

Council Minutes

Date: 21 February 2019

Time: 6.30 - 8.25 pm

PRESENT: Councillor A R Green (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs J A Adey, Mrs S Adoh, K Ahmed, Z Ahmed, M C Appleyard, M Asif, D H G Barnes, Ms A Baughan, S Broadbent, D J Carroll, M Clarke, Mrs L M Clarke OBE, C Etholen, R Farmer, R Gaffney, S Graham, G C Hall, M Harris, A E Hill, A Hussain, M Hussain, D A Johncock, Mrs G A Jones, D Knights, Mrs J D Langley, A Lee, Mrs W J Mallen, N B Marshall, H L McCarthy, R Newman, B E Pearce, G Peart, S K Raja, R Raja, J A Savage, D A C Shakespeare OBE, N J B Teesdale, Mrs J E Teesdale, A Turner, Ms J D Wassell, D M Watson, R Wilson and Ms K S Wood and Honorary Aldermen: P Cartwright, Mrs P Priestley & R Pushman.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss S Brown, H Bull, A D Collingwood, M P Davy, M Hanif, M A Hashmi, M Hussain JP, M E Knight, I L McEnnis, Ms C J Oliver, S Saddique, R J Scott, P R Turner, C Whitehead and L Wood and Honorary Aldermen E Collins & Mrs K Peatey.

73 MINUTE'S SILENCE FOR HONORARY ALDERMAN MAURICE ORAM AND EX-COUNCILLOR DENNIS GREEN

The Chairman mentioned the recent deaths of two former Members of the Council: Honorary Alderman Maurice Oram and Dennis Green.

- Honorary Alderman Maurice Oram was first voted onto Wycombe District Council representing Marlow in 1974 and enrolled to the position of Honorary Alderman in 2007. He also served as a County Councillor.
- Ex Councillor Dennis Green was elected to represent Risborough Ward in 1979 he served as Chairman of Wycombe District Council from 2002-03. He was also elected to Buckinghamshire County Council.

A Minute's silence was observed in respect of these former Members.

74 FILMING OF THE MEETING

The Chairman announced that notification had been received that a member of the public wished to film the meeting and he outlined the principles around filming/recording in the meeting.

75 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 December 2018 be confirmed as true records and signed by the Chairman.

76 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Leader of the Council; Councillor Ms K Wood indicated that she had an interest in respect of Minute 83 of the Cabinet Minutes of 4 February 2019 and would leave the room during the consideration of those minutes. Her Deputy Leader; Councillor D Barnes had agreed to present those particular minutes in her absence.

77 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman updated the Meeting on his activities since the last Council meeting, he had attended the Mustard Club Christmas Lunch, along with those of the Guarantors Old People's Club and Piddington Seniors. He had attended the funerals of former Members Green and Oram along with the Service of Thanksgiving for the Rt Hon The Lord Carrington KG, GCMG, CH.

Mention was made of his attendance at the 5 year celebration event for the Chiltern Rangers CIC, the re-launch of the Bucks Motor Neurone Disease Association Branch along with Chinese New Year events.

The Chairman also took the opportunity to clarify the procedure for any Points of Order and outlined Standing Order 14.11 in this regard.

78 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a) Question from Mr R Colomb to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration.

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration please explain whether the policy of Wycombe District Council is to encourage motorists to drive into the centre of Wycombe or discourage them?

Struggling retailers certainly need them.

Verbal reply given by Councillor S Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration).

The Council is not currently responsible for transportation strategy, this sits with County.

However our overarching aim, which will be further developed in our Regeneration Strategy is to encourage people to come to and spend time in High Wycombe, this means that a balance must be struck between managing congestion and accommodating visitors.

Having the town in gridlock will obviously discourage visitors, extend journey times and impact on our economy. Further work will be done on transportation and

parking in the next few months, including a review of the Park and Ride service, in order to understand demand and the ways in which it can be managed.

Supplementary Question

It is confusing to understand Buckinghamshire County Council's involvement. But we seem to have a policy to build on car parks and increase car park charges. Park and Ride is not working, whilst current re-alignment of roads in the town will not increase carriageway space. What actions are being taken to encourage drivers into the town to spend money?

After all we are talking of taking up road and putting the river in its place.

Supplementary Response

We aim to remove as many barriers as possible that impede business, shoppers and commuters. There is a balance to be struck. Where car parks are taken away alternatives are to be provided.

79 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

a) Question from Councillor R Raja to the Leader of the Council

Whilst it is true that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has scored an own goal by imposing a leader on the shadow authority and devalued the unitary process and made it less democratic and less transparent.

Even so would the Leader like to tell us the benefits to the local residents of the waste of Council Tax payers' money in seeking a Judicial Review to sort out incompetent Tory bungling?

Verbal reply given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

Thank you for your question Cllr Raja.

As you know, extensive discussions have been ongoing with both MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) and the other Buckinghamshire authorities for some time, with a view to ensuring that the new Unitary Authority for Buckinghamshire is as robust and publicly accountable as possible. At an extremely late stage in the process, the Secretary of State changed the proposals for governance in a way which, as you rightly say, would have the clear potential to devalue the unitary process and make it far less democratic and transparent.

When faced with these circumstances, the Council could either accept the situation, which I firmly do not believe would be in the interest of the public, or challenge it through legal proceedings, which given the timing, had to be done extremely quickly. I would have preferred not to have been faced with such a stark choice, but in the circumstances I believe the right decision has been taken, and this has been

vindicated by the support received from other District Councils in Buckinghamshire in the context of the legal proceedings.

Supplementary Question

The judicial review (JR) remains a waste of money, the new authority will be in place in just over a year. Nothing will happen as a result of the review. The JR will confirm the status quo. Tell us what benefits there are to it?

Supplementary Response

We feel that the pre-determined leadership of the Shadow Executive does not represent a partnership of equals. It is not democratic. We want an end product that we agree with. A lot of damage can be done within these 12 months.

b) Question from Councillor A Hill to the Cabinet Member for Environment

As the High Street is dying. Has the Cabinet Member for the Environment ever considered trialing one hour's free parking, once a week in the Swan car park to try and encourage people back to the town?

Verbal reply given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Environment).

I do not agree with the statement that the High Street is dying, in fact the Eden Centre has reported an increase in footfall in the last year. This bucks the trend elsewhere where on average a decrease of 3 to 4% has been experienced.

While it is true that there are some vacant retail units in High Wycombe the Council has taken and will continue taking a proactive role in supporting the town centre so that it can continue to thrive. In response to your suggestion, the Swan car park is around 70% full on weekday afternoons and at capacity at the weekend.

Therefore, on the basis of the available evidence rather than supposition, it is not the case that people need further encouragement to use it. There is no evidence that removing or reducing parking charges encourages visits to a town centre. Far more important is the availability and ease of access to car parking spaces.

We have recently re-established the parking indicators on the approaches to the town and have allocated £1million for investing in the car parking service which will considerably improve the experience of visitors to High Wycombe. A task and finish group is also being established to review the supply of parking in the town.

Supplementary Question

Has the Cabinet Member walked down the High Street of a morning, during the last few months to see whether it is in fact busy and hectic?

Supplementary Response

Quite often.

c) **Question from Councillor S Graham to the Cabinet Member for Community**

Would the Cabinet Member for Community like to give a progress report (current state of works) regarding the Queensway cemetery?

Verbal reply given by Councillor G Peart (Cabinet Member for Community).

This is an important project, in which there is a lot of interest. The Planning Application for the new Penn Road Cemetery is with our Planning service for determination. So far we have been asked to amend the landscaping plan to include some different native species which we have done and resubmitted.

We are aware that the BCC Sustainable Drainage team will be applying some pre-start conditions that relate to us providing supplementary information – we have already done this so that this does not delay the project. We do not believe that Planning have had a response yet from BCC Highways, which is clearly very important for the success of our application.

In the meantime we are working up the tender pack for the procurement of the new Cemetery with our consultants, Cemetery Design Services. While we can't issue this until we have planning approval it does mean we can move swiftly to procure a construction partner.

There was no supplementary question.

d) **Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader please share with us the strategy behind the decision of her Cabinet to raise car park charges at a time when businesses are struggling to make ends meet, especially in the East side of the town namely High Street and Frogmoor?

Verbal reply given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

We have heard from Councillor Mrs Adey that the High Street is not dying. Whilst the Swan Car Park in fact has a capacity issue.

It is a common misconception that footfall in town centres is affected by parking charges. Research indicates that far more important factors are the availability and ease of use of parking facilities.

Parking charges have not increased for 10 years or more; the current increases are to bring them up to a similar level with neighbouring authorities in order to ensure that the parking service is viable and that we can invest in improving quality and increasing supply as required.

Supplementary Question

Wycombe District Council operates car parks across the District; at Marlow and Princes Risborough. If their charges were to be put up, their Town Councils would be in uproar. We here in High Wycombe have had higher charges than those towns. Why would that be?

Supplementary Response

Please note not all car parks in High Wycombe are owned by Wycombe District Council.

e) Question from Councillor R Raja to the Leader of the Council

The cabinet has taken on the recommendations of the Remaking of the River Wye Task & Finish Group, yet its less than enthusiastic adoption of the idea and lack of a clear outline of when this work may be undertaken is disappointing not only to the members of the T&F group but to a great many residents of Wycombe who wish to see some life brought back to the Town along with the environmental, economic and psychological benefits a stretch of river through the town can deliver.

Would the leader accept that it is better for WDC reserves to be used to uplift the town than be thrown into the black hole which exists at the County council at the moment and thereby ensuring a reasonable legacy for our future generations?

Verbal reply given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

Thank you for your question, yes I would like to thank the Scrutiny Committee and in particular the task and finish group for the excellent work that they have done to look into the issues around the case for the river, the cost and funding issues. Officers have been instructed to review this information and prepare a response for Cabinet. An information sheet outlining the work that is underway and confirming the timescale for a response will be published shortly.

This Council is committed to and has a positive vision for High Wycombe town centre as a “uniquely appealing and attractive destination with a thriving economic centre ... a place that people choose to live work and visit...”

I’m surprised that, as you were yourself a member of the Task and Finish Group, you are asking this question without even giving Cabinet a chance to respond to the recommendations. I am unsure how you have formed the opinion that Cabinet are less than enthusiastic when we have not even had a chance to provide a response. In fact perhaps you would be good enough to tell Council who is promoting this idea as I would like to speak to those individuals to put the record straight. Surely it is only courteous to allow Cabinet a full response before jumping in with allegations such as this.

What I will say in advance of the full response is that this Council is committed to and has a positive vision for High Wycombe town centre as a "uniquely appealing and attractive destination with a thriving economic centre"..

Over recent years the Council has been instrumental in bringing forward the Eden project and the Town Centre Masterplan. It has also led on a number of environmental improvement projects and has bought up and brought back into beneficial use a number of vacant retail units in need of refurbishment. I do not think that anyone can question our commitment to the town centre.

If the thinking is that we should splash the Council reserves on this scheme before the new authority is in place I have to say that this thinking is misguided. The lead in time for such a project is significant, requiring design and technical work, public consultation and the need to obtain planning permission, I could go on.

In any case, if we were to commit the substantial funding required to deliver this scheme, and the associated highway works, we would have to be clear that it is right for this to be the next major investment for the Council to make in the town – it would be wrong to rush into this before we have fully considered the issues.

If we were to rush into decisions without the due process, I'm sure you'd be asking questions in that respect!

Supplementary Question

Where did I learn that Cabinet was less than enthusiastic? I was at the last Cabinet Meeting, I attended and construed that there is no guarantee that this project will go on. I am enthusiastic, many colleagues feel we need to be more positive. Do you not think we should spend on this project in Wycombe rather than use this money to fill a hole in the Buckinghamshire County Council budgets?

Supplementary Response

I reiterate you were present at the Task and Finish Group meetings; there is no line in the budget for this scheme. There are lines it could come from. There is still a lot of work to be done on the business case.

f) **Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Leader of the Council (note the Leader handed this question over to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration).**

As most Members will be aware, last year the Council announced an exciting new project called 'Desbox', a shipping container hub for artists.

It is due to open for business this month, judging by the state of the area I hardly think that it will open on time.

Can the Leader please update us on its actual progress, including how many containers have been actually snapped up by budding artists?

Verbal reply given by Councillor S Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration).

DesBox never was "due to open for business this month". In fact the construction contract was based on a March completion of the works. However its

commencement was delayed because of ground clearance works, to enable piling (80 x 10 ton truckloads of concrete had to be removed).

A shallow gas main, revealed by the Baker Street road works, meant DesBox had to be raised 300mm. Such occurrences, especially on brownfield sites are not unusual. These works, along with the recent snowfall, resulting in 3 weeks lost on the programme.

Further containers are due to be installed at the beginning of March, with the final East Richardson Street terrace units arriving in early April; with Practical completion in May.

The response to our open days for prospective businesses looking to move into DesBox has been really positive. More than half the units are now reserved, including 13 artists and makers so far.

This is a good opportunity to promote. In that we'll be hosting local artists in a special pop up exhibition space, as part of Bucks Art week, at DesBox from 8 -23 June.

Supplementary Question

With only half the units taken, perhaps you need to consider other uses for the boxes? According to Thames Valley Police the number of homeless people living on the streets of High Wycombe has risen to 34. Perhaps we could look at making boxes available for homeless, as is happening in a number of other cities and towns. Is this something you would consider or do you not care about these people?

Supplementary Response

The plan is for full use of these units for business use, we are confident of this. These are not a place for homeless housing. Providing jobs which these units do, is all part of combating homelessness. To conflate the two issues as you do is not helpful

g) **Question from Councillor R Raja to the Cabinet Member for Environment**

Is the Cabinet Member for the Environment aware that unfortunately, some of the residents in Bowerdean have had rubbish piling up in and around their houses because the bin lorries were unable to gain access to the streets. Would she like to tell us how often bins have not been emptied, for a period of over a week, in the last 12 months?

Verbal reply given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Environment).

Records of reports held by the Joint Waste Team show that over the last 12 months, three addresses in Bowerdean Road had their collections delayed for more than a week, and one in Nicholas Gardens had delayed collections for more than a

week, on two separate occasions. One of which was an IT issue, the issue not being conveyed to the team to resolve appropriately.

The Joint Waste Team's contract manager tells me that collection delays in the area are frequently caused by inconsiderately parked cars blocking access for the collection vehicles. Many roads in the ward are narrow and steep - it can sometimes be impossible to make a collection at first attempt, and one inconsiderately parked vehicle can delay many collections.

Clearly, narrow steep highways are not a new development in High Wycombe, and so naturally the waste contract requires that repeated attempts are made to collect bins when access may not be possible first time around.

The Waste Team has also specified that smaller vehicles be made available to collect from areas where inconsiderate parking is reported by the normal collection crews. These are used as a backup, to make sure that reported delayed collections are put right as quickly as possible. The Team will also write to local households asking them to park considerately and where access difficulties persist, these may be reported to Buckinghamshire County Council's parking service if the parking is thought to cross the line from inconsiderate to illegal.

Please rest assured that whilst we do experience occasional problems in the Bowerdean area due to anti-social parking, the Waste Team has solutions available to maintain service delivery. The officers in that team also analyse reports from residents and work with SERCO managers to tackle problem areas and hot spots.

Supplementary Question

I don't blame the waste collectors. You mentioned Nicholas Gardens, but Sussex Gardens has more than 3 houses where waste collections have been delayed for over a week. There is inconsiderate parking, but we need a long term solution. Vermin and infection could result. Is a solution in hand?

Supplementary Response

Yes there is. When we have identified a problem, we work to solving it.

80 PETITIONS

Notice had been given that two petitions would be handed in.

- The first was presented by Cllr Zia Ahmed and was a petition by the residents of Sands for a Community Governance Review with a view to forming a Parish Council in Sands.

Councillor Z Ahmed did not take the opportunity to further summarise the petition.

- The second was presented by Cllr Khalil Ahmed and was a petition by the residents of the Unparished High Wycombe wards of the District for a Community Governance Review with a view to forming a Town Council for those wards.

Councillor K Ahmed outlined that he saw this petition as the people of High Wycombe taking back control, to have their say in their own future and to put some pride back into High Wycombe.

Including over 5,000 signatures, backed by 5 past mayors of the Town and supported by many groups, mosques, churches, schools and businesses; it represented people power winning through and would see the forcing through of the long overdue Community Governance Review for a town council.

It was noted that both petitions fell under the provisions of 2007 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act for Community Governance Review petitions. The provisions of that legislation took precedence over the Council's petition scheme. This legislation included the requirement to validate the petitions. Members and the lead petitioners would be informed outside of the meeting following that validation process.

Following the submission of these further two Community Governance Review petitions the Regulatory and Appeals Committee was to consider a report, on its 18 March agenda to cover the full picture involving all four Community Governance Review Petitions which had now been submitted to the Council.

It was intended that report would include those submitted this evening. After that, Full Council would be invited on 1 April to approve the Terms of Reference, which will have been considered and recommended by Regulatory and Appeals Committee.

As a result the Chairman advised Members that accordingly the report at Item 15 of this evening's agenda was withdrawn.

81 CABINET

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet 17 December 2018 be received, and the recommendations as set out at minutes number 64 and 68 be approved and adopted.

82 CABINET

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet 9 January 2019 be received.

83 CABINET

The Leader of the Council; Councillor Ms K Wood indicated that she had an interest in respect of Minute 83 of these Cabinet Minutes and left the room during the consideration of these minutes. Her Deputy Leader; Councillor D Barnes presented these minutes in her absence.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet 4 February 2019 be received.

The recommendations at Minute 80 were taken under the Capital Strategy item below.

Similarly the recommendations at Minute 81 were taken at the Council Tax Setting 2019/20 item below.

84 CAPITAL STRATEGY

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources presented the item, outlining its submission was in order to comply with CIPFA (Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy) regulations. The report before Council incorporated the Council's Capital Strategy, the Capital Programme including new capital proposals for the period 2018-19 to 2023-24, and the Treasury Management Annual Strategy Report for 2019-20.

The reports had been presented separately in previous years, but were now being presented together linking investment both in terms of treasury management and assets. The aim was to avoid duplication between the reports, and to strengthen the link between capital spending and the treasury management function.

In response to a Member query the Cabinet Member confirmed the Total Core Funds estimates for 18/19 of £74m, as opposed to £44.7m for 19/20 year end, as featured page 101 of the agenda.

In doing receiving and confirming the Strategy, the Council would be compliant with the Local Government Act 2003 and various other regulations and guidance and would ensure that the Council's investment plans were prudent, affordable and sustainable.

RESOLVED: That Council approve:

- a) the Capital Strategy at Appendix 1;
- b) the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement at Appendix 1a;
- c) the Capital Programme for 2018/19 to 2023/24 totalling £134.3m as summarised in Table 1;
- d) the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential and Treasury Indicators in Appendix 3; and
- e) the Treasury Management Practice at Appendix 3A.

85 COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2019/20 AND PRESENTATION FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (TO FOLLOW)

The meeting then specifically turned to the recommendations outlined in minute number 81 of the Cabinet Minutes of 4 February 2019 (Revenue Budget & Council Tax Setting 2019/20) along with the supplement issued to the item in advance of the meeting.

The Chairman explained the process that would be followed.

The **Leader of the Council** in introducing the Cabinet Member for Finance to make the Budget presentation, explained that this would probably be the last full budget for Wycombe District Council and the next year Councillors would not be approving a Wycombe District Council budget, but a budget for the new unitary authority.

The Leader was proud that in Wycombe District, Council tax was raised very infrequently. Yet again Wycombe was one of a very few number of councils who were not proposing an increase this year. Wycombe District had a proud record of fiscal prudence whilst regenerating the District and working hard for its residents to provide a uniquely appealing and attractive destination with a thriving economic centre and a high-quality public realm.

It was acknowledged that the Council could always do more, the Leader believed excellent value for money was given to the residents through the work done and services provided. The improvements made during the last four years included the new and improved leisure centre, Park and Ride, the children's nursery and gym and now a hotel, all at Handy Cross. In the town there was a new Aldi, Desbox and a new car park in Baker Street. New housing at Bassetsbury Triangle, Ashwells, Gomm Valley and Abbey Barn was underway. The Extra Care Home and Royal Star and Garter Home in Hughenden together with new homes and workspaces in the upper site are being provided. What a huge list of projects were being delivered for residents and there was still more to come. The Council was delivering for all. From affordable housing, open market housing and older people housing. Places for businesses from start-up businesses, artists workspaces and new retail, were being provided; the list went on and on.

Wycombe District Council under the current administration was ensuring that Wycombe District was economically strong, and the place to live, work and visit. The Council was delivering for its residents and ensuring a legacy to take forward into the new council.

Before handing over the Leader wished to put on record her thanks to the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Executive along with all the Senior Management team and other officers involved in the preparation of the budget. The Leader acknowledged that many hours of work went into preparing it and it was as always a challenging task that Members probably didn't really appreciate as they only saw the finished product.

The Leader also thanked the Budget Task and Finish Group for their intense scrutiny. They were a cross party group who had given their time to drill down into the detail of the budget and present their report to Cabinet, and again had provided an excellent report.

The Leader then asked her **Cabinet Member for Finance**; Cllr David Watson to present the budget.

The Cabinet Member noted that as local council tax payers all had an interest in the continued provision of high standard public services across the District at the lowest long-term cost. This budget, the 45th and final such budget which this Council would consider, sought to address the key challenges and risks facing the authority and how it planned to fund both the Revenue and Major Projects expenditure during the year ahead.

There were a number of financial challenges facing the council namely uncertainty about the future of business rates, to what extent would the Council see negative revenue support grant in the coming years and the impact of inflation.

There were also a number of financial risks which faced the Council during the year ahead, which included a possible increase in homelessness, the continued roll out of Universal Credit, the rising costs of the disposal of plastics, the potential volatility in retail rentals and the possible need for interim staff. There were also other risks, some of which were known about but were difficult to quantify, whilst others were yet to arise. On top of that there was the challenge of managing the Council through whatever Brexit decision emerged during the next 36 days.

For only second time this council had published a draft budget which had been reported at the December 17th Cabinet meeting – a detailed initial look at the budget had enabled members to reflect upon the year ahead and in particular allowed the Improvement and Review Commission Task and Finish Group the opportunity to scrutinise the numbers, and also discuss them with the Cabinet Member for Finance and the S151 officer. A series of one on one meetings between Cabinet Members, the relevant Heads of Service, the S151 officer and the Cabinet Member for Finance had also taken place during the past months and, as a consequence, the December draft had been amended in one or two respects.

As Members considered the financial future of the Council, the Cabinet Member first reminded members of what had gone before - notably during the period since the Tenant Led Transfer of the Housing stock to Red Kite, the Council had not had to borrow and had become accustomed to being in a financially advantageous situation and this had meant that neither interest costs nor any Minimum Revenue Provision had had to be charged to Revenue – the benefit of not having any borrowing costs had served to keep the Council Tax flat for most of the previous decade. A new tool had been introduced this year in order to assist in the prioritisation of competing capital expenditure proposals and this had been used to prepare the ambitious £134.3M major projects budget for 18-19 and 4 years thereafter. Expenditure of £51.8M was planned for the year ahead and the emphasis would need to be on project delivery during the last year of the Council. The underlying financial strategy

was to control major project expenditure within the council's capital funding envelope and thus avoid a return to borrowing and all the additional costs that would bring. The objective was to invest in the District to enable the locality to remain economically strong and generate future revenue streams. In order to keep within the projected capital envelope; £88.3 M of projects were planned to be funded from capital receipts and reserves whilst £46.0 M of projects were to be funded from external Grant from both Central Government and from Community Infrastructure Levies and Section 106 Contributions.

Some of the areas identified for future years investment included:

- £6.2m investment in community facilities including, cemeteries, community and sports premises – notably the Princes Risborough Springs Sports Centre and Court Garden Leisure Centre in Marlow.
- £48.1M for Planning including Strategic Acquisitions and Investments; the Princes Risborough relief road, Abbey Barn Lane realignment and the High Wycombe Town Centre Master Plan.
- o £34.8m investment in Economic Development including town centre investment and the regeneration in order to develop the public realm and develop an increased income stream to fund council services in the future - land at Ashwells and a number of Strategic Acquisitions.
- £14.9M investment in Housing – includes Temporary Accommodation, a development of park homes at the Bassetbury Triangle, the use of Disabled Facilities Grants and the delivery of Affordable Housing.
- £0.9M on Digital First (down from previous years) – with the planned migration to the cloud the majority of IT expenditure will be mainly revenue in the future.
- £7.7M Environment – Swan St Car Park Major Works, Waste Fleet and Parking Equipment refresh.

Moving onto the revenue side; the background to the Revenue budget was that over the past years the Council had worked hard to deliver the efficiencies required through fostering a culture of innovation and a focus on continuous improvement, engaging in shared services with other councils and obtaining the optimum return from the cash and investments that were held. Meanwhile the number of council employees had been reduced from over 600 to just over 250 during the past decade. This had enabled the Council to deliver savings for its 176,000 residents through a range of initiatives including more efficient structures, improved commercialisation, the pro-active use of council assets and the delivery of economic regeneration projects. With regards to 2019/20 the Council had set aside revenue budget for a number of additional purposes including the following:

1. £1,150K for Feasibility studies to support the ambitious Major projects programme, to ensure the Capital Projects previously outlined were feasible

2. A £3M contribution towards the total county unitary Transition Costs
3. £105K for Street Wardens
4. £61K for the Prevent programme no longer funded by central government.
5. £1,230k for Economic Development Grants – additional funding arising from the successful business rates pooling pilot bid
6. £78K for Youth mentoring project

In order to finance the above growth in expenditure the council expected to raise additional revenues from car parking charges, increase fees and charges, utilise the expected income stream from the new Crematoria, receive additional estate rental income, along with the application of earmarked reserves and the implementation of a number of service efficiencies. It was to be noted that the increase in car parking charges would be the first increase in ten years and the distribution of the increases was mainly weighted towards long stay parking.

Wycombe was the third largest District Council in terms of tax base, but 27th out of 201 in terms of council tax collected. In order to fund the budget for 2019/20, the Council was proposing to maintain the current level of Council Tax for a band D tax payer (and any other band, the Cabinet Member hastened to add). This meant that Council Tax would have only been increased twice during the past eight years. Wycombe District by freezing its council tax was bucking the national trend.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to say that the Wycombe Council Tax would remain the lowest amongst the four Buckinghamshire district councils and would also remain amongst the lowest 25% in the country – (176/201).

The Cabinet Member was grateful to past and present councillors and officers who had run this council in a “small c conservative” manner for many years and thus we had inherited healthy financial reserves which could, if needs be, be called upon in time of economic uncertainty – the Council did not want to be in a similar position to a number of struggling councils.

The Cabinet Member remarked that he had with him a copy of the 1928 Borough of Chepping Wycombe Year End accounts and it made interesting reading when compared with today – the breadth of the former responsibilities of that council was of note and how the responsibilities have been narrowed over time was striking – e.g. the “poor rate”, water, education libraries, assisted and council housing and much more – it was amazing what they could do without computer technology.

Wycombe District Council was founded in 1974 and had been a well- run council on which the Cabinet Member had, along with many other councillors, been proud to serve their local community. He knew that at least one councillor here that evening was first elected in 1978.

The Council left with a legacy of the leisure facilities at Handy Cross, a nursery and mini gym, new shopping facilities, Eden with a footfall of 14 million visitors a year and new homes at Bassetsbury and Ashwells in the pipeline. With regard to the planned unitary council this authority would continue to be run on a professional basis up until the end of 19/20 and would hand over a council

with well-run and sustainable services, a strong revenue stream, a strong balance sheet, no debts and a well thought out and ambitious major projects plan – to the Cabinet Members mind the financially strongest of all five Buckinghamshire councils – something that the Councillors could all be rightfully proud of.

Wycombe District Council was in a financially strong position and, as the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, he recommended this 45th and final budget.

Deputy Leader of the Council; Councillor Dominic Barnes seconded the Council Tax Setting recommendations and reserved his right to speak until later.

Leader of the Labour Group: Councillor Rafiq Raja responded noting the considerable work put into the papers before the Meeting by the Cabinet Member and his team of officers. He had served for a 3rd time on the Budget Task and Finish Group this year and had enjoyed this invaluable input into the process scrutinising the accounts and proposed budget.

Unfortunately he could not pack the Cabinet Member on the back for his prudence in not putting Council Tax up. Consequences of this approach were all too apparent across the District:

- Food Bank usage increase
- No or few children's services
- Pot holes
- Poor roads and footpaths

He realised that the majority group's response would be that these were County Council responsibilities, but were they not run by the same majority party group.

He emphasised that little resources were spent for the people of High Wycombe; ANPR had been a fiasco with an over £1m loss. A third of children in the east side of Wycombe were living in poverty. Boasts of excellent school services did not relate to the lower attaining schools, the attainment gap was not being addressed. Affordable housing was being delivered but was it ever truly affordable?

The River project provided a key initiative to re-invigorate the town he hoped the Cabinet would be able to support it whole-heartedly.

Deputy Leader of the East Wycombe Independents Party: Ms Andrea Baughan then responded, thanking all her colleagues and the officers for all the work they have done in putting together such a complex document and budget; an enormous task. The observations of the East Wycombe Independents were simply that the budget proposed a freeze overall and a reduction for HW residents of £5 per household to reduce the £553k reserves currently held in Special Expenses. Recognising that some residents may well welcome this freeze and reduction, it could be also be interpreted by High Wycombe residents that a freeze essentially equals a cut in funding to services at a time when there is more pressure than ever on these services, particularly those tackling homelessness and supporting those

most impacted by the ongoing austerity that had been faced, particularly those in our society who were most vulnerable.

In terms of the £5 reduction in the Special Expenses precept - residents were concerned about the state of the Town Centre, and the surplus funds that had built up could be spent on further investment, and as had been discussed, possible subsidising of parking charges or further improvements to parking facilities for those residents working locally, shopping and visiting our town centre or for major improvements such as works and initiatives to encourage footfall in the High Street and Frogmore.

Various Members then made the following remarks and received clarification of queries as follows:

- The state of the High Street in High Wycombe remained of concern to a considerable number of Members, a particular Member queried the out of town Members commitment to genuine improvements of such;
- A Member involved with Budgets for a considerable number of years both previously as an officer and more recently as a Member congratulated the Cabinet Member for Finance on his preparation of the Budget and remarked on the zero-council tax rise present for residents as a final farewell from the Council;
- A Member remarked on the opportunity under the new Unitary Council for Women Members;

Deputy Leader of the Council then took his opportunity to speak as seconder of the recommendations remarking that the zero increase in Council Tax represented money in the resident's pockets but the Cabinet did care about the vulnerable in the District and were always striving to improve and deliver services. He was delighted to whole-heartedly support the budget before Members.

The **Cabinet Member for Finance** closed the debate making the following points:

- There were very big financial questions and decisions ahead next year for District and County Councillors who may return as members of the new Authority;
- The £5 cut in the High Wycombe Unparished area was following a decision of the High Wycombe Town Committee;
- Work was going on behind the scene in respect of accessing renewal funds for the High Street;
- He could not agree with the disappointment voiced by a number of opposition Members, Wycombe District had much to be proud of; and
- A lot of the reserves were being utilised in the future year, some £51.8m to ask officers to do more projects was not feasible; this appeared to be the right level of commitment for the Council's last year.

He then asked Members to support his proposed recommendations. The Budget was the put to the recorded vote.

In accordance with subsection (5) of the Council's Standing Order 16 (Voting) the voting of the Members in respect of these Council Tax setting decision was recorded as follows:

In favour of the recommendations:-

Councillors Mrs J Adey, Ms S Adoh, Z Ahmed, M Appleyard, D Barnes, S Broadbent, D Carroll, Mrs L Clarke OBE, M Clarke, C Etholen, R Farmer, R Gaffney, A Green, G Hall, M Harris, A Hill, A Hussain, Maz Hussain, D Johncock, Mrs G A Jones, D Knights, Mrs J Langley, T Lee, Mrs W Mallen, N Marshall, H McCarthy, R Newman, G Peart, S Raja, J Savage, D Shakespeare, Mrs J Teesdale, N Teesdale, A Turner, D Watson, R Wilson and Miss K Wood.

Against:-

Councillors Ms A Baughan & Ms J Wassell

Abstentions:-

Councillors K Ahmed, M Asif, S Graham and R Raja.

In Favour:- 37

Against:- 2

Abstention:- 4

(Councillor B Pearce had left the meeting when the above vote was taken.)

Council RESOLVED that:

- i. the recommendations contained in Minute 81 of the Cabinet Meeting held on 4 February 2019 be approved and adopted;
- ii. the formal Council Tax Resolution as set out in Appendix A (and set out below) be approved;
- iii. the statement by the Chief Finance Officer regarding the robustness of the budget estimates and level of reserves as set out in Appendix B be noted; and
- iv. the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the Council attached at Appendix C. The rules of the 2019/20 scheme remain unchanged and are the same as what was originally approved in 2013/14.

- a) 69,104.75 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.

Parish	2019-20
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton	1,212.82
Bradenham	233.56
Chepping Wycombe	6,420.82
Downley	1,984.11
Ellesborough	438.95
Fawley (Parish Meeting)	144.42
Great & Little Hampden	165.16
Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh	494.18
Great Marlow	726.67
Hambleden	845.16
Hazlemere	4,015.27
Hedsor (Parish Meeting)	81.73
High Wycombe Town	23,208.46
Hughenden	3,984.07
Ibstone	146.21
Lacey Green	1,247.21
Lane End	1,431.42
Little Marlow	805.07
Longwick-cum-Ilmer	699.61
Marlow Bottom	1,523.22
Marlow Town	6,787.04
Medmenham	523.38
Piddington & Wheeler End	265.88
Princes Risborough	3,713.37
Radnage	385.10
Stokenchurch	1,945.00
Turville	217.92
WestW'- Parish Council	548.08
Wooburn and Bourne End	4,910.86
Total	69,104.75

The amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items (i.e. Parish precepts) relate, are shown above.

2. That the Council calculates the following amounts for 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011):

- a) £92,079,785 being the aggregate expenditure which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) (a) to (f) of the Act (including the General Fund and Parish Precepts).

The estimated gross revenue expenditure (including transfers to reserves) for the General Fund, Special Expenses account, other General Fund revenue reserves and parish precepts.

- b) £79,577,822 being the aggregate income which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act.

The estimated gross revenue income (Including the transfer of the surplus on the collection fund, formula grant and transfers from reserves) for the same funds as mentioned above.

- c) £12,501,963 as its council tax requirement for the year including Parish Precepts being the amount by which the aggregate expenditure at **2(a)** above exceeds the aggregate income at **2(b)** above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act.

The net funding requirement for the General Fund and Special Expenses accounts plus the parish precepts issued for the year.

- d) £180.91 as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year, being the council tax requirement at 2(c), divided by the Council Tax Base for the year 69,104.75 at **1(a)** above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act.

The average Band D tax across the district inclusive of parish precepts and Special expenses but exclusive of Bucks County Council, the Police and Fire authorities. It is not actually charged anywhere in the district but has to be calculated by law as part of the Council Tax setting process.

- e) £3,035,296 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

The total of parish precepts received for the year and the net Special expenses.

- f) £136.99 as the basic amount of its Council Tax for dwellings in its area, excluding Parish Precepts, being the amount at 2(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(e) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act.

This is the band D Council Tax for the District Council only.

- g) The amounts given by adding to the amount at **2(f)** above the amounts of the Parish Precepts for the relevant Parish divided in each case by the Council Tax Base for the Parish at **1(b)** above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in each Parish is as follows:

2019/20 Basic Council Tax £		
Parish / Town Area	Parish	WDC + Parish
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton	15.02	152.01
Bradenham	31.21	168.20
Chepping Wycombe	55.20	192.19
Downley	52.43	189.42
Ellesborough	41.01	178.00
Fawley	-	136.99
Great & Little Hampden	37.24	174.23
Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh	84.01	221.00
Great Marlow	17.52	154.51
Hambleden	37.86	174.85
Hazlemere	72.61	209.60
Hedsor	-	136.99
High Wycombe Town	14.50	151.49
Hughenden	53.12	190.11
Ibstone	47.88	184.87
Lacey Green	20.67	157.66
Lane End	115.27	252.26
Little Marlow	64.94	201.93
Longwick-cum-Ilmer	40.34	177.33
Marlow Bottom	24.95	161.94
Marlow Town	51.24	188.23
Medmenham	42.03	179.02
Piddington & Wheeler End	87.45	224.44
Princes Risborough	101.85	238.84
Radnage	75.39	212.38
Stokenchurch	40.72	177.71
Turville	27.53	164.52
WestW'- Council	92.14	229.13
Wooburn and Bourne End	71.07	208.06

This is the sum of the District Council's Band D tax and the individual Parish/ Town/ Special Expenses Band D taxes for each parish area. Hedsor and Fawley parishes issue nil precepts.

- a) The amounts given by multiplying the basic amounts for each Parish **2(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.

This refers to the following table. It shows the combined Wycombe District Council element of the Council Tax and the Parish/ Town/ Special Expenses element for each band of property in each parish area.

Parish / Town Area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton	101.35	118.24	135.12	152.01	185.79	219.57	253.36	304.02
Bradenham	112.13	130.82	149.51	168.20	205.58	242.95	280.34	336.40
Chepping Wycombe	128.13	149.48	170.84	192.19	234.90	277.60	320.32	384.38
Downley	126.28	147.33	168.37	189.42	231.51	273.60	315.70	378.84
Ellesborough	118.66	138.45	158.22	178.00	217.55	257.10	296.67	356.00
Fawley	91.33	106.55	121.77	136.99	167.43	197.87	228.32	273.98
Great & Little Hampden	116.16	135.53	154.89	174.23	212.95	251.67	290.39	348.46
Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh	147.34	171.89	196.45	221.00	270.11	319.22	368.34	442.00
Great Marlow	103.01	120.18	137.34	154.51	188.84	223.18	257.52	309.02
Hambleden	116.57	136.00	155.42	174.85	213.70	252.56	291.42	349.70
Hazlemere	139.74	163.02	186.31	209.60	256.18	302.75	349.34	419.20
Hedsor	91.33	106.55	121.77	136.99	167.43	197.87	228.32	273.98
High Wycombe Town	100.99	117.82	134.66	151.49	185.14	218.81	252.48	302.98
Hughenden	126.74	147.86	168.98	190.11	232.35	274.60	316.85	380.22
Ibstone	123.25	143.79	164.33	184.87	225.95	267.03	308.12	369.74
Lacey Green	105.10	122.62	140.14	157.66	192.69	227.73	262.77	315.32
Lane End	168.18	196.20	224.23	252.26	308.32	364.37	420.44	504.52
Little Marlow	134.62	157.06	179.49	201.93	246.80	291.67	336.55	403.86
Longwick-cum-Ilmer	118.22	137.93	157.63	177.33	216.73	256.14	295.55	354.66
Marlow Bottom	107.97	125.96	143.95	161.94	197.93	233.91	269.90	323.88
Marlow Town	125.49	146.40	167.32	188.23	230.06	271.88	313.72	376.46
Medmenham	119.35	139.24	159.13	179.02	218.80	258.58	298.37	358.04
Piddington & Wheeler End	149.63	174.57	199.50	224.44	274.31	324.19	374.07	448.88
Princes Risborough	159.23	185.77	212.30	238.84	291.91	344.99	398.07	477.68
Radnage	141.59	165.19	188.78	212.38	259.57	306.77	353.97	424.76
Stokenchurch	118.47	138.23	157.96	177.71	217.20	256.69	296.19	355.42
Turville	109.68	127.95	146.23	164.52	201.08	237.63	274.20	329.04
WestW'-Council	152.74	178.21	203.66	229.13	280.04	330.95	381.89	458.26
Wooburn and Bourne End	138.71	161.83	184.94	208.06	254.29	300.53	346.77	416.12

3. That it be noted that for the year 2019/20 the main precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with s40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

	Bucks County Council £	Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley £	Bucks & Milton Keynes Fire Authority £	Total Preceptors £
Band A	886.43	137.52	43.05	1,067.00
Band B	1,034.16	160.44	50.22	1,244.82
Band C	1,181.90	183.36	57.40	1,422.66
Band D	1,329.64	206.28	64.57	1,600.49
Band E	1,625.12	252.12	78.92	1,956.16
Band F	1,920.59	297.96	93.27	2,311.82
Band G	2,216.07	343.80	107.62	2,667.49
Band H	2,659.28	412.56	129.14	3,200.98

4. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts of the District's and preceptors requirements, in accordance with s30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets amounts of the council tax for the year 2019/20 for each category of dwelling as follows:

2019/20 Council Tax £			
	WDC & Parishes	Total Preceptors	Total Council Tax
Band A	120.61	1,067.00	1,187.61
Band B	140.71	1,244.82	1,385.53
Band C	160.81	1,422.66	1,583.47
Band D	180.91	1,600.49	1,781.40
Band E	221.11	1,956.16	2,177.27
Band F	261.31	2,311.82	2,573.13
Band G	301.52	2,667.49	2,969.01
Band H	361.82	3,200.98	3,562.80

The council tax for each category of dwelling by parish is as follows:

Parish / Town Area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton	1,168.35	1,363.06	1,557.78	1,752.50	2,141.95	2,531.39	2,920.85	3,505.00
Bradenham	1,179.13	1,375.64	1,572.17	1,768.69	2,161.74	2,554.77	2,947.83	3,537.38
Chepping Wycombe	1,195.13	1,394.30	1,593.50	1,792.68	2,191.06	2,589.42	2,987.81	3,585.36
Downley	1,193.28	1,392.15	1,591.03	1,789.91	2,187.67	2,585.42	2,983.19	3,579.82
Ellesborough	1,185.66	1,383.27	1,580.88	1,778.49	2,173.71	2,568.92	2,964.16	3,556.98
Fawley	1,158.33	1,351.37	1,544.43	1,737.48	2,123.59	2,509.69	2,895.81	3,474.96
Great & Little Hampden	1,183.16	1,380.35	1,577.55	1,774.72	2,169.11	2,563.49	2,957.88	3,549.44
Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh	1,214.34	1,416.71	1,619.11	1,821.49	2,226.27	2,631.04	3,035.83	3,642.98
Great Marlow	1,170.01	1,365.00	1,560.00	1,755.00	2,145.00	2,535.00	2,925.01	3,510.00
Hambleden	1,183.57	1,380.82	1,578.08	1,775.34	2,169.86	2,564.38	2,958.91	3,550.68
Hazlemere	1,206.74	1,407.84	1,608.97	1,810.09	2,212.34	2,614.57	3,016.83	3,620.18
Hedsor	1,158.33	1,351.37	1,544.43	1,737.48	2,123.59	2,509.69	2,895.81	3,474.96
High Wycombe Town	1,167.99	1,362.64	1,557.32	1,751.98	2,141.30	2,530.63	2,919.97	3,503.96
Hughenden	1,193.74	1,392.68	1,591.64	1,790.60	2,188.51	2,586.42	2,984.34	3,581.20
Ibstone	1,190.25	1,388.61	1,586.99	1,785.36	2,182.11	2,578.85	2,975.61	3,570.72
Lacey Green	1,172.10	1,367.44	1,562.80	1,758.15	2,148.85	2,539.55	2,930.26	3,516.30
Lane End	1,235.18	1,441.02	1,646.89	1,852.75	2,264.48	2,676.19	3,087.93	3,705.50
Little Marlow	1,201.62	1,401.88	1,602.15	1,802.42	2,202.96	2,603.49	3,004.04	3,604.84
Longwick-cum-Ilmer	1,185.22	1,382.75	1,580.29	1,777.82	2,172.89	2,567.96	2,963.04	3,555.64
Marlow Bottom	1,174.97	1,370.78	1,566.61	1,762.43	2,154.09	2,545.73	2,937.39	3,524.86
Marlow Town	1,192.49	1,391.22	1,589.98	1,788.72	2,186.22	2,583.70	2,981.21	3,577.44
Medmenham	1,186.35	1,384.06	1,581.79	1,779.51	2,174.96	2,570.40	2,965.86	3,559.02
Piddington & Wheeler End	1,216.63	1,419.39	1,622.16	1,824.93	2,230.47	2,636.01	3,041.56	3,649.86
Princes Risborough	1,226.23	1,430.59	1,634.96	1,839.33	2,248.07	2,656.81	3,065.56	3,678.66
Radnage	1,208.59	1,410.01	1,611.44	1,812.87	2,215.73	2,618.59	3,021.46	3,625.74
Stokenchurch	1,185.47	1,383.05	1,580.62	1,778.20	2,173.36	2,568.51	2,963.68	3,556.40
Turville	1,176.68	1,372.77	1,568.89	1,765.01	2,157.24	2,549.45	2,941.69	3,530.02

WestW'- Council	1,219.74	1,423.03	1,626.31	1,829.62	2,236.20	2,642.77	3,049.38	3,659.24
Wooburn and Bourne End	1,205.71	1,406.65	1,607.60	1,808.55	2,210.45	2,612.35	3,014.26	3,617.10

5. Determine that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 is not excessive, in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government has determined a set of principles which state that for an authority such as Wycombe District Council, the relevant basic amount of Council Tax is excessive if the amount for 2019-20 is 3%, or more than 3%, greater than its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018-19; and more than £5 greater than its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018-19. Since this authority is proposing a reduction of £1.58 then the above regulations have no impact for 2019-20.

86 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee of 17 October 2018, 12 December 2018 and 16 January 2019 be received.

87 HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the High Wycombe Town Committee held on 15 January 2019 be received.

88 IMPROVEMENT & REVIEW COMMISSION

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement & Review Commission held on 24 January 2019 be received.

89 REGULATORY & APPEALS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Regulatory & Appeals Committee of 11 February 2019 be received.

90 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

This report was withdrawn prior to the Meeting

91 PERSONNEL & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel & Development Committee of 18 February 2019 be received.

92 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee of 19 February 2019 be received.

93 EXTENSION WORKS TO COURT GARDEN LEISURE COMPLEX - PROCUREMENT PROCESS

Councillor Graham Peart (Cabinet Member for Community) presented this report requesting the Council's agreement to an exemption from Contract Standing Orders to enable a non-competitive award of a Development Agreement with a value of £2m with Places Leisure allowing them to deliver and complete refurbishment works at the Council's Court Garden Leisure Centre in Marlow.

Additionally a delegation was sought to enter into this agreement, deed of variation and associated legal documents in relation to the existing leisure operator agreement to the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the District Solicitor, Head of Finance and Cabinet Member for Community.

This was a system of procurement successfully used at Princes Risborough Springs. It enabled a complex refurbishment whilst the centre remained open for public use. Places Leisure effectively were to become a nominated contractor. Selling competitive tenders for the key elements of the work. WDC were to review costs and progress and make payments against an agreed schedule.

RESOLVED: That;

- (i) Exemption from Contract Standing Orders be granted to allow a 'non-competitive award of a Development Agreement with a value of £2M to allow Places Leisure ("PL") to complete refurbishment works at Court Garden Leisure Centre ("CGLC"); and
- (ii) Delegated authority be granted for entering into a Development Agreement, Deed of Variation and any

associated legal documents in relation to the existing Leisure Operator Agreement to the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the District Solicitor, Head of Finance and Commercial Services with the Cabinet Member for Community.

94 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 11.2

There were no questions submitted under Standing Order 11.2

95 URGENT ACTION TAKEN BY CABINET OR INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

The Individual Cabinet Member Decisions as set out in the summons were noted.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Peter Druce	- Democratic Services
Ian Hunt	- Democratic Services Manager
Karen Satterford	- Chief Executive