

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), and Councillors Joanne Beecham, Aled Evans, Peter Fleming, Anthony Lovell, Nyear Nazir, Mike Rouse and Craig Warhurst

Also Present:

Councillors Michael Chalk, Debbie Chance, Luke Court, Andrew Fry, Julian Grubb, Emma Marshall, David Thain and Jennifer Wheeler

Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, James Howse and Deb Poole

Principal Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill

77. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Gemma Monaco.

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

79. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader explained that there were two agenda packs for consideration at the meeting; the main agenda pack and a supplementary pack. The supplementary pack contained the report in respect of the Council Tax Resolutions. As the supplementary pack had been published close to the date of the meeting, the Leader had agreed that paper copies of the pack should be tabled at the meeting, although the report had been available for Members and the public to access electronically for a number of days.

80. MINUTES

Chair

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 8th February 2022 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

81. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23

The Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy presented the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 for Members' consideration. The Executive Committee was advised that there was a requirement for the Council to publish the Pay Policy Statement every year. This document needed to detail the remuneration provided to both the lowest paid and the highest paid members of staff and outline the differences between the two. Information was also provided in the report about how the Council calculated the salaries that were paid to staff and the consistent approach that the authority applied to this process.

RECOMMENDED that

the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 be approved.

82. 2022/23 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 TO 2024/25 (INCLUDING CAPITAL PROGRAMME)

The Executive Director of Resources presented the 2022/23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022/23 to 2024/25. The report detailed the proposals for the budget in the 2022/23 financial year together with the Council's plans for the full three-year period of the MTFP. The content of the report had been changed when compared to previous years, to help provide clarity regarding the figures provided and the factors influencing the content of the budget. The report had been scrutinised by the Budget Scrutiny Working Group, although no recommendations had been made.

The 2022/23 budget was robust and balanced. However, Members were asked to note that a balanced position had only been achieved by using funding from balances. This approach could not be applied in subsequent years and balances were expected to fall below minimum levels considered acceptable by the Section 151 Officer from 2023/24 onwards unless action was taken.

The budget was being set in a challenging financial context for local government. There was also unprecedented uncertainty in terms of future funding arrangements for local Councils.

There were a number of factors that had influenced the content of the budget and MTFP. This included:

- Inflation, which was anticipated to remain at a higher level than in recent years.
- Pay inflation, which was anticipated at 2 per cent per annum for the full three-year period of the MTFP.
- Budget bids, which placed pressures on the budget.
- Proposed savings.
- Additional income opportunities.
- A release of funding from earmarked reserves.
- An increase in Council Tax for the Council, at £5 per annum.
- A contribution from the Government of £100,000 in the Lower Tier Settlement.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve

1) the overall net general fund revenue budgets of:

2022/23:	£10.520m
2023/24:	£10.289m
2024/25:	£10.428m

2) the unavoidable costs:

2022/23:	£0.427m
2023/24:	£0.140m
2024/25:	£0.134m

3) the Revenue Bids:

2022/23:	£0.191m
2023/24:	£0.150m
2024/25:	£0.128m

4) the Identified Savings:

2022/23:	£0.305m
2023/24:	£0.327m
2024/25:	£0.327m

5) an increase of the Council Tax per Band D equivalent of £5 for 2022/23;

6) the transfer from General Fund Balances of £0.282m for 2022/23;

7) the planned reallocation of £0.238m from Earmarked reserves to General Fund Balances;

8) the General Fund capital programme of:

2022/23:	£4.257m
2023/24:	£2.407m
2024/25:	£1.930m

9) the Housing Revenue Account Budget of:

2022/23:	£25.390m
2023/24:	£25.074m
2024/25:	£25.545m

10) the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme of:

2022/23:	£14.180m
2023/24:	£12.580m
2024/25:	£12.580m

11) the 2020/21 Capital Outturn be noted; and

12) the Chief Financial Officer's (CFO) Opinion on Estimates and Reserve Levels be noted.

83. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS 2022/23 (TO FOLLOW)

The Executive Director of Resources presented the Council Tax Resolutions 2022/23 for the Executive Committee's consideration. Members were advised that this was a technical report which outlined the Council Tax contributions that would be made to all precepting authorities in the 2022/23 financial year. The various partner organisations that were precepting authorities had agreed their Council Tax requirements in recent weeks and had notified the Council, which had incorporated the figures into the report.

RESOLVED to NOTE that at a meeting on 11th January 2022, the Executive Committee calculated the Council Tax Base 2022-23 as:

- (a) for the whole Council area as 26,546.63 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government 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 374.52.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the calculation for the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022-23 (excluding Parish precepts) be £6,746,772.92;
- 2) the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022-23 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £46,984,027 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) £40,222,255 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) £6,761,772 being the amount by which the aggregate of 1.2.2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 1.2.2(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) £254.71 being the amount at 1.2.2 (c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1.1(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) £15,000 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Feckenham Parish precept) referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;
 - (f) £254.15 being the amount at 1.2.2 (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 1.2.2 (e) above by Item T (1.1 (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) £294.20 being the amount given by adding to the amount at 1.2.2(f), the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham 1.2.2(e), divided by the amount in 1.1(b) above;

- (h) the amounts below given by multiplying the amounts at 1.2.2(f) and 1.2.2(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 Band 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 bands.

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	196.13	169.43
B	7/9	228.82	197.67
C	8/9	261.51	225.91
D	1	294.20	254.15
E	11/9	359.58	310.63
F	13/9	424.96	367.11
G	15/9	490.33	423.58
H	18/9	588.40	508.30

- 3) it be noted that for the year 2022-23, Worcestershire County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and Hereford and Worcester Fire 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 Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Worcestershire County Council	931.19	1,086.38	1,241.58	1,396.78	1,707.18	2,017.57	2,327.97	2,793.56
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	166.44	194.18	221.92	249.66	305.14	360.62	416.10	499.32
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	59.60	69.53	79.47	89.40	109.27	129.13	149.00	178.80

- 4) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 1.2.2(h) and 1.2.3 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 2022-23. 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	1,353.36	1,326.66
B	7/9	1,578.91	1,547.76
C	8/9	1,804.48	1,768.88
D	1	2,030.04	1,989.99
E	11/9	2,481.17	2,432.22
F	13/9	2,932.28	2,874.43
G	15/9	3,383.40	3,316.65
H	18/9	4,060.08	3,979.98

- 5) 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 2022 to March 2023 as detailed below:

	Precept £	Deficit on Collection Fund £	Total to pay £
Worcestershire County Council	37,079,802.00	970,233.00	38,050,035.00
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	6,627,631.65	173,751.00	6,801,382.65
Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority	2,373,271.31	66,447.00	2,439,718.31

- 6) 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 £6,941,602 being the Council's own demand on the Collection Fund (£6,746,773) and Parish Precept (£15,000) and the distribution of the surplus on the Collection Fund (£179,829);

- 7) the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments from the General Fund to Feckenham Parish Council the sums listed above (£15,000) by instalment after 1 April 2022 in respect of the precept levied on the Council;
- 8) the above resolutions to be signed by the Chief Executive for use in legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court for the recovery of unpaid Council Taxes;
- 9) 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
- 10) authority be delegated to the Head of Finance and Customer Services (Interim S151) following consultation with the finance portfolio holder to amend the resolution should the Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority Service not approve the estimated figure that is being used in this report. This is due to the Fire service having their approval meeting after this resolution report has been brought to Council.

84. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC.

The Leader advised that there were no referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Executive Advisory Panels on this occasion.

85. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The following updates were provided with respect to the Executive Advisory Panels and other bodies.

- a) Climate Change Cross Party Working Group – Chair, Councillor Anthony Lovell

Councillor Lovell confirmed that there had been no meetings of the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee.

- b) Constitutional Review Working Party – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

Members were advised that a meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party was due to take place on 3rd March 2022.

- c) Corporate Parenting Board – Council Representative, Councillor Nyear Nazir

Councillor Nazir explained that there were no updates to report.

- d) Member Support Steering Group – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor Dormer advised that a meeting of the Member Support Steering Group had taken place on 15th February 2022. During the meeting, Members had discussed the draft induction pack for Councillors due to be elected in May 2022. The requirements for Members to attend training, including the circumstances under which training should be classified as mandatory, had also been considered.

Members had given consideration to the need for Members' safety training to be provided, following the death of Sir David Amess MP. It was anticipated that this training would be delivered before the end of the municipal year.

- e) Planning Advisory Panel – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

The Executive Committee was informed that there were no scheduled meetings of the Planning Advisory Panel due to take place.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 6.43 pm