

Agenda Item 4

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 FEBRUARY 2020

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

COUNCIL CHAMBER IT QUICK USE GUIDE

Today's proceedings will be audio recorded.

Councillors wishing to speak should raise their hand and when invited to speak by the Chairman push the large button on the microphone unit to make it live.

When councillors have finished speaking they should press the large button again to switch off the microphone.

Prayers will be led by Rev Brian Roberts in the Council Chamber at 9.55 a.m., prior to the start of formal proceedings at 10.00 a.m.

The agenda previously circulated and published will be followed

Councillor T Bridges in the Chair

(Please note: There is no fire drill or fire alarm test planned for today, in the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave by the nearest fire exit and make your way to the car park at the front of County Offices)

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS – 21 FEBRUARY 2020

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

List of apologies to be read by Debbie Barnes OBE

2. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

Councillors to announce any interests

Note:-

Councillors are reminded that there is no need to declare an interest if it has already been recorded on the register of disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or notified to the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. Where councillors do declare an interest they must state what the interest is. Councillors must not speak or vote on the item if they have a DPI. Should you have any queries about declarations please seek advice from officers in advance of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2019

The Chairman to state:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 11 December 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman to state:-

Since the last meeting of the County Council I have continued to carry out my civic engagements with pride visiting places and meeting people and organisations from all around the County.

I thank the Vice-Chairman and Lady, Councillor Mike and Jackie Brookes, for representing us at civic functions when we have not been able to attend.

In particular, I was delighted to welcome politics students from the University of Lincoln when they undertook a model UN debate here in the Council Chamber over two days in January. It was heartening to see the enthusiasm from the students as they debated the hugely important issues of the day.

On a sadder note it is with regret that I have to report the sudden death of former Chief Finance Officer of the Council Mark Spink. Some of you may recall Mr Spink was County Treasurer from 1992 to 1995 and Director of Finance and Resources from 1995 to 1999. Mr Spink also spent two periods

as Interim Chief Executive during his time with us. I'm sure you will join me in offering our condolences to Mr Spink's family and friends.

A complete itinerary of civic engagements, since the last meeting of this Council, are available from the Civic Officer on request.

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

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.

When invited to ask your question, press the large button on your microphone to make it live, and press it again to switch it off once you have finished speaking.

6. COUNCIL BUDGET 2020/21 AND AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET FOR 2019/20

A report by the Executive Director - Resources has been circulated, together with a separate document entitled 'Council Budget 2020/21' which describes the Executive's Budget and council tax proposals.

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:

There will be one debate.

The Chairman to move:

That under paragraph 21.1 of the Council Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution procedure rules 13.4, 13.6 (b), 13.6 (c), 13.6 (d), 13.6 (e) and 13.10 (b) are temporarily suspended and

(1) 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 (at A and F on the Order of Proceedings)

(2) That proposers of any amendments listed in this order of proceedings each be allowed to speak without limit of time (at C on the Order of Proceedings)

(3) That Councillors seconding the motions, each be allowed to speak for 6 minutes (at B and D on the Order of Proceedings or at

E on the Order of Proceedings if they reserve their speech until later in the debate)

(4) That other speakers each be allowed to speak for 3 minutes (at E on the Order of Proceedings)

(5) That no further substantial amendments to be moved.

Councillor M Brookes 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:

Therefore, the debate will take the form as set out in paragraphs (A) to (G) 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 otherwise not 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:-

That the Council:

- 1. Has due regard to the responses to the consultation on the Council's budget proposals as contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix D - Budget Consultation 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 11 - 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 3.50% in 2020/21 set out in the appended 'Budget Book' (Appendix C – Impact Analysis relating to increasing the Council Tax by 3.50% in 2020/21);**
- 4. Approves:**
 - 4.1 The service revenue budgets for 2020/21 contained in the appended Budget Book, (Table 3 - Net Service Revenue Budget 2020/21);**
 - 4.2 The capital programme and its funding contained in the appended Budget Book (Section 8 - Capital Programme) and (Appendix P - Capital Programme);**
 - 4.3 The County Council element of the council tax for a Band D property at £1,337.58 for 2020/21 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix B - County Precept 2020/21);**

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 2020/21 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix O – Capital Strategy 2020/21);
7. Approves the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2020/21 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix G - Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy);
8. Approves the prudential targets for capital finance and notes the prudential indicators contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix N - Prudential Indicators);
9. 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 10 - Minimum Revenue Provision).
10. Approves the transfer of £5.000m from earmarked reserves arising from underspends in Dedicated Schools Grant to the 2019/20 Children's Services capital programme, to support the Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy.
11. Approves the establishment of a Development Fund earmarked reserve to fund new initiatives as set out in the appended Budget Book (Section 6 - Reserves, paragraph 6.3).

(B) Motion to be seconded by Councillor M A Whittington

(C) Amendment to be moved by Councillor R B Parker on behalf of the Labour Group

The Labour Group's alternative budget recognises that our residents look to the County Council to provide important services to protect and promote their interests. This is particularly true at a time when the Council Tax is being increased by 3.50% whilst the national rate of inflation is currently only 1.4% (Dec 2019). Not only that but the County Council projects that it will hold reserves of £55.769 million as at 31 March 2020 in the Financial Volatility account and, under this budget, expects reserves to be £61.926m in the Financial Volatility and Business Rates Volatility accounts.

The Labour Group position remains as stated in 2019; that there is no financial argument for the existence of a Business Rates Volatility Reserve. The balance of this reserve one year later remains at £6.157 million meaning that no use has been made of those reserves. Hence those funds could be used for funding other initiatives as the risk of there being a Business Rate shortfall in 2020/21 is still minimal. If a shortfall did occur it is argued that there are sufficient funds available in the Financial Volatility Reserve to meet

any deficit. Accordingly £6.157m should be released of which £3.632m is to be used on service developments in 2020/21 and the remaining £2.525m should be added to the Financial Volatility Reserve. £2.607m of the Financial Volatility Reserve will be required to fund the developments in 2021/22.

It is proposed that the following amendments are made to the circulated 'Council Budget 2020/21' report:

Extra Revenue Spending 2020/21 and 2021/22

		2020/21	2021/22
1.a	Social Mobility and Deprivation: 0-19 Health – 1 additional Health Visitor (£0.046m a year) Early Years Workforce Development – Recruiting communication and language champions and direct supporting of Early Years provision across the county. (£0.136m a year)	£0.182m	£0.182m
1.b	Social Mobility Task Force In East Lindsey: The likely impact over the two years would see more schools judged as Good or Better by Ofsted and the raising of attainment and progress of all pupils, particularly those that are disadvantaged at Key Stage 2 and 4 .	£0.425m	£0.425m
1.c	Social Mobility Task Force – Narrowing the gap in Gainsborough, Spalding and the Earlsfield area of Grantham.	£0.450m	£0.450m
1.d	Small Schools Project: to maximise outcomes for disadvantaged children in our 82 schools with 100 pupils or less.	£0.700	£0.700m
2.	Mobility Hub/Park and Ride – Outline Business Case	£1.000m	-
3.	Additional Bus Services - Feedback received from communities/bus users suggests that a lack of bus services on evenings and Sundays is a cause of concern and negatively impacts quality of life and limits access to key services. We propose a pilot of on demand bus services (CallConnect) on Sundays and on 2-3 evenings per week.	£0.850m	£0.850m
4.	Touring Exhibition - Usher Gallery (4 venues) – (This is dependent on the extra capital spending below)	£0.025m	-
	Total Extra Revenue Spending	£3.632m	£2.607m

Extra Capital Spending 2020/21

1.	Touring Exhibition – Usher Gallery – Presentation of the Exhibition	£0.035m
	Total Extra Capital Spending	£0.035m

Funding of the Extra Spending 2020/21

The proposal is that the Business Rates Volatility Reserve is dis-established and instead the Business Rates Volatility Reserve is added to the Financial Volatility reserve. The additional £6.239m (over 2 years) to meet the extra revenue spending commitments outlined above will be taken from the Financial Volatility Reserve. Under these proposals, that reserve account will have an estimated balance of £58.294m at 31/03/2021 and £55.687m at 31/03/2022.

All of the revenue proposals are or can be time-limited and will impact on the budget in 2020/21 and 2021/22 only.

The additional capital spending of £0.035m will be bid for from the New Capital Development Fund already included in the Capital Programme.

The Executive Director - Resources has confirmed that these proposals are compliant with the existing Financial Strategy of the Council and represent a balanced budget for 2020/21 and 2021/22. The outcome of the Government's Fairer Funding Review of local government funding has been further delayed by one year, the Council could potentially still face an ongoing budget deficit over the medium term with substantial savings or other actions needed in the period beyond April 2021 to deliver a balanced budget. These proposals change the funding available to assist in balancing future budgets from the Financial Volatility Reserve to £55.687m.

(D) To be seconded by Councillor R A Renshaw

Debate to take place

(E) Other Councillors

(F) Response by the Leader of the Council

(G) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the recorded votes to be taken in the following order:-

(i) Labour Group Amendment

(ii) Conservative Group Motion (Original or amended)

7. PAY POLICY STATEMENT AND GENDER PAY GAP ANALYSIS

A report by the Chief Executive has been circulated.

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

That the Council:

- 1. Approves the Pay Policy Statement at Appendix A as recommended by the Pay Policy Sub-Committee; and**
- 2. Notes the Gender Pay Gap Analysis at Appendix B**

Councillor B Young to second.

8. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION – FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

That the Council approves:-

- 1. The Financial Regulations set out in Appendix A of the report for inclusion in the Council's Constitution; and**
- 2. The amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee contained in Article 7.06 of the Council's Constitution set out and shown in Appendix C of the report.**

Councillor Mrs S Rawlins to second.

9. APPOINTMENT TO EASTERN SHIRES PURCHASING ORGANISATION (ESPO) – MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A report by the Executive Director - Resources has been circulated.

Councillor Mrs S Rawlins to move:

That Councillor A G Hagues be appointed to the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) – Management Committee.

Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell OBE to second.

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

Councillor R Wootten to move:

It is now over three years since Grantham Hospital A&E was closed overnight as a temporary measure. Councillors, campaign groups and residents across Lincolnshire have marched on several rallies, delivered petitions to Downing Street and, have attended board meetings to call on ULHT and the South West Lincolnshire CCG to re-open Grantham Hospital 24/7 for emergency treatment.

This Council therefore calls on the Leader of Lincolnshire County Council Councillor Martin Hill OBE to write to John Turner, Accountable Officer (joint role with South Lincolnshire CCG) and Andrew Morgan, Chief Executive United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust to:

- 1. Go out to full public consultation with their preferred options for the future of Grantham Hospital**
- 2. Re-open Grantham Hospital 24/7 as soon as possible for emergency treatment.**

Councillor M A Whittington to second.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

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

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

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCILLORS

COUNCIL MEETINGS – RULES OF DEBATE

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- 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 debate on the amendments, but may otherwise not speak on it; and
- c) The mover of the amendment has no right of reply to the debate on his or her amendment.

COUNCIL MEETINGS – INTERVENTION IN DEBATE

1. (a) Points of Order are just that. They must relate to the Council Procedure Rules or conduct of the meeting and generally will be drawing attention to a perceived breach, e.g.
 - (i) absence of a quorum;
 - (ii) order of speeches;
 - (iii) irrelevance;
 - (iv) time limit for speech exceeded;
 - (v) misconduct;
 - (vi) motion not seconded.
- (b) Examples of common intervention which are **NOT** points of order:-
 - (i) Points of information or Personal Explanation (as to which see below);
 - (ii) Disagreement with a speaker;
 - (iii) Further thoughts or clarification of a previous speech prompted by the speaker (unless amounting to a Personal Explanation);
 - (iv) Correction of a speakers opinion (rather than fact, which is a Point of Information);
 - (v) An attempt to "reply" to another Member's speech or a point made in it;
2. (a) Point of Information – when a Member is speaking and is obviously proceeding on the basis of information which is wrong or of which the member is ignorant, another member may properly seek to intervene to provide the correct or missing information, thereby saving the Council from being misled and saving its time.

- (b) ASKING FOR information is **NOT** a Point of Information; a member who has spoken may be able to request a colleague who has not yet spoken to ask;
- 3. (a) A Personal Explanation is a proper intervention only when an earlier speech by the Member is being misquoted or misrepresented;
- (b) It must not be used as a spurious pretext for reiteration of the Member's earlier speech or as a second speech.

4. Practice

Members rising to make one of the Points must specify which one is being used. The Member speaking should give way. The Point should be made briefly. The Chairman will then rule on it promptly, firmly and finally. There will be no debate nor will the ruling of the Chairman be open to discussion.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCILLORS

Recording Notice

Please note – this meeting will be recorded for subsequent audio broadcast via the Council's website. Data collected during the recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's policy.

Members of the public are also able to film, record, report and commentate on public meetings of local government bodies in England by various methods, including social media. Although there is a general presumption in favour of photography and audio/visual recording of meetings, proceedings must not be disrupted by the use of media tools.

People seated in the public gallery/seating area should not be photographed, filmed or recorded without the consent of the individuals concerned. This also applies to those individuals who may ask a public question, present a petition or make a representation at a Council meeting open to the public and who are not seated in a "public seating area".

If you have any queries regarding this please contact the Head of Democratic Services (01522) 552480.

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