



MINUTES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 12 February 2020 at 10am

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	Cllr Ray Theodoulou (Chairman)
Cllr Kevin Cromwell	Cllr Nigel Moor	Cllr Brian Tipper
Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr Graham Morgan	Cllr Pam Tracey MBE
Cllr Ben Evans	Cllr David Norman MBE	Cllr Eva Ward
Cllr Bernard Fisher	Cllr Brian Oosthuysen	Cllr Simon Wheeler
Cllr Andrew Gravells	Cllr Shaun Parsons	Cllr Kathy Williams
Cllr Kate Haigh	Cllr Sajid Patel	Cllr Lesley Williams MBE
Cllr Terry Hale	Cllr Loraine Patrick	Cllr Suzanne Williams
Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr John Payne	Cllr Will Windsor-Clive
Cllr Joe Harris	Cllr Alan Preest (Vice- chairman)	
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Cllr Nigel Robbins OBE	

Apologies: Councillors Stephen Davies, Keith Rippington and Robert Vines

Honorary Aldermen Bill Crowther, Terry Parker and Gordon Shurmer

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2019 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) Roger Wilson

Group Leaders and other members paid personal tributes to Cllr Roger Wilson who sadly passed away on 8 December 2019. They referred to Roger's qualities and his commitment to and enthusiasm for the Council and his desire to improve services for the people of Gloucestershire. They noted that he was held in high regard by the wider health community for his work in driving forward the ambitions of the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board. His financial acumen and knowledge had allowed him to constructively challenge the way services were provided. Roger was committed to serving the people of Winchcombe and Woodmancote whom he had represented since his election in May 2013. Outside the Council, he was passionate about his role as a member, and latterly as chair, of the Bournville Village Trust which managed award winning social housing in the Midlands.

A memorial service would be held at 2.30pm on 25 February 2020 at St Peter's Winchcombe, and afterwards at Toddington Village Hall.

b) Terry Glastonbury

Cllrs Alan Preest, Terry Hale and Graham Morgan paid tribute to former county councillor Terry Glastonbury who represented the West Dean Division in the Forest of Dean from 2009 to 2013. Terry was a longstanding member of the Forest of Dean District Council, serving as Chair of Council and Chair of the Planning Committee, and had also served as a member of both West Dean Parish Council and Lydney Town Council.

The Chairman invited members to stand in silence as a mark of respect for both Roger Wilson and Terry Glastonbury.

c) 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.

d) Australian bushfires

The Chairman advised that he had written to the Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom to express the Council's sympathy at the loss of life following the devastating bush fires and to send best wishes to the people of Australia affected by the fires.

e) Holocaust Memorial Day

On 27 January 2020, members and staff had attended a short memorial service at Shire Hall to remember the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides. The day marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Councillor Colin Hay led the service by sharing his experience at Srebrenica. Group Leaders signed a statement for the Council's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (HRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism.

f) Glos Talks

The Glos Talks Campaign encouraged everyone to talk more openly about mental health and their experiences so those who were struggling would seek help. Members were invited to have their photographs taken with the Glos Talks 'selfie frame' on the Council Chamber landing at lunchtime.

g) Members' survey

Members were encouraged to complete the survey that had been circulated via Members' Matter. This would provide valuable feedback on member development and ICT provision.

h) ICT support

Staff from ICT would be on hand over the lunch break to provide advice to members.

i) Prism – GCC staff network

The Chairman congratulated Prism on receiving the Stonewall 'Network Group of the Year' for their work in promoting LGBT+ equality throughout the Council.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Twenty four public questions had been submitted prior to the meeting.

As none of the questioners were in attendance at the meeting, a member suggested that new technology be utilised to allow members of the public to attend the meeting remotely to ask supplementary questions. They noted that it was difficult for some people to get to meetings.

5. CORPORATE PARENTING

Cllr Richard Boyles, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, presented the annual report of the Corporate Parenting Group. He thanked members of the Corporate Parenting Group, ambassadors, professional partners

and officers at the Council for their work over the last year. He was pleased that most members had signed the corporate parenting pledge but he said that he was disappointed that some members had failed to do this. He encouraged members to read Members' Matter for corporate parenting updates and information on upcoming events.

A number of members spoke about a recent event they had attended at Kingsholm Stadium to celebrate care leavers. They were concerned that care leavers often felt lonely and they hoped that support could be provided to help them in developing relationships alongside advice on housing, education and employment. They expressed disappointment that some members had still not signed the pledge. A member believed that the Council could do more to mobilise people in local communities to support young people who had left the care system.

Another member regretted that a motion that she had presented to Gloucester City Council to prevent care leavers becoming intentionally homeless had been rejected. Cllr Boyles undertook to work with the six district councils to address the member's concerns.

A member suggested that a schedule of corporate parenting events for each year be published so that members were aware of what was coming up well in advance. They believed that personal invites should be sent out to members for events. They said that they were pleased that two public engagement events had been held relating to the plans for Trevone House in Gloucester.

Cllr Boyles agreed that this was a good approach and he would ask officers to make the necessary arrangements alongside notifications in Members' Matter. Referring to Trevone House, he said that there would be further engagement events with potential providers setting out what their plans were. He recognised that there would always be a need for out of county placements but he hoped that the local market could be developed alongside Trevone House to reduce the number required.

RESOLVED to note the report.

6. PETITIONS

No petitions were presented by members.

7. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The report before members included the budget recommendations, Medium Term Financial Strategy, budget consultation report, scrutiny budget report and due regard statement.

The Chief Executive explained the procedure that would be followed at the meeting. First, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader of the Council, and Cllr Lynden Stowe, Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, would be asked to present the 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.

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 by the Chairman on the substantive motion, seconded by the Vice-chairman.

Conservative Group

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, the Leader of the Council, and Cllr Lynden Stowe, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, presented the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 29 January 2020.

Cllr Hawthorne explained that the budget delivered a 7.1% increase in investment in frontline services. He highlighted the additional investment in Adult Social Care, Children's Services, climate change, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, supporting homeless people, infrastructure and highways. He thanked Cllr Richard Boyles, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, and Chris Spencer, Director of Children's Services, for leading the improvement work in Children's Services. The budget provided an extra £12.9 million (14.7%) for the improvement plan.

He said that he was particularly pleased that Gloucestershire had been able to accommodate 300 Syrian refugees, more than any other county in the South West.

He noted that the Council was showing its commitment to climate change through investment in public transport, cycle routes, schools and electric charging points. He said that this was before the Council received any of the £5 billion recently announced by the Government for buses and cycling.

Cllr Stowe reminded members about the public sector equality duty and the need for them all, as decision makers on the Medium Term Financial Strategy, to show 'due regard'. The due regard statement formed an integral part of the Council's budget process.

He stated that it was a good budget for Gloucestershire that embedded climate change and the green growth agenda into the Council's routine activities. He said that the total budget of just under £470 million provided more funding for people that were most in need across the county. He believed that it carried less risk as the savings required were much less than in previous budgets. He was pleased that it had been possible to fund the overspend on Children's Services without seriously impacting on reserves.

He thanked Steve Mawson, Executive Director: Corporate Resources, and Paul Blacker, Finance Director, for their work in preparing the budget. He noted that Steve Mawson as Section 151 Chief Finance Officer had confirmed that the level of reserves and financial position of the Council were sustainable moving forward.

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). They said that the Conservative Administration's budget was business as usual and failed to recognise the climate change emergency that had been declared following the Liberal Democrat Group's motion to Council on 15 May 2019. They said that their amendments helped the Council get its own house in order and encouraged modal shift by supporting cycling and public transport. They noted the damage that had been done to the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service through years of financial cuts and they welcomed the additional funding that was proposed. They acknowledged the need to increase funding for Children's Services following the poor Ofsted inspection but they were anxious that spending remained within budget.

- 1 Cycleways – £400,000 increase in dedicated cycleways spending from £100,000 to £500,000. Funded from capital highways budget 'unclassified structural maintenance' (£5.2 million in budget)
- 2 Footways - £30,000 for a one-off study in barriers to mobility for people with a disability. Funded from unallocated top-sliced revenue highways budget.
- 3 Highways Local – Increase Highways Local by £20,000 per member (up to £40,000), at a total a cost of £1,060,000. This will be funded from capital (75%) and revenue (25%): £795,000 from 'class 3 roads structural maintenance' (£7 million in budget) and £265,000 from unallocated top-sliced revenue highways budget.
- 4 Public transport buses - £200,000 to support the upgrade of at least 10 urban buses to Euro 6 standard. Funded from capital highways budget – 'unclassified roads structural maintenance' (£5.2 million in budget)
- 5 Bus shelters - £100,000 to be spent on bus shelters. Funded from capital highways budget – 'unclassified roads structural maintenance' (£5.2 million in budget)
- 6 Young carers' travel – £120,000 for free bus travel for young carers without their cared for individuals. Funded from unallocated top-sliced revenue highways budget.
- 7 Public transport subsidies - £1,000,000 for public transport subsidies. Funded from unallocated top-sliced revenue highways budget.
- 8 Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) fund - Reinstating the £100,000 TRO fund to help councillors pass TROs without financial impediments. Funded from unallocated top-sliced revenue highways budget.

- 9 Solar panels - £500,000 to be spent on retro-fitting solar panels to all council buildings. Funded from remaining invest to save funds (page 71 of MTFS)
- 10 Think Travel - £15,000 ongoing revenue budget for Think Travel Coordinator. Funded from unallocated top-sliced revenue highways budget.
- 11 Public Health - £50,000 for renewal of the dedicated funding of suicide prevention. Funded from the £2 million in 'cost pressures in sexual health, substance misuse and a shortfall in early years funding' (page 60 of MTFS).

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). They noted the impact of a decade of austerity on local communities. The budget cuts had a disproportionately larger impact on vulnerable people. They expressed particular concern for young people and referred to the withdrawal of youth services, the end of Connexions and cuts to SureStart. They were disappointed that there was not an underlying commitment to address the climate change emergency. They called for environmental impact assessments to be undertaken for all areas of the Council's business.

- 1 Youth Services – £53,000 continuation of one-off £1,000 per member for youth work. Funded from the Adult Care Reserve.
- 2 Period Poverty - £50,000 for a one-off scheme for period poverty. Funded from the Adult Care Reserve.
- 3 Holiday hunger – £50,000 for the extended scheme for holiday hunger This will be funded from the Adult Care Reserve.
- 4 Library books - £50,000 to support additional library books across all libraries. Funded from the Adult Care Reserve.
- 5 Wifi for care leavers - £20,000 to be spent on feasibility to provide wifi for care leavers. Funded from the Adult Care Reserve.
- 6 Driving lessons for care leavers – £20,000 to be spent on feasibility to provide driving lessons for care leavers. To be funded from the Adult Care Reserve.
- 7 Cycleways - £100,000 for capital works to cycleways. To be funded from 'large and miscellaneous schemes 20/21' capital scheme.

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). They noted that the Council had declared a climate change emergency on 15 May 2019 but the budget did not balance when it came to climate change commitments.

- 1 Community Libraries – To increase the grant to community libraries by 25% to £12,500 with total additional costs of £20,000 for the eight community libraries in the county met through a reduction in the highways revenue budget.
- 2 Recycling incentives – £500,000 to be allocated from the Strategic Waste Reserve in 2020/21 to:
 - (a) Support one-off investment by district councils in measures to improve recycling rates.
 - (b) Investigate the feasibility of installing sorting equipment at Javelin Park to divert recyclable waste from the incinerator's waste stream.
- 3 Business case development fund – The budget line 'business case development fund for grant allocations' should be reduced by £1 million and not used for any work relating to M5 junction improvements until the case for such an investment has been fully debated in this chamber. The remaining budget of £1 million should be allocated to support business case development for cycle and public transport infrastructure, with funds allocated through a competitive call for proposals from district and parish councils. The budget line should be renamed 'business case development fund for sustainable transportation options'
- 4 Climate Emergency Action Fund - The £1 million Climate Action Fund should be:
 - (c) Renamed the 'Climate Emergency Action Fund', in recognition of the motion passed that recognised a climate emergency, in need of urgent action.
 - (d) Increased to £2 million in 2020/21, with the additional spending funded through reduced spending on the business case development fund.
- 5 Moving 'Climate Emergency Action Fund' to ongoing funding. The Climate Emergency Action Fund should be moved from one-off cost increases into 'cost increases' in the budget, in recognition that this is described as an 'initial £1 million', and that future such spending should be anticipated in 2021/22, funded through reductions in highways and other spending to be identified over 2020/21.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

- 6 Amendment to MTFS – Revise paragraph 4 (page 64) to ‘The draft MTFS should be considered in the context of the Council Strategy, Looking to the Future, which sets out the Council’s ambitions, plans and priorities for Gloucestershire and the declaration of climate emergency and climate change strategy, which set out a target of 80% reduction of county-wide carbon emissions by 2030’.

The meeting was adjourned from 11.40am to 12.20pm to provide an opportunity for the political groups to discuss amendments and reach a common position.

Debate on decisions on the budget amendments

Following the adjournment, Cllr Hawthorne 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.

Negotiated and accepted

Liberal Democrat Group

- 2 Offer accepted
Footways - £30,000 for a one-off study in barriers to mobility for people with a disability.
- 3 Counter offer accepted
Highways Local – Increase Highways Local by £5,000 per member (up to £25,000), at a total cost of £265,000. This will be funded from capital (£100,000) and revenue (£165,000).
- 5 Counter offer accepted
Bus shelters - £50,000 to be spent on bus shelters
- 8 Counter offer accepted
Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) fund - £50,000
- 10 Offer accepted
Think Travel - £15,000 ongoing revenue budget for Think Travel Coordinator.
- 12 Offer accepted
Public Health - £50,000 for renewal of dedicated funding of suicide prevention.

Labour Group

- 1 Offer accepted

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

Youth Services – £53,000 continuation of one-off £1,000 per member for youth work.

- 2 Counter offer accepted
Period poverty - £10,000 for a one-off scheme for period poverty
- 3 Counter offer accepted
Holiday hunger – £30,000 for the extended scheme for holiday hunger
- 5 Counter offer accepted
Digital connectivity for care leavers - £20,000
- 6 Counter offer accepted
Driving lessons for care leavers – £20,000

Green Group

- 1 Offer accepted
Community libraries – To increase the grant to each community library by 25% to £12,500 resulting in total additional costs of £20,000 for the eight community libraries in the county.

Source of funding for negotiated and accepted amendments:

£100,000 from the Capital programme by reducing the corporate property condition works.

£15,000 ongoing revenue budget by reducing the budget pressure for increased utility costs.

£498,000 one off saving from treasury management as a result of the £10 million early payment of pension contributions.

Withdrawn

Liberal Democrat Group

- 4 Public transport buses - £200,000 to support the upgrade of at least 10 urban buses to Euro 6 standard. Funded from capital highways budget – ‘unclassified roads structural maintenance’ (£5.2 million in budget)

Labour Group

- 4 Library books - £50,000 to support additional library books across all libraries. Funded from Adult Care Reserve.

Green Group

6 Amendment to MTFS – Revise paragraph 4 (page 64) to ‘The draft MTFS should be considered in the context of the Council Strategy, Looking to the Future, which sets out the Council’s ambitions, plans and priorities for Gloucestershire and the declaration of climate emergency and climate change strategy, which set out a target of 80% reduction of county-wide carbon emissions by 2030.

Not accepted

Liberal Democrat Group

- 1 Cycleways – £400,000 increase dedicated cycleways spending from £100,000 to £500,000. Funded from capital highways budget ‘unclassified structural maintenance’ (£5.2 million in budget)

- 6 Young carers’ travel – £120,000 for free bus travel for young carers without their cared for individuals. Funded from unallocated top-sliced revenue highways budget.

- 7 Public transport subsidies - £1,000,000 for public transport subsidies. Funded from unallocated top-sliced revenue highways budget.

- 8 Solar panels - £500,000 to be spent on retro-fitting solar panels to all council buildings. Funded from remaining invest to save funds (page 71 of MTFS)

Labour Group

- 7 Cycleways - £100,000 for capital works to cycleways. To be funded from ‘large and miscellaneous schemes 20/21’ capital scheme.

Green Group

- 2 Recycling incentives – £500,000 should be allocated from the Strategic Waste Reserve in 2020/21 to:
 - (a) Support one-off investment by district councils in measures to improve recycling rates.
 - (b) Investigate the feasibility of installing sorting equipment at Javelin Park to divert recyclable waste from the incinerator’s waste stream.

- 3 Business case development fund – The budget line ‘business case development fund for grant allocations’ should be reduced by £1 million and should not be used for any work relating to M5 junction Improvements until the case for such an investment has been fully debated in this chamber. The remaining budget of £1 million should be allocated to support business case development for cycle and public transport infrastructure, with funds

allocated through a competitive call for proposals from district and parish councils. The budget line should be renamed 'business case development fund for sustainable transportation options'

- 4 Climate Emergency Action Fund - The £1 million Climate Action Fund should be:
 - (a) Renamed the 'Climate Emergency Action Fund', in recognition of the motion passed that recognised a climate emergency, in need of urgent action.
 - (b) Increased to £2 million in 2020/21, with the additional spending funded through reduced spending on the business case development fund.
- 5 Moving 'Climate Emergency Action Fund' to ongoing funding. The Climate Emergency Action Fund should be moved from one-off cost increases into 'cost increases' in the budget, in recognition that this is described as an 'initial £1 million', and that future such spending should be anticipated in 2021/22, funded through reductions in highways and other spending to be identified over 2020/21.
- 6 Amendment to MTFS – Revise paragraph 4 (page 64) to 'The draft MTFS should be considered in the context of the Council Strategy, Looking to the Future, which sets out the Council's ambitions, plans and priorities for Gloucestershire and the declaration of climate emergency and climate change strategy, which set out a target of 80% reduction of county-wide carbon emissions by 2030.'

Debate then followed on the amendments that had not been accepted.

Liberal Democrat Group amendments

A number of members spoke in support of the amendments. They believed that there was a lack of commitment to tackling climate change with not accepting the amendments relating to cycleways, public transport and the installation of solar panels. A scrutiny task group had been suggested by the Leader of the Council to look at a greener approach to public transport but they questioned when it would start, how long would it last and when would it make its recommendations. They referred to the £5 billion announced by the Government for buses and cycleways but noted that no timescale had been provided on when it would be available. Serious concern was expressed that the budget amendment to support young carers had not been accepted. They said that young carers were one of the most disadvantaged groups and without them the Council would have to cover the cost of providing care.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

Other members spoke against the amendments. They referred to the steps that the Council was already taking to address climate change. They noted that the Council had reduced its carbon footprint in recent years whereas Cheltenham Borough Council had increased its footprint. They were concerned that, if the budget amendments were approved, there would be a reduction in highways funding which was so critical in maintaining the condition of the network.

A member challenged the statement that Cheltenham Borough Council had increased its carbon footprint and did not believe this to be correct. They asked that members check their facts before making such statements in the chamber.

On being put to the vote en bloc, the Liberal Democrat Group's amendments which had not been accepted by the Conservative Administration were not supported.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch from 1pm to 1.40pm

Labour Group amendments

Referring to funding for cycleways, members noted the importance of having schemes ready for when funding became available from the Government.

Cllr Hawthorne suggested that a conversation be held with Cllr Richard Boyles, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, on how wifi could be provided for care leavers.

He indicated the Conservative Administration's support for cycle schemes with £7 million already allocated. He noted the success of the scheme running alongside the canal south of Gloucester. He assured members that the resources would be in place to ensure that the Council was able to submit bids for schemes once the new Government funding became available.

On being put to the vote en bloc, the Labour Group's amendments which had not been accepted by the Conservative Administration were not supported.

Green Group amendments

Cllr Hawthorne explained that amendment 6 on climate change related to the Council Strategy which had been adopted by Council for three years in February 2019. He said that the Cabinet would take the proposal away and consider what changes could be made to the Council Strategy. He undertook to do this sooner rather than later.

Cllr Rachel Smith questioned why it was necessary to continue to hold a Waste Reserve and she felt that the funds would be better used to support recycling in districts. She expressed concern that many of the infrastructure schemes in the

budget would increase carbon emissions at a time that the Council should be incentivising people not to use cars. She said that the Council needed to imagine a zero-carbon future that did not require lots more vehicles on the road.

Cllr Eva Ward recognised that attitudes were changing towards climate change. She said that the Council needed to be prepared to adopt radical and bold ideas. She hoped that the Council's scrutiny process would provide an avenue to explore some of these ideas.

A number of members of the Liberal Democrat Group and the Labour Group indicated general support for the budget amendments put forward by the Green Group. Whilst they were supportive of providing a business case development fund for sustainable transportation options, they said that they could not support withdrawal of funding for M5 Junction 10. They noted that the M5 Junction 10 improvement scheme was critical in supporting economic growth and new housing in Cheltenham. They called on the Chairman to allow members not to vote for the amendments en bloc but to allow a separate vote relating to budget amendment 3 from the Green Group.

The Chairman stated that the process for the budget debate had been agreed beforehand and he would not allow any budget amendments to be voted on individually.

Other members noted that the County Council was already providing £4.5 million of support to the Districts to help them recycle more waste. The rates of recycling in Gloucestershire Districts were already amongst the highest in the country. Referring to the Climate Change Action Fund, they believed that no matter what was included in the budget the Green Group would have asked for more. They expressed concern at any suggestion that funding should be removed for work associated with the M5 Junction 10 scheme as it was critical to the future economic prosperity of the county.

On being put to the vote en bloc, the Green Group's amendments which had not been accepted by the Conservative Administration were not supported.

General debate on the budget

Members acknowledged the work of officers in preparing the budget and they thanked them for their efforts.

Answering a question relating to the level of reserves, Cllr Stowe stated that he could not provide a complete assurance that all risks were covered, but he believed that the Council was in a stronger position than in previous years. This had been demonstrated by how the Council had been able to cover the overspend in

Children's Services. Referring to the impact of a Coronavirus pandemic, he said that it would be reasonable to expect emergency funding from the Government should that happen.

Cllr Hawthorne stated that the Conservative Administration was committed to driving forward investment in Gloucestershire that would result in real improvements to services. He believed that the budget amendments from the other political groups were simply tinkering around the edges of the budget with little regard given to the impact on the areas where the money was being taken from.

On being put to the vote, it was:

RESOLVED

1 To approve the following budget amendments:

- a) *Footways - £30,000 for a one-off study in barriers to mobility for people with a disability.*
- b) *Highways Local – One-off increase to Highways Local of £5,000 per member (up to £25,000), at a total cost of £265,000. This will be funded from capital (£100,000) and revenue (£165,000)*
- c) *Bus shelters – One-off investment of £50,000*
- d) *Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) fund - One-off investment of £50,000*
- e) *Think Travel - £15,000 ongoing revenue budget for a Think Travel Coordinator.*
- f) *Public Health - £50,000 for renewal of one-off dedicated funding of suicide prevention.*
- g) *Youth Services - £53,000 continuation of one-off £1,000 per member for youth work.*
- h) *Period poverty - £10,000 for a one-off scheme for period poverty*
- i) *Holiday hunger – One-off investment of £30,000 for the extended scheme for holiday hunger.*
- j) *Digital connectivity for care leavers – One-off investment of £20,000*
- k) *Driving lessons for care leavers – One-off investment of £20,000*

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

- l) *Community libraries – One-off investment to increase the grant by 25% to £12,500 resulting in total additional costs of £20,000 for the eight community libraries in the county.*
- 2 *To note the overall financial impact of the budget amendments as follows:
£100,000 from the capital programme by reducing corporate property condition works.*

£15,000 ongoing revenue budget by reducing budget pressure for increased utility costs.

£498,000 one-off saving from treasury management as a result of the £10 million early payment of pension contributions. The early payment relates to pension contributions due under the Local Government Pension Scheme for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.

- 3 *That, having considered the additional consultation responses and the Public Sector Equality Duty Due Regard Statement, approval is given to the MTFs and the revenue and capital budgets for 2020-21, council tax for each valuation band, and to issue precepts on each district allocation fund as set out below:*

a) *Gloucestershire County Council 2020-21 Budget:*

	£000
Original 2019-20 budget	429,661
<i>Additional ring-fenced grant funding now rolled into the base budget</i>	10,421
<i>Removal of 2019-20 one-off investments</i>	-3,103
<i>Revised 2019-20 budget</i>	436,979
<i>Inflation</i>	2,856
<i>Cost and spending increases</i>	38,893
<i>Cost reductions</i>	<u>-10,545</u>
Total	468,183
<i>Less:</i>	
<i>Settlement funding</i>	85,023

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<i>Public Health Grant</i>	24,292
<i>Improved Better Care Fund</i>	19,436
<i>Social Care Grants</i>	13,985
<i>New Homes Bonus</i>	2,828
<i>Other non-ring fenced grants</i>	5,504
<i>Collection Fund Surplus</i>	2,123
<i>Reserve transfer</i>	1,533
Total to be precepted (Council Tax Requirement)	313,459

	Taxbase	Total precept
	Total	£
<i>Cheltenham</i>	43,144.50	58,043,100
<i>Cotswold</i>	41,817.64	56,258,050
<i>Forest of Dean</i>	29,294.75	39,410,773
<i>Gloucester City</i>	38,356.60	51,601,848
<i>Stroud</i>	45,045.38	60,600,389
<i>Tewkesbury</i>	35,340.88	47,544,744
Total	232,999.75	313,458,904

- 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.*
- 4 *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 2020-21, set out in Annex 10 of the detailed MTFS.*
- 5 *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:*

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Authorised limit and Operational boundary	2018-19 Limit £m	2019-20 Limit £m	2020-21 Limit £m	2021-22 Limit £m	2022-23 Limit £m
Total authorised limit for external debt and other liabilities	380.000	950.000	990.000	950.000	910.000
<i>Split:</i>					
<i>External debt</i>	360.862	355.375	413.349	397.637	382.189
<i>Other liabilities</i>	19.138	594.625	576.651	552.363	527.811
Total operational boundary for external debt	360.000	930.000	970.000	880.000	890.000
<i>Split:</i>					
<i>External debt</i>	340.862	335.375	393.349	377.637	362.189
<i>Other liabilities</i>	19.138	594.625	576.651	552.363	527.811

- a) Noting the authorised limit for 2020-21 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.

- 6 That the Council approves the schools funding set out in Section G and Annex 9 in the detailed MTFS.

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 (27): Cllrs Carole Allaway Martin, Phil Awford, Matt Babbage, Rob Bird, Richard Boyles, Kevin Cromwell, 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, Kathy Williams and Will Windsor-Clive

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Against (2): Cllrs Rachel Smith and Eva Ward

Abstentions (20): Cllrs David Brown, Chris Coleman, Dr John Cordwell, Iain Dobie, Ben Evans, Bernard Fisher, Kate Haigh, Joe Harris, Colin Hay, Jeremy Hilton, Paul Hodgkinson, Graham Morgan, Brian Oosthuysen, John Payne, Nigel Robbins, Steve Robinson, Klara Sudbury, Simon Wheeler, Lesley Williams and Suzanne Williams

8. MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

Question 1 – Cllr Kate Haigh stated that she understood that the threshold had been changed and that funding could not be allocated to devices such as a signal-controlled crossing and asked that this be looked at and clarification given to members regarding what the barriers were.

Cllr Dave Norman replied that he was happy to look into that.

Question 2 – Cllr Eva Ward stated that she was grateful for the notification.

Question 3 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson stated that there had been a lack of communication around parking enforcement in Bourton-on-the-Water and felt there was a discrepancy as to what had been communicated to the town council.

Cllr Dave Norman stated that there had been significantly more visits and hours of patrol from enforcement officers and he would update the member.

Question 4 – Cllr Ben Evans asked if the Cabinet Member could comment or explain how Gloucestershire Highways were ensuring the quality of the repairs to ensure value for money.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that sometimes repairs had to be carried out in less than ideal weather, but were subject to regular inspections. He said that the way to reduce potholes was major resurfacing.

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Question 6 – Cllr Colin Hay asked when the under-estimation had been identified regarding school places and whether the current figures were now correct.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux explained that this was a difficult and complex formula and he felt that the right formula was now in place.

Question 7 – Cllr Colin Hay asked the Cabinet Member to explain his understanding of the potential issues with the primary school site in Bishops Cleeve and why the local parish councils were concerned.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux explained the limitations around where the school could be sited. He said that a potential site had been owned by the Diocese and discussions continued with them and Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Question 9 – Cllr Colin Hay asked for the Cabinet Member's understanding of glebe land as detailed in the answer.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux replied that the Diocese was bound to get the best value from its land.

Question 10 – Cllr Colin Hay asked if the consultation was effective when only one site was identified.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux replied that it was a consultation on the proposed site and there was nothing further he could add.

Question 14 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked for the Council to be more imaginative with regards to county farms to encourage more local vegetable production.

Cllr Lynden Stowe stated it was important to recognise the tenants of our county farms and work within the tenancy agreements in place. If the member wished to bring forward a suggestion on how we do that then a budget amendment would have been the best way to do that. The overall strategy would be reviewed at some point and members would be informed of when that would be.

Question 15 – Cllr Rachel Smith noted the Council's success reducing its own carbon emissions but that this only represented a small proportion of the county's

emissions. If we wished to meet the 80% reduction target by 2030 was £1 million this year really enough?

Cllr Nigel Moor – thanked the member for the recognition of what the Council had achieved. The Council continued to show leadership and a range of initiatives with £1 million on the table.

Question 16 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked whether the Cabinet Member would attend the ‘There is no Planet B: A handbook for the make or break years’ session by Mike Berners-Lee?

Cllr Nigel Moor stated that the member had recognised the achievement that had been made and that the Cabinet was well versed in carbon reduction techniques.

9. SCRUTINY

9.1 Scrutiny report

Cllr Shaun Parsons, Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented the report. He said that the budget scrutiny session held by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been attended by Cabinet Members and Directors who had presented details of their spending plans. The Health Scrutiny Committee had been looking at the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group’s ‘Fit for the Future’ consultation. The Environment Scrutiny Committee had considered issues around the roll-out of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the county. Members of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee had received a presentation on the draft Transitions Strategy. Three scrutiny task groups were continuing their work on single-use plastics, taxi licensing and public participation. Non-executive members were also involved in other activities including a Cabinet advisory panel on the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

Cllr Colin Hay, Chair of the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel, advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner’s budget and precept had been supported unanimously by the panel. He noted that the increase in the funding available to the Police relied on a substantial rise in council tax. He acknowledged that the Government was fully funding the costs of extra 20,000 police officers with the Gloucestershire allocation expected to be 152. The Commissioner had highlighted the extra pressure on the police as a result of cuts to public services elsewhere, notably mental health and universal youth services.

RESOLVED to note the report

9.2 Scrutiny chairs

Arising from the appointment of Cllr Carole Allaway-Martin as the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning, nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED that Cllr Brian Robinson be appointed as Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Robinson advised that he was standing down as Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee. Nominations were therefore invited for the vacant position of Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED that Cllr Andrew Miller be appointed as the Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee.

10. CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Chair of the Constitution Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on 30 January 2020. He explained that decisions were required relating to parental leave for councillors and the criteria for submitting motions. He said that no decision was necessary relating to the procedure for notices without motion because the arrangements needed to be considered in more detail.

Although shared parental leave was not specifically identified in the proposed parental leave policy, it did refer to applying the principles included in relevant staff policies.

RESOLVED to

- a) *Adopt the parental leave policy for councillors as shown as Appendix A to the report.*
- b) *Implement the proposed amendments outlined in Appendix B to the report relating to the criteria for submitting motions and be reviewed after 6 months.*

11. INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION STATEMENTS

RESOLVED to note the decision statements for the period 1 November 2019 to 31 January 2020.

12. CABINET DECISION STATEMENTS

Cllr Nigel Moor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, presented the recommendation relating to the Minerals Local Plan from the Cabinet meeting on 29 January 2020. He explained that the plan was critical to the growth agenda as it allowed aggregate to be supplied for new developments in a sustainable way. He said that the Inspector had found the plan to be sound subject to detailed amendments. He thanked officers for the detailed work they had undertaken to allow the plan to be adopted within a relatively short period.

A member referred to a recent decision made by the Planning Committee which allowed Allstone to continue their operations in Gloucester for three years subject to conditions to protect the local community. He hoped that the Council would work closely with Allstone to allow them to move to a more suitable site in the longer term. Cllr Moore said that he was happy for officers to do this.

RESOLVED to

- a) *Note the Inspector's report (Appendix 1) and its recommendations including the incorporation of proposed main modifications to the Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire as a prerequisite to the adoption of the plan.*
- b) *Delegate authority to the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, to finalise additional modifications to the plan including those published by the Council in July 2019 (Appendix 2) and any further additional modifications now required.*
- c) *Adopt the Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire, incorporating the main and additional modifications (Appendix 3t) as required by the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, in accordance with Section 23(3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).*
- d) *Delegate authority to the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, to complete the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) to make the plan and other documents and information publicly available and notify specified persons as soon as reasonably practicable after the plan is adopted.*
- e) *Note the Cabinet Decision Statements for the meetings held on 20 December 2019 and 29 January 2020.*

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The meeting ended at 3pm

CHAIRMAN

Dated