

## Extraordinary Council – 21 February 2012

---

Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **21 February 2012** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr S P Smith  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs J A Mockford

Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr Mrs C M Mason
Cllr C I Black	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr T E Mountain
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr R D Pointer
Cllr Mrs A V Hale	Cllr Mrs C E Roe
Cllr Mrs D Hoy	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr M Hoy	Cllr I H Ward
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr M Maddocks	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, Mrs H L A Glynn, K H Hudson, Mrs G A Lucas-Gill, D Merrick, R A Oatham, A C Priest, M J Steptoe, J Thomass and Mrs C A Weston.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren – Chief Executive  
A Bugeja – Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services  
Y Woodward – Head of Finance  
J Bostock – Member Services Manager

### **29 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2012/13**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance on the level of Council Tax for 2012/13.

The Leader of the Council made the following statement:-

“Chairman and, through you, Councillors, members of the public and press.

This is my eighth budget as Leader of this Conservative Administration and comes at a time of continued austerity for the Country as a whole, with public finances not expected to recover for a few years.

The local government finance settlement was announced in December and this year's settlement continues to reflect the unprecedented economic circumstances faced by the nation. The Government's priority is to take the action needed to tackle the deficit and put the public finances back on a sustainable footing. This has involved tough decisions throughout the public

sector. Rochford District Council's grant was reduced by 16.2% in 2011. The total grant awarded for 2012/13 is £3.249m - a further 11.1% reduction. To put this into perspective, delivery of statutory services alone is estimated to cost approximately £9.8m.

I would, at this point, like to thank all Members and Officers for their participation in this year's budget process and for helping to identify ways to meet the budget gap. These include:-

- Reducing the budget for the cost of the Pest Control Service by £14,000
- Increasing income by introducing charges for parking at Hockley Woods and Freight House
- Introducing a scheme of charges for Pre Application Planning advice
- Stop running the summer swimming scheme producing a saving of £11,000

The Government recently announced a further 2.5% grant for a council tax freeze – but for 2012/13 only. Although this is good news for residents, in that their council tax can be frozen for another year, there will be a knock on effect for 2013/14 because, in accepting the second freeze grant, we will have £164,000 gap to fill next year. So there are still challenging times ahead, with work ongoing to identify further savings and potential income.

Rochford District Council has a clear set of priorities – making a difference to our people, community, environment and local economy. Despite the challenges faced, we have continued to uphold these priorities and have not let services slip. Our achievements over the past year include:-

- Becoming the top authority in England for recycling with a rate of 65.79% and details of the scheme being included in a reference book, which is circulated around the world in the Green Organisation's 'Green Book'.
- Gaining Investors in People 'Gold' Status
- Achieving 'Excellence' against the Equality Framework for Local Government
- Once again being awarded the RSPCA's Silver Stray Dogs Footprint and the Silver Animal Welfare Principles Footprint, recognising our Animal Welfare Charter and work with stray and abandoned animals
- Continued Customer Service Excellence accreditation in Revenues & Benefits, following a recent health check

Our eighth Wild Woods Day in June 2011 was extra special because it was one of ten flagship events across the country for National Family Week – the largest annual celebration of families and family life in the UK.

We continue to involve our 'Have Your Say' group and the general public in consultations and surveys, allowing them to give their opinions on a range of subjects, including where budget savings can be made.

Following a community consultation exercise involving many residents, our Core Strategy was formally adopted in December 2011, following the Planning Inspectorate's decision that the Plan was sound and legally compliant. This Strategy provides a robust framework for the economic growth of the District, whilst protecting our heritage for the benefit of our community.

Development of Shared Services and Partnership working with other authorities continues; we are now receiving income for providing payroll services to Castle Point Borough Council and legal services assistance to partner authorities. Rochford, Castle Point, Colchester and Braintree Councils have procured together and agreed a shared IT service contract with Capita Secure Information Services, sharing savings of around £7m by 2016.

Development of the London Southend Airport presents a huge potential for local economic growth and we have been working with Southend Borough Council on a Joint Area Action Plan to promote the development of the District as a travel and employment hub, aiming to create more than 6,000 jobs by 2021. The airport, with the rail link to London, will be invaluable for visitors to the Olympic Stadium in Stratford during the games in August.

We are continuing with our Young Entrepreneur programme, in which children from local schools work together in competition to create business plans that could succeed in the real world.

The success of our Shop at My Local campaign, which was launched 18 months ago, continues. There are now nearly 1,000 shoppers signed up to receive exclusive offers from 450 local retailers.

The Localism Act was given Royal Assent in November 2011. More responsibility will be given to councils, with local communities having more control over housing and planning decisions. However, the detail around these responsibilities is yet to emerge and it is not clear how they will be financed. So we continue to face interesting and uncertain times.

The Council Taxes for Rochford District Council, Essex County Council and Essex Fire & Rescue Authority have all been frozen for a second year. Essex Police Authority have increased their Council Tax by 3.47% and the average Parish/Town Council tax has increased by 7.3%.

The breakdown of annual Council Tax for a Band D property will be:-

## Extraordinary Council – 21 February 2012

---

Essex County Council	£1,086.75
Essex Police Authority	£136.71
Essex Fire & Rescue Authority	£66.42
Average Town / Parish Councils	£37.19
Rochford District Council	£201.15

The total average Council Tax for a Band D property for 2012/13 will be £1,528.22, an increase of £7.11 (0.47%).

In conclusion, although Rochford District, and indeed the rest of the UK, is still suffering from the effects of the economic downturn, we remain committed to providing an excellent service to our residents and partners. With this in mind we will be doing all we can 'to make Rochford District a place which provides opportunities for the best quality of life for all who live, work and visit here'.

Chairman, I commend the Council Tax for Members' approval".

Particular reference was made to the budget having been developed through Members working together with officers and to the challenge represented by the £164,000 gap that will need to be filled next year by virtue of accepting the second freeze grant.

Responding to observations, the Leader confirmed that it would be appropriate to review the already successful 'Shop at My Local' campaign with a view to ensuring that all appropriate advertising channels are utilised.

Reference was made to a northern Authority in receipt of high grants per head of population that was the subject of media attention due to budget cuts that appeared less significant than those faced by Rochford District Council. The Head of Finance advised that the interpretation of a council's precise position could be confused when considering its revenue spend power compared to grant received.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2012/13 (excluding Parish and Town precepts) is £6,362,773.
- (2) That the total for gross expenditure of the District together with the Parish and Town precepts be £39,626,966.
- (3) That the total of income for the District Council be £32,087,658.
- (4) That the Council Tax requirement of the District Council together with the Parish and Town Councils be £7,539,308.

## Extraordinary Council – 21 February 2012

---

- (5) That the basic amount of Council Tax (including Parish and Town Precepts) be £238.34 for the year. This being the Council Tax requirement £7,539,308 divided by the Council Tax base 31,631.98.
- (6) That the total of the sums payable into the general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and Government grant together with adjustments from the collection fund be £3,903,558.
- (7) That the total of Parish and Town precepts included within the above is £1,176,535.
- (8) That the basic rate of Council Tax relating to the District Council without Parish and Town precepts is £201.15 which is a zero increase. Having a zero increase means that the Council Tax is not excessive (has not increased by 3.5% or more), and thus the referendum provisions of the Localism Act will not be applicable.
- (9) That the total tax for both District and Parishes be as set out in the schedule which is attached at Appendix A to these minutes. These sums are calculated as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
- (10) That the sums given for Band D but now shown in the particular valuation bands A-H be as set out in the schedule shown as Appendix B to these minutes.
- (11) That the precepts issued to the Council in respect of Essex County Council, Essex Fire and Rescue Authority and Essex Police Authority for each valuation bands A-H be as set out in the schedule attached at Appendix C to these minutes.
- (12) That the total Council Tax for the area for each valuation band A-H be as set out in Appendix D to these minutes. These are the amounts set as Council Tax for the year 2012/13.

The meeting closed at 7.44 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

If you would like these minutes in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

### Total Council Tax for Parish/Town Council and Rochford District Council

	Band D Equivalents	Parish Precept	Parish Charge	District Charge	Total Charge
Ashingdon	1,228.84	45,959	37.40	201.15	238.55
Barling	627.17	35,840	57.15	201.15	258.30
Canewdon	549.03	29,627	53.96	201.15	255.11
Foulness Island	66.98	2,700	40.31	201.15	241.46
Great Wakering	1,994.76	62,000	31.08	201.15	232.23
Hawkwell	4,585.29	138,934	30.30	201.15	231.45
Hockley	3,861.78	247,170	64.00	201.15	265.15
Hullbridge	2,404.63	93,564	38.91	201.15	240.06
Paglesham	103.57	4,000	38.62	201.15	239.77
Rawreth	442.07	20,000	45.24	201.15	246.39
Rayleigh	12,467.83	354,000	28.39	201.15	229.54
Rochford	3,004.95	113,557	37.79	201.15	238.94
Stambridge	240.25	23,000	95.73	201.15	296.88
Sutton	54.83	6,184	112.78	201.15	313.93
	<u>31,631.98</u>	<u>1,176,535</u>			

**District and Parish/Town Council tax by Bands A - H**

	Band D Equivalents	Parish Precept	Parish Charge	District Charge	Total Charge
Ashingdon	1,228.84	45,959	37.40	201.15	238.55
Barling	627.17	35,840	57.15	201.15	258.30
Canewdon	549.03	29,627	53.96	201.15	255.11
Foulness Island	66.98	2,700	40.31	201.15	241.46
Great Wakering	1,994.76	62,000	31.08	201.15	232.23
Hawkwell	4,585.29	138,934	30.30	201.15	231.45
Hockley	3,861.78	247,170	64.00	201.15	265.15
Hullbridge	2,404.63	93,564	38.91	201.15	240.06
Paglesham	103.57	4,000	38.62	201.15	239.77
Rawreth	442.07	20,000	45.24	201.15	246.39
Rayleigh	12,467.83	354,000	28.39	201.15	229.54
Rochford	3,004.95	113,557	37.79	201.15	238.94
Stambridge	240.25	23,000	95.73	201.15	296.88
Sutton	54.83	6,184	112.78	201.15	313.93
	<u>31,631.98</u>	<u>1,176,535</u>			

	BAND A 6/9	BAND B 7/9	BAND C 8/9	BAND D 1	BAND E 11/9	BAND F 13/9	BAND G 15/9	BAND H 2
Ashingdon	159.03	185.54	212.04	238.55	291.56	344.57	397.58	477.10
Barling	172.20	200.90	229.60	258.30	315.70	373.10	430.50	516.60
Canewdon	170.07	198.42	226.76	255.11	311.80	368.49	425.18	510.22
Foulness Island	160.97	187.80	214.63	241.46	295.12	348.78	402.43	482.92
Great Wakering	154.82	180.62	206.43	232.23	283.84	335.44	387.05	464.46
Hawkwell	154.30	180.02	205.73	231.45	282.88	334.32	385.75	462.90
Hockley	176.77	206.23	235.69	265.15	324.07	382.99	441.92	530.30
Hullbridge	160.04	186.71	213.39	240.06	293.41	346.75	400.10	480.12
Paglesham	159.85	186.49	213.13	239.77	293.05	346.33	399.62	479.54
Rawreth	164.26	191.64	219.01	246.39	301.14	355.90	410.65	492.78
Rayleigh	153.03	178.53	204.04	229.54	280.55	331.56	382.57	459.08
Rochford	159.29	185.84	212.39	238.94	292.04	345.14	398.23	477.88
Stambridge	197.92	230.91	263.89	296.88	362.85	428.83	494.80	593.76
Sutton	209.29	244.17	279.05	313.93	383.69	453.45	523.22	627.86

**Precepts for Essex County Council, Essex Fire & Rescue Authority, Essex Police Authority and Rochford District Council**

<b>County Charge</b>	<b>Police Charge</b>	<b>Fire Charge</b>	<b>District Charge</b>	<b>Total Charge</b>	<b>BAND A 6/9</b>	<b>BAND B 7/9</b>	<b>BAND C 8/9</b>	<b>BAND D 1</b>	<b>BAND E 11/9</b>	<b>BAND F 13/9</b>	<b>BAND G 15/9</b>	<b>BAND H 2</b>
<b>1,086.75</b>				1,086.75	724.50	845.25	966.00	1,086.75	1,328.25	1,569.75	1,811.25	2,173.50
	<b>136.71</b>			136.71	91.14	106.33	121.52	136.71	167.09	197.47	227.85	273.42
		<b>66.42</b>		66.42	44.28	51.66	59.04	66.42	81.18	95.94	110.70	132.84
			<b>201.15</b>	201.15	134.10	156.45	178.80	201.15	245.85	290.55	335.25	402.30



**Total Council Tax by Bands A-H**

	Band D Equivalents	Parish Precept	Parish Charge	District Charge	County Charge	Fire Charge	Police Charge	Total Charge
Ashingdon	1,228.84	45,959	37.40	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,528.43
Barling	627.17	35,840	57.15	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,548.18
Canewdon	549.03	29,627	53.96	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,544.99
Foulness Island	66.98	2,700	40.31	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,531.34
Great Wakering	1,994.76	62,000	31.08	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,522.11
Hawkwell	4,585.29	138,934	30.30	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,521.33
Hockley	3,861.78	247,170	64.00	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,555.03
Hullbridge	2,404.63	93,564	38.91	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,529.94
Paglesham	103.57	4,000	38.62	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,529.65
Rawreth	442.07	20,000	45.24	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,536.27
Rayleigh	12,467.83	354,000	28.39	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,519.42
Rochford	3,004.95	113,557	37.79	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,528.82
Stambridge	240.25	23,000	95.73	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,586.76
Sutton	54.83	6,184	112.78	201.15	1,086.75	66.42	136.71	1,603.81
	<u>31,631.98</u>	<u>1,176,535</u>						

	BAND A 6/9	BAND B 7/9	BAND C 8/9	BAND D 1	BAND E 11/9	BAND F 13/9	BAND G 15/9	BAND H 2
Ashingdon	1,018.95	1,188.78	1,358.60	1,528.43	1,868.08	2,207.73	2,547.38	3,056.86
Barling	1,032.12	1,204.14	1,376.16	1,548.18	1,892.22	2,236.26	2,580.30	3,096.36
Canewdon	1,029.99	1,201.66	1,373.32	1,544.99	1,888.32	2,231.65	2,574.98	3,089.98
Foulness Island	1,020.89	1,191.04	1,361.19	1,531.34	1,871.64	2,211.94	2,552.23	3,062.68
Great Wakering	1,014.74	1,183.86	1,352.99	1,522.11	1,860.36	2,198.60	2,536.85	3,044.22
Hawkwell	1,014.22	1,183.26	1,352.29	1,521.33	1,859.40	2,197.48	2,535.55	3,042.66
Hockley	1,036.69	1,209.47	1,382.25	1,555.03	1,900.59	2,246.15	2,591.72	3,110.06
Hullbridge	1,019.96	1,189.95	1,359.95	1,529.94	1,869.93	2,209.91	2,549.90	3,059.88
Paglesham	1,019.77	1,189.73	1,359.69	1,529.65	1,869.57	2,209.49	2,549.42	3,059.30
Rawreth	1,024.18	1,194.88	1,365.57	1,536.27	1,877.66	2,219.06	2,560.45	3,072.54
Rayleigh	1,012.95	1,181.77	1,350.60	1,519.42	1,857.07	2,194.72	2,532.37	3,038.84
Rochford	1,019.21	1,189.08	1,358.95	1,528.82	1,868.56	2,208.30	2,548.03	3,057.64
Stambridge	1,057.84	1,234.15	1,410.45	1,586.76	1,939.37	2,291.99	2,644.60	3,173.52
Sutton	1,069.21	1,247.41	1,425.61	1,603.81	1,960.21	2,316.61	2,673.02	3,207.62