

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 February 2026 at 7.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr L Dedman – Chairman

Cllr S Bull – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr C Adams, Cllr S Aitkenhead, Cllr H Allen, Cllr M Andrews, Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr J Beesley, Cllr D Brown, Cllr O Brown, Cllr R Burton, Cllr J J Butt, Cllr P Canavan, Cllr S Carr-Brown, Cllr J Challinor, Cllr A Chapmanlaw, Cllr B Chick, Cllr J Clements, Cllr E Connolly, Cllr M Cox, Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson, Cllr B Dove, Cllr M Earl, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr D Farr, Cllr D A Flagg, Cllr M Gillett, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr J Hanna, Cllr E Harman, Cllr R Herrett, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr M Howell, Cllr A Keddie, Cllr M Le Poidevin, Cllr D Logan, Cllr S Mackrow, Cllr A Martin, Cllr D Martin, Cllr G Martin, Cllr J Martin, Cllr C Matthews, Cllr S McCormack, Cllr P Miles, Cllr S Moore, Cllr B Nanovo, Cllr L Northover, Cllr R Pattinson-West, Cllr M Phipps, Cllr K Rampton, Cllr Dr F Rice, Cllr J Richardson, Cllr V Ricketts, Cllr C Rigby, Cllr K Salmon, Cllr J Salmon, Cllr P Sidaway, Cllr P Slade, Cllr T Slade, Cllr V Slade, Cllr M Tarling, Cllr T Trent, Cllr O Walters, Cllr C Weight, Cllr K Wilson and Cllr G Wright

86. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Armstrong, J Bagwell, P Cooper, A Filer, A-M Moriarty and L Williams

87. Declarations of Interests

Council was advised that the Monitoring Officer had granted all Members dispensations to enable all Councillors to fully and freely participate in the debate relating to all aspects of the budget setting for the forthcoming year and the Council Tax base.

In relation to this Council was advised that the granting of the dispensation would be reported to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

Councillor Jamie Martin declared an interest in Minute No. 95 (Cabinet 11 February 2026 – Minute No. 133 – Pokesdown Railway Station) and left the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon.

88. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

The Chairman advised Council that given the budget specific nature of the meeting the Council would be updated with regards to engagements attended at the next meeting of the Council on 24 March 2026.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Mike Cox paid tribute to Adam Richens who was stepping down as Chief Finance Officer at the end of March following 40 years of service, the Portfolio Holder thanked Mr Richens for his dedication, expertise, integrity and professionalism.

89. Public Issues

The Chairman advised Council that in accordance with the Constitution that questions and statements submitted to the Budget Council meeting must address the business on the agenda in so far as it may relate to the setting of the budget for the coming financial year.

**Public Questions**

**Public Question from David Redgewell**

At the meeting on 11th February 2025 the council turned down a request by Network Rail Wessex route and SWR to fund the replacement lifts at Pokesdown station including the station forecourt improvements.

As a local transport authority, BCP has a responsibility to work with the state owned rail industry with Dorset Council building new lifts at Dorchester South. We urge the council to reinstate some partnership budget on this important project. In view of the fact that this is a public project, will the council and Network Rail publish the Equality Impact Assessment EIA and Disability Impact Assessment DIA and meet with Lord Hendy, Heidi Alexander, the Western Gateway Transport Board and Lawrence Bowman?

**Response by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley**

Thank you, Mr Redgewell, for your statement and question, as you highlight in your statement the Pokesdown lifts have been inoperable for nearly 50 years and over that time the railway operator has not acted to rectify this.

There was a specific obligation as a result of the community campaign on First MTR Group in taking on the South West Rail franchise in 2017 to get functional passenger lifts at the station by 2020, they failed that obligation.

It is the duty of the railway operator to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act but also to cater for those with need with prams or luggage joining or leaving trains, none of the stations across BCP comply with the regulations although Bournemouth has at least steeper ramps, and none are currently on the Access For All priority list nationally.

As a transport authority BCP Council is responsible for strategic transport planning, the oversight of public transport services and the highway infrastructure that supports them.

The offer to part fund the Pokesdown lifts was unfunded and went beyond the responsibilities of the local authority, it required us to borrow funds over a 50-year term.

For other stations including at Dorchester South there are significant developments close by that residents could benefit from the facilities and

the community infrastructure levy funding (CIL) rather than borrowing has been offered. There are no such opportunities around Pokesdown.

The Equalities Impact Assessment for the decision on our contributions is attached to the report, any decision has both a positive and negative impact and the assessment highlights that funding other essential services that the council does have responsibility for across the whole of BCP balances not funding this improvement at this one site in respect of an equalities impact.

We have met with the team from South West railway and Network Rail Wessex and written to both the Rail Minister and the Secretary of State for Transport, given the perilous state of local government funding we cannot contribute at this time, it would be great if Network Rail and South Western Railway were able to complete this long overdue project.

### **Public Statements**

#### **Public Statement from David Redgewell**

Dear Councillors, I am very disappointed as a wheelchair user, that in the budget cabinet meeting on 11th February 2026, the BCP did not proceed with the partnership funding for the lifts at Pokesdown station after 50 years.

As a local public transport authority we do not understand why the council cannot work with public bodies like Network Rail and SWR to develop a fully accessible station and publish an Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessments on the project especially as the council is bidding with the Western Gateway Transport Board for funding of the Dorset Metro between Swanage, Wareham and Brockenhurst as part of GBR.

#### **Public Statement from Lynne McCarty**

It may be precious money to BCP Council, but ensuring our Station is step free is much much more than that. It's about ALL our integrity and values - collectively, individually, democratically. Humanitarian responsibility, in fact, and BCP's history in the making, so vital it is to honour your promise of partnership funding, supposedly unanimously ringfenced, until now. After a long patient meaningful campaign of 11 years.

Fundamentally it's about demonstrating your care and concern for all disadvantaged travellers to/from BCP.

Furthermore, the value to BCP will be monumental, raising its image positively for once, locally and nationally, against the overwhelming tsunami of constant negative bad press that anyone who cares is absolutely sick of seeing. Especially leading up to crucial elections in 2026/2027.

Please please, put all barriers and party politics aside, make an honourable and philanthropic decision TO FIND A WAY, at last.

#### **Public Statement from Ben Smith**

I urge Council to amend this budget which is bad news for investment and accessibility in Pokesdown. You committed to fund part of the lifts and refurbishment at Pokesdown. The priorities seem to have forgotten for the disabled in this budget, as well as ambition to improve Pokesdown.

You may have heard all stations in BCP have limited, or no, accessibility. That's no reason to give up here. We have to start somewhere. Pokesdown is incredibly poor for all visitors and residents. This should be a gateway to AFC Bournemouth, Boscombe and Southbourne – not a place to avoid. It is misleading to say this is significantly different from original plans, and this decision will scupper a major investment project mirrored around the country that always require local funding.

There is a change.org petition which currently has 2,213 signatures.

90. Cabinet 14 January 2026 - Minute No. 108 - Council Tax - Tax base 2026/27

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Mike Cox presented the report on the Council Tax – Tax base 2025/26 and outlined the recommendations as set out in the agenda.

**RESOLVED that Council approved: -**

- (a) **the report for the calculation of the council's tax base for the year 2026/27; and**
- (b) **pursuant to the report, and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, the amount calculated as the council tax base for Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Council for 2026/27 is 152,481.7**

Voting: Unanimous

91. Audit and Governance Committee 15 January 2026 – Minute No. 86 – Treasury Management Monitoring report for the period April to December 2025 and Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, Councillor Eleanor Connolly presented the report on the Treasury Management Monitoring for the period April to December 2025 and Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Council was advised that the report set out the monitoring of the Council's Treasury Management function for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 December 2025.

**RESOLVED that Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 (Appendix 1)**

Voting: Unanimous

92. Cabinet 4 February 2026 - Minute No. 118 - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget setting 2026-27

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulatory Services, Councillor Kieron Wilson presented the report on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Setting 2026-27 and outlined the recommendations as set out in the agenda papers.

**RECOMMENDED that: -**

- (a) The revenue budget for 2026/27 and provisionally for 2027/28 to 2028/29 are set using the following principles:**
  - (i) That dwelling rents are increased by 4.8 per cent (Consumer Price Index for September 2025 + 1 per cent) from 6 April 2026 in line with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Policy statement on rents for social housing.**
  - (ii) That garage, garage bases and parking plot rental charges are increased by 4.8 percent from 6 April 2026 and 11 per cent in parts of Poole so that charges continue to align.**
  - (iii) That leasehold services are charged to leaseholders in line with actual costs incurred.**
  - (iv) That shared ownership dwelling rents are increased in line with lease terms.**
  - (v) That the changes to service charges are agreed as set out in appendix 2.**
  - (vi) That HRA reserves are set at £4.8 million.**
- (b) That the Income and Expenditure budget for 2026/7 and provisionally for 2027/28 to 2028/29 as set out in Appendix 3 is agreed.**
- (c) That capital budgets for 2026/27 and provisionally for 2027/28 to 2028/29 are set using the following principles.**
  - (i) That the major project capital programme as set out in Appendix 4 is noted.**
  - (ii) That £0.5 million for the acquisition of individual properties (Acquire and Repair) and other annual capital budgets are agreed.**
  - (iii) That the planned maintenance programme as set out in Appendix 5 is agreed.**

Voting: Unanimous

Councillor Felicity Rice joined the meeting at 7.32pm

93. Cabinet 11 February 2026 - Minute No. 132 - Budget 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Mike Cox presented the report on the Budget 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Plan and outlined the recommendations as set out in the agenda papers.

Councillor Rachel Pattinson-West moved an amended budget, this was seconded by Councillor Chris Rigby, copies of which had been circulated to all councillors and had been published as a supplement to the agenda papers prior to the meeting and a copy of which will be appended to the signed minutes in the signed minute book.

Council comprehensively debated the submitted budget amendment which proposed the removal of the Lead Member Special Responsibility Allowances from the 2026/27 proposed budget and the establishment of a ring-fenced Governance and Assurance Reserve.

Following discussion, the proposed budget amendment was put to a recorded vote and fell with voting 12:49 (6 abstentions)

For:12

|                       |                      |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Cllr Cameron Adams    | Cllr Duane Farr      | Cllr Rachel Pattinson-West |
| Cllr Stephen Bartlett | Cllr Mark Howell     | Cllr Chris Rigby           |
| Cllr Simon Bull       | Cllr Alasdair Keddie | Cllr Joe Salmon            |
| Cllr Jackie Edwards   | Cllr Gillian Martin  | Cllr Kate Salmon           |

Against:49

|                        |                        |                         |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cllr Sue Aitkenhead    | Cllr Crispin Goodall   | Cllr Marion Le Poidevin |
| Cllr Hazel Allen       | Cllr Andy Hadley       | Cllr Karen Rampton      |
| Cllr Marcus Andrews    | Cllr Jeff Hanna        | Cllr Felicity Rice      |
| Cllr David Brown       | Cllr Emily Harman      | Cllr Judy Richardson    |
| Cllr Olivia Brown      | Cllr Richard Herrett   | Cllr Vanessa Ricketts   |
| Cllr Richard Burton    | Cllr Paul Hilliard     | Cllr Peter Sidaway      |
| Cllr Judes Butt        | Cllr Dawn Logan        | Cllr Paul Slade         |
| Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown | Cllr Sandra Mackrow    | Cllr Toby Slade         |
| Cllr John Challinor    | Cllr Andy Martin       | Cllr Vikki Slade        |
| Cllr Adrian Chapmanlaw | Cllr David Martin      | Cllr Michael Tarling    |
| Cllr Jo Clements       | Cllr Jamie Martin      | Cllr Tony Trent         |
| Cllr Eleanor Connolly  | Cllr Chris Matthews    | Cllr Oliver Walters     |
| Cllr Mike Cox          | Cllr Simon McCormack   | Cllr Clare Weight       |
| Cllr Millie Earl       | Cllr Sandra Moore      | Cllr Kieron Wilson      |
| Cllr George Farquhar   | Cllr Bernadette Nanovo | Cllr Gavin Wright       |
| Cllr David Flagg       | Cllr Lisa Northover    |                         |
| Cllr Matthew Gillett   | Cllr Margaret Phipps   |                         |

Abstentions:6

|                      |                           |                  |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Cllr John Beesley    | Cllr Lesley Dedman        | Cllr Bobbie Dove |
| Cllr Patrick Canavan | Cllr David d'Orton Gibson | Cllr Pete Miles  |

The meeting adjourned at 8.54pm and reconvened at 9.10pm

Councillor Patrick Canavan moved an amended budget, this was seconded by Councillor Eleanor Connolly, copies of which had been circulated to all councillors and had been published as a supplement to the agenda papers

prior to the meeting and a copy of which will be appended to the signed minutes in the signed minute book.

Council comprehensively debated the amendment which proposed the removal of recommendation (c) which was then to be replaced with an alternative recommendation setting out that the additional council tax receipts from increasing the council tax by the additional 1.75% be allocated specifically for the Plan for Play, the Library Strategy, pothole repair and road surfacing with the remainder being allocated towards essential services reducing the draw down of unearmarked reserves.

Following discussion, the proposed budget amendment was put to a recorded vote and fell with voting 6:57 (4 abstentions)

For:6

|                      |                        |                      |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Cllr Sue Aitkenhead  | Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown | Cllr George Farquhar |
| Cllr Patrick Canavan | Cllr Eleanor Connolly  | Cllr Jamie Martin    |

Against:57

|                           |                            |                         |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cllr Cameron Adams        | Cllr Matthew Gillett       | Cllr Margaret Phipps    |
| Cllr Marcus Andrews       | Cllr Crispin Goodall       | Cllr Marion Le Poidevin |
| Cllr Stephen Bartlett     | Cllr Andy Hadley           | Cllr Karen Rampton      |
| Cllr John Beesley         | Cllr Jeff Hanna            | Cllr Felicity Rice      |
| Cllr David Brown          | Cllr Emily Harman          | Cllr Judy Richardson    |
| Cllr Olivia Brown         | Cllr Richard Herrett       | Cllr Vanessa Ricketts   |
| Cllr Simon Bull           | Cllr Paul Hilliard         | Cllr Chris Rigby        |
| Cllr Richard Burton       | Cllr Alasdair Keddie       | Cllr Joe Salmon         |
| Cllr Judes Butt           | Cllr Dawn Logan            | Cllr Kate Salmon        |
| Cllr John Challinor       | Cllr Sandra Mackrow        | Cllr Peter Sidaway      |
| Cllr Adrian Chapmanlaw    | Cllr Andy Martin           | Cllr Paul Slade         |
| Cllr Jo Clements          | Cllr David Martin          | Cllr Toby Slade         |
| Cllr Mike Cox             | Cllr Gillian Martin        | Cllr Vikki Slade        |
| Cllr David d'Orton-Gibson | Cllr Chris Matthews        | Cllr Michael Tarling    |
| Cllr Bobbie Dove          | Cllr Simon McCormack       | Cllr Tony Trent         |
| Cllr Millie Earl          | Cllr Sandra Moore          | Cllr Oliver Walters     |
| Cllr Jackie Edwards       | Cllr Bernadette Nanovo     | Cllr Clare Weight       |
| Cllr Duane Farr           | Cllr Lisa Northover        | Cllr Kieron Wilson      |
| Cllr David Flagg          | Cllr Rachel Pattinson-West | Cllr Gavin Wright       |

Abstentions:4

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Cllr Hazel Allen   | Cllr Mark Howell |
| Cllr Lesley Dedman | Cllr Pete Miles  |

Council then debated the substantive budget proposals in detail as originally proposed.

Following comprehensive debate Council moved to a recorded vote where the motion as set out below was carried with voting: 39:20 (8 abstentions): -

For:39

|                        |                        |                         |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cllr Marcus Andrews    | Cllr Jeff Hanna        | Cllr Margaret Phipps    |
| Cllr David Brown       | Cllr Emily Harman      | Cllr Marion Le Poidevin |
| Cllr Olivia Brown      | Cllr Richard Herrett   | Cllr Felicity Rice      |
| Cllr Richard Burton    | Cllr Paul Hilliard     | Cllr Judy Richardson    |
| Cllr Adrian Chapmanlaw | Cllr Dawn Logan        | Cllr Vanessa Ricketts   |
| Cllr Jo Clements       | Cllr Sandra Mackrow    | Cllr Peter Sidaway      |
| Cllr Mike Cox          | Cllr Andy Martin       | Cllr Paul Slade         |
| Cllr Lesley Dedman     | Cllr David Martin      | Cllr Vikki Slade        |
| Cllr Millie Earl       | Cllr Chris Matthews    | Cllr Michael Tarling    |
| Cllr David Flagg       | Cllr Simon McCormack   | Cllr Tony Trent         |
| Cllr Matthew Gillett   | Cllr Sandra Moore      | Cllr Oliver Walters     |
| Cllr Crispin Goodall   | Cllr Bernadette Nanovo | Cllr Clare Weight       |
| Cllr Andy Hadley       | Cllr Lisa Northover    | Cllr Kieron Wilson      |

Against:20

|                        |                       |                     |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Cllr Cameron Adams     | Cllr John Challinor   | Cllr Gillian Martin |
| Cllr Sue Aitkenhead    | Cllr Eleanor Connolly | Cllr Jamie Martin   |
| Cllr Stephen Bartlett  | Cllr Bobbie Dove      | Cllr Pete Miles     |
| Cllr John Beesley      | Cllr Jackie Edwards   | Cllr Karen Rampton  |
| Cllr Judes Butt        | Cllr George Farquhar  | Cllr Toby Slade     |
| Cllr Patrick Canavan   | Cllr Duane Farr       | Cllr Gavin Wright   |
| Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown | Cllr Mark Howell      |                     |

Abstentions:8

|                           |                            |                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Cllr Hazel Allen          | Cllr Alasdair Keddie       | Cllr Joe Salmon  |
| Cllr Simon Bull           | Cllr Rachel Pattinson-West | Cllr Kate Salmon |
| Cllr David d'Orton-Gibson | Cllr Chris Rigby           |                  |

**RESOLVED that Council: -**

- (a) Undertakes a recorded vote in relation to the following items as required by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendments) Regulations 2014.
  - (i) Agrees that a net budget requirement of £452m, resulting in a total council tax requirement of £297.033m, is set for 2026/27 based on the draft local government financial

settlement figures published by government in December 2025.

- (ii) Agrees an increase in council tax of 2.99% for 2026/27 in respect of the basic annual threshold and the collection of the additional social care precept of 2%.
  - (iii) Confirms the key assumptions and provisions made in the budget as proposed and as set out in Appendix 3.
  - (iv) Agrees the allocations to service areas in the budget as set out in Appendix 5.
  - (v) Agrees the implementation of £14m of savings as set out in Appendix 5a.
  - (vi) Approve that the current Council Tax discount for Beach Chalets on Mudeford Sandspit and Hengistbury Head is removed from 1 April 2026 onwards see appendix 5b.
  - (vii) Approves the flexible use of capital receipts efficiency strategy as the mechanism for funding the council's transformation related and invest to save expenditure as set out in Appendix 6 and potentially a capitalisation direction from government to cover the 2026/27 DSG borrowing costs should it be granted.
  - (viii) Approves the capital investment programme (CIP) as set out in paragraphs 66 to 82 and Appendix 7.
  - (ix) Approves the asset management plan as set out in Appendix 8.
  - (x) Agrees the treasury management strategy (TMS) and prudential indicators as set out in paragraphs 84 to 87 and Appendix 9.
  - (xi) Accepts and supports the formal advice of the chief finance officer on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves as set out in paragraphs 102 to 109 and Appendix 10.
- (b) Agree to borrow £95.7m to fund the 2026/27 excess Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) High Needs DSG revenue expenditure above the government grant being made available. This is also based on previous assurance from government that the council can exceed its borrowing thresholds temporarily based on their commitment to return the SEND system to financial sustainability.
- (c) Delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance, Leader, and Portfolio Holder for Finance, the allocation of any additional resources that become available through the final 2026/27 local government finance settlement or any other means.
- (d) Approves the chief officers' pay policy statement 2026/2027 for consideration and approval by the council in accordance with

**the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 as set out in paragraphs 111 to 113 and Appendix 12.**

- (e) Note amendments to the Council's Shared Vision (Appendix 1b), updated to reflect changes to political and officer leadership, the list of milestones to reflect progress made in the last two years and areas of focus for 2025 to 27. The vision, ambitions and priorities remain unchanged.**

Voting: For:39, Against:20, Abstentions:8

Councillors Jackie Edwards, Margaret Phipps and Toby Slade left the meeting at 10.52pm at the conclusion of this item.

The Chairman advised that Council would now proceed to Agenda Item 10 (2026/27 Council Tax Resolution), after which the meeting would return to the published order of business.

94. 2026/27 Council Tax Resolution

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Council was advised that under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 the council as the billing authority must calculate a council tax requirement and basic amount of council tax for the following year.

Further to this Council was informed that if the formal council tax resolution at Appendix A was approved the BCP Council Band D council tax would be £1,980.46 from 1 April 2026.

Following debate Council moved to a recorded vote where the motion as set out below was carried with voting 40:9 (15 abstentions): -

For:40

|                        |                            |                        |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr Marcus Andrews    | Cllr Jeff Hanna            | Cllr Marion LePoidevin |
| Cllr Stephen Bartlett  | Cllr Emily Harman          | Cllr Felicity Rice     |
| Cllr David Brown       | Cllr Richard Herrett       | Cllr Judy Richardson   |
| Cllr Olivia Brown      | Cllr Paul Hilliard         | Cllr Vanessa Ricketts  |
| Cllr Richard Burton    | Cllr Dawn Logan            | Cllr Peter Sidaway     |
| Cllr Adrian Chapmanlaw | Cllr Sandra Mackrow        | Cllr Paul Slade        |
| Cllr Jo Clements       | Cllr Andy Martin           | Cllr Vikki Slade       |
| Cllr Mike Cox          | Cllr David Martin          | Cllr Michael Tarling   |
| Cllr Lesley Dedman     | Cllr Chris Matthews        | Cllr Tony Trent        |
| Cllr Millie Earl       | Cllr Simon McCormack       | Cllr Oliver Walters    |
| Cllr David Flagg       | Cllr Sandra Moore          | Cllr Clare Weight      |
| Cllr Matthew Gillett   | Cllr Bernadette Nanovo     | Cllr Kieron Wilson     |
| Cllr Crispin Goodall   | Cllr Lisa Northover        |                        |
| Cllr Andy Hadley       | Cllr Rachel Pattinson-West |                        |

Against:9

|                       |                        |                     |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Cllr Sue Aitkenhead   | Cllr Sharon Carr-Brown | Cllr Gillian Martin |
| Cllr Judes Butt       | Cllr Eleanor Connolly  | Cllr Jamie Martin   |
| Cllr Partrick Canavan | Cllr George Farquhar   | Cllr Pete Miles     |

Abstentions:15

|                     |                           |                    |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Cllr Cameron Adams  | Cllr David d'Orton-Gibson | Cllr Karen Rampton |
| Cllr Hazel Allen    | Cllr Bobbie Dove          | Cllr Chris Rigby   |
| Cllr John Beesley   | Cllr Duane Farr           | Cllr Joe Salmon    |
| Cllr Simon Bull     | Cllr Mark Howell          | Cllr Kate Salmon   |
| Cllr John Challinor | Cllr Alasdair Keddie      | Cllr Gavin Wright  |

**RESOLVED that Council approved the council tax resolution as set out in Appendix A.**

Voting: For:40, Against:9, Abstentions:15

95. Cabinet 11 February 2026 - Minute No. 133 - Pokesdown Railway Station

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley presented the report on Pokesdown Railway Station and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Council was advised that prior notice had been received of a proposed amendment from Councillor Patrick Canavan in respect of this item which had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Canavan formally moved his amendment which was seconded by Councillor George Farquhar and read as follows: -

*Cabinet recommends to council re-examination of the offer of a £2.6 million contribution to the Pokesdown Railway Station Improvement Project. This to be considered following further discussion with the rail companies and other interested parties and no formal commitment will now be made without a further resolution of Council.*

Comprehensive discussion took place on the amendment whereby Members spoke in support of the importance of the accessibility issues being addressed at Pokesdown Station whilst highlighting the length of time the project had taken to get underway and the increased financial pressures on the council.

Following debate, the proposed amendment was put to the vote where it fell with voting: For:19, Against:38, Abstentions:5

Council then thoroughly debated the substantive recommendation as originally proposed.

**RESOLVED that Council withdraw the offer of a £2.6m contribution to the Pokesdown Railway Station Improvements project.**

Voting: For:38, Against:13, Abstentions:10

Councillor Jamie Martin declared an interest in this item and left the room for the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Rachel Pattinson-West left the meeting at 11.28pm prior to the vote on the substantive motion.

96. Recruitment of Interim Chief of Finance & Section 151 Officer

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Council was advised that the report invited the Council to approve the appointment of Matthew Filmer to the position of Interim Chief of Finance & Section 151 Officer in accordance with the Council's Constitution and statutory requirements.

In relation to this Council was informed that a summary of Mr Filmer's skills, experience and employment history was shown within appendix 1 of the report.

**RESOLVED that Council approved the appointment of Matthew Filmer to the position of Interim Chief of Finance & Section 151 Officer.**

Voting: Unanimous

The meeting ended at 11.48 pm

CHAIRMAN