

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

11 FEBRUARY 2011

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

The agenda in the Green Book will be followed

Prayers will be led by the Reverend Andrew Higginson

Councillor P Bedford in the Chair

AGENDA

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 17 DECEMBER 2010**

The Chairman to state: -

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

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman to state as follows:

My civic engagements since the last Council meeting have been varied and have given me the opportunity to continue visiting places within Lincolnshire and some further afield.

I thank my wife Zita for supporting me on these engagements and also Councillor Neil and Mrs Pauline Cooper, Vice-Chairman and Lady, and

Councillor Michael Brookes, and his wife, Jackie, for representing us at civic functions when, due to other commitments, we have been unable to attend.

The events we have attended include a special service to mark the retirement of the Bishop of Lincoln, the University of Lincoln Graduation Ceremony, the official opening of a new Administration Suite at South Hykeham Primary School and the official opening of a new Gym and Nutrition Suite at Carre's Grammar School in Sleaford.

I was also pleased to welcome students from the University of Lincoln when they staged a model United Nations debate as part of their studies, here in the Council Chamber.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those Lincolnshire people who were awarded honours in the 2011 New Year's Honours List, especially Councillor Denis Hoyes, who was awarded an MBE for his services to the community in Lincolnshire.

Congratulations also to Councillor Mrs M J Overton, who has received the award of Fellow of the University, in recognition of her contribution as Governor to the development of the University of Lincoln.

Congratulations are also extended to Councillor Rob Parker, who this week won Scrutineer of the Year at the Local Government Information Unit Awards.

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

A complete itinerary of civic engagements, since the last meeting of this Council, are available in the Members' Foyer.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS 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, LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMEN OF ANY COMMITTEE OR SUB-COMMITTEE 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. PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES 2010/11

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

Councillor K J Smith to move:

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

Councillor M J Hill OBE to second.

8. COUNCIL BUDGET 2011

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

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

Temporary Amendment to Council Procedure Rules

The Chairman to state:

That there will be one debate.

The Chairman to move:

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 (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 R B Parker 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), (ii) and (iii) 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 K J Smith, Executive Councillor for Finance and Human Resources, to introduce the report and move:-
- (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.
- (B) Motion to be seconded by Councillor M J Hill OBE
- (C) **Amendment to be moved by Councillor J R Marriott seconded by Councillor R Sellars**

'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.'

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

'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.'

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

'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.'

Debate to take place

- (F) Other Councillors
- (G) Response by the Executive Councillor for Finance and Human Resources
- (H) Votes to be taken in following order:-
 - i) Liberal Democrat amendment
 - ii) Independents amendment
 - iii) Labour amendment
 - iv) Conservative Motion (original or amended)

9. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING AND REGULATION

Councillor I G Fleetwood to move:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Regulation Committee of 29 November 2010, 20 December 2010 and 17 January 2011 be received.

No recommendations.

(b) AUDIT

Councillor B Young to move:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee of 13 December 2010 be received.

No recommendations.

(c) PENSIONS

Councillor A H Turner MBE JP to move:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Pensions Committee of 13 January 2011 be received.

No recommendations.

(d) STANDARDS

Mr J Krawiec to move:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee of 17 January 2011 be received.

No recommendations.

10. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

The Chairman to move:

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

Councillor N D Cooper to second.

(1) Motion by Councillor J R Marriott

Councillor J R Marriott to move:

'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.'

Councillor R A Shore to second.

(2) Motion by Councillor M J Hill OBE

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

'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.'

Councillor C J Davie to second.

11. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Chairman to state:

Members are reminded to collect their post from their pigeon holes after the meeting.

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