

COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 15 FEBRUARY 2007

Present:- Councillor A R Row – Chairman.
Councillors E C Abrahams, K R Artus, H D Baker, P Boland, C A Cant, R P Chambers, J F Cheetham, C D Down, S Flack, M L Foley, R F Freeman, M A Gayler, E J Godwin, D W Gregory, R T Harris, M A Hibbs, E W Hicks, S C Jones, A J Ketteridge, T P Knight, V J T Lelliott, A Marchant, J E Menell, M J Miller, D J Morson, V Pedder, M J Savage, S V Schneider, G Sell, A R Thawley, A M Wattebot and A C Yarwood.

Officers in attendance: - A Bovaird, G Bradley, M Brean, M Cox, J Mitchell, P O'Dell and M Perry.

C77 COUNCILLOR BRIAN HUGHES

The Chairman reported that former Councillor Brian Hughes had passed away in December at the age of 102. He had served as the Councillor for the Sampfords Ward on Uttlesford Council from its inception in 1973 until 1997. He was fiercely independent and was a strong supporter of road safety issues and sport and was always keen to promote initiatives and opportunities for young people. He would be remembered as one of the real characters of Uttlesford and would be sadly missed by all those who knew him. Those present stood in silent tribute to his memory.

C78 COUNCILLOR STEPHEN JONES

The Council gave its sincere condolences to Councillor Stephen Jones on the recent sad passing of his wife.

C79 MEMBERS QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Cheetham asked the Leader when it had become Council policy to announce the Council Tax levels in the press before the Council had seen the agenda papers or made a decision. Councillor Gayler replied that it was standard practice to give an indication of what would be proposed when asked by the press.

Councillor Ketteridge asked why the agenda for this meeting was so lengthy. This meeting had traditionally been for the budget and council tax setting and the Council should not be distracted by other significant items that were on the agenda. This was not good for reasoned debate. He then questioned whether it was in order to determine the budget at this meeting when it had not been considered previously at the Operations Committee. The Assistant Chief Executive said that the Operations Committee was to advise the Council on the budget but if this was not possible the Council could consider the matter afresh. Councillor Gayler said it would have been helpful for the Operations Committee to have looked at this first, but there had been

understandable reasons why the meeting had been cancelled. Councillor Flack asked if the Leader would have proposed an increase of 2% at the Operations Committee if the meeting had gone ahead. He replied that he would have done so.

Councillor Menell said that the resolution of Minute NP49 of the North Area Panel in respect of the Traffic Calming Task Group had not been referred to the Environment Committee and asked if it could be approved at this meeting. She was advised that as it was not on the agenda it could only be considered if it was deemed to be urgent, otherwise it would be approved at the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Flack it was confirmed that the recommendation from the Community Committee in respect of the Housing Board had also been withdrawn from the agenda along with item 17 but that the matter would be referred to the Constitution Task Group.

Councillor Hicks asked the Director of Resources to confirm that the Council had been debt free up to 2003 and at that date the Council's reserves had been £10,977.00 and the forecast for the end of 2007/08 was £439,763. The Director of Resources confirmed these figures and also that the Council had been debt free since 1996. Councillor Gayler said that the 2003/04 budget had been set by the Conservative administration and at that time the Capital receipts had reduced by £2m. This was part of an ongoing trend due mainly to the significant reduction in council tax sales year on year. The medium term financial strategy aimed to address this situation.

Councillor Knight asked why officers had not arranged another meeting of the Operations Committee. The Chief Executive said that the meeting had been cancelled after taking into account Police advice for travelling on that evening. A new meeting would have to be called by notice and there had not been sufficient time for this to be arranged.

C80 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Dean, C M Dean, E Gower, B M Hughes, R M Lemon, J I Loughlin, J P Murphy, F E Silver, E Tealby-Watson and P A Wilcock.

C81 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Flack declared an interest as a member of Essex County Council, the Essex Fire Authority and the EERA Housing Panel. Councillor Chambers declared an interest as a member of Essex County Council and the Chairman of the Essex Police Authority. Councillor Cheetham declared an interest as a member of EERA.

C82 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C83 **BUSINESS ARISING**

(i) Minute C66 – Leader’s Communications

Councillor Cheetham asked the Leader for an update on the meeting with Ruth Kelly and the progress on recouping the cost of the Lebanese evacuation. He said that the meeting had looked at the wider issues of migration and discussed how councils could work better with migrant workers. He had learnt a lot from other authorities and had gained more information about the issues that would help in developing a policy for the district. He said that the Government, in not helping toward the cost of the Lebanese evacuation, had been lacking in discharging its duties. However he considered that the Council had done the right thing in supporting the evacuees. Councillor Cheetham suggested asking the LGA to lobby on the Council’s behalf. She also said that she sat on the Social Inclusion Panel at EERA and could liaise with the Council on migration issues.

C84 **CHAIRMAN’S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman said that he had recently held a very successful film night at Saffron Screen. The next event was a charity golf day at Saffron Walden Golf Club on 10 May. The Chairman’s reception would be held on 20 March and the charity abseil would be during the weekend of 5/6 May. He sent congratulations to Councillor Tealby-Watson on the recent birth of her daughter.

C85 **LEADER’S COMMUNICATIONS**

Councillor Gayler reported that he had attended a meeting of the District Leader’s Sounding Board. This was a new forum of the LGA that aimed to lobby on behalf of two tier district councils. It was looking particularly at having more flexibility in making decisions eg on fees and charges, and at the services provided at that tier of Government.

C86 **MATTERS REFERRED FROM COMMITTEES**

i) Time off for civic duties and voluntary service

At the meeting of the Council in October 2006, Members had requested a report on the policy on leave for civic and voluntary service and in particular entitlement for members of the Territorial Army. The report explained that Council policy had historically been based on the National Terms and Conditions of Service (Purple Book) which had been replaced by the nationally agreed Conditions of Service (Green Book). These were less

specific and allowed for local agreements and policies to fit local requirements. The Green Book gave guidance on leave for public duties but did not specifically mention the Territorial Army, possibly because employees of the army were paid.

The Council's current leave entitlement Policy (PPN17) fell within local agreements allowed under the Green Book regulations and was last reviewed in 2004. It set out special leave entitlement for public duties, reserved forces and jury service. It was based on the principle that all staff who undertook public duties had the same requirements in giving up their time, so no special cases should be made. When flexitime was introduced in 2003 it was agreed that this could be used for attendance at the army camp so as not to take unpaid leave.

The report set out comparison of special leave entitlements for a number of authorities within and outside Essex, and the current leave entitlements were explained. It was also explained that the Council now had to take into account the Gender Equality Duty (GED) which would come into force in April 2007. This required authorities to promote gender equality and eliminate sex discrimination. As all UDC members of the TA were male, it was important that leave requirements were applied equitably and other employees performing other public duties were not discriminated against.

It was therefore recommended that no changes be made to the existing scheme, but that special constables be added to the list of those that qualify for public duties.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the existing entitlement, as set out in the Leave entitlement Policy, remain unchanged.
- 2 PN17 be reviewed and that Special Constables be mentioned specifically in paragraph 3.3 entitled Public Duties.
- 3 the possibilities for utilising the facility of 'negative flexitime' be incorporated in the immediate revision of the relevant policies (No. 17 Leave entitlement and No. 16 Flexible Working Hours Scheme).

C87

BUDGET SETTING 2007/08

The Director of Resources explained the reports that were before the Council to determine the Council's budget 2007/08

i) Uttlesford District Council's Revenue Budget 2007/08 Review of the budget and the level of reserves and balances

Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 the Council's Chief Financial Officer was required to report to the Council on the robustness of the estimates included in the budget and the adequacy of the reserves and balances, and members should have regard to this when making

recommendations on the budget/overall budget to cope with the financial risks that the council faced in 2007/08.

ii) General Fund Budget 2007/08

This report summarised the draft General Fund Revenue Budget for 2007/08. It included all budgeted related recommendations from the current cycle of committee meetings and reflected final technical adjustments and the recommended Council Tax increase of 4.5%.

iii) District Council Tax requirement and Council Tax 2007/08

The report set out the statutory information and recommendations necessary to determine the District Council Budget Requirement and the 2007/08 Council Tax. Essex Police Authority, Essex Fire Authority and Essex County Council met on 12th, 14th and 13th February respectively and the Director of Resources confirmed that the elements of this report relating to these bodies were now confirmed.

iv) Capital Programme 2006/07 – 2009/10.

This report presented the Capital Programme for 2006/07 to 2009/10. It included all schemes put forward by policy committees in this committee cycle and proposed an approach to overall financing of the programme

v) Housing Revenue Account Estimates and rent setting 2007/08

This report was for information and set out the HRA estimates and rent levels that had already been approved by the Community Committee at its meeting on 18 January 2007

vi) Prudential Indicators

As part of CIPFA's Prudential Code, Members were asked to consider the Draft Prudential Indicators for 2007/08 to 2009/10 and the draft revised indicators for 2006/07.

vii) Treasury Management Strategy

As part of CIPFA'S Prudential Code and the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, Members were requested to consider the Treasury Management Strategy for 2007/08 which included both the investment and borrowing strategy for the forthcoming year.

viii) Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Medium Term Financial strategy was a detailed document that set out the strategy for the long term management of the Council's money. In general it set out where the Council was now in financial terms, where the Council would need to be in 5 years time and what it would need to do with its money to get there

Councillor Gayler moved the following motion that was seconded by Councillor Jones

- 1 that Uttlesford District Council's proposed council tax increase for 2007/08 be amended to 2% and that all figures contained in the reports on the agenda be changed accordingly.*
- 2 that all the recommendations for agenda items 8A, 8B, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14 be approved.*

Councillor Cheetham moved that the debate be adjourned to enable Members to read the details of Councillor Gayler's proposal. The Chairman agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 8.10pm. The meeting was reconvened at 8.15pm.

Councillor Godwin asked why the figures had been produced at such a late stage and was concerned that only some members of the Council were aware of them. She asked why the Council had been working to 4.5% increase, only for it to be changed at the last minute.

Councillor Gayler referred members to line 37 of the General Fund summary which showed a reduction in the 'appropriation of surplus to reserves' from £194,438 to £95,355. This was the only figure that was to change, although the knock on effect to the figures in all the reports mentioned above were explained. The Director of Resources had commented that the proposed changes to the figures would still leave sufficient capacity in the overall budget to cope with the financial risks faced by the Council in 2007/08.

Councillor Gayler thanked the Director of Resources and all his staff for their tremendous efforts in preparing the budget papers. He said that back in the summer he had discussed the possibility of a council tax lower than 4.5% but had needed to be confident that it would be sustainable. The Medium Term Financial Strategy and the 2011 project had been crucial in determining that the Council would have the ongoing ability to meet its targets and maintain healthy reserves. He said that the budget included major projects including Uconnect, sustainable energy, recycling scheme and fighting funds for the Airport application. He felt it was reasonable to reduce the amount of appropriation of surplus to reserves and that the budget provided excellent value for money.

Councillor Ketteridge said that over the last year the budgets had been based on a Council Tax increase of 4.5% and tabling changes at this late stage put the leadership of the Council into disrepute. He said the proposal was in direct contradiction with the aspirations of the original report which had set out the rationale for a 4.5% increase, spoke about consolidating reserves and replenishing the Financial Management Reserve. He considered the figures to be based on too many projected savings which were at this time only estimates. He also commented that staff costs had continued to rise. He was concerned that all the committee cycles and the public consultation had been based on an increase of 4.5%. He charged the Administration with wasting time by putting the Director of Resources under further pressure to produce the revised report. He was concerned at the reduction of the Council's

reserves. He could not support the proposal and said it would have enormous implications for the new Council.

Councillor Flack commented that staff numbers in the authority had increased considerably in the last few years. The report claimed that savings would be made by posts not being filled but she questioned how this would be decided. She was advised that the current vacancy level was 15%. There was generally at least a month from when a post became vacant and a new employee started and staff costs were saved during this time. The need for a post would be looked at when it became vacant taking account of the effect on the service and staff morale.

Councillor Chambers said that when he had left the role as leader in 2003, the Council had been financially sound, debt free and with £10m of capital reserves. Four years later the reserves kept tumbling, heading toward zero. He outlined what had been achieved during that time; a Quality of Life Plan with a wish list but few achievements, Area Panels that were a talking shop and did not benefit or engage local people, a wheeled bin programme that was a good idea, but provided at excessive cost. There was also the cost of two restructuring exercises. He said that the Administration had proposed a 2.0% increase that took money from reserves that would have to be paid for later. He said this was not a good way to run a council and the residents of Uttlesford would not be fooled.

Councillor Cheetham asked if the public consultation had shown support for an additional recycling officer. She also asked for confirmation of the Council's overspend for the last two years. The Director of Resources said that one third of the responses had been in favour of the officer so the Environment Committee had decided to recommend the appointment on a short term contract. He confirmed that the overspend for 2005/06 had been £333K and the 2006/07 revised budget showed an overspend of £700K.

Councillor Godwin said that it was important that the budget provided stability. There were too many unplanned events, like an influx of refugees, and reserves were important as a cushion. She asked how the Council intended to rebuild its reserves and she was concerned at the continuation of the Council's debt free status. In answer to a question from Councillor Artus, the Director of Resources confirmed that in 2003 Uttlesford had the lowest council tax in Essex. He also said that if the vacancy factor was stripped out and it was assumed that all the posts were fully funded, the Council Tax rise would equate to 17%. However, he said that all councils had ongoing vacancies.

In answer to a question from Councillor Sell, Members were advised that capital receipts for 2001-2004 were £18m, where as between 2005 – 2008 they were only £2.9m. Councillor Sell commented that some budgets were now to be devolved to area panels and he considered that they were engaging the public.

Councillor Ketteridge commented that a £700k overspend was not the sign of a well run council. He said that the Communications budget was an example of increasing costs. Its budget was four times the level of 2005 and he was concerned at the excessive costs involved in the production of Uttlesford Life. He said there were real savings to be made rather than the spurious ones

suggested in the report. He asked the Leader of the Council to explain that if he was going to propose a 2% rise at the Operations Committee on Thursday night, why officers had not been advised of this change until the Tuesday before the meeting.

Councillor Gayler replied that this would not have been a surprise to officers as they had been discussing a 2% rise for a few months. He conceded that he could have been more open about this but he wanted to be sure that it would be sustainable. The Chief Executive said that it was the nature of council business that discussions were held between officers and the various political groups, and it was for good reason that these discussions were kept separate. He said Officers worked hard to give advice to all the political groups but this information was confidential. The Director of Resources clarified that he had been consulted on a whole range of issues, but had been working to 4.5% albeit in the knowledge that there was a possibility that this could change. He only knew about this proposal on Tuesday morning and had commenced work on it then.

Councillor Artus said that the briefing last week had been professional and informative but there had been no mention of 2% at that time. Other members questioned if this process had been a good use of paper and member and officer time. Councillor Gayler concluded that he had been assured that the budget was sustainable and the finances were in place. This was the right level of council tax which could deliver services at good value.

The Council then made the following recommendations

i) Uttlesford District Council's Revenue Budget 2007/08 Review of the budget and the level of reserves and balances

RESOLVED that the Council considered the contents of this report in approving the General Fund budget contained on the agenda for this meeting.

ii) General Fund Budget 2007/08

RESOLVED that

- 1 Final approval be given to the contributions to and use of Earmarked Reserves in 2006/7 and 2007/8 summarised in Appendix 1 and shown in detail in Appendix 2 to this report
- 2 Final approval is given to the General Fund Revenue Revised Estimates 2006/07 and the General Fund Revenue Estimates 2007/08 as detailed in Appendix 1
- 3 Final approval is given to a Council Tax increase of 2% for 2007/08 based on a District Council Requirement of £8,021,215.

iii) District Council Tax requirement and Council Tax 2007/08

RESOLVED that

- 1 It be noted under the provisions of Section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003 the Council at its meeting on 16 December 2003 resolved that the Council Tax Base should in future be formally agreed by the Council's S151 Officer. Accordingly the Council has calculated the following amounts for the year 2007-08 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
- (a) 31,455 being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 as its Council Tax base for the year.
 - (b) (Tax Base for each part of the Council's area) being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulation, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
- 2 The following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2007-08 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
- (a) £37,710,642 being the aggregate of the amount which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act. This sum is, in effect, the Council's gross spending for the year ahead, including what it requires on behalf of parish and town councils, and what it is putting into reserves.
 - (b) £28,022,494 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. This sum is, in effect the Council's income from all sources for the year ahead, including what it is drawing from reserves.
 - (c) £9,688,148 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year. This is the Council's overall net budget requirement, including what it requires for parish and town councils and the net interaction with reserves.
 - (d) £3,987,608 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.
 - (e) £59,947 being the aggregate of £59,947 which the Council estimates as Council Tax deficit which will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government

Act 1988, and £Nil being the sum which the Council estimates as Community Charge surplus will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Act 1988 made on 15 February 2000.

- (f) £183.13 being the amount at 2(c) above, less the amount at 2(d) and 2(e) above, divided by 1(a) 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.
- (g) £1,666,933 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (h) £130.14 being the amount at 2(f) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(g) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for which dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

Table 1 shows the parish precepts in cash terms, the tax base for each parish, the band D council tax for each parish, the district council's band D tax, and the combined tax at band D for both the district and parish councils.

- (j) It be noted that for the year 2007-08 the Essex County Council, Essex Police Authority and Essex Fire Authority have stated that the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings are as shown below:-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Essex County Council	669.30	780.85	892.40	1,003.95	1227.05	1450.15	1673.25	2007.90
Essex Police Authority	77.64	90.58	103.52	116.46	142.34	168.22	194.10	232.92
Essex Fire Authority	39.96	46.62	53.28	59.94	73.26	86.58	99.90	119.88

- (k) **Table 2** (Total Council Tax for each valuation band)
That having calculated the aggregate of the relevant amounts in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2007-08 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

Town, Parish and District Council Requirements 2007/2008

						Total Tax at										
Parish		Tax	Band "D"	UDC	at	Parish		Tax	Band "D"	UDC	Total Tax at Band "D"					
Parish	Precept £	Base	Amount	Band "D"	Band "D"	Parish	Precept £	Base	Amount	Band "D"	Band "D"	UDC				
Arkesden	7,000	187.5	37.33	130.14	167.47	Leaden Roding	4,500	256.9	17.52	130.14	147.66					
Ashdon	14,150	351.2	40.29	130.14	170.43	Lindsell	0	107.0	0.00	130.14	130.14					
Aythorpe Roding	2,000	104.6	19.12	130.14	149.26	Littlebury	16,670	398.0	41.88	130.14	172.02					
Barnston	14,000	388.9	36.00	130.14	166.14	Little Bardfield	2,500	128.6	19.44	130.14	149.58					
Berden	7,000	217.8	32.14	130.14	162.28	Little Canfield	2,900	141.3	20.52	130.14	150.66					
Birchanger	14,525	353.1	41.14	130.14	171.28	Little Chesterford	1,850	101.4	18.24	130.14	148.38					
Broxted	9,000	228.3	39.42	130.14	169.56	Little Dunmow	20,000	773.4	25.86	130.14	156.00					
Chickney	0	24.8	0.00	130.14	130.14	Little Easton	8,500	218.5	38.90	130.14	169.04					
Chrishall	12,780	246.8	51.78	130.14	181.92	Little Hallingbury	22,000	708.3	31.06	130.14	161.20					
Clavering	9,000	582.0	15.46	130.14	145.60	Manuden	9,000	291.2	30.91	130.14	161.05					
Debden	10,500	369.1	28.45	130.14	158.59	Margaret Roding	2,100	80.1	26.22	130.14	156.36					
Elmdon & Wenden Lofts	8,250	290.6	28.39	130.14	158.53	Newport	49,650	914.4	54.30	130.14	184.44					
Elsenham	31,000	945.7	32.78	130.14	162.92	Quendon & Rickling	7,500	269.8	27.80	130.14	157.94					
Farnham	7,000	189.1	37.02	130.14	167.16	Radwinter	7,700	251.5	30.62	130.14	160.76					
Felsted	25,000	1225.1	20.41	130.14	150.55	Saffron Walden Town	531,370	5856.8	90.73	130.14	220.87					
Great Canfield	4,826	201.4	23.96	130.14	154.10	Sampfords, The	15,000	372.9	40.23	130.14	170.37					
Great Chesterford	27,000	606.6	44.51	130.14	174.65	Sewards End	8,100	202.0	40.10	130.14	170.24					
Great Dunmow Town	317,694	3349.4	94.85	130.14	224.99	Stansted	129,000	2345.0	55.01	130.14	185.15					
Great Easton & Tilty	19,000	382.3	49.70	130.14	179.84	Stebbing	28,398	627.1	45.28	130.14	175.42					
Great Hallingbury	11,000	341.9	32.17	130.14	162.31	Strethall	0	15.2	0.00	130.14	130.14					
Hadstock	6,000	157.1	38.19	130.14	168.33	Takeley	60,000	1147.5	52.29	130.14	182.43					
Hatfield Broad Oak	17,000	561.2	30.29	130.14	160.43	Thaxted	68,000	1144.2	59.43	130.14	189.57					
Hatfield Heath	20,740	842.8	24.61	130.14	154.75	Tilty	0	52.2	0.00	130.14	130.14					
Hempstead	7,300	213.2	34.24	130.14	164.38	Ugley	6,200	198.8	31.19	130.14	161.33					
Henham	17,000	551.3	30.84	130.14	160.98	Wendens Ambo	9,500	191.3	49.66	130.14	179.80					
High Easter	6,000	330.0	18.18	130.14	148.32	White Roding	3,000	167.1	17.95	130.14	148.09					
High Roding	6,814	197.3	34.54	130.14	164.68	Wicken Bonhunt	0	106.1	0.00	130.14	130.14					
Langley	5,000	171.7	29.12	130.14	159.26	Widdington	6,916	243.2	28.44	130.14	158.58					
						Wimbish	10,000	534.4	18.71	130.14	148.85					
Sub Total	636,579	13,610.8				Sub Total	1,030,354	17,844.2								
						Total	1,666,933	31,455.0								

TOTAL COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH VALUATION BAND 2007-08 (includes Essex CC, Essex Police, Essex Fire, Uttlesford DC and Parishes)

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Band 'D' equivalent proportions	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Arkesden	898.55	1048.31	1198.07	1,347.82	1647.34	1946.86	2246.37	2695.65
Ashdon	900.52	1050.61	1200.69	1,350.78	1650.95	1951.13	2251.30	2701.56
Aythorpe Roding	886.41	1034.14	1181.88	1,329.61	1625.08	1920.55	2216.02	2659.22
Barnston	897.66	1047.27	1196.88	1,346.49	1645.71	1944.93	2244.15	2692.98
Berden	895.09	1044.27	1193.45	1,342.63	1640.99	1939.35	2237.72	2685.26
Birchanger	901.08	1051.26	1201.45	1,351.63	1651.99	1952.35	2252.71	2703.25
Broxted	899.94	1049.93	1199.92	1,349.91	1649.89	1949.87	2249.85	2699.82
Chickney	873.66	1019.27	1164.88	1,310.49	1601.71	1892.93	2184.15	2620.98
Chrishall	908.18	1059.55	1210.91	1,362.27	1665.00	1967.73	2270.45	2724.55
Clavering	883.97	1031.30	1178.63	1,325.95	1620.61	1915.27	2209.92	2651.91
Debden	892.63	1041.40	1190.17	1,338.94	1636.48	1934.02	2231.56	2677.88
Elmdon and Wenden Lofts	892.59	1041.35	1190.12	1,338.88	1636.41	1933.94	2231.47	2677.76
Elsenham	895.51	1044.77	1194.02	1,343.27	1641.77	1940.28	2238.78	2686.54
Farnham	898.34	1048.06	1197.78	1,347.51	1646.95	1946.40	2245.85	2695.01
Felsted	887.26	1035.14	1183.02	1,330.90	1626.65	1922.41	2218.16	2661.79
Great Canfield	889.63	1037.91	1186.18	1,334.45	1631.00	1927.54	2224.09	2668.90
Great Chesterford	903.33	1053.89	1204.44	1,355.00	1656.11	1957.22	2258.33	2710.00
Great Dunmow Town	936.89	1093.04	1249.19	1,405.34	1717.64	2029.94	2342.24	2810.68
Great Easton	906.79	1057.92	1209.06	1,360.19	1662.45	1964.72	2266.98	2720.38
Great Hallingbury	895.11	1044.29	1193.48	1,342.66	1641.03	1939.40	2237.77	2685.33
Hadstock	899.12	1048.98	1198.83	1,348.68	1648.39	1948.10	2247.80	2697.36
Hatfield Broad Oak	893.85	1042.83	1191.81	1,340.78	1638.73	1936.69	2234.64	2681.56
Hatfield Heath	890.07	1038.41	1186.75	1,335.10	1631.79	1928.48	2225.16	2670.20
Hempstead	896.49	1045.90	1195.32	1,344.73	1643.56	1942.39	2241.22	2689.46
Henham	894.22	1043.25	1192.29	1,341.33	1639.40	1937.47	2235.54	2682.65
High Easter	885.78	1033.41	1181.04	1,328.67	1623.93	1919.19	2214.45	2657.34
High Roding	896.68	1046.13	1195.58	1,345.03	1643.92	1942.82	2241.71	2690.05
Langley	893.07	1041.92	1190.76	1,339.61	1637.30	1934.99	2232.68	2679.22

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Band 'D' equivalent proportions	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Leaden Roding	885.34	1032.89	1180.45	1,328.01	1623.12	1918.23	2213.34	2656.01
Lindsell	873.66	1019.27	1164.88	1,310.49	1601.71	1892.93	2184.15	2620.98
Littlebury	901.58	1051.85	1202.11	1,352.37	1652.90	1953.43	2253.96	2704.75
Little Bardfield	886.62	1034.39	1182.16	1,329.93	1625.47	1921.01	2216.55	2659.86
Little Canfield	887.34	1035.23	1183.12	1,331.01	1626.79	1922.58	2218.36	2662.03
Little Chesterford	885.82	1033.46	1181.10	1,328.73	1624.01	1919.28	2214.56	2657.47
Little Dunmow	890.90	1039.38	1187.87	1,336.35	1633.32	1930.28	2227.25	2672.70
Little Easton	899.59	1049.53	1199.46	1,349.39	1649.26	1949.12	2248.99	2698.78
Little Hallingbury	894.37	1043.43	1192.49	1,341.55	1639.67	1937.79	2235.92	2683.10
Manuden	894.26	1043.31	1192.35	1,341.40	1639.48	1937.57	2235.66	2682.79
Margaret Roding	891.14	1039.66	1188.18	1,336.71	1633.75	1930.80	2227.85	2673.41
Newport	909.86	1061.50	1213.14	1,364.79	1668.07	1971.36	2274.65	2729.58
Quendon & Rickling	892.19	1040.89	1189.59	1,338.29	1635.69	1933.08	2230.48	2676.58
Radwinter	894.07	1043.08	1192.09	1,341.11	1639.13	1937.15	2235.18	2682.21
Saffron Walden Town	934.14	1089.84	1245.53	1,401.22	1712.60	2023.98	2335.36	2802.43
The Sampfords	900.48	1050.56	1200.64	1,350.72	1650.87	1951.03	2251.19	2701.43
Sewards End	900.39	1050.46	1200.52	1,350.59	1650.72	1950.85	2250.98	2701.18
Stansted	910.33	1062.06	1213.78	1,365.50	1668.95	1972.39	2275.83	2731.00
Stebbing	903.85	1054.49	1205.13	1,355.77	1657.06	1958.34	2259.62	2711.55
Strethall	873.66	1019.27	1164.88	1,310.49	1601.71	1892.93	2184.15	2620.98
Takeley	908.52	1059.94	1211.36	1,362.78	1665.62	1968.46	2271.30	2725.56
Thaxted	913.28	1065.49	1217.71	1,369.92	1674.35	1978.77	2283.20	2739.84
Tilty	873.66	1019.27	1164.88	1,310.49	1601.71	1892.93	2184.15	2620.98
Ugley	894.45	1043.53	1192.60	1,341.68	1639.83	1937.98	2236.13	2683.35
Wendens Ambo	906.77	1057.89	1209.02	1,360.15	1662.41	1964.66	2266.92	2720.30
White Roding	885.63	1033.23	1180.84	1,328.44	1623.65	1918.86	2214.07	2656.89
Wicken Bonhunt	873.66	1019.27	1164.88	1,310.49	1601.71	1892.93	2184.15	2620.98
Widdington	892.62	1041.39	1190.16	1,338.93	1636.47	1934.01	2231.55	2677.86
Wimbish	886.14	1033.82	1181.51	1,329.20	1624.58	1919.96	2215.34	2658.41
Essex County Council	669.30	780.85	892.40	1003.95	1227.05	1450.15	1673.25	2007.90
Essex Police Authority	77.64	90.58	103.52	116.46	142.34	168.22	194.1	232.92
Essex Fire Authority	39.96	46.62	53.28	59.94	73.26	86.58	99.9	119.88
Uttlesford District Council	86.76	101.22	115.68	130.14	150.06	187.98	216.90	260.28
Total (excluding Parish charge)				1310.49				

iv) Capital Programme 2006/07 – 2009/10.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the Capital Programme and associated financing proposals as contained in Appendix 1 be approved.
- 2 the Council approves powers to undertake Prudential Borrowing with effect from 2008/09, and notes the associated revenue implications.

v) Housing revenue Account Estimates and rent setting 2007/08

RESOLVED that the Council notes the report.

vi) Prudential Indicators

RESOLVED that the Council approves the Prudential Indicators set out within the report in conjunction with the 2007/08 budget

vii) Treasury Management Strategy

RESOLVED that the treasury management strategy outlining the Council's annual investment strategy and its borrowing requirement for 2007/08 be approved.

viii) Medium Term Financial Strategy.

RESOLVED that Medium Term Financial strategy and all the actions included within it be approved.

It was moved by Councillor Ketteridge that a recorded vote be taken on items (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) and (viii) above.

The voting was as follows

For the motion: H D Baker, P Boland, C A Cant, M L Foley, R F Freeman, M A Gayler, D W Gregory, R T Harris, M A Hibbs, S C Jones, A Marchant, D J Morson, V Pedder, M J Savage, G Sell, A R Thawley, A M Wattebot, A C Yarwood.

Against the motion: K R Artus, R P Chambers, J F Cheetham, C D Down, S Flack, E J Godwin, E W Hicks, A J Ketteridge, T P Knight, J E Menell, M J Miller.

Abstain: E C Abrahams, V J T Lelliott, A R Row.

C88

COUNCIL TAX – LONG TERM EMPTY HOMES POLICY

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn. Councillor Cheetham was disappointed that the Council was not considering this matter today. She explained that in Takeley, BAA had set a zone within which it would buy houses for sale. Outside this zone residents were finding it increasingly difficult to sell their houses and they often remained empty. She had hoped that the Council would put in place a discretionary scheme for the payment of council tax for these homes and that it

would be implemented in this financial year. The Chief Executive apologised but said that the complexity of the issue had only recently been appreciated and it had not been possible to make a recommendation to this meeting.

C89

UTTLESFORD IN 2011

The Council considered a report from the Director of Business Transformation which provided more detail on the work involved in the Uttlesford in 2011 Transformation Programme. This followed the report to Council on 12 December 2006 which had set out a clear vision for the Council to set new standards for excellence in service delivery and community leadership. The aim of this report was to set out how the Council would achieve this vision and this included a preliminary high level action plan. There were twelve major work streams within the framework of the programme to prioritise efforts and allocate resources. The report set out high level actions that had so far been developed for each stream. It was proposed that a member Steering group be set up to monitor progress and develop areas of activity.

There were other elements involved in the programme, including management restructuring, the revision of the Corporate Plan and the development of standards of excellence. The report explained the progress in these areas.

Councillor Ketteridge said that it was difficult to take an informed decision on this detailed report at an hour as late as 9.30pm. It had many implications but as there had not been time to study it in detail he felt that he could not vote for it. Councillor Flack was concerned at the proposal to set up more member task groups. She made a plea for these meetings to be short and focused and scheduled prior to other meetings in order to cut down visits to the offices. Members also hoped that care would be taken to ensure that the various working groups did not duplicate discussions.

Councillor Godwin was concerned about the effects that the changes were having on staff confidence and morale. She hoped that the Council would listen to their needs and focus more on pastoral care. Councillor Gayler welcomed the report. He said that much good work had been done and it was important that it was now carried forward.

RESOLVED that the Council note and endorse the report.

C90

EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN PROPOSED CHANGES

Members were advised of the Council's response to Secretary of State's proposed changes to the East of England Plan. The changes related to the report of the panel that carried out the Examination in Public of the Draft Plan. The report set out the changes under the various headings and the Officer's response. Any comments would be taken into account by the Secretary of State before the plan was finalised in spring 2007.

Councillor Thawley proposed the recommendation and said it was important to focus on the aspects of the plan that affected this district. At the EERA meetings it was heartening that other authorities appeared to be in tune with the views of this Council even if these weren't shared by the Government.

A number of members commented that the plan included an aspirational target of 35% affordable houses in new developments across the region and were concerned this might affect the targets that the Council wanted to include in its own plan. The Director of Development said that he would include appropriate wording subject to agreement with members

RESOLVED that the Council

- 1 supports the Overall Spatial Vision;
- 2 supports the stronger policies to promote greater efficiency in the use of energy and water and the development of green infrastructure;
- 3 supports the new policies on the regional transport strategy including objectives of managing travel behaviour and demand for transport with aim of reducing the rate of road traffic growth and ensuring the transport sector makes an appropriate contribution to the required reduction in greenhouse gas emissions;
- 4 supports the proposed revised objectives indicating six ways in which to reduce the region's impact on, and exposure to, the effects of climate change, but seeks that a further point "Taking into account external climate change costs in major increases in the region's airport capacity" should be added;
- 5 objects to the assumption in the Proposed Changes that by 2021 Stansted will have a second runway on the grounds of inconsistency with the Overall Spatial Vision and objectives of the Plan. The Plan should indicate how the spatial strategy will respond if the airport expansion proposals do not proceed. Phasing policies linking housing, employment and infrastructure are essential;
- 6 objects to Policy T15 Transport Investment Priorities failing to articulate any real priorities, and containing no specific measures for the London to Stansted corridor, including Harlow and access to Stansted Airport.
- 7 objects to the regional and local dwelling targets being expressed as minima, and the requirement for the first round of Local Development Documents to make provision for development beyond 2021;
- 8 objects to the Government's statement that forms part of its justification for retaining the definition of the Cambridge Sub Region – it is not acknowledged that there would be any acceptable development options that would be constrained from inclusion in the proposed review of the RSS by excluding the Uttlesford part of the Cambridge to Saffron Walden corridor from the Sub Region.
- 9 Make comments in respect of the target for the percentage of affordable housing subject to consultation with Councillors Thawley, Cheetham and Godwin.

OLYMPIC WORKING GROUP

The Council considered a request to formally establish a Working Group to consider and advise the Council on matters relating to developments to maximise benefits from the Olympics for Uttlesford. An informal meeting had been held between Councillors who had expressed an interest in contributing towards establishing an action plan for developments in the run up to the Olympics. Work was currently being carried out on a county wide basis, but Members recognised that the main involvement within this district was likely to be through encouraging support for young people's involvement, delivery of a cultural programme, transport improvements and, in particular, tourism development.

An action plan has been produced by Essex County Council and members and officers had been invited to attend a conference recently to discuss the plan and suggest amendments. Members were asked to approve the plan in principle, subject to future inclusion of the suggested amendments.

As a result of the Essex-wide work being undertaken it was likely that decisions might need to be taken within a fairly short timescale and the process might not comply with the committee cycle in Uttlesford.

Members thanked Gaynor Bradley and Elizabeth Blackie for their assistance. They said that there was a lot to be done and work was gathering pace. Members stressed that there would be many opportunities for the district, with the main games but also for young people in the district in respect of the Paralympics.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the a Member and officer Olympic Working Group be established.
- 2 the draft terms of reference be agreed, as follows

To consider and, as appropriate, recommend to the Council action to be taken on potential opportunities and developments associated with the Olympics 2012 in order to maximise the benefit for the district of Uttlesford.

To act as ambassadors during the run up to the Olympics 2012 by

- Enlisting support of members, local authorities and other agencies
- Promoting the agreed project(s)
- Providing advice and guidance.
- Ensuring appropriate related funding is identified.

To meet on an ad hoc basis, as required.

- 3 approval, in principle, of the Action Plan – Essex Legacy from the 2012 Games, subject to inclusion of the amendments made at the “Essex Ahead of the Games Conference”
- 4 Councillors J F Cheetham, D W Gregory, E J Godwin, R M Lemon and D J Morson be appointed to serve on the Working Group.

C92 **COMMITTEE TIMETABLE**

The Council noted the provisional timetable of meetings for 2007/08. It was noted that there were still some meetings to add and the timetable would be formally approved at the annual meeting of the Council.

C93 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

Following the resignation of Councillor A Dean it was

RESOLVED that Councillor M A Gayler be appointed as the Council's representative on the Local Government Association.

C94 **WEST ESSEX PRIMARY CARE TRUST**

RESOLVED that Councillor J E Menell be appointed the as the Council's representative on the West Essex Primary Care Trust

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm.