

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

13 FEBRUARY 2025

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Ward), Councillors Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Daly, Dumbleton, C Edwards, Freeman, Garcia, Gillias, Harrington, Hassell, Henderson, Howling, Karadiar, D Keeling, J Keeling, Lawrence, Lewis, Livesey, Maoudis, McKenzie, Mistry, Moran, New, O'Rourke, Parker, Picker, Poole, Robinson, Roodhouse, Russell, Sandison, Sayani, Simpson-Vince, Srivastava, Thomas, Timms, Trimble and Willis.

Note: Councillor Parker left the meeting during the debate on the Council Tax Base 2025/26, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025-2035 and took no part in the voting on this item and any subsequent items.

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors S Edwards and Slinger.

72. MINUTES

The minutes of the special meeting held on 4 February 2025 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 6(a)(1) of Part 1 - Council Tax Base 2025/26, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025-2035 – Councillor Sandison (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a trustee of Rugby Eco Hub).

Item 6(a)(1) of Part 1 - Council Tax Base 2025/26, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025-2035 – Councillor O'Rourke (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a member of Rugby Eco Hub).

Item 6(a)(1) of Part 1 - Council Tax Base 2025/26, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025-2035 – Councillor Maoudis (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being an employee of Dunchurch Parish Council).

Item 6(a)(1) of Part 1 - Council Tax Base 2025/26, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025-2035 – Councillor Willis (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being Chair of Wolston Parish Council).

74. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the meeting of Rugby Borough Women FC's outstanding efforts in their FA Cup 5th round tie against WSL side Liverpool, holding them for over 80 minutes of the game. It was a huge occasion for the team, the club, the supporters, and the whole of Rugby.

A real highlight for the Mayor at the match was seeing so many children, particularly young girls, inspired by the team and the time that the players spent with them signing autographs, having photos taken, gifting items and so much more. The Mayor is keen, along with some of the Rugby Borough Women's players, to visit local schools. Any that might be interested in this and hearing from the players are asked to contact the mayoral office.

The Mayor hoped that the support for the team continues following the FA Cup run as they are a talented group and the whole of the borough should be proud of them.

75. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions.

76. REPORT OF CABINET – 3 FEBRUARY 2025

Council considered the report of Cabinet dated 3 February 2025 (Part 1 – agenda item 6(a)(1)) concerning the Council Tax Base 2025/26, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025-2030. A supplementary report concerning the precepts from parishes and Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner, which had been circulated to all Members and published on the Council's website prior to the meeting, was also considered as part of the debate on this item.

In order that this item could be dealt with as a single debate, including the proposal of amendments, the Mayor moved, the Deputy Mayor seconded and it was resolved that Council Standing Orders paragraph 13.6(e) be suspended.

The Mayor informed the meeting that a recorded vote would be taken on both the amendment and substantive motion relating to Council Tax determination.

Councillor Moran moved and Councillor Mistry seconded that the recommendation of Cabinet, together with the supplementary report, be approved.

Councillor Poole then moved and Councillor Picker seconded the amendment of the Conservative Group as set out at Appendix 2 to the minutes.

Further to debate, a recorded vote was taken on the Conservative Group amendment.

For the motion – Councillors Daly, Garcia, Gillias, Hassell, Howling, D Keeling, J Keeling, Lawrence, Maoudis, Picker, Poole, Russell, Simpson-Vince, Timms, Ward and Willis – **16 votes**.

Against the motion – Councillors Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Dumbleton, C Edwards, Freeman, Harrington, Henderson, Karadiar, Lewis, Livesey, McKenzie, Mistry, Moran, New, O'Rourke, Robinson, Roodhouse, Sandison, Sayani, Srivastava, Thomas and Trimble – **23 votes**.

The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

The Mayor then put the substantive motion to the vote.

For the motion - Councillors Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Dumbleton, C Edwards, Freeman, Harrington, Henderson, Karadiar, Lewis, Livesey, McKenzie, Mistry, Moran, New, O'Rourke, Robinson, Roodhouse, Sandison, Sayani, Srivastava, Thomas and Trimble – **23 votes**.

Against the motion – Councillors Daly, Garcia, Gillias, Hassell, Howling, D Keeling, J Keeling, Lawrence, Maoudis, Picker, Poole, Russell, Simpson-Vince, Timms, Ward and Willis – **16 votes**.

The Mayor declared the substantive motion carried.

RESOLVED THAT – the recommendation of Cabinet, together with the supplementary report, be confirmed and adopted, with Appendix 1 to the minutes being adopted as the Council's budget for 2025/26.

77. REPORT OF AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE – 12 DECEMBER 2024

RESOLVED THAT – the report of Audit and Ethics Committee be confirmed and adopted.

78. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(a) Appointment of Acting Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)

Note: Dan Green, Deputy Chief Executive, left the meeting during this item 7(a).

Council considered the report of the Human Resources Manager (Part 1 – agenda item 7(a)) concerning the appointment of an Acting Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service at the Council.

RESOLVED THAT – the appointment of Dan Green to the post of Acting Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) of Rugby Borough Council with effect from 13 February 2025 be approved.

(b) Constitution Updates

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 7(b)) concerning proposed updates to the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Constitution of the Council be amended to incorporate the following changes:
 - a. the revised Code of Conduct for Employees set out in Appendix 1 be adopted by the Council;
 - b. the Confidential Reporting Code at Part 4E of the Constitution be removed from the document, and that this be treated as a routine staffing policy moving forward (for the avoidance of doubt the existing code remains in force until a new code is adopted);
 - c. the revised Monitoring Officer Protocol set out in Appendix 2 be adopted by the Council; and
- (2) the Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the Constitution and to make such typographical amendments as required to undertake this.

(c) Updates to Contract Standing Orders

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 7(c)) concerning the proposed updates to the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

RESOLVED THAT – the revised Contract Standing Orders be adopted and incorporated into the Constitution.

79. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, there were no motions on notice to be considered.

MAYOR

COUNCIL – 13 FEBRUARY 2025

COUNCIL TAX DETERMINATION 2025/26

RECOMMENDED THAT:-

- (1) the Council's General Fund Capital budget for 2025/26 be as shown within **Appendix 7 of the Budget Booklet 2025/26 (Appendix A)** of the "Council Tax Determination 2025/26" report. This includes the continuation programme and the schemes approved in year. With the following variations:

£
0

The potential new schemes Changing rooms for the Community room at GEC, Community Supermarket, Customer access and Avon Mill roundabout, which will require a separate business case for approval and are not included in the budget.

- (2) the Council's General Fund Revenue budget for 2025/26 be as shown within **Appendix 2 of the Budget Booklet (Appendix A)** as part of the "Council Tax Determination 2025/26" report. Including growth items of £2.678m including £1m for WSU initiatives and £1.300m to support the delivery of the corporate strategy. With the following variations:

£

The potential schemes in relation to positive health initiatives, parish/town council development, staff wellbeing initiatives, Climate adaptation grants for local communities, Property flood protection grants, Rugby Eco Hub, will require a separate business case and are not included in the budget

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- (3) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2025/26 (excluding Parish precepts) be calculated as £9,299,244, equating to a £6.49 increase for a Band D property;
- (4) the Council note that in the professional opinion of the Chief Financial Officer the level of reserves and balances as detailed in **Appendix E** as part of the "Council Tax Determination 2025/26" report are adequate to support the level of spending in the proposed capital and revenue budgets for 2025/26 and onwards;
- (5) it be noted that at its meeting on 21 January 2025 Cabinet confirmed the following amounts for the year 2025/26 calculated in accordance with regulations made under section 31(B) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by sections 72 to 79 of the Localism Act 2011:-
- (a) **41,583.08** being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 as its Council Tax base for the year.

(b) Part of the Council's area

Parish of

Ansty	131.91
Binley Woods	1,048.54
Birdingbury	171.91
Bourton and Draycote	148.10
Brandon and Bretford	302.68
Brinklow	467.42
Burton Hastings	96.98
Cawston	2,028.85
Church Lawford	161.09
Churchover	1,071.22
Clifton upon Dunsmore	2,109.32
Combe Fields	69.93
Copston Magna	21.96
Cosford	7.75
Dunchurch	1,820.19
Easenhall	107.75
Frankton	176.08
Grandborough	221.19
Harborough Magna	188.73
King's Newnham	28.84
Leamington Hastings	249.17
Long Lawford	1,522.86
Marton	218.01
Monks Kirby	229.39
Newton and Biggin	598.49
Pailton	226.53
Princethorpe	169.75
Ryton on Dunsmore	698.53
Shilton	344.28
Stretton Baskerville	8.30
Stretton on Dunsmore	528.49
Stretton under Fosse	97.52
Thurlaston	209.72
Wibtoft	25.06
Willey	39.77
Willoughby	195.95
Withybrook	127.61
Wolfhampcote	153.31
Wolston	1,003.43
Wolvey	539.08
Rugby Town Area	23,876.99
MOD properties	140.40

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;

(6) consequent upon the above revised tax base for Rugby Special Expenses Area the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended:-

(a)	£ 73,478,682	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act (<i>gross expenditure including parish precepts</i>);
(b)	(63,021,391)	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31(A)(3) of the Act (<i>gross income</i>);
(c)	10,454,747	being the amount by which the aggregate at 6(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 6(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31(A)(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year;
(d)	251.42	being the amount at 6(c) above divided by the amount at 5(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31(B) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (<i>including parish precepts</i>);
(e)	3,451,877	being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (<i>parish precepts and town area special expenses</i>);
(f)	168.41	being the amount at 6(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 6(e) above by the amount at 5(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 (<i>Rugby Borough Council Tax excluding parish precepts and town area special expenses</i>);

(g) Part of the Council's area

Parish of	£
Ansty	86.27
Binley Woods	54.08
Birdingbury	49.87
Bourton & Draycote	-
Brandon & Bretford	73.17
Brinklow	78.75
Burton Hastings	27.22
Cawston	47.66
Church Lawford	42.71
Churchover	19.30
Clifton Upon Dunsmore	36.91
Combe Fields	4.43
Copston Magna	-
Cosford	-
Dunchurch	65.43
Easehall	92.81
Frankton	72.50
Grandborough	66.46
Harborough Magna	81.14
Kings Newnham	-
Leamington Hastings	-
Long Lawford	98.50
Marston	60.20
Monks Kirby	50.12
Newton & Biggin	45.51
Pailton	79.55
Princethorpe	108.44
Ryton on Dunsmore	131.53
Shilton & Barnacle	78.71
Stretton Baskerville	-
Stretton on Dunsmore	136.29
Stretton under Fosse	104.70
Thurlaston	81.54
Wibtoft	-
Willey	12.57
Willoughby	89.19
Withybrook	71.23
Wolfhampcote	58.70
Wolston	107.13
Wolvey	79.39
Rugby Town Area	96.18

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 6(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 5(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 (*Rugby Borough Council plus parish/town area Council Tax for each parish/town area at Band D*);

(h) the amounts set out in Annex 1, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 6(f) and 6(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance

with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands (*Rugby Borough Council plus parish/town area Council Tax for each parish/town area for each Band*);

- (7) it be noted that for the year 2024/25 Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the District Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands £	Warks. County Council £	Police & Crime Commr. £
A	1,215.3000	202.47
B	1,417.8500	236.22
C	1,620.4000	269.96
D	1,822.9500	303.71
E	2,228.0500	371.20
F	2,633.1500	438.69
G	3,038.2500	506.18
H	3,645.9000	607.42

and

- (8) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 6(h) and 7 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts set out at Annex 2, as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown;
- (9) the Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

COUNCIL – 13 FEBRUARY 2025

CONSERVATIVE GROUP

ALTERNATIVE COUNCIL TAX DETERMINATION 2025/26

RECOMMENDED THAT:-

- (1) the Council's General Fund Capital budget for 2025/26 be as shown within **Appendix 7 of the Budget Booklet 2025/26 (Appendix A)** of the "Council Tax Determination 2025/26" report. This includes the continuation programme and the schemes approved in year.

The potential new schemes Changing rooms for the Community room at GEC, Community Supermarket, Customer access and Avon Mill roundabout, which will require a separate business case for approval and are not included in the budget.

With the following other potential schemes which will require a separate business case for approval (costs are indicative) :

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| a) Submission of a business case for flood defences to address flooding in the Borough of Rugby, including implementing Environment Agency proposals within Wolston as a pilot scheme. | £3,000,000 |
| b) Submission of a business case to explore the expansion of CCTV upgrades in retail areas throughout Rugby Urban Area, tied into the Town Centre CCTV network | TBC |
| c) Submission of a business case to purchase 1 x additional Road Sweeper (large) | £250,000 |
| d) Submission of a business case for the purchase of new festival lights in Sheep Street and High Street | £250,000 |

- (2) the Council's General Fund Revenue budget for 2025/26 be as shown within **Appendix 2 of the Budget Booklet (Appendix A)** as part of the "Council Tax Determination 2025/26" report. Including growth items of £2.678m including £1m for WSU initiatives and £1.300m to support the delivery of the corporate strategy.

The potential schemes in relation to positive health initiatives, parish/town council development, staff wellbeing initiatives, Climate adaptation grants for local communities, Property flood protection grants, Rugby Eco Hub, will require a separate business case and are not included in the budget.

With the following variations:

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|--|---|
| a) grant funding for pensioners in Rugby to support in place of the removal of the Winter Fuel Payment (2 year scheme but only year 1 included in this resolution) | £1,700,000 |
| b) Additional funding for OnTrack to help tackle Antisocial behaviour. Areas of focus to be Bilton, Hillmorton & Wolston. | £100,000 |
| c) Establishment of new driver to carry out work generated by the new sweeper +maintenance | £50,000 |
| d) Use of Business rates equalisation reserve to cover the additional costs | (£1,850,000) |
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- (3) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2025/26 (excluding Parish precepts) be calculated as £9,299,244, equating to a £6.49 increase for a Band D property;

- (4) the Council note that in the professional opinion of the Chief Financial Officer the level of reserves and balances as detailed in **Appendix E** as part of the "Council Tax Determination 2025/26" report are adequate to support the level of spending in the proposed capital and revenue budgets for 2025/26 and onwards;

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Wolvey	79.39
Rugby Town Area	96.18

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(h) the amounts set out in Annex 1, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 6(f) and 6(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands (*Rugby Borough Council plus parish/town area Council Tax for each parish/town area for each Band*) ;

(7) it be noted that for the year 2024/25 Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the District Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands £	Warks. County Council £	Police & Crime Commr. £
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H	3,645.9000	607.42

and

(8) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 6(h) and 7 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts set out at Annex 2, as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown;

(9) the Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.