

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

23 July 2009 at 4.00 pm

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor P B Tuley) in the Chair

Members of the
Council present:

Councillors Mrs F J Barden, Mrs P I Broadhead, J Broadhead, M J Brown, D A Cotty, Mrs R M Denby, J M Edwards, P A Francis, J R Furey, Mrs L M Gillham, R N Jones, C Knight, Mrs G M Kingerley, A Moore, D W Parr, Mrs M Roberts, P Roberts, P Taylor, A P Tollett, P B Tuley, Mrs G Warner and G B Woodger

Members of the
Council absent:

Councillors A Alderson, J R Ashmore, H A Butterfield, C J Chapman, A J Davis, R J Edis, Mrs C E Gant, Mrs E Gill, D R Hamilton, Mrs M T Harnden, Miss M H Heath, M T Kusneraitis, Mrs Y P Lay, H W V Meares, C J Norman, L C Pouyanne, A S T Ridge-Newman, N Stewert, P J Waddell and J Wilson

195. FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Mayor read out the Fire Procedure.

196. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 16 July 2009 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

197. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded Members of the forthcoming Freedom of Entry to Borough ceremony which would be held in Chertsey and Addlestone on 25 July, to celebrate the centenary of the Territorial Army.

198. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Gant, Hamilton, Kusneraitis, Norman, Ridge-Newman, Waddell and Wilson.

199. COUNCIL TAX FOR THE 2009/10 FINANCIAL YEAR - AMENDED (Ref: Minutes of Corporate Management Committee, 25 June 2009)

By reason of special circumstances, namely the need to set a new Council Tax following the receipt of a revised precept demand from the Surrey Police Authority, the Mayor was of the opinion that this item should be considered as a matter of urgency under Section 100B of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with Standing Order 10.4.

The Council considered the setting of an amended Council Tax for the 2009/10 financial year following the issue of a capping order to the Surrey Police Authority.

The Council noted that on 26 March 2009 the Minister for Local Government had announced that the Government regarded Surrey Police Authority's budget as excessive and proposed to take action to limit their budget. The Surrey Police Authority made strong representations to the Government, urging that their budget should not be capped. However, in a written statement on 13 May, the Minister confirmed that the Government intended to proceed with capping action.

The Leader of the Council had written to the Minister urging the Government not to take capping action in view of the fact that this would only reduce bills by 6 pence per week.

On 9 July 2009 Parliament had approved a capping order which limited the amount that the Surrey Police Authority could charge for their element of the Council Tax.

The Police Authority had subsequently failed in their attempt to get a judicial review of the Minister's capping decision. Consequently, the Surrey Police had approved an amended budget that did not exceed the amount of £197,206,000 stated in the Order. Accordingly, the Surrey Police Authority

had issued the Council with a revised precept demand of £6,401,063.34. This equated to a Band D Council Tax of £193.86, an increase of 3.16% on their tax of £187.92 charged in 2008/09. The new Band D charge of £193.86 represented a reduction of £3.24 from the Band D charge of £197.10 originally set by the Surrey Police Authority.

The Council Tax relating to Surrey County Council and Runnymede Borough Council was unaffected by the capping order, so the Council had to set a new Council Tax to reflect the revised precept from the Police Authority.

In setting the new Council Tax, Councillor Furey, Leader of the Council, expressed great disappointment with the Government's action and stated that the result of the capping would be the loss of approximately 50 Police Officers across the county and a reduction in resilience for the Police Service generally.

Surrey Police Authority was the best performing and least funded in the country and Members considered that the public would be prepared to pay a higher level of Council Tax to properly resource the Police service.

RESOLVED that -

- i) **it be noted that for the year 2009/10, Runnymede Borough Council set the following amounts at its meeting on 12 February 2009 as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;**

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Amount	£88.62	£103.39	£118.16	£132.93	£162.47	£192.01	£221.55	£265.86

- ii) **it be noted that for the year 2009/10, Surrey County Council has stated the following amounts in precepts 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	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Amount	£726.12	£847.14	£968.16	£1,089.18	£1,331.22	£1,573.26	£1,815.30	£2,178.36

- iii) **it be noted that for the year 2009/10, Surrey Police Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council in accordance with Sections 40 and 42 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:**

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Amount	£129.24	£150.78	£172.32	£193.86	£236.94	£280.02	£323.10	£387.72

- iv) **having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (i), (ii) and (iii) above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30(2) and 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amount of Council Tax for the year 2009/10 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:**

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Amount	£943.98	£1,101.31	£1,258.64	£1,415.97	£1,730.63	£2,045.29	£2,359.95	£2,831.94

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 4.11pm)