

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY, 3 MARCH 2011

Councillors Present: Barbara Alexander, Peter Argyle (Vice-Chairman), Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Brian Bedwell, David Betts, Jeff Brooks, Paul Bryant, George Chandler, Hilary Cole, Richard Crumly, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Adrian Edwards, Geoff Findlay, Marcus Franks, Dave Goff, Manohar Gopal, Paul Hewer, David Holtby, Roger Hunneman, Carol Jackson-Doerge, Owen Jeffery, Mike Johnston, Graham Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Royce Longton, Gordon Lundie, Alan Macro, Gwen Mason, Tim Metcalfe, Robert Morgan, Irene Neill, Graham Pask (Chairman), David Rendel, Anthony Stansfeld, Julian Swift-Hook, Ieuan Tuck, Tony Vickers, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster, Keith Woodhams and Laszlo Zverko

Also Present: John Ashworth (Corporate Director - Environment), Nick Carter (Chief Executive), Margaret Goldie (Corporate Director - Children and Young People), David Holling (Head of Legal & Electoral) and Andy Walker (Head of Finance),

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Teresa Bell, Councillor Keith Chopping, Councillor Ellen Crumly, Councillor Mollie Lock, Councillor Gabrielle McGarvey, Councillor Joe Mooney and Councillor Andrew Rowles

PART I

67. Tributes to Keith Lock

Councillors Graham Pask, Jeff Brooks, Graham Jones, Royce Longton and David Rendel, on behalf of the Council, all paid tribute to Councillor Keith Lock who had recently passed away. Councillor Lock had served the residents of West Berkshire for 38 years as a Councillor. Councillor Lock was renowned for his passion, wisdom, grace, calmness and consideration. He was a true gentleman who had earned respect from both sides of the chamber. Councillor Brooks hoped that he would be remembered and respected for all the work he had done over the years and stated that he would be greatly missed. The Members asked that their condolences be conveyed to his wife, Councillor Mollie Lock, as well as the rest of his family.

68. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman reported that he and the Vice Chairman had attended 51 events since the last ordinary Council meeting. This included four citizenship ceremonies, two Holocaust Memorial events, four Christmas events at Care Homes and a hundredth birthday celebration. Councillor Pask thanked Councillor Argyle for his ongoing support as Vice-Chair.

69. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 09 December 2010 and the Special meeting on the 31 January 2011 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

70. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gordon Lundie declared an interest in Agenda Item 18, but reported that, as his interest was personal and not prejudicial, he determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge declared an interest in Agenda Item 19, but reported that, as her interest was personal and not prejudicial, she determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

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71. Petitions

Councillor Alan Macro presented a petition containing 60 signatures relating to a request to take measures to reduce the amount and speed of traffic on Englefield Road in Theale.

Councillor Royce Longton presented a petition containing 43 signatures relating to a request to reduce the speed limit along a stretch of Clayhill Road in Burghfield.

As both of the petitions related to speed reduction they would be referred to the next appropriate Speed Limit Task Group meeting following which any recommendations would be included in an Individual Decision for sign off by the relevant Portfolio Holder.

72. Public Questions

- (a) A question standing in the name of Mr Richard Coles pertaining to Mortimer Hill Development was withdrawn from the agenda by the questioner after the agenda was published.
- (b) A question standing in the name of Mrs Lucy Flowerdew pertaining to resurfacing Burnthouse Lane, Burgfield would receive a written response from the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational) and ICT as she was unable to attend the meeting.
- (c) A question standing in the name of Mr Graham Murphy pertaining to local coalition co-operation was answered by the Leader of the Council.
- (d) A question standing in the name of Mr Richard Garvie pertaining to the value the Council placed on consultation was answered by the Leader of the Council.
- (e) A question standing in the name of Mrs Diane Smith pertaining to the withdrawal of funding for ROAR was answered by the Executive Member for Environment and Public Protection on behalf of the Executive Member for Community Care, Pensions and Insurance.
- (f) A question standing in the name of Mrs Diane Smith pertaining to a discussion on independent assistance for dealing with personal care budgets was answered by the Executive Member for Leisure and Culture, Equality and the Visions on behalf of the Executive Member for Community Care, Pensions and Insurance.

73. Licensing Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Licensing Committee had met on 21 December 2010.

74. Governance and Audit Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Governance and Audit Committee had met on 14 February 2011.

75. District Planning Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the District Planning Committee had met on 25 January 2011.

76. Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had met on 18 January 2011 and 01 March 2011.

77. Standards Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Standards Committee had met on 24 January 2011.

78. Statement on the Police Reorganisation

Councillor Anthony Stansfeld provided Council with an update on the proposed reconfiguration of the Police Service in West Berkshire. These changes were being made in response to the budget cuts proposed for the service. One of the suggestions was around removing one of the middle management tiers i.e. the Basic Command Units.

There were currently three police areas: Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire. Until recently West Berkshire only had 95 constables and sergeants. As the new allocation of officers would be based on a formula the number of constables and sergeants would increase to 107. The increase did not, in Councillor Stansfeld's opinion, take cognisance of the geographical area of West Berkshire. There was also no recognition of the financial input in West Berkshire which totalled around £1.5m more than neighbouring Reading. A meeting had therefore taken place and as a consequence the area had been allocated an additional 11 Police Officers. The additional resource should provide better policing and protection levels for the residents of the area.

79. Recommendations of the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel 2011 (C2204)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 14) concerning the recommendations of the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel 2011.

Prior to the report being proposed the Monitoring Officer clarified that the reference to the seven Opposition Spokesman Allowances did not include the Leader of the Oppositions' allowance and the Opposition Group were therefore entitled to up to eight Special Responsibility Allowances in total.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Jeff Brooks

That the Council:

“agree the recommendations of the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel 2011.”

Councillor Jones in introducing the report noted that the Members allowances had been frozen again for the forthcoming Municipal Year. Members would thereby be taking the lead in reducing the Council's costs. Councillor Jones stated that there were still issues around proportionality that he would like to see resolved but that the Council would be better placed to deal with these issues after the election.

Councillor Jeff Brooks in seconding the report stated that he had no issues with its content and he was therefore happy to support the proposals set out in it.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

80. Local Government Act 2003 - Borrowing Limits and Annual Investment Strategy 2011/12 (C2180)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 15) that summarised the Council's borrowing limits as set out by CIPFA's Prudential Code and complied with the Local

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Government Act 2003. the report also set out a recommended Annual Investment Strategy for the forthcoming Financial Year.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Gordon Lundie and seconded by Councillor Graham Jones:

That the Council:

“adopts the Annual Investment Strategy for 2011/12.”

Councillor Gordon Lundie in introducing the report reported that the Council had a duty to set its borrowing limits and produce the Annual Investment Strategy. He noted that there would be a slight decrease in the level of borrowing for the forthcoming year which reflected the reduction that had been made to the Council funded element of the Capital Programme. The strategy also included the agencies the Council would be investing with over the forthcoming year.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

81. Interim Medium Term Financial Strategy (C2179)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 16) which set out the Council’s Interim Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Alan Law and seconded by Councillor Graham Jones:

That the Council:

“approves the Interim Medium Term Financial Strategy”.

Councillor Alan Law in introducing the report explained that the strategy would form the basis of the Council’s financial planning and would enable the Council to continue to manage its finances well.

The MTFS had been more difficult to produce this year due to a number of factors including: the removal of some grants in year, the emerging localism agenda, the announcement of the abolition of the Primary Care Trusts, changes to the police service, the reduction of ring-fenced grants, the abolition of Area Based Grants and the introduction of a new formula grant. These changes needed to be taken into account alongside changes in the economy, increasing inflation, changes to the way business rates would be allocated and changes in employment costs. As a consequence the Administration was proposing an interim strategy and once more clarity emerged they would revert to a four year MTFS.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

82. Capital Strategy and Programme 2011-2016 (C2181)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 17) concerning the Council’s proposed five-year Capital Strategy for 2011 to 2016 including the minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement. The report also set out the funding framework for the Council’s five year Capital Programme for 2011/12 – 2015/16.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Pamela Bale:

That the Council:

“approves the five year Capital Strategy as set out in the report”.

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Councillor Graham Jones in introducing the report explained that the Capital Programme for the next five years would result in investment totalling £121m. The Council funded element would total £35.5m and there would be £16.5m of investment in schools. One of the challenges for the Council would be the ongoing investment in road maintenance given that the Council had the longest road network in Berkshire and as a consequence additional funding would be put into this budget.

Councillor Pamela Bale in seconding the report noted that the Capital Programme met its two main objectives: a reduction in the revenue required to support borrowing for the Capital Programme and to maximise the use of external funding including s106 contributions and other grants.

Councillor Bale noted that £141k had been included in the programme to support local communities through the vibrant villages and parish planning schemes. Councillor Bale also noted that the mobile and flexible working project, Timelord, would allow the Council to dispose of some of its investments and reduce leasing costs on other buildings. Councillor Bale thanked Officers for their efforts in producing the Strategy.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

83. Revenue Budget 2011/12 (C2178)

(Councillor Gordon Lundie declared a personal interest in Agenda item 18 by virtue of the fact that his children had accrued fines in respect of outstanding library books. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 18) relating to the Councils 2011-12 Revenue Budget.

Prior to the debate on this item taking place it was agreed that in accordance with paragraph 4.5.12 of the Council's Constitution the speaking limits for this item would be amended.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Gordon Lundie:

That the Council:

- “1. approves the fees and charges as set out in Appendix I and the appropriate statutory notices be placed where required in accordance with the decision of the Executive on 17th February 2011;
2. approves the Special Expenses as set out in Appendix J in accordance with the decision of the Executive on 17th February 2011;
3. approves that a budget requirement for 2011-12 of £111.41 million requires a freeze in Council Tax.

In relation to 2011-12 Council Tax

4. approves the amount (set out in Appendix O) for the year 2011-12 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
5. The amounts (set out in Appendix O) be now calculated for the year 2011-12 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
6. notes that for the year 2011-12 the Thames Valley Police Authority have stated that the amounts in precepts issued to the Council in accordance with section 40

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of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings set out in Appendix O;

7. notes that for the year 2011-12 the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Authority have stated that the amounts in precepts issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwelling set out in Appendix O;
8. Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts set out at 5, 6 and 7 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2011-12 for each of the categories of dwellings shown in Appendix O.”

In introducing the report Councillor Graham Jones noted that this budget was being set in the context of a period of great change for Local Government. The Council had been forced to make difficult decisions due to in year cuts in grants and the economy remained fragile. As a consequence significant reductions would have to be made.

Councillor Jones explained that the Council had undertaken a budget simulator exercise and the results of this consultation had helped to build the budget and would be used to shape future budgets. Councillor Jones announced that Council Tax would be frozen for the first time.

AMENDMENT: Proposed by Councillor David Holtby and seconded by Councillor Jeff Beck:

“That the recommendations contained in the report (Page 127) entitled Revenue Budget 2011/12 be approved and adopted subject to:

- (i) to set aside £100k from balances in order to provide funding for local projects with a sound business plan that meet clearly identified local needs;
- (ii) to set aside £20k from balances for the purposes of modifying the Council’s governance structures as set out in item 19;
- (iii) to set aside £6k from balances to support the out of hours Dog Warden Service.”

The S151 Officer had noted that this additional contribution from balances to fund this proposal would increase the total use of balances to support the budget for 2011/12 to £498k from the level of £372k reported in the agenda paper and would still meet the recommended minimum levels of balances for 2011/12. Any subsequent ongoing budget requirements could be considered as part of 2012/13 budget setting arrangements.

The Amendment was put to the meeting and duly **CARRIED**. As the amendment was carried it became the substantive motion.

AMENDMENT: Proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Councillor David Rendel:

That the following amendments to the recommendations contained in the report (page 127) entitled Revenue Budget 2011/12 be made:

- (1) In order to respond to the needs of young people throughout the District who are experiencing severe difficulties in the present economic climate this Council will:
 - cancel the closures of five Youth clubs throughout the District with immediate effect at a cost of £37k;
 - Retain the Youth offending officer post at a cost of £21K;

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- Retain the Youth pregnancy advisory service at a cost of £22k.
- (2) In order to protect the District's Schools' performance and protect the District's young people this Council will:
- Retain one school improvement officer at a cost of £50k;
 - Retain one family Support Worker at a cost of £40K;
 - Retain one designated looked after children's teacher at a cost of £8k;
 - Employ two educational welfare officers at a cost of £53k;
 - Invest £40k in Educational Psychology & Behaviour Support;
- (3) Within the Planning and Countryside Departments this Council will:
- Retain an additional Countryside Officer at a cost of £20k;
 - Reduce fees for Bulky Waste collection service to £10 per collection at a cost of £135k;
 - Retain Post 03370 – Assistant Planning Officer to support the LDF at a cost of £23.5k;
 - Re-instate the School Travel Plan officer with a brief to work on travel plans across the District at a cost of £27.5k.
- (4) In order to ensure that the Council achieves effective consultation and engagement with the Public it will:
- Introduce three public engagement groups with appropriate support at a cost of £25k.
- (5) In order to respond to the community safety needs of the District this Council will:
- Employ two extra Community Wardens at a cost of £70k and develop an implementation program to employ one extra Community Warden for each of the next three years if budgets allow.
- (6) In order to react to the severe deterioration in the state of the District's roads this Council will:
- Invest £300K from the revenue budget towards road re-surfacing.

This programme, would be provided by taking the savings and disinvestment measures outlined in Appendix A, together with the adapted Car Parking charges outlined in Appendix B.

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Appendix A:

Savings/Disinvestments to support the Liberal Democrat alternative Budget proposals for 2011/12				Effect	Effect	Investments		
	Present identified efficiency	Total Spend £(K)	(£)K Saving	Administration % Saving on Net Budget	Lib Dem % Saving		£(K)	Lib Dem % Saving after Investments
Corporate Director CYP								
Efficiency Saving 2%			5	0.00%	2.00%			2.00%
Total this area		224	5					
Contact Centre Efficiency Savings			15					
Total this area		1009	15	0.00%	1.50%			
Youth Services & Commissioning								
						Retain Youth Clubs	37.0	
						1 x Youth Offending Officer	21.0	
						Teenage Pregnancy Service	22.0	
Increase efficiency saving to 1.5%	13		6					
Total this area		2668	6	18.60%	18.80%		80.0	15.80%
Education Service								
SEN Occupational Therapy in-house rather than from NHS			30			Looked after care leavers	40.0	
Bring more contracts in-house			50			Educational Psychology & Behaviour Support	40.0	
Increase training costs for non-West Berks staff			20			1 x School Improvement Officer	50.0	
Increase efficiency saving to 1.5%	62		31			Designated LAC Teacher Funding	8.0	
						Educational Welfare	53.0	
Total this area		13157	131	6.60%	7.60%		191.0	6.10%
Children's Services								
Increase efficiency saving to 1.5%	24		12					
Total this area		10997	12	1.45%	1.56%			
Corporate Director CS								
Efficiency saving 2%			12					
Total this area		347	12	0.00%	2.00%			
Housing & Performance								
Apply 0.5% efficiency saving to Housing & Performance			34					
Reduction in housing strategy development by 10%			20					
Total this area		6610	54	4.90%	5.40%			
Adult Social Care								
Apply 0.15% efficiency savings			72					
Total this area		38129	72	5.60%	5.80%			
Cultural Services								
Greater external rent at Shaw House			10					
Charging for Internet usage at £1 per hour after 30 minutes free use			15					

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Savings/Disinvestments to support the Liberal Democrat alternative Budget proposals for 2011/12				Effect	Effect	Investments		
	Present identified efficiency	Total Spend £(K)	(£)K Saving	Administration % Saving on Net Budget	Lib Dem % Saving		£(K)	Lib Dem % Saving after Investments
Increasing library charges by 10%			18					
Reduce posts by 1.5 by greater use of volunteers			40					
Total this area		4082	83	11.50%	13.00%			
Corporate Director ENV								
Efficiency saving 2%			3					
Total this area		161	3	0.00%	2.00%			
Highways and Transport								
Increased income from Car Park advertising			10			Additional investment in road repairs – short stretch resurfacing	300.0	
Reduction in Consultancy support			18					
Further reduction to that proposed in Car Park cleaning			43	9.20%	10.10%			6.30%
Car park income increased via charges outlined in Appendix B			200					
Total this area		7907	271				300.0	
Planning and Countryside								
Reduction in JSP funding			19			1 x Countryside Officer	20.0	
						Reduce fees for Bulky Waste collection service	135.0	
						Retain Post 03370 – Assistant Planning Officer	23.5	
						Reinstate the School Travel Plan Officer with wider District brief	27.5	
Total this area		3717	19	12.50%	13.00%		206.0	7.30%
Property and Public Protection								
Apply efficiency savings of 1% outside of Waste contract			27			Introduce 2 new Community Wardens	70.0	
Total this area		5516	27	4.30%	4.80%		70.0	4.10%
Corporate Director CEX								
Efficiency saving 2%			12					
Remove service contingency from Chief Exec budget			30					
Total this area		608	42	2.50%	9.40%			
Rest of Directorate								
Increase efficiency savings by 0.5% in Benefits & Exchequer		1204	6	5.40%	6.60%			6.60%

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Savings/Disinvestments to support the Liberal Democrat alternative Budget proposals for 2011/12				Effect	Effect	Investments		
	Present identified efficiency	Total Spend £(K)	(£)K Saving	Administration % Saving on Net Budget	Lib Dem % Saving		£(K)	Lib Dem % Saving after Investments
Increase efficiency savings by 0.5% in Finance		2266	12	7.00%	7.30%			7.30%
Apply efficiency saving to HR of 1.0%		1118	11	17.00%	18.00%			18.00%
Apply additional efficiency saving to Legal of 1.25% (currently only 0.25% (£4k))		864	19	20.00%	22.00%			22.00%
Apply efficiency saving to ICT of 1.0%		2704	27	12.00%	13.00%			13.00%
Apply efficiency saving of 0.5% to Policy and Communication		3175	19	19.00%	21.29%	Introduce three public engagement groups with appropriate support	25.0	20.50%
Total this area		11331	139				25.0	
Grand Total of Savings/ Disinvestments		106463	891				872.0	
Net Savings over Investments			19					

Appendix B:

Car Park Charges Proposed for 2011/12

Newbury (Central)	
Up to (hours)	Charge (£.p)
1	0.70
2	1.80
3	3.00
Then £2 per additional hour, with appropriate cut-off points for short-term car parks in line with the current scheme.	
Evening	1.00
No Sunday Charge	
Outer	
2	1.50
4	4.00
Over 4	6.00
Evening	1.00
No Sunday charge	
Season	
Quarterly (Kennet Centre)	£400
Quarterly (Northbrook and Surface)	£425
Annual (Northbrook and Surface)	£1600
Out Of Newbury	
No change on this year's prices	

Councillor Brooks noted these proposed amendments would challenge officers to find further efficiencies.

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

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The debate on the substantive motion resumed. Councillor Gordon Lundie stated that it was a good budget in difficult times.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

At 9:57pm in accordance with paragraph 4.1.8 of the Council's Constitution Members voted to continue the meeting past 10.00pm.

84. Council Governance (C2199)

(Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge declared a personal interest in Agenda item 18 by virtue of the fact that she was employed by NHS Berkshire West. As her interest was personal and not prejudicial she determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 19) concerning proposals to amend the Council's current scrutiny structures with effect from 1 April 2011 and, as a consequence, to amend the previously approved timetable of meetings. The report also sought to update the Council in relation to the Localism Bill and the timetable for the introduction of any new governance structures (Committee System).

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Jeff Beck:

That the Council:

- “1. That the Council's current scrutiny governance structures be amended from one Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission and five Select Committees to one Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission with effect from 1 April 2011.
2. That the previously approved timetable of meetings for 2011/12 be amended to reflect the changes to the Council's scrutiny structures.
3. That the Council notes the position in relation to the timetable for the introduction of any new governance structures (Committee system).
4. That Council be asked to write to the Local Government Association requesting them to lobby the coalition Government in relation to amending the current Localism Bill to enable Local Authorities to introduce new governance structures (e.g. Committee system) without the need to wait until after the next local elections following the passing of the Localism Bill.”

AMENDMENT: Proposed by Councillor Brian Bedwell and seconded by Councillor Geoff Findlay:

That the Council:

“approves the recommendations as set out in the report subject to the following amendments:

The scrutiny structures be amended to allow the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission to be supported by a Health Scrutiny Panel and a Resource Management Working Panel.”

Councillor Bedwell in proposing the amendment noted that provision would be made to increase the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission once the new structures were introduced.

The Amended Motion was put to the meeting and duly **CARRIED**.

85. Amendments to the Constitution - Changes to the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee and Governance and Audit Committee (C2195)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 20) concerning an amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee and the Governance and Audit Committee in line with the recommendations of an Internal Audit of the management of the Constitution.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Jeff Beck:
That the Council:

- “1. extends the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee as set out in paragraph 2.1 and Appendix B to this report;
2. amends Part 7 of the Council’s Constitution as set out in paragraph 1.6 and 1.7 of this report;
3. delegates authority to make any further corresponding changes to references in the Constitution to the Governance and Audit Committee and the Standards Committee to the Monitoring Officer to amend (e.g. Part 1 Summary and Explanation).”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

86. Sustainable Community Strategy 2011/12 (C2184)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 21) concerning an update to the Sustainable community Strategy for 2011-12.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Pamela Bale and seconded by Councillor Emma Webster:

That the Council:

“adopts the Sustainable Community Strategy for 2011-12.”

Councillor Pamela Bale in introducing the report noted that the Local Strategic Partnership had been refocused and the size of the body had been reduced and this was reflected in the revised version of the SCS.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

87. Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 (C2192)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 22) concerning the transport policy framework for the delivery of local transport measures over the next fifteen years.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Alan Law and seconded by Councillor David Betts:

That the Council:

- “1. approves and adopts the West Berkshire Local transport Plan 2011-2026;
2. delegates authority jointly to the Head of Planning and Countryside and Head of Highways and Transport in consultation with the Portfolio members for Planning, Housing and Transport Policy and highways, Transport (Operational) and ICT to agree any non-material refinements to the policy document prior to submission to the Department for Transport;

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3. delegates authority through an Individual decision jointly to the Portfolio Members for Planning, Housing and Transport Policy and Highways, Transport (Operational) and ICT in consultation with the Transport Policy Task Group to agree the supporting Implementation Plan and any changes to the LTP necessary as result of formal review or significant changes locally or nationally as described in paragraphs 2.10 and 2.11 of this report).”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

88. Sex Establishments Licensing (C2220)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 23) adoption of Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Hilary Cole and seconded by Councillor Jeff Beck:

That the Council:

“adopts Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

89. Council Motion - Renewable Energy In West Berkshire

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 24) which provided feedback on the findings of the Greener Select Committee’s deliberations on two separate but related Council motions concerning renewable energy.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Emma Webster and seconded by Councillor Hilary Cole:

That the Council agrees that:

1. The Local Strategic Partnership are best placed for taking on responsibility for, and producing, a West Berkshire Renewable Energy Strategy;
2. that the Council’s Energy Team finalise an Energy Strategy to include policy on renewable energy, for West Berkshire Council’s estate that includes school buildings;
3. that the Council examines ways in helping/facilitating others to take up projects under the Localism Bill;
4. the Council investigates introducing a loan scheme to assist schools and community groups undertaking renewable energy projects’.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

90. Notices of Motion

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 25 refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Paul Bryant relating to funding for the European Union.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Paul Bryant and seconded by Councillor Anthony Stansfeld:

That the Council:

“notes, with concern and disappointment, that whilst West Berkshire Council has faced an unexpected in-year grant cut of about £1M and a large grant cut of about £3.5M in the coming financial year, the UK’s contribution to the European Union (EU) has

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increased by 60% over two years. These Council cuts have resulted in severe problems in struggling to maintain front line services.

This Council notes that, despite the opposition of many MPs, and MEPs, the government has agreed to a further 2.9% increase in the overall EU budget.

This Council believes the EU should be treated the same as the other tiers of government and in these austere times should share responsibility, along with central and local government, for public spending reductions. Sharing the burden would result in less severe cuts for local authorities, and give more assistance to councils to protect front line services.

This Council therefore urges West Berkshire's three MPs not to support any increase in the EU budget or the UK contribution to the EU”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

91. **Members' Questions**

- (a) A question standing in the name of Councillor Keith Woodhams on the subject of progress made to fund a right hand only turn for buses, from the A4 into the West Berkshire Hospital would receive a written answer from the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational) and ICT.
- (b) A question standing in the name of Councillor Keith Woodhams on the subject of provision of a waiting room for bus passengers at the new parkway Development would receive a written answer from the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational) and ICT.
- (c) A question standing in the name of Councillor Jeff Beck on the subject of the financial responsibility for the future use of the Community of the Riverside Community Centre Facilities would receive a written answer from the Executive Member for Children & Families, Youth Service & Culture & Leisure.

(The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and closed at 10.26 pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature