

**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, 24 MARCH 2026 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT

I K Ridley Chair
S S Athwal Vice-Chair



Meeting ID: 2986

COUNCILLORS

N Alam
L A Bentley
G A Boulter
M H Charlesworth
M L Darr
D A Gamble
F S Ghattoraya
C S Gore
S Z Haq
P Joshi
J Kaufman
K J Loydall

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

D Gill Legal Consultant / Interim Monitoring Officer
R Gill IT Operations and Security Manager
T Hatton Head of Policy, Performance & Transformation
A Thorpe Head of Built Environment
C Warren Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer
S Wheeliker Senior Democratic & Electoral Services Officer

130. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J K Ford.

131. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

Councillor F S Ghattoraya substituted for Councillor J K Ford.

132. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M H Charlesworth declared a pecuniary interest with regard to item 11 of the agenda, insofar as he lived in a conservation area.

Councillor G A Boulter declared pecuniary interests with regard to item 8 of the agenda, insofar as he was the Chair of the trustees for the Wigston Framework Knitters Museum and he rented an allotment in Manchester Gardens.

133. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 February 2026 be taken as read, confirmed and approved.

134. ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

135. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

136. MOTION TO NAME A ROAD IN HONOUR OF HOWARD RILEY

The Committee gave consideration to the Motion on Notice (as set out at page 8 of the agenda reports pack) which sought agreement to name a road in honour of Howard Riley.

It was moved by Councillor M H Charlesworth, seconded by Councillor N Alam and

RESOLVED THAT:

The motion be approved.

**For 13
Against 0
Abstentions 1**

137. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

138. BUDGET MONITORING (Q3 2025/26)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 9 – 25 of the agenda reports pack) which provided the Committee with the forecast Outturn position for the Council for the financial year 2025/26, at the end Quarter 3, April – December.

Councillor N Alam left the meeting at 7:30pm and returned at 7:32pm.

The Chair requested an action list be created for the next meeting to clarify both the historical and current policy position on honoraria.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The contents of the Quarter 3 report and Appendices be noted; and**
- ii) The carry forward of slippage as shown in the Capital projects be approved.**

139. BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY POLICY (2026)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 26 –

38 of the agenda reports pack) which sought approval of a new Business Rates Discretionary Policy.

Councillor F S Ghattoraya left the meeting at 7:42pm and returned at 7:51pm.

Councillors requested further information be provided prior to making any decision.

It was moved by Councillor G A Boulter, seconded by Councillor S Z Haq and

RESOLVED THAT:

The report be deferred to a subsequent meeting of the Committee.

For 12

Against 0

Abstentions 1

140. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY (2026)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 39 – 51 of the agenda reports pack) which sought approval of the Artificial Intelligence Policy (2026).

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The content of the report and appendices be noted; and**
- ii) The Artificial Intelligence Policy (2026) at Appendix 1 be approved.**

141. DRAFT CONSERVATION AREAS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (MARCH 2026)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 52 – 117 of the agenda reports pack) which sought approval of the Draft Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document to go out to public consultation for a 6-week period.

It was moved by Councillor L A Bentley, seconded by Councillor K J Loydall and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The Draft Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (March 2026) be approved for the purposes of public consultation proposed to commence Friday, 27 March 2026, running until Friday, 8 May 2026.

142. DRAFT RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPRING 2026)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 118 – 148 of the agenda reports pack) which sought approval of the Draft Residential Development Supplementary Planning Document to go out to public consultation for a 6-week period.

Councillor M L Darr left the meeting at 8:30pm and returned at 8:33pm.

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

RESOLVED THAT:

The Draft Residential Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) be approved for the purposes of public consultation proposed to commence Friday 27 March 2026, running until Friday 8 May 2026.

For 12
Against 0
Abstentions 1

143. RESIDENT'S FORUM FUNDING REQUEST

The Committee gave consideration to the report (as set out at pages 149 – 151 of the agenda reports pack) which sought approval of a funding request from the South Wigston Residents' Forum.

It was moved by Councillor G A Boulter, seconded by Councillor L A Bentley and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The content of the report be noted; and**
- ii) The request for funds to be released to the requesting party be approved.**

144. STANDARDS & ETHICAL INDICATORS (Q3 2025/26)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 152 – 162 of the agenda reports pack) which presented the figures for local determination of complaints and ethical indicators for Q3 2025/26.

The Chair requested that the action list include Councillor M H Charlesworth's request for Officers to look into publishing a public log of all FOIs.

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The content of the report and appendix be noted.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.34 pm