

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR P BEDFORD (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors W J Aron, E N Bauer, Mrs P Bosworth, Mrs P A Bradwell, C J T H Brewis, M Brookes, P A Carpenter, K J Clarke, N D Cooper (Vice-Chairman), G K Dark, C J Davie, R G Davies, D R Dickinson, M Exton, Mrs C M H Farquharson, I G Fleetwood, G M Gooding, J R Hicks, M J Hill OBE, R Hills, J D Hough, D C Hoyes MBE, Rachel L Hubbard, N I Jackson, Miss A M Jenkyns, H R Johnson, Mrs J Johnson, B W Keimach, S F Kinch, C E H Marfleet, J R Marriott, K Milner, Major R T Newell, P J O'Connor, Mrs M J Overton, C R Oxby, R J Palmer, R B Parker, R J Phillips, Mrs A Puttick, R Sellars, R A Shore, B G Singleton, P A Skinner, K J Smith, M Smith, C L Strange, A N Stokes, J M Swanson, Mrs C A Talbot, T M Trollope-Bellew, A H Turner MBE JP, C J Underwood-Frost, Mrs P F Watson, W S Webb, A P Williams, S F Williams, Mrs S Woolley, R Wootten, C N Worth and B Young.

Mr J A Hanna and Mr J Krawiec (Standards Added Members) were also in attendance.

Prayers were led by the Reverend Andrew Higginson.

**61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Brailsford, E R Chapman, Reverend S P Cliff, C Farrar, M W Gilbert, Mrs B Harvery OBE, G A Marsh, Mrs P A Mathers, E J Poll, P S Przyszlak, Mrs S Rawlins, P A Robinson, R B Singleton-McGuire, E W Strengiel and M Tinker.

**62. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS**

Councillor J D Hough declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 (Minute No. 68 below refers), as his partner was a Non-Executive Director of the Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust and Councillor Hough was a member of that Trust.

Councillor R B Parker declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 (Minute No. 68 below refers), as a member of the UNISON Trade Union.

Councillor P J O'Connor declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 (Minute No. 68 refers), as having just received a redundancy notice, he was currently applying for various jobs and one of the organisations was directly mentioned within the budget paper; he would therefore, not be taking part in any debate, or voting thereon.

Councillor Mrs M J Overton declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 (Minute No. 68 below refers), as a Non-Executive Director for NHS Lincolnshire.

Councillor N I Jackson declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 (Minute No. 68 refers), as a member of the UNITE Trade Union; and a prejudicial interest should any

debate take place with regard to the Urban Challenge Charity, to which he was a Board member.

63. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

64. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman extended his thanks to his wife Zita, who despite her illness had continued to support him with Civic engagements.

The Chairman, on behalf of members extended a warm welcome to Councillor Mrs P F Watson on her return from illness.

On behalf of all members, congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor D C Hoyes who had been awarded an MBE in the 2011 New Year's Honours List for his services to the community in Lincolnshire;
- Councillor Mrs M J Overton who had received an award of Fellow of the University, in recognition of her contribution as Governor to the development of the University of Lincoln; and
- Councillor R B Parker, who had won Scrutineer of the Year at the Local Government Information Unit Awards.

On a sadder note, the Chairman reported the death of former Director of Social Services, Mr Jim Bush, who had worked for the Council from 1976 to 1984.

65. ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Chairman reported that announcements/statements had been circulated at report reference 5.0 of the green book.

The Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport reported, in addition to his statement in the green book he had received notification that the Lincoln Eastern Bypass Scheme which had been submitted to the Department of Transport for funding had been promoted from 'possible' to 'probable' category. It was highlighted that funding was not guaranteed and that the Council had until 9 September 2011, to submit proposals to secure £88m for the scheme.

The Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Adult Education advised that on 25 and 26 January the Council had received an unannounced Safeguarding Inspection at the offices at Lincoln and Gainsborough and that there were no main issues of concern.

66. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMEN OF ANY COMMITTEES OR SUB-COMMITTEES AND THE NOMINEE OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY

Questions pursuant to Council procedure Rule 10.3 were asked and answered as follows:-

<u>Question By</u>	<u>Answered By</u>	<u>Subject</u>
(A) R B Parker	Mrs P A Bradwell	The future of the Youth Service and Connexions
(B) P A Skinner	W S Webb	The status of the Road Widening Improvement Scheme at Boston
(C) C J T H Brewis	C R Oxby	The percentage reduction for the Supporting People agenda
(D) J R Marriott	Mrs P A Bradwell	The Implications of the School Transport Consultation document
(E) M Smith	M J Hill OBE	The effect of the cessation of 'Visit Lincolnshire'
(F) K J Clarke	C N Worth	St Francis Hill school denied access to use swimming pool facilities at the Academy on Skellingthorpe Road
(G) S F Williams	W S Webb	Progress relating to Boston Borough's £1m share of the Boston road and public transport improvement scheme
(H) Mrs M J Overton	M J Hill OBE	Whether the Council was doing enough in relation to staff cuts
(I) J D Hough	Mrs P A Bradwell	Explanation concerning the spending of £2m on the private Stamford Endowed School for 2011/12 and £10m over the next 8 years
(J) Miss A M Jenkyns	C N Worth	Update in relation to English Heritage's visit to Boston Market Place
(K) Major R T Newell	W S Webb	Request for LCC to work with Boston Borough Council in relation to green transport proposals

(L) C E H Marfleet	Mrs S Woolley	Progress of the Excellent Ageing agenda
(M) N I Jackson	M J Hill OBE	Motion to the Council in relation to Academies concerning openness (18 June 2010)
(N) C J Davie	K J Smith	The impact of the re-structuring on services
(O) M Brookes	C L Strange	Update on the progress in relation to a waste transfer facility site at Boston
(P) C J Underwood-Frost	B Young	Update concerning the bravery of two local police officers

**67. PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES 2010/11**

A report by the Executive Director Resources and Community Safety had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

**RESOLVED**

That the proposed budget changes as described in paragraph 1.6 of the report, be approved.

**68. COUNCIL BUDGET 2011**

A report by the Executive Director Resources and Community Safety had been circulated together with a separate booklet detailing the revenue for 2010/11 to 2011/12 and the capital programme for 2009/10 to 2013/14.

It was moved, seconded and

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That there be one debate.
- (2) That Councillor K J Smith, Executive Councillor for Finance and Human Resources, in introducing and moving the budget and in responding to issues raised during the debate and Group Leaders each be allowed to speak without limit of time and that councillors seconding the motions each be allowed to speak for 6 minutes.
- (3) That other speakers be allowed to speak for 3 minutes.

- (4) That no further substantial amendments be moved (other than the original amendments moved by Group Leaders).

It was moved and seconded:

- (1) That the responses to consultation on the Council's budget proposals (Appendix C of the accompanying booklet, pages 26 to 29) be noted;
- (2) That the Section 151 Officer's Statement on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves (Section 9 of the accompanying booklet, pages 20 to 23) be noted;
- (3) That the service revenue budgets for 2011/12 to 2014/15 (Table 4 of the accompanying booklet, page 6) be agreed;
- (4) That the capital programme 2011/12 to 2014/15 and its funding (Section 5 of the accompanying booklet, pages 18 and 19 and detailed at Appendix J, pages 42 and 43) be agreed;
- (5) That the County Council element of the council tax for a Band D property at £1065.69 for 2011/12 (Appendix B of the accompanying booklet, page 25) be agreed;

And that together these form the Council's Budget.

- (6) That the prudential targets for capital finance be agreed and the prudential indicators (Appendix I of the accompanying booklet, pages 40 and 41) be noted;
- (7) That a minimum revenue provision based on the average life method and made in equal instalments over the estimated life of the assets acquired through borrowing (Section 7 of the accompanying booklet, page 20) be agreed.

An amendment (i) was moved and seconded as follows:-

The Liberal Democrat Group proposes the following amendments to the circulated report "Council Budget 2011:-

- (1) To spend an extra £21 million on roads maintenance in 2011/12. This will be met within the existing budget by using the additional income from the increase in the Council Tax base to fund additional capital financing charges. There would be a clear and immediate improvement in road condition.
- (2) To provide each County Councillor with a budget of £8,700 to spend within their constituencies as they determine subject to Council guidelines on legality etc. This could be funded by reducing unallocated provision of £0.7m within the children's services budgets or alternatively by using the emergency pressures contingency which is set at £3 million.

The Executive Director of Resources and Community Safety has confirmed that these proposals can be funded as proposed, are within the Council's existing Financial Strategy and represent a balanced budget.

An amendment (ii) was moved and seconded as follows:-

The Independent Group proposes the following amendments to the circulated report Council Budget 2011:-

Emerging pressures reserve £3m:

The additional Council Tax £2.571m, extra formula grant £0.178m, collection fund surplus of £0.219m was already allocated by this budget into roads and bus subsidies and we strongly support this.

To support:

- We propose £0.8m to the youth services so that they take no more than their fair share of the cuts, and allow for youth clubs to continue while we encourage voluntary support to expand.
- £0.7m contingency fund to provide ongoing community support for the emerging voluntary sector (which will be needed more and more in the future) for support for voluntary organisations which can demonstrate genuine and very real benefits to our economy and to our communities.
- £1.5m as a contingency for adult social care, to increase the excellent progress made in keeping people independently in their own homes, rather than going into residential care.

From the waste reserve we propose:

- Using £1.5m more for securing safe road surfaces, especially bearing in mind the emerging cost of the recent record cold spell. We recognise there is some £2.7m added from national government in this current year and extra for 2011-12 used for targeting by the County Council in this budget.

The Executive Director of Resources and Community Safety has confirmed that these proposals can be funded as proposed, are within the Council's existing Financial Strategy and represent a balanced budget.

An amendment (iii) was moved and seconded as follows:-

The Labour Group proposes the following amendments to the circulated report Council Budget 2011:-

This Council recognises that unused resources are still available to invest in important services in the 2011/12 financial year. Further to that, the Highways Maintenance budget has been protected at 2010/11 levels unlike many other Council

services and accordingly £2.736m of funding should be moved to other service areas:

This Council therefore agrees at item 3.1 of Item 8 to amend Table 4 (Service Budgets) on page 6 to increase spending in the following service budgets for 2011/12 by a total of £15.286m:

**Adult Social Care**

Delete £130.639m and insert £136.639m – an increase of £6m

This money would be used to maintain access to adult social care services, reduce the increase in Home Care charges and moderate the planned reductions in services

**Safer Communities**

Delete £6.576m and insert £7.076m an increase of £500k

This is to reduce cuts in Trading Standards by £500k

**Healthier Communities**

Delete £18.160m and insert £19.160m an increase of £1m

This is to reduce the reductions in the Supporting People Programme

**Children's Universal Services**

Delete £57.661m and insert £58.861m an increase of £1.2m

This is to reduce cuts on Home School Transport of £700k and on Sure Start Centre work of £500k

**Children's Targeted Services**

Delete £15.641m and insert £16.987m – an increase of £1.346m

This is to reduce cuts on Teenage Pregnancy Service, Youth Service and Connexions

**Children's Specialist Services**

Delete £40.837m and insert £41.597m an increase of £760k

This is to reduce cuts on Children and Adolescence Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

**Highways and Transportation**

Delete £45.014m and insert £46.156m an increase of £1.344m

Remove proposed reductions in rural bus subsidies (£1.102m) and Dial-a-Ride (£0.149m) and add extra funding for rail initiatives (£0.093m)

**Economic Regeneration**

Delete £2.987m and insert £3.187m an increase of £200k

This would create a dedicated tourism for Lincolnshire budget of £200k

**Good Society Fund**

Insert £2.936m to create a Good Society Fund

The total of the increased spending above comes to £15.286m

**Funding for the increase expenditure**

Use £11.745m from the Waste Management Reserves (less £0.145m in lost interest for 2011/12) £11.6m

Use £2.736m increase in government grant because of the increase in the Council Tax base recently allocated by the Executive to potholes £2.736m

Use unallocated funding in Children's Services £0.7m

Use funding presently allocated for implementation of increases in the Members Allowances Scheme £0.25m

Total available £15.286m

The strengths of these budget amendments are that spending on vital services is maintained to the extent of the resources available. This Council is not a bank and accordingly when times are hard should not seek to save money for tomorrow at the expense of providing services today.

The Executive Director Resources and Community Safety has confirmed that these proposals are within the existing Financial Strategy of the Council and represent a balanced budget for 2011/12 but notes that the one off use of the Waste Management Reserve would not be available in 2012/13 and that, on the current budget projections, there would need to be compensating budget reductions in that year.

The above amendment (i), upon being put to the vote, was lost.

The above amendment (ii), upon being put to the vote, was lost.

The above amendment (iii), upon being put to the vote, was lost.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the responses to consultation on the Council's budget proposals (Appendix C of the accompanying booklet, pages 26 to 29) be noted;
- (2) That the Section 151 Officer's Statement on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves (Section 9 of the accompanying booklet, pages 20 to 23) be noted;
- (3) That the service revenue budgets for 2011/12 to 2014/15 (Table 4 of the accompanying booklet, page 6) be agreed;
- (4) That the capital programme 2011/12 to 2014/15 and its funding (Section 5 of the accompanying booklet, pages 18 and 19 and detailed at Appendix J, pages 42 and 43) be agreed;
- (5) That the County Council element of the council tax for a Band D property at £1065.69 for 2011/12 (Appendix B of the accompanying booklet, page 25) be agreed;

And that together these form the Council's Budget.



- (6) That the prudential targets for capital finance be agreed and the prudential indicators (Appendix I of the accompanying booklet, pages 40 and 41) be noted; and
- (7) That a minimum revenue provision based on the average life method and made in equal instalments over the estimated life of the assets acquired through borrowing (Section 7 of the accompanying booklet, page 20) be agreed.

69. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the following Committees, having been printed, be received:

Planning and Regulation	29 November 2010 20 December 2010 17 January 2011
Audit	13 December 2010
Pensions	13 January 2011
Standards	17 January 2011

The meeting adjourned at 12.15pm and reconvened at 2.00pm.

70. REINSTATEMENT OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Council Procedure Rules, as set out on page 4 of the Order of Proceedings, be reinstated.

71. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

(1) Motion by Councillor J R Marriott

It was moved and seconded that:-

The Lincolnshire County Council fully understands the reasoning behind the decision of seven Greater Lincoln secondary schools to seek to form what has been called a 'Super Academy'. This Council believes that local government still has a vital role to play in education and is resolved to do all it can to make sure that it continues to maintain a firm and lasting relationship with these schools in particular and also with any other Lincolnshire schools that are considering applying for academy status. With this in mind, it tasks the relevant Scrutiny Committee(s) to explore ways in which this can be achieved.

RESOLVED

That the motion presented be agreed.

(2) Motion by Councillor M J Hill OBE

It was moved and seconded that:-

This Council deeply regrets that twelve years of maladministration by successive Labour governments has brought this country to the brink of bankruptcy, doubled the National Debt, and left Britain with one of the biggest budget deficits of the 20 developed countries in the world. The British taxpayer is paying £172million a day just to pay the interest on Labour's national debt. This is Labour's legacy, for which Lincolnshire's taxpayers are now having to pay a heavy price.

This Council is committed to playing its part in helping to restore the national finances.

This will require some tough decisions, but the Council is determined to protect front line services; especially those for caring for the elderly, children's safety, highway maintenance, emergency planning and Fire & Rescue Service (FRS).

At the same time, the County Council Tax - currently the third lowest in the whole country - will be frozen this year.

The Government has recognised Lincolnshire County Council as an authority which can be trusted to pilot the new community based budgets, as well as to introduce one of the first new local enterprise partnerships which is expected to help bring extra funding for new businesses and amenities into the county. The Council's Value for Money programme has already planned to cope with government funding cuts of nearly 25% over the next 4 years.

This Council welcomes the progress made by the Coalition government so far in devolving powers from the centre back to local authorities, but urges it to continue with reducing ring fencing of centrally provided funding; to recognise the special problems of transport and employment in sparsely populated rural areas; and to accept the need for special provision for the above average numbers of the elderly in, particularly, the coastal areas of the county.

RESOLVED

That the motion presented be agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.10pm.