

## **BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday, 3 March, 2011 at 6.30 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford.**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillors I.T.W. Fletcher (Speaker & Mayor), D.G. Allen, G. Ashcroft, D.W.D. Ashley, R.K. Austin, R. Aveley, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, D.R. Chaplin, R.G. Chaplin, E.A. Clare, N.A. Dugmore, J.A. Dixon, A.J. Eade (Leader), V.A. Fletcher, J.A. Francis, G.M. Green, E.J. Greenaway, Y.C. Hicks, P.A.E. Homer, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, G.P. Hossell, S.M. Kelly, R.T. Kiernan A. Lawrence, L. Lomax, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, A.A. Meredith, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, R.A. Overton, F.R. Picken, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota, J.M. Seymour, C.F. Smith, M.J. Smith, A.J. Stanton, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, V. Tonks, R.M. Tyler, H.J. Unwin, D.R.W. White, H.J. Williams, A.G.P. Williams and D.G. Wright.

#### **75. PRAYERS**

The Reverend Keith Osmund-Smith of Madeley Baptist Church, led Members in prayer.

#### **76. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Borough Council held on 27 January, 2011, be confirmed and signed by the Speaker, subject to the name of Councillor K.T. Blundell being added to the list of those persons present.

#### **77. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors R.E. Groom and A.A. Mackenzie

#### **78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors R.G. Chaplin, V.A. Fletcher, L. Lomax and A.D. McClements declared a personal interest in agenda item 13 (i) the motion on hospital services.

Councillor L. Lomax declared a personal interest in agenda item 9, Appendix E1, recommendation 2.15, which referred to additions to the budget frameworks to reflect funding from the Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Councillor H. Rhodes declared a personal interest in agenda item 9, Appendix E2, Annex ii which referred to Meadows Primary School and Oakengates Children's Centre.

Councillor J.A. Francis declared a personal interest in agenda item 9, Appendix E2, Annex ii, which referred to Meadows Primary School.

The following current Members of the Pension Scheme, declared a personal interest in agenda item 13 (i) the motion on membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme:

Councillors D.G. Allen, D.W. Ashley, R.K. Austin, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, S.P. Burrell, J.A. Dixon, N.A. Dugmore, I.T.W. Fletcher, V.A. Fletcher, J.A. Francis, G.M. Green, P.A.E. Homer, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, A.D. McClements, J.C. Minor, R. Overton, K.S. Sahota, J.M. Seymour, A. Stanton, H.J. Unwin, D.R.W. White and D.G. Wright.

## **79. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **(a) Mayoral Engagements**

The Mayor briefly updated Members on his recent engagements. He drew particular attention to his visits to the Annual Royal Naval Parade inspection at Telford Sea Cadets Headquarters in Donnington and to the Operation Tour and Lunch at the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry in Dawley Bank.

### **(b) Former Councillor J. Singh Uppal**

The Mayor told Members that he had been informed that Jhalman Singh Uppal, formerly a Chairman of Wrekin Council, had been taken ill and was currently in hospital. On behalf of all Members, he sent the Council's best wishes to former Councillor Uppal and his family.

### **(c) Awards/Achievements**

The Mayor presented the Sport England 'Clubmark' award to Julie Judson, who was representing Wrekin Riders BMX Club. He told Members that the club had made a significant contribution to improving both access to and the development of the sport in this area as well providing healthy and free recreational opportunities to all. He was delighted that 'Clubmark' award provided recognition for the professional and open manner in which the club was run. Nick Yarworth, Regional Development Officer from British Cycling was also in attendance. British Cycling had supported the club's application.

## **80. REPORT OF LEADER**

None.

## **81. CABINET DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Members received the report on the Cabinet decisions made since the last meeting of the Council on 27 January, 2011.

Councillor E.J. Carter, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Prosperity, briefly reported on the Telford Asset Project which had been recently determined by Cabinet.

## **82. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET**

22 February, 2011, Central Telford Area Action Plan (CTAAP)

Councillor A. Lawrence, Cabinet Member: Environment & Rural Area, presented the report of the Head of Housing and Planning which was attached as Appendix D. The report recommended that Council adopt the Central Telford Area Action Plan, as part of the Council's statutory planning framework. Formal examination hearings, presided over by a government appointed Planning inspector had taken place in August and September 2010. The inspector's report had been received in January 2011, the report had been found sound subject to a number of amendments.

It was:

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) **That the Central Telford Area Action Plan be adopted as part of the Council's statutory planning framework.**

## **83. SERVICE & FINANCIAL PLANNING 2011/12-2013-14**

### **(A) Service & Financial Planning 2011/12 – 2013/14 – Overview & Revenue Budget**

Prior to discussion of this item the Chief Executive reminded Members that section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, placed limitations on voting on the setting of Council Tax for the forthcoming year by any Member who was at least 2 months in arrears in the payment of outstanding Council Tax. Any Member in this situation would also be required to disclose the fact that this section of the Act applied to them. No disclosures were made by Members.

The Chief Executive also drew Members' attention to a statement, tabled at the meeting, from the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Financial Officer. The statement noted that there was a legal duty on these officers to ensure the legality and robustness of any financial strategy and process before Members could be asked to consider the budget proposals. The statement highlighted that the Service and Financial Planning papers made clear the view of the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer that the budget proposals and process met these legal requirements.

Councillor S.M. Kelly, Cabinet Member: Community-Focussed, Efficient Council, presented the report of the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer which sought approval of the Service & Financial Planning strategy (Appendix E1) for the period 2011/12 – 2013/14, including specific 2011/12 budget proposals, as recommended by Cabinet at its meeting on 22nd February, 2011. The report, together with those covering the Capital Programme (Appendix E2), the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix E3), and the Prudential Indicators (Appendix E4) formed the overall Medium Term Service & Financial Planning framework for the Council.

Government grants for day to day services had been reduced in cash terms by £13.6m for 2011/12. This equated to half of the grant reductions that the Council expected would need to be made over the next 4 years. A further reduction in grants of over £5m had also been announced for 2012/13. This was all in addition to £3m in grant reductions already made as part of the government's emergency budget measures during the summer.

Cabinet had released its budget proposals at the end of December showing how it proposed to meet an anticipated £20m shortfall for 2011/12. These proposals had been informed by extensive consultation that had taken place with the community over the last year. Following further consultation a number of changes had been made to the detailed savings proposals, these were highlighted within the report.

In summary, key proposals were:

- To freeze the level of council tax levied by the Council in 2011/12 continuing the Council's recent practice of reducing the rate of year on year increase as an acknowledgement of the pressure that household budgets are under and taking advantage of the Government's tax increase funding grant.
- Continuation of a comprehensive programme of service reviews and staff restructuring that will generate significant ongoing savings over the medium term financial strategy period. A 20% target has been set across the board although the final level of savings could vary between different services.
- To make new investments of £1.4m in Children's social care services and to protect the adult social care budget by reinvesting savings of £1.6m back in to adult social care services.
- To continue the Council's existing investment commitment in key infrastructure projects such as new and improved schools and the regeneration of the Borough Towns and Telford Town Centre.
- To use balances and one-off benefits carried forward from early action on the savings programme taken in 2010/11 to support the budget in 2011/12. This would be replaced ongoing by the full year impacts from the programme of organisation restructuring and service reviews which were well under way, coming through from 2012/13.
- To suspend the contribution of £2.8m to the single status provision on a one off basis in 2011/12.

Councillor Kelly outlined the consultation process, discussing areas where changes had been proposed but had been withdrawn following consultation feedback. He told Members that the Council must not pull back from investing in the town's infrastructure even though the economic situation was extremely challenging. It was important that the Council showed confidence, leadership and investment in the future of the Borough.

Councillor R.K. Austin, leader of the Labour group, told Members that he was concerned that vulnerable people would suffer from the severe budget cuts.

Should his group gain control of the Council there would be no new Civic offices although development of the Southwater area would be supported. He suggested that the budget was a punitive one and said that his group would produce an emergency budget after the elections in May. He told Members that he would not support the budget before them.

Councillor W.L. Tomlinson, spoke on behalf of the Independent/Liberal Democrat group. He disagreed with the implementation of large swathes of budget cuts, suggesting that it would be more sensible to make lesser cuts over a longer period of time. He accepted that the administration had little choice as the budget reductions were laid down by government. He expressed major concerns over the effect of the following years' cuts, expressing disappointment that the current administration had not lobbied government against the high level of grant reductions. He also had reservations on the relatively high level of capital expenditure. Should the cost of borrowing increase, Council Tax levels may have to rise in future. In conclusion he told Members that he could not support this budget.

Councillor V. Tonks, leader of TAWPA, told Members that he was disappointed by the reductions in government funding. He was concerned that wasteful expenditure be eliminated but would also support measures that helped to preserve or create jobs.

Councillor C.F. Smith noted that the budget proposed the heaviest use of balances and one off savings ever. The poor and disadvantaged would suffer most from the imposition of charges. He did not support the budget.

Councillor J.M. Seymour, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member: Adult Care & Support, told Members that £1.6m was being reinvested back in to Social Care to protect front line services in that area. In view of the economic climate those services needed to be delivered in a different and more efficient way. She fully supported the budget.

Councillor A.J. Eade, Leader of the Council, told Members that no alternative budget had been offered by the Labour group. He asked Members to note the administration's low levels of Council Tax as well as the 50% reduction in levels of senior management. These had been achieved without cuts to services. Regarding the sale of Civic offices, he told Members that the sale of the site to Asda would create around 350 jobs. The new Civic offices would be far cheaper in terms of running costs and would also act as a catalyst, bringing investment in to the Southwater area. He recommended the budget to Members.

During the debate the Speaker briefly adjourned the meeting at 8.05 pm in order for part of the public gallery to be cleared. The meeting was reconvened at 8.15 pm.

Following further debate it was:

**RESOLVED:**

- a) That the base budget summarised by Service Delivery Unit in Appendix 1 be approved;
- b) That the freezing of council tax in 2011/12 be approved;
- c) That new revenue investment in Looked After Children of £1.4m in 2011/12 and the reinvestment of £1.6m savings from Adult Social Care to offset pressures being faced by Adult Social Care services in 2011/12 be approved;
- d) That approval be given to considering the feedback from consultation and that a written response to comments from Scrutiny be provided where requested in Appendix 6(a) of the report;
- e) That the 2011/12 net savings package of £8.1m from non-staffing budgets and £5.1m from staffing budgets detailed in Appendices 3 and 4 plus a further £0.5m in Education services be approved;
- f) That the planned savings targets in future years detailed in Appendix 3 be approved;
- g) That the earmarking of the projected recoupment of £1.7m VAT refunds anticipated to be received in 2010/11 to support the budget on a one-off basis in 2011/12 be approved;
- h) That the earmarking of £0.577m savings from non-staffing budgets and £0.858m restructure savings delivered ahead of schedule in 2010/11 to support the budget on a one-off basis in 2011/12 be approved;
- i) That the suspension of the £2.8m contribution to the single status provision on a one off basis in 2011/12 be approved;
- j) That the Education budget strategy set out in section 4.8 be approved;
- k) That the statement of the Chief Finance Officer in paragraph 6 (supported by Appendix 5(b) outlining the robustness of the Budget Estimates and the Adequacy of Reserves) be approved;
- l) That the policy framework for Reserves and Balances outlined in Appendix 5 be approved;
- m) That the use of £1.42m general balances to support the ongoing revenue budget, in 2011/12 be approved;
- n) That the transfer of the remaining balance of £0.8m in the Invest to Save Reserve in to the Redundancy Costs provision be approved;

- o) That the approval of additions of £1.243m and £2.10m to the budget frameworks for 2010/11 and 2011/12 respectively to reflect funding transfers from the PCT as outlined in paragraph 4.2 be approved.

**Service & Financial Planning 2011/12 – 2013/4: Capital Programme**

- p) That the report (Appendix E2) and associated capital estimates and variations for 2010/11 and 2011/12, which incorporated the Capital Strategy, the Capital Programme (Annex II), the Planned Building Maintenance Programme (Annex III) and Asset Management Plan (Annex IV) be approved;
- q) That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Property & ICT to deliver the planned programme of works within the Asset Management Plan in line with the approved budget.

**2011/12 Treasury Strategy and Treasury Update Report**

- r) That the treasury management activities for the first half of the year be noted and that the Treasury Strategy, including the approval of the counter party limits shown in Appendix C, be approved with immediate effect

**Prudential Indicators**

- s) That the Prudential Indicators outlined in the report (Appendix E4) and recommended by Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011, be approved as part of setting the budget for 2011/12.

**(B) Council Tax – Formal Resolution for 2011/12**

The report sought approval of the appropriate formal resolutions to determine the levels of Council Tax for Telford & Wrekin Council for 2011/12.

The Council Tax base had been determined at the Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and, following approval of the Council's General and Special Fund budgets for 2011/12 the Cabinet Member: Community-Focussed, Efficient Council, moved approval of the appropriate resolutions (Appendix G5) to formally set Council Tax levels throughout the area for the spending requirements of Telford & Wrekin Council, West Mercia Police Authority, Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority and the Parish and Town Councils.

Following a debate it was:

**RESOLVED:**

- 1 That it be noted that at its meeting on 27 January 2011 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2011/12 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (The Act):-

(a) 50,954.7 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (The Regulations), as its Council Tax base for the year (The Council Tax Base).

(b) Part of the Council's Area Tax Base

The Parish of:-

Chetwynd	238.7
Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote	164.3
Church Aston	499.0
Dawley Hamlets	2,099.1
Edgmond	533.8
Ercall Magna	617.8
The Gorge	1,112.0
Great Dawley	3,211.2
Hadley & Leegomery	4,154.6
Hollinswood & Randlay	1,555.7
Ketley	1,166.6
Kynnersley	75.5
Lawley & Overdale	2,115.7
Lilleshall, Donnington & Muxton	4,436.6
Little Wenlock	230.5
Madeley	4,860.5
Newport	3,688.5
Oakengates	2,507.0
Preston	93.7
Rodington	346.3
St. Georges & Priorslee	3,847.9
Stirchley & Brookside	2,716.1
Tibberton & Cherrington	278.0
Waters Upton	394.8
Wellington	6,925.9
Wrockwardine	1,445.0
Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	1,603.1
	50,917.9

being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 6 of The Regulations, as the amounts of 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 2011/12 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of The Act:-

(a) £411,617,304 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act.

- (b) £280,658,120 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act.
- (c) £130,959,184 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3.2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3.2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
- (d) £72,052,013 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant, increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Surplus) and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions made under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7 February 1994 (Community Charge Surplus), the Collection Fund (Adjustment for Previous Years) (England) Directions 2000 and the Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 2011.
- (e) £1,156.07 being the amount at 3.2(c) above less the amount at 3.2(d) above, all divided by the Council Tax base, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (f) £3,752,691 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (g) £1,082.42 being the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates (calculated by deducting from the amount at 3.2(e) above, the quotient of the amount at 3.2(f) above divided by the Council Tax Base). The only area that this relates to is the Parish of Eyton.

(h) <u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	£
The Parish of:	
Chetwynd	1,090.79
Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote	1,093.37
Church Aston	1,117.49
Dawley Hamlets	1,121.76
Edgmond	1,106.26

Ercall Magna	1,129.83
The Gorge	1,163.18
Great Dawley	1,186.22
Hadley & Leegomery	1,143.77
Hollinswood & Randlay	1,208.78
Ketley	1,174.99
Kynnersley	1,098.97
Lawley & Overdale	1,139.48
Lilleshall, Donnington & Muxton	1,126.03
Little Wenlock	1,130.14
Madeley	1,180.98
Newport	1,187.77
Oakengates	1,174.69
Preston	1,085.94
Rodington	1,109.25
St. Georges & Priorslee	1,121.51
Stirchley & Brookside	1,212.64
Tibberton & Cherrington	1,093.21
Waters Upton	1,114.33
Wellington	1,156.57
Wrockwardine	1,113.56
Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	1,151.25

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3.2(g) 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 3.1(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.

- (i) The amounts in Appendix 1 being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3.2(g) and 3.2(h) 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 dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- 3 The West Mercia Police Authority's precept for 2011/12 was set at its meeting on 15 February 2011. The following amounts were stated in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

<u>Valuation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Band</u>	<u>£</u>

A	119.15
B	139.00
C	158.86
D	178.72
E	218.44
F	258.15
G	297.87
H	357.44

- 4 The Shropshire & Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority's precept for 2011/12 was set at its meeting on 9 February 2011. The following amounts were stated in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

<u>Valuation</u> <u>Band</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>£</u>
A	55.87
B	65.19
C	74.50
D	83.81
E	102.43
F	121.06
G	139.68
H	167.62

- 5 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.2(i) and 4 and 5 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, hereby sets the amounts in Appendix 2 as the amounts of council tax for the year 2011/12 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

#### **84. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

- i) Update to Council Constitution

The Cabinet Member: Community-Focussed, Efficient Council, presented the report (attached at Appendix F) of the Head of Governance which sought approval for changes to the Council's constitution. The changes were in respect of Governance and the delegation of powers, terms of reference for Personnel Board and financial regulations. The recommendations relating to changes to financial regulations were withdrawn with the agreement of the Speaker and the Cabinet Member notified Members that these amendments would be brought before Council when the new financial management system was implemented later in the year. The recommendations contained within the report had been recommended for approval by the Council Constitution Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011.

## **RESOLVED:**

- a) **That the changes to the constitution in respect of Governance and the delegation of powers, as set out in Annex A of the report, be approved and come in to force from 8 May, 2011;**
- b) **That the additional Terms of Reference of the Personnel Board, as set out in Annex B of the report, be approved and implemented with immediate effect.**

## **85. MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Council noted the resolved minutes of the Plans Board for 19 and 26 January, 2011, of the Licensing Committee of 19 January, 2011, of the Audit Committee of 21 September and 2 November 2010 and 1 February, 2011, of the Community-Focussed, Efficient Council Scrutiny Committee of 12 and 31 January, 2011, the Adult Care & Support Scrutiny Committee of 13 January 2011, the Active Lifestyles, Leisure & Culture Scrutiny Committee of 18 January 2011, the Community Protection & Cohesion Scrutiny Committee of 20 January 2011, the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee of 24 January 2011 and the Environment & Rural Area Scrutiny Committee of 25 January 2011.

## **86. QUESTIONS**

The following Questions were asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10:

- a) Councillor A.D. McClements had submitted the following question:

“Due to the failure of the Leader to answer his part of Question 7 at the last full Council meeting in respect of the motion that was passed by full Council in November regarding this council campaigning to safeguard MoD jobs at Donnington, I again call on Cllr Eade, to inform us whether he has yet called on the government to keep the vital defence work at MoD Donnington in the public sector and within the Borough of Telford & Wrekin?”

Councillor A.J. Eade, Leader of the Council, noted that he believed this issue had been dealt with previously. He nominated Councillor E.J. Carter, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Prosperity to reply to the question.

Councillor Carter told Members that he had requested an appointment with the Secretary of State for Defence for a delegation from Telford & Wrekin to meet with him to discuss protection of public and private sector jobs at BOD Donnington. At this stage he had not received a response but would keep Members informed of developments.

In response, Councillor McClements asked:

“The motion originally approved by Council referred to keeping jobs in the public sector and in the Borough of Telford & Wrekin, why is this not made clear in the request to the Secretary of State for Defence?”

Councillor Carter responded that both public and private sector jobs were referred to in the request sent to the Secretary of State for Defence.

b) Councillor R.A. Overton had submitted the following question:

“Can the Leader confirm the projected spend on redundancies (all associated costs) on the projected job cuts and future job cuts outlined in the Conservative budget?”

Councillor A.J. Eade, Leader of the Council told Members that he expected further redundancy costs to total up to £7 - £8m. These costs would be met with a combination of use of the specific provision for redundancy costs, an element of first year savings generated from the restructures, use of other balances and contingencies plus applying for capitalisation directions from the government so part of the costs can be spread over many years. The actual costs would only be known as each restructure is finalised

In response, Councillor R.A. Overton asked:

“What percentage of the budget does the £8m relate to?”

Councillor Eade responded that this would be based on projected costs and that he could not provide an actual figure until all restructures were completed.

c) Councillor R.A. Overton had submitted the following question:

“Can the Leader answer why we are told this Council needs to make £26 million in savings over next 3 years but the proposals outlined make the projected savings £35 million?”

Councillor A.J. Eade, Leader of the Council, told Members that the Council was projecting a reduction in grants of £23.7m by 2014/15 but the funding for 2013/14 and 2014/15 would be subject to a complete review of local government finance starting shortly. However, even without this reduction in grants the Council faced a number of “base budget” pressures over this period which also needed funding. These included:-

£1.9m Making good the use of one-off resources supporting the 2010/11 budget i.e. £0.98m of general balances and the impact of some of the mid-year grant reductions found on a one-off basis

£2.5m in respect of anticipated additional tax payments in respect of landfill tax, employers’ national insurance contributions and carbon emissions.

£3.1m to meet the costs of contractually committed inflation

In the budget proposals, the proposed investment of £1.4m of new additional funding to protect children from neglect and abuse.

The total of the anticipated grant reductions of £23.7m, the based budget pressures of £13.7m and the £1.4m new investment in services for Looked After Children is £38.8m which showed that over this period significant savings would be needed as well as considering council tax levels and use of balances.

d) Councillor C.F. Smith had submitted the following question:

“Can the Cabinet Member with responsibility for roads give a more precise date for a lasting and durable repair to the whole of Wombridge Road?”

Councillor A. Lawrence, Cabinet Member: Environment & Rural Area, replied that “The Council’s draft capital programme for 2011/12 includes around £200k for resurfacing of Wombridge Rd. The scheme is initially planned to be completed during the school summer holiday period, to minimise any disruption from repair work on access to the local primary schools that are near Wombridge Rd.”

## **87. NOTICES OF MOTION**

(a) Councillor A.J. Eade, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, moved the following Motion:

“Subject to guarantees on safety and sustainability given by the Chief Executives of both the Shropshire and Telford PCTs, the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust and the Royal College of Surgeons, “Telford & Wrekin Council supports the proposals set out in the Public Consultation Document, “Keeping hospital services in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin”. This will reconfigure services so that the two acute hospitals will continue to operate on existing sites in both Telford and Shrewsbury, providing safe, high quality care, each with 24 hour accident & emergency cover and an equitable division of other services on both sites.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor J.M. Seymour.

Following a debate a vote was taken, Councillors R.G. Chaplin, V.A. Fletcher, L. Lomax and A.D. McClements, having declared personal interests, did not vote on this matter. It was:

### **RESOLVED – that the Motion be approved**

(b) Councillor A.G.P. Williams, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, moved the following Motion:

“In the light of the significant financial challenges facing this Council and its staff I note with interest that, during 2010/11, it will cost this Council nearly £53k in contributions to support Borough Councillors’ membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. I call on this Council to convene an Independent Remuneration Panel to review the Members’ Allowances Scheme with a particular focus on Members’ access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor V. Tonks.

Following a debate it was:

**RESOLVED – that the Motion be approved.**

The meeting ended at 9.18 p.m.

**Speaker:** .....

**Date:** .....