BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BABERGH COUNCIL** held as a Virtual Meeting on Tuesday, 23 February 2021.

PRESENT:

Councillor: Kathryn Grandon (Chair)
Adrian Osborne (Vice-Chair)

Councillors:

Clive Arthey	Sue Ayres
Melanie Barrett	Peter Beer
David Busby	Sue Carpendale
Trevor Cresswell	Derek Davis
Siân Dawson	Mick Fraser
Jane Gould	Honor Grainger-Howard
Richard Hardacre	John Hinton
Michael Holt	Bryn Hurren
Leigh Jamieson	Robert Lindsay
Elisabeth Malvisi	Margaret Maybury
Alastair McCraw	Mary McLaren
Mark Newman	Zachary Norman
John Nunn	Jan Osborne
Alison Owen	Lee Parker
Stephen Plumb	John Ward

In attendance:

Officers: Chief Executive (AC)
Strategic Director (KN)
Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer (EY)
Assistant Director – Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer (KS)
Assistant Director - Assets and Investments (EA)
Assistant Director - Environment and Commercial Partnerships (CC)
Assistant Director - Economic Development & Regeneration (FD)
Assistant Director - Housing (GF)
Assistant Director - Customer, Digital Transformation and Improvement (SW)
Corporate Manager - Housing Solutions (HT)
Corporate Manager - Governance and Civic Office (JR)
Member Support Officer - Democratic Services (MS)
Senior Governance Officer (HH)

Apologies:

None

The Chair was minded moving the Motion on Notice before item 8 on the Agenda.

53 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

The Chair was minded moving the Motion on Notice before item 8 on the Agenda.

53.1 In accordance with delegated authority the Monitoring Officer had granted dispensations to all Members in respect of the 2021/22 Budget papers.

53.2 Councillor Jan Osborne declared a local non-pecuniary interest in Item 8 in her capacity as Trustee for the Sudbury and District Citizens Advice.

53.3 Councillor Maybury declared a local non-pecuniary interest in Item 8 in her capacity as Director and Trustee of Sudbury and District Citizens Advice.

54 BC/20/23 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2021

It was Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed at the next practicable opportunity.

55 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

54.1 The Chair of the Council invited the Leader, Councillor Ward to make his announcements.

54.2 Councillor Ward made the following announcements:

Covid-19

The District was now well into a sustained period of significant weekly decreases in infections. The latest data from the Suffolk Coronawatch site showed that in Babergh the infection rate was down to 52.2 per 100,000 which was so much better than a few weeks ago. In total, there had been 3,708 confirmed cases and sadly 209 deaths since the pandemic began, although this latter number was the latest data from the ONS and was only up to 5th February.

The progress that had been made in recent weeks with the delivery of the vaccines had been amazing. Despite the recent snow, this progress had catapulted Suffolk up the league tables in terms of delivery of the first doses to the first 4 cohorts and the Council was now one of the best-performing parts of the country. Approximately 60,000 vaccinations had now been delivered and capacity was currently standing at 20,400 pw in SNEE and 17,200 in WS. The latest news about the effectiveness of the two vaccines was really encouraging.

The work clearly wasn't done however, and last week he had met with Ed Garrett from our CCGs to ensure that the Council was working as closely as possible with the NHS to support the delivery of the vaccine. Together they would be targeting resources in getting to the minority that qualify but had not yet received their jab.

It was also really good to see a huge increase in testing capability with the new community testing programme. Rapid asymptomatic testing sites were being rolled out across the county. There was now one in Cornard; Nayland opened yesterday, Holbrook would open on Thursday and Hadleigh on Friday.

He was pleased that the Council had been able to extend the council tax hardship scheme to provide further help to the most vulnerable in the district who had been most impacted by Covid.

In respect of the Government's plans for leading the country out of lockdown, there were lots of reasons to be hopeful but in the meantime, he would like to reiterate the wider Suffolk messages that Suffolk *Needs* You: to follow the guidance – hands, face, space; to get tested regularly if you were unable to work from home; and to get your Covid jab when it's your turn. In return Suffolk *Supports* You: through Home But Not Alone and our community involvement, the distribution of business grants, self-isolation payments and practical support for those most in need.

Bins
He wanted to pay tribute to the Council's bin crews who were back out within 48 hours including working on the past two Saturdays, making collections and clearing the backlog as best they could despite the weather. They had now managed to catch up, despite additional staff absences due to several having to go into isolation.

Holiday Hunger
As it was half term last week, he also wanted to highlight the fantastic initiative in place, building on what had been done during the Christmas holiday, to tackle holiday hunger. This scheme involved food parcels containing ingredients for five meals for a family of four distributed to families during half term. The initiative, delivered on behalf of the Council by Abbeycroft Leisure's Explore Outdoor team, ensured no child goes hungry when free school meals are paused during the school holidays. Families in need were identified by local schools and the food parcels also included ideas on how to make food stretch further in future – making a real difference to the lives of low-income families in the district.

Chilton Woods
Finally, many would have heard that the sale of Chilton Woods to Taylor Wimpey had been completed. The Council could now look forward to this new community grow over the coming years and Babergh would ensure that the Council was involved in delivering the sustainable transport infrastructure needed to integrate it into the greater Sudbury area.

56 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

56.1 The Deputy Monitoring officer reported that the following validated petitions had been received:

1. 364 valid signatures urging the Council to reconsider and continue to fund the Customer Access Point.

2. 34 valid signatures urging the Council to reconsider and continue to fund the Customer Access Point in its current location for at least 2 years.

The petitions would be dealt with through the usual petitions process.

57 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

57. None received.

58 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

58. None received.

59 MOTION ON NOTICE

59.1 The Chair informed Council that she was minded to limit the debate to 30 minutes and invited Councillor Cresswell to move the Motion.

59.2 Councillor Cresswell **PROPOSED** the Motion as detailed in the agenda and explained why this Motion had been brought to Council. The Motion was **SECONDED** by Councillor Owen, who reserved her right to speak.

59.3 Councillor Lindsay began the debate by stating that while he would be voting for the Motion, he was hesitant and felt that the Cabinet system was not working.

59.4 Councillor Beer stated that there had been an opportunity at the recent Cabinet meeting to put questions forward on some of the issues raised, in particular parking in Hadleigh and Sudbury. The meeting had been attended by some Members however, Councillors Cresswell and Owen had not taken part in the meeting.

59.5 Councillor Ayres supported the Motion as she was elected to represent the interests of her Ward and she has been inundated with letters from constituents expressing their unhappiness with how the Council had been dealing with issues in Sudbury.

59.6 Councillor Jan Osbourne expressed her support for Councillor Ward and stated that she would not be supporting the Motion.

59.7 Councillor Fraser stated that he would not be supporting the Motion and agreed with Councillor Beer that there had been no representation from Sudbury Members at the Cabinet Meeting on 4th February regarding parking issues.

59.8 Councillor Malvisi stated that the Cabinet system was working well and that it was Members' responsibility to attend Cabinet meetings and to question and challenge Cabinet thinking.

59.9 Councillor Maybury commented that she had attended a Cabinet meeting and would be supporting the Motion, as she believed Councillor Ward was not fulfilling the roles and functions of all Councillors as set out in the Constitution.

59.10 Councillor McCraw stated that it had been an incredibly difficult year, however, despite this the Council was being presented with a balanced

budget and all essential works had continued. The three main issues raised by Councillor Cresswell were the work of a variety of different decision-making processes. He felt the Motion assigned blame which he felt was not appropriate and he urged Members not to support the Motion.

59.11 Councillor Davis commented that he had been a part of the Cabinet for a while and the current administration was far more cohesive and productive whilst having to make some tough decisions, made for the benefit of the residents of Babergh. These decisions had been taken by Cabinet as a whole not just by Councillor Ward.

59.12 Councillor Hurren stated that he would not be supporting the Motion as he felt it smacked of political opportunity, however he felt that things were being presented badly, which was creating a disconnect.

59.13 Councillor Hardacre stated that he would be supporting the Motion and although the pandemic had played a part in the issues, some of the issues raised were pre-pandemic. Despite Councillor Ward being praised as part of the debate for bringing the Council together, the Green Party had not been offered a seat on Cabinet even though they made up one eighth of the Council.

59.14 Councillor Ward disputed some of the comments made during the debate and stated that consultation had been undertaken and listened to for the issues at Belle Vue and parking.

59.15 Councillor Arthey stated that he did not agree with the Motion and he supported Councillor Ward. The last twenty months had presented huge challenges and Councillor Ward had risen to those challenges.

59.16 The Chairman advised Members that the 30 minutes set aside for the debate for this item had been reached and apologised to Councillor Busby for not being able to allow him to speak.

59.17 Councillor Owen, the Seconder of the Motion, stated that Councillor Ward had not been open and transparent with the Councillors on the backbenches and had let down residents in Sudbury, Hadleigh and the surrounding villages. Councillor Owen urged the Councillors who felt that they needed a change to support the Motion.

59.18 Councillor Cresswell agreed with Councillor Owen and that some things had not been done correctly and so many Sudbury residents had expressed that they were frustrated with what was going on in their town and this was the best way to make those views known.

59.19 The Motion was put to Members for voting.

By 20 votes against, 10 votes for and 2 abstentions.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the Motion was lost.

60 BC/20/24 GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2021/22 AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK

60.1 The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Ward to introduce Paper BC/20/24.

60.2 Councillor Ward provided a summary of the General Fund Budget to Members. He thanked the Finance Team and the Section 151 Officers for preparing a balanced budget.

60.3 Councillor Ward **MOVED** the recommendations in the report which was **SECONDED** by Councillor Arthey.

60.4 Councillor Jamieson introduced his Amendment, as detailed in the Agenda and **MOVED** the Amendment.

60.5 Councillor Lindsay **SECONDED** the Amendment.

60.6 The Chair asked Councillor Ward if he accepted the Amendment, to which he responded that he did not.

60.7 Members debated the Amendment and Councillor Arthey said that though he agreed with many of the issues in the Amendment, this was not the right way to achieve them. He addressed the four parts of the Amendment and thought that just allocating money to address issues was not the way and that this required a more constructive approach.

60.8 Councillor Gould thought that climate change was the biggest challenge faced by the Council and she felt that the Council had to do something and needed to speak up for the people they represented.

60.9 Councillor Malvisi said a plan was being followed in relation to biodiversity and that the issues were being addressed. She detailed the various projects and funding for the bio-diversity projects.

60.10 Councillor Jan Osborne responded to the Housing issues and advised Members that a retrofit programme was being defined and funded. The request in the Amendment was already in the budget for 2021-22.

60.11 Councillor Davis stated that funding for Local Citizens Advice was already in the budget and had recently been scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

60.12 Councillor McCraw thought that the Amendment was not evidence based. He pointed Members to the Budget and that Babergh District Council did not have the money due to serious gaps in the budget for the next couple of years.

60.13 Councillor Maybury supported the Amendment, as she felt that planning enforcement required additional support and added that training was not a waste of time.

60.14 Councillor Hinton thought there was some good points within the Amendment but considered if the Council could reduce costs to pay for other services. He questioned why accommodation costs in Endeavour House were going up next year to £128K.

60.15 Councillor Lindsay, the Seconder of the Amendment, asked that the Members supported the Amendment, as it was very modest sums involved in the projects. The Amendment addressed the priorities of the Council and he questioned whether the Cabinet Members and the Leader were doing enough to deal with the issues addressed in the Amendment. He thought it was not enough that officers were talking to developers and that viability was skirted over by Councillor Arthey, however he stated that the Council needed to hold developers to account. He continued that Officers were overworked and could not keep up with the amount of work before them. He asked that Cabinet Members considered staffing resources, as this would have an impact on the priorities for the Council. He asked that Members approved the Amendment as this would not have a huge impact on the reserves but would have an impact on how residents viewed the Council and its projects.

60.16 Councillor Hurren commented that a change of direction required long-term planning and that the Council must employ the right people to do the right jobs.

60.17 Councillor Jamieson was disappointed that some Members would not support any part of the Amendment.

60.18 Councillor Ward said the Council was committed to climate change and was as committed as the Greens. He addressed the issues in the Amendment including the funding for the LCA, the Food Banks and staff resources.

60.19 The Chair informed Members that the Amendment would be divided into four votes and each vote taken separately.

60.20 **Part 1** (Planning and Community Needs) of the Amendment as detailed in the Agenda was put to Members for voting.

By 10 votes for and 22 votes against, the Amendment was **LOST.**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.3, the vote was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
	Clive Arthey	
Sue Ayres		
	Melanie Barrett	
	Peter Beer	

	David Busby	
	Sue Carpendale	
Trevor Cresswell		
	Derek Davis	
	Sian Dawson	
	Mick Fraser	
Jane Gould		
	Honor Grainger-Howard	
	Kathryn Grandon	
Richard Hardacre		
	John Hinton	
	Michael Holt	
Bryn Hurren		
Leigh Jamieson		
Robert Lindsay		
	Elisabeth Malvisi	
Margaret Maybury		
	Alastair McCraw	
	Mary McLaren	
	Mark Newman	
	Zac Norman	
John Nunn		
	Adrian Osborne	
	Jan Osborne	
Alison Owen		
	Lee Parker	
	Stephen Plumb	
	John Ward	
TOTAL 10	**TOTAL 22**	

60.21 **Part 2** (Biodiversity and Environment) of the Amendment as detailed in the Agenda was put to Members for voting.

By 10 votes for and 22 votes against, the Amendment was **LOST**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.3, the vote was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
	Clive Arthey	
Sue Ayres		
	Melanie Barrett	
	Peter Beer	
	David Busby	
	Sue Carpendale	
Trevor Cresswell		
	Derek Davis	
	Sian Dawson	

	Mick Fraser	
Jane Gould		
	Honor Grainger-Howard	
	Kathryn Grandon	
Richard Hardacre		
	John Hinton	
	Michael Holt	
Bryn Hurren		
Leigh Jamieson		
Robert Lindsay		
	Elisabeth Malvisi	
Margaret Maybury		
	Alastair McCraw	
	Mary McLaren	
	Mark Newman	
	Zac Norman	
John Nunn		
	Adrian Osborne	
	Jan Osborne	
Alison Owen		
	Lee Parker	
	Stephen Plumb	
	John Ward	
TOTAL 10	**TOTAL 22**	

60.22 **Part 3** (Housing and Climate Change) of the Amendment as detailed on the Agenda was put to Members for voting.

By 8 votes for and 24 votes against, the Amendment was **LOST**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.3, the vote was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
	Clive Arthey	
Sue Ayres		
	Melanie Barrett	
	Peter Beer	
	David Busby	
	Sue Carpendale	
Trevor Cresswell		
	Derek Davis	
	Sian Dawson	
	Mick Fraser	
Jane Gould		
	Honor Grainger-Howard	
	Kathryn Grandon	

Richard Hardacre		
	John Hinton	
	Michael Holt	
Bryn Hurren		
Leigh Jamieson		
Robert Lindsay		
	Elisabeth Malvisi	
	Margaret Maybury	
	Alastair McCraw	
	Mary McLaren	
	Mark Newman	
	Zac Norman	
	John Nunn	
	Adrian Osborne	
	Jan Osborne	
Alison Owen		
	Lee Parker	
	Stephen Plumb	
	John Ward	
TOTAL 8	**TOTAL 24**	

60.23 **Part 4** (Travel) of the Amendment as detailed in the Agenda was put to Members for voting.

By 9 votes for and 23 votes against, the Amendment was **LOST.**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.3, the vote was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
	Clive Arthey	
Sue Ayres		
	Melanie Barrett	
	Peter Beer	
	David Busby	
	Sue Carpendale	
Trevor Cresswell		
	Derek Davis	
	Sian Dawson	
	Mick Fraser	
Jane Gould		
	Honor Grainger-Howard	
	Kathryn Grandon	
Richard Hardacre		
	John Hinton	
	Michael Holt	
Bryn Hurren		

Leigh Jamieson		
Robert Lindsay		
	Elisabeth Malvisi	
Margaret Maybury		
	Alastair McCraw	
	Mary McLaren	
	Mark Newman	
	Zac Norman	
	John Nunn	
	Adrian Osborne	
	Jan Osborne	
Alison Owen		
	Lee Parker	
	Stephen Plumb	
	John Ward	
TOTAL 9	**TOTAL 23**	

60.24 Members returned to the original motion and the Chair invited Members to ask questions.

60.25 Councillor Fraser referred to the implementation of the car parking fees in October 2021 (page 44, paragraph 8.19) and who would be making the decision on the implementation date and asked what would be the criteria on setting that date.

60.26 Councillor Ward explained that it was a not before date, but a date had to be included in the budget process, but that Cabinet would make the decision for the final date based on the success of the high street and businesses. The situation was being carefully monitored before the decision would be made.

60.27 Councillor Maybury asked whether the refunds made to residents for the suspended garden waste collection due to the Covid-19 Pandemic had been taken into account in the General Fund budget, to which Councillor Malvisi, Cabinet Member – Environment, confirmed that they had.

60.28 Councillor Dawson asked for clarification of the date for introduction of parking tariffs in Hadleigh and Councillor Ward reiterated that the decision would be based on business recovery.

60.29 Councillor Dawson commented that the high street had suffered and that the timing of the car parking charges was poor whilst Cabinet had not listened to the proposal of deferment of tariffs. She asked what the criteria was for the decision and who would be making it.

60.30 Councillor Ward responded that car parking charges was not being discussed, but that the implementation date had been pushed back based on the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

60.31 Councillor Gould enquired how the recovery would be measured and Councillor Ward said that Members would be informed in due course.

60.32 Councillor Hurren referred to the service charges for Endeavour House (page 43, bullet point 3) and asked why this had increased. He also questioned the £80K for the hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO), as he thought that would have been cheaper than conventional fuel.

60.33 Councillor Ward explained that the cost of HVO was more expensive than diesel fuel and the £88K represented the difference between the two. However, the transport costs saving would mostly cover this cost in the first year of the scheme. It was a green measure, which at times could be expensive but would have a huge impact on the carbon reduction for the Council. He invited the Chief Executive to respond to the service charges question.

60.34 The Chief Executive explained that the Council had a discounted rate for the first two years for service charges at Endeavour House but that this had come to an end. Negotiations for reducing the service charges were being undertaken with Suffolk County Council due to the current situation. As a result of the new ways of working and the success of working from home including agile and remote working because of the Pandemic, the Council was exploring whether as much floor plate space was needed at Endeavour House. This would have an effect on not just service charges but also on rent.

60.35 Councillor Holt ensured Members that he and the Economic team would be working closely with the Sudbury and Hadleigh Chamber of Commerce, including the town centre manager in Sudbury and the Town Councils to evaluate the high street recovery. He encouraged Members to feed back to him any information regarding the town centre recovery. There was a road map in place for recovery set by Government and high street recovery would not really begin until the summer. The car parking charges were not proposed to until after October, though he anticipated that the implementation would not be feasible until early next year.

60.36 In response to Councillor Maybury's queries on Appendix D, the Assistant Director – Corporate Resources responded that the salary cost for the Chief Planning Officer was in fact for the whole planning team.

60.37 Councillor Barrett questioned the increased costs for the rental agreement at Endeavour House and what action the Council could take in relation to the rental agreement.

60.38 The Chief Executive explained that the length of the rental agreement was ten years and included a break clause after five years. The Council could not change the length of the lease but could have conversations with SCC for variations on the agreement.

60.39 In response to Councillor Maybury's question regarding the Public Realm

Contract, the Assistant Director – Environment and Commercial Partnerships explained that the cost of bringing the service in-house was the same as the cost of the previous Idverde contract. The cost would include a combination of replacement and borrowing new vehicles. The Council would endeavour to convert the vehicles to HVO and purchase electrical vehicles in due course.

60.40 The Chief Executive and Councillor Ward responded to further questions from Members regarding the break clause in the contract for Endeavour House, which was joint with Mid Suffolk District Council.

60.41 Members debated the issues including planning enforcement, car parking charges, that the Council endorsed a green infrastructure and that the Council had a reasonable financial position this year.

60.42 The Chair advised Members that the recommendations would be voted on collectively.

60.43 Recommendations 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 were put to Members for voting.

By 23 votes for, 8 votes against and 1 abstention

It was RESOLVED:-

1.1 That the General Fund Budget proposals for 2021/22 and four-year outlook set out in the report be approved.

1.2 That the General Fund Budget for 2021/22 be based on an increase to Council Tax of £5 per annum (10p per week) for a Band D property, which is equivalent to 2.96%.

1.3 That the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy at Appendix E be approved.

1.4 That the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) be notified of the adoption of the Strategy.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.3, the vote was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Clive Arthey		
	Sue Ayres	
Melanie Barrett		
	Peter Beer	
David Busby		
Sue Carpendale		
	Trevor Cresswell	
Derek Davis		
Sian Dawson		

		Mick Fraser
	Jane Gould	
Honor Grainger-Howard		
Kathryn Grandon		
Richard Hardacre		
John Hinton		
Michael Holt		
Bryn Hurren		
	Leigh Jamieson	
	Robert Lindsay	
Elisabeth Malvisi		
	Margaret Maybury	
Alastair McCraw		
Mary McLaren		
Mark Newman		
Zac Norman		
John Nunn		
Adrian Osborne		
Jan Osborne		
	Alison Owen	
Lee Parker		
Stephen Plumb		
John Ward		
TOTAL 23	**TOTAL 8**	**TOTAL 1**

60.44 The meeting had reached the guillotine deadline and the Chair asked for a proposer and seconder for the meeting to continue.

60.45 Members approved by consensus and none spoke against the proposal.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the meeting continue beyond the guillotine deadline until all the business of the meeting was concluded.

Note: The meeting was adjourned between 8:08pm and 8:16pm.

61 BC/20/25 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 2021/22 BUDGET AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK

61.1 The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Ward to introduce Paper BC/20/25.

61.2 Councillor Ward introduced the paper and provided a summary of the Housing Revenue Account Budget (HRA) and Four-Year Outlook report.

61.3 Councillor Ward **PROPOSED** Recommendations 3.1 to 3.7 as detailed in the report.

61.4 Councillor Jan Osborne thanked the Cabinet Member for Finance for his introduction to the report and stated that as Cabinet Member for Housing she was fortunate to see first-hand the work of the Housing Service each day. She also said that the income received by the HRA was invaluable to support tenants by ensuring the housing provided was safe, decent and somewhere tenants were proud to call home and she **SECONDED** Councillor Ward's proposal.

61.5 Councillor Jamieson introduced his Amendment as detailed in the Agenda and **PROPOSED** the Amendment.

61.6 Councillor Lindsay **SECONDED** the Amendment and reserved his right to speak.

61.7 The Chair asked Councillor Ward if he accepted the Amendment, to which he replied that he did not.

61.8 Councillor Maybury commented that she agreed with the Amendment because to reduce the Council's use of fossil fuels and install heat source pumps would be the way forward for the Council.

61.9 Councillor Jan Osborne stated that officers were currently working to develop a revised Housing Revenue Business Plan which would set out the ambitions and investments in the medium to long term and this was expected to be brought forward during the summer after a consultation period involving all Members. Therefore, there was no benefit to creating a specific reserve for the HRA housing stock.

61.10 Councillor McCraw stated that he would not be supporting the Amendment, as it was an ill-defined proposal unsupported by evidence.

61.11 Councillor Lindsay commented that a lot of work had gone into the Amendment and was offended by the assumption that no research had been undertaken. He said that he appreciated that the team were struggling to undertake an audit of the housing stock in relation to how much energy they were leaking. The process needed to be accelerated and officers needed the money to enable them to undertake this work.

Note: Councillor Holt Left the meeting at 8:43pm.

61.12 The Amendment as detailed in the Agenda was put to Members for voting.

By 9 votes for and 22 votes against, the Amendment was **LOST.**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.3, the vote was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
	Clive Arthey	
Sue Ayres		

Melanie Barrett		
	Peter Beer	
	David Busby	
	Sue Carpendale	
Trevor Cresswell		
	Derek Davis	
	Sian Dawson	
	Mick Fraser	
Jane Gould		
	Honor Grainger-Howard	
	Kathryn Grandon	
Richard Hardacre		
	John Hinton	
	Bryn Hurren	
Leigh Jamieson		
Robert Lindsay		
	Elisabeth Malvisi	
Margaret Maybury		
	Alastair McCraw	
	Mary McLaren	
	Mark Newman	
	Zac Norman	
	John Nunn	
	Adrian Osborne	
	Jan Osborne	
Alison Owen		
	Lee Parker	
	Stephen Plumb	
	John Ward	
TOTAL 9	**TOTAL 22**	

61.12 Members returned to the original Motion and the Chair invited questions.

61.13 Councillor Hinton queried that there was no proposed increase to garage charges and asked if it was known how many of the garages were used to store cars and what the impact would be if the charges for garages was increased.

61.14 Councillor Osborne replied that the take up for garages was low and increasing the charges might have an impact on future rental of garages. There was a project being undertaken to assess garage sites to see if any were suitable for redevelopment.

61.15 Councillor Dawson began the debate by stating that some garages were too small to store cars and that the Council should be investigating the compulsory purchase of garages to enable them to be developed.

61.16 Councillor Maybury agreed with Councillor Dawson's comments and suggested that raising the charges would be a way of making garage sites

available for development.

61.17 Councillor Osborne responded that she felt it would be unfair to increase garage charges to accommodate the Council's need to free up the garages.

61.18 Councillor Owen suggested that there was a genuine need for parking spaces in some areas and perhaps improvements to the garages should be investigated rather than developing them.

61.19 Councillor Beer stated that he was not in favour of raising charges but would be in favour of investigating if mixed ownership blocks of garages could be improved to make parking arrangements more suitable.

61.20 Councillor Osborne agreed that there was a parking problem in the District, and this would be considered as part of the evolving parking strategy.

61.21 Councillor Ward fully endorsed Councillor Beer's views regarding reducing the number of garages to free up space for more open parking.

61.22 Recommendations 3.1 to 3.7 were put to Members for voting and the vote was **CARRIED.**

By 24 votes for and 7 votes against

It was RESOLVED:-

1.1 That the HRA Budget proposals for 2021/22 and four-year outlook set out in the report be approved.

1.2 That the CPI + 1% increase of 1.5% in Council House rents, equivalent to an average rent increase of £1.35 a week be implemented.

1.3 That garage rents be kept at the same level as 2020/21.

1.4 That Sheltered Housing Service charges be increased by £0.69 per week to ensure recovery of the actual cost of service.

1.5 That Sheltered Housing utility charges be kept at the same level as 2020/21.

1.6 That the budgeted surplus of £127k be transferred to the Strategic Priorities reserve in 2021/22.

1.7 That in principle, Right to Buy (RTB) receipts should be retained to enable continued development and acquisition of new council dwellings.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.3, the vote was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Clive Arthey		
Sue Ayres		
Melanie Barrett		
Peter Beer		
David Busby		
Sue Carpendale		
	Trevor Cresswell	
Derek Davis		
Sian Dawson		
Mick Fraser		
	Jane Gould	
Honor Grainger-Howard		
Kathryn Grandon		
	Richard Hardacre	
John Hinton		
Bryn Hurren		
	Leigh Jamieson	
	Robert Lindsay	
Elisabeth Malvisi		
	Margaret Maybury	
Alastair McCraw		
Mary McLaren		
Mark Newman		
Zac Newman		
John Nunn		
Adrian Osborne		
Jan Osborne		
	Alison Owen	
Lee Parker		
Stephen Plumb		
John Ward		
TOTAL 24	**TOTAL 7**	

62 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CABINET / COMMITTEES

63 BC/20/26 JOINT CAPITAL, INVESTMENT AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES 2021/22

63.1 The Chair invited Councillor Hurren to introduce Paper BC/20/26 and to move the Recommendations in the report.

63.2 Councillor Hurren introduced the report and provided a summary of the key information contained within it.

63.3 Councillor Hurren expressed his thanks to the Finance team and **PROPOSED**

Recommendations 3.1 to 3.7 as detailed in the report.

63.4 Councillor McLaren **SECONDED** the proposal and also expressed her thanks to the Finance team.

Note: Councillor Ward left the meeting at 9:03pm.

63.5 Recommendations 3.1 to 3.7 were put to Members for voting and the vote was **CARRIED.**

By 26 votes for, 3 votes against and 1 abstention

It was RESOLVED:-

That the following be approved:

1.1 The Joint Capital Strategy for 2021/22, including the Prudential Indicators, as set out in Appendix A.

1.2 The Joint Investment Strategy for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix B.

1.3 The Joint Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22, including the Joint Annual Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix C.

1.4 The Joint Treasury Management Indicators as set out in Appendix D.

1.5 The Joint Treasury Management Policy Statement as set out in Appendix G.

1.6 The Joint Minimum Revenue Provision Statement as set out in Appendix H.

1.7 That the key factors and information relating to and affecting treasury management activities set out in Appendices E, F, and I be noted.

64 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS

64.1 There were no updates to Councillor Appointments.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9:08pm

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Chair