

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

12 FEBRUARY 2010

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

The agenda in the Green Book will be followed

Prayers will be led by the Reverend Christine Pennock

Councillor E R Chapman (Chairman) in the Chair

A G E N D A

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

List of apologies to be read by the Chief Executive.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS**

Councillors to announce any interests

(NB. Councillors are reminded that there is no need to declare an interest unless he/she is being asked to take a decision on any matter in which he/she has an interest).

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2009**

That the minutes of 4 December 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

My civic engagements since the last Council meeting held on Friday 4 December 2009 have been varied and they have given my wife, Edna and me the opportunity to visit many parts of the County. I take this opportunity to thank Edna, for her continued support in accompanying me on my civic engagements and also my Vice-Chairman and Lady, Councillor Peter and Mrs Zita Bedford for deputising for me at functions when I have been unable to attend due to other prior civic commitments.

I would like to express my congratulations to all those Lincolnshire people who were awarded honours in this Year's Queen's New Years Honours List.

In addition, on behalf of members and staff of Lincolnshire County Council I would like to congratulate the Leader of the Council, Councillor Martin Hill OBE, on being nationally recognised as "Leader of

the Year". Councillor Hill was selected from a strong field of candidates as Leader of the Year at the recent Local Government information Unit (LGIU) Awards event. I am pleased that his five years of exemplary leadership of this Council has been recognised in this way.

The Chairman to invite Councillor B G Singleton to speak.

I understand that today's Council Meeting will be the last one attended in an official capacity by Mr Neil Wright, Democratic Services Officer. Neil, a familiar figure around County Offices, and today seated at the central table in this Council Chamber, has worked in Local Government for over 47 years. What a commendable achievement. Neil feels that the time is now right for him to retire from work and enjoy a more leisurely lifestyle. I am sure you will all wish to join with me in wishing Neil a long and well earned retirement. Councillors will have the opportunity to speak at a later date.

On a sadder note I have to report the death in December 2009 of former County Councillor John Hurst. Former Councillor Hurst represented the Grantham South Electoral Division from May 2005 until June 2009.

Also the death of former County Councillor Bill Rawson MBE, who represented the former Cliff Electoral Division from May 1977 until May 1993. Former Councillor Rawson was Chairman of the Council during the period 1991 – 1993.

The Chairman will invite Councillors and Officers to stand in silent memory.

Councillors will be given the opportunity to pay tribute.

Since the last meeting of the Council we have attended many memorable civic events, amongst them being the visit by HRH Prince William of Wales to the St Barnabas Hospice Day Centre in Lincoln, RAF Coningsby and the Eresby School, Spilsby. Also the visit of HRH The Princess Royal when she attended the Official Opening of the Johnson Community Hospital, Spalding, before moving on to visit areas of North East Lincolnshire. This year the Children's Celebration Service was held at St Botolph's Church, Boston (Boston Stump), an event which was most entertaining and one that I am sure, the children concerned will long remember.

I would like to take this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to all those involved in salting Lincolnshire roads, making them safer to drive on during the present unusual cold weather spell.

A copy of my complete itinerary of civic engagements attended since the last meeting of the Council on Friday 4 December 2009, together with training events attended by Members, are listed and available for inspection in the Members Lounge at County Offices.

On behalf of Lincolnshire County Council I wish to express my appreciation and those of my fellow Councillors to Mr Mike Thomas

MBE, Chief Fire Officer and his team of 9 other Fire and Rescue Officers, from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, who 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. The Lincolnshire Team worked alongside aid agencies from around the world, helping with the efforts to find and free survivors trapped in the devastated buildings in and around the capital city of Port-au-Prince and managed to save well over 100 lives. Lincolnshire is proud of these men and the action taken by them to help relieve the suffering in this devastated area.

I understand Mr Thomas is present at today's meeting and I invite him to say a few words.

The Chairman to invite Councillors to ask brief questions of Mr Thomas at the conclusion of his presentation.

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

The Chairman to state:

The statements/announcements are detailed as report reference 5.0 in the Green Book.

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

The Chairman to state:

I am anxious to allow a good spread of questions across the Chamber within the time allocated. I intend to allow 45 minutes for questions. I am expecting Councillors to be disciplined because of the time available.

Would Councillors wishing to ask questions please indicate by pressing their button to join the queue and may I remind Councillors that once you have joined the queue you do not need to press your button when I invite you to speak, or when you sit down.

7. BUDGET CHANGES 2009/10

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

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

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

Councillor Mrs S Rawlins to second.

(This is different to the recommendation in the report)

8. REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

A report of the Executive Director (Resources and Community Safety) has been circulated together with a separate booklet detailing the revenue budget 2009/10 to 2011/12 and capital programme 2008/09 to 2012/13

The Chairman of the Council proposes to deal with this item in the following way:-

Temporary Amendment to Council Procedure rules

The Chairman to move:

There will be one debate.

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 (at A to F on the Order of Proceedings) and Group Leaders (at C, D and E on the Order of Proceedings) each be allowed to speak without limit of time and that Councillors seconding the motions (at B to E on the Order of Proceedings) each be allowed to speak for 6 minutes. Other speakers (at F on the Order of Proceedings) will be allowed to speak for 3 minutes. No further substantial amendments to be moved (other than the original amendments moved by Group Leaders).

Councillor P Bedford to second.

Vote on the Temporary Amendment to Council Procedure Rules

Rules of Debate

The Chairman will state:

I wish to remind Members about the Rules of Debate as set out in Rules 13.5 and 13.9 of the Council Procedure Rules which have not been suspended. These are set out in paragraphs (i) and (ii) below on this and the following page of the Order of Proceedings.

Therefore, I have decided that the debate will take the form as set out in paragraphs (A) to (H) on pages 5 to 8 of the Order of Proceedings.

(i) Rule 13.5 (When a Councillor may speak again)

A Councillor who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:

- (a) In exercise of a right of reply;
 - (b) on a point of order or information and
 - (c) by way of personal explanation.
- (ii) Rule 13.9 (Right of reply)
- (a) The mover of a motion has a right to reply at the end of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote;
 - (b) if an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion has the right of reply at the close of the debate on the amendment, but may not otherwise speak on it; and
 - (c) the mover of the amendment has no right of reply to the debate on his or her amendment.
- (iii) (a) Except as set out in Rules 13.5 and 13.9 above, Councillors are only allowed to speak once during the debate. Therefore, the motion and any amendment(s) will proceed as one debate.
- (b) Councillors are reminded that the Chairman will require the mover of any amendment – if it is to increase expenditure, to indicate the source from which financial provision is to be made for the proposal and if it is to reduce expenditure, to indicate where the reduction is to be made.

Budget debate

- (A) Councillor M J Hill OBE, Leader of the Council, to introduce the report and move:-
- (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 accompany 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.

(B) Motion to be seconded by Councillor Mrs S Rawlins

**(C) Amendment to be moved by Councillor J R Marriott
seconded by Councillor R Sellars**

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

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.

**(D) Amendment to be moved by Councillor M Brookes
seconded by Councillor Mrs M J Overton**

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 £1.673 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.

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 within the existing Financial Strategy of the Council and represent a balanced budget.

**(E) Amendment to be moved by Councillor R B Parker
seconded by Councillor J D Hough**

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 2010/11 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	1,530,034
	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 **£4,022,995**

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.

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.

Debate to take place

- (F) Other Councillors
- (G) Response by the Leader of the Council
- (H) Votes to be taken in following order:-
 - i) Liberal Democrat amendment
 - ii) Independent amendment
 - iii) Labour amendment
 - iv) Conservative Motion (original or amended)

9. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(1) AUDIT

Councillor B Young to move:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee of 2 December 2009 and 1 February 2010 be received.

No recommendations.

(2) **PLANNING AND REGULATION**

Councillor I G Fleetwood to move:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Regulation Committee of 7 December 2009 and 18 January 2010 be received.

No recommendations.

(3) **PENSIONS**

Councillor C Farrar to move:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Pensions Committee of 14 January 2010 be received.

No recommendations.

(4) **STANDARDS**

Group Capt P J Rodgers MBE to move:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee of 18 January 2010 be received.

No recommendations.

It should be noted 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. When reported to the Council on 18 September 2009 it was incorrectly recorded that Mr Hanna's appointment was until May 2010. The Council is asked to agree the correct period of his appointment.

(At the conclusion of the meeting will all Members please be upstanding in their places until the Chairman has left the Chamber).