

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2026

Present:-

Cllr. Roy Denney (Chairman)
Cllr. Janet Forey (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam	Cllr. Helen Gambardella	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd
Cllr. Royston Bayliss	Cllr. Hannah Gill	Cllr. Dillan Shikotra
Cllr. Dr John Bloxham	Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	Cllr. Roger Stead
Cllr. Nick Brown	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. Nick Chapman	Cllr. Mark Jackson	Cllr. Bob Waterton
Cllr. Adrian Clifford	Cllr. Becca Lunn	Cllr. Jane Wolfe
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore	Cllr. Antony Moseley	Cllr. Maggie Wright
Cllr. Luke Cousin	Cllr. Les Phillimore	Cllr. Neil Wright
Cllr. Tony Deakin	Cllr. Terry Richardson	
Cllr. Susan Findlay	Cllr. Ande Savage	

Officers present:-

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Louisa Horton	- Executive Director - Communities
Marc Greenwood	- Executive Director - Place
Gemma Dennis	- Corporate Services Group Manager
Katie Hollis	- Finance Group Manager
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Sophie Wisher	- Senior Elections & Governance Officer
Avisa Birchenough	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
Nicole Evans	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Apologies:-

Cllr. Stuart Coar, Cllr. Alex DeWinter and Cllr. Matt Tomeo

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2026, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr. Bob Waterton arrived at the meeting during this item.

The Vice-Chair, Cllr. Janet Forey read out announcements on behalf of the Chairman, Cllr. Roy Denney:

- Attended the Veteran's Coffee Morning at Blaby District Council on 4 February 2026.
- Attended the Children's and Young People's Cancer Association awareness event, which was raising funds for research into Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia, at Blaby District Council on 4 February 2026.
- Attended a charity funding event at the Concordia Theatre in Hinckley on 29 January.
- Attended a ribbon cutting event to open Dallington House on 11 February 2026.
- Hosted the Blaby District Council Chairman's Quiz Night on 6 February 2026, raising over £400 for LOROS.
- Attended a Charity Curry Night to support the Mayor of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's chosen Charity on 16 February.

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Janet Forey made announcements in respect of the following upcoming event:

- Attending the Greystoke School Fun Day on 14 March 2026.

4. **LEADER'S STATEMENT**

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam left and returned to the meeting during this item.

The Leader, Cllr. Ben Taylor presented his statement in respect of the following:

- Dallington House opening
- Community Awards
- Love Blaby Lottery anniversary
- Sharnford appeal success
- Boosting local business
- Your health journey
- Progress on new Local Plan
- Youth Conference
- Izzy's Legacy
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Rollout of food waste bins

5. **PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL**

No requests were received.

6. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

No questions were received.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: QUARTER 3
CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW 2025/26

Considered – Report of the Accountancy Services Manager, presented by Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore - Finance, People & Transformation Portfolio Holder.

DECISIONS

1. That the report be accepted.
2. That the latest Capital Programme for 2025/26, totalling £8,305,120, be approved.
3. That approval be given for the purchase of 6 plots for Temporary Accommodation as detailed in Appendix C of the report.
4. That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director (S151), in consultation with the Finance, People & Transformation Portfolio Holder, to finalise the details and enter contractual arrangements to purchase the 6 houses for temporary accommodation as detailed in Appendix C of the report.

Reasons:

1. To ensure that the Council has 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.
3. To be in a position to take advantage of LAFH4 funding that is available and secure the plots to provide further temporary accommodation.
4. To enable the contractual arrangements to be entered into that align with the business case to purchase the temporary accommodation without delay.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: 5 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27 TO 2030/31

Cllr. Roy Denney arrived at the meeting during this item.

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore - Finance, People & Transformation Portfolio Holder.

DECISIONS

1. That the 5 Year Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31, set out at Appendix A of the report be approved.
2. That the application of capital resources of £5,066,884 for 2026/27, including a borrowing requirement of £2,627,099, be approved.
3. That the Capital Strategy 2026/27 to 2030/31 be approved.

Reasons:

1. To obtain approval for the proposed level of capital expenditure in 2026/27 and the suggested method of financing that expenditure.
2. To provide a longer-term forecast of capital expenditure and financing requirements for the period 2026/27 to 2030/31.
3. To ensure compliance with the Prudential Code.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR & TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2026/27

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore - Finance, People & Transformation Portfolio Holder.

DECISIONS

1. That the capital prudential indicators and limits for 2026/27 to 2030/31 be approved.
2. That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27 and the treasury prudential indicators be approved.
3. That the Investment Strategy for 2026/27 be approved.
4. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2026/27 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.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: COUNCIL TAX 2026/27

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore - Finance, People & Transformation Portfolio Holder.

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

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr. Shabbir Aslam		
	Cllr. Royston Bayliss	
	Cllr. Dr. John Bloxham	
Cllr. Lee Breckon		
Cllr. Nick Brown		
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore		
Cllr. Nick Chapman		
Cllr. Adrian Clifford		
	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. Bob Waterton		
Cllr. Jane Wolfe		
Cllr. Maggie Wright		
Cllr. Neil Wright		

DECISIONS

1. The Council Tax Requirement for 2026/27 is set at £7,006,913.
2. The District Council Band D Council Tax is set at £200.62, reflecting an increase of 2.99% (£5.83), 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 midnight on Monday 16th February 2026. **Subject to the meeting of Leicestershire County Council to be held on 18th February 2026.*

Reason:

The Council is statutorily required to determine its own Council Tax Requirement and to determine the Council Tax for the 2026/27 financial year, after considering precepts set by the other preceptors.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROPOSALS 2026/27

Considered – Report of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer), presented by Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore- Finance, People & Transformation Portfolio Holder.

A supplementary report which contained two additional recommendations detailed below at 4 and 5 was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

The Finance, People and Transformation Portfolio Holder, Cllr Cheryl Cashmore proposed an amendment to Recommendation 2.1, the reference to paragraph 4.7 should read 4.4.

Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore thanked Councillors for their involvement in this year’s Budget Scrutiny.

Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore thanked the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) for the clarity provided on the Councils complex financial position, and to the finance team for their ongoing professionalism and monitoring of finances.

Cllr. Paul Hartshorn referred to a press release that had been published in relation to this agenda item and requested that the Chief Executive provides a follow up response in relation to his concerns.

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

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr. Shabbir Aslam		
	Cllr. Royston Bayliss	
	Cllr. Dr. John Bloxham	
Cllr. Lee Breckon		
Cllr. Nick Brown		
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore		
Cllr. Nick Chapman		
Cllr. Adrian Clifford		
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Cllr. Janet Forey		
	Cllr. Helen Gambardella	
	Cllr. Hannah Gill	

Cllr. Nigel Grundy		
	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	
	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	
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Cllr. Mike Shirley		
Cllr. Roger Stead		
Cllr. Ben Taylor		
Cllr. Bob Waterton		
Cllr. Jane Wolfe		
Cllr. Maggie Wright		
Cllr. Neil Wright		

DECISIONS

1. To have regard to the comments of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) in paragraph 4.4 of the report in respect of the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 2003.
2. That the 2026/27 General Fund Revenue Account net expenditure budget of £19.2m be approved.
3. 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.
4. That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine and approve expenditure from the £700,000 budget allocated to Local Government Reorganisation, in order to ensure timely, flexible and efficient use of resources.
5. That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine and approve expenditure from the additional £500,000 budget allocated to Homelessness to explore, identify and deliver new initiatives over and above those being planned and delivered for 2026-27.

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. 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.
4. The sum of £700,000 is proposed to be added to the budget to enable the Authority to respond effectively to the costs associated with the next stage of Local Government Reorganisation, delegated authority enables a flexible and timely approach.
5. The sum of £500,000 is proposed to be added to the budget to enable the Authority to respond effectively to the rising costs of temporary accommodation and the numbers of homeless individuals and families presenting to the Council. This delegation will enable new initiatives to be explored to address the increasing demand.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.44 P.M.