

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2020 AT 7.34 PM  
PRINCES THEATRE - TOWN HALL, STATION ROAD, CLACTON-ON-SEA, CO15  
1SE**

<b>Present:</b>	Councillors Land (Chairman), Bray (Vice-Chairman), Alexander, Allen, Amos, Barry, Broderick, Bush, Calver, Casey, Chapman, Chittock, Clifton, Codling, Coley, Davidson, Davis, Fairley, Fowler, Griffiths, C Guglielmi, V Guglielmi, Harris, I Henderson, J Henderson, P Honeywood, S Honeywood, King, Knowles (except items 86 - 93 (part)), McWilliams, Miles, Morrison, Newton, Placey, Porter, Scott, Skeels, Steady, G Stephenson, M Stephenson, Stock OBE, Talbot, Turner, White, Wiggins and Winfield
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Ian Davidson (Chief Executive), Lisa Hastings (Head of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer), Richard Barrett (Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits Services & Section 151 Officer), Ian Ford (Committee Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer), William Lodge (Communications Manager), Katie Sullivan (Committee Services Officer) and Matt Cattermole (Communications Assistant)

**86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cawthron and Overton.

**87. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Members had had circulated to them, prior to the commencement of the meeting, an amended Page 12 of the Minutes which contained corrected text.

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council, held on Tuesday 21 January 2020, be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman, subject to the correction being made to page 12 of those Minutes as indicated on the amended page which had been circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

**88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

With regard to the Council's consideration of the budget and Council Tax proposals and the statutory provisions in respect of Members' declarations of interest thereon, the Monitoring Officer reminded Members of the salient points contained in her advice that had been recently circulated to them by email on 6 February 2020.

The Monitoring Officer also reminded Members that The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 required local authorities to hold a named vote on the Budget motion and any and all amendments thereto.

**89. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

The Chairman updated Council on recent and upcoming events in his diary including his Charity Quiz, his recent visit to Biberach, the Pride of Tendring awards and a voluntary services awards night.

**90. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive made the following announcements:-

Councillor Nicola Overton

*“Mr Chairman, Council will be aware that it is a requirement under Article 2.06 of the Council’s Constitution that if a Member exceeds four months without attending a meeting of the Council or attending a meeting of a committee or sub-committee of the Council either as an appointed member of a committee/sub-committee or as a substitute member of a committee/sub-committee that shall be reported to the next Council meeting.*

*Therefore, in accordance with the said Article 2.06 I formally report that Councillor Nicola Overton has exceeded four months without attending a meeting of the Council or attending a meeting of a committee or sub-committee of the Council either as an appointed member of a committee/sub-committee or as a substitute member of a committee/sub-committee.*

*The last meeting that Councillor Overton attended was the meeting of the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 October 2019.*

*Councillor Overton has recently contacted me and informed me that she is currently suffering from ill health.”*

Councillor Peter Harris

*“Mr Chairman, I formally report that, pursuant to Regulation 10(b) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Councillor Peter Harris has served formal notice on the Council that he no longer wishes to be treated as a member of the Tendring Independents political group.*

*I further formally report that Councillor Harris, pursuant to Regulation 9(b) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, has served formal notice on the Council that he wishes to be treated as a member of the Conservative political group. That notice has been duly counter-signed by the Leader of the Conservative Group (Councillor Neil Stock).*

*Councillor Stock has not exercised his right under Section 15(1)(e) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulation 17(c) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 for a review of the allocation of seats to political groups to be carried out.*

*This report is for Members’ information only.”*

**91. STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

There were no such statements on this occasion.

**92. STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

There were no statements by members of the Cabinet on this occasion.

**93. REPORT OF THE CABINET - A.1 - EXECUTIVE'S PROPOSALS - GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2020/2021**

The Council gave consideration to the Cabinet's General Fund budget proposals for 2020/21 and the amount of Council Tax for District and Town and Parish Council services for the financial year 2020/21, for each category of dwellings within the District of Tendring, to support the proposed level of expenditure.

Members were aware from Minute 105 (A.4) of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 January 2020, that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Corporate Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder, had been authorised to submit a report to this meeting in respect of the formal draft resolutions necessary to implement the Cabinet's budget proposals, together with any late information, or notifications received from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, as may necessarily affect the budget.

The Council was advised of all the resolutions and recommendations made by the Cabinet on 24 January 2019, together with the additional recommendations necessary to set the Council Tax levy. Those resolutions and recommendations were before the Council, as contained within item A.1 of the Report of the Cabinet.

The Council was aware that the Cabinet's proposed budget had been subject to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, which had included scrutiny by the Council's Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members were also aware that the Town and Parish Councils within the District had met to set their precepts and those precepts were contained within Appendix G to the Report of the Cabinet, which detailed the Precepts on the Collection Fund.

The Council was also aware from Appendix H that the average District and Parish Council Tax for a Band D property would increase to £214.91, an increase of 3.76%.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Stock OBE) made the following budget statement:

*"The protection of frontline services, the key foundation of our 10-year financial plan, is once more the crucial and significant deliverable in the budget we have in front of us tonight – I am so proud that we have been able to achieve this for a further year as this is so fundamentally important and really makes a difference to our residents. I know that every other Council, up and down this country, would love to be in this same position.*

*It has been an interesting 12 months since we sat here last year, not least the number of new faces around the room who are tonight considering their first budget as a District Councillor. It would be fair to say that in those last 12 months the government in Westminster, and Parliament in particular, got completely bogged down with a single issue, pretty much, it seemed, to the exclusion of anything else. But, the General Election in December has happily broken that deadlock, and we have now finally left the European Union and at long last made good on the referendum decision that this*

country made almost four years ago. And already we are seeing a much greater focus on the domestic agenda.

Just yesterday Chairman, it was announced that the Government has launched a consultation on creating up to 10 free ports with special tariff and duty status. The Chief Executive and I have already had a conversation with the Secretary of State for Communities on this very idea when he was in Harwich before Christmas and it is a consultation that we will engage with to the fullest as it could represent a terrific opportunity for Harwich and hence for the wider District.

The official announcement says that the Government has the following objectives for UK free ports, specifically it wants to:

- establish free ports as national hubs for global trade and investment across the UK;
- promote regeneration and job creation; and
- create hotbeds for innovation

The Government has drawn on evidence from successful free ports around the world to develop a UK free port model. The proposed model includes tariff flexibility, customs facilitations and tax measures. The Government is also considering planning reforms, additional targeted funding for infrastructure improvements and measures to incentivise innovation.

Nobody could dispute that it sounds fantastic, but the devil as always, will be in the detail, and I will keep Members informed as the consultation proceeds.

Chairman, there is so much that we want to do; to achieve as a Council and to benefit from as a District, and we need the new Government to genuinely understand our aspirations and support us as much as possible as we go forward.

The new business rates retention model has been postponed until 2021 and we must hope that it will provide sufficient and sustainable funding to this Council. We need the Government to support us in things such as giving us the powers and freedoms to be meaningfully commercial. In respect of the Housing Revenue Account budgets, the next item on the agenda tonight, Government needs to address the right-to-buy conundrum and help us to continue being the best council-house landlord in the country. This Council could really fly if the Government were to make what are just minor changes to rules and regulations – surely a situation that we all want to see going into the next financial year and beyond.

When I introduced the budget last year, I stated that there were no ‘frills’ included, but the budget proposed would help us to keep delivering good quality and relevant services to our residents, businesses and visitors.

As we moved into 2019/20, we have added the ‘frills’ and over the past year we have delivered, we continue to deliver, and we have made a number of further commitments to our key priorities.

In terms of projects we have delivered and continue to deliver, these include:

- Significant cliff stabilisation work in Holland-on-Sea;
- Office rationalisation;

- *Major events and activities including the Mayflower celebrations;*
- *The roll out of the new waste and recycling service; and*
- *Digital Transformation*

*These projects have seen millions of pounds being spent. In terms of digital transformation, such projects can seem a little invisible, especially to our residents, but it provides a foundation for us all in what is an ever-increasing digital world. It has also given us more resilience in areas such as business continuity, given the significant cloud migration project that remains in progress, and which is highly relevant as we see the world respond to the current corona virus outbreak.*

*In terms of further commitments, over the last few months we have committed funding to key projects such as:*

- *Rejuvenating Clacton Town Centre;*
- *The Starlings Site and Milton Road Redevelopment;*
- *Works to Clacton Leisure Centre; and*
- *The Tendring4Growth initiative*

*These projects along with others in the pipeline will see further significant investment in our District. Setting aside funding is a prudent thing to do as we can demonstrate that our commitments are cash-backed and not just ideas that we hope to fund in future years if we have enough money.*

*However, I do appreciate that whilst committing money is a necessary part of the budget-setting process, our residents only really see what is actually delivered on the ground. Therefore the actual delivery of projects and initiatives is key, and behind the scenes, the cogs and wheels have been slowly pieced together to give us a stronger platform going into 2020/21 – some of the cogs and wheels include a new project appraisal approach, developing a corporate investment plan to deliver against our priorities, recognising necessary additional staff capacity in areas such as public realm and engineering services, additional disabled facilities grant coordinator posts along with additional enforcement support. These various ingredients are now coming together, and we should start seeing the associated benefits as we head into 2020/21.*

*To protect frontline services, we first have to protect our underlying revenue position. Although this will take the form of a number of individual actions, one significant piece of the jigsaw has already been put in place in the form of an asset improvement fund. As we have discussed before, expenditure on our assets is expensive and we cannot rely on the underlying revenue position to generate the sums necessary for this type of investment – we have therefore set aside £1.134m to invest in our assets, especially in terms of contributing to our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.*

*As I mentioned earlier, we are developing an investment plan to support the delivery of our corporate priorities. This will draw together funding from existing budgets and therefore may include the reprioritisation of funds already set aside. It will also help us to provide a clearer understanding of external funding opportunities and give us the focus to chase money that is made available by various funding bodies at different times of the year.*

*We are still in the first year of a new administration and with the items I listed earlier, along with those that will be emerging over the remaining 3 years of this term, we should not only see our own money being ploughed back into the district but by also working*

*hard at our partnerships, and constantly and with relentless positivity making the case for Tendring, we will be attracting external funding into our area – we have been extremely successful at this in the past and I have no doubt we will continue to be so in the future.*

*In terms of putting money back into the District and levering in match funding, I want to announce two new investment funds tonight – the first is a Rural and Urban Infrastructure Fund, that looks to unlock economic growth through improvements to infrastructure, and I plan on allocating the full £1.2m of new homes bonus for 2019/20 to this new fund. The second is a Tendring Community Fund that seeks to support community groups and organisations that in turn support the residents and local communities across our District. I will be allocating £500k to this new fund from the Council's New Homes Bonus allocation for 2020/21.*

*Chairman, the Rural and Urban Infrastructure Fund will follow the lead set with the budget I moved way back in 2011 when we allocated £3m to a coastal improvement and enhancement fund. As Members will doubtless recall that budget decision, coupled with a vast amount of partnership collaboration and hard work led, in an incredibly short period of time, to a £37 million scheme, the largest of its kind in the country, that gave us 5km – over 3 miles - of new beaches and the protection of our coastline from Clacton to Holland. It is my hope that this new Rural and Infrastructure Fund can be used in a similar manner to kick-start a much bigger project or projects to bring about vital improvement to key infrastructure within the District. Examples of the kind of schemes I am thinking about could include a new road and rail crossing at Manningtree Station, a bypass for Thorpe Le Soken or even the proper upgrading of the A120 from Hare Green to Harwich. Obviously, and I want to make this clear, the £1.2m in this fund will not of itself be anywhere near enough to pay for any of those projects outright, but just as we did with the coastal improvement works, it could provide the seed-funding necessary, not only to demonstrate our serious commitment, but also to provide the technical framework necessary for such projects to progress and succeed and to attract the large-scale funding they will require.*

*In respect of the Tendring Community Fund, I see this as a successor to the hugely successful Big Society Fund, with a lead Portfolio Holder and cross-party representation on the panel that reviews and approves applications for grant funding. A key condition of awarding grant funding would be the generation of match funding. I will be asking officers to get going on these two initiatives and bring something back to Members as soon as possible to ensure we can make this money available to organisations as quickly as we can in 2020/21.*

*Let me now talk about our commitment to being carbon neutral by 2030. Money has already been set aside to develop a long-term action plan and the £1.134m put into the asset investment fund should also help us support the required actions needed to deliver against our commitment to tackling this issue.*

*The balance we are trying to find is to spend the one-off money we do have on things that either deliver against our carbon neutral commitment or raise money or save money or protect us from increased costs and wherever possible all of the above! This seems both logical and pragmatic.*

*2019 saw the roll out of our new waste service. We all accepted that there would be teething problems that come with a new service, but I think we have now reached that*

*stage in the project where there is now stability in the delivery of this important service to residents. We have saved £400k through the redesign of this service and have significantly increased recycling rates from 29% to over 40%. This has also increased the level of recycling credits that we get from Essex County Council, a further £50k saving has been included in 2020/21 budget which I am sure will only increase going forward.*

*It is also important for me to talk about the necessary £5 increases to council tax that have been built into the long-term forecast. We continue to have to make up the shortfall introduced by the significant cuts to our funding from Government over recent years. The £5 increase is only one ingredient to the overall budget and is a compromise we have to make to help deliver on our promise to protect front line services. It is also important to build our tax base in fairly modest stages, which will stand us in good stead in the latter years of the forecast. We also should remember that we still have one of the lowest levels of council tax in the country.*

*We do though need to make sure that our residents can see a link to services provided and projects and initiatives delivered. I echo my earlier comments about being at the cusp of delivering on the ground a number of key projects that will provide the platform that in turn provides benefits to the District over coming years.*

*You may not always see a return on every pound that is spent in the very short term, but small steps made tenaciously over a number of years do make a difference.*

*Some good examples of where this will be evident in future years are as follows:*

- Hosting stages of national cycling tours and races;*
- Hosting car rallies – the Tendring rally (now officially called the Corbeau Seats Rally Tendring and Clacton) is now one of the most important rally events on the calendar;*
- Sea and beach festivals; and*
- The air show and other visitor events.*

*Over time these activities build and promote the District as a 'go to' place, not only by domestic visitors but also internationally. This can only be good news for our local economy – it really puts Tendring on the map, a position that will be further enhanced by other major events such as the upcoming Mayflower celebrations where the Council is, of course, playing a key role.*

*Similarly, to what I said last year, whatever happens over this year and beyond, we must keep up the enthusiasm that is clearly there amongst us all to carry on making a difference. Let's carry on with good and honest debates and make well-informed decisions that are supported by our excellent officers.*

*Finally, I want to thank all officers and members, particularly those involved with the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Chairman, who have worked so diligently to get this budget before us tonight. I also want to mention that I certainly appreciate the positive and constructive engagement of group leaders at Cabinet meetings throughout the year, as some really good points have been raised that have helped to shape our understanding of the issues and facilitated better decision-making. I hope that spirit will continue as we go forward; we really are at the*

*cusps of providing some major projects and initiatives, so it is going to be a very exciting year ahead.*

*Chairman, I commend this budget to the Council, and I call on all Members to support the 2020/21 General Fund budget being proposed tonight. Thank you."*

It was moved by Councillor Stock OBE and seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi that the recommendations, as set out on pages 15 and 16 of the Council Book, be approved.

It was then moved by Councillor I J Henderson and seconded by Councillor Miles that Councillor Stock's motion be amended by the addition of the following:-

*"That Council agrees to the funding of a Housing Early Intervention Officer post for a fixed period of three years at a total cost of £100k, to support families in critical need of help when faced with difficult housing circumstances such as the threat of homelessness. The cost of this would be met from the net £393k unexpected Revenue Support Grant receivable in 2020/21."*

Pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6 and with the consent of his seconder and having consulted the Chief Financial Officer, Councillor Stock, on behalf of the Cabinet accepted the amendment and altered his motion to include Councillor Henderson's amendment.

It was then moved by Councillor Allen and seconded by Councillor Fowler that Councillor Stock's amended motion be further amended by the addition of the following:-

*"Following the recent agreement to 4 additional officers (2 in Public Realm and 2 in Building and Engineering services) to support improvements to the overall appearance of the District, Council agrees to fund further essential capacity of an additional 2 officers in 2020/21 at a cost of £44k. The cost of this would be met from the net £393k unexpected Revenue Support Grant receivable in 2020/21."*

Pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6 and with the consent of his seconder and having consulted the Chief Financial Officer, Councillor Stock, on behalf of the Cabinet accepted the amendment and further altered his motion to include Councillor Allen's amendment.

It was then moved by Councillor Bush and seconded by Councillor M E Stephenson that Councillor Stock's amended motion be further amended by the addition of the following:-

*"Council agrees that the remaining funding of £249k from the net £393k unexpected Revenue Support Grant be applied to directly support additional enforcement activities in 2020/21 and that the Portfolio Holder responsible for corporate enforcement be requested, in consultation with officers, to determine how this money can be effectively applied alongside existing enforcement activities during the year ahead."*

Pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6 and with the consent of his seconder and having consulted the Chief Financial Officer, Councillor Stock, on behalf of the Cabinet accepted the amendment and further altered his motion to include Councillor Bush's amendment.

In respect of Councillor Stock's motion, as amended, the vote resulted as follows:



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<u>Councillors For</u>	<u>Councillors Against</u>	<u>Councillors Abstaining</u>	<u>Councillors Not Present</u>
Alexander Allen Amos Barry Bray Broderick Bush Calver Casey Chapman Chittock Clifton Codling Coley Davidson Davis Fairley Fowler Griffiths G V Guglielmi V E Guglielmi Harris I J Henderson J Henderson P B Honeywood S A Honeywood King Knowles Land McWilliams Miles Morrison Newton Placey Porter Scott Skeels Steady G L Stephenson M E Stephenson Stock Talbot Turner White Wiggins Winfield	None	None	Cawthron Overton

Councillor Stock's motion was declared unanimously **CARRIED** and it was therefore:-

**RESOLVED** that, having had regard to the Chief Finance Officer's (Section 151 Officer) report on the Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves, in accordance with the requirements under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, and having taken account of the responses to the budget consultation process, the Council approves the budget proposals (based on a £5 Band D council tax increase for district services) and agrees:

- (i) that the total General Fund net revenue budget for 2020/21 be set at £14.582m (a council tax requirement of £8.354m excluding parish precepts);
- (ii) that the General Fund capital programme be approved totalling £1.024m in 2020/21;
- (iii) that the detailed General Fund budgets be as per the Cabinet's budget proposals of 24 January 2020, adjusted for the removal of the originally anticipated savings from business rates on public conveniences, as set out in Appendix D to item A.1 of the Report of the Cabinet, subject to:-
  - (a) funding of a Housing Early Intervention Officer post for a fixed period of three years at a total cost of £100k, to support families in critical need of help when faced with difficult housing circumstances such as the threat of homelessness. The cost of this to be met from the net £393k unexpected Revenue Support Grant receivable in 2020/21;
  - (b) funding of an additional 2 officers in 2020/21 at a cost of £44k to support improvements to the overall appearance of the District. The cost of this would be met from the net £393k unexpected Revenue Support Grant receivable in 2020/21;
  - (c) the remaining funding of £249k from the net £393k unexpected Revenue Support Grant being applied to directly support additional enforcement activities in 2020/21 and that the Portfolio Holder responsible for corporate enforcement be requested, in consultation with officers, to determine how this money can be effectively applied alongside existing enforcement activities during the year ahead;
- (iv) the calculation of the Council's Council Tax requirement, Special Expenses and Parish/Town Council precepts, as set out at Appendix F to item A.1 of the Report of the Cabinet;
- (v) the Council Tax for District and Parish/Town Councils' services, as set out at Appendix I to item A.1 of the Report of the Cabinet and that these are the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of the categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands; and that
- (vi) if budget adjustments are required following the late notification of external / grant funding, then in consultation with the Corporate Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder, budgets be adjusted accordingly with no net impact on the overall budget or capital programme set out above.

**94. REPORT OF THE CABINET - A.2 - EXECUTIVE'S PROPOSALS - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2020/2021**

The Council gave consideration to the Cabinet's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals for 2020/21, including the proposed increase in dwelling rents for 2020/21.

Members were aware from Minute 106 (A.5) of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 January 2020 that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, had been authorised to adjust the forecast / budget, including the use of reserves, if the financial position had changed prior to this Council meeting.

The Council was advised of all the resolutions and the recommendation made by the Cabinet on 24 January 2020, together with the additional recommendations necessary to set the HRA budget, fees and charges and dwelling rents for 2020/21. Those resolutions and recommendations were before the Council, as contained within item A.2 of the Report of the Cabinet.

The Council was aware that the Cabinet's proposed HRA budget had been subject to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, which had included scrutiny by the Council's Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Stock OBE) made the following budget statement:-

*"As mentioned earlier, there are many new faces in the room who will be considering a General Fund budget for the first time. But in terms of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), this is the first time that it has been in front of any of us at a Full Council meeting, so quite a timely change to previous arrangements.*

*In terms of size and scale, the HRA is on a par with the General Fund with expenditure in excess of £13 million each year.*

*It is a relatively quiet year budget-wise, but one of the highlights is the Government's removal of the requirement to reduce rents by 1% each year. As we have said before, this was unsustainable and has already taken a considerable amount of money out of the HRA - we estimate that it will have taken over £30m out of the account over a 30 year business planning period – money that could have gone into building new homes and improving existing homes.*

*Hopefully, people therefore see the proposed 2.7% rent increase as sensible, prudent and necessary to support the HRA budget to continue to remain strong and allow the Council to make the right investment in people's homes. The average proposed weekly rent is £82.42, which I think represents good value for money.*

*When speaking about the HRA it always seems a good time to reflect on the Right to Buy. We know it is unlikely to be something that the Government are ever going to do away with in England, so lobbying for such an outcome will likely fall on deaf ears. But perhaps a more productive approach would be to suggest ways to make the Right to Buy sustainable – this is something we have already done when officers met with representatives from MHCLG last year. We made some sensible and credible suggestions on how the Government could balance their political commitment to continue with the Right to Buy with making it financially sustainable for local authorities.*

*Looking ahead to 2021/22, we will need to revisit the 30-year business plan in light of the emerging housing strategy, but we are operating from a really strong base both financially and reputational.*

*We are still faced with a number of risks over and above the right to buy issue such as the outcome from the Grenfell inquiry. As set out in the report we all want to ensure that our tenants live in safe and comfortable homes and we would never put money ahead of individual safety.*

*The proposed increase in rents has enabled a £281k contribution to be made to the HRA capital programme so we can really get stuck-in to delivering new homes for local people going into the next financial year.*

*In terms of new homes, I talked earlier about seeing actual delivery on the ground, and I would urge everyone to take a look at the great progress we are making in Jaywick Sands with the 10 new houses really taking shape. We said this Council would build new council houses; we are doing it!*

*In echoing some of those comments made during the introduction of the General Fund Budget, we now need to keep on delivering as we can only demonstrate that we are doing the things people want us to do by them seeing it actually happen.*

*So Chairman, in conclusion, this proposed budget enables us to keep moving forward positively, I commend it most strongly to the Council and I call on Members to support the 2020/21 Housing Revenue Account budget that is being proposed."*

It was moved by Councillor Stock OBE, seconded by Councillor P B Honeywood and unanimously:-

**RESOLVED** that Council approves:

- (a) a 2.7% increase in dwelling rents in 2020/21;
- (b) the 2020/21 Scale of Charges shown in Appendix B to item A.2 of the Report of the Cabinet; and
- (c) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix A to the above report, along with the HRA Capital Programme and the movement in HRA Balances / Reserves, as set out in Appendix C and Appendix D respectively to the aforementioned report.

**95. URGENT MATTERS FOR DEBATE**

There were none on this occasion.

The Meeting was declared closed at 9.08 pm

**Chairman**