

**PRESENT COUNCILLOR R J PALMER (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors W J Aron, E N Bauer, P Bedford, Mrs P A Bradwell, D Brailsford, C J T H Brewis, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, E R Chapman, K J Clarke, N D Cooper, G K Dark, C J Davie, R G Davies, D R Dickinson, M Exton, Mrs C M H Farquharson (Vice-Chairman), C Farrar, I G Fleetwood, M W Gilbert, A G Hagues, Mrs B Harvey OBE, J R Hicks, M J Hill OBE, R Hills, J D Hough, D C Hoyes MBE, N I Jackson, Miss A M Jenkyns, H R Johnson, B W Keimach, C E H Marfleet, J R Marriott, G A Marsh, Mrs P A Mathers, K Milner, Major R T Newell, P J O'Connor, Mrs M J Overton, C R Oxby, R J Phillips, E J Poll, P S Przyszlak, Mrs S Rawlins, R A Renshaw, P A Robinson, R A Shore, R B Singleton-McGuire, P A Skinner, K J Smith, M Smith, C L Strange, A N Stokes, E W Strengiel, J M Swanson, Mrs C A Talbot, M Tinker (joined the meeting at 11.35 a.m.) T M Trollope-Bellew, A H Turner MBE, JP, Mrs P F Watson, W S Webb, A P Williams, S F Williams, Mrs S Woolley, R Wootten, C N Worth and B Young.

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P Bosworth, P A Carpenter, G M Gooding, Mrs J Johnson, S F Kinch, R B Parker, A Puttick, and C J Underwood-Frost.

51. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

52. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2012

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 December 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

53. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that his civic engagements since the last Council meeting had once again been varied and had given him the opportunity to continue visiting places within Lincolnshire and some further afield. He thanked his wife for supporting him on these engagements and also Councillor Mrs C M H Farquharson (Vice-Chairman) for representing them at Civic functions, due to other commitment, they had been unable to attend.

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Duties by the Chairman had included the University of Lincoln Graduation Ceremony, the official opening of the Heritage Skills Centre at Lincoln Castle and a reception to honour local service personnel who had served in operations over the last 12 months.

Another particular highlight had been the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration services for the 1953 Floods in Mablethorpe and Skegness. The services had been extremely moving and the Chairman had taken the opportunity to talk to survivors and their families and hear their amazing stories.

The Chairman and his wife had also been honoured to welcome HRH The Princess Royal to Lincoln when she visited Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln College and Lindum Construction.

The Chairman advised that a copy of the full list of his engagements had been placed in Councillors pigeon holes for their information.

54. SUBMISSION OF PETITION – PETITION TO HAVE THE BROADWAY AND YORK ROAD, SUTTON ON SEA ADDED TO THE WINTER GRITTING ROUTE

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Mr Stephen Palmer spoke for not more than three minutes in explanation of the contents of the petition from Sutton on Sea residents.

The Chairman reported that the Chief Executive had determined that the petition in relation to having the Broadway and York Road, Sutton on Sea added to the winter gritting route would be referred to the Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport.

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

Statements by the Leader and Members of the Executive had been circulated.

The Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning highlighted to Councillors that the Lincolnshire Music Service had won a bid to celebrate 'Lincolnshire Aviation' at the Royal Albert Hall. The Lincolnshire Music Service had beaten off competition from 15 other authorities to showcase the musical talent of around 500 performers at the Royal Albert Hall in a Schools' prom which would be taking place in November. Their performance would highlight and celebrate aviation history in Lincolnshire.

Congratulations were extended to everyone involved in the Lincolnshire Music Service.

56. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

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

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<u>Questions By</u>	<u>Answered By</u>	<u>Subject</u>
(a) G A Marsh	W S Webb	Annual applications for inclusion in the Council's gritting routes
(b) C J Davie	Mrs C A Talbot	Scrutiny of governance arrangements for United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust
(c) C J T H Brewis	M J Hill OBE	Government funding for health issues
(d) J D Hough	K J Smith	New Council Tax Benefit Scheme
(e) J R Marriott	Mrs P A Bradwell	Review of the School Transport Policy
(f) Major R T Newell	M J Hill OBE	Impact of increased migration to Lincolnshire
(g) N I Jackson	W S Webb	Congestion problems as a result of the rail crossing on the High Street, Lincoln
(h) R Wootten	M J Hill OBE	Review of the Council's Speed Limit Policy
(i) K J Clarke	W S Webb	Civil Parking Enforcement Rules
(j) D R Dickinson	Mrs S Woolley	Big Society Fund
(k) Mrs M J Overton	M J Hill OBE	Effect of Welfare Reforms
(l) B Young	P R Robinson	Trading Standards role in Lincolnshire in connection with horse meat detection
(m) R A Renshaw	P R Robinson	Fire Service – suggested privatisation of front line fire fighters
(n) E W Strengiel	K J Smith	Roll out Process for Superfast Broadband
(o) M Brookes	W S Webb	Upgrade of Zebra crossing at the High Street, Kirton
(p) C E H Marfleet	W S Webb	Funding from the Department of Transport for pot holes
(q) S F Williams	Mrs P A Bradwell	Proposed closure of the Charles Read Academy

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57. COUNCIL BUDGET 2013/14 TO 2014/15

A report by the Executive Director of Resources and Community Safety had been circulated, together with a separate booklet, detailing the Executive's budget and council tax proposals.

It was moved and seconded and

**RESOLVED**

1. That there be one debate.
2. That Councillor K J Smith, Executive Councillor for Finance and Human Resources, introducing and moving the budget and in responding to issues raised during the debate, be allowed to speak without limit of time.
3. That proposers of the amendments each be allowed to speak without limit of time.
4. That Councillors seconding the motions and Councillor J R Marriott, as Group Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, each be allowed to speak for six minutes.
5. That other speakers each be allowed to speak for three minutes.
6. 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 proposal (Appendix C of the accompanying booklet, pages 23 -32) be noted.
2. That the Section 151 Officer's statement on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves (Section 9 of the accompanying booklet, pages 16 to 19) be noted.
3. That the service revenue budgets for 2013/14 to 2014/15 (Table 3 of the accompanying booklet, page 9) be agreed.
4. That the capital programme 2013/14 to 2014/15 and Future Years and its funding (Section 5 of the accompanying booklet, pages 14 and 15) be agreed.
5. That the County Council element of the council tax for a Band D property at £1065.69 for 2013/14 (Appendix B of the accompanying booklet, page 22) be agreed.

And that together these form the Council's Budget.

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6. That the prudential targets for capital finance be agreed and the prudential indicators (Appendix I of the accompanying booklet, pages 44 and 45) 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 16) be agreed.

An amendment (i) was moved and seconded by the Independents Group as follows:-

'This Conservative-led coalition government has put us between a rock and a hard place, and we are forced to accept reduced spending. Indeed we have contributed to making savings through the committees.

I congratulate the staff and all involved in compiling the budget in difficult circumstances and thank them for the expert support we have received throughout the budget process.

Our group has run workshops on what is most important for us in Lincolnshire. From this, I am proposing some amendments to the circulated report 'Council Budget 2013';

**Overall envelope and tax level of 0% increase**

The government has continued to keep Lincolnshire on short rations despite our efforts. It is hard to turn down a grant when it is offered. We reluctantly accept the £4.476m payment over two years from national government in order to keep the tax level unchanged for the tax payer.

We recognise this could well require a smaller Council budget in future years.

**Reserves**

The reserves have risen to £110m in the bank at an overall interest rate of 1.1%. Taking out the schools reserves, still leaves £74m, £25m readily available.

We have more people in Lincolnshire, with more needs and cuts in government grant, yet the reserves have been building up in this election year. People feel as if they are getting less from the Council, but paying just the same.

For example, access to care for the elderly, library services, road quality, and youth services.

This is tax payer's money that is needed to fund services and should not be wasting away in bank accounts. Some of those reserves are from revenue savings and could be returned into services, which we are proposing. Just under £20m was added to the volatility reserve in this past year. We suggest reusing a further £8m.

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There has been minimal public consultation again this year. We propose that the next review looks more widely with others to seek out better solutions.

**We propose savings as follows**

£0.25m from Public Relations

A number of staff in the three offices on public relations work their socks off, but people in my area say they feel the council's press machine does not give fair coverage. Previously we recommended reduction in the frequency of county news and in the press department and there was eventually a reluctant response.

**We propose investments funded from reserves and the above saving as follows:-**

£1.25m Youth and support for vulnerable children

Youth unemployment is roughly one third. That is too high. We are determined to do more for young people in Lincolnshire. We propose doubling the number of our apprentices to 90. We propose better support in work skills across Lincolnshire, not just in one or two pilot areas. We propose more work on creating vibrant youth centres, involving small businesses to improve the links and open doors to opportunity.

We propose £0.25m of this money to ensure there is an emergency contingency for vulnerable children with additional needs.

£7m on roads

Despite government help, the state of our rural roads has got worse. This is now becoming a serious safety issue. Despite having more people to pay, we spend less and get less. (Over five years, we have 3% more people; spend 28% less in real terms and today, around a third of our unclassified roads are in need of repair).

We propose that we can no longer put this off, and to help our rural economies, we need to spend an additional £7m on road repairs.

Preventative measures to support older people in need of care.

The KPMG report told us what some of us already suspected; the service has been efficient but underfunded. The NHS also has a further £12m this year which is not in our budget line and may be spent elsewhere.

The economy: Cost neutral

The Council has funding for broadband, Teal Park and four major infrastructure roads. As we said previously, the Council spends a substantial amount of money and we want more of it spent helping Lincolnshire's economy. Work to help our local businesses position themselves for this is

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vital. We support that and want to broaden it to include more projects which get young people back to work.

Next we need do what we can to work with a wide range of local businesses and social enterprises, in cost-effective ways that work. This is our sustainable economic engine, now and for the future. Just house-building is not enough. We need a wide range of businesses and enterprises that can underpin a steady, sustained economy, without damaging the Lincolnshire we know and love.

The Executive Director of Resources and Community Safety has confirmed that these proposals which use £8m of one-off reserves funding and £0.25m of on-going savings 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 by the Labour Group as follows:-

'The Labour Group proposes the following amendments to the circulated report 'Council Budget 2013/14 to 2014/15'.

For the next twelve months this council's priority will be to attack inequality and tackle disadvantage.

This council therefore agrees to increase revenue spending by £8m and capital spending by £2m in 2013/14; a total of £10m.

**Poverty and Inequality**

**Fuel Poverty in Lincolnshire**

Allocate funding of £1.5m

Introduce a council backed scheme with partners to tackle fuel poverty through a new insulation scheme and a Lincolnshire wide negotiation, on behalf of Lincolnshire households, to find a lower cost supplier of electricity and gas.

**Improving Public Health**

Allocate funding of £1.5m

To set up a programme of targeted interventions to tackle the shocking difference in mortality rates across Lincolnshire. The aim would be to have every part of Lincolnshire with an equal life expectancy.\*

**Skills**

Increase of £0.5m

To be invested in a new programme in partnership with education providers to improve the levels of education qualifications for adults, particularly in the east of the county.

### **Road Safety and Public Transport**

#### **Highways & Transportation**

Increase of £1.5m

- i. £0.5m of funding would be used to increase the provision of subsidised bus routes in the County, including increases in evening and weekend services.
- ii. £1.0m will be used to introduce a 20mph traffic scheme across the county for communities (towns and villages) who want to see slower speeds.

#### **Children and Young People**

Increase of £3m

- i) Additional funding £0.5m will be provided to ensure every child that LCC looks after has the best start in life and support as if they were our own children.
- ii) £1.0m to introduce a local education maintenance allowance to enable more children from disadvantaged families to achieve their maximum potential. This will augment the lower level of bursaries provided by some schools.
- iii) £0.5m will be used to provide further targeted investment in work and training opportunities for young people in Lincolnshire.
- iv) £0.5m of additional funding will be allocated to begin to rebuild the youth facility provision across the county.
- v) £0.5m will be provided of additional funding to tackle the issue of children with special education needs being more likely to be excluded from school than any other group.\*

#### **Park and Ride Scheme**

Increase the Capital Programme by £2m to update the feasibility study, acquire an initial site and begin the preparatory work for a new park and ride scheme in Lincoln with our partners.

**The total increased spending in 2013/14 is therefore:**

<b>Fuel poverty in Lincolnshire</b>	<b>£1.5m</b>
<b>Improving Public Health</b>	<b>£1.5m</b>
<b>Improve levels of Education Qualifications for Adults</b>	<b>£0.5m</b>
<b>Highways and Transportation</b>	<b>£1.5</b>
<b>Children and Young People</b>	<b>£3.0m</b>
<b>Park and Ride Scheme in Lincoln (increase Capital Programme)</b>	<b>£2.0m</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10.0m</b>



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<b>Funded from reserves, later to be replenished from the projected under spend in 2012/13</b>	<b>£10.0m</b>
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These budget amendments allow for affordable additional spending which is directed towards important areas. Items marked with a star would be also be assessed as part of the fundamental budget review in 2013/14 to consider the feasibility and merit of continuing those initiatives in future years.

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 2013/14.'

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

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

**RESOLVED**

1. That the responses to consultation on the Council's budget proposal (Appendix C of the accompanying booklet, pages 23 -32) be noted.
2. That the Section 151 Officer's statement on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves (Section 9 of the accompanying booklet, pages 16 to 19) be noted.
3. That the service revenue budgets for 2013/14 to 2014/15 (Table 3 of the accompanying booklet, page 9) be agreed.
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58. COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN 2012 - 2015 ANNUAL UPDATE

A report by the Executive Director Performance and Governance had been circulated.

It was moved, and seconded and

RESOLVED

That the updated Council Business Plan 2012 - 2015 be approved.

59. JOINT LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

A report by the Executive Director for Communities had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy be approved.

60. LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

A report by the Executive Director for Communities had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Lincolnshire Wolds Management Plan 2013 - 2018 be approved.

61. WIND FARM POLICY

A report by the Executive Director for Communities had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

1. That the results of the Council's Wind Farm Questionnaire be noted.
2. That the Wind Energy Position Statement as the County Council's policy towards the location of wind farm development be approved.

In accordance with Paragraph 15 (e), of Part 4 of the Councils Rules of Procedure, Councillors N D Cooper and J M Swanson requested that it should be recorded that they had abstained from voting on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 1.35 p.m. and resumed at 2.30 p.m.

62. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION ARISING FROM THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ACT 2012, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

A report by the Executive Director Performance and Governance had been circulated.

RESOLVED

That a Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in paragraph 1.9 of the report and changes to the Constitution as set out in the report be approved and become effective from the date that the relevant sections of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 come into effect.

63. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

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

Audit	28 January 2013
Planning and Regulation	3 December 2012 7 January 2013 4 February 2013
Pensions	10 January 2013

64. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

Motion by Councillor C J Davie

It was moved, seconded that:-

'This Council acknowledges the need to balance energy security with cost to the consumer.

However, with the expected rise in wholesale gas prices and the imminent attainment of 13Gb of on-shore wind power, is it now time for the government to remove the subsidy and prevent escalation of energy bills and rising numbers of consumers in fuel poverty?

The council also recognises the good work undertaken in Lincolnshire to highlight the issues surrounding our low wage economy and the impacts that fuel prices are having on everyone's cost of living.

In the last year we have published our report into Fuel Poverty which has been recognised as a strong indicator of the challenges ahead if fuel prices continue to rise and action is not taken.

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In light of Ofgem's announcements this week on Security of Supply and the expected continual rise in prices to our residents locally and to the country at large it is clear that to protect the elderly and vulnerable, and those on low wages, from price pressures more must be done to deliver energy efficiency measures into all of Lincolnshire's homes.

The Council therefore recognises the good work undertaken by this council through its Fuel Poverty Report and the action plan adopted with it, but accepts that fuel prices continue to rise and Lincolnshire's residents are suffering increased burdens because of this.

The council therefore resolves:

- 1) To redouble its efforts to support through our partnership arrangements all measures to make Lincolnshire homes more fuel efficient.
- 2) To support all voluntary sector partners such as Age Concern so they can assist in the full claim of benefits which many in our county are not receiving.
- 3) To lobby for additional funds from government to be used solely to improve fuel poor housing and to support improvement measures to those properties when identified.
- 4) To lobby government to ensure all new housing is built to the very highest standards as laid down in new building regulations.
- 5) To lobby government to remove subsidy on on-shore wind developments.'

An amendment was moved and seconded that:-

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However, with the expected rise in wholesale gas prices and the imminent attainment of 13Gb of on-shore wind power, is it now time for the government to remove the subsidy and prevent escalation of energy bills and rising numbers of consumers in fuel poverty?

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- 3) To lobby for additional funds from government to be used solely to improve fuel poor housing and to support improvement measures to those properties when identified.
- 4) To lobby government to ensure all new housing is built to the very highest standards as laid down in new building regulations.'

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

The substantive motion, being put to the vote, was carried

**RESOLVED**

That the Council resolves:

- 1) To redouble its efforts to support through our partnership arrangements all measures to make Lincolnshire homes more fuel efficient.
- 2) To support all voluntary sector partners such as Age Concern so they can assist in the full claim of benefits which many in our county are not receiving.
- 3) To lobby for additional funds from government to be used solely to improve fuel poor housing and to support improvement measures to those properties when identified.
- 4) To lobby government to ensure all new housing is built to the very highest standards as laid down in new building regulations.
- 5) To lobby government to remove subsidy on on-shore wind developments.

The meeting closed at 3.03 p.m.