

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 21 February 2023**

Present:

Members: Councillor K Maton (Chair)

Councillor S Agboola	Councillor R Lakha
Councillor N Akhtar	Councillor R Lancaster
Councillor P Akhtar	Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor R Auluck	Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor R Bailey	Councillor G Lloyd
Councillor L Bigham	Councillor P Male
Councillor J Birdi	Councillor A Masih
Councillor J Blundell	Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor R Brown	Councillor M Mutton
Councillor K Caan	Councillor S Nazir
Councillor J Clifford	Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor G Duggins	Councillor G Ridley
Councillor J Gardiner	Councillor T Sawdon
Councillor B Gittins	Councillor P Seaman
Councillor S Gray	Councillor R Simpson
Councillor L Harvard	Councillor B Singh
Councillor G Hayre	Councillor R Singh
Councillor P Hetherton	Councillor R Thay
Councillor A Hopkins	Councillor CE Thomas
Councillor J Innes	Councillor A Tucker
Councillor T Jandu	Councillor D Welsh
Councillor A Jobbar	
Councillor S Keough	
Councillor T Khan	

Honorary Alderman: T Skipper

Apologies: Councillors F Abbott, M Ali, M Heaven, AS Khan,  
B Mosterman, E Ruane and K Sandhu  
Honorary Aldermen H Fitzpatrick, M Hammon, D Skinner

### **Public Business**

**105. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 January 2023**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 17 January 2022 were signed as a true record.

**106. Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor**

a) Death of Council Employee

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent sad death of a Senior Crew Member in Waste Services. A joint letter of condolence has been sent by the Lord Mayor, the Leader of the Council, and the Cabinet Member for City Services to the family to express sincere condolences on behalf of the City Council.

b) Death of Dick Ryder

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent sad death of Dick Ryder who was Assistant Director Procurement at the City. Dick's wife Judy also worked for Coventry City Council. The Lord Mayor had written a letter of condolence to Judy on behalf of the City Council.

c) Death of Eileen Sheriden

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent sad death of Eileen Sheriden, known as the "Mighty Atom. Arguably Coventry's most famous cyclist and a true Coventrian, Eileen was born in Cheylesmore and blazed a trail for other female cyclists to follow. She embarked on a series of endurance races and broke a number of records but is perhaps best remembered for cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats in less than 3 days in 1954. She then got back on the saddle to complete another 300 miles to ensure she set a new 1,000-mile record too. She was once named as "Britain's Greatest Cyclist" by Cycling Weekly, transforming perceptions of women cyclists at a time when there were no cycling races for women in the Olympics.

d) Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

The Lord Mayor referred to the devastating loss of life in Turkey and Syria following the catastrophic earthquake earlier this month. Thoughts were with all of those who had lost loved ones and who continued to face trauma and hardship following this tragic event.

The Lord Mayor invited all present to join him in a Minute's silence as a mark of respect for all those mentioned above.

e) Recent Trip to Dresden

Following an invitation from the Mayor of Dresden, Dirk Hilbert, the Lord Mayor reported that he and the Lady Mayoress visited the City for the commemoration of the 78th anniversary of the destruction of Dresden.

107. **Petitions**

**RESOLVED that the following petitions be referred to the appropriate City Council body:**

- **Request to create a litter strategy to reduce the amount of litter and fly tipping across Coventry – 495 signatures, presented by Councillor S Gray**

- **Request to install additional street lighting at three locations across Woodlands Ward: the park area on the Bannerbrook Park estate, the Brookstray are around the subway in Mount Nod and the top of Park Hill Lane in Park Hill – 92 signatures, presented by Councillor P Male**
- **Request to cut back tress on the approach to the junction and crossing and make safe the junction at Hen Lan and Briscoe Road – 200 signatures, presented by Councillor R Lancaster**

108. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

109. **Motion without Notice**

In accordance with the Constitution, a Motion without Notice was moved by Councillor M Mutton, seconded by Councillor G Lloyd and adopted that agenda items 6 (Council Tax Setting Report 2023/24), 7 (Budget Report 2023/24) and 8 (Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-26) be considered together.

It was noted that a recorded vote would be taken in respect of all decisions relating to matters the subject of Minutes 110 (Council Tax Setting Report 2023/24) and 111 (Budget Report 2023/24) below, including any amendments.

110. **Council Tax Setting Report 2023/24**

Further to Minute 96 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Interim Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) which calculated the Council Tax level for 2023/23 and made appropriate recommendations to Council, consistent with the Budget Report 2023/24.

The report calculated the Council Tax level for 2023/24 and made appropriate recommendations to Council, consistent with the Budget Report 2023/24 on the same agenda. The report recommended a 4.9% increase in the City's Council Tax. Some figures and information detailed within the report were necessarily provisional due to precepts from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire and Rescue Authority having not been confirmed at the time of publication. These figures were shaded in grey within the report and were confirmed as final figures at the meeting.

The report incorporated the impact of the Council's gross expenditure and the level of income it would receive through Business Rates, grants, and fees and charges. This resulted in a Council Tax requirement, as the amount that its expenditure exceeded all other sources of income.

The report included a calculation of the Band D Council Tax that would be needed to generate this Council Tax requirement, based on the City's approved Council Tax base. The 2023/24 Band D Council Tax that was calculated through this process had increased by £89.99 from the 2022/23 level.

Each year the Government determined the maximum Council Tax increases that local authorities could set without triggering a referendum. For 2023/24 the Secretary of State had published a report which proposed that the rise in Coventry

City Council's Council Tax must be below 5% in 2023/24 to avoid triggering a referendum, comprising a 2% precept for expenditure on adult social care and a maximum of 3% for other expenditure. At the time of writing the Secretary of State's report was subject to parliamentary approval. The recommendations within the Budget Report 2023/24 were based on a proposed increase in Council Tax of 4.9%, incorporating a core Council Tax rise of 2.9% and a 2% Adult Social Care Precept.

Recommendations followed the structure of resolutions drawn up by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, to ensure that legal requirements were fully adhered to in setting the tax. As a consequence, the wording of the proposed resolutions was necessarily complex.

As it was his final meeting before leaving the authority, the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources thanked Paul Jennings, Finance Manager, for the work he had undertaken in relation to budget setting proposals over a number of years.

**RESOLVED that the City Council:**

1. **Notes the following Council Tax base amounts for the year 2023/24, as approved by Cabinet on 10 January 2023, in accordance with Regulations made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("the Act"):**

- a) **86,075.2 being the amount calculated by the Council as its Council Tax base for the year for the whole Council area:**
  
- b) **Allesley 387.5  
Finham 1,549.4  
Keresley 369.8**

**being the amounts calculated by the Council as its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.**

2. **That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Act:**

- (a) **£812,016,800 being the aggregate of the amounts that 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 (*Gross Expenditure and reserves required to be raised for estimated future expenditure*);**
  
- (b) **£647,576,998 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act. (*Gross Income including reserves to be used to meet the Gross Expenditure but excluding Council Tax income*);**
  
- (c) **£164,439,802 being the amount by which the aggregate at (2)(a)**

above exceeds the aggregate at (2)(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year;

(d) £1,910.42      
$$\frac{(2)(c)}{(1)(a)} = \frac{\underline{\underline{£164,439,802}}}{86,075.2}$$

being the amount at (2)(c) above divided by the amount at (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. *(Average Council Tax at Band D for the City including Parish Precepts).*

(e) £47,360      being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act. *(Parish Precepts);*

$$(f) \quad \pounds 1,909.87 \quad = (2)(d) - \frac{(2)(e)}{(1)(a)} = \pounds 1,909.87 - \frac{\pounds 47,360}{86,075.2}$$

being the amount at (2)(d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at (2)(e) above by the amounts at (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 the area to which no special item relates. (*Council Tax at Band D for the City excluding Parish Precepts*);

(g)

<b>Coventry (Unparished area)</b>	<b>£1,909.87</b>
<b>Allesley</b>	<b>£1,949.65</b>
<b>Finham</b>	<b>£1,923.63</b>
<b>Keresley</b>	<b>£1,938.59</b>

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (2)(f) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (1)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate. (*Council Taxes at Band D for the City and Parish*).

h)

<b>Valuation Band</b>	<b>Parts to which no special item relates</b>	<b>Parish of Allesley</b>	<b>Parish of Finham</b>	<b>Parish of Keresley</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>1,273.25</b>	<b>1,299.77</b>	<b>1,282.42</b>	<b>1,292.40</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>1,485.45</b>	<b>1,516.39</b>	<b>1,496.15</b>	<b>1,507.79</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>1,697.66</b>	<b>1,733.02</b>	<b>1,709.89</b>	<b>1,723.19</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1,909.87</b>	<b>1,949.65</b>	<b>1,923.63</b>	<b>1,938.59</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>2,334.29</b>	<b>2,382.91</b>	<b>2,351.11</b>	<b>2,369.39</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>2,758.70</b>	<b>2,816.16</b>	<b>2,778.58</b>	<b>2,800.18</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>3,183.12</b>	<b>3,249.42</b>	<b>3,206.05</b>	<b>3,230.99</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>3,819.74</b>	<b>3,899.30</b>	<b>3,847.26</b>	<b>3,877.18</b>

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (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 valuation 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.

3. Notes that for the year 2023/24 the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands and West Midlands Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands	West Midlands Fire Authority
	£	£
A	135.03	48.68
B	157.54	56.79
C	180.04	64.90
D	202.55	73.02
E	247.56	89.24
F	292.57	105.47
G	337.58	121.69
H	405.10	146.03

4. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2)(h) and (3) above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Band	Parts to which no special item relates	Parish of Allesley	Parish of Finham	Parish of Keresley
	£	£	£	£
A	1,456.96	1,483.48	1,466.13	1,476.11
B	1,699.78	1,730.72	1,710.48	1,722.12
C	1,942.60	1,977.96	1,954.83	1,968.13
D	2,185.44	2,225.22	2,199.20	2,214.16
E	2,671.09	2,719.71	2,687.91	2,706.19
F	3,156.74	3,214.20	3,176.62	3,198.22
G	3,642.39	3,708.69	3,665.32	3,690.26
H	4,370.87	4,450.43	4,398.39	4,428.31

5. That the Council determines that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with the principles set out in the Secretary of State's report, under Sections 52ZC and 52ZD of the Act.

The Councillors voting For and Against the Recommendations were as follows:

<u>For</u>		<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:	
S Agboola	T Khan	R Bailey	
N Akhtar	R Lakha	J Birdi	
P Akhtar	R Lancaster	J Blundell	
R Auluck	G Lloyd	J Gardiner	
L Bigham	J McNicholas	T Jandu	
R Brown	M Mutton	S Keough	
K Caan	S Nazir	M Lapsa	
J Clifford	J O'Boyle	J Lepoidevin	
G Duggins	P Seaman	P Male	
B Gittins	B Singh	A Masih	
S Gray	R Singh	G Ridley	
L Harvard	R Thay	T Sawdon	
G Hayre	CE Thomas	R Simpson	
P Hetherton	A Tucker		
A Hopkins	D Welsh		
J Innes	Lord Mayor		
A Jobbar			
	<b>Total: 33</b>	<b>Total: 13</b>	<b>Total: 0</b>

Result: Carried

For: 33

Against: 13

Abstain: 0

#### 111. **Budget Report 2023/24**

Further to Minute 97 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Interim Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) which set out the proposals for the Council's final revenue and capital budget for 2023/24.

The report followed on from the Pre-Budget Report approved by Cabinet on 13th December 2022 (minute 64/22 referred), which had since been subject to a period of public consultation. The proposals within the report now formed the basis of the Council's final revenue and capital budget for 2023/24 incorporating the following details:

- Gross budgeted spend of £812m (£63m or 8% higher than 2022/23).
- Net budgeted spend of £261m (£23m or 10% higher than 2022/23) funded from Council Tax and Business Rates less a tariff payment of £20.5m due to Government.
- A Council Tax Requirement of £164.4m (£11.0m or 7% higher than 2022/23), reflecting a City Council Tax increase of 4.9% detailed in the separate Council Tax Setting report on today's agenda.
- A number of new expenditure pressures, policy priority proposals and technical savings proposals.
- A Capital Strategy including a Capital Programme of £159.2m including expenditure funded by Prudential Borrowing of £19.6m.
- An updated Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy and a Commercial Investments Strategy.

The financial position in this Budget Report was based on the Final 2023/24 Local Government Finance Settlement. The Settlement included some variations to the core position and specific grant allocations received in 2022/23 which provided some additional resources to help the Council manage the pressures it faced, in particular in relation to social care and the wider costs of inflation. The position after 2023/24 remained uncertain despite the Government's medium-term spending plans being set out in the Autumn Statement published in November 2022. Reviews in relation to the local government financial allocation model and Business Rates retention were not now expected within the current parliament and would therefore not be in place for 2024/25 Budget Setting. The overall local government settlement for 2024/25 was expected to broadly mirror the 2024/25 position but had not been set out at an individual authority level. As a result, it was impossible to provide a robust medium term financial forecast at this stage and the Council had instead made some planning estimates for future years. Initial assumptions indicated the likelihood that there would be a substantial gap for the period following 2023/24. The view of the Interim Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) was that the Council should be planning for such a position.

The Pre-Budget Report was based on an increase in Council Tax of 4.9% and this position had been maintained for the final proposals in this report. This incorporated an increase of 2.9%, which was within the Government's limit of 3% above which a referendum would need to be held plus a further 2% Adult Social Care (ASC) Precept line with Government expectations. The Precept was trailed in the Autumn Statement 2022 and included in the Local Government Settlement as the means for councils to maintain their "core spending power". The precept was essential to enable councils including Coventry to manage increases in the costs of care. In total, the rise in Council Tax bills would be the equivalent of around £1.60 a week for a typical Coventry household including the expected rises in the precepts for Police and Fire.

The Local Government Finance Settlement had helped the Council to close the significant financial gap which it had at the start of the Budget process. Further measures include the identification of additional Council Tax resources and a range of technical adjustments and newly identified cost savings or income streams. All these proposals were set out in detail in Appendix 1 to the report. Where these were different to the proposals that were included in the Pre-Budget Report, this had been indicated within the Appendix and shown in tables 2 and 3 of the report. There were no new service savings required as a result of this budget.

The proposals did not provide the Council with a balanced budget beyond 2023/24. The Council's current medium-term bottom line incorporated a combination of future inflationary and service pressures and the fall-out of uncertain specific grant resources. Some of the future funding assumptions were speculative at this stage and would be revised towards the end of 2023 as any changes to local government finance resulting from the 2024/25 Settlement were made known. The initial approach would however be dictated by an intention to review and update technical information as it became available to the Council and to identify further efficiencies from, or generate further income within, Council services. The Council was seeking currently to update its policy priorities and these would be included as part of the 'One Coventry Plan' which would be approved later this year. Through 2023 it would also refine and implement a

programme of activity designed to review how best to deliver its services, improve integration between some of them and optimise the effectiveness of others.

Whatever the future held for national changes to local government finance the Council remained committed to strengthening its own financial self-sustainability and the need to support the vibrancy and growth of the city. Over the coming year the Council would continue to invest in and pursue activities that strengthened its existing financial interests and those of the city although this would be done within the restrictions imposed by Government in relation to access to borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board. The Council's view was that a positive and ambitious strategy was preferable to a more passive approach which would leave the Council more vulnerable to central government and the wider pressures on local government services. The Council's existing financial resilience and its belief in the city's long-term economic strength mean that this continued to be an ideal time to commit to Coventry's reset and recovery.

The recommended Capital Programme proposals were a key part of the Council's approach and amounted to £159.2m in 2023/24. The proposals reflected the Council's ambitions for the city and included: extensive highways infrastructure works including specific schemes relating to air quality, commencement of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme that included initial packages of the Foleshill and London Road corridor; moving towards the next phase of the Very Light Rail project; the Council's share of capital loan financing to finalise the construction phase of the city's new Materials Recycling Facility; progressing the City Centre South redevelopment; and the completion of the second office building within the Friargate district of the city. Over the next 5 years the Capital Programme was estimated would total £544m as part of on-going investment delivered by and through the City Council.

The annual Treasury Management Strategy, incorporating the Minimum Revenue Provision policy, and also the Commercial Investment Strategy were set out. These cover the management of the Council's treasury and wider commercial investments, cash balances and borrowing requirements. These strategies and other relevant sections of this report reflected the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code for Capital Finance, as well as statutory guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and Investments.

An amendment, as detailed in Appendix 1 to these Minutes, was moved by Councillor Sawdon, seconded by Councillor Ridley and lost.

**RESOLVED that the City Council:**

- 1. Approve the Budget proposals in Appendix 1 to the report.**
- 2. Approve the total 2023/24 revenue budget of £812m in Table 1 and Appendix 3 of the report, established in line with a 4.9% City Council Tax increase and the Council Tax Requirement recommended in the Council Tax Setting Report considered on today's agenda.**

3. Note the Interim Chief Executive's (Section 151 Officer) comments confirming the adequacy of reserves and robustness of the budget in Section 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 of the report.
4. Approve the Capital Strategy incorporating the Capital Programme of £159.2m for 2023/24 and the forward commitments arising from this programme totalling £544m between 2023/24 to 2027/28 detailed in Section 2.3 and Appendix 4 of the report.
5. Approve the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2023/24 in Section 2.4 of the report and the Prudential Indicators and limits described and detailed in Appendix 6a to the report, the Commercial Investment Strategy for 2023/24 in Section 2.5 and Appendix 5 of the report and the Commercial Investment Indicators detailed in Appendix 6b to the report.

The Councillors voting for and against **the amendment** as detailed in Appendix 1 to these Minutes were as follows:

<b><u>For</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain</u></b>
Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:
R Bailey	S Agboola	T Khan
J Birdi	N Akhtar	R Lakha
J Blundell	P Akhtar	R Lancaster
J Gardiner	R Auluck	G Lloyd
T Jandu	L Bigham	J McNicholas
S Keough	R Brown	M Mutton
M Lapsa	K Caan	S Nazir
J Lepoidevin	J Clifford	J O'Boyle
P Male	G Duggins	P Seaman
A Masih	B Gittins	B Singh
G Ridley	S Gray	R Singh
T Sawdon	L Harvard	R Thay
R Simpson	G Hayre	CE Thomas
	P Hetherton	A Tucker
	A Hopkins	D Welsh
	J Innes	Lord Mayor
	A Jobbar	
<b>Total: 13</b>		<b>Total: 33</b>
		<b>Total: 0</b>

Result: Lost

For: 13

Against: 33

Abstain: 0

The Councillors voting for and against the **Recommendations** were as follows:

<b><u>For</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain</u></b>
Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:

S Agboola	T Khan	R Bailey
N Akhtar	R Lakha	J Birdi
P Akhtar	R Lancaster	J Blundell
R Auluck	G Lloyd	J Gardiner
L Bigham	J McNicholas	T Jandu
R Brown	M Mutton	S Keough
K Caan	S Nazir	M Lapsa
J Clifford	J O'Boyle	J Lepoidevin
G Duggins	P Seaman	P Male
B Gittins	B Singh	A Masih
S Gray	R Singh	G Ridley
L Harvard	R Thay	T Sawdon
G Hayre	CE Thomas	R Simpson
P Hetherton	A Tucker	
A Hopkins	D Welsh	
J Innes	Lord Mayor	
A Jobbar		
	<b>Total: 33</b>	<b>Total: 13</b>
		<b>Total: 0</b>

Result: Carried

For: 33

Against: 13

Abstain: 0

## 112. **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-26**

Further to Minute 89 of the Cabinet, the City Council considered a report of the Interim Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) that presented a Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for adoption by the City Council. The previous strategy was approved in January 2022 (min 52/21 referred). The Strategy, which was included in full as a separate Appendix to the report, set out the financial and policy context for the Council's medium-term financial plans.

The report had been considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (their minute 38/22 referred) and a Briefing Note setting out a recommendation from the Committee that indicated that the Committee supported the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-2026 and recommended that the Cabinet recommended to Council the approval of the Strategy as the basis of its medium-term financial planning process, was circulated. The report would also be considered at the meeting of Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

Cabinet considered separately the detailed proposals for 2023/24 within the Pre-Budget Report in December 2022 (minute 64/22 referred) which included the best estimate of the Council's three-year settlement financial position available at that time. The final Budget Setting Report would be brought to Cabinet and Council in February 2023.

The national funding background had been set out in the Autumn Statement published by the Government in November 2022 with further detail included in the 2023/24 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on 19th December 2022. This confirmed the position that there would be no structural changes to the funding arrangements in the coming financial year.

The Council's existing financial position had been characterised by several fundamental financial challenges including a long period which saw the real value of Government financial settlements reduce, an increase in the demand for services such as social care and the emergence of inflationary pressure on a wide range of costs. In response the Council had been able to balance its budget through the receipt of significant time-limited Government grant allocations and approval of maximum permitted Council Tax rises. The Council still faced significant budget gaps in the medium-term and one of the purposes of the MTFs was to set out the Council's approach to managing this position. Notwithstanding, the Council would need to maintain dynamic financial models that took account of changes in its medium-term budget position and ongoing re-evaluation of its Capital Programme. These would be set out fully at the point of decision making.

The Strategy had at its heart the need to deliver the priorities set out in the One Coventry Council Plan with a paramount need to protect the most vulnerable people in the city and deliver expectations on the Council to maintain service levels and standards across a wide range of core services.

Taken together, these factors represented a combination of limited resources, challenging underlying economic and demographic conditions, increased demand, pressure to sustain the quality of services and new challenges represented by government reform and local structural and governance relationships. In these circumstances it was crucial that the Council's financial strategy was both robust and flexible. This would provide the financial foundations required to ensure that Council services were fit for purpose to protect the most vulnerable as well as providing good quality core services for every citizen in the city in line with the Council's aspiration to deliver its One Coventry Plan.

**RESOLVED that the City Council approve the Strategy as the basis of its medium-term financial planning process.**

113. **Statement**

Councillor P Seaman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services made a Statement in respect of the Youth Justice Service.

Councillor J Lepoidevin responded to the Statement.

114. **Debate**

The following Motion was moved by Councillor P Male and seconded by Councillor R Simpson:

"This Council expresses its deep concern over the legacy of the City of Culture"

The following amendment was moved by Councillor D Welsh, seconded by Councillor R Brown and carried:

After the words “expresses its”, delete the words “deep concerns over” and replace with “support on the work to deliver”

The amended Motion to now read:

“This Council expresses its support on the work to deliver the legacy of the City of Culture”

**RESOLVED that the amended Motion as set out above, be adopted.**

(Meeting closed at 6.12 pm)

## APPENDIX

### Conservative Group Budget proposals, Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023

#### AMENDMENT

##### Budget Report 2023/24 - Amendment

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	£000
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<u>New Spending Proposals</u>	
Highways Resurfacing & Potholes	275,000
Road Safety Schemes	275,000
Reduce Council Tax requirement by 1%	1,567,000
Additional resources to tackle graffiti	42,000
<hr/>	
	2,159,000
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<u>Additional Savings</u>	
Trades Union Facilities Time	(341,000)
Removal of Citivision	(35,000)
Removal of Deputy Cabinet Members & Cabinet Reduced to 8 Members	(45,000)
Delete Two posts from Corporate Communications team (One Grade 8, One Grade 5)	(96,000)
Remove Policy Contingency	(75,000)
Use Government Covid resources to reduce Council Tax requirement	(1, 567,000)
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	(2,159,000)
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Proposed by: Cllr Tim Sawdon

Seconded by: Cllr Gary Ridley