

**COUNCIL**

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT  
ON THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY, 2009**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Tweed) (in the Chair)

Councillors Barber, Bigley, Blackburn, Booth, Bradshaw, Brady, Brennan, Brodie - Browne, Byrne, Byrom, Cluskey, Colbert, Cummins, Cuthbertson, Dodd, Doran, M Dowd, P Dowd, Fairclough, Lord Fearn, M Fearn, Fenton, Friel, Gibson, Glover, Griffiths, Gustafson, D Hardy, P Hardy, Hill, Hough, Howe, Ibbs, D Jones, T Jones, Kerrigan, Maher, Mahon, C Mainey, S Mainey, McGinnity, McGuire, Moncur, Papworth, Parry, Pearson, Platt, Porter, Preston, B Rimmer, D Rimmer, Roberts, Robertson, Shaw, Storey, Sumner, Tattersall, Tonkiss, Veidman, Sir Ron Watson, Weavers and Webster

**74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Connell, Hands and Larkin.

**75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**76. MINUTES**

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 January 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

**77. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Death of Mrs Christina Kirwan

The Mayor reported on the sad death of Mrs Christina Kirwan whose Civic Funeral took place on the 2 February 2009.

Mrs Kirwan was first elected to Southport County Borough Council in 1965, and then served as a Sefton Councillor from 1973 to 1994.

Mrs Kirwan also served as Mayor of Sefton from 1982 to 1983.

Councillors Sir Ron Watson, D. Rimmer and Mahon paid tribute to Mrs Kirwan and the Council then stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect.

Mayoral Ball

The Mayor reported that the Mayor of Sefton's Charity Ball to be held in the Royal Clifton Hotel in Southport on the 13 March 2009 is now fully booked.

PUBLIC SESSION

**78. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

The Mayor reported that members of the public had not submitted any petitions or questions.

COUNCIL BUSINESS SESSION

**79. QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Mayor reported that no questions had been submitted.

**80. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2009/10**

The Council considered a report by the Finance and Information Services Director on the proposed procedures and strategy to be adopted in respect of the Council's Treasury Management Function in 2009/10.

At its meeting held earlier that day, the Cabinet had considered the report and endorsed the recommendations set out in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Brodie-Browne and

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to:

- (1) the Treasury Management Policy Document for 2009/10;
- (2) the Treasury Management Strategy Document for 2009/10;
- (3) the amendment to Banking arrangements contained within the Financial Procedures Rules of the Constitution;
- (4) the Money Laundering Policy Document; and
- (5) the basis to be used in the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision for Debt Repayment in 2009/10.

**81. THE PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES - PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**

The Council considered the report of the Finance and Information Services Director on proposals to establish the Prudential Indicators required under the Prudential Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities. This would enable the Council to effectively manage its Capital Finance Activities, and comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Prudential Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

At its meeting held earlier that day, the Cabinet had considered the report and endorsed the recommendations set out in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillr Brodie-Browne and

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to:

- (1) the Prudential Indicators detailed in the report, and summarised in Annex A, as the basis for compliance with The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
- (2) the amendment of relevant Prudential Indicators in the event that any unsupported borrowing is approved as part of the 2009/10 Revenue Budget; and
- (3) delegated authority being granted to the Finance and Information Services Director to manage the authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt as detailed in Section 5 of the report.

**82. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 -2011/12**

The Council considered a joint report of the Finance and Information Services Director and the Strategic Directors for Adult Social Services (Health and Social Care), Regeneration and Environmental Services and Children's Services in respect of 2008/09 and the development of the 2009/10 - 2011/12 Capital Programme in the light of recent resource notifications received from Central Government and the formulation of the Revenue Budget. Appended to the report at Annex A was the Council's Capital Programme 2008/09 - 2011/12.

At its meeting held earlier that day the Cabinet had considered the meeting and a copy of the Cabinet resolution was circulated.

This was a Key Decision and had been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

It was moved by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Brodie-Browne and

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the 2009/10 - 2011/12 Capital Programme set out in Annex A of the report be approved subject to the inclusion of an allocation of £50,000 for the 'Pride of Sefton' Narrowboat Project;
- (2) it be noted that the Strategic Asset Management Group (SAMG) will review the programme, with particular attention to dormant schemes, with the possibility that resources may be made available for other schemes;
- (3) it be confirmed that Cabinet Members may continue to approve schemes from within their specific capital allocations included in Annex A of the report;
- (4) approval be given to the use of lease facilities in 2009/10 provided that any revenue consequences can be accommodated within appropriate budgets; and
- (5) the SAMG be requested to review the new Starts Programme in light of emerging issues.

### **83. STATEMENTS BY PARTY GROUP LEADERS**

It was moved by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor McGuire and

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Rule 24.1, the provision of Rule 15.4 (Content of Length of Speeches) of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules be suspended only to enable statements to be made on behalf of the three Political Groups on the 2009/10 Revenue Budget.

The Leaders of the three Political Groups then made statements and outlined the policies of their respective Groups in respect of the budget for 2009/10.

### **84. REVENUE BUDGET 2009/10**

Further to Minute No. 276 of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 February 2009, the Council considered a report by the Finance and Information Services Director which provided an update on current issues relating to the completion of the 2009/10 budgetary process. The report included the details of the budget proposal submitted by the three political groups.

The Cabinet had considered the report at its meeting held earlier that day and a copy of the Cabinet resolution was circulated.

It was then moved by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Brodie-Browne:

That the budget proposal of the Liberal Democrat Group set out in Annex A1 of the report be approved.

**The motion was put to the vote and, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared the motion was not carried by 37 votes to 25.**

It was then moved by Councillor P. Dowd, seconded by Councillor Maher:

That the budget proposal of the Labour Group set out in Annex A2 of the report be approved.

**The motion was put to the vote and, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared the motion was not carried by 42 votes to 21.**

It was moved by Councillor Parry, seconded by Councillor Porter:

That the budget proposal of the Conservative Group set out in Annex A3 of the report be approved.

**The motion was put to the vote and, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared the motion was not carried by 45 votes to 17**

At this point the Mayor adjourned the meeting for a short period of time, to enable the three Group Leaders to discuss the possibility of a compromise budget proposal being submitted to the Council.

Upon their return to the Council Chamber the meeting resumed.

It was then moved by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor P. Dowd and unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the following compromise budget proposal of the three political groups be approved

viz:

	£m	£m
1 Base Budget as at 22 January 2009		235.880
2 Plus Delete Leisure Savings - Arts Development		0.030
3 Plus Delete Environmental Protection - Dog Warden		0.030
4 less Use of ABG for Key Priorities		-2.306
5 less Reduction in Pension Fund Provision		-0.200

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6	less Reduction in Provision for Pay Award to 1.75%		-0.250
7	less Improved Efficiencies in Procurement		-0.200
8	less Reductions in Advertising/Marketing		-0.050
9	less Reductions in Use of Consultants		-0.050
10	less Staffing Review following downturn in Economy		-0.100
11	less Maghull Leisure Centre - Delayed Opening		-0.050
			<u>232.734</u>
<b>Plus Priority Service Growth:</b>			
12	Health and Social Care	1.750	
13	Children's Services - Looked After Children	0.750	
14	Specialist Transport Unit	0.750	
		<u>3.250</u>	
15	less Existing MTFP Provision	-1.000	
16	Additional Provision for Priority Services Growth		2.250
<b>Plus Other Service Growth</b>			
17	Provision for Capital Financing Costs	0.100	
18	Stray Dogs - Out of Hours Service	0.015	
19	Hillsborough Memorial Refurbishment	0.002	
20	Review of Electoral Staffing	0.006	
21	Double rating	0.040	
22	Shop Mobility	0.025	
23	Arboricultural Services - New Contract	0.020	
24	Land Drainage Emergency Pressures	0.020	
25	Street Name Plates	0.022	
	Other Growth Previously Agreed:		
26	- Emergency Planning	0.024	
27	- Sefton Water Centre	0.035	
28	- Childcare and Social Services Legal Team	0.052	
		<u>0.361</u>	
29	less Existing MTFP Provision	-0.500	
30	Reduced Provision for Other Services Growth		-0.139
31	Additional Contribution to Budget Pressures Reserve		0.500
32	Increase in Levies		1.393
33	Proposed Base Budget 2009/2010		<u>236.738</u>

		%
	Sefton Services Council Tax Increase	1.99
<b>plus</b>	Levies Services Council Tax Increase	0.70
	<b>Overall Sefton Council Tax Increase</b>	<b>2.69</b>
	Merseyside Police Authority	5.00
	Merseyside Fire and Civil Defence Authority	3.85
	<b>Overall Council Tax Increase (*)</b>	<b>2.96</b>
	* Parish Precepts are in addition to this total	

**85. COUNCIL TAX 2009/10**

It was moved by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Brodie-Browne and unanimously

RESOLVED: That

- (1) It was noted that at its meeting on the 8 January 2009, the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2009/2010 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
- (a) 92,946.68 Band D equivalent properties, being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 as its council tax base for the year.
  - (b) The amounts below, 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 special items (Parish Council Precepts) relate.

Parish	Council Tax Base (Band D Equivalent Properties)
Aintree Village	2,286.30
Formby	9,476.70
Hightown	894.57
Ince Blundell	191.07
Little Altcar	287.52
Lydiate	2,248.83
Maghull	7,166.25
Melling	1,091.07
Sefton	234.07
Thornton	815.51

- (2) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2009/2010 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(a)	£607,602,486	Being the aggregate amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
(b)	£369,883,951	Being the aggregate amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
(c)	£237,718,535	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 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
(d)	£122,000,266	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, revenue support grant, and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its General Fund to its Collection Fund (in respect of a Council Tax Surplus) in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as

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		amended by the Local Government Finance Act, 1992).																																																																																																		
(e)	£1,245.00	Being the amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.																																																																																																		
(f)	£980,240	Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (Parish Council Precepts).																																																																																																		
(g)	£1,234.45	Being the amount at 2(e) above, less the amount given by dividing the amount at 2(f) above by the amount 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 its area to which no special item relates.																																																																																																		
(h)	<p>The amounts below, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above the amounts of the special 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 basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Parish</th> <th>£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Aintree Village</td> <td>1,289.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Formby</td> <td>1,238.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hightown</td> <td>1,238.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ince Blundell</td> <td>1,242.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Little Altcar</td> <td>1,243.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lydiate</td> <td>1,301.09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maghull</td> <td>1,323.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Melling</td> <td>1,250.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sefton</td> <td>1,249.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thornton</td> <td>1,239.97</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Parish	£	Aintree Village	1,289.12	Formby	1,238.14	Hightown	1,238.64	Ince Blundell	1,242.04	Little Altcar	1,243.15	Lydiate	1,301.09	Maghull	1,323.29	Melling	1,250.95	Sefton	1,249.40	Thornton	1,239.97																																																																											
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(i)	<p>The amounts below being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(g) and 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.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="3">Proportion of Band D</th> <th colspan="8">Property Valuation Band</th> </tr> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> <th>E</th> <th>F</th> <th>G</th> <th>H</th> </tr> <tr> <th>6/9</th> <th>7/9</th> <th>8/9</th> <th>9/9</th> <th>11/9</th> <th>13/9</th> <th>15/9</th> <th>18/9</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Parish</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aintree Village</td> <td>859.41</td> <td>1,002.65</td> <td>1,145.88</td> <td>1,289.12</td> <td>1,575.59</td> <td>1,862.06</td> <td>2,148.53</td> <td>2,578.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Formby</td> <td>825.43</td> <td>963.00</td> <td>1,100.57</td> <td>1,238.14</td> <td>1,513.28</td> <td>1,788.42</td> <td>2,063.57</td> <td>2,476.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hightown</td> <td>825.76</td> <td>963.39</td> <td>1,101.01</td> <td>1,238.64</td> <td>1,513.89</td> <td>1,789.15</td> <td>2,064.40</td> <td>2,477.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ince Blundell</td> <td>828.03</td> <td>966.03</td> <td>1,104.04</td> <td>1,242.04</td> <td>1,518.05</td> <td>1,794.06</td> <td>2,070.07</td> <td>2,484.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Little Altcar</td> <td>828.77</td> <td>966.89</td> <td>1,105.02</td> <td>1,243.15</td> <td>1,519.41</td> <td>1,795.66</td> <td>2,071.92</td> <td>2,486.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lydiate</td> <td>867.39</td> <td>1,011.96</td> <td>1,156.52</td> <td>1,301.09</td> <td>1,590.22</td> <td>1,879.35</td> <td>2,168.48</td> <td>2,602.18</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Proportion of Band D	Property Valuation Band								A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	<u>Parish</u>									Aintree Village	859.41	1,002.65	1,145.88	1,289.12	1,575.59	1,862.06	2,148.53	2,578.24	Formby	825.43	963.00	1,100.57	1,238.14	1,513.28	1,788.42	2,063.57	2,476.28	Hightown	825.76	963.39	1,101.01	1,238.64	1,513.89	1,789.15	2,064.40	2,477.28	Ince Blundell	828.03	966.03	1,104.04	1,242.04	1,518.05	1,794.06	2,070.07	2,484.08	Little Altcar	828.77	966.89	1,105.02	1,243.15	1,519.41	1,795.66	2,071.92	2,486.30	Lydiate	867.39	1,011.96	1,156.52	1,301.09	1,590.22	1,879.35	2,168.48	2,602.18
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Maghull	882.19	1,029.23	1,176.26	1,323.29	1,617.35	1,911.42	2,205.48	2,646.58
Melling	833.97	972.96	1,111.96	1,250.95	1,528.94	1,806.93	2,084.92	2,501.90
Sefton	832.93	971.76	1,110.58	1,249.40	1,527.04	1,804.69	2,082.33	2,498.80
Thornton	826.65	964.42	1,102.20	1,239.97	1,515.52	1,791.07	2,066.62	2,479.94
All Other Parts of the Council's Area	822.97	960.13	1,097.29	1,234.45	1,508.77	1,783.09	2,057.42	2,468.90

- (3) It be noted that for the year 2009/2010 the Police Authority and Fire and Civil Defence Authority have stated the following 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 dwellings shown below:

Proportion of Band D	Property Valuation Band							
	A 6/9	B 7/9	C 8/9	D 9/9	E 11/9	F 13/9	G 15/9	H 18/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Precepting Authority</u>								
Merseyside Fire & Civil Defence Authority	41.58	48.51	55.44	62.37	76.23	90.09	103.95	124.74
Merseyside Police Authority	93.74	109.36	124.99	140.61	171.86	203.10	234.35	281.22

- (4) Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i) and 3 above, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2009/2010 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Proportion of Band D	Property Valuation Band							
	A 6/9	B 7/9	C 8/9	D 9/9	E 11/9	F 13/9	G 15/9	H 18/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Parish</u>								
Aintree Village	994.73	1,160.52	1,326.31	1,492.10	1,823.68	2,155.25	2,486.83	2,984.20
Formby	960.75	1,120.87	1,281.00	1,441.12	1,761.37	2,081.61	2,401.87	2,882.24
Hightown	961.08	1,121.26	1,281.44	1,441.62	1,761.98	2,082.34	2,402.70	2,883.24
Ince Blundell	963.35	1,123.90	1,284.47	1,445.02	1,766.14	2,087.25	2,408.37	2,890.04
Little Altcar	964.09	1,124.76	1,285.45	1,446.13	1,767.50	2,088.85	2,410.22	2,892.26
Lydiate	1,002.71	1,169.83	1,336.95	1,504.07	1,838.31	2,172.54	2,506.78	3,008.14

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Maghull	1,017.51	1,187.10	1,356.69	1,526.27	1,865.44	2,204.61	2,543.78	3,052.54
Melling	969.29	1,130.83	1,292.39	1,453.93	1,777.03	2,100.12	2,423.22	2,907.86
Sefton	968.25	1,129.63	1,291.01	1,452.38	1,775.13	2,097.88	2,420.63	2,904.76
Thornton	961.97	1,122.29	1,282.63	1,442.95	1,763.61	2,084.26	2,404.92	2,885.90
<u>All Other Parts of the Council's Area</u>	958.29	1,118.00	1,277.72	1,437.43	1,756.86	2,076.28	2,395.72	2,874.86

**86. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2008/09**

There were no changes made to the membership of Committees.

**87. MATTERS DEALT WITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 16 OF THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES (SPECIAL URGENCY) OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The Council received a report of the Leader of the Council setting out details of those matters dealt with in accordance with Rule 16 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Special Urgency).

**88. MATTERS DEALT WITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 17 OF THE SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES (CALL-IN AND URGENCY) OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The Council considered a report of the Legal Director setting out details of those matters dealt with in accordance with Rule 17 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Call-In and Urgency).