

## **COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2019**

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Alan Bishop, Emma Bushell, Matthew Courtliff, Malcolm Davies, Mark Dempsey, Paul Dixon, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Steph Exell, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Brian Mattock, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Kevin Small, Roger Smith, Andy Spry, Gary Sumner, Timothy Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Rahul Tarar, Vera Tomlinson, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams, Robert Wright and Julie Wright.

### **79. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Claire Crilly, Janine Howarth, Jim Robbins and Carol Shelley.

### **80. Communications**

The Chief Executive reported that no communications had been received.

### **81. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 be confirmed and signed.

### **82. Declarations of Interest**

The Worshipful The Mayor reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

Councillor Barbara Parry made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 6 as she worked for Ridgeway School and the White Horse Federation.

Councillor Barbara Parry made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 6(a) as her husband worked for Honda.

Councillor Kevin Parry made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 6(a) as he was an employee of Honda.

Councillors Fionuala Foley, Russell Holland, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Jane Milner-Barry, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry and Keith Williams made prejudicial declarations of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 6 in their capacity as private sector landlords.

**83.**

### **Public Question Time**

Mr Terry Reynolds submitted a written question in respect of the proposed rise in Council Tax. The Council was advised that the Leader of the Council had provided a written response to Mr Reynold's question and this had been circulated at the meeting.

Mr Reynolds asked a supplementary question in respect of elements of the proposed Council Tax rise and in particular the Parish Council and Wiltshire Police precepts. The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr Bill Janson submitted a written question in respect of the creation, by the Council, of a cross party working group on climate change. The Council was advised that the Leader of the Council had provided a written response to Mr Janson's question and this had been circulated at the meeting.

Mr John Ranford submitted a written question in respect of the climate change and the Council's commitment to support sustainable business within the Borough. The Council was advised that the Leader of the Council had provided a written response to Mr Ranford's question and this had been circulated at the meeting.

Mr Bill Hughes asked a public question regarding issues arising from Swindon's continued development and its effect on climate change. The Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services responded at the meeting.

Mr Gerry Hannon asked a public question in respect of capital works to be undertaken by the Council to the small pool at the Health Hydro.

Mr Hannon asked a supplementary question regarding the business plan and option appraisal for the future operation of the small pool. The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services responded at the meeting.

Mr Paddy Brennan asked a public question in respect of the Council Motion on Honda, and the Council's support for Honda's employees and the Trade Union in its attempt to persuade Honda to remain in Swindon. The Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity responded at the meeting.

**84.**

### **Motion Honda**

Councillor Dale Heenan moved, Councillor Jim Grant seconded and Councillor Stan Pajak supported:

"This Council notes with extreme sadness the news of 19th February 2019 that Honda will close its Swindon factory in 2021 and agrees that an all-party, borough-wide response is needed as a matter of urgency to protect the families of Honda employees, and the supply chain to the factory.

This Council agrees with the Task Force, chaired by Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, that the priority for all parties is to work together to persuade Honda Japan to keep the plant open. Acknowledging that there is a future for car manufacturing on the Swindon site, the back-up plan must

then be to find an alternative car manufacturer or comparable industry for this first class manufacturing facility.

Should Honda Japan decide at the end of the consultation period that it will proceed with its plan to vacate the site, this Council requests, that:-

- 1) The Leader writes to the Prime Minister requesting that she provides sufficient financial assistance to support affected families and businesses in order to protect the local economy, support businesses, and meet unexpected costs in recognition of the exceptional response and recovery effort that will be needed following the departure of Honda.
- 2) The Chief Executive assigns additional resources to the Business Retention and Expansion team to work with Honda, Government departments, and Unions.
- 3) The Leader of the Council brings a report to Cabinet outlining the Council's short, medium and long term response to Honda's decision, and how the Council will work with Honda, the Government, and the Local Enterprise Partnership to ensure the necessary training and help is available for workers to secure new jobs.
- 4) The Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity requests that the Chair of Economy Overview and Scrutiny forms a Cross Party Task Group that will assess options as to how SBC can assist where possible in the recovery effort."

The Motion was put to the vote and declared unanimously carried.

## **85. Council Budget 2019/20**

The Council considered joint reports of the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Director of Finance, considered by the Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 relating to (i) Budget 2019/20 and Beyond, (ii) Capital Programme 2019/20, (iii) Treasury Strategy Statement 2019/20, and (iv) Minute 56 of the Cabinet (Budget 2019/20 and Beyond), Minute 57 of the Cabinet (Capital Programme 2019/20) and Minute 58 of the Cabinet (Treasury Statement 2019/20).

Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded that, subject to the following changes, Minute 56(6) of the Cabinet (Budget 2019/20 and Beyond) be confirmed and adopted.

Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor Kevin Small seconded:

"That a £200,000 Honda Reserve be established within the Council Budget.

This change has been approved by the Council's Section 151 Officer."

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the vote on the amendment to the Cabinet (Budget 2018/19 and Beyond) was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Motion were: Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Alan Bishop, Emma Bushell, Matthew Courtliff, Malcolm Davies, Mark Dempsey, Paul Dixon, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire

Ellis, Stephanie Exell, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Brian Mattock, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Teresa Page, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Kevin Small, Roger Smith, Andy Spry, Gary Sumner, Tim Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Rahul Tarar, Vera Tomlinson, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams, Julie Wright and Robert Wright.

There were no abstentions or votes against the amendment.

The Motion was declared carried becoming the Substantive Motion.

Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor Kevin Small seconded:

That the Council budget be amended as follows:

“Expenditure

£100,000 Recruitment of additional Enforcement Officers  
£10,000 Reinstatement of Performing Arts budget.

This expenditure to be funded through £110,000 from enforcement income.

These changes have been approved by the Council’s Section 151 Officer.”

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the vote on the amendment to the Cabinet (Budget 2018/19 and Beyond) was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Motion were: Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Alan Bishop, Emma Bushell, Matthew Courtliff, Malcolm Davies, Mark Dempsey Paul Dixon, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Stephanie Exell, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Brian Mattock, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Teresa Page, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Kevin Small, Roger Smith, Andy Spry, Gary Sumner, Tim Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Rahul Tarar, Vera Tomlinson, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams, and Robert Wright.

There were no abstentions or votes against the amendment.

The Motion was declared carried becoming the Substantive Motion.

Councillor Kevin Small moved and Councillor Stan Pajak seconded:

“That the Budget be amended as follows:

“Additional Expenditure

£1.2m	Three year funding and set up cost of introducing the three
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	new Children Centres in Swindon.
£50k	Introduce the Living Wage Foundation - Living Wage
£50k	Setting up of the Preston model of "Community Wealth Building"
£100k	Set against the saving target allocated against the remodelling and consolidation of Older People Day Services. To help protect the present level of day care provision.
£6k	To retain cash payment at SBC Car Parks
£34k	To reinstate some of the cuts in Public Transport & "Dial & Ride Subsidy.
£1.44m	

Funded by:

£1.2m	Utilisation of the Infrastructure & Regeneration Fund
£240k	Additional enforcement income
£1.55m	

## (ii) Additional Items

It is understood that the Government is to make an announcement shortly that funding is to be made available to local authorities to provide a weekly food waste collection. If this funding is made available the in 2019/20 the identified saving within the 2019/20 budget in relation to the introduction of a weekly food waste collection service, be reallocated as follows:

£50k	Revenue to Capital Contribution to fund new "20 MPH" schemes
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The present LGS pay negotiations is again looking to bottom load the lowest pay scales which could result in all SBC employees moving above the Living Wage Foundation baseline. If this is contained with the inflation envelope outline within the budget then the £50K set aside for implementation will be reallocated to:

£50K	Additional resources to set against the saving target allocated against the remodelling and consolidation of Older People Day Services. To help protect the present level of day care provision.
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## Council Notes

The proposed amendments have been checked by officers and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed the budget amendments for 2019/20 are financially deliverable, if agreed, and the Budget would be lawful."

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the vote on the amendment of the Cabinet (Budget 2018/19 and Beyond) was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Amendment were: Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Emma Bushell, Matthew Courtliff, Mark Dempsey, Paul Dixon, Stephanie Exell, Jim Grant, Fay Howard, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Kevin Small, Andy Spry, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Julie Wright and Robert Wright.

Councillors voting against the Amendment were: Councillors Alan Bishop, Malcolm Davies, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Brian Mattock, Teresa Page, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Roger Smith, Gary Sumner, Tim Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Rahul Tarar, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the vote on Minute 56(6) of the Cabinet (Budget 2019/20 and Beyond) was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Motion were: Councillors Alan Bishop, Malcolm Davies, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Brian Mattock, Teresa Page, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Roger Smith, Gary Sumner, Tim Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Rahul Tarar, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

Councillors abstaining were Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Emma Bushell, Matthew Courtliff, Mark Dempsey, Paul Dixon, Stephanie Exell, Jim Grant, Fay Howard, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Kevin Small, Andy Spry, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Julie Wright and Robert Wright.

There were no votes against the Motion.

(2) Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded that Minute 57(8) of the Cabinet (Capital Programme 2019/20) be confirmed and adopted.

Councillor Kevin Small moved and Councillor Stan Pajak Seconded:

That the Capital Programme be amended as follows:

£200K of the LTP allocation in the Capital Programme to Highways improvement / funding to solving the traffic issues in the Rodbourne Area.

£50K (contribution from revenue) for the introduction of new “20 MPH” schemes.

That the first S106 money to be drawn from the Bradbury Park development be added immediately to the capital programme to allow for maintenance and repair

work to be carried at the Coate Water Splash Park as part of the £150K allocated for the mitigation of the general impact of the development to Coate Water. The mitigation element of this S106 funding should also be used to fund a major overall and improvements to the "Pitch & Putt" facility.

Council Notes

The proposed amendments have been checked by officers and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed the budget amendments for 2019/20 are financially deliverable, if agreed, and the Budget would be lawful."

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the vote on the amendment of the Cabinet (Budget 2018/19 and Beyond) was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Amendment were: Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Emma Bushell, Matthew Courtliff, Mark Dempsey, Paul Dixon, Stephanie Exell, Jim Grant, Fay Howard, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Kevin Small, Andy Spry, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts and Robert Wright.

Councillors voting against the Amendment were: Councillors Alan Bishop, Malcolm Davies, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Brian Mattock, Teresa Page, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Roger Smith, Gary Sumner, Tim Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Rahul Tarar, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

There were no abstentions.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the vote on Minute 57(8) of the Cabinet Capital Programme 2019/20) was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Motion were: Councillors Alan Bishop, Matthew Courtliff, Malcolm Davies, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Brian Mattock, Teresa Page, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Roger Smith, Gary Sumner, Tim Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Rahul Tarar, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

Councillors voting against the Motion were Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Emma Bushell, Mark Dempsey Paul Dixon, Stephanie Exell, Jim Grant, Fay Howard, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Kevin Small, Andy Spry, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, and Robert Wright.

There were no abstentions.

(3) Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded that Minute 58 of the Cabinet (Treasury Statement 2019/20) be confirmed and adopted.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

## **86. Council Tax Setting 2019/20**

The Council considered a joint report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Director of Finance, inviting members to formally resolve the Borough's Council Tax for 2019-20, recognising that Billing Authorities have a statutory requirement to set the annual Council Tax bills by 11th March.

Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded and the Council agreed:

“(1) That it be recorded that the advice of the Interim Director of Law (Monitoring Officer) has been taken into account in the setting of the level of Council Tax for 2019-20.

(2) That it be noted that the Council's revenue budget is £142,497,235 as recommended by the Cabinet to this Council on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

(3) That it be recorded that the advice of the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) has been taken into account in the setting of the level of Council Tax for 2019-20.

(4) That it be noted that in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) the Council's Tax Base for 2019-20 is 74,532.0 in total with the breakdown by Parish set out in Appendix 3.

(5) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011:-

- (a) Borough / Parish Gross Expenditure £489,133,180 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the 1992 Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- (b) Borough Gross Income plus Collection Fund Balance £379,272,043 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) Borough/Parish Net Expenditure £109,861,137 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT for the year.
- (d) Basic Amount of Tax (including average parish precepts) £1,575.64 being the amount at 4(c) above divided by the amount at 3 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. In accordance with Schedule 5 of the Localism Act 2011, this sum is not considered to be excessive.
- (e) Special Items £8,039,245 being the aggregate of Parish Precepts and collectively known as special items and referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (f) Basic Amount of Tax £1,366.15 being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by the amount at 3, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.



- (g) Basic Amount of Tax (Special and Parished Areas) the amounts shown in Appendix 2, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(f) above, the amounts of the special items relating to dwellings in the appropriate part of the Council's area - divided by the appropriate amount at 3 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a special item relates.
- (h) Borough/Parish Council Tax Rates the amounts shown in Appendix 1, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(g) 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.

- 5 (6) Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon That it be noted that for the year 2019-20 the Police and Crime Commissioner has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£137.51	£160.43	£183.35	£206.27	£252.11	£297.95	£343.78	£412.54

- 6 (7) Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority That it be noted that for the year 2019-20 the Swindon and Wiltshire Joint Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£49.91	£58.23	£66.55	£74.87	£91.51	£108.15	£124.78	£149.74

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the vote on this Motion was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Motion were: Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Alan Bishop, Emma Bushell, Matthew Courtliff, Malcolm Davies, Mark Dempsey Paul Dixon, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Stephanie Exell, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Brian Mattock, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Carol Shelley, Kevin Small, Roger Smith, Andy Spry, Gary Sumner, Tim Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Rahul Tarar, Vera Tomlinson, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams, and Robert Wright.

There were no abstentions or votes against the Motion.

## 87. **Housing Revenue Account - Rents and Charges 2019/20**

The Council considered (a) a joint report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety and the Corporate Director, Communities and Housing, concerning the

proposed Housing Revenue Account – Rents and Charges 2019/20, and (b) Minute 59 of the Cabinet (Housing Revenue Account – Rents and Charges 2019/20).

Councillor Cathy Martyn moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

That Council be recommended that:

- a) The proposed average rent for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) dwellings for 2019/20 of £78.60 per week (52 week basis), which is a decrease of 1.0%, be approved. This will be an average decrease of £0.79 per week (52 week basis). The range of decreases is shown in paragraph 3.8.
- b) The Corporate Director, Communities and Housing seek authority from the Secretary of State to extend the permission for the use of the Housing Revenue Account for payments to the Council's tenants under the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme, and provide a budget of £200k in 2019/20 as detailed at paragraph 3.22 of the report.
- c) The housing related support charges for 2019/20 and service charges for 2019/20, as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
- d) Leaseholder service charges are set for 2019/20, as shown in Appendix 3 to the report.
- e) Based on the proposals within this report, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) proposed budget 2019/20, shown in Appendix 4, be approved and that the HRA Capital Budget and Funding be also approved, as shown in Appendix 5 to the report, and that, as set out in 3.17 of the report, the tenure of the final 10 properties at Sussex Place to change tenure from shared ownership to affordable rent.
- f) The draft 3 year capital projects and planned maintenance programme be approved at an indicative funding level of £15.398m (2018/19 prices) for 2019/20, as referenced in Appendix 6 to the report.
- g) Rents charged on General Fund properties are reduced in line with Government guidance on Housing Revenue Account rents by 1% for 2019/20. Service charges for General Fund properties, as shown in Appendix 7, are approved.
- h) The charges for Private Sector Leased (PSL) accommodation for those accepted as homeless outlined, as reference in Appendix 7, be approved.
- i) Any underspend or overspend on the 2018/19 Housing Revenue Account be managed through the general revenue reserves.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

## **88. Swindon Pay Policy Statement 2019/20**

The Council considered (a) a joint report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services and the Director of Performance, Organisational improvement and Communications, on the requirement, under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, for the Council to agree and publish a Pay Policy Statement by 1<sup>st</sup> April each year, and setting out the Council's proposed Pay Policy Statement for consideration, (b) Minute 60 of the Cabinet (Pay Policy Statement), and (c) the Council's draft Pay Policy Statement.

Councillor Keith Williams moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

“That the Council’s Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 1 of the joint report be approved and adopted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

## **89. Motion - County Lines**

Councillor Barbara Parry moved and Councillor Teresa Page seconded:

“That this Council:

Recognises:

1. That County lines drug dealing is one of greatest threats of our time
2. The Children’s Commissioner estimates that there are at least 46,000 children in England who are involved in this type of gang activity.

Notes:

1. That this Council Is committed to building on the multi-agency relationships and increasing the partnership working that is so vital to not only the protection of but literally also the survival of some of the most vulnerable people in our Borough.
2. The excellent work that is already taking place by an extremely dedicated multi-agency teams around the signs of criminal exploitation and County Lines.

Requests that:

1. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety writes to the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Secretary of State for Education, requesting that the government develops a national strategy to address the issue of County Lines, which would:
  - Provide clear and effective national support for work being put together at a local level
  - Facilitate working across local authority boundaries, for example the need to track perpetrators and children across boundaries;
  - Address the need for ongoing support for young people and families that are affected
  - Provide guidance on timeliness of interviewing young people who have been found after having been notified as missing; and
  - Identify appropriate skills and resources for local authorities and local police forces and other relevant agencies to support a national strategy and deal with the impact of County Lines.
2. The Cabinet Member for Children and School Attainment, writes to EVERY school in Swindon encouraging them to:
  - a) Increase the work they are doing to raise awareness of County Lines and the wider criminal activity related to it;
  - b) Include County Lines training for ALL staff as part of the compulsory annual Safeguarding training. This would not only raise awareness but would provide all staff with the tools to identify children and young people who are either already victims of or who are at risk of exploitation;

- The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Jim Grant seconded:

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

The Interim Director of Law reported that a Standing Order 15 Question had been received from Councillor Jim Grant

Councillor Jim Grant asked a supplementary question seeking clarification as to when the Swindon Housing Company would build its first house. The Cabinet Member for Finance responded at the meeting.