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NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

18th February 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Present

Councillor Hasthorpe (in the Chair)

Councillors Abel, Barber, Barfield, Beasant, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Fenty, Furneaux, Goodwin, Green, Harness, Hudson, Hyldon-King, Jackson, James, Lindley, Mickleburgh, Nichols, Nici, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Procter, Rodwell, Rogers, Rudd, Shepherd, Sheridan, Shreeve, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Watson, Wheatley, Wilson and Woodward.

Officers in Attendance:

- Rob Walsh (Chief Executive)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets) (Monitoring Officer)
- Iain Lovell (Assistant Director Communications)
- Sharon Wroot (Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)

NEL.122 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received for this meeting.

NEL.123 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Rodwell declared a personal interest in item NEL.124 as an employee of Navigo.

Councillor Green declared a personal interest in item NEL.124 as her partner is an employee of Care Plus.

Councillor Rogers declared a personal interest in item NEL.124 as an employee of the North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

NEL.124 BUDGET, FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING PLANS 2021/22 – 2023/24

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets setting out the Budget, Finance and Commissioning Plans which outlined how the Council planned to deliver its financial strategy over the coming three year period. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 10th February, 2021 and its recommendations were referred to Council for approval. Additional recommendations from Cabinet had been circulated for inclusion in the final budget recommendations to Council.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jackson, made his budget statement and moved the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Jackson referred to the devastating and continuing effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the national and local economy. While the economic recovery challenge that laid ahead would put the Council and our partners to the test, he felt that the last twelve months had proven that collaboration and partnership was strong and effective in North East Lincolnshire. The Leader commented on the need, as a Council, to ensure that we have the financial resilience, by way of reserves, to be able to mitigate the ongoing risks associated with the pandemic. Demand was likely to continue to grow in children's and adult services but vulnerable families and communities across the Borough were also likely to need additional support. The administration's priorities remained a stronger economy and stronger communities.

The Council's role in enabling and facilitating economic growth and regeneration remained fundamental to building the Borough's longer-term resilience. Subject to the submission of satisfactory amended proposals by the end of next week, the council would be in receipt of £17.28 million of Future High Street Grant Funding, the single largest regeneration grant in the council's history. Outline plans had also been submitted to Government for seven other regeneration and enhancement projects around Grimsby town centre with the potential drawdown of £25 million of ring-fenced Towns Fund grant monies. This was in addition to the current public realm improvements being undertaken in the town centre. The Leader referred to the administration's determination to ensure Cleethorpes remained an exciting and vibrant resort, exemplified by the considerable Government grant monies received for public realm works, most of which had been completed during the past year. Councillor Jackson reported on the continued progress with the South Humber Inward Investment Programme; a major driver for new jobs and the source of much needed additional business rate income. He fully supported the recently submitted Humber Freeport bid which was an exciting opportunity to boost business, jobs and prosperity in the area. The Leader felt that decarbonisation, renewables and a green recovery should become our Borough's unique selling point, and the administration would continue to support our sectors in build on our renewable energy credentials and, in so doing, enhance local supply chain opportunities, all contributing to our Borough's financial resilience. The administration had also continued to spearhead the infrastructure improvements needed to help attract new business

and build more homes. The next year would see further improvements to our waste and recycling services, with the initial trials of weekly food waste collections and the collection of more types of plastic. There had already been a major increase in our recycling rates, after many years of stagnation under the previous administration. Resources and capacity had been included in next year's budget to maintain and enhance the street scene improvements brought about over the past two years. The Leader referred to the three-year extension of the contract with ENGIE, which not only provided stronger strategic oversight by the Council and enhanced service levels, but guaranteed a saving of £1.1 million per year on the cost of the contract.

The Leader then detailed the four further amendments made to the budget at Cabinet, all to be funded from reserves. These provided for an increase in the council tax hardship fund, an increase in ward funding, investment in the development of play parks and further investment in the green agenda.

In conclusion the Leader thanked officers at all levels in the Council for the tireless work they had put into the Budget, Finance and Commissioning Plan. He also thanked his Cabinet members for all the detailed budget work they had done in their individual portfolio areas and all members for their input during the various budget scrutiny meetings. He felt that this was a positive and forward-looking Budget, Finance and Commissioning Plan that built on the solid achievements of the first two years of this Conservative administration.

Councillor Shreeve, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, seconded the budget recommendations and summarised the key points in the report.

Councillor Patrick, as Leader of the Labour Group, voiced his opposition to the budget proposals. He felt that the budget failed to provide ambition, vision, compassion and leadership at a time when it was most needed by the residents of the Borough. While acknowledging the extra funding provided by the Government, he argued that local authorities should have been fully funded, in order to meet the challenges arising from the pandemic. Instead, residents faced the maximum Council Tax increase possible for the next three years against a backdrop of declining services, rising unemployment and child poverty at its highest level since records began. He criticised plans to further reduce Council Tax support and attacked the closure of the Floral Hall in People's Park as cutting services to those that needed it most. He also criticised the cuts to the family hubs provision and the reductions to the anti-social behaviour budget, the homelessness budget and to access to recycling. He condemned the budget proposals as outdated, misplaced and irrelevant to the real needs of the residents of the Borough.

Following a debate, the Deputy Mayor put the budget recommendations to a recorded vote in accordance with the Constitution. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the Motion

Councillors Abel, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Fenty, Furneaux, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Nici, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Procter, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn and Woodward (22 votes).

Against the Motion

Councillors Barber, Barfield, Beasant, Goodwin, Green, Hyldon-King, James, Mickleburgh, Nichols, Patrick, Rodwell, Rogers, Rudd, Sheridan, Watson, Wheatley and Wilson (17 votes).

The motion was therefore declared carried and it was

RESOLVED –

1. That the 2021/22 Budget and summary 2021/22 – 2023/24 Medium Term Financial Plan contained within Appendix 1 of the report now submitted, be approved.
2. That the proposed 1.98% increase in Council Tax, be approved.
3. That the proposed 3% Adult Social Care precept in 2021/22, be approved.
4. That the Commissioning Briefs, contained within Appendix 1 (Annex 1) of the report now submitted, be approved.
5. That the Capital Investment Strategy, included within Appendix 1 (Annex 3) of the report now submitted, be approved.
6. That the 2021/22 - 2023/24 Capital Programme, set out in Appendix 1 (Annex 2), of the report now submitted, be approved.
7. That the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy, included within Appendix 1 (Annex 7) of the report now submitted, be approved.
8. That the uncertainty relating to the impact of COVID-19 and other significant external factors, be noted and the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources be requested to report to Cabinet any significant variances against planning assumptions.
9. That the creation of a COVID-19 reserve to mitigate against the ongoing risks associated with the pandemic, be approved.
10. That the Outcomes Framework be reviewed alongside the Council's recovery plan and that a further report be brought to Cabinet and Council by June 2021.

11. That it be approved for the council tax hardship fund to be increased by £200k in 2021, to provide additional support to those households in hardship.
12. That it be approved for ward funding to be increased by £2.5k per ward, to provide ward councillors with additional capacity to support communities.
13. That an investment of up to £90k per annum in revenue, supported by a programme of capital investment (to include consideration of anti social behaviour deterrents) which would be developed to undertake a programme of investment in the 53 play parks across the borough, in support of the health and well being of our residents and to recognise the value placed in our parks and open spaces, be approved.
14. That a revenue investment of up to £80k per annum in the Green agenda, to vastly improve our approach to environmental sustainability, including access to external funding, be approved.
15. That the resolutions 11 – 14 above, be funded from a reduction in reserves.

NEL.125 COUNCIL TAX 2021/22

Following the setting of the Budget for 2021/22, the Council considered the fixing of the Council Tax for the 2021/22 financial year.

A recorded vote was taken in accordance with the Constitution and the votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the Motion

Councillors Abel, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Fenty, Furneaux, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Nici, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Procter, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn and Woodward (22 votes).

Against the Motion

Councillors Barber, Barfield, Beasant, Goodwin, Green, Hyldon-King, James, Mickleburgh, Nichols, Patrick, Rodwell, Rogers, Rudd, Sheridan, Watson, Wheatley and Wilson (17 votes).

The motion was therefore declared carried and it was

RESOLVED –

1. That it be noted that on 17th December 2020 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for 2021/22:

- (a) for the whole Council area as 44,405.42 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
- (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as detailed below and in the attached Appendix A.

<u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	
Parish of Ashby-cum-Fenby	120.23
Parish of Barnoldby-Le-Beck	162.54
Parish of Bradley	78.51
Parish of Brigsley	169.79
Parish of Great Coates	478.08
Parish of Habrough	201.65
Parish of Healing	1,108.97
Parish of Humberston	2,370.75
Town of Immingham	2,491.77
Parish of Irby upon Humber	58.03
Parish of Laceby	1,082.66
Parish of New Waltham	1,853.17
Parish of Stallingborough	427.97
Parish of Waltham	2,152.99
Cleethorpes	9,384.35
Grimsby	22,015.96
TOTAL	44,157.42
Note - The Council tax base total for parish areas to which no special items relate is:	248.00

2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 (excluding Parish precepts) is £74,160,986.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- (a) £284,441,211 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- (b) (£209,511,771) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

- (c) £74,929,440 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) £1,687.39 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £811,909.94 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix A) and Charter Trustees.
- (f) £1,669.11 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
- (g) £1.38 Grimsby and Cleethorpes Special £43,455.62
Expense area
being the amounts to be added to the amount at 3(f) above being the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Councils area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h) Part of the Council's Area

	Valuation Bands							
	A £ . p	B £ . p	C £ . p	D £ . p	E £ . p	F £ . p	G £ . p	H £ . p
Parish of Ashby-cum-Fenby	1,133.35	1,322.24	1,511.13	1,700.02	2,077.80	2,455.58	2,833.37	3,400.04
Parish of Barnoldby-le-Beck	1,122.58	1,309.68	1,496.77	1,683.87	2,058.06	2,432.26	2,806.45	3,367.74
Parish of Bradley	1,146.71	1,337.82	1,528.94	1,720.06	2,102.30	2,484.53	2,866.77	3,440.12
Parish of Brigsley	1,124.51	1,311.92	1,499.34	1,686.76	2,061.60	2,436.43	2,811.27	3,373.52
Parish of Great Coates	1,160.15	1,353.51	1,546.87	1,740.23	2,126.95	2,513.67	2,900.38	3,480.46
Parish of Habrough	1,125.98	1,313.64	1,501.31	1,688.97	2,064.30	2,439.62	2,814.95	3,377.94
Parish of Healing	1,142.80	1,333.27	1,523.73	1,714.20	2,095.13	2,476.07	2,857.00	3,428.40
Parish of Humberston	1,138.89	1,328.71	1,518.52	1,708.34	2,087.97	2,467.60	2,847.23	3,416.68
Town of Immingham	1,202.14	1,402.50	1,602.85	1,803.21	2,203.92	2,604.64	3,005.35	3,606.42
Parish of Irby	1,143.76	1,334.39	1,525.01	1,715.64	2,096.89	2,478.15	2,859.40	3,431.28
Parish of Laceby	1,138.37	1,328.10	1,517.83	1,707.56	2,087.02	2,466.48	2,845.93	3,415.12
Parish of New Waltham	1,135.05	1,324.22	1,513.40	1,702.57	2,080.92	2,459.27	2,837.62	3,405.14
Parish of Stallingborough	1,153.24	1,345.45	1,537.65	1,729.86	2,114.27	2,498.69	2,883.10	3,459.72
Parish of Waltham	1,129.73	1,318.01	1,506.30	1,694.59	2,071.17	2,447.74	2,824.32	3,389.18
Grimsby	1,114.57	1,300.33	1,486.09	1,671.85	2,043.37	2,414.89	2,786.42	3,343.70
Cleethorpes	1,115.29	1,301.18	1,487.06	1,672.94	2,044.70	2,416.47	2,788.23	3,345.88
All other parts of the Council's area	1,112.74	1,298.20	1,483.65	1,669.11	2,040.02	2,410.94	2,781.85	3,338.22

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. To note that for the year 2021/22 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside and the Humberside Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

	Valuation Bands							
	A £ . p	B £ . p	C £ . p	D £ . p	E £ . p	F £ . p	G £ . p	H £ . p
Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside	162.14	189.16	216.19	243.21	297.26	351.30	405.35	486.42
Humberside Fire Authority	58.90	68.72	78.53	88.35	107.98	127.62	147.25	176.70
TOTAL	221.04	257.88	294.72	331.56	405.24	478.92	552.60	663.12

5. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

	Valuation Bands							
	A £ . p	B £ . p	C £ . p	D £ . p	E £ . p	F £ . p	G £ . p	H £ . p
Parish of Ashby-cum-Fenby	1,354.39	1,580.12	1,805.85	2,031.58	2,483.04	2,934.50	3,385.97	4,063.16
Parish of Barnoldby-le-Beck	1,343.62	1,567.56	1,791.49	2,015.43	2,463.30	2,911.18	3,359.05	4,030.86
Parish of Bradley	1,367.75	1,595.70	1,823.66	2,051.62	2,507.54	2,963.45	3,419.37	4,103.24
Parish of Brigsley	1,345.55	1,569.80	1,794.06	2,018.32	2,466.84	2,915.35	3,363.87	4,036.64
Parish of Great Coates	1,381.19	1,611.39	1,841.59	2,071.79	2,532.19	2,992.59	3,452.98	4,143.58
Parish of Habrough	1,347.02	1,571.52	1,796.03	2,020.53	2,469.54	2,918.54	3,367.55	4,041.06
Parish of Healing	1,363.84	1,591.15	1,818.45	2,045.76	2,500.37	2,954.99	3,409.60	4,091.52
Parish of Humberston	1,359.93	1,586.59	1,813.24	2,039.90	2,493.21	2,946.52	3,399.83	4,079.80
Town of Immingham	1,423.18	1,660.38	1,897.57	2,134.77	2,609.16	3,083.56	3,557.95	4,269.54
Parish of Irby	1,364.80	1,592.27	1,819.73	2,047.20	2,502.13	2,957.07	3,412.00	4,094.40
Parish of Laceby	1,359.41	1,585.98	1,812.55	2,039.12	2,492.26	2,945.40	3,398.53	4,078.24
Parish of New Waltham	1,356.09	1,582.10	1,808.12	2,034.13	2,486.16	2,938.19	3,390.22	4,068.26
Parish of Stallingborough	1,374.28	1,603.33	1,832.37	2,061.42	2,519.51	2,977.61	3,435.70	4,122.84
Parish of Waltham	1,350.77	1,575.89	1,801.02	2,026.15	2,476.41	2,926.66	3,376.92	4,052.30
Grimsby	1,335.61	1,558.21	1,780.81	2,003.41	2,448.61	2,893.81	3,339.02	4,006.82
Cleethorpes	1,336.33	1,559.06	1,781.78	2,004.50	2,449.94	2,895.39	3,340.83	4,009.00
All other parts of the Council's area	1,333.78	1,556.08	1,778.37	2,000.67	2,445.26	2,889.86	3,334.45	4,001.34

6. That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

APPENDIX A

PRECEPTS 2021/22

The following precepts have been levied on North East Lincolnshire (comparable figures are shown for 2020/21):-

	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22 Council Tax @ Band D Equivalent
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£ p</u>
Ashby-cum-Fenby	3,441	3,716	30.91
Barnoldby-le-Beck	2,330	2,400	14.76
Bradley	3,400	4,000	50.95
Brigsley	2,939	2,997	17.65
Great Coates	35,000	34,000	71.12
Habrough	4,005	4,005	19.86
Healing	47,000	50,000	45.09
Humberston	85,000	93,000	39.23
Immingham	334,147	334,147	134.10
Irby	2,600	2,700	46.53
Laceby	41,631	41,631	38.45
New Waltham	51,715	62,000	33.46
Stallingborough	26,000	26,000	60.75
Waltham	55,000	54,858	25.48
Cleethorpes - Charter Trustees	23,000	23,000	2.45
Grimsby - Charter Trustees	30,000	30,000	1.36
	747,208	768,454	

NEL.126 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2021/22

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets presenting the restated Treasury Policy Statement and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 10th February, 2021 and its recommendations referred to Council for approval.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement at Appendix 1 of the report now submitted, be approved.
2. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 at Appendix 2 of the report now submitted, be approved.
3. That the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement at Appendix 2 (annex 2) of the report now submitted, be approved.

There being no further business, the Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.02 p.m.