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Minutes of a Meeting of the
Adur District Council

22 February 2024

QE2 Room, Shoreham Centre, Shoreham-by-Sea

Councillor Joe Pannell, Chairman
Councillor Joss Loader, Vice-Chairman

Councillor Tony Bellasis	Councillor Lee Cowen
Councillor Julia Watts	Councillor Gabe Crisp
Councillor Dan Flower	Councillor Angus Dunn
Councillor Jude Harvey	Councillor Emma Evans
Councillor Julian Shinn	Councillor Jim Funnell
Councillor Ann Bridges	Councillor Jeremy Gardner
Councillor Carson Albury	Councillor Andy McGregor
Councillor Carol Albury	Councillor Steve Neocleous
Councillor Catherine Arnold	Councillor Carol O'Neal
Councillor Robina Baine	Councillor Neil Parkin
Councillor Vee Barton	Councillor Sharon Sluman
Councillor Kevin Boram	Councillor Debs Stainforth
Councillor Mandy Buxton	

Absent

Councillor Paul Mansfield and Councillor Rob Wilkinson

C/48/23-24 Leader's Announcement

The Chairman used his discretion to enable the Leader to announce a change to the membership of the Licensing Committee.

The Leader proposed that Councillor Mandy Buxton be appointed as the Chairman of the Licensing Committee.

The proposals were seconded by Councillor Emma Evans and unanimously supported.

C/49/23-24 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Paul Mansfield and Rob Wilkinson.

C/50/23-24 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

C/51/23-24 Questions from the public

A year after its consultation around the creating of safer travel options along the A259, we welcome West Sussex County Council's release of its consultation report. However, given

the urgency around the extensive redevelopment of the Western Harbour Arm, we are concerned at the timescales suggested and the restrictive approach to funding that WSCC seems to be taking. There seems to be a lack of urgency, which concerns us given the imminent arrival of thousands of new residents to Brighton Road. How is Adur District Council responding to WSCC's report, and what is being done to ensure that this much needed provision, supported by two thirds of local people, is brought about as soon as possible?

The Cabinet Member replied that the delay in publishing the results of the consultation exercise was very unfortunate. Certainly the District Council had been pushing West Sussex County Council (WSCC) for the results to be released last summer particularly as the Council is very aware of the local community's concern about the lack of supporting infrastructure for the new development.

It is recognised, however, that more detailed design work is required on the route and that this was necessary to make any successful bid for external funding. The Council would work closely with WSCC to ensure the next stage of design work happened quickly and at the same time, the Council would approach external funding partners to ensure it had a robust business case to present.

C/52/23-24 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved, that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2023 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

C/53/23-24 Items raised under urgency provisions

The Chairman announced that there were no urgent items.

C/54/23-24 Recommendations from the Cabinet and Committees to Council

6(a) Second Homes & Long Term Empty Property Premium: Council Tax

The Deputy Leader introduced the recommendation to the Council which was seconded by Councillor Kevin Boram and was unanimously supported following a vote.

Resolved,

That Adur District Council approved,

1. That from 1 April 2024 to continue to levy the maximum level of premium for empty properties as follows noting the change for empty homes after 1 year:-
 - Premium of 100% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) after 1 years up to 5 years of becoming empty;
 - Premium of 200% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) between 5 years and up to 10 years; and
 - Premium of 300% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) for 10 years or more.

2. From 1 April 2025, the application of a premium for second homes (Second Homes Premium) of 100% for all dwellings that are no persons' sole or main residence and which is substantially furnished.
3. (Exceptions to premiums) that mindful of the current consultation by government which recommends exceptions in certain circumstances, to the second homes premium to be charged, and subject to the outcome of that consultation, the Section 151 Officer being given delegated authority to implement this Council's policy on premiums in line with statute and any following guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
4. No changes to existing Council Tax Discounts.

6(b) Adur Cabinet - 1 February 2024

Budget Estimates 2024/25 and setting of the 2024/25 Council Tax

This item was considered as part of the budget item later in the agenda.

6(c) Adur Cabinet - 1 February 2024

Investing in our Places - Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27

This item was considered part of the budget item later in the agenda

6(d) Joint Strategic Committee - 8 February 2024

Joint Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council

The Deputy Leader introduced the recommendation to the Council which was seconded by Councillor Kevin Boram and was unanimously supported following a vote.

Resolved, that the Prudential Indicators and Limits, and MRP Statements be approved.

C/55/23-24 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule 12

Rotation One

Cllr Gabe Crisp asked the following question

What more can be done to compel Southern Water to come to committee to face questioning by Adur and Worthing Members?

The JOSOC Chair replied that a press release had been published. The JOSOC Chairs had written to the Chief Executive of Southern Water, asking him to reconsider. A response had been received, advising that Southern Water would not be able to attend a meeting of JOSOC. They advised that there were 46 Unitary, Borough and District Councils within their area and it was not logistically possible to attend them all.

The JOSOC Chairs have arranged a meeting with the Chief Executive of Adur & Worthing Councils to discuss what we can do collaboratively. The outcome of this meeting will be reported to JOSOC on the 7th March where future actions will be considered.

Cllr Joss Loader asked the following question

The UK is now officially in recession and it's tough for businesses. Rent reviews have been mentioned to me by concerned business owners. Please confirm what is proposed for council-owned property.

How are you reconciling the need to increase commercial rents, to increase revenue, with the need to support local businesses and safeguard the future of our high streets and shopping areas?

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources advised that he would gather the appropriate facts and figures and provide a written response to the question.

Rotation Two

Cllr Gabe Crisp asked the following question

We all value the trees we have in Adur District. We are one of the least wooded areas of the country. Only 5.5% tree cover compared to a national average of 13%.

There are local organisations working very hard to increase our number of trees and to look after and water the newly planted saplings during their first 3 years until they become established. For example More Trees Please and Tree Action. However, individuals are having to carry a minimum of 20 litres of water per week per tree because there is no local supply at Adur Rec. Lack of access to water is also the case at some of our other spaces like Buckingham Park.

In the short term can the Tree groups access water at the public toilet blocks on e.g Adur Rec by the installation of an outside tap?

Or can they be enabled to access the water source used by the travelling fairs and circuses, if necessary paying for the water used?

In the longer term can we ensure that ALL council owned buildings in Adur have rainwater harvesting for community benefit (and flood alleviation)?

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure replied that most Councillors would be aware of the groups of volunteers and the great work they do. Yes, watering was the issue, not the planting of the tree and it can take up to 4 years for trees to be fully established.

The Cabinet Member advised that the Council was looking to provide some IPC boxes for the purpose along with watering cans. It was also noted that the Cabinet Member had been to a meeting with the Director for Place and the Tree Council, who had expressed keenness to become more involved.

The Council was working with third parties including Southern Water to fund, design and build rainwater harvesting and storage on some of the buildings in our parks which would

help facilitate access to water for volunteer groups who water our trees and help support a sustainable tree planting model for the future.

Rotation three

Cllr Gabe Crisp asked the following question

West Sussex has recently published its report on the A259 cycle lane consultation conducted a year ago. In that 67% of respondents were strongly in favour or in favour of the scheme. Apart from ADC encouraging investment in this vital active travel infrastructure, which has now been pushed back to 2026-27, what else can we do?

ADC has a budget of about £200k to enhance provision to encourage active travel and public transport and to promote alternatives to the car. Please can the cabinet member ensure that this money is spent on visible schemes, signage, education and publicity rather than on endless consultations (as seems to be the way with so much of WSCC transport budget)?

Would the member consider allocating some of this money to roadside signage to inform drivers (stuck on the semi permanent roadworks on the A259) how quickly they could walk or cycle from points A-B?

*"Stuck in Traffic? You could walk to X in 10 minutes from here or cycle in 4 mins."
[a bit like the queue times at a theme park or the signs about train journeys on the A27 between Lewes and Eastbourne]*

The Cabinet Member replied that road signage wasn't really a matter for the District Council, but gave an undertaking to press West Sussex County Council on this issue.

Part of the UK Shared Prosperity Funding had been allocated to sustainable transport improvements. The outcomes must evidence improvements to active travel, including cycling.

This year, as part of the Council's allocation, we have agreed to fund new cycle parking and community tool stations, all of which are due to be installed from Spring this year. This is a good indication of investing in projects and infrastructure that can support our residents now, rather than in the long term.

By March 2025, a further £220,000 will be spent on similar active travel projects. Next year's allocation has a draft budget and is due to be discussed by Members next month, however the funding will need to be capital in order to fulfil the overall UKSPF targets. It is expected that the funding will be spent on tangible interventions, which could include increased signage. The Council continues to receive feedback from local groups, including Shoreham By Cycle, which is helping inform the decisions around this budget for 24/25 implementation, which is the final year of the UKSPF programme.

C/56/23-24 Suspension of Council Procedure Rules

Having been proposed by Cllr Emma Evans and seconded by Cllr Kevin Boram, it was

Resolved, That the Council procedure rules be suspended for consideration and determination of item 9 on the agenda, where they conflict with the Budget Procedure Rules in accordance with paragraph 7.2 of the Budget Procedure Rules.

** The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.25pm and it was reconvened at 7.52pm.*

C/57/23-24 Council Tax 2024/25

The Leader of the Council introduced the budget and setting of the council tax to members and delivered his budget speech (appended to these minutes as Appendix 1).

Cllr Angus Dunn seconded the budget proposals.

The Leader of the Labour group made a speech to the Council and proposed the Labour Group's amendments. These were as follows:-

Labour amendments to the Adur Budget February 2024

It is important for the future stability of Adur District Council finances and services to residents that the opportunity is taken to transfer an element of this year's surplus to the reserves general fund.

This amendments allow general fund reserves to be increased while the council also further supports the missions, described in Our Plan; thriving people, thriving places, thriving environment, thriving economy,

The amendments below total £43,800 and will be drawn from the £200,000 proposed to be added to general fund reserves. This investment would not affect existing reserves and still allowed an addition to reserves of more than £155,000.

It is anticipated that alongside the investment in our future outlined here that officers will seek additional funding from outside sources to extend and further develop a number of these proposals.

1. A clean up of our town and village centres. Undertake a big green clean-up where residents have the opportunity to help our district to be clean and green.

This will include:

- Provision of cleaning materials, litter pickers, PPE, bags for community clean-ups*
- Staff cost in devising a schedule of clean-ups*
- Pavement and bollard deep clean at centre sites in Lancing, Shoreham, Southwick*
- Replacement of bins in Lancing, Shoreham and Southwick*
- Repainting street furniture as needed, with WSCC agreement where required*

Cost: £11,000

2. Improve marketing, signposting and a visitor trail across Adur to encourage local shopping, access to heritage and our ecotourism destinations, working towards new, attractive direction and information boards at Lancing, Shoreham, Southwick, colourful lamppost banners to improve the street scene at Lancing (in conjunction with the Parish Council).

Officer time to establish options for trails and signage; design of boards, provision of four boards, seeking external funds for further boards, provision of trail direction posts: £17,000

3. Ensure the voices of local people are heard in updating Adur's Local Plan. The

Adur Plan will frame how Adur develops in the coming years and will determine issues recognised as of importance by the local community including affordable housing provision, biodiversity and nature recovery. A consultation process more extensive than the Joint Statement of Community Involvement would ensure the perspectives and needs of different segments of the community are considered, including those of young people, women, those at work, with events across the district.

*Information campaign to increase the size of the council's consultee database, design and print run of summary document, communication team time (5 hours), officer support and costs for two meetings: **£4,000***

4. Identify further solar/air source heat pumps projects (with battery storage) on council properties, storage and local use. A feasibility survey for consideration for inclusion in the capital plan for 2025/26.

*Cost: feasibility building survey, system design work, finance business case (3 hours strategic finance support), structural survey, business case development (3 hours operational support), decarbonisation team data collection and analysis (10 hours operational support), technical/legal advice contingency. **£3,800***

*5. Plant wildflower and ecological corridors on verges and open spaces sites. A pilot site to be identified: Purchase of Bees and Butterflies seed mix, parks staff time for sowing on site (20 hours per site), officer time on land access rights, agreement to plant (2 hours per site): **£1,500***

6. Review of open spaces to identify greywater opportunities along with the development of rain gardens and other sustainable urban drainage solutions (SUDS) in council buildings, local parks and green spaces. A feasibility survey for consideration for inclusion in the capital plan for 2025/26.

*Cost: feasibility building survey, system design work, finance business case (3 hours strategic finance support), structural survey, business case development (3 hours operational support), decarbonisation team data collection and analysis (10 hours operational support), technical/legal advice contingency. **£3,800***

*7. Review public spaces in terms of the safety of women and young people Engage residents in the design of our green public spaces. Research to establish where lighting is needed in selected outdoor spaces to make them accessible to all throughout the year, the provision of disabled access and women-girls friendly equipment and seating at local parks. Staff time, research and technical advice: **£1,200***

*8. Devise and deliver an action plan with key partners to provide support to our most vulnerable residents during this cost of living crisis; further pop-up cost of living information sessions in accessible venues in Sompting, Lancing, Shoreham, Southwick, Fishergate, supporting the council's Proactive programme. Staff time in scoping, engaging with partners: **£1,500***

The proposed amendments from the Labour Group were seconded by Councillor Lee Cowen.

The Leader of the Green Group gave a speech on the proposed budget.

The Leader of the Shoreham Beach Residents Association (SBRA) gave a speech on the proposed budget.

The Council debated the budget and proposed amendments before it. Both the Leader of the Main Opposition Group and the Leader of the Council were given the right of reply.

The Council voted on the proposed amendments as follows (proposed amendments attached to these minutes as an appendix)

Amendment 1

For (11): Councillors: Arnold, Baine, Cowen, Crisp, Flower, Gardner, Harvey, O'Neal, Shinn, Sluman and Stainforth.

Against(16)t: Councillors; Carol Albury, Carson Albury, Barton, Bellasis, Boram, Bridges, Buxton, Dunn, Evans, Funnell, Loader, McGregor, Neocleous, Pannell, Parkin and Watts.

Abstain: Nil

The amendment was not supported.

Amendment 2

For (11): Councillors: Arnold, Baine, Cowen, Crisp, Flower, Gardner, Harvey, O'Neal, Shinn, Sluman and Stainforth.

Against (16): Councillors; Carol Albury, Carson Albury, Barton, Bellasis, Boram, Bridges, Buxton, Dunn, Evans, Funnell, Loader, McGregor, Neocleous, Pannell, Parkin and Watts.

Abstentions (0): Nil

The amendment was not supported.

Amendment 3

For (13): Councillors: Arnold, Baine, Cowen, Crisp, Flower, Gardner, Harvey, Loader, O'Neal, Shinn, Sluman, Stainforth and Watts.

Against (14): Councillors; Carol Albury, Carson Albury, Barton, Bellasis, Boram, Bridges, Buxton, Dunn, Evans, Funnell, McGregor, Neocleous, Pannell and Parkin.

Abstentions (0): Nil

The amendment was not supported.

Amendment 4

For (12): Councillors: Arnold, Baine, Cowen, Crisp, Flower, Gardner, Harvey, O'Neal, Shinn, Sluman, Stainforth and Watts.

Against (15): Councillors; Carol Albury, Carson Albury, Barton, Bellasis, Boram, Bridges, Buxton, Dunn, Evans, Funnell, Loader, McGregor, Neocleous, Pannell and Parkin.

Abstentions (0): Nil

The amendment was not supported.

Amendment 5

For (11): Councillors: Arnold, Baine, Cowen, Crisp, Flower, Gardner, Harvey, O'Neal, Shinn, Sluman and Stainforth.

Against (16): Councillors; Carol Albury, Carson Albury, Barton, Bellasis, Boram, Bridges, Buxton, Dunn, Evans, Funnell, Loader, McGregor, Neocleous, Pannell, Parkin and Watts.

Abstentions (0): Nil

The amendment was not supported.

Amendment 6

For (13): Councillors: Arnold, Baine, Cowen, Crisp, Flower, Gardner, Harvey, Loader, O'Neal, Shinn, Sluman, Stainforth and Watts.

Against (14): Councillors; Carol Albury, Carson Albury, Barton, Bellasis, Boram, Bridges, Buxton, Dunn, Evans, Funnell, McGregor, Neocleous, Pannell and Parkin.

Abstentions (0): Nil

The amendment was not supported.

Amendment 7

For (13): Councillors: Arnold, Baine, Cowen, Crisp, Flower, Gardner, Harvey, Loader, O'Neal, Shinn, Sluman, Stainforth and Watts.

Against (14): Councillors; Carol Albury, Carson Albury, Barton, Bellasis, Boram, Bridges, Buxton, Dunn, Evans, Funnell, McGregor, Neocleous, Pannell and Parkin.

Abstentions (0): Nil

The amendment was not supported.

Amendment 8

For (14): Councillors: Arnold, Baine, Bridges, Cowen, Crisp, Flower, Gardner, Harvey, Loader, O'Neal, Shinn, Sluman, Stainforth and Watts.

Against (13): Councillors; Carol Albury, Carson Albury, Barton, Bellasis, Boram, Buxton, Dunn, Evans, Funnell, McGregor, Neocleous, Pannell and Parkin.

Abstentions (0): Nil

The amendment was supported.

In accordance with the Budget Procedure Rules, the Section 151 Officer made a statement on how the amendment affected the Council Tax proposal and the budget proposals. She advised that the overall budget did not change, however, the portfolio for Communities and Wellbeing would increase by £1,500 and the transfer to reserves would reduce by £1,500.

The Council voted on the substantive motion, as amended;

For (27): Councillors; Carole Albury, Carson Albury, Arnold, Baine, Barton, Bellasis, Boram, Bridges, Buxton, Cowen, Crisp, Dunn, Evans, Flower, Funnell, Gardner, Harvey, Loader, McGregor, Neocleous, O'Neal, Pannell, Parkin, Shinn, Sluman, Stainforth and Watts

Against (0): Nil

Abstentions (0): Nil

Resolved:

1. It is noted that on **1st February 2024**, the Cabinet calculated the Council Tax Base for 2024/25.

- a) for the whole Council area as **22,409.90** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
- b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as set out below:

Lancing Parish Council	6,835.00
Sompting Parish Council	2,879.10
All other areas including Shoreham, Southwick and Coombes	12,695.80

2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£7,478,630**.

3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

(a) £59,661,284 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils

(b) £51,725,554 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

(c) £7,935,730 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R), in the

formula in Section 31B of the Act).

(d) £354.12

being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

(e) £457,100

being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C).

(f) £333.72

being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (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.

(g) £448,090

being the aggregate amount of all special expenses (not applicable in the Lancing Parish area)

(h) £313.74

being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) and 3(g) above by Item T (1a above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept or Special Expense relates.

ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL – COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

4. That it be noted that for the year 2024/25 the West Sussex County Council and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below:-

All of the Council's Area 2024/25	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
West Sussex County Council Total as split below:	1,143.30	1,333.85	1,524.40	1,714.95	2,096.05	2,477.15	2,858.25	3,429.90
West Sussex - Core Precept	977.58	1,140.51	1,303.44	1,466.37	1,792.23	2,118.09	2,443.95	2,932.74
West Sussex - Adult Social Care Precept	165.72	193.34	220.96	248.58	303.82	359.06	414.30	497.16
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex	168.61	196.71	224.81	252.91	309.11	365.31	421.52	505.82

That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown below as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

LANCING PARISH COUNCIL AREA

Council Tax Schedule 2024/25	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
West Sussex County Council Total split as below:	1,143.30	1,333.85	1,524.40	1,714.95	2,096.05	2,477.15	2,858.25	3,429.90
West Sussex - Core Precept	977.58	1,140.51	1,303.44	1,466.37	1,792.23	2,118.09	2,443.95	2,932.74
West Sussex - Adult Social Care Precept	165.72	193.34	220.96	248.58	303.82	359.06	414.30	497.16
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex	168.61	196.71	224.81	252.91	309.11	365.31	421.52	505.82
Parish of Lancing area total as split below:	243.72	284.34	324.96	365.58	446.82	528.06	609.30	731.16
Adur District Council Core Precept	209.16	244.02	278.88	313.74	383.46	453.18	522.90	627.48
Lancing Parish Precept	34.56	40.32	46.08	51.84	63.36	74.88	86.40	103.68
TOTAL	1,555.63	1,814.90	2,074.17	2,333.44	2,851.98	3,370.52	3,889.07	4,666.88

SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL AREA

Council Tax Schedule 2024/25	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
West Sussex County Council Total split as below:	1,143.30	1,333.85	1,524.40	1,714.95	2,096.05	2,477.15	2,858.25	3,429.90
West Sussex - Core Precept	977.58	1,140.51	1,303.44	1,466.37	1,792.23	2,118.09	2,443.95	2,932.74
West Sussex - Adult Social Care Precept	165.72	193.34	220.96	248.58	303.82	359.06	414.30	497.16
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex	168.61	196.71	224.81	252.91	309.11	365.31	421.52	505.82
Parish of Sompting area total as split below:	252.12	294.14	336.16	378.18	462.22	546.26	630.00	756.36
Adur District Council Core Precept	209.16	244.02	278.88	313.74	383.46	453.18	522.90	627.48
Sompting Parish Precept	23.76	27.72	31.68	35.64	43.56	51.48	59.40	71.28
Special Expenses	19.20	22.40	25.60	28.80	35.20	41.60	48.00	57.60
TOTAL	1,564.03	1,824.70	2,085.37	2,346.04	2,867.38	3,388.72	3,910.07	4,692.08

ALL OTHER AREAS INCLUDING SHOREHAM, SOUTHWICK AND COOMBES

Council Tax Schedule 2024/25	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
West Sussex County Council Total split as below:	1,143.30	1,333.85	1,524.40	1,714.95	2,096.05	2,477.15	2,858.25	3,429.90
West Sussex - Core Precept	977.58	1,140.51	1,303.44	1,466.37	1,792.23	2,118.09	2,443.95	2,932.74
West Sussex - Adult Social Care Precept	165.72	193.34	220.96	248.58	303.82	359.06	414.30	497.16
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex	168.61	196.71	224.81	252.91	309.11	365.31	421.52	505.82
All other areas total as split below:	228.36	266.42	304.48	342.54	418.66	494.78	570.90	685.08
Adur District Council Core Precept	209.16	244.02	278.88	313.74	383.46	453.18	522.90	627.48
Special Expenses	19.20	22.40	25.60	28.80	35.20	41.60	48.00	57.60
TOTAL	1,540.27	1,796.98	2,053.69	2,310.40	2,823.82	3,337.24	3,850.67	4,620.80

In accordance with the budget procedure rules, the Chairman asked the Leader if the budget as amended was accepted. The Leader confirmed that he accepted the budget and that the decision would have immediate effect.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.36 pm, having commenced at 7.00 pm

Chairman



2024/25 Budget - Leader's Speech

- I can't express how delighted I am to be here this evening presenting Adur's 2024/25 Budget.
- This is the **24th time** in a row I have made a budget speech and nothing was going to keep me away.
- You will be pleased to know that I am holding to tradition - so this will **not** be a short speech!
- It's been another busy year, with perhaps the greatest highlight for our nation being the **Coronation of King Charles the III and Queen Camilla and I personally wish him well with his fight with Cancer.**
- It's also been a year full of challenges. For example, whilst inflation is coming down the cost of living continues to affect everyone, including the council.

- We also have both a **war** in Europe and now conflict in the Middle East and all those affected remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Before I get started on the budget I would like to thank my hardworking and talented **Cabinet** colleagues for all they do. In particular Cllrs Angus Dunn who has stood in for me since before Christmas and Cllr Emma Evans who with my lovely wife Vicky stopped me working and anyone disturbing me.

- I would also like to thank the officers for all the work they have done in preparing the budget - especially **Emma Thomas and the Finance Team.**
- I would also like to thank our **Chief Executive, Directors and the dedicated staff of the council.** For all they do every day. A special mention is called for Mr Martin Randall for whom this will be his last Full Council believe it or not he is retiring. Martin and I go back years , he was working for Brighton and Hove, and I was Vice Chairman of the Area investment framework and Tony Blair was Prime minister. I will have more to say at the next JSC. However on behalf of the Council thank you for all your hard work. Also this week we find out Liz McCarthy is also retiring at the end of March, on everyones behalf I wish her well.

- Despite challenges, Adur Council has achieved so much this year and through careful and prudent management, I am confident we will achieve even more in 2024/25.
- But the road before us again is not straightforward and we will need to be **both careful and bold** in the months ahead.
- I'm afraid there is no getting away from the **inflationary and service demand** pressures affecting us. The challenges and issues we face are described in detail in the budget report.
- The cost of living pressures not only affect the council of course - they continue to affect our residents and we will continue to do all we can to help those most in need at this difficult time.
- The good news is that despite these challenges our **local economy is stable** and the number of people who are unemployed is below the South East and National averages.
- Adur's economy is a success story.
- This Conservative Administration doesn't daydream or moan about how things could be.

- **It takes responsibility and sorts things out.**
- It listens to its residents, it sets clear priorities, it is not afraid to make difficult decisions and act when needed.
- Adur's economy is stronger because of the actions we have taken.
- We create opportunities for residents to thrive - **to get a job and find a home.**
- The budget presented to you this evening seeks to continue this successful approach - protecting services, supporting the economy and doing all of this within our means.
- I would like to quote **Margaret Thatcher** it summarises the **common sense approach** we are taking in Adur.
- She rejected all sorts of wishful leftie economic daydreaming saying -

“Our policies are based on things I and millions like me were brought up with: an honest day's work for an honest day's pay; living within your

means; putting by a nest egg for a rainy day; paying your bills on time’.

- Adur is in a better financial state than others east and west of us because of our wise and careful management of our residents’ money.
- Unlike the opposition - this Conservative Administration has **a plan that works.**
- As I said at the start - this is my 24th budget and this is also the 24th time we have had yet another set of **weak budget amendments** from the main opposition and nothing from the rest.
- Where is your vision? What is your alternative plan?
- Whilst the budget presented this evening sets out a number of savings, our ongoing prudent approach means the impacts of savings on services are minimised.
- We achieve this by generating income from services and investments but also through service redesign and the ongoing use of digital technology.
- Our **organisational design programme** for example will deliver significant savings.

- This approach is helping to ensure our budget is balanced, we are able to **replenish reserves** and we are able to deliver our ambitious plans.
- With plenty of challenges ahead, we are further investing in our **rapid improvement digital service** that is transforming and improving services.
- In addition, the recommendation is that **council tax will rise by an average of 2.99%** as this will ensure we are able to resource our plans for investment and recovery going forward, as part of our Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- For a Band D home this amounts to less than **19 pence a week rise** in council tax this year.

Let's now look at our priorities around sustainability and protecting our environment.

- This Administration has for many years been leading on sustainability and protecting the environment - it's good to see other councils finally joining in.
- The planet is our home and we need to take care of it.

- I believe a better world is the best gift we can give our future generations.
- Our budget and organisation redesign plans will enable us to continue this work.
- The budget includes supporting our DEFRA backed **Adur River Restoration project** which is a major strategic nature recovery initiative that also bolsters natural flood defences.
- This project is part of our wider **Sussex Bay** programme supported by Esme Fairbairn Foundation that is a leading project nationally for marine recovery.
- Through Sussex Bay we hope to restore kelp forest and improve local fishing stock and this work continues to go from strength to strength.
- In addition to these flagship projects, our **carbon reduction team** continues to drive a programme of works to decarbonise our buildings and fleet helping us to meet our next zero 2030 target.
- Through this work we have already installed heat pumps at the Shoreham Centre and at Shadwells Court and Tollbridge House, two Adur Homes properties.

- The **heat pumps at Shadwells Court and Tollbridge House** are both keeping the bills down and reducing carbon emissions by 80%.
- Work continues with Greater Brighton and Shoreham Harbour on **Hydrogen Sussex**. to establish Adur as a future provider of low carbon green hydrogen.
- As part of this, with support from Ricardo, we are developing a **fleet strategy** to decarbonise and future proof our fleet, charging and maintenance facilities.
- The construction of new homes in Adur continues to unlock funding from developers to assist the design and delivery of **cycling links** through, primarily Lancing and Shoreham.
- The extra investment in cycling infrastructure - including **dedicated cycle lanes, cycle paths, new crossings and safety signs** - are designed to encourage more people to use two wheels to get around the district, improving people's health while cutting pollution caused by traffic. We will continue to work with Shoreham by cycle who keep us very much on our toes.

- Delivered in partnership with Worthing, we now have a **bike hire scheme** in Adur with over 25 bikes specifically based in the town centres and on the coastlines of Lancing, Shoreham and Southwick.
- We are also working in partnership with the County Council to install **EV** on-street charging points across Adur. Even if sometimes they go in the wrong place.
- In the past year we have **planted more trees** and created a new policy to protect trees in new developments.
- We have installed new **recycling bins** along the seafront from Shoreham to Lancing

Now onto our priorities around building new homes and improving housing.

- While **Adur Homes** is funded via a separate Housing Revenue Account its transformation is a key priority for the council and so important to note here.

- A **safe and secure home** is essential for residents to thrive.
- Our commitment to improve the quality and quantity of housing provision in Adur remains a top priority for this administration.
- The work as part of the Adur Homes **Improvement Plan** following self referral to the Regulator of Social Housing is progressing positively.
- Significant capital funding investment will continue to be used to fund **health and safety** works and a rolling programme of home improvement works to ensure our homes meet **decent homes standards**.
- There are 970 people on our Council homes waiting list and we are using brownfield sites across the area to provide residents with quality new housing without the need to build on greenfield land.
- Adur Homes has a pipeline of delivery of new social housing with 14 new units occupied by the end of this financial year and a further **54 new units** estimated for completion in 2024/25.
- The Council continues to develop its **small sites programme** providing new homes at affordable

rent levels set at or below the Local Housing Allowance.

- The council is also undertaking feasibility and capacity studies for a number of other underutilised, brownfield sites which will potentially make up a second round of small sites development.
- The council's focus on reducing **rough sleeping** and homelessness has continued at pace as we seek to meet the challenges of increased demand.
- The council has recently relaunched the **Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Partnership**, bringing together key local partners focusing on how we can collaborate to address this issue.
- The council's approach to achieve an 'Everyone In' approach by working with a range of landlords to make offers of accommodation to everyone who is in need has progressed well.
- This approach is being actively supported by our "**Opening Doors**" scheme.
- The council is seeking to increase its stock of housing for **Emergency and Temporary**

Accommodation including the scheme planned for South Street, Lancing.

- In addition to all of this we are enabling a significant number of other developments providing much needed homes.
- At the **Southwick Estate**, in partnership with residents, we are actively looking at the best way forward to address housing issues on the estate and provide quality housing
- Development at **New Monks Farm** has reached an advanced stage with 174 new homes constructed and work underway on remaining phases underway. Phase 2 includes a country park, A27 improvements through Lancing, relocation and extension of the Withy Patch Gypsy and Traveller site, landscaping, two additional football pitches and a school.
- Work to progress the development of the **Western Harbour Arm of Shoreham Harbour** with Shoreham Port, West Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council has continued. A number of schemes are progressing to deliver homes for local people including 200 affordable

homes on Kingston Wharf and 587 new homes at Free Wharf.

- Following the granting of planning permission work is progressing at **West Sompting** to deliver 467 dwellings.
- Work to develop two new blocks of housing on **Albion Street** totalling 49 units has been delayed but through the work of the council is now back on track and will be completed in 2024.
- We have completed the sale of the **Civic Centre** site to Hyde for £6m, with revised plans accepted which provides 159 affordable homes and protects the **poplar tree**, which has now been granted a Tree Protection Order.
- More housing is of course needed but we need to balance the needs for new housing with the impacts on our communities.
- It was for this reason last year I asked for a **review of developments at Shoreham's Western Harbour Arm** and I'm pleased this is progressing well under the Cabinet member for Regeneration and Strategic planning. As part of this work we have set up new groups to ensure new developments at

Western Harbour Arm cause as little impact to residents as possible

- This important work is helping to better balance the number of new homes that are set to be built, along with how much open space and car parking will be provided. It will also examine the likely impact of the additional properties on local schools and ensuring the needed infrastructure is put in place for the community

Now onto our priorities around protecting jobs and creating opportunity

- This year, to support our vision of opportunity, we will continue to invest in our regeneration budget as we **support jobs** and **grow the economy**.
- This work will build upon the support given to our local businesses where we have further developed our **Good Work Programme** that assists people back into work, whilst also helping to address wider wellbeing issues such as mental health, domestic violence, vulnerable housing and addiction.
- We have funded a **Youth Hub** helping young people to secure employment opportunities.

- Regeneration of the Western Harbour Arm is vital for the well being of **Shoreham Port** and our work is unlocking the opportunity for major industrial and commercial activity to locate on the south eastern arm where facilities for modern shipping are more readily provided.
- The council, in partnership with WSCC, have delivered an upgraded public realm at **Southwick Square** that is benefiting both residents and local businesses.
- We have continued to work hard to support our **local markets**. The Markets in Adur, including Shoreham Farmers Market, continue to deliver a vibrancy to our high streets each month, whilst also providing local businesses the opportunity to trade.
- We will also continue to develop our programme of events to add interest and difference across Adur. In 2023, 37,500 people attended over 58 events across Adur including events supported by a dedicated grant scheme to celebrate and mark the Coronation.
- In **Lancing** the ‘meanwhile use’ for the Old police Station called Fabric has supported ‘**Lancing Now and into the Future**’, a resident engagement process that has created a report and number of

aspirations for Lancing. These aspirations are now being used to help guide renewal and regeneration projects for the village and associated funding applications including the Growth Deal in partnership with the county.

- The budget presented to you this evening enables us to progress with these and a number of additional major projects that invest in ideas and back business including the continued development of our **Citizen WiFi** aiming to make Adur one of the most digitally connected places in the south east.

I'd like to end now on the investments we are making to directly support our communities.

- A very significant focus of the council has been to respond quickly and effectively to rises in the **cost of living** affecting every household in the district.
- During 2022 and 2023 inflation has been very high and most visibly seen in energy bills and food prices.
- Whilst many households and businesses have been struggling, the living standards and wellbeing of our most vulnerable residents has been prioritised by

the council through our 'Cost of living Roadmap' including:

- Enabling residents to access **No Interest Loans through community banking.**
 - Supporting our **food banks** as the frontline of community action.
 - Supporting the provision of **warm spaces** as accessible spaces for residents to use over the winter months.
 - Keeping people in their **homes** safely.
-
- The council has maintained its commitment to providing **Council Tax Support** for the poorest, combined with other improvements including changes to make it easier for residents to claim Council Tax support when they apply for Universal Credit.
 - This work has delivered meaningful financial support for our low income and most vulnerable residents.
 - Work to implement the revised **corporate debt policy** is ongoing, improving support for residents experiencing financial vulnerability by creating fair debt recovery arrangements, and effective signposting for those in need of further support.

- The budget presented to you this evening supports this work and also ensures:
 - The delivery of our **Health and Wellbeing Plan** that aims to help those most in need. This work includes helping residents to access support and advice around mental health, weight management, addiction and social isolation.
 - Our continued support for the **Third Sector**, including **Citizens Advice**, and other local charities and community groups helping the most vulnerable.
 - Our continued investment in our **Safer Communities Team** working with partners to reduce crime, support and help the victims of crime and improve pathways out of offending and reoffending.
 - Continuing our support for residents struggling with their finances through our **Proactive Project**.
 - Through this work we are able to identify households who are struggling and try to help them increase household income, reduce household debt and also address depression, anxiety and loneliness that often accompany financial exclusion.

- The council will continue to work in partnership with **South Downs Leisure Trust** to improve the facilities and opportunities available at our two sports centres and Adur's Swimming Pool.
- Work will also continue to support community groups, clubs and societies in the provision of leisure and sports facilities across our parks and open spaces.
- Other work in our parks and open spaces that will continue include helping with the plan to regenerate the **Southwick FC** site, the improvements at **Buckingham Park's tennis courts** and working with the community to come up with a new plan for an activity site for **Adur Rec**.
- The council is also continuing to work with the **Russell Martin Foundation** to bring **Southwick Football Club site** back into use as an important local facility.
- **Finally and proudly** - Adur District Council has had a longstanding ambition to create a new sports facility for **Buckingham Park**. In order to create capacity to progress this work I'm delighted to say

£1.65m prudential borrowing has been assumed within the 2024/25 budget to support this project.

In conclusion, I would like to remind members that this short introduction to the budget represents just some of the key areas in which we will deliver quality public services and make investments for our residents in 2024 / 25.

- The budget challenges and service delivery challenges are real - and I assure you this council is more than up to the challenge.

- This Conservative Administration gets things done and in 2024/5 we will:
 - **Deliver on our priorities providing excellent public services and value for money**
 - **Take care of our precious environment and deliver Sussex Bay**
 - **Create jobs and support businesses including Shoreham Port**
 - **Build new homes and improve housing across the district**

- **Help our communities to thrive and as part of this create a new sports facility for Buckingham Park**
- In the face of national and global challenges Adur District Council has and continues to buck the trend and thrive.
- We are sticking to our **common sense plan** that is working: building homes, securing our environment, growing our economy and developing opportunities for all of our residents to thrive.
- I urge you to support this budget and I move the recommendations.

Thank you

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