

Runnymede Borough CouncilSPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL13 February 2003 at 7.30 p.m.

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Mrs P I Broadhead) in the Chair

Members of the
Council present:

Councillors A. Alderson, Mrs. F.M. Angell, J.R. Ashmore, Mrs. F.J. Barden, E.G. Barrett, Mrs. P.I. Broadhead, M.J. Brown, A.J. Davis, D.P. Easton, J.M. Edwards, Mrs C.E. Gant, Mrs. L.M. Gillham, P.A. Greenwood, Mrs. S.E. Jacobs, Mrs. C.Y. Jones, C. Knight, H.W.V. Meares, A.M. Moore, C.J. Norman, Mrs. J. Norman, D.W. Parr, R. Pate, P.J. Poole, Mrs. E.E. Price, R. Ray, B.J. Relph, Ms. C.M. Simmons, Mrs. V.A. Smallman, N. Thewlis, A.P. Tollett, P.B. Tuley, P.J. Waddell, K.J.T. Walmsley, J.R. Whiteley and G.B. Woodger

Members of the
Council absent:

Councillors V.E. Barker, A.G. Collins, P.C. Elding, J.R. Furey, J.E. Haas, R.K. Habgood, and G.J. Thomas

615. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A.G. Collins, J.R. Furey, J.E. Haas, R.K. Habgood and G.J. Thomas.

616. BUDGET 2003/2004 AND COUNCIL TAX 2003/04

The Council considered the recommendations of the Corporate Management Committee, which had met on 6 February 2003, regarding the Budget and Council Tax for the financial year 2003/2004.

The Council also received additional information concerning the precepts to be levied by Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police Authority, which had not been available when the Corporate Management Committee met.

RESOLVED that -

- i) the revised revenue estimates for the year 2002/03 and the revenue estimates for 2003/04 as submitted in the 2003/04 Budget, be approved;**
- ii) it be noted that at its meeting on 12 December 2002 the Council calculated the amount of 32,458 as its Council Tax base for the year 2003/04, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;**
- iii) the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2003/04 in accordance with sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-**
 - (a) £39,578,700 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.**
 - (b) £31,982,700 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.**
 - (c) £7,596,000 being the amount by which the aggregate at iii)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at iii)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.**

- (d) **£4,820,800** being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund calculated in accordance with section 33(3) of the Act.
- (e) **£85.50** being the amount of iii(c) above less the amount at iii(d) above, all divided by the amount at (ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

f) **Runnymede Borough Council**
Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£57.00	£66.50	£76.00	£85.50	£104.50	£123.50	£142.50	£171.00

(being the amounts calculated by the Council in applying the figure set out at (iii)(e) to the formula in 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.

- iv) it be noted that for the year 2003/04, 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:

Precepting authority - Surrey County Council
Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£567.66	£662.27	£756.88	£851.49	£1,040.71	£1,229.93	£1,419.15	£1,702.98

- v) it be noted that for the year 2003/04, Surrey Police Authority 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:

Precepting authority- Surrey Police Authority
Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£90.06	£105.07	£120.08	£135.09	£165.11	£195.13	£225.15	£270.18

- vi) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iii)(f),(iv) and (v) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amount of Council Tax for the year 2003/04 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£714.72	£833.84	£952.96	£1,072.08	£1,310.32	£1,548.56	£1,786.80	£2,144.16

617. CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL FINANCE UPDATE

At its meeting on 6 February 2003 the Corporate Management Committee had been informed about the award of a Basic Credit Approval (BCA) for 2003/04 and noted changes to the General Fund and Housing Capital Programmes to take account of developments since the approval of the Revenue Forecast, and the latest position on the Government reform proposals for capital finance. The Committee had also considered an effective use of the BCA that the Council had been awarded.

The Council noted that the Corporate Management Committee had recommended that the BCA be used to increase the amount of Local Authority Social Housing Grant (LASHG) granted by the Council to Registered Social Landlords. This would help the Borough achieve its housing needs target. The Council noted the Committee's deliberations concerning the impact of the General Fund and Housing Capital programmes on the Council's capital reserves.

RESOLVED that –

- i) the BCA of £888,000 for 2003/04 be used for additional Local Authority Social Housing Grant; and**
- ii) the revised General Fund and Housing Capital Programmes as set out in the budget for 2003/04, be approved.**

618. NOTICE OF MOTION – SUPPLEMENTARY SUMMONS

The Council considered a Motion submitted by Councillor Woodger.

Councillor Woodger moved the Motion in the following terms and was seconded by Councillor C. J. Norman;

- "i) The Council calls upon the Environment Agency:
 - to explain the reasons for the flooding caused by the River Bourne in Chertsey
 - to state what actions were taken at the time to alleviate the problem
 - and to state what measures are proposed to help prevent future recurrence.
- ii) The Council calls upon the Environment Agency:
 - to explain the causes of flooding from the River Thames, in particular the flooding off Windsor Road, Egham and off Chertsey Lane, Staines
 - to address the effect the opening of the Jubilee River flood protection scheme for Windsor and Maidenhead may have had in exacerbating the Thames flooding downstream
 - to advise what actions were taken to control the flow of the River Thames at the time of the flooding
 - and to state what actions are going to be taken to help prevent future flooding from the Thames of the area affected.
- iii) The Council calls upon Thames Water:
 - to explain how raw sewage came to be discharged in particular streets in Runnymede during and following the recent flooding
 - to advise on the adequacy of the sewage drainage system in terms of capacity and design to cope with storm and water surcharge
 - and to advise what measures are necessary to prevent such raw sewage discharge in the future and what plans are in place to implement such works".

The Members were unanimous in their support for these proposals and commented that the scrutiny of the Council's response to the 2000 floods carried out by the Review Board had instigated strategies which had been effectively implemented this time around. It was noted that the crisis had been effectively monitored by the Safer Runnymede Control Centre, and that the Chief Executive Officer and staff within the Department of Administration and Leisure had issued daily progress bulletins and press releases which had kept Members and others fully informed. Staff in the Technical Services and Housing Departments had worked strenuously on flood alleviation and in rest centres, and had interfaced directly with the public

on the streets. The Eileen Tozer Day Centre, Egham Sports Centre, Chertsey Depot and Chertsey Hall had all played a part in this respect. The Leader asked the Chief Executive Officer to advise all staff of the Council's appreciation of their unstinting efforts.

Members were reminded that public meetings had been arranged for 25 February and 27 February when all the agencies employed in combating the floods would be available for questions and answers. The Council itself would approach these meetings on a non-confrontational basis, since the prime task was to obtain accurate information which would hopefully substantially alleviate the dangers of future flooding.

The Council unanimously

**RESOLVED that –
the above Motion be approved.**

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.33pm)