



FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chambers,
10 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Colchester CO5 8JD**

In attendance:

Cllr. R. Jenkins (Chair)	Cllr. C. Powling
Cllr. C. Powling	Cllr. B. Holmes
Karen Kuderovitch, Town Clerk & RFO	Cllr. S. Weaver (Mayor)
	2 members of the public

24/1.	<p>RECORDING OF MEETING</p> <p>Chairman requested anyone present to identify their intention to record the meeting. The Town Clerk indicated she was recording.</p>
24/2.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>All Members were reminded that they must disclose any interests (pecuniary/nonpecuniary) they have in items of business on the meeting's agenda either at this point or during the agenda item. They are reminded that they will need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if the interest is a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time. If not already done so, they are also obliged to notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the meeting.</p>
24/3.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 🙏</p> <p>Cllr. Jarvis – work commitments. It was resolved to accept the apology and the reasons given.</p>
24/4.	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <p>A period of up to 15 minutes (maximum of 3 minutes per person) for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments about items on the agenda. Priority will be given to those members of the public wishing to share information relating to items on the agenda.</p> <p>MOP 1 – asked when Councillors received paper for the meeting. The Clerk clarified she would take a note of the questions and respond in due course. Cllr. Jenkins stated the budget was being reviewed with a recommendation for the Precept for 24/25 for full Council decision on 18th January 2024. MOP expressed his disappointment that the papers were not issued as a public document for residents to have an opportunity to make representations to the Committee. Cllr. Jenkins gave a further explanation. The Town Clerk advised again that a response would be forthcoming in accordance with the Standing Orders. The resident stated he had searched for financial data in connection with Personnel matters. The Town Clerk responded she would check the log but there had been no other enquiries in relation to this, other than the current enquiry. The Town Clerk responded she had advised of the correct procedures Council should follow and should the resident wish to challenge that he should make contact with the Town Clerk.</p>
24/5.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES 🙏</p> <p>It was resolved unanimously, to approve the minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee meeting of 26th October 2023. Proposed: Cllr. Jenkins, seconded Cllr. Weaver. All in favour.</p>
24/6.	<p>FINANCE 🙏</p> <p>a) Members reviewed the finance reports provided by the Town Clerk</p>

b) The draft Budget & Precept for the finance year 24/25 to be agreed, for presentation at full Council for approval.

A member of the public interrupted the meeting. The Town Clerk reminded that public session was now closed.

Cllr. Jenkins presented the draft budget for precept to all members present. Members reviewed the document provided, which covered all aspects of the budget for precept for 24/25.

Post meeting note: The budget for precept document has been published on the web site.

www.westmersea.org/finance.

It was resolved unanimously to submit the request for the Precept for 24/25 to Colchester City Council of £373,287.00, which equates to a 4.66% increase.