

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT CIVIC SUITE 2, BROCKS HILL COUNCIL OFFICES, WASHBROOK LANE, OADBY,
LEICESTER, LE2 5JJ ON TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT

M H Charlesworth Chair
F S Broadley Vice-Chair



Meeting ID: 2571

COUNCILLORS

N Alam
L A Bentley
G A Boulter
J K Ford
D A Gamble
C S Gore
S Z Haq
G G Hunt
K J Loydall

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

S J Ball	Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer
B Bull	Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer
J Carr	Planning Policy and Development Manager
L Chevallereau	Planning Policy & Monitoring Officer
A E Court	Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
D M Gill	Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer
T Hatton	Head of Customer Service & Transformation
R Helliwell	Communications and Marketing Manager
S Khan	Interim Strategic Director
T Neal	Strategic Director
A Thorpe	Head of Built Environment
J To	Graduate Officer (UK Shared Prosperity Fund)

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillors M L Darr, P Joshi and I K Ridley.

26. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

None.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N Alam declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to item 12 of the agenda, insofar as owning a rental property in South Wigston.

Councillor G A Boulter declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to 14 of the agenda, insofar as being the director of the Wigston Framework Knitters Museum.

Councillor C S Gore declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to item 12 of the

agenda, insofar as renting a plot in the Aylestone Lane allotments.

28. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor G A Boulter, seconded by Councillor K J Loydall, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 12 September, 2023 be taken as read, confirmed and approved.

29. ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

30. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

31. ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY (2023-2028)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 7 - 38 of the agenda reports pack), which asked it to approve the Economic Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan 2023-28.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The Council's Economic Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan 2023-28 be approved.**

32. REVISED DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (2023)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 39 – 78 of the agenda reports pack), which asked it to approve the revised Statement of Community Involvement for an 8 week public consultation.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor K J Loydall, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The revised Statement of Community Involvement be approved for the purpose of an 8 week public consultation to commence on Wednesday 13 December 2023.**

33. PROCUREMENT POLICY (2023-2026)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 79 - 110 of the agenda reports pack), which asked it to approve the updated Procurement Policy for the Council.

It was moved by Councillor G A Boulter, seconded by the Vice-Chair, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) **The content of the report and appendix be approved.**

34. BUDGET MONITORING (Q2 2023/24)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 111 – 125 of the agenda reports pack), which provided an update on the forecast financial position for the Council for the financial year 2023/24, as at the end of the second quarter.

By general affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) **The contents of the report and appendices be noted.**

It was noted that recommendation B should read "(section 2.11)" and subject to this amendment, it was moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair, and

RESOLVED THAT:

- ii) **The supplementary budget for the essential temporary resources in the Finance Team (section 2.11) be approved.**

Votes For	8
Votes Against	3
Abstentions	0

35. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT (2023/24)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 126 - 135 of the agenda reports pack), which detailed the performance and activities of the authority's treasury management function for the financial year 2023/24 to 30th September 2023.

It was moved by Councillor G A Boulter, seconded by the Chair, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) **The content of the report and appendices be noted.**

36. 2024/25 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND 2024/25 – 2026/27 DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMMES

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 3 - 42 of the agenda update), which presented the revised General Fund Annual Budget for 2024/25 and an updated MTFP for 2024/25 to 2026/27, provided an update on the capital programme for 2024/25 and presented the HRA Annual Budget for 2024/25.

The Chair noted that due to ongoing discussions around recommendation C, the recommendation would instead read "Recommends to Council that the Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan be considered by Full Council on 12 December."

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor G A Boulter, and an amendment was

proposed by Councillor C S Gore and seconded by Councillor N Alam that recommendation B read "Recommends to Council that the general fund balance reserve is no longer used to balance the budget and recognise the mistake in using the balance for this purpose for as long as it has been doing."

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

The amendment to recommendation B be rejected.

Votes For 3
Votes Against 8
Abstentions 0

IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The content of the report and appendices be noted;**
- ii) The general fund balance reserve no longer be used to balance the budget; and**
- iii) The Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan be considered at Full Council on Tuesday 12 December 2023.**

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

- iv) An increase in housing rents, service charges and garage rents by the maximum social rent level of 7.7% (subject to any changes being announced on the rent setting formula) be recommended to Full Council.**

Votes For 8
Votes Against 3
Abstentions 0

37. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY UPDATE (2023)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 43 - 48 of the agenda update), which provided an update on the review of the Council's MRP Policy and proposed a change in the MRP methodology and presented a revised MRP Policy for approval to allow the change in methodology to be implemented.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair, and

RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The change in MRP methodology be recommended to and approved by Full Council; and**
- ii) The revised MRP Policy be recommended to and approved by Full Council to enable the change in methodology to be implemented.**

Votes For 8
Votes Against 3
Abstentions 0

38. INCOME GENERATION UPDATE AND ADVERTISING / SPONSORSHIP POLICY

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 49 - 61 of the agenda update) which provided an update on income generation projects and asked it to approve the new Advertising and Sponsorship Policy.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The content of the report be noted;**
- ii) The new Advertising and Sponsorship Policy be approved; and**
- iii) The new fees and charged for Advertising and Sponsorship for 2023/24 be approved.**

39. ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGY (2023)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 154 - 165 of the agenda reports pack) which presented a draft Organisational Strategy for approval.

It was moved by Councillor L A Bentley, seconded by Councillor S Z Haq, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The item be deferred until after the budget setting process and pending further Member involvement.**

40. STANDARDS & ETHICAL INDICATORS (Q2 2023/24)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 166 - 176 of the agenda reports pack) which presented the figures for local determination of complaints and ethical indicators for Q2 2023/24.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The contents of the report and appendix be noted.**

41. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

By general affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (Exempt Information) during consideration of the item(s) below on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exempt item(s) outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.**

42. INSURANCE AND LEISURE OPERATOR CONTRACT (EXEMPT)

The Committee gave consideration to the exempt report and appendix (as set out at pages 177 - 184 of the agenda reports pack) which asked the Committee to note the information provided and recommend to Full Council acceptance of recommendation B.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor G A Boulter, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) Recommendation A be noted.**

It was moved by Councillor K J Loydall, seconded by Councillor D A Gamble, and

RESOLVED THAT:

- ii) Recommendation B be accepted by Full Council.**

Votes For	10
Votes Against	0
Abstentions	1

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- iii) Recommendation C be noted.**

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.25 pm