

**COUNTY COUNCIL
12 FEBRUARY 2010**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR E R CHAPMAN (CHAIRMAN)

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

Also present were Mr J A Hanna and Group Captain P J Rodgers MBE who are both Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

Prayers were led by the Reverend Christine Pennock.

57. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors the Reverend S P Cliff, M W Gilbert, J R Hicks, Mrs J Johnson and M Smith.

58. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

Councillor J D Hough declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 as his partner is a Non-Executive Director of the Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust and Councillor Hough is a member of that Trust (minute 64 below refers).

Councillor R A Shore declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 as he works at the establishment named (minute 63 below refers).

Councillor Mrs M J Overton declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 as she is a Non-Executive Director of the NHS Lincolnshire Trust (minute 64 below refers).

59. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2009, having been printed and circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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60. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, on behalf of members and staff of Lincolnshire County Council, congratulated the Leader of the Council, Councillor Martin Hill OBE, on being nationally recognised as "Leader of the Year" at the recent Local Government Information Unit Awards event.

The Chairman also reported that this would be the last Council meeting to be attended by Mr Neil Wright, Democratic Services Officer, who would be retiring at the end of March 2010 after working for over 47 years in local government in Lincolnshire.

On a sadder note the Chairman reported the death in December 2009 of former County Councillor John Hurst who had represented the Grantham South Electoral Division from May 2005 until June 2009. The Chairman also reported the death of former County Councillor Bill Rawson MBE who had represented the former Cliff Electoral Division from May 1977 until May 1993. Former Councillor Rawson had been Chairman of the Council during the period 1991 to 1993. Members stood in silence in memory of former Councillors Hurst and Rawson and then paid tribute to their memory.

Finally the Chairman expressed the appreciation of all members of the Council to Mr Mike Thomas, Chief Fire Officer, and his team of nine other Officers from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue who had joined other emergency services from around the world in a response to the catastrophic earthquake which hit the Caribbean State of Haiti on 12 January 2010. Lincolnshire was proud of these men and the action taken by them to relieve the suffering in this devastated area. Mr Thomas said a few words about the work done by the team in Haiti and answered questions from members.

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

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

62. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES AND THE NOMINEE OF THE POLICY AUTHORITY

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

<u>Questions By</u>	<u>Answered By</u>	<u>Subject</u>
(A) C J T H Brewis	Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport	The Council's response to the deterioration of roads due to recent bad weather

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(B) J R Marriott	Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care and Supporting People	Allocation of grant/contract to ASBA
(C) Mrs C A Talbot	Executive Councillor for Children's Services including Post-16 Education	Counselling service for bereaved children and adults
(D) J D Hough	Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care and Supporting People	Crowtree House, Louth – extension of consultation period due to bad weather
(E) Mrs M J Overton	Leader of the Council	Support for short, simple consultation with the public
(F) N I Jackson	Executive Councillor for Children's Services including Post-16 Education	Academies shared information – is it also publicly available?
(G) R B Singleton-McGuire	Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport	Boston Road improvements – delay in land purchase in Liquorpond Street
(H) R Sellars	Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care and Supporting People	Shaping Care for the 21 st Century – All written representations will be considered
(I) Mrs M J Overton	Executive Councillor for Children's Services including Post-16 Education	Special Needs children – Criteria for allocation of funds to schools
(J) K J Clarke	Executive Councillor for Children's Services including Post-16 Education	Requirement in procurement contracts for apprentices to be taken on
(K) Mrs A Puttick	Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care and Supporting People	Shaping Care for the 21 st Century – Effect of bad weather on occupancy rates
(L) R B Parker	Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport	Return of horse racing on the Carholme, Lincoln – traffic implications

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(M) K J Smith	Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport	Recent bad weather – current level of stock of salt for roads
(N) J D Hough	Executive Councillor for Children’s Services including Post-16 Education	Virtual school – level of staff vacancies
(O) N D Cooper	Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport	Salting of roads in bad weather (a) include sand with salt (b) use Parish and Town Councils to do local salting
(P) K J Clarke	Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport	Lincoln East – West Link and railway level crossing on High Street
(Q) H R Johnson	Executive Councillor for Waste Services and LSP Co-ordination	Waste recycling in Lincolnshire now at 52%
(R) C J Underwood- Frost	Leader of the Council	Gifts from pupils to teachers are inappropriate

63. BUDGET CHANGES 2009/10

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

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the budget changes recommended by the Executive and contained in the Appendix to the report to this meeting be approved.

64. REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

A report of the Executive Director (Resources and Community Safety) had been circulated together with a separate booklet detailing the revenue budget 2009/10 to 2011/12 and capital programme 2008/09 to 2012/113.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

- (1) That there will be one debate.
- (2) That Councillor M J Hill OBE, Leader of the Council, 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 Financial Strategy set out in Table C of the accompanying booklet (pages 15 to 20) be agreed.
- (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 10 to 12) and the results of internal and external consultation (Section 11 of the accompanying booklet, page 12) be noted.
 - (3) That the service revenue budgets 2010/11 to 2012/13 (Section 4 of the accompanying booklet, pages 5 to 7 and detailed at Table 3, page 5) be agreed.
 - (4) That the capital programme 2010/11 to 2012/13 and its funding (Section 5 of the accompanying booklet, pages 7 to 8 and detailed at Table H, pages 26 to 28) be agreed.
 - (5) That the County Council element of the Council Tax for a Band D property at £1,065.69 for 2010/11 (Table B of the accompanying booklet, page 14) 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 (Table G of the accompanying booklet, pages 24 to 25) 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, page 9) be agreed.”

An amendment (A) was moved and seconded as follows:

“The Liberal Democrat Group proposes and recommends the following amendments to the circulated budget report before the Council:-

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Members should refer to Executive Recommendations in the green book.

The Conservative budget proposals include a proposed reduction in capital spending on road maintenance from £30 million per annum to £20 million.

We would not propose a reduction but would propose an increase in the road maintenance programme to £60 million (three times the annual budget proposed).

This would be funded within the proposed revenue budget with no impact on the council tax as follows:

- Remove the proposed increase of £0.350m for booster seats
- Reduce the proposed contribution to the Waste Management Reserve by £3.250m
- Increase provision within the capital financing charges budget by £3.6m to provide for increased borrowing of £40m to fund spending on roads.

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

An amendment (B) was moved and seconded as follows:

“We propose the following budget reductions:

To reduce the Council’s PR machine by 20% or £0.250 million

To continue to support the energy from waste programme but reduce the proposed contribution to the waste management reserve by £1.123 million, leaving a smaller addition to that reserve.

We propose the following budget additions:

The budget proposals include a proposed reduction of £0.663 million in the revenue budget for Safer Communities including drug and alcohol reduction and crime and disorder reduction. We propose that the existing level of spending is maintained in this area.

The budget proposals include a proposed reduction in capital spending on road maintenance from £30 million to £25 million next year. Many roads are currently in a very poor state with much needed maintenance. We propose the current level of work is maintained.

We propose to provide £4 million for essential maintenance and renewal of the Council’s eight residential care homes to keep them to a decent standard.

It would be necessary to increase provision within the capital financing charges budget by £800,000 to provide for increased borrowing of £9m to fund the increased capital spending.

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Budget additions are funded by budget reductions within the revenue budget with no impact on the council tax.

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

An amendment (C) was moved and seconded as follows:

“The Labour Group proposes and recommends the following amendments to the circulated budget before the council:-

Service Budgets Table A on Page 13 of the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2010/2011 to 2012/13.

Delete reductions in expenditure as follows:

Line 1	Adult Social Care	458,974
Line 3	Safer Communities	663,289
	Healthier Communities	1,719,117
Line 6	Targetted Children’s Services	866,210
Line 7	Specialist Children’s Services	162,371
Line 11	Economic Regeneration	153,034
	Extra Expenditure	£4,022,995

Funding for the extra spending in 2010/11 set out above:

1. Removal of expenditure for Booster Seats for children travelling in taxis	0.350m
2. Use of Emergency Pressure Contingency	1.000m
3. Reduced contribution to Waste Management Reserve	1.902.995m
4. Slippage in the Capital	0.750m
Savings identified above	£4,002,995

The strengths of these budgets amendments are that spending is maintained in priority areas relating to Adult Social Care Services, Safer Communities, Healthier Communities, Children’s Services and Economic Regeneration. We expect Portfolio Holders and Executive Directors to continue to pursue more efficient ways of working and where savings can be made, these savings should be reinvested within the priority service areas.

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Financial Strategy set out in Table C of the accompanying booklet (pages 15 to 20) be agreed.
- (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 10 to 12) and the results of internal and external consultation (Section 11 of the accompanying booklet, page 12) be noted.
- (3) That the service revenue budgets 2010/11 to 2012/13 (Section 4, of the accompanying booklet, pages 5 to 7 and detailed at Table 3, page 5) be agreed.
- (4) That the capital programme 2010/11 to 2012/13 and its funding (Section 5 of the accompanying booklet, pages 7 to 8 and detailed at Table H, pages 26 to 28) be agreed.
- (5) That the County Council element of the Council Tax for a Band D property at £1,065.69 for 2010/11 (Table B of the accompanying booklet, page 14) 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 (Table G of the accompanying booklet, pages 24 to 25) 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, page 9) be agreed.

65. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

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

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| (a) Audit | 2 December 2009
1 February 2010 |
| (b) Planning and Regulation | 7 December 2009
18 January 2010 |
| (c) Pensions | 14 January 2010 |
| (d) Standards | 18 January 2010 |
- (2) That it be noted and agreed that Mr J A Hanna has been appointed as an Independent member of the Standards Committee to serve until the Council meeting in May 2012.

The meeting finished at 1:10 pm.