



## MINUTES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE: Wednesday, 13 February 2019 at 10am**

**VENUE: Shire Hall, Gloucester**

### Present

Cllr Phil Awford	Cllr Colin Hay	Cllr Brian Robinson
Cllr Matt Babbage	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Cllr Steve Robinson
Cllr Robert Bird	Cllr Stephen Hirst	Cllr Rachel Smith
Cllr Richard Boyles	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Cllr Vernon Smith
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Carole Allaway Martin	Cllr Lynden Stowe
Cllr Chris Coleman	Cllr Dr Andrew Miller	Cllr Klara Sudbury
Cllr Dr John Cordwell	Cllr Patrick Molyneux (Vice- Chairman)	Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Cllr Kevin Cromwell	Cllr Nigel Moor	Cllr Brian Tipper
Cllr Stephen Davies	Cllr Graham Morgan	Cllr Pam Tracey MBE
Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr David Norman MBE	Cllr Robert Vines
Cllr Bernard Fisher	Cllr Brian Oosthuysen	Cllr Eva Ward
Cllr Andrew Gravells (Chairman)	Cllr Shaun Parsons	Cllr Simon Wheeler
Cllr Kate Haigh	Cllr Sajid Patel	Cllr Kathy Williams
Cllr Terry Hale	Cllr Loraine Patrick	Cllr Lesley Williams MBE
Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr John Payne	Cllr Suzanne Williams
Cllr Joe Harris	Cllr Alan Preest	Cllr Roger Wilson
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Cllr Nigel Robbins OBE	Cllr Will Windsor-Clive

Apologies: Cllr Keith Rippington

Honorary Aldermen Bill Crowther, Bill Hobman, Terry Parker and Gordon Shurmer.

### 1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2018 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A copy of the declarations of interest is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

### **3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a) Jack Williams

The Chairman stated that it was with a heavy heart that he was inviting members to pay tribute to Cllr Jack Williams who had sadly passed away on 7 January 2019.

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, said that he had been shocked and saddened at Jack's passing at just 28 years of age. Jack had been elected to represent the Churchdown Division at a by-election in 2016 following the death of longstanding county councillor, Bill Whelan. He noted that Jack was a passionate campaigner for Churchdown and had a particular interest in Children's Services, serving on the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee. He recognised the awful impact of Jack's passing on his wife, Elizabeth, and their two children who were just 4 and 6 years of age.

Cllr Joe Harris said that he had become a good friend of Jack and, as they were the two youngest members of the Council, they had a shared interest on a number of issues. They had both struggled with the criticism they had received, particularly on social media, when they were trying to do the best they could for their local communities. Cllr Harris was pleased that steps were being taken to ensure that members received the support they needed.

Cllr Lesley Williams, Leader of the Labour Group, and Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader of the Conservative Group, both paid tribute to Jack. They noted his contribution to the Churchdown community and the impact of his tragic loss on his wife and young family.

The Chairman said that he would remember Jack's smiling and relaxed face in the Council Chamber as he waited politely and patiently to be called to speak during debates.

Members then stood in silence as a mark respect.

b) Queen's New Year Honours

The Chairman congratulated the people living in Gloucestershire who had received awards as part of the Queen's New Year Honours. He said that he had written to the individuals included in the list attached to the agenda congratulating them on their awards.

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c) James Moore

The Chairman advised that he had written to Emmerdale actor James Moore from Cheltenham who had won the Best Newcomer at the National Television Awards.

d) Churchdown School visit

The Chairman had welcomed representatives of Churchdown School's Youth Parliament to Shire Hall on 18 January 2019. The young people aged 11 to 17 had the opportunity to ask questions about the role of county councillors. They also held an informal meeting in the Council Chamber.

e) Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Action on ACEs Gloucestershire was holding screenings of the documentary film Resilience around the county. The next screening would be held in the Council Chamber in Shire Hall on 20 March from 10am to 12pm.

f) Cllr Keith Rippington

The Chairman informed members that Keith had suffered a stroke just before Christmas and was making a good recovery at home. Keith had asked that his thanks be passed to those members that had been in touch with him to wish him well.

g) New Chief Fire Officer

The Chairman welcomed Wayne Bowcock to his first full Council meeting. Wayne said that it was a privilege and honour to serve the Council and he looked forward to meeting members individually in due course.

#### **4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Ten public questions had been received. The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 2 – Steve Gower commented on the record number of deaths and asked which individual in the Council would be informed of any deaths within supported living accommodations and what steps would the Council take to reduce the figures in the future.

Cllr Kathy Williams provided assurances that the Council employed good contractors who were trained to work on a one-to-one basis with those with complex needs including substance abuse. The Director of Adult Social Care would be notified of any deaths.

Question 4 – Rob Brookes appreciated the extra spending by the Council on cycling infrastructure but it was only 5% of what the Dutch spent. While he appreciated the idea of a cycle link between Cheltenham and Gloucester, he felt that he had not seen from the plans much infrastructure work for other places in Gloucestershire to help people get easily and safely to work or shop.

Cllr Vernon Smith thanked Mr Brookes for bringing up the topic of cycling explaining that the £150 million investment in highways would help cyclists and other road users. He provided examples of how councillors could use their Highways Local money to help improve cycling safety.

Question 5 – Roy Messenger asked a question on the return to the archives of a document submitted in 2000 as part of Operation Shogan. In addition he asked what involvement the Cabinet Member had in the operation when he had been a Police Officer.

Cllr Richard Boyles replied that he was aware of the operation but had no connection to it. In response to the document, he would need to understand from officers what documents were being referred to and get back to him.

Question 6 - Roy Messenger suggested that, following a conversation with a member of the investigation team, the County Council might have a case to answer regarding the Badgeworth group of schools.

Cllr Richard Boyles responded that he would have to hear the evidence and if Mr Messenger had any further information then he should let him know.

Question 7 – Roy Messenger stated that his information stated that there had been additional victims from Gloucestershire and asked why the Cabinet Member had not replied to correspondence from his investigator.

Cllr Richard Boyles replied that he had met with him and his advocate along with the Liberal Democrat Group Leader. He asked Mr Messenger to provide any further information he had to him.

Question 8 – Roy Messenger asked the Cabinet Member to explain to the Council why as a former Police Officer he had breached data protection rules by releasing information to ex-Police colleagues.

Cllr Richard Boyles explained that he had met once with Gloucestershire Police and once with Wiltshire Police in February 2017 following the questions asked by Mr Messenger at full Council in December 2017. He said that it was a matter for the Police to investigate and he strongly refuted the suggestion made by Mr Messenger that he or the Council had acted improperly. He stated that an information sharing agreement was in place between the Council and the Police and, if there was a need to take any action outside that agreement, then an application would have to be made through the Courts.

Question 10 – Sarah Lunnon asked whether the budget provided the funding needed to combat climate change. She emphasised the need for rapid and dramatic action, highlighting the ‘unfolding emergency’. She asked whether the Leader would now declare a climate emergency and provide the necessary funding for this.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne outlined that the Council took this agenda seriously including a Cabinet position with a specific focus on the environment. He provided details of the work carried out by the Council including the introduction of photo-voltaic cells on the building to reduce the carbon footprint and make practical, everyday differences.

## **5. CORPORATE PARENTING**

Cllr Richard Boyles, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, introduced the report.

A member said that he recognised that a lot of work was being done to turn around Children’s Services but he noted that the recent Ofsted progress letter had identified concerns that a number of children continued to have multiple Social Workers. He asked what steps were being taken to address this issue.

Cllr Boyles stated that Advanced Practitioners were in place in each team to work with colleagues and understand caseloads. He was pleased that 75% of team managers were now Council employees rather than agency staff. Work was being undertaken with a specialist recruitment company to find people for the remaining posts. He said that management information was being strengthened to make sure that there was a robust monitoring process in place to allow concerns to be identified.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

## **6. PETITIONS**

Cllr Rachel Smith presented a petition to Cllr Nigel Moor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, relating to the provision on the segregated cycle track on the A419 between Stroud and Chalford. She noted that local councils had contributed money towards a feasibility study and she thanked the Council for the funds that it had provided towards the scheme.

## **7. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND THE COUNCIL STRATEGY**

The report before members included the Budget recommendations, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Council Strategy, Budget consultation report, Scrutiny Budget report and Due Regard Statement.

The Chief Executive explained the procedure that would be followed at the meeting for setting the budget. First, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader of the Council, and Cllr Ray Theodoulou, Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, would be asked to present the budget recommendations from the Cabinet.

Second, in order to reach a position where a substantive motion could be debated, the other political groups would be invited to propose amendments to the budget but there would be no debate at that stage. This would be a departure from the normal procedure where only one amendment could be moved and discussed at any one time. The Chairman therefore proposed that under procedure rule 23.1 the following part of procedure rule 12.5 be suspended for the duration of the budget debate:

‘Only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time. No further amendment may be moved until the amendment under discussion has been dealt with.’

*The Vice-chairman seconded the motion and, on being put to the vote, the motion was supported.*

Once the amendments had been presented, the Chairman would call for an adjournment to provide an opportunity for the Group Leaders to reach a common position.

After the adjournment, the Leader of the Council would advise members of those areas where it had been possible to reach agreement. Any amendments which had not been accepted or withdrawn would then be presented by the groups, debated and voted upon.

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Thereafter all members would have an opportunity to debate the Budget in line with the normal rules of debate. At the end of the debate, the Leader of the Council would have the right of reply.

Finally, a recorded vote would be proposed from the Chairman on the substantive motion, seconded by the Vice-chairman.

### **Conservative Group**

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, the Leader of the Council, and Cllr Ray Theodoulou, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, presented the recommendation from the Cabinet meeting held on 30 January 2019.

Cllr Hawthorne advised that the Council continued to invest in services to support the most vulnerable people in local communities but at the same time was investing in 'place leadership' including Vision 2050. The Budget would result in more money for both Children's Services and Adult Social Care. He thanked the leadership team and staff in Children's Services for all work as part of the Council's improvement journey. He said that a permanent Social Worker Academy was being created to help the Council to 'grow its own staff' so there was less reliance on agency social workers. Referring to people with complex needs, he stated that the Council could no longer rely on external providers and would be setting up its own dedicated 'step-down' facility within the next 12 months.

He noted that the Council was now in Year 2 of the £150 million investment programme in Gloucestershire's roads. He said that opportunities were being taken to tackle traffic congestion across the county with investment in a number of major schemes across the county. The Council had announced a major capital investment programme in schools and was supporting the roll-out of 5G technology and superfast broadband. Shire Hall itself was part of the regeneration of Gloucestershire with its refurbishment creating a carbon-neutral building.

Cllr Theodoulou stated that he was proud to second the Cabinet's Budget recommendation. He said that the Budget would increase by more than £16 million (3.9%) to close to £430 million. He noted that public consultation supported the major areas of Budget allocation with Adult and Children's Services representing 58% of the total budget, an increase of 4% compared to 2018-19. At the same time as investing in services for the most vulnerable, the Council had made savings of around £20 million through following best practice and the introduction of new technology. The Council's capital programme amounted to £605 million and included investment in roads, infrastructure, schools, facilities for young people, waste management, broadband, ICT, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service and regeneration.

He reminded members about the Public Sector Equality Duty and the need for them all, as decision makers on the Council Strategy and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, to show 'due regard'. The Due Regard Statement formed an integral part of the Council's Budget process.

### **Liberal Democrat Group**

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, and Cllr Jeremy Hilton presented the Liberal Democrat Group's amendments to the Budget (see below).

Cllr Hodgkinson expressed concern that national cuts to local government funding meant that local people would suffer from a significant rise in the County Council element of the council tax with a £62 increase for band D properties. He believed that the Budget amendments put forward would go a long way to improving the budget without placing undue financial burdens on the Council.

In seconding the Budget amendments, Cllr Hilton noted that an extra £58 million would have been available to the Council if there had been a standstill Budget, adjusted for inflation, over the last 10 years. This figure had been adjusted for inflation and took account of the inclusion of Public Health within the Council's services. He asked members to imagine how much more the Council could achieve if an extra £58 million was available to deliver public services in 2019-20. He said that the amendments proposed by the Liberal Democrat represented a modest set of proposals to improve the Budget and deliver better services for the people of Gloucestershire. Referring to Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, he was pleased that the Administration had scrapped plans to make savings. He asked for a commitment from the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Parking and Libraries not to make any savings in future and to consider increasing the Budget in coming years.

- a) **Waste** – £43,000 to reverse the mid-week cuts to county recycling centres.
- b) **Waste** - £84,000 to extend opening times of recycling centres from 5 to 7pm during the Summer months.
- c) **Parking** - £95,000 to avoid 20% increase in the cost of residential parking permits.
- d) **Public transport** - £372,000 from the MtC3 Savings Contingency to fund the pressures in maintaining subsidised bus services.
- e) **Highways** - £530,000 from 2019-20 Capital Receipts to increase Highways Local for each member from £20,000 to £30,000.

- f) **Physical Disabilities** - £134,000 from the Adult Social Care levy to avoid the 1.2% cut to Services for People with Physical Disabilities.
- g) **Public Health** - £200,000 from the Vulnerable People's Reserve for additional Public Health Nurses with a focus on Mental Health.
- h) **Public Health** - £50,000 one-off contribution from the Vulnerable People's Reserve for Suicide Prevention training.
- i) **Public Health** - £50,000 one-off contribution from the Vulnerable People's Reserve for additional capacity in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) testing.

### **Labour Group**

Cllr Lesley Williams, Leader of the Labour Group, and Cllr Kate Haigh presented the Labour Group's amendments to the Budget (see below).

Cllr Williams stated that despite the Government protestations about the end to austerity, the Council Budget still included £21 million of savings. She said that, while the Council had been trying to meet extra demand in Adult Social Care, Children's Services had been neglected in recent years. She referred to the importance of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) initiative and the impact of events early in a person's life. She noted that it was not just about children in care but also about addressing the needs of children on the edge of care. She questioned whether the Council Budget was doing enough to create a more diverse county that would encourage investment in key areas.

In seconding the Budget amendments, Cllr Haigh advised that local government had felt the brunt of the Government's austerity measures with 60p lost in every £1 since 2010. She expressed concern at the impact of the increase in council tax, particularly for those people who had lost their entitlement to benefits as a result of higher thresholds. She hoped that the Government's Fairer Funding Review would result in a better financial settlement for Gloucestershire.

- a) **Children's Services** - £60,000 one-off contribution from the Vulnerable People's Reserve to provide a District Youth Pot (£10,000 in each area) controlled by County Councillors in each District.
- b) **Children's Services** - £50,000 from the Vulnerable People's Reserve to tackle Holiday Hunger.
- c) **Highways** - £30,000 one-off contribution from the MTC3 Savings Contingency for mapping existing cycle ways in the county.

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- d) Children's Services** - a one-off contribution of between £70,000 and £100,000 from the Vulnerable People's Reserve to give £1,000 to each Care Leaver.
- e) Children's Services** – To further promote the Apprentice Travel Card (scheme already in the Council base budget).

### **Green Group**

Cllr Rachel Smith, Leader of the Green Group, and Cllr Eva Ward presented the Green Group's amendments to the budget (see below).

- a) Highways** - £1 million from Carriageways' Budget for cycle infrastructure to increase the number of segregated cycle routes. This will reduce carbon emissions, promote safe active transport, and improve traffic flow and air quality by taking cars off the road.
- b) Highways** – Reallocation to a ring-fenced Integrated Transport Budget to ensure that spending is to the direct and quantifiable benefit of public transport users, pedestrians or cyclists.
- c) Highways** - £50,000 from the MtC3 Savings Contingency for an additional Think Travel Coordinator.
- d) Corporate** – Reallocate funds from vacant Political Research Assistant post to employ a Public Participation Officer with responsibilities for improving public experience of engaging with Council meetings and consultations.

In addition to the Budget amendments, Cllr Smith and Cllr Ward put forward the following amendment to the Council Strategy:

**Environment** – Moratorium on road construction or expansion without a net positive impact on air quality and carbon reduction. The MTFs to include a statement of prioritisation, such that within the Highways Capital Investment Budget, there should be independent estimates of air quality and carbon impacts of all planned Capital spend based on nationally agreed methodologies. Future budget documents to show independent estimates of air quality and carbon impacts of all planned Capital spend.

The meeting was adjourned from 12.55pm to 1.40pm for the lunch break and to provide an opportunity for the political groups to discuss and agree amendments.

### **Debate on decisions on the Budget amendments**

Following the adjournment, the Leader of the Council set out the position of the Conservative Group in relation to the Budget amendments put forward by the Liberal Democrat Group, Labour Group and Green Group.

#### **Liberal Democrat Group**

- a) **Rejected: Waste** – £43,000 to reverse the mid-week cuts to county recycling centres.
- b) **Rejected: Waste** - £84,000 to extend opening times of recycling centres from 5 to 7pm during the Summer months.
- c) **Rejected: Parking** - £95,000 to avoid 20% increase in the cost of residential parking permits. Specific funding not identified.
- d) **Counter offer accepted: Public transport** - £150,000 from the MtC3 Savings Contingency to fund the pressures in maintaining subsidised bus services.
- e) **Counter offer accepted: Highways** - £265,000 from 2019-20 Capital Receipts to increase Highways Local for each member from £20,000 to £25,000 (of which £15,000 relates to Capital spend).
- f) **Accepted: Physical Disabilities** - £134,000 from the Adult Social Care levy to avoid the 1.2% cut to Services for People with Physical Disabilities.
- g) **Withdrawn subject to keeping members informed about the employment of extra Public Health Nurses: Public Health** - £200,000 from the Vulnerable People's Reserve for additional Public Health Nurses with a focus on Mental Health. Superseded by £5 million additional funding for Mental Health in Gloucestershire.
- h) **Accepted: Public Health** - £50,000 one-off contribution from the Vulnerable People's Reserve for Suicide Prevention training.
- i) **Accepted: Public Health** - £50,000 one-off contribution from the Vulnerable People's Reserve for additional capacity in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) testing.

#### **Labour Group**

- a) **Accepted: Children's Services** - £60,000 one-off contribution from the Vulnerable People's Reserve to provide a District Youth Pot (£10,000 in each area) controlled by County Councillors in each District.

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- b) **Accepted: Children's Services** - £50,000 from the Vulnerable People's Reserve to tackle Holiday Hunger.
- c) **Accepted: Highways** - £30,000 one-off contribution from the MTC3 Savings Contingency for mapping existing cycle ways in the county.
- d) **Counter offer accepted: Children's Services** - £50,000 one-off contribution from the Vulnerable People's Reserve for the investment and promotion of Gloucestershire Credit Union with a specific goal of supporting Care Leavers.
- e) **Accepted: Children's Services** – To further promote the Apprentice Travel Card (scheme already in the Council base budget).

### **Green Group**

- a) **Rejected: Highways** - £1 million from Carriageways' Budget for cycle infrastructure to increase the number of segregated cycle routes. This will reduce carbon emissions, promote safe active transport, and improve traffic flow and air quality by taking cars off the road.
- b) **Rejected: Highways** – Reallocation to a ring-fenced Integrated Transport Budget to ensure that spending is to the direct and quantifiable benefit of public transport users, pedestrians or cyclists.
- c) **Rejected: Highways** - £50,000 from the MtC3 Savings Contingency for an additional Think Travel Coordinator.
- d) **Withdrawn subject to commitment to forming a scrutiny task group to look at public engagement: Corporate** – Reallocate funds from vacant Political Research Assistant post to employ a Public Participation Officer with responsibilities for improving public experience of engaging with Council meetings and consultations.

**Rejected: Environment amendment to the Council Strategy** – Moratorium on road construction or expansion without a net positive impact on air quality and carbon reduction. The MTFs to include a statement of prioritisation, such that within the Highways Capital Investment Budget, there should be independent estimates of air quality and carbon impacts of all planned capital spend based on nationally agreed methodologies. Future budget documents to show independent estimates of air quality and carbon impacts of all planned Capital spend.

Debate then followed on the amendments that had been rejected.

### **Liberal Democrat Group rejected amendments**

A number of members spoke in support of the Budget amendments relating to the recycling centres and residential parking permits. They noted the importance of the recycling centres in encouraging the public to recycle. They were concerned that reducing the opening times would result in more fly tipping, the costs of which would have to be picked up by others including the District Councils. They were concerned about the proposed increase in the cost of residential parking permits when enforcement was practically non-existent in parts of the county. A concern was also raised that residents would be encouraged to convert their front gardens to hard standing with a consequent impact on drainage and increased likelihood of flooding.

Other members spoke against the Liberal Democrat Group Budget amendments. They said that the recycling centres were not closed on the busiest days and changing the opening hours again would be confusing to local residents. The Council was investing in the latest equipment to improve efficiency and safety at each site. The recycling rate was 54% and continued to increase. Referring to residential parking permits, they advised that their cost had not risen since 2009 and the proposed increase was still less than inflation over the intervening period. They noted that a number of members had requested parking reviews in particular parts of the county and each one cost money to undertake.

On being put to the vote, the three Liberal Democrat Group amendments relating to the recycling centres and residential parking permits were not supported.

### **Green Group rejected amendments**

A number of members spoke in support of the Budget amendments relating to cycle infrastructure, ring-fencing the Integrated Transport Budget and an additional Think Travel Co-ordinator. As well as the environmental and lifestyle benefits, they noted the untapped economic benefits associated with cycling. They believed that it was important to take steps now to tackle climate change and remove cars from the road. A member questioned the value of a Council Strategy that promoted building roads that would result in more pollution from cars. They felt that it was unsustainable and more work was required on developing proper alternatives to cars and improving public transport.

Other members spoke against the Green Group Budget amendments. They said that a great deal was being done to support cycling through carriageway repairs and putting in place new cycle routes. They referred to a new cycle scheme in Lydney and the work being undertaken to develop a new cycle route between Gloucester and Cheltenham. They believed that the Integrated Transport Budget was being used in the right way to support sustainable travel across the county. In

terms of roads, they noted the investment in schemes to reduce travelling times and improve traffic flows which would reduce air pollution in particular areas. They recognised the need to put in place the infrastructure to allow new housing targets to be met.

On being put to the vote, the three Green Group amendments relating to the cycle infrastructure, ring-fencing the Integrated Transport Budget and an additional Think Travel Co-ordinator were not supported. The amendment to the Council Strategy for a moratorium on road construction or expansion without a net positive impact on air quality and carbon reduction was not supported.

### **General debate on the Budget**

Members acknowledged the work of officers in bringing the Budget and Council Strategy together and they thanked them for all their efforts.

Each of the Cabinet Members expressed support for the budget proposals and highlighted the investment in services within their own portfolios.

Whilst welcoming the Budget amendments that had been agreed, some members expressed concern at the lack of funding for critical services. They highlighted the need for more investment in roads, bus services, Early Years and Adult Social Care. They did not believe that enough was being done to assess the impact of changes proposed to services before they were implemented. They suggested that the Council might have missed opportunities for commercial investment that would generate income. They were concerned that Government was reducing central support and increasing the taxation burden on councils and local people.

In summing up, Cllr Hawthorne advised that the Budget represented a £16 million (3.9%) increase in expenditure and was delivering extra money to the areas where it was most needed. He believed that the Council was in a stronger financial position than most other councils and was able to invest in Adult Social Care, improving Children's Services and major infrastructure including M5 Junction 10 and the A417 Missing Link.

On being put to the vote, it was:

### **RESOLVED**

- 1 That the Council Strategy 2019-2022 be approved.*
- 2 To approve the following Budget amendments:*

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- a) *Public transport - £150,000 from the MtC3 Savings Contingency to fund the pressures in maintaining subsidised bus services.*
  - b) *Highways - £265,000 from 2019-20 Capital Receipts to increase Highways Local for each member from £20,000 to £25,000 (of which £15,000 relates to Capital spend).*
  - c) *Physical Disabilities - £134,000 from the Adult Social Care Levy to avoid the 1.2% cut to Services for People with Physical Disabilities.*
  - d) *Public Health - £50,000 one-off contribution from the Vulnerable People's Reserve for Suicide Prevention training.*
  - e) *Public Health - £50,000 one-off contribution from the Vulnerable People's Reserve for additional capacity in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) testing.*
  - f) *Children's Services - £60,000 one-off contribution from the Vulnerable People's Reserve to provide a District Youth Pot (£10,000 in each area) controlled by county councillors in each District.*
  - g) *Children's Services - £50,000 from the Vulnerable People's Reserve to tackle Holiday Hunger.*
  - h) *Highways - £30,000 one-off contribution from the MTC3 Savings Contingency for mapping existing cycle ways in the county.*
  - i) *Children's Services - £50,000 one-off contribution from the Vulnerable People's Reserve for the investment and promotion of Gloucestershire Credit Union with a specific goal of supporting Care Leavers.*
  - j) *Accepted: Children's Services – To further promote the Apprentice Travel Card (scheme already in the Council base budget).*
- 3 *To note the overall financial impact of the Budget amendments as follows:*
- £265,000 from Capital receipts*
  - £134,000 from the Adult Social Care Levy*
  - £180,000 from MtC3 Savings Contingency (£150,000 recurring)*
  - £260,000 from the Vulnerable People's Reserve*
- 4 *That, having considered the additional consultation responses and the Public Sector Equality Duty Due Regard Statement, approval is given to*

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the MTFs and the revenue and capital budgets for 2019-20, council tax for each valuation band, and to issue precepts on each district allocation fund as set out below:

a) Gloucestershire County Council 2019-20 Budget:

	<b>£000</b>	
<b>Original 2018-19 Budget</b>	<b>413,481</b>	
<i>Inflation</i>	4,388	
<i>Cost and spending increases</i>	32,727	
<i>Cost reductions</i>	<u>-20,935</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>429,661</b>	
<i>Less:</i>		
<i>Settlement funding</i>	83,522	
<i>Public Health Grant</i>	23,630	
<i>Improved Better Care Fund</i>	13,337	
<i>New Homes Bonus</i>	3,043	
<i>Other non-ring fenced grants</i>	2,365	
<i>Collection Fund Surplus</i>	3,779	
<i>Reserves</i>	2,230	
<i>Total to be precepted (Council Tax Requirement)</i>	297,755	
	<b>Taxbase</b>	
	<b>Total precept</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	
	<b>£</b>	
<i>Cheltenham</i>	42,648.20	55,173,976
<i>Cotswold</i>	41,683.06	53,925,375
<i>Forest of Dean</i>	29,027.62	37,553,032
<i>Gloucester City</i>	37,932.30	49,073,016
<i>Stroud</i>	44,281.65	57,287,171
<i>Tewkesbury</i>	34,585.03	44,742,653
<b>Total</b>	<b>230,157.86</b>	<b>297,755,223</b>

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- b) That approval is given to the Capital programme set out in Annex 8a of the detailed MTFS, and delegated authority is given to the Section 151 Officer to vary allocations between individual schemes in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Change.
- 5 That the Council approves the Capital Strategy, set out in Annex 7 of the detailed MTFS, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Non-Treasury Investment Strategy for 2019-20, set out in Annex 10 of the detailed MTFS.
- 6 That approval is given to the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limits of Borrowing, as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy, at Annex 7 in the detailed MTFS as follows:

<b>Authorised limit and Operational boundary</b>	<b>2017-18 Limit £m</b>	<b>2018-19 Limit £m</b>	<b>2019-20 Limit £m</b>	<b>2020-21 Limit £m</b>	<b>2021-22 Limit £m</b>
<b>Total authorised limit for external debt and other liabilities</b>	<b>363.000</b>	<b>380.000</b>	<b>910.000</b>	<b>900.000</b>	<b>890.000</b>
Split:					
External debt	343.000	360.000	305.000	346.000	352.000
Other liabilities	20.000	20.000	605.000	554.000	538.000
<b>Total operational boundary for external debt</b>	<b>360.000</b>	<b>360.000</b>	<b>890.000</b>	<b>880.000</b>	<b>870.000</b>
Split:					
External debt	340.000	340.000	285.000	326.000	332.000
Other liabilities	20.000	20.000	605.000	554.000	538.000

- a) Noting the authorised limit for 2019-20 will be the statutory limit determined under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003.
- b) That the approval is given to the Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management set out in Annex 10 of the detailed MTFS for
- (i) The maturity structure of borrowings, and
- (ii) The upper limit of principal sums invested for more than 364 days of £200 million.
- 7 That the Council approves the schools funding set out in Section G and Annex 9 in the detailed MTFS.

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A motion for a recorded vote had been proposed and seconded by the Chairman and Vice-chairman.

The voting on the substantive motion on the Budget was as follows:

***For (30):*** *Cllrs Carole Allaway Martin, Phil Awford, Matt Babbage, Rob Bird, Richard Boyles, Kevin Cromwell, Stephen Davies, Andrew Gravells, Terry Hale, Tim Harman, Mark Hawthorne, Stephen Hirst, Dr Andrew Miller, Patrick Molyneux, Nigel Moor, David Norman, Shaun Parsons, Sajid Patel, Loraine Patrick, Alan Preest, Brian Robinson, Vernon Smith, Lynden Stowe, Ray Theodoulou, Brian Tipper, Pam Tracey, Robert Vines, Kathy Williams, Roger Wilson and Will Windsor-Clive*

***Against (2):*** *Cllrs Rachel Smith and Eva Ward*

***Abstentions (18):*** *Cllrs David Brown, Chris Coleman, Dr John Cordwell, Iain Dobie, Bernard Fisher, Kate Haigh, Joe Harris, Colin Hay, Jeremy Hilton, Paul Hodgkinson, Graham Morgan, Brian Oosthuysen, John Payne, Nigel Robbins, Steve Robinson, Simon Wheeler, Lesley Williams and Suzanne Williams*

## **8. MEMBER QUESTIONS**

Eighteen member questions had been received. The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 1 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson stated that there were 31 working days until the country was due to leave the European Union. He asked if the Leader was saying that everything would be fine for the people of Gloucestershire if there was a ‘no deal’ Brexit.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that he did not know what arrangements would be in place or the leave date so he was unable to comment further.

Question 2 – Cllr Colin Hay asked if the Leader were to get a box of matches would he want to start the incinerator with it or would he want to burn it down due to the extra costs being incurred? Was he proud of it?

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Cllr Mark Hawthorne stated that he was proud that the Council was on target and on course for a long term solution to Gloucestershire's waste. He felt that in the future members of the council of all political persuasions would be proud of it.

Question 3 – Cllr Iain Dobie asked that the revenue generated from parking charges in Cheltenham be committed to be spent in Cheltenham.

Cllr Dave Norman replied that the money would be used to improve parking across the County. He would welcome the opportunity to sit down with the member and go through the figures.

Question 7 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson highlighted the accident on the A417 last July and explained that the judge had been shocked and surprised by the state of disrepair on the road. He suggested that the inspection process for highways was not working.

Cllr Vernon Smith explained that the Council took road safety very seriously and that highways managers continued to make sure inspection processes operated following national best practice.

Question 8 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked what the member would do to address his concerns about the inspection process not working.

Cllr Vernon Smith stated he would be happy to meet with the member and senior highways managers if the member had specific issues that he wished to raise.

Question 10 – Cllr Rachel Smith provided details of utility companies working at 6:30am in the morning citing an emergency. She asked what processes the Council had to guide utility companies about what was acceptable disruption?

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that he understood the frustration but that if there was an emergency involving utility companies then the Council was obliged by law to assist them where they took action. He would be happy to meet with the member to discuss further.

Question 11 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked which of the five substantive points of the letter referenced in her question did the Leader believe his answer addressed.

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Cllr Mark Hawthorne noted that the question referred to the Ernst and Young report and he had answered with respect to that. A number of the points were referenced by the open letter and the Leader had nothing further to add to that.

Question 12 – Rachel Smith expressed concern that the Leader had not answered her question as to whether the Javelin Park contract had been carried out in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015. She asked, hypothetically, if it had not been carried out correctly, what would the risk be to the tax payer?

Cllr Mark Hawthorne outlined the legal situation, whether the court actions or claims were valid or not, he was precluded from adding information in the public domain.

Question 13 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked in what way average gate fees represented reality, noting that it did not exist as a comparator anywhere else in the country.

Cllr Nigel Moor stated that gate fees were used to ensure tax payers knew exactly what was coming as part of the bespoke scheme.

Question 14 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked whether the Cabinet Member felt that there should be an independent enquiry with regards to Javelin Park.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that he did not.

Question 18 – Cllr Eva Ward welcomed the support for the establishment of a task group to look at how the Council could become free of 'single-use plastics'.

Cllr Nigel Moor stated he was happy to work with the member on this and that members could do a great deal as champions of this.

## **9. SCRUTINY REPORT**

Cllr Patrick Molyneux, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, presented the scrutiny report. He noted that the scrutiny review was continuing and he reminded members about the workshop being held on 25 February 2019.

A member believed that it would be useful to circulate a scrutiny position statement showing progress so far with the review ahead of the workshop. He highlighted a

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specific issue relating to Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions and ensuring that relevant staff at the District Councils and in the County Council's Youth Team were kept informed. Cllr Brian Robinson, Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee, undertook to highlight this with senior officers.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

#### **10. CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, the Chairman of the Constitution Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on 14 January 2019.

**RESOLVED** that the changes to the Constitution by the Monitoring Officer relating to 'friendly amendments' be ratified.

#### **11. CABINET DECISION STATEMENTS**

**RESOLVED** to note the Cabinet Decision Statements from the Cabinet meetings held on 19 December 2018 and 30 January 2019.

#### **12. INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION STATEMENTS**

**RESOLVED** to note the Individual Cabinet Decision Statements for the period 1 November 2018 to 31 January 2019

The meeting ended at 3.40pm

**CHAIRMAN**