

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2023

Present:-

Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Lee Breckon JP	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	Cllr. Louise Richardson
Cllr. Nick Brown	Cllr. Mark Jackson	Cllr. Terry Richardson
Cllr. Nick Chapman	Cllr. Trevor Matthews	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd
Cllr. Adrian Clifford	Cllr. Sam Maxwell	Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Roy Denney	Cllr. Christine Merrill	Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. David Findlay	Cllr. Phil Moitt	Cllr. Bev Welsh
Cllr. Janet Forey	Cllr. Mat Mortel	Cllr. Geoff Welsh
Cllr. Chris Frost	Cllr. Antony Moseley	Cllr. Jane Wolfe
Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Cllr. Les Phillimore	Cllr. Maggie Wright

Officers present:-

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
John Richardson	- Executive Director
Nick Brown	- Finance Group Manager
Linda Durham	- Solicitor
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
Isaac Thomas	- Democracy Support Officer

Apologies:-

Cllr. Iain Hewson, Cllr. Shabbir Aslam, Cllr. Shane Blackwell, Cllr. Stuart Coar, Cllr. David Freer, Cllr. Deanne Freer, Cllr. Michael O'Hare and Cllr. Kirsteen Thomson

231. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

232. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2022, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

233. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr. Iain Hewson, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore made announcements in respect of the following:

- Sunday 26th February 2023 - Civic Service at All Saints Church, Sapcote.

234. LEADER'S STATEMENT

Cllr. Maggie Wright left and returned to the meeting during this item.

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

- On behalf of the Council, sending best wishes to the Chairman, Cllr. Iain Hewson, who was unable to attend the meeting
- Holding a 1 minute silence in remembrance of Honorary Alderman Alan Tanner who had sadly passed away.
- Air Quality Grant
- Leisure Services in conjunction with Oadby & Wigston Council.
- Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange
- Election Changes
- Sporting Champions
- Glenfield Neighbourhood Plan
- Youth Conference
- Fosse Meadows Update
- Depot Electrification Roadshow
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund

235. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

No requests were received.

236. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

No questions were received.

237. ADOPTION OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY 2022-2050

Considered – Report of the Neighbourhood Services & Assets Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Nigel Grundy, Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio Holder.

DECISIONS

1. That the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy and Action Plan be adopted by the Council subject to section 5.1 of the report.
2. That the continuation of the waste partnership be approved with a requirement for it to be developed and enhanced to ensure appropriate political, strategic, and organisational engagement.
3. That the partnership explores collaborative opportunities which have the potential to deliver environmental improvements, whilst helping to reduce costs across the waste-system, such that cost shunting is avoided and mutual benefits are shared across all partners.
4. That delegated authority be given to the Portfolio holder in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Services and Assets Group Manager to make minor changes and updates to the Strategy and Action plan as necessary.

Reasons:

1. The Strategy provides a policy framework to enable a sustainable system of waste management to be implemented.
2. To ensure that the relevant authorities in Leicestershire have effective collaborative working arrangements at all levels.
3. To ensure that resources are used effectively across all partners within the partnership.

238. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: QUARTER 3 CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW 2022/23

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

DECISIONS

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the latest Capital Programme for 2022/23 totalling £7,668,928 be approved.

Reason:

To ensure the Council has adequate resources in place to meet its capital expenditure commitments.

239. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: 5 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 TO 2027/28

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

DECISIONS

1. That the 5 Year Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2027/28 be approved.
2. That the application of capital resources of £3,618,500 for 2023/24, including a borrowing requirement of £2,295,500, be approved.
3. That the Capital Strategy 2023/24 to 2027/28 be approved.

Reasons:

1. To obtain approval for the proposed level of capital expenditure in 2023/24 and the suggested method of financing that expenditure.
2. To provide a longer term forecast of capital expenditure and financing requirements for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28.
3. To ensure compliance with the Prudential Code.

240. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR & TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/24

Cllr. Mat Mortel left the meeting and returned after the vote had been taken on this item.

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

DECISIONS

1. That the capital prudential indicators and limits for 2023/24 to 2027/28 be approved.

2. That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/2024 and the treasury prudential indicators be approved.
3. That the Investment Strategy for 2023/24 be approved.
4. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2023/24 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.

241. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROPOSALS 2023/24

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

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

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr. Lee Breckon		
Cllr. Nick Brown		
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore		
Cllr. Nick Chapman		
Cllr. Adrian Clifford		
Cllr. David Findlay		
Cllr. Chris Frost		
Cllr. Nigel Grundy		
		Cllr. Paul Hartshorn
Cllr. Mark Jackson		

Cllr. Trevor Matthews		
Cllr. Sam Maxwell		
		Cllr. Chris Merrill
Cllr. Phil Moitt		
		Cllr. Mat Mortel
		Cllr. Anthony Moseley
Cllr. Les Phillimore		
Cllr. Louise Richardson		
Cllr. Terry Richardson		
Cllr. Tracey Shepherd		
Cllr. Mike Shirley		
Cllr. Ben Taylor		
		Cllr. Bev Welsh
		Cllr. Geoff Welsh
Cllr. Jane Wolfe		
Cllr. Maggie Wright		

The Chairman declared that the recommendations, as detailed in the report were carried.

DECISIONS

1. To have regard to the comments of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) in paragraph 4.4 in respect of the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 2003.
2. That the 2023/24 General Fund Revenue Account net expenditure budget of £14.665m be approved.
3. That delegated authority be given to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make amendments to the Budget prior to the commencement of the financial year 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. Delegated authority is sought in order to make any amendments to the Budget should any new information become available following approval by full Council.

242. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: COUNCIL TAX 2023/24

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

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

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr. Lee Breckon		
Cllr. Nick Brown		
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore		
Cllr. Nick Chapman		
Cllr. Adrian Clifford		
Cllr. David Findlay		
Cllr. Chris Frost		
Cllr. Nigel Grundy		
Cllr. Paul Hartshorn		
Cllr. Mark Jackson		
Cllr. Trevor Matthews		
Cllr. Sam Maxwell		
Cllr. Chris Merrill		
Cllr. Phil Moitt		
Cllr. Mat Mortel		
Cllr. Anthony Moseley		
Cllr. Les Phillimore		
Cllr. Louise Richardson		
Cllr. Terry Richardson		
Cllr. Tracey Shepherd		
Cllr. Mike Shirley		
Cllr. Ben Taylor		
Cllr. Bev Welsh		
Cllr. Geoff Welsh		
Cllr. Jane Wolfe		
Cllr. Maggie Wright		

The Chairman declared that the recommendations, as detailed in the report were carried.

DECISIONS

1. The Council Tax Requirement for 2023/24 is set at £6,311,930.

2. The District Council Band D Council Tax is set at £183.65, reflecting an increase of 2.99% (£5.33), 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; all other bands being determined in accordance with the relevant Sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

(*subject to the meeting of Leicestershire County Council to be held on 22 February 2023).

Reason:

The Council is statutorily required to determine its own Council Tax Requirement and to determine the Council Tax for the 2023/24 financial year, taking into account precepts determined by the other preceptors.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7.55 P.M.