

# Public Document Pack



## Council

Monday, 22 February 2016

## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Pattie Hill (Mayor), Councillor Joe Baker (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Roger Bennett, Natalie Brookes, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Greg Chance, Anita Clayton, Brandon Clayton, Matthew Dormer, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Gay Hopkins, Wanda King, Jane Potter, Gareth Prosser, Antonia Pulsford, Mark Shurmer, Rachael Smith, Yvonne Smith, Paul Swansborough, Debbie Taylor, David Thain, Jennifer Wheeler, Pat Witherspoon and Nina Wood-Ford

### Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, Sue Hanley, Anne-Marie Harley, Sheena Jones and Jayne Pickering

### Committee Services Officer:

Debbie Parker-Jones

### 79. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

### 80. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Tom Baker-Price.

### 81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 82. MINUTES

**RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th January 2016 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

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Chair

## 83. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### a) The Mayor

The Mayor advised that she had attended a number of events since the last meeting of the Council. One event in particular had been the funeral of Roger Hollingworth, former Leader of Bromsgrove District Council. Mrs Hollingworth had requested that her thanks be passed on to Councillors for their cards and well wishes.

### b) The Leader

#### Roger Hollingworth

Councillor Hartnett spoke of the sad news of Roger Hollingworth's recent unexpected passing, which had come as a shock to all concerned. Councillor Hartnett had sent a letter and card to Roger's wife Jacqueline and family Mark, James and Sarah expressing the Council's condolences. A large number of people had attended Roger's funeral, with many tributes having been paid to Roger on both a personal and professional level.

Councillor Brunner also paid tribute to Mr Hollingworth, stating that he would be sadly missed by all.

Councillor Hartnett had attended a number of events and undertaken certain work in his capacity as Leader and he highlighted the following:

- Syrian refugee resettlement programme – Councillor Hartnett had been interviewed by Central TV on behalf of the Leaders in Worcestershire regarding the offer to accept up to 50 refugees throughout Worcestershire as a whole in the first year. This would equate to approximately 2 families per district, the costs of which would be met by central government. A further meeting was due to take place with the Home Office Minister in Birmingham later that week, which would hopefully provide more information on the situation.
- Special Olympics Redditch Awards Night, which this year had included a Young Athlete of the Year award. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and MP had also attended this event.
- NHS Trust Development Authority (TDA) – meeting attended in parliament with TDA along with Bromsgrove and Stratford-on-Avon Council Leaders and MP. This had provided an update on the current situation regarding the special measures which the Worcestershire Acute

Hospitals NHS Trust had been placed in. A number of concerns had been raised by the Leader in relation to financial and clinical stability, patient choice and flows and proposed consultation on the clustering of the Worcestershire and Wye Valley (Herefordshire) NHS Trusts.

**84. AUDIT, STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2016-17 TO 2018-19**

The Council received the recommendations of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee meeting of 28th January 2016 in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) the Strategy and Prudential Indicators at Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and**
- 2) the updated Treasury Management Policy at Appendix 2 to the report be approved.**

**85. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Council received the recommendations of the Executive Committee meeting on 2nd February 2016 in relation to the Independent Remuneration Panel's report and recommendations.

As in previous years Members expressed concern that they were placed in the position of determining their own remuneration, despite requests for this not to be done at local level. Members did not feel that in such austere times they could support the proposed increases to the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) regard be had to the report and recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2016/17;**
- 2) the recommendations at Appendix 1 to the Panel's report for the following allowances not be accepted:**

**Basic;**  
**Leader;**  
**Deputy Leader;**  
**Portfolio Holders;**  
**Executive Members without Portfolio;**

**Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee;  
Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee;  
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Task Groups;  
Chair of Audit, Governance and Standards Committee;  
Chair of Planning Committee;  
Chair of Licensing Committee;  
Political Group Leaders; and  
Borough Council representatives on the Local  
Government Association and General Assembly and West  
Midlands Employers;**

- 3) the Panel's recommendations relating to travel, subsistence and dependent carers' allowances be accepted;**
- 4) for 2016/17 the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in the Council's Allowances Scheme continue at the level set for 2015/16, as set out in the final column of Appendix 1 to the Independent Remuneration Panel's report;**
- 5) the recommendation relating to the Parish Council be noted; and**
- 6) the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2016/17 remain unchanged, with the exception of the following inclusion into the travel allowances section:**

**"The rate for travel by Taxi Cab shall not exceed:**

**(i) In cases of urgency or where no public transport is reasonably available, the amount of the actual fare and any reasonable gratuity paid, and**

**(ii) In any other case, the amount of the fare for travel by appropriate public transport."**

## **86. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS**

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 2nd February 2016, together with the recommendations of the Executive Committee meeting of 22nd February which had taken place immediately preceding the meeting of the Council, in respect of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Council Tax Resolutions. An updated Medium Term Financial Plan report and the Council Tax Setting details appeared in Additional Papers 1 and 2 respectively to the 22nd February Executive Committee papers. An amalgamated/updated set of recommendations from the Executive on 2nd February (page 53 of the Council agenda) and Executive on 22nd February

(recommendations from the report in Additional Papers 1) were tabled for Members' reference/assistance.

Further to the Officer presentation of the Medium Term Financial Plan which had taken place earlier in the evening at Executive Committee, opposing views were expressed by the controlling and opposition groups in relation to the budget.

During the course of the debate a number of issues were raised on both sides of the divide, including:

- the significant negative financial impact to the authority of the local government finance settlement 2016/17, which had included a 43% cut in Revenue Support Grant in the proposed settlement and Council payback of monies to the Government from 2019/20;
- changes to the final finance settlement in light of issues raised by local authorities following consultation on the proposed settlement, together with an appeal by the Leader of the Council, some of which it was noted were of a transitional nature only;
- delays with the Leisure Services review and the consequential financial impact of this;
- government restrictions on rent increases; and
- differing approaches which were being taken by local authorities in relation to how budgets, expenditure and savings plans were being addressed.

Thanks were expressed to the s151 Officer and Finance Team for their work in producing the updated budget following unprecedented changes as a consequence of the local government finance settlement.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the recommendations on the budget calculation and Council Tax setting were the subject of the following named vote:

Members voting FOR the resolutions below:

Councillors Joe Baker, Natalie Brookes, Greg Chance, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Pattie Hill, Wanda King, Mark Shurmer, Rachael Smith, Yvonne Smith, Paul Swansborough, Debbie Taylor, Jennifer Wheeler, Pat Witherspoon and Nina Wood-Ford.

Members voting AGAINST the resolutions below:

Councillors Roger Bennett, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Anita Clayton, Brandon Clayton, Matthew Dormer, Gay

Hopkins, Jane Potter, Gareth Prosser, Antonia Pulsford and David Thain.

Accordingly, the motions were approved, and it was consequently

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) the savings and additional income for 2016/17 of £654K as set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes be approved;
- 2) the revenue bid for 2016/17 of £10k for Planning – Redditch Town Centre be approved;
- 3) the capital bids of £1.220m as set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes be approved;
- 4) the unavoidable pressures for 2016/17 of £305k as set out in Appendix 3 to these minutes be approved;
- 5) the transfer from balances of £479k in 2016/17 be approved;
- 6) the increase in Council Tax by £5 (2.2%) per band D equivalent be approved;
- 7) it be noted that at its meeting on 12th January 2016, the Executive Committee calculated the Council Tax Base 2016/17 as follows:
  - (a) for the whole Council area as 25,144.49 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)]; and
  - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates; this being Feckenham Parish as 365.88;
- 8) the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish precepts) is calculated at £5,587,357;
- 9) the following amounts be calculated for the year 2015/16 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
  - (a) £59,466,364 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act (taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils) (*i.e. Gross expenditure*);

- (b) £53,870,707 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act. (*i.e. Gross income*);
- (c) £5,595,657 being the amount by which the aggregate of 9(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 9(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act);
- (d) £222.54 being the amount at 9(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (7(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts);
- (e) £8,300 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Feckenham Parish precept) referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;
- (f) £222.21 being the amount at 9(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 9(e) above by Item T (7(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates;
- (g) £244.90 being the amount given by adding to the amount at 9(f), the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham 9(e), divided by the amount in 7(b) above;
- (h) the amounts below given by multiplying the amounts at 9(f) and 9(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in B and D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken

into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation band;

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	163.27	148.14
B	7/9	190.48	172.83
C	8/9	217.69	197.52
D	1	244.90	222.21
E	11/9	299.32	271.59
F	13/9	353.74	320.97
G	15/9	408.17	370.35
H	18/9	489.80	444.42

10. it be noted that for the year 2016/17, Worcestershire County Council, Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwelling in the Council's area as indicated below;

Valuation Band	Worcestershire County Council £	Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia £	Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	748.21	126.40	52.00
B	872.91	147.47	60.67
C	997.61	168.54	69.33
D	1,122.31	189.60	78.00
E	1,371.72	231.74	95.33
F	1,621.12	273.87	112.67
G	1,870.52	316.01	130.00
H	2,244.63	379.21	156.00

- 11) Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 9(h) and 10 above, that Redditch Borough Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the amounts shown below as the amounts of Council Tax for



2016/17 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings;

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	1,089.88	1,074.75
B	7/9	1,271.53	1,253.88
C	8/9	1,453.17	1,433.00
D	1	1,634.81	1,612.12
E	11/9	1,998.11	1,970.38
F	13/9	2,361.40	2,328.63
G	15/9	2,724.70	2,686.88
H	18/9	3,269.64	3,224.26

- 12) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund by ten equal instalments between April 2016 to March 2017 as detailed below;

	Precept £	Surplus on Collection Fund £	Total to pay £
Worcestershire County Council	28,219,978	516,402	28,736,380
Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	4,767,493	88,909	4,856,402
Hereford & Worcester Fire	1,961,249	36,585	1,997,834

- 13) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make transfers under Section 97 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund to the General Fund the sum of £5,595,655 being the Council's own demand on the Collection Fund (£5,587,355) and Parish Precept (£8,300) and the distribution of the Surplus on the Collection Fund (£104,039);

- 14) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments from the General Fund to Feckenham Parish Council the sums listed above (£8,300) by instalment on 1 April 2016 in respect of the precept levied on the Council;
- 15) that the above resolutions 9 to 11 be signed by the Chief Executive for use in legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court for the recovery of unpaid Council Taxes;
- 16) notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Chief Executive are given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992; and
- 17) the Pay Policy Statement 2016/17 as set out at Appendix 2 to the report to the 22nd February Executive Committee be approved.

**87. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS**

There were no Urgent Decisions to note.

**88. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)**

There were no separate items of urgent business to consider at this meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 7.35 pm  
and closed at 8.07 pm

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Chair

**SAVINGS & ADDITIONAL INCOME - RBC**

Department	Strategic Purpose	Description of saving	2016-17 £'000	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	Comments
Leisure and Cultural Services , Hewell Road	Provide Good things to see, do and visit	Rates charge built into 1617 budget but no longer required as building demolished	-5	-5	-5	Rates no longer chargeable as building demolished.
Leisure and Cultural Services , Hewell Road	Provide Good things to see, do and visit	vacant post given up - business Development	-11	-11	-11	Vacant post released
Leisure and Cultural Services , Hewell Road	Provide Good things to see, do and visit	Various	-44	-44	-44	Following full review of all budgets a number of savings can be released
Leisure and Cultural Services , Hewell Road	Provide Good things to see, do and visit	Savings anticipated	300	300	300	There was an expectation to reduce costs associated with Leisure Services by £300k from 2016/17. Members have agreed that further work be undertaken on assessing the demand and value of the services provided therefore it is not appropriate to include savings until this work is completed
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Various savings in Supplies & Services due to the restructure of the Service	-24	-24	-24	Various savings in Supplies & Services due to the restructure of the Service
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Additional savings generated from Service Review	-139	-125	-125	Savings generated from Service Review in addition to £190k savings identified in 15/16 budget round for 16/17 onwards as a result of the service review.
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Additional income - cremation fees	-52	-131	-210	Additional income generated from price 8% annual increase on cremation fees
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Additional income from increase in number of cremations	-125	-130	-135	Anticipated growth in funeral numbers based on actual income achieved over budget in last few years
Corporate - Printing	Enabling	Savings due to print efficiencies	-46	-46	-46	Change to the way print contracts are managed
Community Services	Help me live my life independantly	Various	-53	-53	-53	Following full review of all budgets a number of savings can be released
Business Transformation	Enabling	Central Switchboard	-6	-6	-6	Following full review of all budgets a number of savings can be released
Business Transformation	Enabling	Operational Budgets	-38	-38	-38	Following full review of all budgets a number of savings can be released
Business Transformation	Enabling	Training budget	-5	-5	-5	Following full review of all budgets a number of savings can be released
Legal, Equality and Democratic Services - Elections	Enabling	Local Election savings due to PCC taking place in 16/17 and CC in 17/18	-35	-75		Due to the local election being combined with the PCC in 16/17 there will be lower costs. In 17/18 there are no Local Elections, only County Council

Department	Strategic Purpose	Description of saving	2016-17 £'000	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	Comments
Legal, Equality and Democratic Services	Enabling	Shared service posts	-16	-16	-16	Vacant posts in Democratic Services
Legal, Equality and Democratic Services	Enabling	Operational Budgets	-13	-13	-13	Following full review of all budgets a number of savings can be released
Customer Access and Financial Support	Help me be financially independent	Reduction in Hours	-17	-17	-17	Reduction in Hours within Customer Services
Finance & Resources	Enabling	Reduction in post costing	-3	-3	-3	Reduction in costs associated with the apprentice post
Reserves	All	Funding from Reserves	-207			Following full review of all expenditure a number of costs can be funded from the reserves previously set aside
Various	All	Review of HRA funding	-80	-80	-80	Following a review of the costs between the General Fund and HRA additional charges can be made to the HRA
CAFS - Property	All	Town Hall	-20	-20	-20	To reflect the income generated from the Town Hall Creche
CAFS - Property	All	Rent Income	-15	-15	-15	To reflect the income generated from the lease agreement with the County Council for Woodrow Library
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>-654</b>	<b>-557</b>	<b>-566</b>	

**CAPITAL BIDS - RBC**

Department	Strategic Purpose	Description	Funding Source i.e. Grant, Borrowing, Reserve, S106	CAPITAL IMPLICATIONS			Comments
				2016-17 £'000	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	
Community Services - CCTV	Keep my place safe and looking good	Camera Replacement programme	Capital Borrowing	55	0	0	CCTV Camera replacement programme
Leisure and Cultural Services, Abbey Stadium	Provide good things to see, do and visit	Replacement Gym Equipment	Capital Borrowing	85	0	0	Includes 25 CV and 9 spin bikes - based on Life Fitness Quotation. Spin bikes based on Start Track quote. This is to replace 15 year old equipment at Abbey Stadium as due to its condition we are experiencing complaints leading to members cancelling memberships. This has an effect on the revenue generated from health and fitness income.
Leisure and Cultural Services Pitcheroak Golf Course	Provide good things to see, do and visit	Installation of Driving Range	Capital Borrowing	10	0	0	This is to try to generate more income to mitigate the shortfalls experienced over the last couple of years. The range will mean that the course will be an all year round facility and schools / residents / club members can enjoy quality practice facilities thus retaining existing golfers and attracting new golfers to the course
Leisure and Cultural Services Parks & Green Spaces	Provide good things to see, do and visit	Mitigation arising from Water Risk Assessments	Capital Borrowing	10	0	0	As a result of the Rospa report and our own Risk Assessments of the "Hot Spot" inland waterways a range of mitigation methods have been identified to ensure the Council is compliant and the public remain safe
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Crematorium Improvements	Borrowing	200	0	0	To improve the facilities and environment of the crematorium for the public as included in previous reports to members
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Vehicle fleet replacement	Borrowing	0	0	1,138	To provide replacement vehicles and plant to sustain services across the Borough
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Additional refuse freighter	Borrowing	165	0	0	Additional vehicle required to accommodate district wide property developments
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Flood alleviation work in Moons Moat Drive/Hillmorton Close and Yvonne Road	Borrowing	45	0	0	Flood alleviation work in Moons Moat Drive/Hillmorton Close and Yvonne Road.
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Car Parking Enhancements	Borrowing	200	200	200	To continue the enhancements to car parking across the Borough to improve the environment to residents
Leisure & Cultural Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Maintenances of proctors barn lane kerbing and passing place	Borrowing	40	0	0	Surface has degraded and on recent inspections have identified as high risk in two area and medium in the rest this is recorded PSS with photograph's
Customer Access and Financial Support	Enabling	Public Buildings Capital Programme	Borrowing	0	0	250	To continue the planned building works on the Council's public buildings
Customer Access and Financial Support	Enabling	Asbestos	Borrowing	0	0	40	To continue the management and monitoring of asbestos in the Council's public buildings

Page 3

Minute Annex

**CAPITAL BIDS - RBC**

Department	Strategic Purpose	Description	Funding Source i.e. Grant, Borrowing, Reserve, S106	CAPITAL IMPLICATIONS			Comments
				2016-17 £'000	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	
Leisure and Cultural Services Playing Pitches	Provide good things to see, do and visit	Regrading of Playing Pitches at Terrys Field to support Redditch United Junior Section.	S106	21	0	0	This is designed to support the development of the junior section of the club to help them sustain high numbers of junior teams which significantly contributes to increasing participation for children and young people.
Leisure and Cultural Services Parks and Open Spaces	Provide good things to see, do and visit	Installation of Outdoor Gym equipment in Astwood Bank (Astwood Park)	S106	9	0	0	To provide outdoor gym facilities for the Community to use to improve fitness and well being in Astwood Park
Leisure and Cultural Services Abbey Stadium	Provide good things to see, do and visit	Investment into Health and Fitness Facilities	S106	330	0	0	To expand the dance studio in the Abbey Stadium to ensure memberships are retained and to increase the number of sessions held and the capacity of the provision
Business Transformation - ICT	Enabling	Replace Backup Solution	Revenue ( available)	50	0	0	The Backup Solution needs to be replaced - funding available through revenue to support this scheme
<b>TOTAL BIDS</b>				<b>1,220</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1,628</b>	

**UNAVOIDABLE PRESSURES - RBC**

Department	Strategic Purpose	Description of Pressure	2016-17 £'000	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	Comments
Community Services - Lifeline	Live my life independently	loss of supporting people funding	40	40	40	In 2014/15 WCC removed the £200k Supporting People Funding to the Council. There is a shortfall of £40k following the introduction of charges to customers.
Community Services - Early Help	Live my life independently	loss of support services contribution by Early Help	37	75	75	Early Help contract ceases at Oct 2016 and therefore there is a potential cost back to the Council for the support services that are currently charged to Early Help
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Domestic Waste collection - increase in properties throughout borough	96	98	100	Additional staff resources required to accommodate for borough wide developments - 1 driver, 2 loaders. Includes running costs of vehicles ( £30k)
Leisure and Cultural Services-Abbey Stadium	Provide good things to see, do and visit	Increase in Music & PRS Licenses	15	15	15	Relates to the increase in licenses to enable music to be played at the Abbey Stadium
Business Transformation - ICT	Enabling	Microsoft License Costs/Increase	28	44	44	Microsoft are changing the framework arrangements and the associated discounts that the Council current benefits from and therefore the costs will increase
CAFS - Fraud and Compliance	Help me be financially independent (incl education & skills)	Reduction in DWP funding	89	92	96	Following the transfer of housing benefit fraud to the DWP an assessment has been made by officers in liaison with other Councils and it is clear that resources are still required to prevent and manage Council Tax and other compliance fraud. It is therefore proposed to retain the specialist team in house to undertake this work and to lok for opportunities to increase income to the Council in future years.
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>305</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>370</b>	

