

## City Council

**Monday 22 February 2021**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Mavin, in the Chair.

Councillor Winter, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Carson, Churchill, Coker, Cook, Corvid, Dann, Darcy, Sam Davey, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler and Wiggins.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 6.11 pm.

*Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at [www.plymouth.gov.uk](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk). At a future meeting, the Council will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

#### 76. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 25 January 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record subject to –

An amendment to Page 15 as Councillor Mrs Johnson was showing as having voted twice and on

Page 12, Councillor Carson was showing as having voted twice and Councillor Ball's vote was not recorded on this item.

#### 77. **Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct in respect of items under consideration at the meeting –

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Councillor Bill Stevens	6	Employed by Devon and Cornwall Police	Private Interest
Councillor Kate Taylor	6	Partner is employed by Devon and Cornwall police	Private Interest
Councillor Ian Darcy	6	Employed by Devon and Cornwall Police	Private Interest

78. **Announcements**

The Director of Public Health provided an update on the current situation with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Since the last meeting rates had fallen. Current rates in Plymouth were 50 per 100,000 per week, 75 per 100,000 per week South West average and 121 per 100,000 per week England average.
- Plymouth's rates were in the bottom 5% of all local authority areas.
- Lowest levels that had been reached in winter months with the current lockdown levels, expected that a natural plateau had now been reached.
- Devon CCG had reported good progress with the vaccination program and plans were underway for the 65-70 and under 65s with underlying conditions.
- Over 95% of over 70s had been vaccinated.
- Data was showing that the vaccines were successful in reducing the effects of COVID19, even from the first injection, but this does take time to build immunity.
- The Prime Minister would announce plans for the upcoming months at 7pm on Monday 22 February 2021 with tests that must be met in order to continue easing lockdown restrictions.
- Although it was positive that we were moving towards restrictions being lifted and more people were being vaccinated every day, restrictions were still in place and people must remember to follow the hands, face and space guidance.
- Schools should be returning on 8th March 2021.
- Teams were working on optimising movement of people through vaccination centres safely.
- The launch a community champions programme to ensure that communities were getting the information on vaccinations that they need, tackling misinformation.
- Production of a vaccination toolkit for Councillor's with clear information for signposting.

79. **Questions by the Public**

There was one question from members of the public:

The following question was submitted by Mr Gregg Roger Black and answered by Councillor Tudor Evans OBE, Leader of the Council:

**Question:** Rail connectivity is very important to Plymouth, does the Leader support Devon County Council in reopening the line between Bere Alston and Oakhampton to Exeter as an alternative to the line past Dawlish? This would be an

**Answer:**  
We, as part of the Peninsula Rail Task Force, support the northern route as an additional line but the Peninsula Rail Task Force's number one priority is and always has been a resilient main line between Plymouth and Exeter that is also able to serve communities in Torbay and South Devon. Government must first commit to funding all the phases of work identified by Network Rail to make the existing coastal route more resilient. Phase 2 is under construction as we speak.

<p>alternative if there is another storm that damages the line like in 2014.</p>	<p>Longer Term, not only as rising sea levels continue to threaten the resilience of the coastal route but also the need to provide more train paths to meet rising demand in what will be an increasingly populated part of South Devon, a southern alternative route behind Dawlish becomes the preferred alternative main line route. Longer distance express services, not required to stop at any of the intermediate stations along the coast between Newton Abbot and Exeter, can use this alternative to avoid delays travelling behind stopping services and at the same time improve reliability and reduce journey times to Exeter and beyond into the bargain.</p>
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## 80. **Revenue and Capital Budget and Proposed Council Tax Levels For 2021/22**

At the start of the debate Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) proposed, Councillor Kelly (Leader of the Opposition) seconded and Council agreed that in accordance with Part B, Council Procedure Rule 14.6 of the Constitution, Rule of Debate 4.2 (in Appendix one) (which limits speeches to five minutes) was suspended for this item in relation to the speeches by the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition.

Councillor Evans OBE, Leader of the Council, introduced the Revenue and Capital Budget and Proposed Council Tax Levels for 2021/22 report as amended this was seconded by Councillor Lowry, Cabinet Member for Finance.

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) and Councillor Kelly (Leader of the Opposition) gave speeches on their perspectives regarding the Revenue and Capital Budget and Proposed Council Tax Levels for 2021/22.

Following debate, with contributions from Councillors Neil, Dann, Laing, Peter Smith, Haydon, Kate Taylor, Deacon, Stevens, Gosling, Nicholson, Derrick, Beer, Singh, Jordan, Drear, Lowry, Coker, James, Johnson, Darcy and Bridgeman.

Council agreed to -

1. approve the proposed net revenue budget requirement for 2021/22 of £195.568m;
2. approve an increase to the council tax levels for 2021/22 by one point nine nine percent (1.99%)
  - 2a. approve an increase to the Adult Social Care precept for 2021/22 by three percent (3.00%) and;
  - 2b. approve a contribution of £1.367m from reserves in order to balance the 2021/22 Council Budget.
3. approve the capital budget of £778.671m for 2020 to 2025 (Appendix B6);
4. note that the precept to the Council issued by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in accordance with Section 40 of the Local

Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area, will be confirmed at the meeting;

5. note that the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority precept will be confirmed for 2021/22 at the meeting;
6. note the Section 151 Officer's statement on the Budget as set out in section 2 of this report;
7. approve the annual Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Financing Strategy 2021/22 (incorporating the authorised limits, operational boundaries and prudential indicators) as submitted (Appendices B8 and B7);
8. note the response to the recommendations made by the Budget Scrutiny Select Committee and the Cabinet response to those recommendations (Appendix B9);
9. approve the use of flexible capital receipts to fund The Way We Work Programme;
10. delegate responsibility for any technical accounting changes which may arise after the budget to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance.

For (30)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Buchan, Corvid, Coker, Dann, Darcy, Derrick, Davey, Evans OBE, Haydon, Gosling, Hendy, Laing, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, Peter Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler, Winter (DLM).

Against (2)

Councillors Ball and Singh.

Abstain (23)

Councillors Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Carson, Churchill, Cook, Darcy, Deacon, Downie, Drear, James, Jordan, Johnson, Kelly, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Nicholson, Pengelly, Rebecca Smith, Watkin, Wiggins.

Absent/Did Not Vote (2)

Councillors Riley and Lord Mayor – Councillor Mavin.