded.
- Latest photographs and images of the Council's major capital projects were included: Future High Streets Fund, Green Lanes Shopping Centre, Tarka Leisure Centre and the Watersports Centre in Ilfracombe.
- Projected borrowing need in accordance with the 10 year Capital Strategy.
- Risks identified that could affect financial plans.
- Timeline – Council at its meeting on 12 January 2022 approved the Council Tax base; the revenue budget and capital programme had been considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 7 February 2022 and Policy Development Committee on 10 February 2022; Council on 23 February 2022 to consider the approval of the revenue budget and capital programme and setting of Council Tax.
- Recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022 and Policy Development Committee held on 10 February 2022.

(a) **Report of the Policy Development Committee**

Councillor D. Spear, Chair of the Policy Development Committee presented the Committee's report on the Revenue Budget 2022/23, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2027/28 to the Policy Development Committee on 10 February 2022 (circulated previously).

(b) **Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee**

Councillor Worden, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee reported the Committee's recommendations on the Revenue Budget 2022/23, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2027/28 to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 7 February 2022 (circulated previously).

It was proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Bushell "that the recommendations in minutes 106 (f) to (j) of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022 in relation to the Revenue Budget 2022/23, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2027/28 be adopted and that the proposed increase in coastal car park fees only be accepted if a solid agreement was in place with Devon County Council to provide additional parking enforcement officers to monitor and enforce parking on County highways in coastal areas and confirmation of this agreement be brought back to the Strategy and Resources Committee for consideration prior to any car parking fees being increased".

In response to questions, the Director of Resources advised the following:

- The proposed increase in 17 additional full time equivalent staff would be distributed across a number of teams. 4 posts would be apprentices and 13 would be



new substantive posts.

- The Council received a small amount of recycling credits back from Devon County Council for recycling green waste. The net cost of providing the green waste collection service to the Council was £47 per household. The Council currently charged £40. Therefore the service was currently being subsidised by Council Tax payers. By increasing the fee to £45 would almost cover the Council costs to provide the service. Other Devon Local Authorities were already charging £45 and Torrridge District Council would be charging £50 in 2023/24.
- Borrowing costs were built into financial modelling. When the Tarka Leisure Centre scheme was approved in 2019, the borrowing costs were built into the overall cost of the project. Forecast borrowing modelling was used for both the Tarka Leisure Centre and Green Lanes Shopping Centre schemes and an estimated increase in borrowing rates was included within the modelling. The interest rates for long term borrowing over a 40-50 year period did not change at such a high rate compared to short term borrowing. The forecast borrowing model assumed a higher rate of interest.
- The Pilotage boat served the estuaries between the rivers Taw and Torrridge and was used to assist the larger boats. The costs were shared with Torrridge District Council.

In response to questions, the Chief Executive advised the following:

- If Council approved the proposed increase in coastal car parks during the summer months, then the Council would receive the additional income to enable enforcement to be undertaken by either Devon County Council or North Devon Council. Discussions had taken place with Devon County Council regarding North Devon Council increasing its staff and having the authority to enforce on street parking also. Additional enforcement would only be undertaken if the proposed increase in coastal car park fees was approved.

Council noted that in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which came into force on 25 February 2014 and the Constitution, Council was required to take a recorded vote when setting its budget and Council Tax.

**Voting on the motion:**

Voting for the motion: Councillors Barker, Bushell, Campbell, Cann, Davies, Fowler, Gubb, Henderson, Hunt, Knight, Ley, Lofthouse, Lovering, Mack, Mackie, Patrinos, Pearson, Roome, D. Spear, L. Spear, Topham, Topps, Tucker, Walker, Wilkinson, Worden, Yabsley and York.

Voting against the motion: Councillor Turton

Abstained from voting on the motion: Councillor Lane

Totals: 28 For, 1 Against and 1 Abstained

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED that the recommendations in minutes 106 (f) to (j) of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022 in relation to the Revenue Budget 2022/23, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2027/28 be adopted and that the proposed increase in coastal car park fees only be accepted if a solid agreement was in place with Devon County Council to provide additional parking enforcement officers to monitor and enforce parking on County highways in coastal areas and confirmation of this agreement be brought back to the Strategy and Resources Committee for consideration prior to any car parking fees being increased.

**112. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

RESOLVED that it being 8.45 pm the meeting be adjourned for a five minute comfort break.

RESOLVED that it being 8.50 pm the meeting be reconvened.

Councillors Gubb, Ley and Patrinos left the meeting.

**113. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2022/23**

Council considered a report by the Director of Resources regarding the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23 (circulated previously).

The Director of Resources highlighted the following:

- Capital Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 and the impact of the capital expenditure and financing. In 2021/22, the net financing need for the year was estimated at £18.065m.
- The Council's Capital Financing Requirement was a key indicator. The projected Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) for 2024/25 was £35.4m.

- In the current financial environment it was prudent to use internal borrowing from reserves and cash balances to fund the CFR to offset some of the borrowing need. A further £12m of external borrowing may be required in 2022/23 to support the approved capital programme, taking the total projected external borrowing to £22.5m for 2022/23.
- From October 2021 the Council entered a vehicle leasing programme with SFS and currently had circa £1.2m of finance leases within the CFR.
- Two key Treasury Indicators: the operational boundary and authorised borrowing limit. Borrowing interest rates as detailed on page 238 of the report.
- Investment Strategy – there were no proposed changes to the investments with investment limits as detailed in page 245 and Appendix A of the report

(a) **Report of the Policy Development Committee**

Councillor D. Spear, Chair of the Policy Development Committee presented the Committee's report on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23 to the Policy Development Committee on 10 February 2022 (circulated previously).

(b) **Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee**

Councillor Worden, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee reported the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23 circulated previously).

It was moved by Councillor Worden and seconded by Councillor Henderson "that minute 108 of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022 regarding the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23 be adopted."

RESOLVED that minute 108 of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022 regarding the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23 be adopted.

**114. 10 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022 TO 2032**

Council considered a report by the Director of Resources regarding the 10 Year Capital Strategy 2022 to 2032 (circulated previously).

The Director of Resources highlighted the following:

- The Capital Strategy was a high level review of the corporate priorities, capital investment ambition, available resources, affordability and risk management in the context of ensuring the long term financial sustainability of this authority.
- The Capital Strategy contained the medium (MTFS) and long term strategies in relation to capital funding and affordability.

- The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) was predicted to remain at a high level but would decrease over the longer term.
- The cost for external borrowing was set to remain above £1.5m over the long term period.

(a) **Report by the Policy Development Committee**

Councillor D. Spear, Chair of the Policy Development Committee presented the Committee's report on the 10 Year Capital Strategy 2022 to 2032 to the Policy Development Committee on 10 February 2022 (circulated previously).

(b) **Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee**

Councillor Worden, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee reported the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee on the 10 Year Capital Strategy 2022 to 2032 (circulated previously).

It was moved by Councillor Lofthouse and seconded by Councillor Bushell "that minute 109 of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022 regarding the 10 Year Capital Strategy 2022 to 2032 be adopted."

RESOLVED that minute 109 of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2022 regarding the 10 Year Capital Strategy 2022 to 2032 be adopted.

**115. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS 2022/23**

Council considered a report by the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive (circulated previously) regarding the Council Tax Resolutions for 2022/23.

The Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive highlighted the following:

- Devon County Council at its meeting on 17 February 2022 had approved a Council Tax increase of 2.99%, which was in line with the report.
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority were unable to meet on 18 February 2022, but did meet on 21 February 2022. Confirmation had been received that the Authority had approved a Council Tax increase of 1.99% which was in line with the report.
- The Government had recently announced guidance regarding Council Tax energy rebates. Information regarding the rebate would be included within the leaflet to be sent out with the Council Tax bills. Rebates would start to be paid in April 2022 and those paying by direct debits would receive their rebates quicker as the Council already held their bank details.

It was moved by Councillor Tucker and seconded by Councillor Worden "that the formal Council Tax Resolutions for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved."

In response to a question, the Director of Resources advised the following:

- The Council included information on its website regarding “scams” and advice that the Council does not make direct contact via phone calls to the public to obtain personal details.

Council noted that in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which came into force on 25 February 2014 and the Constitution, Council was required to take a recorded vote when setting its budget and Council Tax.

**Voting on the motion:**

Voting for the motion: Councillors Barker, Bushell, Campbell, Cann, Davies, Fowler, Henderson, Hunt, Knight, Lofthouse, Lovering, Mack, Mackie, Pearson, Roome, D. Spear, L. Spear, Topham, Topps, Tucker, Turton, Walker, Wilkinson, Worden, Yabsley and York.

Voting against the motion: Councillor Lane

Abstained from voting: None

Totals: 26 For, 1 Against and 0 Abstained.

The motion was therefore carried.

RESOLVED that the formal Council Tax Resolutions for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved.

**116. REPORT OF LEAD MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

Council received an update from the Lead Member for Climate Change. He provided an update on the work of the Climate Action Team and in relation to the provision of rapid chargers. He advised that North Devon Homes had been successful in becoming more energy efficient and would be providing a report to Members regarding the Council becoming more self-sufficient with energy. An update would be emailed to all Members.

In response to a question, the Director of Resources advised that the Council had been awarded a £12,000 Government grant to start making Council buildings more energy efficient. Officers were currently in the process of exploring options to reduce energy usage in Council buildings.

It was moved by Councillor Roome and seconded by Councillor Tucker “that the update report be noted”.

RESOLVED that the update report be noted.

117. **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

(a) **Harbour Board**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Harbour Board (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 1 February 2022

(b) **Licensing and Community Safety Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Licensing and Community Safety Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 18 January 2022

(c) **Planning Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Planning Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 12 January 2022

(d) **Policy Development Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Policy Development Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 6 January 2022

(ii) 10 February 2022

(e) **Strategy and Resources Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 7 February 2022

(A) Minute 102 (c): Approval and Release of Section 106 Public Open Space Funds – Georgeham and Lee Bay

(B) Minute 110: Council Tax Discounts

(C) Minute 111: Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022/23

Chair

The meeting ended at 9.09 pm

NOTE: These minutes will be confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting of Council.

