

COUNCIL
18 FEBRUARY 2022

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M BROOKES (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors Mrs A M Austin (Vice-Chairman), M G Allan, P Ashleigh-Morris, T R Ashton, A J Baxter, S A J Blackburn, M D Boles, Mrs W Bowkett, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, Mrs J Brockway, S Bunney, R D Butroid, I D Carrington, L A Cawrey, K J Clarke, M R Clarke, Mrs N F Clarke, R J Cleaver, K H Cooke, C J Davie, R G Davies, T J G Dyer, I G Fleetwood, R A Gibson, W H Gray, M A Griggs, A G Hagues, A M Hall, M J Hill OBE, R J Kendrick, A M Key, Mrs J E Killey, J L King, K E Lee, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet, C Matthews, A P Maughan, D McNally, Mrs M J Overton MBE, N H Pepper, Clio Perraton-Williams, Mrs S Rawlins, S P Roe, N Sear, P A Skinner, T J N Smith, E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, E W Strengiel, Dr M E Thompson, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, R A Wright and T V Young

Councillors: attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T A Carter, P E Coupland, A Dani, P M Dilks, Mrs A M Newton MBE, R B Parker, S R Parkin, R P H Reid, G J Taylor and J Tyrell.

40 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

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

41 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2021

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2021 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

42 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed members back to the Council Chamber for the meeting, and welcomed those who were listening via the live stream on the Council's website.

COUNCIL
18 FEBRUARY 2022

The Chairman was pleased that, following relaxation of the Government restrictions, he had been able to carry out more fully his role as Chairman, representing the Council at events that were curtailed during the height of the pandemic. He thanked his wife, and Chairman's Lady, Jackie, for her continued support.

The Chairman had been delighted to welcome students from the University of Lincoln for the Model United Nations General Assembly as part of the International Relations Programme, which was held in the Council Chamber. This was an important part of their studies and demonstrated the collaboration and long running successful partnership between the University and the County Council. It was understood that there were a number of students from the University's School of Social and Political Science tuning into the meeting.

Councillors were advised that they would have received an invitation to attend the county service to be held in Lincoln Cathedral on Sunday 13 March. The Chairman hoped to see as many councillors as possible in attendance, and councillors were asked to reply as soon as possible if they hadn't already done so, so the necessary arrangements could be made.

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

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

Question by	Question to	Subject
a) T G J Dyer	M J Hill OBE	Devolution for Lincolnshire update
b) K E Lee	L A Cawrey	Update on Ermine Library hub
c) Mrs M J Overton MBE	R G Davies	Funding for maintenance of unclassified roads
d) Mrs J E Killey	R G Davies	Local Transport Plan
e) M D Boles	R G Davies	Street lighting in Gainsborough
f) T J N Smith	D McNally	Reciprocal arrangements for waste disposal with NE Lincolnshire
g) A P Maughan	C J Davie	Flood alleviation scheme in Long Bennington
h) K J Clarke	L A Cawrey	HMICFRS Inspection areas

		for concern
i) A J Baxter	M J Hill OBE	Food waste collection
j) R J Kendrick	R D Butroid	Update on Judges Lodgings, Lincoln
k) R J Cleaver	R G Davies	Traffic Management Act
l) S Bunney	R G Davies	Internet speeds in rural areas
m) Mrs N F Clarke	R G Davies	Cycling plan (Local Transport Plan)
n) N H Pepper	L A Cawrey	HMICFRS Inspection areas for concern - skills

44 COUNCIL BUDGET 2022/23

(Note: Councillor S P Roe left the Council Chamber for the consideration of this item of business)

A report by the Executive Director – Resources had been circulated together with a separate document entitled ‘Council Budget 2022/23) which described the Executive’s Budget and council tax proposals.

RESOLVED

- (1) That there 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 be allowed to speak without limit of time;
- (3) That the proposer of the amendment be allowed to speak without limit of time;
- (4) That Councillors seconding the motions each be allowed to speak for six minutes;
- (5) That other speakers be allowed to speak for three minutes;
- (6) That no further substantial amendments be moved.

It was moved and seconded that:

The Council:

1. has due regard to the responses to the consultation and engagement on the Council's budget proposals as contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix D - Budget Consultation and Engagement Feedback);
2. has due regard to the Section 151 Officer's Statement on the Robustness of the Budget and the Adequacy of Reserves as set out in the appended Budget Book (Section 10 - Section 151 Officer's Statement on the Robustness of the Budget and Adequacy of Reserves);
3. has due regard to the Impact Analysis relating to increasing the Council Tax by 4.99% in 2022/23 set out in the appended 'Budget Book' (Appendix C – Impact Analysis relating to increasing the Council Tax by 4.99% in 2022/23);
4. approves:
 - 4.1 the service revenue budgets for 2022/23 contained in the appended Budget Book, (Table 2 - Net Service Revenue Budget 2022/23);
 - 4.2 the capital programme and its funding contained in the appended Budget Book (Section 7 - Capital Programme) and (Appendix O - Capital Programme);
 - 4.3 the County Council element of the council tax for a Band D property at £1,432.17 for 2022/23 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix B - County Precept 2022/23);as together being the Council's Budget.
5. approves the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix E – Medium Term Financial Strategy);
6. approves the Council's Capital Strategy 2022/23 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix N – Capital Strategy 2022/23);
7. approves the prudential targets for capital finance and notes the prudential indicators contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix M - Prudential Indicators);
8. approves that the minimum revenue provision (MRP) be based on the asset life method, charged on an annuity basis for major infrastructure projects and in equal instalments for all other assets, over the estimated life of the assets acquired through borrowing as set out in the appended Budget Book (Section 9 - Minimum Revenue Provision).

An amendment was moved and seconded by the Shadow Executive as follows:

This Council resolves to:

1. Limit the council tax rise increase for the year 2022/23 to a total of 4% (3% Adult Social Care and 1% for general services).

2. Transfer £6.45 million from the Financial Volatility Reserve in order to fund the following:
- £3.2 million to make up the Highways budget shortfall (as a result of limiting the council tax increase to 4%).
 - £1.2 million investment in the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) to provide increased resources necessary to meet the rising demand for services as a result of the pandemic.

 - £2.05 million investment to support Green MasterPlan projects to reduce carbon emissions, specifically:
 - £1.5 million to develop cycling and walking schemes across the county.
 - £300,000 to deliver solar canopies for car parks incorporating panels that generate electricity to power vehicle charging points below.
 - £250,000 to install solar panels on LCC owned buildings.

Executive Director of Resources/s.151 Officer Commentary

The Executive Director of Resources has confirmed these proposals are viable and broadly compliant with the existing Financial Strategy of the Council.

Reducing the amount of revenue collected from council tax will mean this funding will not be available for future years. Maintaining the level of service spend proposed in this amendment by using reserves is unlikely to be sustainable in the longer term.

The proposals make use of a drawdown of the Financial Volatility reserve. Reiterating my comments from Section 10 of the budget book, the stated intention of the reserve is to manage future funding volatility and given that issue is yet to be resolved, it is my strong professional opinion that the reserve should be maintained towards its historical level of around £50m and steps should be taken to replenish it to that level at the earliest opportunity.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was held for the amendment and upon being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

Details of the recorded vote taken:

Those voting for the amendment:

A J Baxter, M D Boles, S Bunney, K J Clarke, R J Cleaver, R A Gibson, Mrs J E Killey, J L King, K E Lee, Mrs M J Overton MBE, T V Young.

Those voting **FOR – 11**

Those voting against the amendment:

M G Allan, P Ashleigh-Morris, T R Ashton, A M Austin, S A J Blackburn, Mrs W Bowkett, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, R D Butroid, I D Carrington, L A Cawrey, M Clarke, N F

COUNCIL**18 FEBRUARY 2022**

Clarke, K H Cooke, C J Davie, R G Davies, T J G Dyer, I G Fleetwood, W H Gray, M A Griggs, A G Hagues, A M Hall, M J Hill OBE, R J Kendrick, A M Key, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet, C Matthews, A P Maughan, D McNally, N H Pepper, C L Perraton-Williams, Mrs S Rawlins, N Sear, P A Skinner, T J N Smith, E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, E W Strengiel, M E Thompson, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, R A Wright.

Those voting **AGAINST: 47**

Those **ABSTAINING: 0**

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote on the motion was taken. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried:

Details of the recorded vote taken:

Those voting for the motion:

M G Allan, P Ashleigh-Morris, T R Ashton, A M Austin, S A J Blackburn, Mrs W Bowkett, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, R D Butroid, I D Carrington, L A Cawrey, M Clarke, N F Clarke, K H Cooke, C J Davie, R G Davies, T J G Dyer, I G Fleetwood, W H Gray, M A Griggs, A G Hagues, A M Hall, M J Hill OBE, R J Kendrick, A M Key, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet, C Matthews, A P Maughan, D McNally, N H Pepper, C L Perraton-Williams, Mrs S Rawlins, N Sear, P A Skinner, T J N Smith, E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, E W Strengiel, M E Thompson, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, R A Wright.

Those voting **FOR – 47**

Those voting against the motion:

A J Baxter, M D Boles, S Bunney, K J Clarke, R J Cleaver, R A Gibson, Mrs J E Killey, J L King, K E Lee, Mrs M J Overton MBE, T V Young.

Those voting **AGAINST – 11**

Those **ABSTAINING – 0**

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. has due regard to the responses to the consultation and engagement on the Council's budget proposals as contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix D - Budget Consultation and Engagement Feedback);

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45 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 5 (LTP5)

A report by the Executive Director – Place had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the LTP 5 attached at Appendix A to the report, be adopted as Lincolnshire County Council's Local Transport Plan in accordance with its duty under the Transport Act 2000 and forms part of the Council's Policy Framework in place of the existing Local Transport Plan.

46 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

8
COUNCIL
18 FEBRUARY 2022

(Note: Councillor S P Roe rejoined the meeting at 12.46pm)

A report by the Executive Director – Resources had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23, attached at Appendix A to the report and as recommended by the Pay Policy Sub-Committee, be approved by the Council.

47 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021

A report by the Chairman of the Audit Committee had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Audit Committee Annual Report 2021 be received.

48 OPT INTO NATIONAL SCHEME FOR AUDITOR APPOINTMENTS

A report by the Executive Director – Resources had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Council accepts the Public Sector Audit Appointments' invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for the five financial years from 1 April 2023.

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

No motions on notice were submitted.

The meeting closed at 12.56 pm