

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held via MS Teams at <https://west-lindsey.public-i.tv/core/portal/home> on 25 January 2021 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Steve England (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Mrs Jackie Brockway	Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor David Cotton	Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson
Councillor Christopher Darcel	Councillor Timothy Davies
Councillor Michael Devine	Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Jane Ellis	Councillor Ian Fleetwood
Councillor Mrs Caralyne Grimble	Councillor Cherie Hill
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan	Councillor Mrs Cordelia McCartney
Councillor Giles McNeill	Councillor John McNeill
Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne	Councillor Keith Panter
Councillor Roger Patterson	Councillor Mrs Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers	Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee	Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Robert Waller	Councillor Mrs Anne Welburn
Councillor Mrs Angela White	Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance:

Ian Knowles	Chief Executive
Alan Robinson	Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer
Tracey Bircumshaw	Assistant Director of Finance and Property Services and Section 151 Officer
James O'Shaughnessy	Corporate Policy Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer
Alison McCulloch	Revenues Manager
Katie Storr	Senior Democratic & Civic Officer
Ele Snow	Democratic and Civic Officer

Also in Attendance: Mr Richard Quirk, Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Apologies

Councillor Liz Clews
Councillor Tom Regis
Councillor Jim Snee

40 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. A warm welcome was extended to Mr Richard Quirk, Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel, who would later in the meeting present his Panel's recommendations to Full Council.

The Monitoring Officer was requested to undertake the formal roll-call to confirm all Members were in attendance.

The roll-call for both Members and Officers was undertaken, during which apologies were noted from Councillors J Snee, T Regis and L Clews.

41 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on 2 November 2020

In connection, to Minute 30, the Leader of the Opposition sought clarification as to the status of the Deputy Leader's position, given recent information brought to the public attention.

The Monitoring Officer, addressed Members advising that the Deputy Leader was appointed by Council and remained a Member of the Administration. No notifications to the contrary had been received. These were matters for the Conservative Group and Ruling Administration.

Having being moved and seconded, on being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on 2 November 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Acknowledging that an opportunity had been missed due to the virtual nature of the meeting, Councillor John McNeill placed on record his Point of Order, Council Procedure Rule 15.1 – Signing of Minutes – The only part of minutes that can be discussed is their accuracy.

42 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

43 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman introduced the report advising Members that the report would be taken "as read" unless Members had any questions.

With no comments and with no requirement for a vote, the Matters Arising were **DULY NOTED**.

44 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman

The Chairman started his announcements advising that Civic commitments for obvious reasons had been limited, and due to the continuing restrictions many of the face-to-face events he would have had the pleasure of attending, on the run-up to Christmas had sadly not been possible.

Due to the wonders of modern day technology and the assistance of the Communications Team, to whom thanks were expressed, the Chairman had been able to contact “virtually” all of those organisations, when in normal times, he would have visited in person. The Chairman had also had the pleasure in attending his first virtual Carol Service.

The Chairman had however had the pleasure and honour to attend at an outdoor service at Scampton church, which had been most moving, joining Councillor Patterson as Ward Member and the Station Commander from RAF Scampton in paying respect to those who gave their lives in defence of freedom.

He also spoke of being delighted at being able to participate in the turf cutting ceremony for West Lindsey’s new depot facility, joined by the Leader, Deputy Leader and the Ward Member.

In concluding his announcements, the Chairman paid tribute to Alan Robinson, Monitoring Officer, who would be leaving the authority shortly to take up a new role with South Kesteven District Council. On congratulating Mr Robinson, the Chairman expressed his personal thanks for the support and guidance Mr Robinson had provided to him during his Office and for the support he provided to all Members.

Leader

The Leader echoed the comments of the Chairman, expressing thanks to Mr Robinson for his support over the years, before making the following address to Council: -

“2021 has begun every bit as busy as 2020 ended and it really is a privilege to be involved at a time of such rapid progress and transition. Although responding to the coronavirus pandemic remains the key priority, Members can be assured that consideration is also being given to understanding and realising the opportunities for our economy, our communities and residents alike to emerge from the current circumstances stronger and more vibrant than ever.

The Lincolnshire Outbreak Engagement Board normally meets fortnightly, bringing Members and Officers from local government together with professionals from NHS organisations and key partners from other front line services to share news, co-ordination and support. Regular weekly meetings of Lincolnshire’s District Council Leaders and Chief Executives have resumed following the Christmas and New Year break. Significant progress is also being made on the review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The first formal public consultation (Regulation 18) is scheduled to begin in June and will include

proposed site allocations and significantly strengthened policies in response to the environment and sustainability imperatives.

West Lindsey District Council continues to work with the Rural Services Network whose Revitalising Rural campaign (which includes fairer funding) is of such fundamental importance to rural areas. As Members will be aware, partner organisations including the Local Government Association, the District Councils' Network and East Midlands Councils currently offer enhanced programmes of focused events to help share up-to-date information and best practice, thereby also helping to promote ongoing Member development.

Specifically within our District, planning and preparation is well underway for elections day on Thursday, 6th May and indeed applications for postal or proxy votes can be submitted now. Support for those West Lindsey businesses that have been impacted by the restrictions introduced in response to the Coronavirus pandemic remains an absolute priority and continues to be delivered both responsively and efficiently. It is especially pleasing that West Lindsey won the award for Best Service Team of the Year – Cemetery and Crematorium Service in the Association for Public Service Excellence Awards for 2020. In addition we were finalists in three other categories, these being for the Best Efficiency and Transformation Initiative, Best Street Cleansing and Streetscene Service (Public Realm) and Best Sports, Leisure and Cultural Service. This reflects huge credit on individuals and services throughout the organisation, especially as APSEs awards are open to member Councils throughout the United Kingdom!

Chairman I remain firmly of the view that, whilst we should never underestimate what we have achieved so far as a Council during a time of unprecedented challenge and change, much remains to be done and will be done on behalf of all those we represent. My heartfelt thanks go to each and every one of you, to our colleagues in local government and to each of our many partners in the community."

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive addressed Council, and started his announcements by providing an update in respect of COVID-19 infections in West Lindsey were on a downward trend and continued to be significantly lower than the national average.

The Chief Executive was pleased to advise that two vaccination sites were up and running across two of the District's Primary Care Networks and an additional mass vaccination centre was expected to open in Lincolnshire in the next few weeks. An announcement from NHS England was awaited.

The Strategic and Tactical Group, established to review the expected rain and snow forecasts which could have led to flooding had met the previous week. Thankfully, there was no significant flooding and the threat at Scotter had been supported by our operations team.

The Chief Executive advised that since national lockdown, there had been a review of

current project work and projects paused where necessary. This allowed colleagues to focus on the work in hand including additional duties as a result of the pandemic

Over recent months Members of the Central Lincs Joint Strategic Planning Committee and the West Lindsey Environmental and Sustainability Working Group have been meeting together to consider the potential for the revised Local Plan to contribute to the Authority's climate change initiative. A final position was expected to be reached by the end of March.

There had been some changes to the Management Team since the last Full Council. The Chief Executive was pleased to advise that the Assistant Director for Change Management and Regulatory Services had commenced employment with West Lindsey on the 7th December 2020. As mentioned by both the Chairman and Leader Members had been notified that the Director of Corporate Services would be leaving the Authority by the end of March.

Finally, all Members were reminded of the Strategic Leaders Panel taking place Friday with a focus on Rurality and Housing, Health and Care. All Members were welcome and encouraged to attend.

45 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Monitoring Officer confirmed to the meeting that no public questions had been received.

46 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

The Chairman advised the meeting that two questions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No.9 had been submitted to the meeting. These had been circulated separately to the agenda.

The Chairman invited Councillor Anne Welburn, Ward Member for the Cherry Willingham Ward to put her question to the meeting, as follows: -

“Leader - The Rural Economy in Lincolnshire needs a comprehensive national-level rural strategy, to be delivered locally via communities, councils, and businesses to ensure that no resident or business should be disadvantaged unreasonably by their rural location.

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) provided money for projects to improve agriculture, the environment and rural life. It supported Schemes that improved the environment; increased the productivity of farming and forestry; or which grew the rural economy.

I understand that the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) is now closed, because it is a European Fund, part of the 2014-2020 programme and this programme is ending.

Please could the Leader advise if there have been any positive developments in this area, is the Government still hoping to deliver a fairer funding scheme for rural areas? And what funding, if any will replace the RDPE?

Thank you”

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Owen Bierley, responded as follows: -

“Thank you for your question Councillor Welburn

You are correct that the RDPE is now closed. However it is has been announced that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will replace the EU funding programme and in the November 2020 Spending Review the Chancellor confirmed ‘The planned fund will target the places most in need across the UK, including ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and rural and coastal communities, and “help to level up and create opportunity across the UK for people and places”.

It is expected that this funding will be administered by the Local Enterprise Partnerships, although it is not anticipated to be available until 2022.

We are working with the LEP on the Local Industrial Strategy and the Medium Term Recovery Plan and this is where we will articulate our priorities and continue to champion the need for funding and programmes that support rural issues.

The draft medium term recovery plan has a priority ‘Rural Heartland’ with the following priorities for action:

- Delivering cycling upgrades, along with a targeting marketing programme to ensure Greater Lincolnshire is recognized as a UK centre for cycling.
- Facilitating start-up enterprise locally
- Achieving full coverage of 4G mobile to ensure no 'not spots' remain
- Facilitating start up enterprise
- Identifying the scope for local trading
- Repurposing of existing business spaces and the prospect of local hubs

In parallel, the Rural Services Network has included each of these points as central, crucial, ‘asks’ in its’ Revitalising Rural campaign, which is to be officially launched in the next few weeks. Revitalising Rural arises from RSN’s ‘Time for a Rural Strategy’ call upon Government that we fully supported as a Council.

Please be assured Councillor Welburn the prosperity of rural communities is both a Council priority and a personal passion of mine and I will continue to ensure WLDC takes every opportunity available to it to influence strategic priorities for funding in rural areas.”

Having heard the response Councillor Welburn posed the following supplementary question:

-

“Will the Leader ensure that anyone who is eligible for this new funding be made aware?”

The Leader responded accordingly.

“Yes, promoting funding and assisting residents and businesses to access available funds, is a key role of our Economic Development Team”

Councillor Welburn thanked the Leader.

The Chairman then invited Councillor Trevor Young, Ward Member for the Gainsborough South-West Ward, to put his question to the meeting as follows: -

“Leader - Have Lincolnshire Police ‘ Shut Up Shop ‘ in Gainsborough during this Covid Pandemic?

This might sound flippant but this is what some of the residents of the Gainsborough South West Ward are saying.

During the Pandemic there has been a ‘spike’ in theft, burglaries and crime yet a lack of police response. Some residents have reported 20-30 different thefts from their properties leaving them living in complete fear.

Residents duly pay a high precept towards Policing and should be able to feel safe in their own homes.

Why is it in parts of West Lindsey we receive such a poor service from the Police?

Are Gainsborough Residents less deserving than other parts of Lincolnshire regarding Crime & Disorder.

Thank you”

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Owen Bierley, responded as follows: -

“Thank you Councillor Young for your question. I have regular briefings and update meetings in my capacity as Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee with our local police representatives. This increase in theft and burglaries you report is not something that has been brought to my attention.

Please be assured I will be raising this matter at my next such meeting and will feedback through the matters arising to Council in due course.

The safety of all our District residents is of paramount importance. Thank you”

Having heard the response Councillor Young made a supplementary statement.

Thank you. There is a lack of confidence amongst residents around Police statistics and I would like this fact be brought up with them. We have been informed that across West Lindsey there is to be further cuts in policing and PCSOs moving out of West Lindsey into other parts of Lincolnshire due to reductions in Government funding, this is totally unacceptable. The reality is that thieves and criminals are going unpunished because of reduced Police numbers in our area and we need those urgent discussions with the Police and assurance that Gainsborough will be policed at a level required and

that people can live safely. I trust in you Chairman.

The Leader thanked Councillor Young for his comments and again re-iterated that he would raise issues brought to Council's attention.

47 MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10

The Chairman advised the meeting that three motions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No.10 had been submitted to the meeting, these were as set out in the agenda.

Councillor David Cotton, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, was invited to put the first motion to the meeting, as follows: -

Fly Posting

"Mr Chairman, recently the Circus visited the town of Gainsborough, and despite the current restrictions had a period of putting on shows.

Everyone would expect them to advertise their presence before arrival and display of posters in shops and so on is acceptable.

What is not acceptable is the amount of fly posting that was done by the Circus, not only to advertise their coming to Gainsborough; but also as they prepared to leave fly posting as to where their next stop would be.

The fact is that even if an occasional fly post was put up that would not really be acceptable, but what happened was the Circus put up three, four or five posters in one single location. Empty shop fronts were targeted and these posters once put up will over time deteriorate and then become litter, to say nothing of the eye-sore they are in situ.

Gainsborough was not the only settlement targeted; other places too had the fly posting and it is not an isolated incident. Other events are known to fly post all over the district. While we want the attractions, they advertise, to come in to the district it is the mess left behind of these fly posts, and where there are multiple posts in one location it causes more and more of an eye sore and eventual litter. Fly posts are rarely if ever taken down after events by those who place them in many locations most of which are not appropriate.

The Liberal Democrat Group collectively, and hopefully joined by other Members of the Council, as we are all affected by this; would like to move that a more robust stance be taken against any fly posting in the district and while accepting there are some current rules and regulations, we would like to see these firstly enforced, as they clearly are not being at the present; and secondly enhanced and made tougher.

The Council can put in place local by-laws on such matters as these and we would like to see options to do this with a possible ban on fly posting across the district to be explored and then enacted.

The cost of clearing up after these fly posts, which become litter, will be saved and then can be used to bring enforcement of a by-law. Once the knowledge is broadcast, we will substantially reduce this unwarranted and unnecessary wanton street vandalism, for that is what it is.

We therefore move the exploration of enforcement of current laws is looked at and further restrictions or a total ban on fly posting across the district is made subject to a local by-law.

We so move, collectively as a Liberal Democrat Group.”ⁱ

The Leader of the Council made an initial response to the motion: -

“I would like to thank the Liberal Democrat Group for bringing the matter to my attention as Leader of the Council. I recognise the blight that issues such as fly posting and fly tipping can have on our District.

I am therefore happy to support and second the Group’s Motion that we explore enforcement of current laws and further restrictions or a total ban on fly posting across the district, if appropriate.

This work clearly sits within the remit of the Council’s Regulatory Committee and therefore a report should be brought forward to a future meeting of that Committee to consider the issue in detail. Both the matters raised within this motion but also consideration of the current extent of the issue, the powers that are available to the Council, and how we may utilise these moving forward.”

The Chairman advised that under Council Procedure Rule 10.4 the Motion could stand referred without debate , but afforded Members the opportunity to make brief comment.

In response to a Member’s question, the Monitoring Officer confirmed due to the actions proposed by the Motion, it was appropriate that the matter be referred to Council’s Regulatory Committee as stated by the Leader in his response.

On being put to the vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the motion be **ACCEPTED** and be **REFERRED** to the Council’s Regulatory Committee for further exploration.

Councillor Anne Welburn, was invited to put her motion to the meeting, as follows: -

Slow Ways Initiative

“Chairman, The Slow Ways initiative is mapping and promoting walking routes nationally and in the local area, and needs support to create a comprehensive network of walking routes that connect all of Great Britain’s cities and towns as well as thousands of villages. 700 volunteers completed a first draft mapping of the Slow Ways network during the Spring 2020 lockdown. The organisers are now looking for 10,000 volunteers to help walk, review, record and improve the Slow Ways routes.

A large number of **potential co-benefits** have been identified by volunteers, partners and backers in developing the Slow Ways initiative, I trust Councillors have read the supporting information submitted alongside the Motion.

Following the early success of the initiative, Slow Ways CIC has been established to formalise its status. It is currently being supported by Paths for All, the Pilgrim Trust, Sport England, Urban Good and the Kestrelman Trust. The initiative is working in collaboration with Ordnance Survey and ESRI.

Slow Ways routes and associated information will be made freely available through the Slow Ways website. Versions of the network's data will be published for other organisations to use, and will also be released through the OS Maps platform.

Given the benefits realised by such initiatives, and the Council's commitment in the Corporate Plan to the Health and Wellbeing of our residents and to an enhanced environment there would appear to be a real alignment of priorities which would be delivered by supporting this initiative.

I ask that this Council supports the Slow Ways initiative by :-

- Passing this formal motion to support Slow Ways, Promoting Slow Ways for local residents to walk, review and use routes
- through its role on the CLJSPC give consideration to Slow Ways within future planning, policies and initiatives and considering where new paths would strengthen the Slow Ways network
- Finally, by way of promotion, Encourage our residents and communities to sign-up personally, to walk and review a Slow Way.

I so move
Councillor Anne Welburn"

The Leader of Council made an initial response as follows: -

"Thank you for your motion Cllr Welburn. You are right to recognise the synergies between our corporate plan priorities and the Slow ways initiative.

I agree that this is something we should support and promote and I am happy to second your motion.

I would suggest that we use our Social Media Platforms and communication tools to get the message across to as many of our West Lindsey residents as possible. I would however add that we may need to consider the current Government Guidance during the COVID 19 pandemic to ensure that the messaging promotes the appropriate and safe behaviours at this time.

Including provision and measures, within planning policy, to assist with sustainability and to improve the health of residents, is a matter already under consideration by the CLJSPC, as they embark on the Local Plan Review. As a member of that committee should Council support the motion, I will endeavour to make CLJSPC aware of the slow ways initiative and benefits."

Members from across the chamber, spoke in support of the Motion. Members considered Slow Ways was a great example of the types of initiative the Council should be encouraging, promoting and helping to deliver. There were calls for the District Council to look at the wider issues which prevented walking, including better footpaths, connected cycling routes and disabled access consideration. All recognised the co-benefits of the initiative and the ways in which these could help the Council deliver on some of its wider corporate priorities, such as health, wellbeing, and climate sustainability.

On being put to the vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the motion be **ACCEPTED** and as such the Council commits to : -

- (a) through its role on the CLJSPC, raise the Slow Ways initiative with the Joint Strategic Planning Committee and request that they give consideration to Slow Ways within future planning, policies and initiatives and consider where new paths would strengthen the Slow Ways
- (b) - use its Social Media Platforms and communication tools to encourage our residents and communities to sign-up personally, to walk and review a Slow Way.

Councillor Matthew Boles , was invited to put his motion to the meeting, as follows: -

“Chairman.

Following the removal of various services over several years at John Coupland Hospital, there is now speculation that Consultant led outpatient services are also to be withdrawn. I call on the Leader to write to ULHT explaining it is extremely concerned to protect services at John Coupland Hospital.

Whilst also seeking answers as to if ULHT can confirm if it does intend to withdraw some or all the outpatient services from John Coupland Hospital. If it does, then can it please provide details of the recovery plan it will put in place to manage the consequential long term impact on the health and wellbeing of Gainsborough residents?

We all appreciate that the Covid-19 Pandemic is stretching NHS services, but the impact of such a withdrawal of services from Gainsborough would have similar far-reaching consequences to both the physical and mental wellbeing of Gainsborough residents as the short-term impact of Covid.

I so move.
Cllr Matt Boles”

The Leader of the Council made an initial response to the motion as follows: -

“Thank you Councillor Boles for your motion, the content of which does cause me concern. John Coupland Hospital is not only a vital service for Gainsborough

and its residents but is the main NHS hub within our District. We cannot dispute the unprecedented impacts this pandemic is having on our NHS services, however we must seek to protect local services for local people wherever we can, particularly in rural communities, like ours where there are often already barriers to accessing services. I am more than happy to second your motion and with Council's support I will endeavour to seek an answer to those questions you have posed and feedback to Council as appropriate. Thank you"

Debate ensued and the Council's representative on the Lincolnshire Health Scrutiny Committee showed her support for the motion. She gave her assurance the Scrutiny Committee were aware of this matter and were monitoring this along with a number of other services.

Members again from all sides of the Chamber spoke at their dissatisfaction at local health service provision. It was suggested that whilst local service provision was quoted as the aspiration by CCGs the reality was in the fact the opposite with many services becoming more centralised. This often resulted in transport issues with the lack of local services available in the area.

All were in agreement that there was a need to retain these smaller local community hospitals. There was a level of distrust and Members spoke of historic decisions where services had been removed despite promises.

Some Members considered Gainsborough, in comparison to lots of other Lincolnshire towns, fared particularly poorly in all aspects of health provision to the extent they considered it an inequality issue. There were calls for a roundtable meeting and for the MP's assistance to be sought.

Members were in agreement it was their duty to hold health providers to account and to monitor the situation.

On being put to the vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the motion as submitted, be **ACCEPTED** and as such Full Council requests the Leader of The Council to write to ULHT regarding service provision at the John Coupland Hospital, in line with the motion.

48 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2021-2022

The Chairman again welcomed Mr Richard Quirk, Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel to the meeting and invited him to introduce the report.

Mr Quirk outlined the process that had been undertaken to produce the recommendations set out in the report. Consultation had taken place with Members and thanks were expressed to those that had responded, noting the response rate had again been low.

Mr Quirk also outlined the factors which had been taken into account, summarised in paragraph 1.2 of the report by the Panel in reaching its recommendations, , namely an increase across the board of 1% to Members' basic allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's).

This proposal if accepted would increase the Members' basic allowance to £6212 p.a. for the year 2021/22, and equated to an extra amount of £1.19 per week per Member.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke on behalf of his Group Members indicating that they would not support the recommendations given the current situation nationally, the financial hardship being experienced by many and rising job losses.

Councillor John McNeill spoke on behalf of the ruling Group and concurred with the comments of the Opposition Group. The Administration also did not consider it an appropriate time to be raising allowances.

It was confirmed that if Members failed to propose and second the recommendations the paper would "fall" and the Scheme would remain unchanged

Members thanked Mr Quirk for the work of his Panel and for him having engaged Members in the process.

Mr Quirk in turn thanked Members and the Officers of the Council who supported the Remuneration Panel's work; Alan Robinson, James O'Shaughnessy and Susan Norman.

In the absence of a proposer and seconder the recommendations fell. As a result no changes will be made to the Scheme of Members Allowances and the rates payable will remain the same as those payable under the 2020/21 Scheme.

49 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2021/22

Councillor Anne Welburn as Chairman of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, was pleased to present the report to Council which sought approval of the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22.

Amendments had been made to the scheme in 2019/20 in anticipation of Universal Credit implementation and no changes had been made in 2020/21.

Data available showed that it had been effective and that the collection rate for Council Tax support claimants last year was almost 78%, an increase of 7.85% on the previous year.

Due to the health and economic impacts Covid-19 had had on the residents of West Lindsey this year and the effective collection rate it was considered appropriate to continue to embed the current scheme with both staff and council tax support claimants for at least a further year taking the scheme through to 2022.

This Option, Option 1 within the report had been supported by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee at their meeting in December 2020 and as such was recommended to Full Council for approval and adoption from 1 April 2021.

Councillor Welburn concluded her introduction by moving the recommendation, which was duly seconded. On being put to the vote it was:-

RESOLVED that the Recommendation from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee be accepted and Option 1 of the report be adopted as the Local

Council Tax Support Scheme for West Lindsey District Council for 2021/22.

50 COUNCIL TAX BASE 21-22

The Chairman of Council presented the report and advised that the Council was required to set its Council Tax Base and declare an estimate of its Council Tax Surplus which should be taken into account when setting the Council Tax for the following year.

The Council Tax Base for the year 2021/22 would be £30,128.37

The Council Tax Surplus of £1,089,000 had been calculated in accordance with statutory guidance with West Lindsey District Council's share being £167,500. This amount would be built into the 2021/22 Budget prior to setting the Council Tax.

In concluding his presentation the Chairman moved the paper and this was duly seconded. On being put to the vote it was: -

RESOLVED that

- (a) the estimated surplus of £167,500 be accepted and declared as accruing in the Council's Collection Fund at 31 March 2021 relating to an estimated Council Tax surplus.
- (b) the Council uses its element of the Collection Fund surplus/deficit in calculating the level of Council Tax in 2021/22.
- (c) that the calculations of the Council's tax base for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 be approved, and that in accordance with the Local Authorities' (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1993 (as amended), the tax base for each part of the Authority's area shall be as set out also in Appendix 1.

51 MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2020/21

Councillor Anne Welburn in her capacity as Chairman of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, presented the report which sought approval of the Mid Year Treasury Report 2020/21.

The report had been presented to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 5 November, where it had been fully considered and debated.

The report complied with all statutory requirements and the Treasury Management Code.

There had been no changes to the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy.

The report detailed the treasury activity over the period April to September and reflected the impact of the approved Revised Capital Budget for 2020/21, also presented to Corporate Policy and Resources on 5 November 2020.

This had resulted in some changes to the Treasury and Prudential Indicators which required the approval of Full Council.

It was forecast that the Council would have £14.726m invested by the year end and that external borrowing would be £23m.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Treasury Team who continued to effectively manage the Authority's cash flows and had recently received a High Assurance rating from the Internal Auditor.

Councillor Welburn concluded her presentation by moving the recommendations.

In the ensuing debate Members welcomed the inclusion of Executive Summary and commented on its usefulness.

Members sought indication as to whether the position had substantially changed since the time of the reports writing. Some questioned whether the report could have been brought sooner. Whilst the position had remained unchanged the S151 Officer outlined how the downturn in interest rates for some of the Council investments would affect the Council's projected returns, and how the reduced counter-party list continued to limit options. The Council would always seek to invest wisely but securing returns on investments was difficult in the current market.

Officers outlined the various stages and approvals required prior to presenting the Mid-Year Review to Council and gave assurance that this matter had been progressed at the anticipated rate.

In response to further questions, Officers confirmed that the Council's investments made through its Commercial Property Portfolio continued to perform well and almost as expected returning around 6%.

Having being seconded and on being put to the vote it was: -

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee be accepted and the Mid-Year Treasury Management Report be approved together with the changes to Prudential Indicators as detailed within the report.

52 REVISED SCHEME OF OFFICER DELEGATION FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT RE-STRUCTURE

Councillor John McNeill, in his capacity of Chairman of the Governance Audit Committee introduced the report which recommended a revised Scheme of Officer Delegation for adoption.

The work relating to this report had been undertaken through delegated authority granted by the Governance and Audit Committee, to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee.

Members noted that most of the scheme, presented at Appendix 1 of the report, was unchanged from that approved at Annual Council in May 2019.

The changes were to re-align delegations to appropriate officers following the changes to the Senior Management structure, in support of the Chief Executive, introduced last year.

Council were therefore asked to acknowledge the re-alignment of already approved delegations highlighted in Yellow in the appendix.

Given that the Scheme was being fundamentally re-aligned to match the revisions to the Senior Management Structure, the Chairman had considered it opportune and appropriate, in consultation with Officers, and in the absence of Annual Council this civic year, to also bring forward any elements of the Annual Review Report, which affected the Scheme of Officer Delegation.

These amendments, additions, and in some cases, deletions were expressed in red text in Appendix 1 and were made on the recommendation of the Governance and Audit Committee at their meetings on 16th June and 13th October 2020.

Council was therefore asked to approve the amendments, shown in red, in the revised Scheme of Officer Delegation presented at Appendix 1 and summarised in Appendix 2, which included rationale for change.

Members were advised that the next Annual Review was due to commence in coming weeks and should Members have any areas of concerns this would be best dealt with as part of the next review wherever possible.

Councillor McNeill concluded his presentation by moving the recommendations which were duly seconded. On being put to the vote it was : -

RESOLVED that

- (a) the re-alignment of previously approved duties and responsibilities as detailed in Section 2 of the report, undertaken through delegated powers. (expressed as black / yellow text in Appendix 1) be acknowledged; and
- (b) the recommendation from the Governance and Audit Committee be accepted and the amendments detailed in Appendix 2, suggested throughout the 19/20 Annual Review Process, together with those detailed in Section 4 be approved for inclusion in the revised Scheme of Officer Delegation (expressed in red text throughout Appendix 1).

Note: Councillor T Davies lost connection during the above item of business and therefore did not take part in vote.

The meeting concluded at 8.49 pm.

Chairman

ⁱ Supporting images had been circulated.