



**COUNCIL  
20 FEBRUARY 2015**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR W J ARON (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors W S Webb (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, M G Allan, A M Austin, 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, R L Foulkes, M J Hill OBE, J D Hough, D C Hoyes MBE, D M Hunter-Clarke, R J Hunter-Clarke, N I Jackson, A J Jesson, M S Jones, B W Keimach, Ms T Keywood-Wainwright, 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, 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, P Wood, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, C N Worth, Mrs S M Wray and B Young

**48      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs V C Ayling, J W Beaver, C J T H Brewis, A G Hagues, S F Kinch and Miss F E E Ransome.

**49      DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS**

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

**50      MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2014**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**51      SUBMISSION OF PETITIONS**

Petition in response to the Lincolnshire Integrated Risk Management Plan Consultation

In accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme, Mrs Elaine Smith spoke for not more than five minutes in explanation of the petition in response to the Lincolnshire Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation.

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It was reported that the Chief Executive had determined that the petition would be referred to the Executive Councillor for Fire & Rescue, Emergency Planning, Trading Standards, Equality and Diversity.

**52      CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting of the County Council he had attended numerous engagements and thanked the Chairman's lady for supporting him on these engagements. The Chairman also thanked the Vice-Chairman and his lady, as well as the immediate past Chairman and Lady for providing representation at civic functions when the Chairman had been unable to attend.

Some of the Chairman's duties had included attending the University of Lincoln's Graduation Ceremony where there had been the opportunity to meet staff and students, as well as attending the Army Training Regiment Reserve Service Reception at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks.

The Chairman was also delighted to have attended the Magna Carta Unification Reception held at The British Library in London where he had the unique opportunity to see the four original Magna Carta manuscripts on display.

The Chairman reported that he had been pleased to learn that he was the top fundraiser for the 2014 Lincoln Santa Fun Run, raising just over £1450 including Gift Aid for L.I.V.E.S. He thanked those members and staff who sponsored him for their generous support.

The Chairman reported the deaths of two former County Councillors, Barry Fippard MBE who was elected to the County Council in June 1986 and represented the Lincoln Birchwood Division until his retirement in June 2009, and Amanda Puttick, who was elected to the County Council in May 2005 and represented the Donington Rural Division until her retirement in May 2013.

Councillors and Officers were invited to stand in silent memory. Councillors then paid tribute to both Barry Fippard MBE and Amanda Puttick.

The Chairman advised that a complete itinerary of civic engagements, since the last meeting of this Council, was available from the Civic Officer on request.

**53      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. It was noted that in the statement by the Executive Councillor for Crime Reduction, People Management and Legal, in the section relating to managing sickness absence, the corporate target for 2015/16 was to reduce sickness absence to 7.5 days, not 8 days as stated.

**54      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:

Question by	Answered by	Subject
a) R Foulkes	R G Davies	Signage for road improvements
b) Mrs M J Overton M J Hill OBE MBE		Future of local government finance
c) T M Trollope-Bellew	R G Davies	Interception of Members' e-mails
d) K J Clarke	P A Robinson	Issues raised during IRMP consultation
e) C Pain	C J Davie	Flood mitigation measures
f) P Wood	Mrs P A Bradwell	School Transport Policy for pupils attending Grammar Schools
g) R Wootten	R G Davies	Progress on Grantham Southern Relief Road
h) N I Jackson	R G Davies	Need for a temporary pedestrian crossing on Portland Street
i) S L W Palmer	M J Hill OBE	Initial discussions in relation to the Library Service Review
j) D C Morgan	Mrs P A Bradwell	Standards for carers employed either directly or indirectly
k) M Brookes	R G Davies	Review of the Boston Transport Strategy
l) J D Hough	M J Hill OBE	Extra funding secured for the Police
m) A M Austin	Mrs P A Bradwell	Continuation of the housing related support services

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n) J P Churchill	M J Hill OBE	Future policy for wind turbines in the county
o) S R Dodds	Mrs P A Bradwell	Lincolnshire' position in school league tables
p) R A McAuley	R G Davies	Options for increasing the capacity of the A16 between Spalding and Boston
q) R B Parker	M J Hill OBE	Restrictions on information being given to Members?
r) J R Marriott	C J Davie	Renewable energy
s) G J Ellis	C N Worth	Status of Boultham Library
t) A J Jesson	R G Davies	Visit by the Secretary of State
u) R Kirk	Mrs P A Bradwell	Living wage for care workers
v) N M Murray	P A Robinson	Future of Lincoln North Fire Station

**55      COUNCIL BUDGET 2015/16 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME CHANGE FOR 2014/15**

A report by the Executive Director Finance and Public Protection had been circulated together with a separate document 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 S Jones, Executive Councillor for Finance and Property, 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;
- (4) That Councillors seconding the motions, each be allowed to speak for 6 minutes;
- (5) That other speakers each be allowed to speak for 3 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 D "Budget Consultation" pages 32 - 41) be noted;
- (2) That the Section 151 Officer's statement on the Robustness of the Budget and the Adequacy of Reserves (Section 10 – "Section 151 Officer's Statement on the Robustness of the Budget and Adequacy of Reserves", pages 19 - 22) be noted;
- (3) That the Impact Analysis relating to increasing the Council Tax by 1.9% in 2015/1 (Appendix C – Impact Analysis relating to increasing the Council Tax by 1.9% in 2015/16, pages 26 - 31) be noted;
- (4) That the service revenue budgets for 2015/16 contained in the appended Budget Book, (Table 2 "Net Service Revenue Budget 2015/16 and change over previous year", page 9) be agreed;
- (5) That the capital programme and its funding contained in the appended Budget Book (Section 7 "Capital Programme", page 16) and Appendix M ("Capital Programme", Page 60) be agreed;
- (6) That the County Council element of the council tax for a Band D property at £1,085.94 for 2015/16 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix B "County Precept 2015/16 page 25) be agreed;

And that together these form the Council's Budget

- (7) That the Council's Financial Strategy contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix E "Financial Strategy", pages 42-49) be approved;
- (8) That the prudential targets for capital finance be agreed and the prudential indicators contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix L "Prudential Indicators", pages 58 -59) be noted;
- (9) That a minimum revenue provision (MRP) be based on the asset life method and made in equal instalments over the estimated life of the assets acquired

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through borrowing as set out in the appended Budget Book (Section 9 "Minimum Revenue Provision", page 18) be agreed;

- (10) That the changes to the 2014/15 capital programme as detailed at paragraph 1.20 to 1.21 of the report be agreed.

An amendment (i) was moved and seconded by UKIP as follows:-

"The UKIP Group proposes the following amendments to the Council Budget report:

Funding for the proposed changes to come from the additional revenue from growth in the council tax base and collection fund surpluses plus a modest growth in business rate income – some £10.413m in total. In addition a portion of the existing earmarked reserve for local welfare provision (£120k) has been applied to that service.

Particularly this year, because future funding is unknown financial territory - not least because of the coming general election; fluctuations in the FTSE, but also because it is difficult to forecast exactly what effect zero-inflation is going to have contract prices (and LCC have over 1,700) the LCC Financial Team have had a very difficult task in composing the 2015/16 Council Budget.

Although my guess would be that the financial positives will balance out the financial negatives and it will be business as usual! In fact, the only thing that can be accurately predicted is the continued reduction in local government funding and budgets.

This is why this year's additional amount of funding available, i.e. £10,413m pounds, has made composing UKIPs alternative budget particularly easy. No 'stealing from Peter to pay Paul' or raiding the reserves.

People of Lincolnshire are well aware of the impact on both services and employment caused by the savage budget cut-backs at LCC from Central Government. They are also aware that in order to preserve front-line services in the future, we also need to be prudent.

LCC would like to place all the additional funding back into the Volatility Reserves to help cushion against future budget reductions. But, UKIP see it also as an opportunity to preserve some jobs and provide some extra funding into areas of most need. Whilst at the same time recognising the vital importance of maintaining reserves in order to meet the demands of future Government reductions in the RSG.

- 1) HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT: Increase revenue funding by £0.5m

Savings of £1.197m are required for 2015/16 including:-

'Rationalising the Counties Area Maintenance Teams – reduction of 3 Teams saving £0.470m'

Although this is a contractual provision, if 3 teams are reduced that is somewhere in the order of 10-15 working people become unemployed. In order to prevent this we think £500k should be allocated from the additional funding, specifically to maintain the Area Maintenance Teams.

The £500k one-off expenditure for the Ride & Park fund for the Magna Carta Exhibition in 2015/16 will not be required again next year and can be applied to increase the H & T revenue budget and ensuring there should be sufficient monies to maintain the AMT teams in 2016/17 too.

- 2) ADULT CARE : Increase revenue funding by £2.5m  
£1.000m Towards Mental Health Prevention e.g. The Shine Staying Well Project.  
£1.000m Towards the Carers Budget (which has not been increased.)  
£0.5m be transferred into a flagged Adult Care volatility fund.
- 3) Local Welfare Budget – Increase funding by £120k from Flagged Reserves
- 4) How we Do Our Business – Democratic Services: Increase revenue funding by .....£56k  
To mitigate the necessity to review arrangements for servicing civic responsibilities for the Chairman of the Council.
- 5) The balance of the additional income - £7.357m to be placed into the Volatility fund as a cushion against future funding reductions.

The Director of Finance & Public Protection has confirmed that these proposals are compliant with the existing Financial Strategy of the Council and represent a balanced budget for 2015/16. Some proposals have ongoing cost implications beyond next year which will need to be considered as part of future budget cycles. The proposals will increase the contribution required from reserves to balance the budget next year by £3.056m to £25.227m."

An amendment (ii) was moved and seconded by the Labour Group as follows:

"This year's County Council budget is being presented at a time when Lincolnshire is still suffering from the austerity economics of the Coalition Government with large falls in living standards and cuts in public services.

It is not just the County Council in crisis; it's the NHS locally under huge financial pressure, the police without funds to fully protect the public and the District Councils cutting back, all at the same time.

We know we cannot put everything right in one year but we believe we have to start the process and our amendment goes some way towards that.

What we are proposing to do first of all is to protect the public. In addition to maintaining our support for Lincolnshire police and their community safety role, we will ensure that there is no reduction in fire safety by maintaining the number of firefighters that go to a fire and keeping open fire stations like Lincoln North.

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Secondly we will protect essential services for those who need help, and protect vulnerable people in our community. We will keep our professionally run library service, maintain the Citizens Advice Service in Children's Centres, set aside money to support housing services for vulnerable people, give a boost to funding for adult care and start to address the poverty wages so many of our people try to live on.

Thirdly we will protect the charities and voluntary groups who do so much essential work in our communities. In the last five years many of these have seen funding withdrawn by the council while the demand for their services has increased hugely due to the run down in public services from the council.

We will therefore provide support for Homestart, ensure that the YMCA receives sufficient funding to maintain its housing support services and set up a new fund to provide help when charities and voluntary groups need it.

Cllr John Hough, on behalf of The Labour Group therefore to move this amendment:

It is proposed that the following amendments are made to the circulated 'Council Budget 2015/16' report:

Revenue

Restore CAB work in Children's Centres (Page 65 line 3) £158k

Restore Preventing and Tackling Fire and Emergencies and Planning and

Responding to Emergencies (Page 91 lines 5 and 6) £551k

Restore Community Safety initiatives relating to PCSOs (Page 91 line 7) £300k

Increase Libraries spending to restore it to December 2013 level (Page 82 line 6)  
£800k

Restore Homestart funding from Children's Services budget £436k

Introduce Living Wage for all County Council staff –Living Wage £900k  
YMCA cuts in budget – housing support services in Lincoln £500k

Introduce spending of £1m to meet unexpected cost pressures in Adult Social Care services and place this in an earmarked reserve £1million

Capital spending

4 way pedestrian crossing at Bridge End Road/Springfield Road junction in Grantham £300k

Commuter Park and Ride Lincoln preparatory work £1m

Communities Initiatives Fund £5m

Funding

Capital spending of £6.3m has been funded from the £15m capital contingency budget for next year leaving a balance of £8.7m.

The revenue budget proposals total £4.645m and have been funded from the additional council tax and business rate income of £ 10.413m available next year.

This would increase the call on reserves in the 2015/16 budget by £4.645m to £26.816m.

The Director of Finance & Public Protection has confirmed that these proposals are compliant with the existing Financial Strategy of the Council and represent a balanced budget for 2015/16. Some proposals have ongoing cost implications beyond next year which will need to be considered as part of future budget cycles."

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

"It is proposed that the following amendments are made to the circulated 'Council Budget 2015/16' report.

Better solutions: Libraries

We support Pauline Palmer's Proposal to make a £1.73m saving and keep all of the static libraries and mobile libraries open. Recognising the current legal situation, we understand it cannot be implemented today. The libraries would therefore need to be reinstated for this forthcoming year in the first instance to the December 2013 service (£800,000), but would bring substantial savings in the following years as Pauline's proposal was implemented.

Fairer school transport:

The current system is unfair to 25% of residents of the County whose children cannot access free school transport to the school to which they are best suited, by accident of their rural location. Some parents cannot therefore afford to send the children to the school that is right for them. In order for all residents to receive fair access to the schools correctly suited to their children, including grammar schools, a sum of £2m put aside to equalise the fair access to schools. In future years, this will be returned as savings are made across the board fairly.

Highways

We believe that the reduction in highways revenue maintenance is a false economy.

Whilst the highways asset protection grant for improving roads has risen £9m to £31m, the current general maintenance, by area maintenance teams, is reduced by

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£470,000 in the proposed budget. We believe this puts people at risk in road safety. We propose not taking out these funds of £470,000. This will bring savings in the longer term by making sure that road maintenance is kept in order at the right time, reducing knock on costs.

Domiciliary Care

£1m towards providing a sustainable service for domiciliary care, that includes payment of staff travelling between clients. Currently the provision pays minimum wage for piecework, face to face time with clients, and nothing for the time it takes to travel from one person to another. Care workers should be paid for the time they are at work, like any other job. This is protection for the future, as collapse of the service is very difficult on the people we serve and indeed on the budget, as emergency failing of our statutory duty could be very expensive.

Commercialism

Our council needs to make a more determined effort not just to make savings, but to make better use of our property to create wealth in the county. Part of our current resources need to be directed into this area. Similarly more support for small businesses does not require a change in the budget, but a small change in direction.

The above measures require additional revenue budget of £4.27m in 2015/16 and it is proposed to use some of the £10.413m additional revenue from council tax and business rate income next year to fund these initiatives. This would increase the use of reserves next year by that sum to £26.441m.

The Director of Finance & Public Protection has confirmed that these proposals are compliant with the existing Financial Strategy of the Council and represent a balanced budget for 2015/16. Some proposals have ongoing cost implications beyond next year which will need to be considered as part of future budget cycles."

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 recorded votes were taken for each of the amendments and the original motion in the following order:

A recorded vote was held for the amendment (i), and upon being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

Details of recorded vote taken:

Those voting for the amendment (i):

Councillors M G Allan, A M Austin, R G Fairman, R L Foulkes, D M Hunter-Clarke, R J Hunter-Clarke, T Keywood-Wainwright, C E D Mair, D McNally, Mrs M J Overton MBE, S L W Palmer, Mrs H N J Powell, Mrs A Reynolds, Mrs J Smith and P Wood.

Those voting **FOR – 15**

Those voting against the amendment (i):

Councillors B Adams, W J Aron, 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, I G Fleetwood, M J Hill OBE, J D Hough, D C Hoyes MBE, N I Jackson, A J Jesson, M S Jones, B W Keimach, R C Kirk, C E H Marfleet, J R Marriott, B McAuley, C Morgan, N Murray, Mrs A M Newton, P J O'Connor, C R Oxby, C Pain, N H Pepper, R B Parker, R J Phillips, Mrs S Rawlins, Mrs J M Renshaw, R A Renshaw, P A Robinson, R A Shore, C L Strange, Mrs C A Talbot, T M Trollope-Bellew, A H Turner MBE JP, S M Tweedale, W S Webb, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, C N Worth, mrs S Wray and B Young.

Those voting **AGAINST - 52**

A recorded vote was taken for the amendment (ii), and upon being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

Details of recorded vote taken:

Those voting for the amendment (ii):

Councillors M G Allan, K J Clarke, P M Dilks, S R Dodds, G J Ellis, J D Hough, N I Jackson, T Keywood-Wainwright, R C Kirk, C Morgan, N Murray, Mrs M J Overton MBE, S L W Palmer, R B Parker, Mrs H N J Powell, Mrs J M Renshaw, R A Renshaw and P Wood.

Those voting **FOR – 18**

Those voting against the amendment (ii):

Councillors B Adams, W J Aron, A M Austin, Mrs P A Bradwell, D Brailsford, A Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, J P Churchill, C J Davie, R G Davies, R G Fairman, I G Fleetwood, R L Foulkes, M J Hill OBE, D C Hoyes, D M Hunter-Clarke, R J Hunter-Clarke, A J Jesson, M S Jones, B W Keimach, C E D Mair, C E H Marfleet, J R Marriott, B McAuley, D McNally, Mrs A M Newton, P J O'Connor, C R Oxby, C Pain, N H Pepper, R J Phillips, Mrs S Rawlins, Mrs A Reynolds, P A Robinson, R A Shore, Mrs J Smith, C L Strange, Mrs C A Talbot, T M Trollope-Bellew, A H Turner MBE JP, S M Tweedale, W S Webb, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, N Worth, Mrs S Wray and B Young.

Those voting **AGAINST – 49**

A recorded vote for the amendment (iii) was taken. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

Details of the recorded vote taken:

Those voting for the amendment (iii):

Councillors M G Allan, A M Austin, K J Clarke, P M Dilks, S R Dodds, G J Ellis, R G Fairman, R L Foulkes, J D Hough, D M Hunter-Clarke, R J Hunter-Clarke, N I Jackson, A J Jesson, T Keywood-Wainwright, R C Kirk, C E D Mair, B McAuley, C Morgan, N Murray, Mrs M J Overton MBE, C Pain, S L W Palmer, R B Parker, Mrs H N J Powell, Mrs A Reynolds, Mrs J M Renshaw, R A Renshaw, Mrs J Smith and P Wood.

Those voting **FOR – 29**

Those voting against the amendment (iii):

Councillors B Adams, W J Aron, Mrs P A Bradwell, D Brailsford, A Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, J P Churchill, C J Davie, R G Davies, I G Fleetwood, M J Hill OBE, D C Hoyes, M S Jones, B W Keimach, C E H Marfleet, J R Marriott, D McNally, Mrs A M Newton, P J O'Connor, C R Oxby, N H Pepper, R J Phillips, Mrs S Rawlins, P A Robinson, R A Shore, C L Strange, Mrs C A Talbot, T M Trollope-Bellew, A H Turner MBE JP, S M Tweedale, W S Webb, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, N Worth, Mrs S Wray and B Young.

Those voting **AGAINST – 38**

A recorded vote on the original motion was taken. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Details of the recorded vote taken:

Those voting for the original motion:

Councillors B Adams, W J Aron, A M Austin, Mrs P A Bradwell, D Brailsford, A Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, J P Churchill, C J Davie, R G Davies, R G Fairman, I G Fleetwood, M J Hill OBE, C Hoyes, M S Jones, B Keimach, T Keywood-Wainwright, C E H Marfleet, J R Marriott, Mrs A M Newton, P J O'Connor, C R Oxby, N H Pepper, R J Phillips, Mrs S Rawlins, P A Robinson, R A Shore, 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, R Wootten, N Worth, Mrs S Wray and B Young.

Those voting **FOR – 41**

Those voting against the motion:

Councillors M G Allan, K J Clarke, P M Dilks, S R Dodds, G J Ellis, R G Fairman, R L Foulkes, J D Hough, D M Hunter-Clarke, R J Hunter-Clarke, N I Jackson, A J Jesson, R C Kirk, C E D Mair, B McAuley, D McNally, C Morgan, N Murray, Mrs M J Overton MBE, C Pain, S L W Palmer, R B Parker, Mrs H N J Powell, Mrs A Reynolds, Mrs J M Renshaw, R A Renshaw and Mrs J Smith.

Those voting **AGAINST – 26**

RESOLVED

- (1) That the responses to consultation on the Council's budget proposals as contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix D "Budget Consultation" pages 32 - 41) be noted;
- (2) That the Section 151 Officer's statement on the Robustness of the Budget and the Adequacy of Reserves (Section 10 – "Section 151 Officer's Statement on the Robustness of the Budget and Adequacy of Reserves", pages 19 - 22) be noted;
- (3) That the Impact Analysis relating to increasing the Council Tax by 1.9% in 2015/1 (Appendix C – Impact Analysis relating to increasing the Council Tax by 1.9% in 2015/16, pages 26 - 31) be noted;
- (4) That the service revenue budgets for 2015/16 contained in the appended Budget Book, (Table 2 "Net Service Revenue Budget 2015/16 and change over previous year", page 9) be agreed;
- (5) That the capital programme and its funding contained in the appended Budget Book (Section 7 "Capital Programme", page 16) and Appendix M ("Capital Programme", Page 60) be agreed;
- (6) That the County Council element of the council tax for a Band D property at £1,085.94 for 2015/16 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix B "County Precept 2015/16 page 25) be agreed;

And that together these form the Council's Budget

- (7) That the Council's Financial Strategy contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix E "Financial Strategy", pages 42-49) be approved;
- (8) That the prudential targets for capital finance be agreed and the prudential indicators contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix L "Prudential Indicators", pages 58 -59) be noted;
- (9) That a minimum revenue provision (MRP) be 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 18) be agreed;
- (10)That the changes to the 2014/15 capital programme as detailed at paragraph 1.20 to 1.21 of the report be agreed.

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It was moved, seconded and

**RESOLVED**

That the Council Business Plan for 2015-16 be approved.

**57      PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

A report by the Executive Director of Children's Services had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

**RESOLVED**

That the Pay Policy Statement be agreed.

**58      MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2015/16**

A report by the Executive Director responsible for Democratic Services had been circulated.

It was moved and seconded that

The Members' Allowance Scheme as detailed in Appendix A of the report be agreed.

An amendment was moved and seconded by UKIP as follows:

"That the Members Allowances Scheme as detailed in Appendix A of the report be agreed save for amending the 2.2% increase of allowances to a 1% reduction in the allowances."

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

A recorded vote was successfully requested for the substantive motion, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Details of recorded vote taken:

Those voting for the motion:

Councillors B Adams, M G Allan, W J Aron, A M Austin, Mrs P A Bradwell, D Brailsford, A Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, J P Churchill, C J Davie, R G Davies, M J Hill OBE, D C Hoyes, A J Jesson, M S Jones, B W Keimach, T Keywood-Wainwright, C E H Marfleet, B McAuley, Mrs A M Newton, P J O'Connor, C R Oxby, C Pain, N H Pepper, S L W Palmer, R J Phillips, Mrs S Rawlins, P A

Robinson, R A Shore, 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, R Wootten, N Worth and Mrs S Wray.

Those voting **FOR – 42**

Those voting against the motion:

Councillors R G Fairman, R L Foulkes, D M Hunter-Clarke, R J Hunter-Clarke, C E D Mair, Mrs M J Overton MBE, Mrs H N J Powell and Mrs A Reynolds.

Those voting **AGAINST – 8**

Those abstaining:

Councillors K J Clarke, P M Dilks, S R Dodds, G J Ellis, I G Fleetwood, J D Hough, N I Jackson, R C Kirk, J R Marriott, D McNally, C Morgan, N Murray, R B Parker, Mrs J M Renshaw, R A Renshaw and Mrs J Smith.

#### **ABSTENTIONS – 16**

**RESOLVED**

The Members' Allowance Scheme as detailed in Appendix A of the report be agreed.

#### **59      BOURNE TOWN HALL**

A report by the County Property Officer had been circulated.

Prior to debate on this item, the Chairman reminded members that in considering this item they were acting in the Council's capacity as sole corporate trustee of Bourne Town Hall Charitable Trust and they were subject to the general duty on all Trustees to act at all times in the best interests of the charity.

It was moved and seconded

- 1) That a Committee to be known as the Bourne Town Hall Trust Management Committee with the membership and Terms of Reference as attached at Appendix A to the report be established;
- 2) That Councillors B Adams, D Brailsford, G J Ellis, R L Foulkes and S M Tweedale be appointed as members of the Committee in accordance with paragraph 5.1 (a) of the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix A of the report;
- 3) That the Monitoring Office be authorised to make such amendments (including consequential amendments) to the Council's Constitution as are necessary to

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incorporate the said Committee within the Constitution as a regulatory or other Committee;

- 4) That paragraphs 5.2, 5.3, and 6.4 of the Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix A of the report, be amended to read 'Supporting officers' instead of 'Supporting members'.

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

"2) Appoint seven councillors as members of the Committee in accordance with paragraph 5.1 (a) of the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix A."

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

A vote was taken on the original motion, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That a Committee to be known as the Bourne Town Hall Trust Management Committee with the membership and Terms of Reference as attached at Appendix A to the report be established;
- 2) That Councillors B Adams, D Brailsford, G J Ellis, R L Foulkes and S M Tweedale be appointed as members of the Committee in accordance with paragraph 5.1 (a) of the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix A of the report;
- 3) That the Monitoring Office be authorised to make such amendments (including consequential amendments) to the Council's Constitution as are necessary to incorporate the said Committee within the Constitution as a regulatory or other Committee;
- 4) That paragraphs 5.2, 5.3, and 6.4 of the Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix A of the report, be amended to read 'Supporting officers' instead of 'Supporting members'.

**60        LOCAL PENSION BOARD FOR LINCOLNSHIRE PENSION FUND**

A report by the Executive Director Finance and Public Protection had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the legal requirement for consultation in accordance with the Regulations on the Pension Committee's Governance Compliance Statement be noted and that Council delegates the scope and process of this to the Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection;
- (2) That the decision to approve the establishment, composition and terms of reference for the Local Pension Board, having first had regard to the outcome of the consultation, be delegated to the Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection;
- (3) That a change to the constitution to provide for the Pension Committee to have regard to the advice of the Local Pension Board once established, be approved

61     LOCAL PENSION BOARD FOR LINCOLNSHIRE FIREFIGHTERS  
PENSION SCHEMES

A report by the Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

- 1) That it be noted that from 1 April 2015 the Council will become the scheme manager for the Firefighters Pension Scheme 2015. As scheme manager for existing schemes and the Firefighters Pension Scheme 2015, the Council is under a duty to establish a Local Pension Board for the schemes from 1 April 2015;
- 2) That the decision to approve the establishment, composition and terms of reference for the Local Pension Board be delegated to the Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection.

62     MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

62a     Planning and Regulation - 8 December 2014

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Planning and Regulation Committee held on 8 December 2014 be received.

62b     Planning and Regulation - 12 January 2015

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Regulation Committee held on 12 January 2015 be received.

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62c Pensions Committee - 8 January 2015

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Pensions Committee held on 8 January 2015 be received.

**63     MOTIONS ON NOTICE SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

Motion by Councillor M J Hill OBE

It was moved and seconded that:

'This council notes:

1. The difficult funding scenario for local government in general and LCC in particular, resulting in a budget saving requirement of £200m plus for this council.
2. The agreed budget reduction to the library service of £2m as a contribution to the financial issues noted in paragraph 1 and the recent service prioritisation exercise.
3. The steady decline in active borrowers – 25% in ten years – along with the continuing growth in the use of online services, a trend reflected nationally.
4. The proposed model which designates 15 core libraries plus universal and targeted support as well as potentially 35 volunteer-led libraries with substantial council support.
5. This could result in delivery of the necessary savings, keeping more libraries open with increased access and opening hours, and the welcome enhanced engagement of volunteers with all ensuing benefits to local communities.
6. The failure of last year's judicial review challenge to the lawfulness of the model proposed by LCC Executive in December 2013.
7. The recent actions of the council to address the issues raised in the JR that led to the decision being quashed. This included the receipt of expressions of interest from organisations wishing to provide a library service for Lincolnshire.
8. The legal framework in which we have to operate in and officer advice regarding such.

IT IS PROPOSED that:

In the light of the evidence, this council supports the decision of the Executive to go out to tender on the basis recommended in the report that it considered on 3 February 2015.'

A recorded vote was successfully requested and upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Details of the recorded vote taken:

Those voting for the motion:

Councillors B Adams, W J Aron, Mrs P A Bradwell, D Brailsford, A Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, J P Churchill, C J Davie, R G Davies, R L Foulkes, M J Hill OBE, D C Hoyes, M S Jones, B W Keimach, T Keywood-Wainwright, C E H Marfleet, J R Marriott, Mrs A M Newton, P J O'Connor, C R Oxby, N H Pepper, Mrs S Rawlins, P A Robinson, R A Shore, C L Strange, Mrs C A Talbot, T M Trollope-Bellew, A H Turner MBE JP, S M Tweedale, W S Webb, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, N Worth and Mrs S Wray.

Those voting **FOR – 36**

Those voting against the motion:

Councillors K J Clarke, P M Dilks, S R Dodds, G J Ellis, J D Hough, D M Hunter-Clarke, R J Hunter-Clarke, N I Jackson, A J Jesson, R C Kirk, B McAuley, C Morgan, N Murray, Mrs M J Overton MBE, C Pain, S L W Palmer, Mrs H N J Powell, Mrs J M Renshaw, R A Renshaw and P Wood.

Those voting **AGAINST – 20**

Those abstaining:

Councillors C E D Mair, D McNally and Mrs A Reynolds.

**ABSTENTIONS – 3**

Motion by Councillor C Pain

It was moved and seconded that:

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"Lincolnshire County Council, in common with other parts of the public sector is faced with continuing reductions in funding with increased demands on many services. The latest round of £90 Million cuts I believe has put Lincolnshire services at risk. In fact, if you take on board the government information and predictions that have been revealed, most County Councils will be defunct or handing back the keys to the council buildings in 2017/18. The latest government actions, in trying to reduce the deficit, means that they are implementing the cuts in government spending over three years instead of the original planned five years. The effects I believe are cutting Government Funding too quickly and will seriously affect the services that we provide. In fact, without our council reserves we would not be able to achieve these savings with more cuts being planned in the future. Our Council reserves are not infinite and can only maintain 2 years of cuts of this nature.

The fact that we are pumping billions of pounds into foreign aid and the EU daily, beggars belief. Lots of this money vanishes with corruption or goes into Swiss bank accounts, the Cayman Islands, posh boats, jets, fast cars or plush palaces. On top of this we are an underfunded rural county, with a crumbling road network that is made far worse by a below par road and rail infrastructure.

We must, in particular, explore options that maximise impact on finances whilst minimising adverse impact on the people we all serve.

One of those options is to explore unitary local government for the county. Recent experiences have shown that considerable savings can be made.

For example, Wiltshire's Unitary Council is smaller in area and population than Lincolnshire. It estimates that it has saved £100million from 2009-2013 with transition costs of £18million and improvements in several services. Equivalent savings for Lincolnshire could be £25 million up to £38 million every year even after transition costs are taken into account.

I feel as councillors we should have grasped this thistle before and explored the benefits and issues surrounding it. Unfortunately turkeys don't vote for Christmas, but we have to represent the best interests of the Lincolnshire people and the county as a whole. I think that my fellow Councillors need to leave their party politics at the Council Chamber door and tackle this issue now.

We cannot ignore this issue any longer, so I propose the following:

The Council sets up a Task and Finish Group to look closely at the potential benefits, risks, costs and savings from having a single unitary authority for our county; and this group makes recommendations back to full council as soon as its work is completed."

An amendment was proposed and seconded by the Lincolnshire Administration Group as follows:

To delete part of paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 in its entirety, and remove the words "having a single unitary authority" and replacing them with "having unitary status". With the effect of the above being as follows:

"Lincolnshire County Council, in common with other parts of the public sector is faced with continuing reductions in funding with increased demands on many services. We must, in particular, explore options that maximise impact on finances whilst minimising adverse impact on the people we all serve.

One of those options is to explore unitary local government for the county. Recent experiences have shown that considerable savings can be made.

For example, Wiltshire's Unitary Council is smaller in area and population than Lincolnshire. It estimates that it has saved £100million from 2009-2013 with transition costs of £18million and improvements in several services. Equivalent savings for Lincolnshire could be £25 million up to £38 million every year even after transition costs are taken into account.

I feel as councillors we should have grasped this thistle before and explored the benefits and issues surrounding it. Unfortunately turkeys don't vote for Christmas, but we have to represent the best interests of the Lincolnshire people and the county as a whole. I think that my fellow Councillors need to leave their party politics at the Council Chamber door and tackle this issue now.

We cannot ignore this issue any longer, so we propose that:

The Council sets up a Task and Finish Group to look closely at the potential benefits, risks, costs and savings from having unitary status for our county; and this group makes recommendations back to full council as soon as its work is completed."

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried. This then became the substantive motion, and upon being put to the vote was carried.

**RESOLVED**

That the Council set up a Task and Finish Group to look closely at the potential benefits, risks, costs and savings from having unitary status for our county; and this group makes recommendations back to full council as soon as its work is completed.

Motion by Councillor P M Dilks

It was moved and seconded that:

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"At the Audit Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 an internal audit report "Organisational Learning – Libraries Project" was presented.

It stated that,

*"We have approached this review with a strong emphasis on governance - the aim being to ensure the Council continues to run well in times of significant change and challenge."*

Amongst other things it looked at "Effective Scrutiny/Decision Making" and it was critical of the way scrutiny had or had not been carried out. That scrutiny role was the responsibility of the Communities and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee.

It said that,

*"We found little effective scrutiny contribution to the Library Needs Assessment preferred delivery model and Executive decision making. Earlier scrutiny meetings had acted more as a sounding board for library service concepts."*

In addition it was critical of the length of papers and the time allowed for consideration, for example,

*"Sheffield Hallam University's consultation outcome report, 205 pages (tabled – 15 minutes prior to the (scrutiny) meeting)."*

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015, the day after the Audit Committee meeting, another meeting of the Communities and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee was held to scrutinise the re-launched library proposals. The report was even longer than the Sheffield Hallam Universities report and while some questions were asked, members and officers struggled to answer some of them and questioning was cut short.

The alternative proposal from Greenwich Leisure Limited was dismissed largely on financial grounds. However the members of the scrutiny committee had no sight of the financial information on which they were asked to make a decision, and neither was any financial report presented.

Overall it was not an example of effective scrutiny – just 24 hours after the Audit Committee.

This example of bad scrutiny is not an isolated one in this council. Too much of our scrutiny practice is superficial, lacking in depth and ineffective.

The Council's own guidance lists the following principles of good scrutiny:

1. Providing a healthy challenge
2. Giving voice to public concern
3. Supporting improvement in services
4. Providing an independent review.

Good scrutiny should allow councillors the opportunity to have an in depth look at both what the Council does and what it is proposing to do with the aim of improving the services the council currently provides and what it might provide in the future.

As the audit report emphasises we need to improve how we do scrutiny in the future. As a learning organisation it would be helpful to have fresh eyes looking at our scrutiny practices.

It is therefore proposed this Council agrees that:

1. A Local Government Association (LGA) peer review of our existing scrutiny arrangements should be carried out to tell us how we can do things better from a member point of view.
2. In addition The Centre for Public Scrutiny to be asked to review our scrutiny processes and make recommendations about how we can make our scrutiny more effective and therefore more useful to the Council as a whole and ultimately to the public we serve."

An amendment was proposed and seconded by the Lincolnshire Administration Group as follows:

To delete the middle eight paragraphs, and to delete the final two paragraphs and replace with a new paragraph with the effect being as follows:

"At the Audit Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 an internal audit report "Organisational Learning – Libraries Project" was presented.

It stated that,

*"We have approached this review with a strong emphasis on governance - the aim being to ensure the Council continues to run well in times of significant change and challenge."*

Amongst other things it looked at "Effective Scrutiny/Decision Making" and it was critical of the way scrutiny had or had not been carried out. That scrutiny role was the responsibility of the Communities and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee.

The Council's own guidance lists the following principles of good scrutiny:

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Good scrutiny should allow councillors the opportunity to have an in depth look at both what the Council does and what it is proposing to do with the aim of improving the services the council currently provides and what it might provide in the future.

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As the audit report emphasises we need to improve how we do scrutiny in the future. As a learning organisation it would be helpful to have fresh eyes looking at our scrutiny practices.

It is therefore proposed this Council:

Asks the Chief Executive to secure external advice and support in conducting a review of the Council's scrutiny arrangements and to present recommendations for making those arrangements more effective."

The mover of the original motion accepted this amendment, and it then became the substantive motion. Upon being put to the vote, the motion as amended was carried.

**RESOLVED**

That the Council ask the Chief Executive to secure external advice and support in conducting a review of the Council's scrutiny arrangements and to present recommendations for making those arrangements more effective.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm