

BOROUGH OF POOLE

COUNCIL

15 FEBRUARY 2007

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm and concluded at 11.42pm.

Present:

Councillor Mrs Butt (Mayor)
Councillor Knight (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Allen (Sheriff)
Councillors Adams, Ms Atkinson, Belcham, Brooke, Bulteel, Burden, Clements, Collier, Curtis, Eades, Gillard, Gregory, Mrs Hillman, Mrs Hives, Mrs James, Mrs Lavender, Leverett, Mason, Matthews, Meachin, Montrose, Mrs Moore, Newell, Parker, Pethen, Plummer, Rampton, Smith, Sorton, Mrs Stribley, Trent, White, Wilson and Woodcock.

Members of the public present at the Meeting: 18

Members of the Standards Committee present at the Meeting: 3

1. PRAYERS

Prayers were said.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collyer, Mrs Deas, Mrs Dion, Miss Wilson and Wretham.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council held on 19th December 2006, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record subject to the following amendment:-

M.9 – DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2007/20010:
CONSULTATION FEEDBACK: REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
CABINET AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (page 3, third paragraph, second line)

Delete “£320 less than the average £282” to read “children in Poole received £320 less than that received by Manchester children”.

Third line delete “he” insert “she” to read “she also referred”.

Seventh line delete “£1.425M” insert “£1.254M”.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Belcham, Mrs Hillman and Bulteel declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10, "Medium Term Financial Plan including the Revenue Budget 2007/8 and Capital Programme 2007/2010" as Members of the Poole Housing Partnership Limited Board.

Councillor Eades declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10, "Medium Term Financial Plan including the Revenue Budget 2007/8 and Capital Programme 2007/2010" as a recent user of the Registration Service.

Councillor Adams declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10, "Medium Term Financial Plan including the Revenue Budget 2007/8 and Capital Programme 2007/2010" as a close relative was a user of Social Services personal care services.

Councillor Mrs Hives declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 "Schools for the Future Project" and "Children's Services Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2007-2014" as a Governor of Merley School.

Councillor Rampton declared a personal interest as a dog owner in Agenda Item 15 "Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005".

Councillors Parker and Clements declared personal interests as Members of the Regional Assembly in Item 12, "Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Implications of 2003 Revised Household Projections".

5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Council noted the update circulated by the Mayor at the Meeting, on her Charity Fund and number and variety of engagements she had attended.

6. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

(a) From members of the public

There were no petitions received from members of the public.

(b) From Members

Councillor Brooke presented a Petition on behalf of residents of "The Clump", Upton Way/Highway, Broadstone, objecting to the proposed erection of a telecommunications mast.

RESOLVED that the Petition be referred to the Head of Planning Design and Control Services as there was no Planning Committee before the Application had to be determined.

7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Question from Mr Northover of Parkstone, Poole re: Public Conveniences

The Mayor invited Mr Northover to read his Question to Council which Mr Northover did, in the following terms:

“How can you justify spending on knocking down the loo adjacent the Job Centre and replacing with a new building with pay a you POO Loos? I understand the reason that this was done to stop vandals and vagrants using this facility. This is giving in to the vandals. I could not get into your new loos with my Radar Key when I was bursting to go, so was my wife also disabled.

You have wasted public funds I estimate at least £35,000. What a waste.”

Councillor Collier responded in the following terms:-

“I would like to apologise for the difficulties that you had getting into the Toilet.

Unfortunately on your visit to the new toilets there was a problem with the RADAR lock, which prevented your access. The difficulty was a result of a teething problem in the new building and not a policy decision. It is not our policy to require a 10p for those using radar keys as the use of the key starts the timing mechanism, which is all the 10p, is required for.

The new toilets are manufactured in a factory and brought to site and moved into position using a crane. This process can disturb mechanical settings such as locks and door returns which will have been tested under factory conditions. Following a period of four weeks public usage when minor snagging faults can be identified in new buildings, the manufacturing company have now carried out tests and adjusted all mechanical and electrical settings back to their original condition.

There are thirty one public toilets within the Borough of Poole which is an increase of one in the last three years and makes Poole the second highest provider of public toilets out of all Unitary Authorities. Twenty eight of the toilets have separate disabled facilities. There are five public toilets in Poole town centre which all have free 24 hour access for holders of the national RADAR scheme, and all are within 500 meters of the next facility. Public toilets are also supplemented by a number of privately owned facilities which the public can use such as those located in the Dolphin Centre.

The majority of existing facilities are bespoke in design but do not incorporate methods of limiting vandalism, inappropriate and anti-social use. Most of the toilet furniture and plumbing is exposed, of fragile quality and therefore susceptible to considerable damage. This has lead to a high degree of maintenance, vandalism and potential exposure to injury. In 2004/05 there were 471 recorded acts

of major vandalism although the actual figure would be much higher as problems such as small fires are dealt with by the cleaning company. The buildings and utility infrastructure has not been subject to any large scale refurbishment which has led to increasing electricity and water usage, with increasing failures of the drainage and sewerage systems.

Four public toilets were identified as attracting the worst anti social behaviour in the form of vagrancy, drug use, sexual offences and alcohol abuse with it's occasional related violence. In 2005 elected members agreed that £100,000 per annum would be used to provide a solution that would increase peoples confidence in the safety of the facilities and would enable them to be maintained in a much cleaner condition. A modern design would enable the council to maintain it's current number of facilities within existing budgets and improve the users satisfaction with their visit to the toilets.

The new facilities at Chapel Lane will use substantially less water and electricity, and as they have direct street access will remove the fear of entering the building. Initial feedback from users of these toilets has been positive.

The locks are timed to allow other users access after a set time (currently 30 minutes in the disabled unit) which will prevent overnight sleeping and miss-use, as well as assisting people in difficulties who may have collapsed. The disabled facilities incorporated in the new design at Chapel Lane meet the latest DDA design criteria and are free to RADAR key holders. The 10p charge operates the timer mechanism on the male, female, unisex and family units, and also allows entry to the disabled facilities if the key has been forgotten.”

2. Question from Mr Williams re: Street Cleansing and Litter Collection

The Mayor invited Mr Williams to read out his Question which he did in the following terms:-

“In view of the new Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, and the new Code of Practice which requires Duty Authorities to maintain roads and pavements predominantly free of litter and detritus, will council allocate adequate resources to Environment and Consumer Protection Services - that is in particular street cleaning vans - so as to fulfil national cleaning standards requirements, and ensure our roads and pavements are maintained every day in both a litter free and a clean condition.

Councillor Collier responded in the following terms:-

The Questioner has asked this Question in one form or another many times over the last two years. On each occasion he has been provided with an answer and on many occasions he has in fact complimented the street cleaning efforts of Environmental and Consumer Protection Services.

I am happy therefore to provide the same answer that he has had in private in public which is:

The Authority operates a rigorous proactive cleansing regime throughout the Borough in accordance with the revised Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse. All public highway, adopted footpaths and public open space is 'zoned' inline with this guidance with resources allocated to land according to need.

The authorities performance is monitored and assessed through the Governments Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) 199 for Cleanliness The Borough is consistently exceeding the Government requirement that 70% of all roads and open spaces within the Councils control pass the specified standard. The results of the latest assessment for Poole found 87% of land surveyed met with, or exceeded this standard. Further, the Council is judged on resident's satisfaction with the Council's services, it has been rated as the best performing Unitary Authority in the country. In relation to cleansing, 76% of residents are satisfied or very satisfied with the cleanliness of the Borough compared with 64.1% of residents in 2003.

Poole strives to deliver service excellence over a number of areas with Borough cleansing a key priority. We continually review our operations to ensure service delivery, public satisfaction, and service efficiency. The Council's commitment can be illustrated by:

- Introduction of a dedicated Environmental Response Unit to target the removal of graffiti, fly posting (illegal advertising) and chewing gum removal from Poole's streets.
- Introduction of an extended hours cleansing service from April – October annually. A dedicated team has been recruited to target cleansing hot spots throughout this peak period. Operating from 15:00 – 22:00 six days a week. This further compliments the Council's 7 day a week service which operates 06:30 – 16:30 daily.
- The introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and dog fouling to target those damaging Poole's environment
- The amalgamation of Cleansing Services to ensure service efficiencies and a common standard across all land types.
- The current procurement of new mechanical sweepers for 2007.
- Review of public litter and dog waste bins currently underway to improve the quality, location and size of litter bins in all areas of the Borough.

8. TERM OF OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER, REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Mayor invited Mrs Fox, the Chair of the Standards Committee to present her Report to Council.

Mrs Fox introduced the Report explaining that it was seeking Council approval to changes to the recruitment process and retirement by rotation of the Independent Members of the Standards Committee which would break the current link with the Council's electoral cycle and secure continuity and experience in the light of the Council's requirement for an Independent Member to Chair the Committee.

She explained that should Council agree the proposals unanimously recommended by the Standards Committee for the changes to the Term of Office for Independent Members, the two longest serving Independent Members of the Standards Committee would retire in May 2007 and a recruitment process commenced to select two new Independent Members.

The two newly recruited Members would initially serve for two years when the two remaining Independent Members (who would have served for six years) would retire.

It was noted Independent Members were to be allowed to serve a maximum of two terms comprising six years in total with candidates eligible to seek reappointment after a break from the Committee if they so wished.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services was invited to address the Meeting in order to assist with clarification of the proposals which, if Council approved the Standards Committee recommendations would mean that in May 2007 the longest serving two Independent Members would stand down. The other two Independent Members would retire in 2009. The two new Independent Members recruited in 2007 would serve for two years with the option of continuing. He explained these were transitional arrangements and that the term of appointment for these two members would be initially less than 3 years but that they could seek reappointment.

RESOLVED that

- (i) in order to promote stability and good succession planning, Independent Members of the Standards Committee should be recruited and should retire by rotation;
- (ii) the Term of Office should be for three years with the option of being considered for reappointment for a further three years; and
- (iii) in order to provide a smooth transition the two longest serving Independent Members should retire in May 2007 and the other two existing Independent Members should retire in May 2009.

9. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BOROUGH OF POOLE LOCAL PROTOCOL AND RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS: REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Mrs Fox, the Chair of the Standards Committee, introduced her Report explaining that following consideration of an issue by the Standards Committee under the Member/Member Protocol the Committee had asked the Monitoring Officer to consider the existing Protocol with a view to making improvements to its effectiveness. She explained that the Amendments were detailed in Section 2.1 of her Report.

The Amendments sought to clarify the Monitoring Officer's role and the role that Officer should adopt in dealing with complaints under this Protocol and to establish clarity over timescales and the role of the Standards Committee.

The main areas of amendment to the Protocol were paragraph 8.

In response to a Member's query as to what would happen if they were any Independent Members elected to the Council, as opposed to Political Groups with Group Leaders, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer explained that the Protocol would need to be reviewed should this occur.

RESOLVED that

8. WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

8.2(a) Currently states "the Member must make a written complaint to the other Member and copy that complaint to Group Leaders. This must specify all incidents that the complainant intends to raise and set out the alleged breach of this Protocol."

Insert after Group Leaders

"The Monitoring Officer should also be informed that a complaint has been made." to read *"The Member must make a written complaint to the other Member and copy that complaint to Group Leaders. The Monitoring Officer should also be informed that a complaint has been made."*

(b) Currently states "the Member who has been complained about shall (within 10 working days) respond in writing to the complainant and copy that response to Group Leaders."

Insert "*and Monitoring Officer*" after Group Leaders to read "*to Group Leaders and the Monitoring Officer*". Insert a new paragraph (d) as follows:

"If it appears to be Monitoring Officer that the timescales in paragraph 8(c) above have not been complied with he/she shall contact the Group Leaders to see whether there is good cause for

such delay. If necessary, Group Leaders shall be invited to meet with the Monitoring Officer to discuss the case further.

- (e) Replacing former paragraph (d) which currently reads “If either Group Leader considers the complaint is of a more serious nature than mentioned in the previous paragraph, or if the Member complained against fails to give the requisite apology, the complaint shall be passed to the” and now insert “*Monitoring Officer who will refer it to the Council’s Standards Committee. The Monitoring Officer may also consider whether, in the case where no serious effort has been made to settle the matter, any mediation ought to be attempted.*”

Paragraphs (e) to remain as is but re-lettered (f).

Paragraph (f) to remain as it but re-lettered (g) and insertion of a new paragraph 8.4:

“Complaints that are referred to the Council’s Standards Committee should be dealt with within three months of the date of referral.”

10. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN INCLUDING THE REVENUE BUDGET 2007/8 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/2010: REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CABINET

It was moved, seconded and RESOLVED

that, in accordance with the suspension and amendment of Council Procedural Rule 21.3, Procedural Rule 14.4 “Content and length of Speeches” be suspended to allow the Leader of the Council and a representative from the Liberal Democrat Group to speak for longer than the time allocated.

The Mayor invited Councillor Leverett, Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Cabinet to address the Council which he did in the following terms:-

Leader of the Council’s Budget Statement 2007/8

“Madam Mayor, Councillors

In presenting this, my fourth budget report to Council, I would like to begin by once again thanking the staff for their continuing support, professionalism and dedication which has resulted in vastly improved performances and greater efficiencies at a time of increasing demand for many Council services. We should always remember that, whilst it is the Members of Council who set policies, it is the officers who deliver them. If it were not for the skill and commitment of our officers across the board, we would not have delivered the tremendous advances of recent years.

At this stage it is appropriate that we consider what has been achieved over the period of my last three budgets. We inherited a situation of very large annual overspends and plummeting reserves, the latter so bad that the District Auditor

brought to the attention of my predecessor the possible need to raise taxes simply to build them up.

Our first step was the introduction of regular financial monitoring which allowed the Cabinet to control expenditure. The improvement was immediate. In the last three years we have seen an overall situation of under-spends against budgets and improving reserves. Double figure Council Tax rises, as set prior to the current administration, were more than halved in the first year. It should be noted that Poole delivered a Council Tax increase of less than 5% the year before the Government required local authorities to do so, with the added threat of capping. We have also set lower than Unitary average Council Tax rises in each of the last three years, and, perhaps even more importantly, we have brought stability to our budgets and to the level of Council Tax increases.

But budgets are about more than raising money - they are about delivering services, and these have improved measurably. We have significantly increased our recycling by introducing the blue bin and green bin collections; we have greatly improved our street and wayside cleaning; education standards have risen; Poole's Adult Social Services are recognised to be amongst the best in the country, and we have put in place an effective planning enforcement system. Prosecutions for dropping rubbish and not clearing up dog faeces have increased – all helping to improve the environment. We have also introduced improved measures to catch and prosecute those committing benefit fraud. But do not take our word for it – take note of what the residents of Poole say. Only last week we learnt that in the standard survey, that we are required to carry out by the Audit Commission, the percentage of residents satisfied with the standard of services delivered by the Poole Council is higher than for any other unitary authority in the whole country. It is also noteworthy that 10% more of our residents were satisfied or very satisfied with the services provided than when they were last surveyed in 2003. For this I repeat our gratitude to our whole staff but particularly those who deliver front line services for they are the public face of Poole Council.

Credit must also go to our transportation department which, when confronted with the problems arising from the bus companies changing their routes and schedules immediately set about negotiating with the providers, and set extra services in place. As a consequence of the 10% of stops which lost their services, most now have at least some service. We intend to continue to talk with the bus companies to ensure the best practical provision of public transport for our residents and visitors.

Poole is not an authority that is just marking time. We recognise that we have a duty to ensure that our assets are maximised and do everything in our power to secure the long-term prosperity of the area. "Full Sail Ahead" will see the second Harbour Crossing which the town has been seeking for over fifty years. It will bring with it extra housing and wider community benefits. However, the regeneration must, from now on, be totally self-funding through the developer contribution system. The Second Harbour Crossing has passed the Transport and Works Act stage and we are looking forward, in March, to the start of work on the slipways which will herald the commencement of the building programme.

Schools for the Future will modernise our schools, resulting in a predicted expenditure of £86m over the next 6 years. Predominantly this will be funded by Government grants with only relatively small local contributions which we can manage within our existing plans. When the scheme is completed every child in the town will benefit from the new provision.

By May the Guildhall will have changed from a neglected asset to one of the most picturesque of venues in the Country for weddings. Work will commence on the new Fourways Centre, designed in conjunction with the best people to know what is required there, the users, and the Bus Station is set for a makeover in the autumn. Poole Park, neglected for years, will be receiving the benefit of much needed TLC mostly through external funding and we have plans for the future of Upton Country Park.

All this has been and is being achieved against a background of some of the poorest Local Government funding in the country.

So far we have implemented savings in a variety of ways; we have reduced senior staff, cutting back on both the number of Policy Directors and Service Unit Heads, but I am pleased to say we have managed to increase the number of front line staff. We have, where it is more cost effective, outsourced work such as Dementia Care Provision and Leisure Centres, whilst the transport fleet has been brought back “in house” for the same reason. We have looked at other ways of financing new projects, such as Lottery Funding, for the refurbishment of the Waterfront Museum and we are now applying to the same source to rebuild the Hamworthy Library following requests from the Ward Councillors representing residents. But there is an inevitable limit to the efficiency savings and innovative ways of financing.

That is why, in December, the Council voted unanimously to start a campaign for “Fair Funding for Poole”. The increasingly unfair funding that we receive from Government, details of which are well documented, is a disgrace. We have never suggested that the needs of all parts of the country are the same nor indeed that the amount of Revenue Grant given to every authority should be identical. What we are demanding is that the funds allocated to every Council are increased to ensure there is sufficient to provide basic services required by all residents. It is envisaged that the battle for “Fairer Funding for Poole” may well take a very long time – but unless we launch the campaign and make the effort, the situation is never going to improve.

“Fairer Funding for Poole” will only be a success if the whole town gets behind it – but it is we, the Councillors, the people’s elected representatives, who must give the strongest lead and make it as easy as possible for Council Taxpayers to be able to make their voice heard in Government. We must therefore man the signature collection points in the Dolphin Centre – go into our Clubs and organisations to get signatures – knock on doors in our Wards to give everyone a chance to sign. The future prosperity of the Town and the financial well-being of our Council Taxpayers could well depend upon our success.

The “Fair Funding for Poole” campaign will not deliver extra monies for coming year – but unless we begin the push now we will never see an improvement and get justice for the people of this Town.

I now turn to this year’s budget. We need to address the increasing demand that we see from our community for good local services. We are supporting the elderly in our community by providing an extra £1.3m for Social Services, an increase of approximately 5.6% in the budget, an extra £400,000 for concessionary fares increasing the budget to £1.8m. We again have to meet our responsibilities for Waste Management, including the Government’s Landfill Tax, by providing an extra £250,000. I would remind Members that our total liability for Landfill Tax now stands at over £1.5m per year.

Against this, extra Government funding for next year is only 1.7% in real terms in spite of Ministerial claims that every authority would receive at least 2.7%. With unavoidable extra expenditure of £6.2m this year, if we were to continue delivering the same services in the same way, Council Tax would have needed to rise by 10%, a figure unacceptable to both the residents of Poole and to the Government who have set a capping limit of 5%.

How then are we proposing to address the problem?

In Poole we are continually having to prioritise, delivering only those services we consider essential and looking at all our practices to see if we can operate in a more cost effective manner. In the past four years we have been able to cut fat, make savings and improve efficiencies. But be warned, significant efficiencies cannot be found indefinitely.

How then are we proposing to address the problem?

First of all we will be seeking savings of £2m a year, by which we mean that Managers are being required to deliver at least the same level of services at a reduced cost in real terms. They are simply not being given the money to do otherwise.

Next, we will once again be re-examining our services to ensure that only those which are essential and affordable will be delivered. But let me stress that we will always protect basic services.

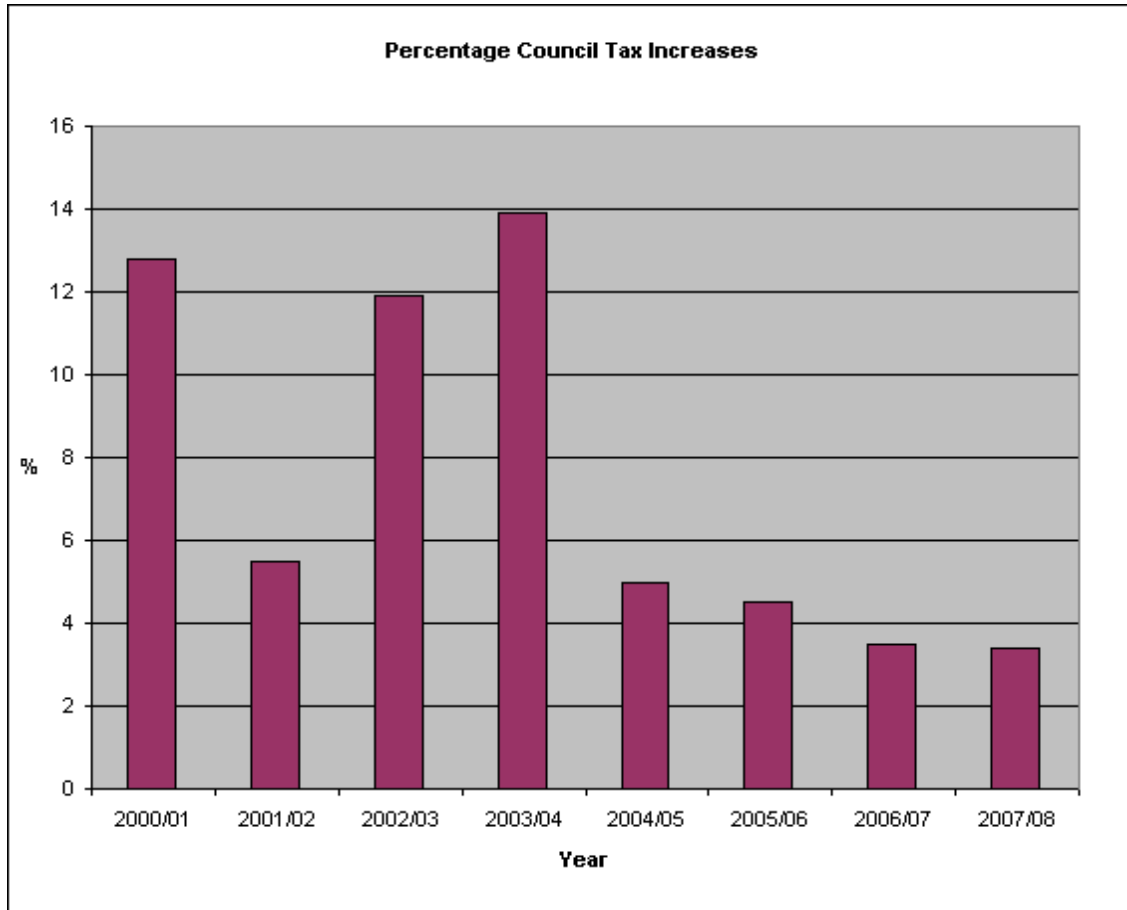
Thirdly, we intend to utilise some of the reserves which we have to support the budget in the medium term in a responsible way as set out in detail within the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget that we are approving this evening.

Taking into account the ongoing efficiencies and the responsible use of our reserves, we can set a net budget for 2007-08 of £84.542m an increase in Council Tax of 3.4%. To put the level of rise into context, I would remind Members that last month’s figure for RPI was 4.4%.

Madam Mayor – I began this report with a retrospective summary of what has been achieved over the last four years, and a statement of how we had placed

finance at the centre of our agenda – below is a diagrammatic representation of how Poole’s Council Tax rises have been managed over the last eight years.

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Financial Year | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 |
| Percentage Rise | 12.8 | 5.5 | 11.9 | 13.9 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 |



As can be seen from the graph above, we have brought stability to Council Tax rises compared to previous astronomical increases. Moreover, since we are planning to prudently use our reserves over the next three years, we can look forward with confidence to setting Council Tax within levels that are acceptable to our community. This, of course, is dependent upon the Council following the same very strict financial monitoring and cost-cutting regimes of the past few years and continuing to review our service provision; look for savings and more cost effective ways of delivering our services.

But a word of caution –we need to secure fair Government funding to enable this great town to achieve its true potential in the long term and be able to provide the services that its residents have every right to expect, and make its full contribution to both the local and international economy.

Finally, may I give my sincere thanks to all Councillors who have given me their support throughout the last four years, particularly the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Ann Stribley, the Cabinet, Chairmen and all Members who together have worked so hard for this Town.

Madam Mayor – I formally move that the budget as presented be adopted.”

The proposals were as detailed at Agenda Item 10 to the Council Meeting including the Schedule Item 10(1) setting out the Council Tax for each category of dwelling.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Eades, the Deputy Group Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and Liberal Democrat spokesperson, to address the Council which he did in the following terms:-

Budget Statement response from Councillor Eades

“Madam Mayor , Members , Officers and Residents,

I am delighted to be given the fourth opportunity by my Group to deliver the Liberal Democrat’s Budget Response . May I start by commending the work of the Head of Financial Services and his staff in controlling the finances of the Council. After some complaints by members and residents of the rather opaque nature of the Council’s financial reports I do concede that an attempt has been made to simplify the system of reporting – I do feel however that more still needs to be done to ensure that all members have at least a basic understanding of the Council’s finances.

This is because every time that I refer in committee to the Council’s reserves and balances I get ruling group members shaking their heads at me, although the figures are lifted directly from the Council’s own reports. Just so we can get this out of the way early tonight can I refer members to Appendix C of the report in front of us – I’ll wait while members find it - in the table at the bottom of the page the reserves of the Council are quite clearly estimated to be £15.3million as at 31st March this year. As everyone knows the last couple of months of the year always produce savings and windfalls so I am quite confident that this figure will be even higher come April but for now we will live with the figure of £15.3million

Lets take a closer look at this number - £15.3million (or £265 for every household in Poole) – we are told Madam Mayor by the ruling group that this money needs to be there for a rainy day – well to send back a comment I had from Cllr Leverett a few years ago – for many residents of Poole particularly those on lower income and pensioners “it’s already pouring down” – they have suffered many years of above inflation rises without their incomes keeping up

This is the fourth year in a row that the ruling Group has brought in an above inflation Council Tax rise – all this on top of stating prior to the last election that “enough is enough” on a Band D of £936 – all Cllr Leverett has done is overtax the people of Poole, receive huge windfalls at every turn and add every year to his massive war chest of reserves. Council Tax at Band D will now be £343 more than it was when the Conservatives told us that enough was enough (a 37% rise) – all this at a time of very low inflation – well exactly when will “enough be enough” Madam Mayor?

We need to look closely at why Cllr Leverett says he needs these reserves – this is on the fifth page of Appendix C – we are holding £1.5million in case the forecasts on equal pay and annual pay increases are not accurate – but as it states quite clearly “forecast pay award is being provided for” so why hold more? It is also claimed that we are holding money in reserve in case inflation strikes and also that interest rates may move against us. To me these statements are bizarre in the extreme. Inflation is provided for already in the budget and interest rates are going up not down.

We are also allegedly holding reserves to support projects (£2million) and to support the Medium Term Financial Plan to 2009/10 – translation of officer speak – “using reserves to reduce Council Tax” (£1.3million). These are monies that have been paid by the people of Poole since 2003 when the under spending started – many of those residents will have moved or may even be dead by the time Cllr Leverett finally returns the money he has over taxed

The projects we are supporting through these reserves are capital in nature - projects that should have benefits for many years – a fundamental principle of accountancy is that you should match your outgoings with the benefits gained from the spending – thus salaries and overheads are written off as they are incurred but investment in capital projects is not – these projects should be supported through the Capital Building programme not the revenue budget

Madam Mayor

We must look yet again at the income explosion enjoyed by the Council since 2003 – being able to charge 90% Council Tax on second homes (£800,000 every year), the effect of all the new units in Poole (a further windfall of £383,000 this year), all sorts of government grants, a massive increase in parking charges all over the Borough, hikes in planning, building consultancy and land registry charges and one that affected me this year in registrars charges (declaration of interest Madam Mayor) and even now charges for the first time to use public toilets!!

And at the same time we are continually told there have been no cuts and no reductions in services.

This is the most sinister aspect of this years budget – all the way along the line we are told that there have been no cuts in services provided by the Council and that Council Tax has only been kept down by the brilliant and prudent housekeeping of the ruling Group – unfortunately now Cllr Leverett is changing his words somewhat – his – sorry, the Council’s - last press release used the words “without any major cut in basic services”. This of course implicitly implies there will be some minor cuts in basic services.

Already in the current year we have seen cuts in service – savage reductions in the road maintenance budget, leaving a service unit head post unfilled for months and months, and cutbacks to contributions to Christmas lights and youth club grants to name just a few.

But now these budget papers include enormous cutbacks – on page 8 of the main report paragraph 9.11 (£400,000 of other budget reductions) and paragraph 9.12 – an £850,000 per annum cut in contributions to capital projects.

Or is it Madam Mayor? Is £850,000 being cut every year from the capital programme or is there planned selling off the family silver to make up the shortfall? The people of Poole deserve to be told if they are going to be getting less infrastructure improvements from their Council or are we actually planning to rake in the cash from selling off assets? We need to be told.

Madam Mayor, it is quite obvious from what I have said for the past few years that the Liberal Democrat Group is not going to support this budget – it starts from fundamentally the wrong point – the current years budget. Cllr Leverett whilst in opposition spoke of zero based budgeting and I agree with him entirely – it is very disappointing that he has not used it in the four years he has been in charge of the Council's finances!!

Take this one for example – the current years interest and investment income is forecast now to be £3.2m as opposed to £2.5m in the budget – I did stand here a year ago and make exactly that point but no-one listened. But the astonishing thing is that with an increased cash pile and rising interest rates we are now expected to approve a budget with a lower projected figure for next year – only £2.7m – quite incredible!!

If the Liberal Democrat group take control in May one of the first tasks we shall have Financial Services perform is a complete review of what exactly is in the Council's revenue budget – the past few years have been characterised by huge levels of unspent resources at year end with the dubious explanation that these are ongoing projects that straddle year ends.

As far as I'm concerned two and even three year projects have no place in the Council's revenue budget – they should be provided for in the Capital programme and financed that way – by this I hope not only to reduce the Council's revenue budget but to drastically cut back the level of service unit carry forwards of budgets and under spends.

The next task Madam Mayor will be to make stringent representations to the Dorset County Pension Fund regarding the financing of the "alleged" pension deficits – in my view a far too negative a view is being taken by the County's actuaries of the deficit and an inaccurate view of current and future employee pay rises. The Council is currently contributing £2.7million per annum in financing this deficit and has been silent over this expenditure. This of course is in effect more than 5% of a Council Tax rise. I personally believe the alleged deficit can be financed over many more years than currently – a plan that would have the welcome effect of cutting the Council's revenue budget.

Let me be quite clear about this – this will not affect any current or past employees present or future benefits – it is a purely technical measure based upon the length of time required for the Pension Fund to come into equilibrium. No

employee need worry that their salary or pension benefits would be at risk from this proposal now or in the future.

Finally Madam Mayor we would seek to reverse some of the quite frankly mean ways in which the Council has raised or saved monies over the past four years - winter car parking charges at the beach, cutting grants for Christmas lights and youth clubs, the arbitrary cutting of the community initiatives strategy, charging householders for dealing with Council-owned trees and high hedge disputes, pre-planning application fees for householders and many similar items.

I do not expect the ruling Group to take on board any of these comments or suggestions, so in conclusion Madam Mayor I should like to move an amendment that with three strokes of the pen makes a huge difference to this budget – by increasing the budgeted investment and interest income to £3.3million, reducing the provision for job evaluation to £1.2million and by using a further £200,000 of the cash pile I am able to strike £1.11million from the Council's budget.

This would then leave a Council tax rise of 1.5% a figure much more acceptable to the people of Poole.

I commend this figure to the chamber.”

Councillor Eades moved the following amendment to the budget proposals detailed at Agenda Item 10 (i) to this Meeting, which was seconded.

- (i) That the budgeted investment and interest income be increased to £3.3M;
- (ii) That a reduction in the Council's financial provision for job evaluation to £1.2M;
- (iii) That an extra £200,000 of the £1.1M reserves be used to achieve a Council Tax rise of 1.5%.

A number of Members spoke in favour of the Amendment explaining that retaining £1.3M of Reserves to support the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan was being used to avoid a Council Tax rise in the future.

A number of Members spoke against the amendment explaining they were without substance and that maintaining Reserves was prudent.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote on the Amendment as detailed above.

Voting was as follows:-

For the Amendment

Councillors Allen, Brooke, Clements, Curtis, Eades, Mrs James, Knight, Mason, Matthews, Meachin, Mrs Moore, Plummer, Trent and Wilson

Against the Amendment

Councillors Adams, Ms Atkinson, Belcham, Bulteel, Burden, Collier, Gregory, Mrs Hillman, Mrs Hives, Mrs Lavender, Leverett, Montrose, Newell, Parker, Pethen, Rampton, Smith, Sorton, Mrs Stribley, White and Woodcock.

Abstained None

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Butt, took no part in the voting on the Amendment.

The Amendment was LOST.

The Mayor then invited a debate on the substantive Motion as detailed as Agenda Item 10 and 10 (i) to the Agenda.

Speaking against the Substantive Motion Members made the following points:-

- During the previous Administration there had never been bed blocking.
- Grants were being cut to voluntary organisations.
- Costs for Youth Centres needed to be restored.
- The only charges Members were now asked to consider were car parking charges.
- The increase in fees and charges for Council services were more than the increase in Council Tax.

Those speaking in support of the Substantive Motion made the following points:

- there were cost pressures within Social Services with 30 additional people requiring Adult Social Services care in the first quarter of the Year.
- With regard to assisting people with Learning Disabilities, Bournemouth and Dorset Councils charged more than Poole. It was explained that there were 411 adults in Poole with learning disabilities 44 of whom were in residential care with weekly costs varying depending on severity of need. There was to be a likely increase in the need for residential care as the age of carers rose and they were longer able to care for people at home.
- This issue of the increase in the need for residential care was a national issue which should be taken up by the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Social Services.

A Member commented with regard to the Fair Funding for Poole, that this would only succeed if the whole Town supported the initiative.

A Member explained that a joint letter from Bournemouth Borough, Dorset County and Poole Councils had been written on the 28th December 2006 from the Leader of the Council which appeared to be “cut and pasted” from the submission to the Government last year. He stated that all the rest of the documentation was about Dorset County Council.

He explained that, if the Council was to make the Campaign successful, it had to present a detailed, factual, technical document arguing the case, which would not be made by sending a letter stating the position in other authorities.

He moved the following as an addition to the Substantive Motion:-

“(xi) This Council, in support of the Fair Funding campaign, request the Head of Financial Services to produce a detailed, evidenced, technical report that demonstrates that the Relative Needs Formula has been applied incorrectly, OR, the Relative Needs Formula is unfair to Poole to the extent of £30M per annum.”

This additional recommendation was seconded.

A Member explained that the Relative Needs Formula was an unfair Formula which was flawed and out of date.

With regard to Council Tax, a Member commented that it was not enough to say Poole was the worst funded, it needed to give more indicative figures.

In summing up Councillor Leverett thanked the Members for their comments and explained that he thought that some Members did not realise that the Formula was artificially swayed to support different areas of the country as part of the Formula was calculated using the number of residents within an area, born outside the country.

Councillor Leverett also explained that the Council had made a number of efficiencies such as reducing Strategic Director posts from 6 to 5, reducing the number of Service Unit Heads which meant that the Council was able to deliver a Council Tax of 3.9%.

RESOLVED that,

- (i) Council approve a net budget requirement for 2007/2008 of £84,542M;
- (ii) the level of Reserves, in accordance with advice provided by the Head of Financial Services as set out in Appendix C to the Report, (including the level of Reserves to be made available to support the budget reliant over the Medium Term;
- (iii) a Capital Programme for 2007/2010 as detailed in Appendix A to the Report;
- (iv) the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2007/2008 as detailed in Appendix E to the Report;
- (v) in line with the Council’s policy on the Housing Revenue Account, Rents, an average increase of 5% be applied for 2007/2008;

(vi) the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2007/2008 and Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in Appendix G to the Report; and

(vi) **Council Tax 2007/8**

The following had been approved by Council:

- (a) the Revenue Estimates for 2007/2008;
 - (b) the Capital Programme for 2007/2008 and future years.
- (vii) That it be noted that at its meeting on 30 January 2007, the Cabinet approved the amount of 57,244 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2007/2008 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 as amended.
- (viii) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2007/2008 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by The Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 2003.
- (a) £277,611,202.72 -(gross expenditure) 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) £193,069,000.00 - (gross income) 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) £84,542,202.72 - being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its Budget requirement for the year.
 - (d) £23,331,765.96 - being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant (£23,209,358.00), increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Surplus) (£122,407.96 for 2007/08).
 - (e) (c) – (d) above is the actual amount required to be raised from Council Tax, and will be the demand on the Collection Fund, a total of £61,210,436.76. This equates to £1,069.29 – being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above all divided by the amount at (vii) 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) Valuation Band

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 712.86 | 831.67 | 950.48 | 1069.29 | 1306.91 | 1544.53 | 1782.15 | 2138.58 |

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) 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.

- (ix) That it be noted that for the year 2007/2008, Dorset Police Authority and Dorset Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Sections 39/40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by Section 27 of the Police and Magistrates Courts Act 1994 and The Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 2003), for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Precepting Authority: Dorset Police Authority: £ 8,959,258.44

Valuation Band:

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 104.34 | 121.73 | 139.12 | 156.51 | 191.29 | 226.07 | 260.85 | 313.02 |

Precepting Authority: Dorset Fire Authority: £ 3,044,808.36

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 35.46 | 41.37 | 47.28 | 53.19 | 65.01 | 76.83 | 88.65 | 106.38 |

- (x) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (f), and (ix) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2007/2008 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Band:

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 852.66 | 994.77 | 1136.88 | 1278.99 | 1563.21 | 1847.43 | 2131.65 | 2557.98 |

- (xi) This Council, in support of the Fair Funding Campaign, requests the Head of Financial Services to produce a detailed, evidenced, technical report that demonstrates that the Relative Needs Formula has been applied incorrectly, OR, the Relative Needs Formula is unfair to Poole to the extent of £30M per annum.

Adjournment and Meeting Reconvened

The Council adjourned at 9:37pm and reconvened at 10.05p.m.

11. **“SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE” PROJECT AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007/2014: REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS FOR “SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE” AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES**

Councillor White, the Portfolio Holder for Schools for the Future introduced this Report explaining that Council’s approval was sought to progress the “Schools for the Future” project as part of the Education Capital Programme 2006/2014 and to approve inclusion in Wave 6 of the “Building Schools for the Future” Programme with Bournemouth Borough Council as part of the overall funding strategy for the Project.

He referred to Appendix 1 of his Joint Report with the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services which explained the funding streams for the “Schools for the Future” XL project. He explained that the “Building Schools for the Future” timeline dictated the year for the change in the age of transfer. The Wave 6 timeline led to a proposed change in age of transfer to September 2013. The Schools included in the “Building Schools for the Future” funding were Rossmore Community College, Ashdown School, Winchelsea Special School. The Schools receiving local funding were Carter Community College, St. Edward’s RC CE VA School and Longspee Special School. Future funding levels for Corfe Hills Pyramid, the Montacute Special School were still being compiled and consulted upon.

Cabinet, on the 13th January 2007, had approved the recommendations from the Children’s Services Overview Group. Councillor Woodcock, the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services explained that a report on the Education Capital Programme 2006-2014 itemising the funding streams identified for the Schools for the programme had also been considered by the Children’s Services Overview Group and Cabinet on the 30th January 2007. Both of these items were interrelated with funding from the Education Capital Programme required to help fund the “Schools for the Future” Project.

It was noted that the primary School issue was to be addressed separately within the Capital Programme.

A Member thanked the Director of Children's Services for his support of the Project to assist Ashdown Community College to receive 100% grant funding.

A Member queried what the proposals meant for each Ward and Schools? He commented that Councillor Leverett had stated that he was not proposing to use Dedicated Grant for Schools to fund this Project. He felt that the Dedicated Schools Grant should be reserved for school use. He referred to paragraph 3.5 of the Report to Children's Services Overview Group and Cabinet which stated that "by adopting the funding strategy as detailed in paragraph 5, the Authority had a one off opportunity to attract large sums of capital investment into the education building stock within Poole. Targeted Capital Funding, "Building Schools for the Future" and other funding streams will bring in approximately £86M of Government funding into the Authority. Whilst there will be a need to use ring-fence education funding to support the project, the impact on the Council's general resources could be contained to £2.5M as detailed later in the Report."

He explained that the Government's default model for funding new build was the "Private Finance Initiative" (PFI). The additional revenue funding required to support the PFI arrangement over and above Government credits and existing budget provision had been estimated by 4 P's, the Local Government Procurement specialist established by the LGA, as £600,000 per annum which would be met wholly from the Dedicated Schools Grant, certainty regarding the precise amount would not be known until some way into the Project. There were indications that it could be greater than the £600,000 per annum advised. He explained that £600,000 per year for the next 25 years totalled £50M, of this, the two Schools, which deserve to be rebuilt, were likely to be financed by Private Finance Initiative. If this funding was taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant the Council would be taking £15M out of the schools budget and many schools would not have any physical changes.

He moved the following amendment which was seconded:

"This Council will fund PFI costs through £500,000 plus efficiencies, in the use of consultants, excluding funding from Dedicated Schools Grant because it can be funded within the Council's budget."

A number of Members spoke against the amendment explaining that £600,000 was a possible PFI and a smaller sum could be paid back over 25 years using a smaller proportion of the Dedicated Schools Grant. Schools were being consulted on this.

A Member suggested there was a fundamental misunderstanding between capital and revenue by some Members.

A Member queried whether the £6M capital each year included some schools contributing from the loan resources to the Targeted Capital Bid and queried whether it was a requirement that all schools contributed to the PFI?

He was assured this was the case.

A Member expressed concern that Members who had been part of the discussions all through the Project so far had not used the opportunity to raise their concerns at the Project Board.

On being put to the vote, the Amendment was LOST.

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services reiterated that no schools were to close as a result of the proposals.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the "Schools for the Future" Project be included within the Education Capital Programme 2006-2014 which will be incorporated within the Council's overall Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Plan;
- (ii) endorse the Children's Services Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2007-2014 as set out in Appendix A of the Joint Report of the Strategic Director (Children's Services) and Head of Financial Services to the Children's Services Overview Group 9th January 2007 be endorsed;
- (iii) appropriate strategies be included within the Council's overall Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Plan; and
- (iv) the Wave 6 allocation from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) be approved and to enter into the "Building Schools for the Future" (BSF) Programme in partnership with Bournemouth Borough Council.

12. REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY (RSS) – IMPLICATIONS OF 2003 REVISED HOUSEHOLD PROJECTS: REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LOCAL ECONOMY (INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION)

Councillor Parker, the Portfolio Holder introduced his Report referring to pages 35 and 37 of the supporting documentation referring to paragraph 6.4 and 6.5 of the accompanying Report, page 38. Members queried whether the figures were correct in the Council papers as it was thought that the Poole allocation of housing was 500 per annum for 2006/2026?

Councillor Parker responded explaining that Council was being asked to endorse the recommendations of the South East Dorset Joint Planning and Transportation Committee of 12th January 2007, agreeing to a Poole allocation of 500 per annum, with the agreed addition that "Officers be instructed that Members do not wish greater numbers or densities than the Authorities consider desirable or practical."

He apologised for any confusion caused by the lack of clarity of the papers which he would be taking up with the Officers.

Meeting to continue after 4 hours

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED that, in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, Council agrees that the Meeting be allowed to continue for longer than the 4 hours specified in Standing Orders.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Council approve the report set out in Appendix 1 entitled “Implications of the 2003 revised Household Projections” Section 4(4) advice as its formal response to the South West Regional Assembly’s growth scenarios;
- (ii) the alternative scenario set out in Section 6 of Appendix 1, and described in paragraphs 5.2 – 5.4 of the Report be endorsed, as the Council’s preferred approach for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole;
- (iii) Council agree that the need to accommodate additional housing growth, based on revised household forecasts, should be considered in more detail through a partial review of RSS, allowing the Spatial Strategy to be revisited, including the potential for new settlements across the Region as a whole; and
- (iv) Council support and endorse the decision of the Joint Committee that Members do not wish greater numbers or densities than the Authorities consider desirable or practical.

13. **PLANNING POOLE: CORE STRATEGY – PREFERRED OPTIONS:
REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LOCAL ECONOMY
(INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION)**

A Member queried why the amendments agreed with regard to Greenfield sites had not been included in the Report? Councillor Parker agreed that with regard to Creekmoor there was a shortage of industrial land/land for knowledge based development. It had been agreed that the reference to the Council owned Greenfield site be deleted as a potential development site.

A Member explained that there was not sufficient provision for land use for health care as there was an aging population, 80% of older people owned their own homes, and there was a need for the provision of land use for health care provision, employment and industrial use.

It was also agreed that an additional bullet point be inserted: “Identifying the needs of an ageing population.

Councillor Parker apologised for any inaccuracies in the Report referred to Council which he would take up with the Officers to ensure that amendments previously agreed were carried through.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Council be requested to approve the general structure of the Preferred Options Consultation Document as amended, inter alia, to delete referral to the Greenfield site at Creekmoor and the insertion of a reference "identifying the needs of an ageing population;
- (ii) the final detailed wording of the Preferred Options Document be delegated to the Head of Strategic Planning Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Local Economy (including Transportation) in advance of being published for consultation at the end of February 2007; and
- (iii) Council pursue with Government, support for local character area policies within existing Local Plans and in emerging local development documents (extension of bullet point 11, page 3 Summary of Preferred Approach) in the attached Report.

14. PLANNING OBLIGATIONS (RECREATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS) FOR SANDBANKS RECREATION GROUND: REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS (INCLUDING LEISURE AND RECREATION)

Councillor Collier, the Portfolio Holder introduced this item.

RESOLVED that Council approve, in accordance with Financial Regulations, the allocation of £400,000 for Phase One of the improvements to Sandbanks Recreation Ground comprising £255,000 from the Beaches fund, £100,000 from Equipped Children's Play Fund and £45,000 from Casual Play and Amenity Open Space Fund, collected for Canford Cliffs Ward.

15. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005: REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS (INCLUDING LEISURE AND RECREATION)

The Portfolio Holder, Councillor Collier, introduced his Report explaining that these issues had been considered by the Environment Overview Group at its Meeting on 1st February 2007 and unanimously supported.

RESOLVED that

- (i) That, subject to statutory consultation, the following draft Orders be made to supersede the current Byelaws:
 - The Dogs Exclusion (Western End Promenade at Sandbanks Beach to Branksome Chine Beach Office) Order 2007
 - The Dogs on Leads (The promenade at Sandbanks beach between the western end of the Promenade and the border with Bournemouth) Order 2007

(ii) That, subject to statutory consultation, the following draft Orders be made:

- The Dogs Exclusion (Hamworthy Beach from the Western End to beach hut number 97) Order 2007
- The Dogs Exclusion (Hamworthy Park Playground) Order 2007
- The Dogs on Leads (Hamworthy Park) Order 2007

(iii) That the use of designating areas where the distribution of free literature can be controlled and that the process for officers for determining areas is recommended set out in the report by the Head of Environmental and Consumer Protection Services.

16. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Motion had been received.

Anti-Social Behaviour: Khyber Road

“Council recognises that residents in and around Khyber Road have suffered for many years unacceptable levels of anti-social behaviour including noise nuisance, motorbikes, drug dealing, drug taking and littering and therefore resolves to stop up permanently the alley way linking Layton Road with Khyber Road.”

Councillors Eades, Meachin, Clements, Brooke, Plummer, Mrs Moore, Wilson, Miss Wilson and Trent.

It was Moved, Seconded and RESOLVED that in accordance with the Council’s Constitution the Motion be referred to the appropriate Area Committee and Council.

17. QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE POLICE AND FIRE AUTHORITIES

There were no Questions relating to the Police and Fire Authorities.

18. QUESTIONS RELATING TO GENERAL BUSINESS

The Questions received in accordance with the Council’s Constitution and the Answers given are detailed in Appendix A to these Minutes.

19. URGENT BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT TO ADOPTION PANEL

In accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Mayor allowed consideration of the above urgent item as a decision was required before the next scheduled Meeting of the Council.

At the last Meeting of the Council the Mayor had been appointed as the Council's nominee to the Adoption Panel but, in view of her workload and the workload and commitment necessary to be an effective Member of the Adoption Panel, the Mayor had declined to accept the nomination.

Council conveyed its appreciation of the work and commitment undertaken by Councillor Jeff Allen in previously carrying out this very important role.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services had been advised by the Conservative Group Leader, that Councillor Mrs Deas wished to be nominated to this Panel.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Deas be nominated to serve on the Council's Adoption Panel for a 3 year term.

20. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Public and Press be excluded from the Meeting for the business specified in Item 21 as it was likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the said Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

21. NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR AND SHERIFF 2007/2008

RESOLVED that Councillor Jeff Allen be nominated as Mayor-Elect for the 2007/2008 Municipal Year and that Councillor Mrs Lavender be nominated as Sheriff-Elect for the 2007/2008 Municipal Year.

MAYOR

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9.2 TO 9.4

1. Question from Councillor Bulteel to Councillor Parker, Portfolio Holder for Local Economy (including Transportation)

"There are rumours that we are going to follow Bournemouths example of closing car parks. Can you confirm if this is the case?"

RESPONSE

I can confirm that there are currently no plans to close, or indeed to sell any of the Council's car parks. Council control of the car parks enables us to provide greater flexibility to support local economic, transportation and tourism strategies.

This enables the Council to have full control over charges, quality of facilities and needs of local residents. As a result the latest BOP customer satisfaction survey shows a response of 70% good or very good assessment (an increase of 75 on the last survey).

The low crime levels in our car parks have been recognised nationally by the award of the Parkmark Safer Parking Award.

**Councillor Ron Parker
Portfolio Holder for Local Economy (including Transportation)**

2. Question from Councillor Eades to Councillor Sorton, Portfolio Holder for Resources

Could Councillor Sorton please advise the additional costs incurred by the Council in delivering a Councillors internal Council mail to an address in Bournemouth.

RESPONSE

The Council uses a private firm of couriers to deliver mail to Councillors. The tender price is based on the number of deliveries within Poole, Bournemouth area and not distance. I can assure the Councillor there is no additional cost by delivering to an address in Bournemouth.

Councillor Sorton