

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on 6 March 2023 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence (Chairman)
Councillor Roger Patterson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Mrs Jackie Brockway	Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Liz Clews	Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson
Councillor Christopher Darcel	Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor David Dobbie	Councillor Jane Ellis
Councillor Ian Fleetwood	Councillor Mrs Caralyne Grimble
Councillor Mrs Cordelia McCartney	Councillor John McNeill
Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne	Councillor Peter Morris
Councillor Jaime Oliver	Councillor Mrs Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Tom Regis	Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers
Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings	Councillor Jim Snee
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
Emma Foy	Director of Corporate Services and Section 151
Jeanette McGarry	Assistant Director People & Democratic Services
Katie Storr	Democratic Services & Elections Team Manager

Also in Attendance: Mr Bryan Mander, Chairman of the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group, and Chairman of Hemswell Parish Council

Also Present: 1 member of the public
1 member of the press

Apologies

Councillor David Cotton
Councillor Timothy Davies
Councillor Steve England
Councillor Cherie Hill
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Keith Panter

131 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

A warm welcome was also extended to Mr Bryan Mander, Chairman of the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group, and Chairman of Hemswell Parish Council, who would later in the meeting present the Group's successful Plan to Full Council

132 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - 23 JANUARY 2023

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on 23 January 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

133 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

For the avoidance of doubt, the Chairman advised the Chamber that Members were not required to make declarations in respect of the Council Tax Setting (Executive Business Plan/MTFP) Report, as this was an area in which all Councillors were granted an exemption by the relevant legislation.

134 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman introduced the report, advising Members that the report would be taken "as read" unless Members had any questions that they wished to raise.

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

135 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman

The Chairman addressed Council and advised that whilst it had been a rather quiet period for civic engagements, the Strategic Away Day for all Councillors had been most useful and very informative. Thanks were expressed to all those involved with arranging the day and to all those who contributed to its smooth and efficient running.

Referencing fellow Councillor, Councillor David Cotton, who at the last meeting had addressed Full Council – the Chairman shared good news. Councillor Cotton was progressing very well and feeling much better. Well wishes were extended for a continued and speedy recovery.

Leader

The Leader made the following address to Council: -

“The Inaugural meeting of the Further Education Task Force was held in this room on Wednesday, 22 February and was highly insightful, positive and productive. In particular the engagement, enthusiasm and support of colleagues from throughout the educational, manufacturing and related sectors gave considerable confidence that real and measurable progress can be delivered on behalf of our young people. This is not only a duty we all share, but also a vital factor in ensuring we collectively achieve and maximise the full potential of our area and the communities within it.

Research commissioned by the Rural Services Network (a Special Interest Group within the Local Government Association) last year showed that rural areas are suffering more acutely from the increase in the cost of living compared with urban areas. To better understand the impact this has on individuals, households and indeed communities, the RSN has now launched a survey in partnership with the Citizens Advice Rural Issues Group to provide data to help to engage more effectively with Government Departments, MPs and other policy makers. The link to take part is:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural_Households_Cost-of-Living

This survey will close on Friday, 31st March 2023 and clearly the greater the response the better, so please share it widely!

The Elections Act 2022 introduced a requirement for all voters at a polling station to present photographic identification such as a UK passport, a photocard driving licence, or a bus pass. Anyone without an accepted form of photo ID can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate either on-line at <https://www.gov.uk> by post from the DLUHC, or in person at the Guildhall in Gainsborough, but applications will close at 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 25 April. Alternatively, electors may wish to consider applying for a postal vote, for which the closing date is 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 18 April. Polling day is on Thursday, 4 May from 7.00 am - 10.00 pm.

It is especially pleasing to report that West Lindsey District Council is one of the six authorities to have been shortlisted in the Council of the Year category in the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 2023. This is a really significant achievement, fully reflecting the commitment, enthusiasm and successes of our team. Indeed, ours is the only District to have been shortlisted, the other Councils, from throughout the United Kingdom, all being much larger organisations.

Finally, Chairman, whilst I believe this to be an especially exciting time with unparalleled opportunities available to our District, I do fully recognise that we can always achieve our best working in partnership with others. Accordingly, I'd like to place on record my deep appreciation for the commitment and dedication of all the individuals and organisations working on behalf of their communities, adding so much to the quality of life we collectively benefit from and enjoy.”

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive addressed Council and he too was delighted to advise the Chamber that West Lindsey District Council had been shortlisted for “Council of the Year” by the LGC Awards. The Chief Executive placed on record his thanks to all Councillors, employees and Partners for enabling West Lindsey to place itself in such a position where it could achieve such recognition.

Recognition was paid to Sally Grindrod-Smith, Director of Planning Regeneration and Communities, and Emma Foy, Director of Corporate Services, for their work on the Scampton Procurement process. The Chief Executive was pleased to confirm that West Lindsey had secured a successful bidder which would allow the Council to focus on finalising the acquisition of the Scampton Airfield from the Ministry of Defence.

Referencing the Strategic Away day on 27 January; Members were thanked for their attendance and support and to the University of Lincoln for hosting the event at their Riseholme Campus. Feedback had been really positive and it was hoped a similar positive engagement event would be arranged for next January (2024).

Finally, the Chief Executive advised Members that he had attended a Ministerial visit to the West Burton Power Station for the launch of a new company, designed to advance the UK’s position in Fusion Energy.

Announcements were concluded.

136 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman advised the meeting that no public questions had been received.

137 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

The Chairman advised the meeting that one question pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No.9 had been submitted to the meeting. This had been circulated to all Members, separately to the agenda, and published on the website.

The Chairman invited, Councillor David Dobbie, Ward Member for Gainsborough East, to put his question to the Leader as follows:-

“Leader

Why was the Grant funding that was available for Local Authorities that do not have a Changing Place within their area not accessed last year?

This fund gave priority grants to Local Authorities that did not have any such facilities within their authority?

Thank you.”

The Leader of the Council responded as follows: -

“The Department for Levelling Up Homes and Communities published the Changing Places Fund Prospectus inviting councils to submit expressions of interest for funding to create new Changing Places Toilet Facilities. Officers assessed the expression of interest and the requirements of the fund. The fund was targeted at the repurposing of existing toilet facilities, with a view to increasing the size and provisions available. The new facilities would be expected to be larger than a disabled toilet, make provisions for equipment such as hoists, privacy screens, adult-sized changing benches, peninsula toilets and space for carers.

In order to assess how we could upgrade our current facilities we reviewed all Council owned WC facilities across the district. This included at the West Lindsey Leisure Centre and Market Rasen Leisure Centre. Unfortunately, none of our current facilities could accommodate the requirements of the Changing Places Fund. The exception to this is the West Lindsey Leisure Centre, where there is actually a Changing Places facility already available.

We then considered how we could build a Changing Places facility into the new cinema development. We discussed the options with Savoy, and unfortunately, due to the fact that the toilets and main servicing routes are contained within the stairwells, there was not the space that would be needed to create the hoist facilities and host the additional facilities needed. In addition, we did have concerns regarding accessibility during the hours when the cinema would be closed and this would have been challenging by the letter of the funding guidance.

The matter was considered by the Land Property and Growth Programme Board and it was determined that unfortunately at the time of the funding opportunity we were not in a position to develop an option that would meet the funding requirements. We have kept the idea firmly on the table and will continue to look at other options for the delivery of such a facility.”

Having sought and received permission to ask a supplementary question Councillor Dobbie made a statement regarding his understanding from campaigners about the lack of changing places in the District adequate for registration within the organisation, and the need for that to change. He encouraged greater engagement the local campaigners he had referred to in wider correspondence, given their knowledge of the issues.

The Chairman requested a supplementary question be put, as requested, or the meeting would move on, in line with procedure rules. The following supplementary was posed: -

I would like the Council to continue to try and fulfil a “Changing Place” in West Lindsey - when would that be likely to be occur in the future, thank you?”

In responding the Chairman re-iterated the Leader’s previous statement that the matter remained on the table and other options for the delivery of such a facility continued to be investigated.

138 MOTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10

The Chairman advised the meeting that no motions, pursuant to Council Procedure No.10 had been received.

139 HEMSWELL AND HARPSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members gave consideration to a report to fully 'make' (adopt) the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan following a successful referendum. Once adopted the plan would become part of the development plan for the District and would have major influence on planning application decisions in both parishes.

In the absence of the Ward Member, the Chairman of Council introduced the report and advised Members the Neighbourhood Plan had been prepared by a residents' steering group on behalf of both parish councils; congratulating the Group for their time and effort in ensuring the Plan reached the final stage.

Members' attention was drawn to the compliments of the Examiner on the Plan and its policies, and detailed in the report.

The Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan had involved two rounds of public consultation and had been successful at examination and recently at referendum, which had seen residents voting 86% in favour of the Plan. In the wider context, the adoption meant that West Lindsey now had 24 adopted Plans and 19 in preparation.

The Chairman again welcomed Councillor Bryan Mander, Chairman of Hemswell Parish Council, to the meeting and prior to Members debating the matter invited him to make a short address to Council and present the successful Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Mander, addressed the meeting and made the following short address: -

"I'm pleased to be representing Hemswell and Harpswell, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Hemswell Parish Council, and for having the opportunity to hand over this document to West Lindsey District Council for its consideration for adoption.

This moment has been a long time coming as we designated the area back in April 2017, and since then, steering groups navigated quite a few hurdles in the process and a global pandemic, so we finally arrived at this point.

We have been very proud to continuously involve the communities of both Hemswell and Harpswell and other relevant statutory bodies in developing the Plan. Identifying and detailing within the document, what the community felt was important for consideration with regard to the planning and development, and we've kept them appraised of the Plan's development and sought their feedback throughout the process.

We've also utilised, recognised Planning and Heritage consultants to help

develop the Plan and the supporting documents, and we are very proud of the document that we've created. I would also like to thank Nev Brown, a senior planning officer, for his assistance during the creation of the Plan and, as has been mentioned, the External Examiner in his report was, in our opinion, very complimentary. He not only concluded the Plan met the basic conditions but he also commended the collaborative approach the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had taken during the development of the Plan.

We are therefore extremely happy to receive that resounding 86% vote in favour of the Plan and I'm therefore proud to present this Plan to the Council for its consideration for adoption.

The Chairman of Council then formally received the Plan from Councillor Mander to a round of applause.

Members across the floor congratulated the Group on their remarkable achievement with Members expressing their understanding of, and therefore their admiration of, the amount of work, engagement and involvement and determination it took to reach adopted status.

The Chairman of Planning Committee spoke of the importance of Neighbourhood Plans, the precedent level they held in terms of decision making; outlining the hierarchy of policy documents and the ability and impact of Neighbourhood Plans in allowing local people to actually set out what development they would like to see in their own locations, in their own environments. This gave people in each settlement the ability to put a focus on where and how they would like to see the planning system moving forwards.

As such, this Neighbourhood Plan would take precedent over National Planning Policy Framework, and indeed the current Central Lincs Plan. The Central Lincs Plan, currently under review, would have to take into consideration the Neighbourhood Plan, prepared by the local community and it would now influence planning policy in West Lindsey. He called for more communities to embark on the journey of producing a neighbourhood plan.

Having been moved and seconded it was: -

RESOLVED that the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan be adopted and made.

140 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS PLAN 2023/24 - 2025/26, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 - 2027/28, COUNCIL TAX AND REVENUE BUDGET 2023/24 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 - 2027/28

Members gave consideration to a report which presented the Executive Business Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023/24 onwards. The purpose of the MTFP was to set a robust overall framework for the Council's Financial Strategy and spending plans over the next five years in supporting delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan. The report outlined the revised financial plans within the financial analysis for changes in Government Funding, the economic environment, local engagement and Council priorities. The Plan reflected the revisions approved to previous estimates and covered the period up to 2027/28.

The Section 151 Officer advised that the report proposed a balance budget for 2023/24 without draw-down from general fund balances. Members were advised the final Local Government Finance Settlement was delivered in February 2023 and had included announcement of a further year's New Home Bonus for 2023/24. This additional funding would be allocated to the Growth Reserve and also a new Funding Guarantee Grant for one year. The re-setting of Business Rates and a wider review of Local Government funding were not now expected until 2025/26. This delay provided the Authority additional time to consider savings which would likely be required from 2025/26 onwards. The magnitude of these savings was currently unknown but Local Government Funding was expected to be reduced in the medium to longer term.

The Section 151 Officer drew Members' attention to the change in referendum threshold for 2023/24 and 2024/25. With Council now being allowed to increase Council tax by 3% or £5 (whichever was the greater) (previously 2 % or £5....). As such the MTFP was predicated on a Council Tax rise of 2.99% for 2023/24 and 2024/25 before reverting back to 1.99% thereafter. Members noted for 2023/24 this equated to an annual rise (for West Lindsey's element) of £6.80p for a Band D property or the equivalent of 13p per week.

Members' attention was drawn to the reserves section of the MTFP which included a recommendation to set up a new "Invest to Save" reserve. It was envisaged this would provide initial investment in projects which would deliver savings in the medium to longer terms. The report requested £500,000 be transferred into this new reserve from the general fund balance.

Finally, Members noted the numerous appendices which formed the MTFP including the fees and charges schedules, noting the new fee, added post consideration by the Policy Committees and published by supplement prior to the meeting. Further appendices set out the Capital Programme, the Treasury Management Strategy, including Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, details of the Council tax charges raised by each parish and the Pay Policy and Human Resources Statement.

The Leader of the Council made the following speech in response: -

"As Leader of the Council I am pleased to present our Executive Business Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan, along with the Budget for 2023/24, all of which contribute to achieving our vision of making West Lindsey a great place to be where people, businesses and communities can thrive and reach their potential.

The Financial Strategy supports our ongoing aim to be non-reliant on Government funding.

The 2023/24 budget has been set to ensure we continue to provide award-winning services, whilst investing for the future through the delivery of the capital programme.

The 2023/24 Local government finance settlement has allowed us to set a budget for this year without service cuts and provided us with some time to reduce expenditure before further savings are required in 2024/25 and onwards. A new reserve for 'Invest to Save Projects' is recommended to be approved

which gives us £500,000.00 to support upfront costs to deliver projects that will realise savings in the medium to longer term.

The 2023/24 Budget supports delivery of our Corporate Plan objectives, protects our award-winning services, improves our customers' experience, delivers efficiencies and will continue to deliver value for money for the residents of West Lindsey.

I therefore commend these measures to Council and am delighted to propose the recommendations”

The Leader of the Opposition in responding, referenced the struggle every household in the country was facing on a daily basis with the cost of living crisis, average mortgages increasing as much as £7k pa, families forced to rely on food banks. Heating and energy costs crippling most families, leaving many people without heating. Vehicle fuel cost had risen by nearly 40%.

Under these proposals residents' council tax bills across the District would increase by a total of £99 pounds West Lindsey's increase being 2.99% increase.

Political statements regarding the financial situation, he considered were created by a Conservative national Government and Conservative led local authorities, were made. It was questioned whether the District received value for Money, referencing the increase requested by the Police and Crime Commissioner stated verbally as £15p/w* whilst with an intention to reduce the number of PCSOs in West Lindsey by 50%.

Referencing Office Accommodation and the investment made in the Guildhall on the creation of Marshall's Yard, the Leader of the Opposition considered the interface with the public had almost disappeared, with only a handful of staff working there on a daily basis.

He highlighted the expenditure incurred on consultants during the past year, including over £100,000 pounds on a failed selective licensing scheme. He stated town centres were ghost towns with over 30 empty retail units in Gainsborough town centre. Night-time economy he was of the view had been ignored for years by the Council. The once thriving market, reduced to a single stall some Saturdays. He referred to an amendment which had arisen in Policy Committees regarding extending free car parking to attract visitors and support businesses. This has been rejected due to a cited deficit of £1.9m in the budget. The report now before Members suggested this to not be the case. It was suggested the Council could have done more but there was a lack of will for the ruling Administration.

In concluding Opposition opening remarks, noting the planned financial expenditure included in the 2024/25 budgets for a civic car, he questioned the acceptableness of this spend, at the cost of tax payers, during a financial crisis?

The Leader responded to a number of the points raised but clearly stated that he would not comment on the precepting levels or use of resources of those other organisations raised by the previous speaker, only those applicable to West Lindsey for which the Council had responsibility

The Leader was very much of the view that this Council was delivering outcomes only

usually delivered by much larger organisations for individuals, households, businesses, and organisations throughout the District, demonstrated by the Council's LGC Awards shortlisting for Council of the Year. The work on the Scampton site was exemplar, large scale, ambitious and created a long-term future investment plan, jobs, heritage, regeneration and innovation; an incredible achievement for a district of 95,200 people.

The Leader indicated he had discussed his wider budget proposals with local colleagues, residents, organisations and partners across the District and considered them to be reasonable, deliverable and importantly created a sustainable situation whilst allowing future investment on behalf of the residents, Members served.

Administration Members spoke in support of the budget prepared, its merits and the outcomes delivered. It was suggested that reference to political affiliation were unnecessary, and inaccurate, as all Councils regardless of control, where faced with similar difficulties, and the challenges faced had not arisen from local decisions made by West Lindsey. All Council's had seen reducing Government funding and yet this Council continued to produce a balanced budget, whilst spending vast sums of money towards supporting communities, with a range of grant funding opportunities, making a real difference. Improvements to the Riverside, large scale investment in Gainsborough.

There was political exchange during which a number of points raised by the Opposition Leader were challenged, and counter challenged, with the Chairman suggesting a number of unsubstituted statements had been made and requested the meeting not become procedurally frustrated

Following a formal point of information being raised, it was placed on record that Gainsborough Town Council was not controlled by Liberal Democrats as had been suggested.

Administration Members spoke of the budget preparation process and engagement undertaken throughout the year; the various aspects presented to Committees in advance and as such the budget tonight was a culmination of that work on which Members of all Groups had had ample opportunity to express their views on.

The Chairman of Governance and Audit Committee, in response to statements in opening speeches, referred Members to the outcome of the LGA Peer Review and follow up, praising the Council for its open honest and transparent culture. The Authority had also recently received its value for money Audit, with quotes read aloud to the Chamber, which suggested Value for Money services could not be doubted.

Other Members acknowledged that every Council faced similar difficulties arising from Central Government funding. Those who sat on several tiers of Local Government considered it was evident that more needed to be done to ensure fairer funding for Lincolnshire, including West Lindsey and those services like the police, social care, highways, water through internal drainage boards. It was suggested this should be a Council focus over the next election term and more pressure should be applied by elected Members and Officers to ensure there was a fairer funding deal for rural areas. It was suggested that Lincolnshire on a per capita basis was one of the least funded authorities in the country as such it was suggested it was essential that alongside the budget that this Council continued to lobby for that extra funding.

Comments turned to the contents of the Executive Business Plan with a view expressed by some that areas were lacking the weight or detail they required. Referring to Digital Connectivity it was suggested access to fibre broadband was virtually non-existent, access in rural areas didn't appear to be improving at an acceptable rate. Broadband played an important role in attracting and retaining businesses, affected people's desire to live in an area and hindered modern living. It was suggested more direct action was required than implied by the Business Plan

The Future Use of Land was something else opposing Members believed should be better addressed. Noting the conflicts between food production, farming subsidies and more attractive financial offers from companies to host large scale solar farms. Whilst renewable energy was required there needed to be a food/land strategy to secure all of the above rather than one at the detriment of another. Concern was expressed that there was heavy reliance on LEP data and this was not West Lindsey specific, again it was suggested more direction on specific actions on this issue was required.

With the figure verbally quoted for the Police and Crime Commissioner increase questioned, the S151 Officer outlined the precept element for each precepting body as set out in Section 3.1 of the report, with the Police and Crime Commissioner's being circa £15 per year not per week. The Leader of the Opposition acknowledged and apologised for his earlier misrepresentation.

The earlier suggestion for a future focus in ensuring a fairer funding deal for Lincolnshire received cross party welcome. Members considered national governments, regardless of political persuasion, historically had failed to understand rural poverty and rural isolation and this needed to change.

In re-butting statements which had been made, it was suggested a large amount of work had been undertaken to improve broadband with the offer to provide evidence of such and the need to recognise the factors considered by large fibre companies in identify areas to service, including settlement size. The decision to reduce PCSOs did not lie with the Police and Crime Commissioner but rather the Chief Constable. Furthermore, the reduction was not 50% as suggested and an additional 125 police officers would be recruited. Members welcomed the prudent and sensible approach to risk which had been adopted by the Council in respect of commercial investments.

Further political exchanges ensued seeking to counteract previous speakers, during which it was suggested the Opposition Councillors, had the right to and could have produced an alternative budget detailing their spending proposals but had chosen not to do so.

In responding, the Leader of the Opposition outlined the work he and his Group had undertaken on alternative proposals, noting the differing level of Officer resources afforded. He gave assurance that should his Group control the Council they had plans they could implement from Day 1 and he thanked the Officers for the support and time they had afforded.

The creditability of the LGC Award, as a success measure, was questioned but robustly challenged; only six authorities had been shortlisted with West Lindsey being the only District Council.

Turning debate back to Council commercial investments, the prudence which had been shown, and how the lack of it by other Councils, had resulted in changes being made by Central Government restricting the use of, or borrowing from, the Public Works, Loan Board to fund those commercial investments in the future. It had been those investments which had helped produce a balanced budget over a number of years and were producing returns; returns greater than those originally predicted. Whilst the merits of the Policy could be argued, those investments were producing a return, were balancing the books and the change in policy would narrow options going forward. Therefore, risk awareness and prudence were required to ensure that the authority had the resources it needed to be able to fulfil not only the statutory duties, but also those other projects which it undertook which provided immense value to communities in the years to come and not just short term.

Further debate about police resourcing was curtailed given the Authority had little control over this.

Having had the recommendations, as set out in the report, moved and seconded, they were put to the vote. In accordance with required legislation for voting on the Council's budget, a recorded vote was taken.

Votes were cast as set out below:

For: - Councillors Bierley, Brockway, Coulson, Darcel, Devine, Ellis, Fleetwood, Grimble, Lawrence, McCartney, McNeill, Milne, Morris, Patterson, Regis, Rodgers, Summers, Waller and Welburn(19)

Against: - No Votes (0)

Abstain: - Councillors Boles, Bunney, Clews, Dobbie, Oliver, Rainsforth, Rollings, Snee J, Snee M, White and Young (11)

With no Councillors voting against the proposals, the recommendations were declared **CARRIED** unanimously and on that basis it was:-

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) Members recognise the external environment and the financial challenges which the Council could face in the medium to longer term depending on future government policy;
- (b) the Statement of the Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer) on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves at paragraph 1.10 be accepted;
- (c) the Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2027/28 be approved with an awareness of the associated risks as detailed at Appendix 2;
- (d) the Council tax for 2023/24, be approved, this being a Band D equivalent amount of £234.54p;

- (e) the Revenue budget 2023/24 detailed at paragraph 1.4 be approved;
- (f) the movement in earmarked reserves detailed at paragraph 1.6 including the creation of an 'Invest to Save' reserve and Members ICT Reserve be approved;
- (g) the level of fees and charges for 2023/24 as detailed at appendix 3 (as amended by supplement) be approved;
- (h) the Capital Investment Strategy at Appendix 4 be approved;
- (i) the Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2027/28 and financing detailed at Appendices 5 and 6 be approved;
- (j) the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 be approved and the Treasury Investment Strategy, the Borrowing Strategy and the Treasury and Borrowing Prudential Indicators detailed at Appendix 7 be adopted;
- (k) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy as contained in the Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix 7 be approved; and
- (l) the 2023/24 Pay Policy Statement and Human Resources statement at appendices 13 and 14 be approved.

141 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER (DERO)

Members considered a report which sought to appoint Deputy Election Registration Officers to facilitate the practicalities of issuing Temporary Voter Authority Cards (VACs) under the Elections Act 2022

RESOLVED that with immediate effect Mrs Chapman, Mrs Rainsforth and Mrs Lamb be appointed Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DEROs) for the elections to be held on 4 May 2023.

The meeting concluded at 8.12 pm.

Chairman