

**COUNCIL  
 21 FEBRUARY 2014**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR RAY WOOTTEN (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors W J Aron (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, M G Allan, A M Austin, Mrs V C Ayling, J W Beaver, Mrs P A Bradwell, D Brailsford, A Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, J P Churchill, K J Clarke, C J Davie, R G Davies, P M Dilks, S R Dodds, G J Ellis, R G Fairman, I G Fleetwood, A G Hagues, J R Hicks, M J Hill OBE, J D Hough, D M Hunter-Clarke, R J Hunter-Clarke, N I Jackson, A J Jesson, M S Jones, B W Keimach, Ms T Keywood-Wainwright, S F Kinch, R C Kirk, C E D Mair, C E H Marfleet, J R Marriott, R A H McAuley, D McNally, D C Morgan, N M Murray, Mrs A M Newton, P J O'Connor, Mrs M J Overton MBE, C R Oxby, C Pain, S L W Palmer, R B Parker, N H Pepper, R J Phillips, Mrs H N J Powell, Miss E L Ransome, Miss F E E Ransome, Mrs S Ransome, Mrs S Rawlins, Mrs J M Renshaw, R A Renshaw, Mrs A E Reynolds, P A Robinson, Mrs L A Rollings, R A Shore, Mrs N J Smith, Mrs E J Sneath, C L Strange, Mrs C A Talbot, T M Trollope-Bellew, A H Turner MBE JP, S M Tweedale, W S Webb, P Wood, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, C N Worth and Mrs S M Wray

64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C J T H Brewis, D C Hoyes MBE and B Young.

Councillor K J Clarke also requested that his apologies be noted as he had to leave the meeting at 11.00am.

65 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

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

66 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13  
 DECEMBER 2013

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 December 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

67 SUBMISSION OF PETITIONS

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- (a) Request for street lighting along the A153 Willoughby Road from the traffic lights at Ancaster to the Sudbrooke turning after Woodland Waters

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Mr Mick Garwood spoke for not more than three minutes in explanation of the petition 'request for street lighting along the A153 Willoughby Road from the traffic lights at Ancaster to the Sudbrooke turning after Woodland Waters.

The Executive Director Performance and Governance had determined that the petition would be referred to the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT.

- (b) Request for action to be taken to support a rail bridge at the Tallington level crossing sited so that the link road goes around the back of the village; and to resist a Network Rail proposal for a route to go through the village

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Mr Justin McKenzie spoke for not more than three minutes in explanation of the petition requesting action to be taken to support a rail bridge at the Tallington level crossing sited so that the link road goes around the back of the village; and to resist a Network Rail proposal for a route to go through the village.

The Executive Director Performance and Governance had determined that the petition would be referred to the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT.

68 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Lesley Rollings, recently elected representative for the Scotter Rural division, who was attending her first meeting of the County Council.

The Chairman reported that his civic engagements since the last Council meeting had again been varied and had given him the opportunity to continue visiting places within Lincolnshire and meeting interesting people. He thanked his wife Linda for supporting him on these engagements and also Councillor Bill Aron and Amanda Job, Vice-Chairman and Lady, for representing them at civic functions when, due to other commitments, they had been unable to attend.

He reported that his duties had included hosting 35 Nigerian lawyers who were in Lincolnshire for a conference on democracy at the University of Lincoln, followed by the University's Graduation ceremony where there was the opportunity to meet staff and students. He was pleased to be present at the Lord-Lieutenant's Reserves Forces Reception at RAF Cranwell. The Chairman was also honoured to receive the Commonwealth Flag from the Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire which Lincolnshire County Council would be proudly flying on Commonwealth Day, 10 March.

The Chairman was pleased to hear that Councillor Marianne Overton had been awarded the MBE in The Queen's New Year's Honours for services to local government and congratulated Councillor Overton on this prestigious achievement.

The Chairman reported that this would be David O'Connor's last Full Council meeting before he retired in April. David had made a hugely positive impact during his nine years with the Council, latterly as Executive Director of Performance and Governance. He had been involved with most of the Council's big projects during his time with the Council, including most recently the successful introduction of Super Fast Broadband across the county. His wealth of knowledge and experience had been put to full use as the Council consistently improved its performance and enhanced its reputation as a leading local authority, for which the Council was grateful.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked David for all he had done and wished him well for the future.

The Chairman advised that a complete itinerary of civic engagements since the last meeting of this Council were on deposit in the Members' Foyer.

69     STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

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

Councillor M J Hill OBE, Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Policy, Finance, Property, Communications, Procurement and Commissioning advised that members should now be aware that Serco had been named as the preferred bidder for the contract to provide back office functions to the authority. The final decision on whether to accept this recommendation would be made at the meeting of the Executive being held on 4 March 2014.

70     QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

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

<u>Question by</u>	<u>Answer by</u>	<u>Subject</u>
a) K J Clarke	C J Davie	Update on progress for a park and ride scheme
b) D McNally	C J Davie	Invitation to visit Donna Nook, to view the car park
c) C E H Marlfeet	C J Davie	Flood risk management
d) Mrs M J Overton MBE	M J Hill OBE	Ensuring Lincolnshire received its share of

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		money promised by central government following the recent flooding
e) B McAuley	R G Davies	M11 extension through Lincolnshire
f) J D Hough	M J Hill OBE	The number of families using food banks
g) B Adams	M J Hill OBE	Use of legal aid to launch a judicial review of the libraries consultation
h) Mrs H N J Powell	M J Hill OBE	Provision of help to Somerset County Council following the recent flooding
i) P M Dilks	C N Worth	Property review
j) C E D Mair	C J Davie	A need for infrastructure to be integrated into plans for future housing developments
k) W S Webb	R G Davies	Distribution of highways maintenance funding across the county
l) S R Dodds	Mrs P A Bradwell	Day service review consultation
m) A M Austin	Mrs P A Bradwell	Special education in Boston
n) C Pain	R G Davies	Benefits of a motorway and re-trunking of roads in Lincolnshire
o) R A Renshaw	M J Hill OBE	Use of Serco in FDSS contract
p) R J Hunter-Clarke	R G Davies	Meeting with the Skegness Mayor
q) R J Phillips	C J Davie	Dredging of waterways

		to reduce risks of flooding
r) N I Jackson	M J Hill OBE	Changes to employees terms and conditions
s) J R Hicks	Mrs P A Bradwell	Provision of sheltered accommodation for the elderly
t) C L Strange	M J Hill OBE	The need for renovation of the Joseph Banks Conservatory at the Lawns
u) Mrs S Ransome	M J Hill OBE	Time allowed for each speaker during the budget debate
v) A J Jesson	C J Davie	Availability of funding for the dredging of the counties rivers
w) D C Morgan	Mrs P A Bradwell	Roll out of the wellbeing programme

71 COUNCIL BUDGET 2014/15

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

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

- (1) That there be one debate;
- (2) That Councillor M J Hill OBE, Executive Councillor for Policy, Finance, Property, Communications, Procurement and Commissioning, in 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;

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- (4) That Councillors seconding the motions, 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 proposals as contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix C "Budget Consultation" pages 22 - 31) be noted.
- (2) That the Section 151 Officer's statement on the Robustness of the Budget and the Adequacy of Reserves (Section 10 of the accompanying booklet, pages 16 to 19) be noted.
- (3) That the service revenue budgets for 2014/15 contained in the appended Budget Book (Table 2 "Net service Revenue Budget 2014/15 and change over previous year", page 8) be agreed.
- (4) That the capital programme 2014/15 and its funding contained in the appended Budget Book (Section 7 "Capital Programme", 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 2014/15 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix B "County Precept 2014/15", page 21) be agreed.

And that together these form the Council's Budget.

- (6) That the Council's Financial Strategy contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix D "Financial Strategy", pages 32 – 39)
- (7) That the prudential targets for capital finance be agreed and the prudential indicators contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix K "Prudential Indicators", pages 48 and 49) be noted.
- (8) That a minimum revenue provision (MRP) based on the asset life method and made in equal instalments over the estimated life of the assets

acquired through borrowing as set out in the appended Budget Book (Section 9 "Minimum Revenue Provision", page 16), be agreed.

An amendment was moved and seconded by the Labour Group as follows:-

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

Increase revenue spending by £11.3m in 2014/15 and the capital programme by £3m, the funding for the capital programme being incorporated in the increase in revenue spending.

The £11.3m additional revenue spending in 2014/15 to be funded by:

- Using 'windfall' council tax income currently being applied to reduce the amount of reserves applied to balance the budget - £2.861m
- Not increasing councillor's allowances and thereby saving £0.245m
- Increasing the Council Tax by 1.95% and not take the Council Tax Freeze Grant and thereby generating extra income of £2m
- Using £3.834m in the Financial Volatility Reserve to be replenished by forecast underspending in the current year
- Using additional business rates and other income of £2.36m

#### **Maintaining Library Services at existing levels of provision**

Increase of revenue funding of £0.800m

Allocate funding of £0.800m to allow much needed library services to be maintained at 2013/14 levels.

#### **Adult Social Care**

Increase of revenue spending of £3m on Home Care services.

This funding would be used to tackle the problems associated with providing a home care service in a sparsely populated rural county like Lincolnshire where travelling time between visits is much greater than in urban areas. It would also enable Home Care visits to be long enough in duration to meet more fully the needs of vulnerable service users

#### **Highways & Transportation**

Increase of revenue funding 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.

#### **Improving Public Health**

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Allocate revenue funding of £1.5m

To set up a programme of targeted interventions to tackle the shocking difference in mortality rates across Lincolnshire.

**Children and Young People**

Increase of revenue funding 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 of revenue funding of £0.500m and capital spending of £3m

Increase the Capital Programme by £3m to begin work for a new park and ride scheme in Lincoln with our partners. The associated costs for 2014/15 have been calculated as £200k for Capital Financing Charges and £300k for bus running costs.

**Implement the Living Wage for all County Council employees**

Increase of £1m

This funding will be used to ensure that all County Council employees, including those employed in schools will be paid at least £7.65 an hour. This policy will benefit our lowest paid workers and the wider Lincolnshire economy.

These budget amendments allow for affordable additional spending which is directed towards important areas neglected in this and previous year's budgets.

The Executive Director for Resources and Community Safety has confirmed that these proposals are within the existing Financial Strategy of the council and represent a balanced budget for 2014/15. Should any proposal have a revenue budget impact in 2015/16 and beyond this would need consideration as part of the fundamental review of service priorities and budgets planned for later this year."

An amendment (ii) was moved and seconded by the Lincolnshire Independents as follows:

"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 one amendment to the circulated report 'Council Budget 2013';

This Conservative-led government has so reduced the amount of funds devolved to local government that our backs are now against the wall. This council notes that the policy of the current Conservative-led administration to continue to use council reserves is unsustainable and hides the nature of the cuts to come. This is a significant erosion of our financial position in future years which is untenable.

We believe the public of Lincolnshire do recognise the economic problems facing both the country and Lincolnshire. Local government has been very hard-hit. The central government grants passed to local government will have reduced by 44pc over the life of this parliament.

We have cut our cloth, reducing management and staff and asking communities to take on more. We are working across other councils and health and reduced overheads. However, we are told that we are only half way through and we should expect the same reductions again with a crunch year in 2014/15. But this time the easier cuts have already been made and reserves used, and we begin to find that even our statutory duties will become hard to meet.

We further believe and understand that continuing to reduce the council's baseline budget and cutting services, without sufficient alternative provision in place, is no longer workable and in some places dangerous.

We do have to change and support our communities to cope. We therefore propose that £1.837m in the base budget is to be earmarked for a new community services investment fund. This is to empower local communities to develop alternative future service provision which redesigns existing council services and protects front line service provision.

Lincolnshire has one of the two lowest tax levels in the country. We believe a rising local tax in future years is inevitable, irrespective of who is in charge.

We therefore propose to set the council tax at a 1.9pc increase raising £1.837m as a proactive move to support communities through change. This seed corn is to be used as a foundation for supporting communities and voluntary bodies to develop to do more, for business and jobs, for youth and apprenticeships and to help protect the most vulnerable.

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The Executive Director for Resources and Community Safety has confirmed that the proposals are within the current financial strategy of the Council and represent a balanced budget for 2014/15."

A recorded vote was successfully requested for the above amendment (i), and upon being put to the vote, was lost. (Yes – 11, No – 62, abstain – 0)

A recorded vote was successfully requested for the above amendment (ii), and upon being put to the vote, was lost. (Yes – 21, No – 48, abstain – 4)

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the responses to consultation on the Council's budget proposals as contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix C "Budget Consultation" pages 22 - 31) be noted.
- (2) That the Section 151 Officer's statement on the Robustness of the Budget and the Adequacy of Reserves (Section 10 of the accompanying booklet, pages 16 to 19) be noted.
- (3) That the service revenue budgets for 2014/15 contained in the appended Budget Book (Table 2 "Net service Revenue Budget 2014/15 and change over previous year", page 8) be agreed.
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- (8) That a minimum revenue provision (MRP) based on the asset life method and made in equal instalments over the estimated life of the assets

acquired through borrowing as set out in the appended Budget Book (Section 9 "Minimum Revenue Provision", page 16), be agreed.

**72     INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

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

Mr Peter Clay, Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel was invited to present the report to the Council.

It was moved and seconded:

"That the Council agree to accept the proposed changes to the Scheme of Members Allowances for 2014 – 2018"

A recorded vote was successfully requested, and upon being put to the vote, was carried. (Yes – 50, No – 20, abstain - 0)

RESOLVED

1. That the proposed changes to the Scheme of Members Allowances 2014 – 2018 be accepted;
2. That role descriptions for all roles covered by the scheme be compiled to inform the next IRP in autumn 2017

**73     COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN 2012 - 2015 - ANNUAL UPDATE**

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

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

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

**74     PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

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

It was moved, seconded and:

RESOLVED

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That the Pay Policy Statement attached as Appendix A to the report be agreed.

**75     APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER**

A report by the Chief Executive had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and:

RESOLVED

That Richard Wills be appointed as Monitoring Officer from 1 April 2014.

(Note: Richard Wills left the Chamber for discussion of this item of business)

**76     LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE SERVICE PENSIONS - INTERNAL DISPUTE  
RESOLUTION PROCEDURE**

A report by the Chief Executive had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Peter Robinson be appointed to make determinations under the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) Stage 2 of the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service scheme, and Councillor Sue Wray be appointed the reserve member, with immediate effect.

**77     BY-ELECTION RESULT**

A report by the Chief Executive had been circulated.

RESOLVED

That Members note the election of Mrs Lesley Anne Rollings to the Scotter Rural Division.

**78     MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**

**(a)     Pensions Committee - 19 December 2013**

That the minutes of the Pensions Committee held on 19 December 2013 be received.

**(b)     Planning and Regulation Committee - 13 January 2014**

That the minutes of the Planning and Regulation Committee held on 13 January 2014 be received.

(c) Audit Committee - 27 January 2014

That the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 27 January 2014 be received.

79 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

Motion by Councillor R J Hunter-Clarke

It was moved and seconded that:-

"The destruction of Grammar Schools has led to the destruction of social mobility in our society. In December 2013 the Secretary of State for Education blocked a grammar school being created in Kent. Government policy is not to create anymore grammar schools. There are now just 164 state grammar schools in the country with 15 of them being in Lincolnshire which are now potentially under threat in the future as they become academies.

We find this very worrying.

We therefore in light of this call upon Lincolnshire County Council to recognise the importance of Grammar Schools and to reaffirm its commitment to protecting them. To also write to the Secretary of State for Education asking for his assurance that our grammar schools in Lincolnshire are safe and under no threat."

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

Motion by Councillor Mrs A M Austin

It was moved and seconded that:-

- 1) "This Council notes recent Government statements related to fracking and we regret that the focus of these is mainly limited to finances.
- 2) We believe that communities deserve the opportunity to be informed of the environmental impact and consequences of each application and what controls could be put in place. We propose that the scrutiny and planning committees fully investigate the economic and environmental impact of fracking and publish their findings. We propose that the findings are presented and debated at full council, with a view to producing a Council statement on the issue."

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

The meeting closed at 3.55 pm