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NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

22nd February 2024

Present: Councillor Lindley (in the Chair)
Councillors Batson, Beasant, Boyd, Brasted, Brookes, Cairns, Cracknell, Croft, Dawkins, Downes, Farren, Freeston, Goodwin, Haggis, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Jackson, Mickleburgh, Morland, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Reynolds, Shepherd, Shreeve, Shutt, Silvester, Smith, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Westcott, Wheatley and Wilson.

Officers in Attendance:

- Rob Walsh (Chief Executive)
- Simon Jones (Monitoring Officer and Assistant Director Law and Governance)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)
- Paul Wisken (Civic and Mayoral Officer)
- Sharon Wroot (Executive Director of Place and Resources)

NEL.71 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed everyone in attendance to this meeting. He thanked those who had attended his recent successful Eighties fundraiser and looked forward to his 24 hour danceathon that was due to take place next month. All donations towards the mayoral charities would be gratefully received.

NEL.72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillors Aisthorpe, Astbury, McLean and Robinson.

NEL.73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer provided general advice to Members on declaring interests with regard to the budget and setting of the Council Tax.

There were no declaration of interest in relation to any item on the agenda for this meeting.

NEL.74 COUNCIL REFRESH PLAN

The Council considered a report from the Leader of the Council on the refresh of the North East Lincolnshire Council Plan for 2024 to reflect progress made and emerging priorities.

RESOLVED –

1. That the refreshed Council Plan be approved and adopted.
2. That the refreshed Council Plan be referred to all Scrutiny panels for information.

NEL.75 BUDGET, FINANCE AND BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25 – 2026/27

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets outlining how the Council plans to deliver its agreed financial strategy over the coming three-year period.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jackson, made his budget statement and moved the recommendations as set out in the report together with additional recommendations agreed at the special meeting of Cabinet on 21st February 2024 (the draft minutes of which had been circulated at this meeting). These additional recommendations related to a review of options to promote tourism and £250k being made available from transformational funds to provide a hit squad' approach to the street scene and towards grounds maintenance.

The Leader noted that the proposed budget focused on enhancing services and there were no suggested cuts to services. He outlined the approach to be taken to funding key areas of the council's business. This included a financial rebalancing of children's services to continue the transformation that was gathering pace, the significant grant funding that had been received for regeneration of the Borough, a continued focus on job creation within the local economy and steps being taken to achieve the council's carbon net zero target by 2030. He felt that the business plans were ambitious and he commended what he considered to be a prudent and affordable budget to the council.

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

Councillor Wheatley, as Leader of the Labour Group, voiced her opposition to the budget proposals. She felt that an opportunity to be brave and ambitious had not been taken and she saw very few improvement plans within the proposals. She raised concerns that selling the council's assets and reducing reserves to what she considered to be dangerous levels would leave the council in a precarious position.

Following a debate, the 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 Batson, Boyd, Brasted, Brookes, Cairns, Cracknell, Croft, Dawkins, Freeston, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Reynolds, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, Smith, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, and Westcott (24 votes).

Against the Motion

Councillors Beasant, Downes, Farren, Goodwin, Haggis, Henderson, Holland, Mickleburgh, Morland, Patrick, Shutt, Wheatley and Wilson (13 votes).

The motion was therefore declared carried and it was

RESOLVED -

1. That the 2024/25 Budget and summary 2024/25 – 2026/27 Medium Term Financial Plan ('MTFP') contained within Appendix 1 (Annex 4) of the report now submitted, be approved.
2. That a 2.98% increase in Council Tax in 2024/25 be approved.
3. That the application of a 2% Adult Social Care precept in 2024/25 be approved.
4. That a provision from 1st April 2024 that in the case of empty homes an additional 100% premium can be levied on properties that have been empty for 12 months or more, be approved.
5. That the business plans contained within Appendix 1 (Annex 1) of the report now submitted, be approved.
6. That an annual organisation wide uplift in fees and charges (where permissible by law) in line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) or any official index replacing it or to ensure full cost recovery, where appropriate, be approved.
7. That the Capital Investment Strategy included within Appendix 1 (Annex 3) of

the report now submitted, be approved.

8. That the 2024/25 - 2026/27 Capital Programme set out in Appendix 1 (Annex 2) of the report now submitted, be approved.
9. That the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy included within Appendix 1 (Annex 7) of the report now submitted, be approved.
10. That £250k be made available from transformational funds to Environmental Services/Street Scene, with particular focus on Grimsby Town Centre and Cleethorpes resort, allocated as follows:
 - £150k for a “hit squad” approach to street scene
 - £100k grounds maintenance
11. That there be a review of options in respect of service design, delivery and investment across the resort management, events management and visitor economy agenda.

NEL.76 COUNCIL TAX 2024/25

The Council considered setting the Council Tax for North East Lincolnshire properties for 2024/25 following the decisions made in item NEL.75 above.

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

For the Motion

Councillors Batson, Beasant, Boyd, Brasted, Brookes, Cairns, Cracknell, Croft, Dawkins, Downes, Freeston, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Reynolds, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, Smith, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, and Westcott (28 votes).

Against the Motion

Councillors Farren, Goodwin, Haggis, Mickleburgh, Morland, Patrick, Shutt, Wheatley and Wilson (9 votes).

The motion was therefore declared carried and it was

RESOLVED –

1. That it be noted that on 14th December 2023 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for 2024/25:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 46,801.17.37 [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	127.90
Parish of Barnoldby-Le-Beck	208.52
Parish of Bradley	78.29
Parish of Brigsley	173.28
Parish of Great Coates	486.25
Parish of Habrough	205.20
Parish of Healing	1,213.18
Parish of Humberston	2,703.34
Town of Immingham	2,608.88
Parish of Irby	58.88
Parish of Laceby	1,121.63
Parish of New Waltham	2,048.75
Parish of Stallingborough	444.18
Parish of Waltham	2,263.76
Cleethorpes	9,666.72
Grimsby	23,138.07
TOTAL	46,546.83
Note - The Council tax base total for parish areas to which no special items relate is:	254.34

2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish precepts) is £87,860,780.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £344,812,395 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) (£256,027,162) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £88,785,233 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) £1,897.07 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) £973,594.11 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) £1,876.27 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) £1.50 Grimsby and Cleethorpes Special Expense area £49,141.23
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.

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 2024/25 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	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside	187.45	218.70	249.94	281.18	343.66	406.15	468.63	562.36
Humberside Fire Authority	65.29	76.18	87.06	97.94	119.70	141.47	163.23	195.88
TOTAL	252.74	294.88	337.00	379.12	463.36	547.62	631.86	758.24

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 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	
Parish of Ashby-cum-Fenby	1,527.73	1,782.36	2,036.98	2,291.60	2,800.84	3,310.09	3,819.33	4,583.20	
Parish of Barnoldby-le-Beck	1,517.09	1,769.95	2,022.80	2,275.64	2,781.33	3,287.04	3,792.73	4,551.28	
Parish of Bradley	1,554.68	1,813.81	2,072.92	2,332.03	2,850.25	3,368.49	3,886.71	4,664.06	
Parish of Brigsley	1,515.59	1,768.20	2,020.80	2,273.39	2,778.58	3,283.79	3,788.98	4,546.78	
Parish of Great Coates	1,556.49	1,815.93	2,075.34	2,334.75	2,853.57	3,372.42	3,891.24	4,669.50	
Parish of Habrough	1,517.41	1,770.33	2,023.23	2,276.13	2,781.93	3,287.75	3,793.54	4,552.26	
Parish of Healing	1,543.43	1,800.68	2,057.92	2,315.15	2,829.62	3,344.11	3,858.58	4,630.30	
Parish of Humberston	1,533.18	1,788.73	2,044.25	2,299.78	2,810.83	3,321.91	3,832.96	4,599.56	
Town of Immingham	1,600.40	1,867.15	2,133.88	2,400.61	2,934.07	3,467.55	4,001.01	4,801.22	
Parish of Irby	1,542.53	1,799.64	2,056.72	2,313.81	2,827.98	3,342.17	3,856.34	4,627.62	
Parish of Laceby	1,528.33	1,783.07	2,037.79	2,292.51	2,801.95	3,311.41	3,820.84	4,585.02	
Parish of New Waltham	1,528.47	1,783.24	2,037.98	2,292.72	2,802.20	3,311.71	3,821.19	4,585.44	
Parish of Stallingborough	1,578.63	1,841.76	2,104.86	2,367.96	2,894.16	3,420.39	3,946.59	4,735.92	
Parish of Waltham	1,527.37	1,781.94	2,036.50	2,291.06	2,800.18	3,309.31	3,818.43	4,582.12	
Grimsby	1,505.45	1,756.38	2,007.28	2,258.19	2,760.00	3,261.83	3,763.64	4,516.38	
Cleethorpes	1,505.27	1,756.17	2,007.04	2,257.92	2,759.67	3,261.44	3,763.19	4,515.84	
All other parts of the									
Council's area	1,503.59	1,754.20	2,004.80	2,255.39	2,756.58	3,257.79	3,758.98	4,510.78	

6. That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

APPENDIX A

PRECEPTS 2024/25

The following precepts have been levied on North East Lincolnshire (comparable figures are shown for 2023/24) :-

	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25 Council Tax @ Band D Equivalent
	£	£	£ p
Ashby-cum-Fenby	4,062	4,631	36.21
Barnoldby-le-Beck	4,100	4,223	20.25
Bradley	5,500	6,000	76.64
Brigsley	3,118	3,118	18.00
Great Coates	36,750	38,588	79.36
Habrough	4,105	4,255	20.74
Healing	65,000	72,500	59.76
Humberston	108,000	120,000	44.39
Immingham	364,106	378,852	145.22
Irby	0	3,440	58.42
Laceby	41,631	41,631	37.12
New Waltham	74,425	76,472	37.33
Stallingborough	45,000	50,000	112.57
Waltham	72,500	80,743	35.67
Cleethorpes - Charter Trustees	2,500	10,000	1.03
Grimsby - Charter Trustees	30,000	30,000	1.30
	860,798	924,453	

**NEL.77 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY
STATEMENT 2024-25**

The Council considered a report a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets presenting the restated Treasury Policy Statement and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement

RESOLVED –

1. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report now submitted, be approved.
2. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2024/25, as set out at Appendix 2 of the report now submitted, be approved.
3. That the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, as set out in Annex 2 of Appendix 2 of the report now submitted, be approved.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.