

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Town Hall, Bideford

Monday, 27 February 2017 - 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor M Langmead (Chair)  
Councillor J Himan (Vice-Chair)

Councillors A Boyle, D Brenton, M Brown, K Carroll, R Darch, K Davis, G Dezart, A Eastman, Z Gregorek, P Hackett, R Hicks, D Hurley, T Inch, S Inch, K James, T Johns, R Julian, J Langton-Lockton, P Le Maistre, R Lock, D McGeough, J Morrish, I Parker, P Pennington, S Robinson, C Simmons and R Wiseman

ALSO PRESENT: J Wallace, Head of Paid Service  
S Hearse, Strategic Manager (Resources)  
J Hollis, Senior Solicitor  
D Heyes, Finance Manager  
S Kearney, Commercial & Leisure Services Manager  
J Jarroudi, Community Engagement Officer  
H Roper, Service Improvement Officer  
S Cawsey, Democratic Services Officer  
T Vanstone, Democratic Services Officer

Mr I Harper, Independent Member

76. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Christie, Watson, Whittaker, Boundy, Hancock, Whittle and Dart.

77. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

There were no public contributions.

78. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER BUSINESS ESPECIALLY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE CHAIR

With the permission of the Chair, the Head of Paid Service brought to the attention of Members an issue with regard to the skateboard park in Bideford.

Following an inspection by engineers a decision had been made to close the skateboard park as from 28 February. An inspection report had established that

the equipment at the park had corroded and was therefore a health and safety issue.

Contractors plan to install a temporary ramp on the same site which will then be incorporated into a new scheme. The park will be closed for a short period of time while the old equipment is removed and the temporary equipment installed. Longer term plans for the park will be designed around the responses received during the consultation which is already being held. The new park to be implemented in 2018/19.

79. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE A9

There were no questions submitted under Procedural Rule A9.

80. NEW HOMES BONUS PROTOCOL

The Community Engagement Officer presented this item, which he explained had previously been submitted to Community & Resources Committee and Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Members were informed that at the Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting there had been a split decision when voting on whether one signatory or multiple signatories be required to sign applications prior to submission. It was recommended that the matter be referred to Full Council.

It was proposed by Councillor A Inch, seconded by Councillor Morrish that the New Homes Bonus applications be signed by any one Ward Member where a project is to be delivered.

(Vote: For 12, Against 17)

The motion was lost.

It was proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Davis and –

Resolved:

That the New Homes Bonus applications be signed by all Members in a Ward where a project is to be delivered.

(Vote: For 17, Against 12)

81. BUDGET 2017/18, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 - 2021/22

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Strategic Manager (Resources) circulated to the meeting a document detailing council tax proposals for 2017/18 outlining the council tax payable by parish and council tax bands.

Members were informed that the purpose of the report was to present the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) indicating the possible extent of the budget and funding shortfall that the Council will face in the future. This would identify the extent of service changes needed to be made in order to achieve a balanced budget in each financial year.

When referring to the Torridge Provisional Finance Settlement 2017/18, the Strategic Manager (Resources) confirmed this had gone through Parliament the previous week and therefore the figures stated in the report were the figures for 2017/18.

Business Rates Retention Scheme – due to the challenging increase in Business Rates being faced by many local businesses (very nearly 300) in Torridge following the valuation exercise, Members at the Community & Resources Committee meeting suggested that a meeting be held with Geoffrey Cox MP. The Leader of the Council and the Strategic Manager (Resources) met with Geoffrey Cox MP and outlined to him the impact that this will have on the Businesses within Torridge. There are winners and losers across the District and the MP agreed that he would do what he could to emphasise the potential impact this could have on local businesses. One area, which was easier to target is the fact that the Rural Rate Relief thresholds have not been increased

A detailed report of the overall position was given

Members were advised of the following amendment to recommendation 18b) in the report:

“That £0.400m is transferred **FROM** the Transition in .....” and not to.

During the discussions reference was made to the Holsworthy Agri-Estate Infrastructure. Councillor Morrish declared a prejudicial interest and left the room. He took no part in the discussion. Following a brief discussion Councillor Morrish returned to the meeting.

During the presentation a number of questions were asked by Members and duly answered by the Strategic Manager (Resources).

Members were reminded that a recorded vote was required.

It was proposed by Councillor Hackett, seconded by Councillor S Inch that recommendations a) – j), subject to the amendment to recommendation b), be taken en bloc and approved.

Councillor Brenton proposed an amendment, namely that any increase in council tax go towards housing. There was no seconder for this motion.

Resolved:

That:

- a. Torrridge's Band D Council Tax for 2017/18 be increased by £5 (3.36%) from £148.66 to £153.66 per year.
- b. That £0.400m is transferred from the Transition in Government Funding Reserve as recommended in paragraph 10.7.
- c. Torrridge's Net Revenue Budget 2017/18 is £10.250m.
- d. The grants to external organisations as reported in paragraph 10.4 and attached as Appendix 1.
- e. Contributions from and control of the Council's reserves as outlined in paragraph 10.3 is approved.
- f. That Members note the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) assurance of the robustness of the Budget 2017/18 set out in section 13 of the report.
- g. Notes the assumptions and forecasts applied to develop the MTFs outlined in section 14
- h. Notes the forecast surplus of £0.04m in the MTFs for 2021/22.
- i. Notes the risks associated with the Budget 2017/18 and MTFs outlined in paragraph 14.3.
- j. The inclusion of the Capital Projects (PiDs) listed at 12.6 into the Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2021/22.

Votes were recorded as follows:

<b>COUNCILLORS</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
BOYLE, AJ	X		
BRENTON, DG		X	
BROWN, M		X	
CARROLL, K	X		
DARCH, R	X		
DAVIS, K		X	
DEZART, GA		X	
EASTMAN, AJ	X		
GREGOREK, Z	X		
HACKETT, PJW	X		
HICKS, RH		X	
HIMAN, J	X		
HURLEY, D	X		
INCH, AT	X		
INCH SG	X		

JAMES KJ	X		
JOHNS TJ	X		
JULIAN, R		X	
LANGMEAD, M	X		
LANGTON-LOCKTON, J	X		
LE MAISTRE, PG	X		
LOCK, RA	X		
MORRISH, J	X		
McGEOUGH, DAD		X	
PARKER I	X		
PENNINGTON, PW		X	
ROBINSON, S		X	
SIMMONS, C	X		
WISEMAN, R		X	

(Vote: For 19, Against 10)

82. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2017/2018

The Strategic Manager (Resources) presented this report, the purpose of which was to enable the Council to calculate and approve the Council Tax requirement for 2017/18.

Councillor Morrish commented that whilst a great supporter of the police and other services, they should not take for granted that they can increase the council tax.

Members were reminded that a recorded vote was required.

It was proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded by Councillor Hackett and -

Resolved:

That the formal Council Tax Resolution for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

<b>COUNCILLORS</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
BOYLE, AJ	X		
BRENTON, DG		X	
BROWN, M		X	
CARROLL, K	X		
DARCH, R	X		
DAVIS, K		X	
DEZART, GA		X	
EASTMAN, AJ	X		
GREGOREK, Z	X		
HACKETT, PJW	X		
HICKS, RH		X	
HIMAN, J	X		
HURLEY, D	X		
INCH, AT	X		

INCH SG	X		
JAMES KJ	X		
JOHNS TJ		X	
JULIAN, R		X	
LANGMEAD, M	X		
LANGTON-LOCKTON, J	X		
LE MAISTRE, PG	X		
LOCK, RA	X		
MORRISH, J	X		
McGEOUGH, DAD		X	
PARKER I	X		
PENNINGTON, PW		X	
ROBINSON, S		X	
SIMMONS, C	X		
WISEMAN, R		X	

(Vote: For 18, Against 11)

83. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

84. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.30 pm

Chair:

Date: