

Agenda Item 4

MEETING OF LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

23 February 2024

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

MEETING GUIDANCE

The proceedings will be live streamed and recorded.

Please note there is no fire drill or fire alarm test planned, 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.

Members should be mindful that the new high-performing loop system is sensitive to any type of noise in the Chamber. Ambient sound from the Chamber immediately prior to meetings, and during open session may be picked up by the loop, and therefore Councillors should conduct private conversations outside of the Chamber. The loop will be muted at the close of the meeting.

If a member would like to speak, they should raise their hand so it can be clearly seen.

Requests to speak will be monitored by Democratic Services, and managed by the Chairman, with the assistance of the Chief Executive.

When the Chairman invites you to speak, you should press the button on your microphone unit to make it live. Please speak directly into the microphone and press the button again to switch it off once you have finished speaking.

Prayers will be led by Reverend Carolyn Bailey in the Council Chamber at 9.50 a.m., prior to the start of formal proceedings at 10.00 a.m.

The agenda previously circulated and published will be followed

Councillor R P H Reid in the Chair.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS – 23 February 2024

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

List of apologies to be read by Chief Executive, Debbie Barnes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

Councillors to indicate if they have any interests they wish 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. A councillor who is aware that they have a DPI in a matter under consideration, must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room during discussion of the matter.

Councillors are also reminded that if they are a homeowner or tenant in the area of the council their beneficial interest in the land is not a DPI in the matter of setting the council tax or precept since decisions on the council tax or precept do not materially affect their interest in the land.

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 1 DECEMBER 2023

The Chairman to state:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 1 December 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman to state:

Since the last meeting of the Council, I have continued to represent the County Council and carry out civic engagements.

A particular highlight was when Julia and I attended RAF Cranwell Military Wives event and learnt about their charitable work in their community. We were also

delighted to attend the Carol Service in Lincoln Cathedral on Christmas Eve which was truly superb.

Yesterday I was delighted to join the Lord-Lieutenant and the Mayor of Lincoln for the official Coronation tree planting ceremony at The Lawn, a tree which was gifted by His Majesty. I think we all join together in wishing His Majesty well following his recent diagnosis.

It is with great sadness that I must report the death of County Councillor Robert Parker.

Councillor Parker represented the Lincoln West Electoral Division, later the Carholme Division, from his election to the Council in 1989 until his recent resignation owing to ill health.

He served as Leader of the Council between 1993 and 1997 and as Leader of the Labour Group for many years prior and following this.

I also have to report the death of former county councillor Brian Knight.

Mr Knight was first elected to the County Council in May 1997 and represented the Gainsborough Rural South electoral division, until May 2005.

I invite you all to stand for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for both gentlemen.

[Following the silence Chairman to invite councillors to speak]

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

5. STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Chairman to provide opportunity for statements.

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

The Chairman to move:

That insofar as it prevents the asking of questions at the annual budget meeting Council Procedure Rule 10.2 be suspended for the duration of Item 5 on the agenda.

Councillor E W Strengiel to second

Vote on the Temporary Suspension of Procedure Rules

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 their question, councillors should press the button on their microphone to make it live and press it again once they have finished speaking.

7. COUNCIL BUDGET 2024/25

A report by the Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources has been circulated, together with a separate document entitled 'Council Budget 2024/25'.

An amendment by the Shadow Executive has been submitted.

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

Temporary Suspension of Council Procedure Rules

The Chairman to move:

That there be one debate on the Executive's budget proposals and the amendment by the Shadow Executive and therefore that Council Procedure Rules 13.4 (Content and length of speeches), 13.6 (b), 13.6 (c), 13.6 (d), 13.6 (e) (Amendments to motions) and 13.10 (b) (Motions which may be moved during debate) be temporarily suspended for the duration of the debate and

- (1) 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 this Order of Proceedings)**
- (2) That the proposer of the amendment listed in this order of proceedings be allowed to speak without limit of time (at C on this Order of Proceedings)**
- (3) That Councillors seconding the motions, each be allowed to speak for 6 minutes (at B and D on this Order of Proceedings or at E on this 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 this Order of Proceedings)**
- (5) That no further amendments be moved.**

Councillor E W Strengiel to second

Vote on the Temporary Suspension of Council Procedure Rules

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) and (ii) below:

Except as set out in rules 13.5 and 13.9 below, councillors are only allowed to speak once during the debate. Therefore, the motion and any amendment(s) will proceed as one debate.

Therefore, the debate will take the form as set out in paragraphs (A) to (G) on pages 5 to 9 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.

(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 engagement and consultation feedback on the Council's budget proposals as contained in the Budget Book (Appendix D - Budget Engagement and 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 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 2024/25 set out in the appended 'Budget Book' (Appendix C – Equality Impact Analysis relating to the council tax proposal in 2024/25);
4. approves:
 - 4.1 the service revenue budgets for 2024/25 contained in the Budget Book, (Table 2 - Net Service Revenue Budget 2024/25), as amended by recommendation 5 below;
 - 4.2 the capital programme and its funding contained in the Budget Book (Section 7 - Capital Programme) and (Appendix O - Capital Investment Programme);
 - 4.3 the County Council element of the council tax for a Band D property at £1,578.69 for 2024/25 contained in the Budget Book (Appendix B - County Precept 2024/25);

as together being the Council's Budget.
5. agrees that the following spending priorities be funded via the additional general fund capacity of £7.793m created by the final settlement:

Additional Investment	£	Recurring
Flooding and Drainage Measures		
Highways Drainage & Jetting	1,800,000	Recurring
Flooding Team	215,000	Recurring
Flooding Design Work	878,000	
Highways Maintenance		
Highways at 23/24 levels	2,500,000	
Public Protection		
Anti Social Behaviour Measures	1,000,000	
Fire & Rescue Flood Response		
Additional PPE, pump and vehicle for flood response	400,000	
Environmental		
Green Masterplan Delivery, tourism, public rights of way	1,000,000	
TOTAL (2024/25)	7,793,000	
TOTAL (RECURRING)	2,015,000	

6. approves the Council's Financial Strategy contained in the Budget Book (**Appendix E – The Financial Strategy**);

7. approves the Council's Capital Strategy contained in the Budget Book (**Appendix N** – Capital Strategy 2024/25);
8. approves the prudential targets for capital finance and notes the prudential indicators contained in the Budget Book (**Appendix M** - 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 9** - Minimum Revenue Provision).

Section 151 commentary on the proposed changes:

“The proposal represents a valid motion to amend the budget submitted to Council by the Executive and is balanced. It contains £2.015m of recurring expenditure proposals which will have a corresponding impact on budget gaps in 2025/26 and beyond. The proposal amends Table 2 in the budget book and an updated version of this document will be available following the Council meeting”.

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

(C) Councillor K E Lee to move the Shadow Executive amendment:

That the Council:

1. has due regard to the responses to the engagement and consultation feedback on the Council's budget proposals as contained in the Budget Book (Appendix D - Budget Engagement and 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 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 2024/25 set out in the appended 'Budget Book' (Appendix C – Equality Impact Analysis relating to the council tax proposal in 2024/25);
4. approves:
 - 4.1 the service revenue budgets for 2024/25 contained in the Budget Book, (Table 2 - Net Service Revenue Budget 2024/25), as amended by recommendation 5 below;
 - 4.2 the capital programme and its funding contained in the Budget Book (Section 7 - Capital Programme) and (Appendix O - Capital Investment Programme);

4.3 the County Council element of the council tax for a Band D property at £1,578.69 for 2024/25 contained in the Budget Book (Appendix B - County Precept 2024/25);

as together being the Council's Budget.

5. agrees that the following spending priorities be funded via the additional general fund capacity of £7.793m created by the final settlement:

Additional Investment	£	Recurring
Flooding and Drainage Measures		
Highways Drainage & Jetting	1,800,000	Recurring
Flooding Team	215,000	Recurring
Flooding Design Work	878,555,000	
Highways Maintenance	2,5001,000,000	
Public Protection		
Anti Social Behaviour Measures	1,000,000	
Fire & Rescue Flood Response		
F&R additional PPE, pump and vehicle for flood response	400,000	
Environmental		
Green Masterplan Delivery, tourism, public rights of way	1,000,000	
<u>Citizens Advice Funding</u>	<u>50,000</u>	
<u>Library Funding</u>	<u>50,000</u>	
<u>Holiday Activity Fund</u>	<u>156,000</u>	
<u>SEND Support Workers</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	
<u>SEND Workforce Development Programme</u>	<u>350,000</u>	
<u>Early Years Sector Support</u>	<u>217,000</u>	Recurring
TOTAL (2024/25)	7,793,000	
TOTAL (RECURRING)	2,015,000 <u>2,232,000</u>	

6. approves the Council's Financial Strategy contained in the Budget Book (**Appendix E** – The Financial Strategy);
7. approves the Council's Capital Strategy contained in the Budget Book (**Appendix N** – Capital Strategy 2024/25);
8. approves the prudential targets for capital finance and notes the prudential indicators contained in the Budget Book (**Appendix M** - 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 9** - Minimum Revenue Provision).

Section 151 commentary on the proposed changes:

“The proposal represents a valid amendment to the motion moved. It contains £2.232m of recurring expenditure proposals which will have a corresponding impact on budget gaps in 2025/26 and beyond. The proposal amends Table 2 in the budget book and an updated version of this document will be available following the Council meeting”

(D) To be seconded by Councillor P M Dilks

Debate to take place

(E) Other Councillors

(F) Response by the Leader of the Council

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

- (i) Shadow Executive Amendment
- (ii) Conservative Group Motion (Original or amended)

8. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024/25

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

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

That the Council approves the Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 attached as Appendix A as recommended by the Pay Policy Sub-Committee.

Councillor S Bunney to second.

9. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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

Councillor Mrs S Rawlins to move:

That the Council receives the Audit Committee Annual Report 2023.

Councillor M G Allan 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

(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 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 making 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.

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