

Agenda Item 5

VIRTUAL MEETING OF LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

18 SEPTEMBER 2020

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

VIRTUAL MEETING GUIDANCE

Today's proceedings will be audio broadcasted and recorded.

When invited to speak by the Chairman, councillors should unmute their microphone, and switch on their video.

When councillors have finished speaking they should mute their microphone, and switch off the video.

If a Councillor would like to speak, they are requested to use the meeting chat function and to type 'speak' as a comment (Members will usually only be invited to speak if they have indicated using the chat function). Requests will be collated by the Chairman supported by the Head of Democratic Services.

If a Councillor would like to raise a Point of Order they are requested to type 'PO' in the meeting chat, if they have a Point of Information they are requested to type 'PI' into the meeting chat, and to intervene by way of personal explanation, they are requested to type 'PE' into the meeting chat. (For clarification on intervention in debate, please see pages 10/11 of this Order of Proceedings)

The Democratic Services Officer will indicate in the meeting chat when a new item has begun.

Councillors are requested to use the meeting chat function if they are leaving or re-joining the meeting or have arrived after the roll call has been taken.

If Members lose connection during the meeting, it is recommended that they end the call using the red phone icon and re-join via the meeting link provided. If Members continue to experience IT issues please contact Democratic Services using the details listed on page 9 of this Order of Proceedings.

If the Chairman is made aware that the meeting is not accessible to the public through remote means, due to any technological or other failure of provision, then the Chairman shall adjourn the meeting immediately. If the provision of access through remote means cannot be restored within a reasonable period, then the remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Chairman. If he or she does not fix a date, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.

Members are requested to join the meeting through the link in the outlook appointment at least ten minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

The agenda previously circulated and published will be followed

Councillor M Brookes in the Chair

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS – 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

(Councillors are asked to ensure that their video and microphone are both off at the start of the meeting)

Nigel West to signal that the meeting is live with the words: "Good morning Chairman".

The Chairman to open the meeting and to introduce himself.

Chairman to state:

To enable the smooth running of this virtual meeting of the County Council I will shortly propose to suspend some of the Council procedure rules.

Head of Democratic Services, Nigel West, will then carry out a roll call to confirm attendance at the meeting and support for the motion.

In particular, to avoid numerous roll call votes and the length of time that such votes take, I propose to have a roll call vote on agenda item 8 – Review of Financial Performance and agenda item 10 - Motions on Notice and otherwise to conduct votes on other business on the agenda in the following way:

- a) I will ask if there are any councillors abstaining from the vote to indicate in the chat function by typing 'abstain'. The Head of Democratic Services will identify any members abstaining for the benefit of the public.
- b) I will then ask if there are any councillors voting against the motion to indicate by typing 'against' in the chat function.
- c) In the absence of any votes against I will declare the motion carried.
- d) If there are any votes against there will be a vote by roll call.

I therefore propose that the following Council procedure rules be suspended for the duration of the meeting, 13.2 (Right of the Chairman to require motion to be written down and handed to him), 15(c) (Every proposition to be decided by voices or show of hands), 15(d) (Where the decision of the Chairman is challenged on voices, requirement to have a show of hands), 19.1 (Standing to speak), Rule 19.2 (Chairman Standing).

Councillor T Bridges to second.

Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services, to ask Councillors to confirm their presence at the meeting and to clearly state whether they are voting for, against or abstaining in the motion to suspend the procedure rules listed above. **Councillors' names will be read out alphabetically. Councillors are requested to respond by unmuting their microphones only and saying 'present' followed by 'For', 'Against' or 'Abstain'.**

Nigel West to announce the result of the vote to suspend procedure rules.

The Chairman to confirm the decision.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

List of apologies to be read by Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services.

2. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

Councillors to indicate by typing 'speak' in the chat function if they have any interests they would like to declare.

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 26 JUNE 2020

The Chairman to state:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 26 June 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors abstaining from the vote to indicate in the chat function by typing 'abstain'.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors voting against the motion to indicate by typing 'against' in the chat function.

In the absence of any votes against the Chairman will declare the motion carried.

If there are any votes against there will be a vote by roll call.

4. MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2020

The Chairman to state:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 3 August 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors abstaining from the vote to indicate in the chat function by typing 'abstain'.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors voting against the motion to indicate by typing 'against' in the chat function.

In the absence of any votes against the Chairman will declare the motion carried.

If there are any votes against there will be a vote by roll call.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we move into Autumn we continue to adapt to new ways of working. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Officers for their continued efforts to ensure important Council services are delivered to the usual high standard Lincolnshire residents have come to expect.

We continue to see the devastating effects of Covid-19 across the country and I have heard many heartwarming stories of local residents and community groups in our county who are giving their time and working tirelessly to help others in need throughout this difficult time. Our wonderful NHS staff and key workers are continuing to work long and hard hours showing their commitment to keeping us all safe.

The Annual Remembrance Day Service will be held in Lincoln Cathedral on Sunday 8th November. Due to the current situation and the necessity to practice social distancing, this will be a much reduced service and as a result, County Councillors will not be invited to attend this year. As Chairman of the Council, I will be representing Lincolnshire County Council at the service.

My civic events have been curtailed but I am looking forward to visiting Lincolnshire residents during the recovery process once Government guidelines allow.

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

Statements by the Members of the Executive are detailed as report reference 6.0 in the agenda previously circulated.

7. 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 virtual 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, councillors should switch on their video and microphone, and switch them off again when they have finished speaking.

8. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2019/20

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

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

The County Council is recommended to:

- 1. Note the carry forwards set out in paragraphs 1.9 to 1.11 of the report, which are made in line with the Council's Financial Regulations;**
- 2. Approve the transfer of the underspends on service revenue budgets of up to 1.0% referred to in paragraph 1.9 into the Development Fund earmarked reserve;**
- 3. Approve the proposed use of carry forwards of over and under spending in excess of 1.0% as follows:-**
 - a) The transfer to reserves for non "business as usual" activity described in paragraph 1.12 and 1.13 of the report;**
 - b) The creation of a new earmarked reserve for capital financing as described in paragraph 1.14 and allow it to be included in "business as usual" activity in future years; and**
 - c) The transfer to the Development Fund earmarked reserve set out in paragraph 1.15 of the report;**
- 4. Note the position of earmarked reserves as at 31 March 2020 as shown in Table A of the report;**
- 5. Note the position in relation to general reserves set out in paragraph 1.19 to 1.20 and Table B of the report;**
- 6. Note the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts in 2019/20 as set out in paragraph 1.21 to 1.25 and detailed in Appendix A of the report; and**
- 7. Note performance against the Prudential Indicators for 2019/20 as set out in Table C of the report.**

Councillor M A Whittington to second.

The Chairman to invite any speakers.

The Chairman to ask Nigel West to carry out a roll call vote. Members are requested to only switch on their microphone and clearly state 'For', 'Against' or 'Abstain' when their name is called.

The Chairman to announce the result of the vote.

9. POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

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

(Note: Appendix A to the report has been circulated prior to the meeting)

Councillor Mrs J Brockway to move:

That the Council notes the change in membership of the political groups on the County Council and agrees the allocation of seats illustrated in the proportionality spreadsheet circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell OBE to second.

The Chairman to invite any speakers.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors abstaining from the vote to indicate in the chat function by typing 'abstain'.

Chairman to ask if there are any councillors voting against the motion to indicate by typing 'against' in the chat function.

In the absence of any votes against the Chairman will declare the motion carried.

If there are any votes against there will be a vote by roll call.

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

(1) Motion by Councillor M J Hill OBE

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

The Government's long-awaited 'Devolution White Paper', is expected to be published in early Autumn 2020. It is widely anticipated that it will provide some stimulus towards the Government's ambition to 'level up' the country and to further devolve powers and resources to enable greater local decision-making.

This provides an excellent opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire. We are an economic powerhouse, key to the Midlands Engine, the Humber 'Energy Estuary' and the Northern Powerhouse, integral to UK PLC and a major gateway to Europe. We have clear high-growth potential in key industry sectors and we have the space and political will to exploit this. If we can gain from the Government the devolution of a range of specific powers and control over the associated funding **we can achieve growth more quickly than**

anywhere else in the UK, enhance our collective financial resilience and establish a sustainable platform for our area to thrive, adapt and innovate.

The ten councils across Greater Lincolnshire have a proven track record of working in collaboration and already undertake many successful joint working opportunities, facilitated through the Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

The case for change, through a reduction in the number of local authorities and a consolidation of strategic powers is compelling for the following reasons:

- Lincolnshire cannot benefit from the Government's forthcoming devolution proposals without local government re-organisation.
- The current situation guarantees inconsistency in terms of inputs and outputs across Greater Lincolnshire.
- Duplication of teams, functions and services across Greater Lincolnshire leads to inefficiencies and poor value for money.
- The financial situation of local government, including in Greater Lincolnshire, is highly precarious.
- The current system doesn't allow local authorities to focus on, or succeed in, levelling up the economy.
- Local residents are confused by the different responsibilities of local government in two-tier areas.

This Council affirms its commitment to a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire and calls on the Executive to explore all opportunities with other Councils to submit proposals for local government reorganisation.

Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell OBE to second.

The Chairman to invite any speakers.

The Chairman to ask Nigel West to carry out a roll call vote. Members are requested to only switch on their microphone and clearly state 'For', 'Against' or 'Abstain' when their name is called.

The Chairman to announce the result of the vote.

(2) Motion by Councillor R B Parker

Councillor R B Parker to move:

We are sure that this council recognises the contribution made by so many people and organisations across Lincolnshire to protect the health and well-being of Lincolnshire residents during the current Covid-19 pandemic. We will particularly want to acknowledge the major contribution to the safety and well-being of our residents made by County Council staff, NHS workers, Care Workers, Voluntary and Statutory organisations, Parish Councils, Community

groups, including Food Banks, and people in local communities who have looked out for vulnerable people.

This council will also recognise that Covid-19 cases are again rising, with the likelihood - without government intervention - that the virus will continue to spread, hospital admissions will increase and sadly deaths will follow. In addition, the national and local economy will continue to deteriorate with a loss of jobs and businesses going under and, more than likely, schools will again be affected with the likelihood of blended or on-line learning becoming necessary.

It is imperative that the government commits to a nation-wide maximum suppression strategy with the aim of stopping community transmission of Covid-19. The present test, track and trace is just not good enough with people being expected to travel long distances, hundreds of miles in some cases and delays in getting back test results. Matters are likely to get even worse without fundamental improvements as winter approaches with the likelihood of increased demand for tests as people catch other seasonal viruses. Further, NHS Providers, the body representing hospital trusts in England, have made it clear that 'NHS staff are having to self-isolate in the absence of a test for either them or their loved ones, taking valuable NHS staff away from the frontline where they are needed.' - a situation this council would not wish to see continue.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also revealed the failings of our centralised system of governance. Examples are the poor management and distribution (particularly to Care Homes) of Personal Protective Equipment; delays in the sharing of data on infection rates and the quickly withdrawn promise made to local councils to 'spend whatever it takes' to respond to the pandemic, which has led to some councils spending more on responding to the cost pressures of Covid -19 than funding granted by government.

This council therefore calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister calling for

- 1) Substantial improvements to the test, trace and track system to ensure that tests are readily available and results are returned within 24 hours;**
- 2) The English Devolution Bill to be used to deliver**
 - (a) more powers to local councils without necessarily strings being attached**
 - (b) 'Levelling up' agenda so as to reduce the inequalities including government funding that exist between different parts of England.**

Councillor R A Renshaw to second.

The Chairman to invite any speakers.

The Chairman to ask Nigel West to carry out a roll call vote. Members are requested to only switch on their microphone and clearly state 'For', 'Against' or 'Abstain' when their name is called.

The Chairman to announce the result of the vote.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Members should immediately end the call using the red phone icon.

Contact Details

In the event of IT disruption please contact:

Simon Firth - e-mail: simon.firth1@serco.com or tel: 07718 193180

David Hair – e-mail: davidr.hair@lincolnshire.gov.uk or tel: 07387 133753

Kim Khajehnoori - e-mail: kim.khajehnoori@lincolnshire.gov.uk or tel: 07387 133582

Tracy Johnson - e-mail: tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk or tel: 07552 253814

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCILLORS

COUNCIL MEETINGS – RULES OF DEBATE

(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 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 speaker's 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.

This page is intentionally left blank