

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2025

Present:-

Cllr. Nick Chapman (Chairman)
Cllr. Janet Forey (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Royston Bayliss	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Nick Brown	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	Cllr. Roger Stead
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore	Cllr. Mark Jackson	Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. Luke Cousin	Cllr. Becca Lunn	Cllr. Matt Tomeo
Cllr. Tony Deakin	Cllr. Antony Moseley	Cllr. Bob Waterton
Cllr. Roy Denney	Cllr. Les Phillimore	Cllr. Bev Welsh
Cllr. Susan Findlay	Cllr. Terry Richardson	Cllr. Jane Wolfe
Cllr. Helen Gambardella	Cllr. Ande Savage	Cllr. Maggie Wright
Cllr. Hannah Gill	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd	Cllr. Neil Wright
Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Cllr. Dillan Shikotra	

Officers present:-

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Marc Greenwood	- Executive Director - Place
Louisa Horton	- Executive Director - Communities
Gemma Dennis	- Corporate Services Group Manager
Paul Coates	- Neighbourhood Services Group Manager
Jonathan Hodge	- Planning & Strategic Growth Group Manager
Katie Hollis	- Finance Group Manager
Ian Jones	- Housing Services Manager
John Crane	- Housing Strategy Team Leader
Sandeep Tienasa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Avisa Birchenough	- Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Honorary Alderman in attendance:-

Guy Jackson and Iain Hewson

Apologies:-

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam, Cllr. Adrian Clifford, Cllr. Stuart Coar and Cllr. Alex DeWinter

225. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

226. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2025 as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

227. CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA

Under Part 4, Section 1, Paragraph 13 of the Council's Constitution, the Chair, Cllr. Nick Chapman, moved that Agenda item 20, Motion under Council Rules of Procedure would be taken before Agenda item 4, Chairman's Announcements.

228. MOTION UNDER COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Cllr. Hannah Gill moved the following motion, seconded by Cllr. Paul Hartshorn:

"The Council should have a duty of care to balance housing needs with environmental sustainability and the protection of community assets for the communities which they serve. Whilst I am aware that some elements of this motion may exist in isolation there is a need for greater transparency when community assets are being examined for future development potential and a clear process is required. Community assets are integral to the well-being of residents as well as serving to be a attractive feature of the district for potential residents. I hope that Councillors can see that by adopting this this motion that assets can be protected and ensure that they remain available for recreation, biodiversity and cultural enrichment whilst balancing the need for housing solutions."

The Chairman declared that the motion, having been put the vote was lost.

DECISION

That the motion, having been put to the vote was rejected.

229. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair, Cllr. Nick Chapman made announcements in respect of the following:

- Attended the Blaby District Council Community Awards on 30 January 2025.
- Attended the Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Chairman's Charity Night on 3 February 2025.
- Attended Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Councils Mayor's Charity Night on 22 February 2025.

230. LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader, Cllr. Terry Richardson presented his statement in respect of the following:

- Devolution announcement
- HNRFI protest letter
- Community Awards
- Going green at the depot
- Big community switch
- Blaby District Council Health & Wellbeing Partnership Event

231. CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA

Under Part 4, Section 1, Paragraph 13 of the Council's Constitution, the Chair, Cllr. Nick Chapman, moved that Agenda item 21, Local Government Act 1972, Section 85 (1) – Approval of Absence would be taken before Agenda item 6, Presentation: Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution.

232. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 85(1) – APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Considered - Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council.

DECISIONS

1. That Council approves the waiver of the six-month attendance rule provided for within section 85(1) Local Government Act 1972 for Cllr. Stuart Coar due to illness.
2. That the absence period be approved until the meeting of Council on 8 July 2025, to allow a further report to be considered, if required.

Reason:

The Council has the statutory power to consider such requests.

233. PRESENTATION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION

Cllr. Hannah Gill left and returned to the meeting during this item.

Members received a presentation from the Chief Executive & Cllr. Terry Richardson, Leader of the Council.

The presentation covered the following points:

- Leicestershire County Council's proposal
- Blaby District Councils proposal
- Next steps
- Proposal submission deadline

234. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

No requests were received.

235. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

236. QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Cllr Paul Hartshorn raised the following question, to Cllr. Ben Taylor – Planning, IT & Transformation Portfolio Holder.

“Could the relevant portfolio holder provide an update on the ongoing issues with the councillor email system? Many councillors have reported being unable to access emails from residents, which is preventing them from effectively carrying out their duties. What steps are being taken to resolve this issue, and when can we expect a full resolution?”

Cllr. Ben Taylor – Planning, IT & Transformation Portfolio Holder responded: “To enable the new ICT service to inherit existing mailboxes (and all the data stored within those accounts) there is a requirement for any “cloud” mailboxes to be (temporarily) migrated back to an on-premise server.

At the point Councillors mailboxes were pulled back to on-premise many who used personal devices for accessing mail accounts unfortunately lost access via the Outlook app due to this not being an access method supported/promoted by Leicestershire ICT Partnership (LICTP). An alternative method was identified by LICTP which was to utilise Outlook web access (OWA). Unfortunately, a separate unrelated issue which then arose meant the use of OWA had to be revoked.

As of Monday 17th February 2025, the Outlook app was reinstated with testing completed and successful roll out commenced from Tuesday 18th February 2025.

As part of the ongoing work to transition away from the LICTP mailboxes reverting back to the cloud (MS365) is a priority piece of work and the BDC ICT team will continue to keep members updated on progress via the working group.”

Cllr. Ben Taylor – Planning, IT & Transformation Portfolio Holder had the following request of Members:

“This is one of many critical pieces of work to enable our exit from LICTP, we knew there would be some pain before things get better, and unfortunately, we know that will continue to be the case. We will always endeavour to ensure absolute transparency and communicate with colleagues and members as quickly and fully as possible, via appropriate channels, (as was the case for temporarily needing to move back to on premise with outlook). The ideal would of course be to have foresight of all the ‘snagging’ issues we will encounter but the reality is that is unlikely to be the case (as we discovered with members being unable to access emails via personal devices) but what we will always do is act on the issues encountered to identify a resolution as quickly as reasonably practicable. The (new) BDC ICT team are working exceptionally hard, at pace, and we ask for your continued patience and support on this journey to have our own in-house ICT environment,”

Cllr. Paul Hartshorn asked the following supplementary question: Can the Council publish updates to notify residents when we are experiencing IT difficulties so they are aware that response times may be longer than usual?

Cllr. Ben Taylor – Planning, IT & Transformation Portfolio Holder responded that he will contact the Communications Team to discuss options available to keep residents informed.

237. QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Cllr. Paul Hartshorn raised the following question,- to Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council:

"What steps are the Executive taking to ensure it is delivering Best Value for residents based on the new May 24 framework. How is Best Value measured and reported at Blaby District Council?"

Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council responded:

“Can I thank Cllr Hartshorn for the question as it gives me the opportunity to

explain to Members and the public all of the fantastic work that we do to ensure Best Value.

The statutory guidance on Best Value was issued by the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities in May 2024 and we take great care to ensure we follow the good practice within that guidance.

Best Value requires authorities to “make arrangements to secure continuous improvements in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regards to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness”. In practice this covers how authorities set a balanced budget, provide its statutory services and how it secures value for money on all spending decisions.

The statutory guidance provides greater clarity to the local government sector in England on how to fulfil the Best Value Duty by describing what constitutes best value, the standards expected and the models of intervention at the Secretary of State’s disposal in the event of failure to uphold these standards.

The Best Value Guidance sets out 7 overlapping themes of good practice which if followed should show that an authority is meeting and delivering its obligations.

- Continuous Improvement
- Leadership
- Governance
- Culture
- Use of Resources
- Service Delivery
- Partnership and Community Engagement

Below each of these themes are examples of good and bad behaviours which local authorities can assess themselves against.

We continuously assess ourselves against this tool, to identify any gaps in governance we need to address. As I am sure Members are aware, the LGA has also published a new improvement and assurance framework, designed to help councils check that they have the right controls in place and identify where they need to become more effective.

The framework promotes transparency and being open to external challenge such as a corporate peer challenge, and having political and managerial leadership which visibly prioritises ‘doing the right thing’. At Blaby District Council we invited a Corporate Peer Challenge in 2023, took action to address the issues raised and welcomed a subsequent six-month review which considered our progress.

Examples of our additional assurance activities include:

- An annual review of the effectiveness of the council's controls and governance in the production of the Annual Governance Statement.
- Regularly reviewing performance, finance and risk information, through the Senior Leadership Team, Council, Cabinet Executive, Audit and Corporate Governance Committee and the Scrutiny Commission.
- Ensuring that both members and officers have the skills they need for their roles by offering comprehensive training programmes utilising internal and external resources
- Focused and constructive challenge by Scrutiny Commission and the Working Groups of decisions and policy development
- Oversight and challenge of arrangements for risk, internal and external audit by the Audit and Governance Committee

The external auditors Report on Value for Money as part of their Audit which is one of the ways we might measure and report on Best Value generally and not just in reaction to the 2024 Framework. Our outgoing external auditors (Ernst & Young) have provided their commentary on the three outstanding audit years only recently (2021,2022 and 2023) and this report has been shared publicly through reports presented to the Audit and Governance Committee. No concerns were raised by Ernst & Young regarding the three areas that are reported on within the VFM report which are:

- Financial sustainability: How the Council plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services
- Governance: How the Council ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: How the Council uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services
- Azets, our current external auditors have provided an interim view on VFM reporting for the financial year 2023/2024 and reported no concerns to the Audit and Governance Committee held on the 5th February. A more in-depth commentary will be provided in their Auditor Annual Report due at the end of March 2025.
- Ongoing Self Assessment utilising the LGA tool."

The Chairman, Cllr. Nick Chapman adjourned the meeting at 18:53 to allow a comfort break. The meeting reconvened at 19:05

238. GENDER PAY GAP 2024

Considered – Report of the HR Service Manager, presented by Cllr. Maggie Wright - Finance, People & Performance (Deputy Leader) Portfolio Holder.

DECISION

That the gender pay gap report be endorsed for submission of data to the government in line with statutory guidance.

Reasons:

1. The Council is required by law to carry out Gender Pay Reporting under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties & Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 and this enables the Council to monitor pay differentials by gender throughout the Council.
2. The report was considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 12 February 2025. There were no issues. The proposed data submission to the government was noted.

239. PAY POLICY 2024/25

Considered – Report of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer), presented by Cllr. Maggie Wright - Finance, People & Performance (Deputy Leader) Portfolio Holder.

DECISION

That the Blaby District Council Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 be approved.

Reason:

Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to prepare pay policy statements setting out the authority's own policies regarding the remuneration of its staff particularly its senior staff (or 'chief officers') and its lowest paid employees.

240. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Considered – Report of the Development Strategy Manager, presented by Cllr. Ben Taylor - Planning, Transformation and ICT Portfolio Holder.

DECISION

That the revised Blaby District Local Development Scheme at Appendix A of the report be approved, to become effective immediately.

Reasons:

1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended, requires a Local Planning Authority to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme.
2. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has requested that all local planning authorities produce an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) and submit a copy to MHCLG no later than 6 March 2025.

241. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2025 - 2030

Considered – Report of the Housing Strategy Team Leader, presented by Cllr. Les Phillimore- Planning, Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services Portfolio Holder.

DECISION

That Council approve the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025 – 2030 and the proposed priorities and actions contained within it.

Reasons:

1. The Councils current Homelessness Strategy runs from 2020 – 2025 and so a new 5-year strategy is needed to replace it.
2. The Council has a statutory duty to carry out a periodic review of homelessness in the District and to publish a Homelessness Strategy.

242. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: QUARTER 3 CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW 2024/25

Considered – Report of the Accountancy Services Manager, presented by Cllr. Maggie Wright- Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder.

DECISIONS

1. That the report be accepted.
2. That the latest Capital Programme for 2024/25, totalling £9,898,960 be accepted.

Reasons:

1. To ensure that the Council had adequate resources in place to meet its capital expenditure commitments.

2. To reflect additions or other changes to the Capital Programme that have occurred in the 3rd quarter of the year.

243. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: 5 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 TO 2029/30

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Maggie Wright- Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder.

DECISIONS

1. That the 5 Year Capital Programme for 2025/26 to 2029/30, set out at Appendix A of the report be approved.
2. That the application of capital resources of £1,422,512 for 2025/26, including a borrowing requirement of £630,012, be approved.
3. That the Capital Strategy 2025/26 to 2029/30 be approved.

Reasons:

1. To obtain approval for the proposed level of capital expenditure in 2025/26 and the suggested method of financing that expenditure.
2. To provide a longer-term forecast of capital expenditure and financing requirements for the period 2025/26 to 2029/30.
3. To ensure compliance with the Prudential Code.

244. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR & TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2025/26

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Maggie Wright- Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder.

DECISIONS

1. That the capital prudential indicators and limits for 2025/26 to 2029/30 be approved.
2. That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 and the treasury prudential indicators be approved.

3. That the Investment Strategy for 2025/26 be approved.
4. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2025/26 be approved.

Reasons:

1. The Local Government Act 2003 and supporting regulations requires the Council to “have regard to” the CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice to set Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Council’s capital investment plans are affordable, prudent, and sustainable.
2. The Act requires the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy. This covers the Council’s criteria for choosing investment counterparties and limiting exposure to the risk of loss.
3. The Act also requires the Council to undertake an annual review of its policy for calculating the minimum revenue provision (MRP) for repayment of external debt.

245. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: COUNCIL TAX 2025/26

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Maggie Wright- Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder.

Cllr. Luke Cousin proposed an amendment to recommendation 2.2 of the report, seconded by Cllr. Antony Moseley, as follows:

The District Council Band D Council Tax is set at £191.57, reflecting an increase of 1.29% (£2.44), all other bands being determined in accordance with the relevant Sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, and subsequent adjustments to Agenda item 19 as required.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the vote was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr. Royston Bayliss		
	Cllr. Nick Brown	
	Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore	
	Cllr. Nick Chapman	
Cllr. Luke Cousin		
	Cllr. Tony Deakin	

	Cllr. Roy Denney	
	Cllr. Susan Findlay	
	Cllr. Janet Forey	
Cllr. Helen Gambardella		
Cllr. Hannah Gill		
	Cllr. Nigel Grundy	
Cllr. Paul Hartshorn		
Cllr. Richard Holdridge		
	Cllr. Mark Jackson	
	Cllr. Rebecca Lunn	
Cllr. Antony Moseley		
	Cllr. Les Phillimore	
	Cllr. Terry Richardson	
Cllr. Ande Savage		
	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd	
	Cllr. Dillan Shikotra	
	Cllr. Mike Shirley	
	Cllr. Roger Stead	
	Cllr. Ben Taylor	
	Cllr. Matt Tomeo	
	Cllr. Bob Waterton	
Cllr. Bev Welsh		
	Cllr. Jane Wolfe	
	Cllr. Neil Wright	
	Cllr. Maggie Wright	

The Chairman declared that the amendment had been lost.

Members then returned to vote on the recommendations as published in the original report.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the vote was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
	Cllr. Royston Bayliss	
Cllr. Nick Brown		
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore		
Cllr. Nick Chapman		
	Cllr. Luke Cousin	
Cllr. Tony Deakin		
Cllr. Roy Denney		
Cllr. Susan Findlay		
Cllr. Janet Forey		

	Cllr. Helen Gambardella	
	Cllr. Hannah Gill	
Cllr. Nigel Grundy		
	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	
	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	
Cllr. Mark Jackson		
Cllr. Rebecca Lunn		
	Cllr. Antony Moseley	
Cllr. Les Phillimore		
Cllr. Terry Richardson		
	Cllr. Ande Savage	
Cllr. Tracey Shepherd		
Cllr. Dillan Shikotra		
Cllr. Mike Shirley		
Cllr. Roger Stead		
Cllr. Ben Taylor		
Cllr. Matt Tomeo		
Cllr. Bob Waterton		
	Cllr. Bev Welsh	
Cllr. Jane Wolfe		
Cllr. Neil Wright		
Cllr. Maggie Wright		

DECISIONS

1. The Council Tax Requirement for 2025/26 is set at £6,754,058.
2. *The District Council Band D Council Tax is set at £194.79, reflecting an increase of 2.99% (£5.65), all other bands being determined in accordance with the relevant Sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.
3. The precepts and Band D Council Tax for Leicestershire County Council**, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), the Combined Fire Authority, and the various Parish Councils within the District, be determined as set out in the following report, with all other bands being determined in accordance with the relevant Sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

**Recommendation 2 is subject to consideration of feedback following the end of the public consultation period at 11.45pm on Sunday 23rd February 2025.*

**Subject to the meeting of Leicestershire County Council to be held on 19th February 2025.*

Reason:

The Council is statutorily required to determine its own Council Tax Requirement and to determine the Council Tax for the 2025/26 financial year, after considering precepts set by the other preceptors.

246. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROPOSALS 2025/26

Cllr. Dillan Shikotra left the meeting during the consideration of this item and did not return.

Considered – Report of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer), presented by Cllr. Maggie Wright- Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder.

Cllr. Luke Cousin moved that the following additional recommendation be added to the report, which was seconded by Cllr. Antony Moseley:

£111,639 be allocated from the general fund to a new, earmarked, reserve for the purchase of additional housing to help reduce homelessness in the District.

Reason:

Earmarking funds to demonstrate this council's agreement to continue investing in new properties to address homelessness in our district, with the aim to achieve this as future opportunities become available.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the vote was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr. Royston Bayliss		
Cllr. Nick Brown		
	Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore	
	Cllr. Nick Chapman	
Cllr. Luke Cousin		
Cllr. Tony Deakin		
	Cllr. Roy Denney	
	Cllr. Susan Findlay	
	Cllr. Janet Forey	
Cllr. Helen Gambardella		

Cllr. Hannah Gill		
	Cllr. Nigel Grundy	
Cllr. Paul Hartshorn		
Cllr. Richard Holdridge		
	Cllr. Mark Jackson	
Cllr. Rebecca Lunn		
Cllr. Antony Moseley		
	Cllr. Les Phillimore	
	Cllr. Terry Richardson	
Cllr. Ande Savage		
Cllr. Tracey Shepherd		
	Cllr. Mike Shirley	
	Cllr. Roger Stead	
	Cllr. Ben Taylor	
	Cllr. Matt Tomeo	
Cllr. Bob Waterton		
Cllr. Bev Welsh		
	Cllr. Jane Wolfe	
	Cllr. Neil Wright	
	Cllr. Maggie Wright	

The Chairman declared that the amendment had been lost.

Members then returned to vote on the recommendations as published in the original report.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the vote was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
	Cllr. Royston Bayliss	
Cllr. Nick Brown		
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore		
Cllr. Nick Chapman		
	Cllr. Luke Cousin	
Cllr. Tony Deakin		
Cllr. Roy Denney		
Cllr. Susan Findlay		
Cllr. Janet Forey		
	Cllr. Helen Gambardella	
	Cllr. Hannah Gill	
Cllr. Nigel Grundy		
	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	
	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	

Cllr. Mark Jackson		
Cllr. Rebecca Lunn		
	Cllr. Antony Moseley	
Cllr. Les Phillimore		
Cllr. Terry Richardson		
	Cllr. Ande Savage	
Cllr. Tracey Shepherd		
Cllr. Mike Shirley		
Cllr. Roger Stead		
Cllr. Ben Taylor		
Cllr. Matt Tomeo		
Cllr. Bob Waterton		
	Cllr. Bev Welsh	
Cllr. Jane Wolfe		
Cllr. Neil Wright		
Cllr. Maggie Wright		

DECISIONS

1. To have regard to the comments of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) in paragraph 4.7 of the report in respect of the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 2003.
2. That the 2025/26 General Fund Revenue Account net expenditure budget of £15.407m be approved.
3. That Council approve the increase of the General Fund Reserve level held to 45% of the net budgeted revenue expenditure be approved.
4. That delegated authority be given to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make minor amendments to the Budget should it be necessary.

Reasons:

1. It is a requirement for the Cabinet Executive and Council to take into account the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 in relation to the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves.
2. Cabinet and Council are required to consider and approve the General Fund Revenue Account budget proposals in order to set the budget and Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year.
3. It is appropriate to review the General Fund Balance upper limit

parameters given the financial uncertainty and the Council's reserve levels.

4. Minor amendments to the budget may become necessary prior to the commencement of the year in April, it is therefore appropriate to give delegated authority to allow these to be reflected in the budget.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 8.39 P.M.