

# MINUTES

COUNCIL

MONDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2016

2.00 PM



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## PRESENT

Councillor Ray Wootten Chairman

Councillor Bob Adams  
Councillor Duncan Ashwell  
Councillor Ashley Baxter  
Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth  
Councillor Robert Broughton  
Councillor Katherine Brown  
Councillor Teri Bryant  
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright  
Councillor George Chivers  
Councillor Kelham Cooke  
Councillor Lynda Coutts  
Councillor Nick Craft  
Councillor Felicity Cunningham  
Councillor Phil Dilks  
Councillor Barry Dobson  
Councillor Damian Evans  
Councillor Mike Exton  
Councillor Helen Goral  
Councillor Breda Griffin  
Councillor Graham Jeal  
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown  
Councillor Ms Jane Kingman  
Councillor Nikki Manterfield  
Councillor Charmaine Morgan  
Councillor Dr Peter Moseley

Councillor Nick Neilson  
Councillor Helen Powell  
Councillor Robert Reid  
Councillor Nick Robins  
Councillor Bob Russell  
Councillor Bob Sampson  
Councillor Ian Selby  
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith  
Councillor Jacky Smith  
Councillor Peter Stephens  
Councillor Judy Stevens  
Councillor Adam Stokes  
Councillor Ian Stokes  
Councillor Mrs Sarah Stokes  
Councillor Brian Sumner  
Councillor Mrs Brenda Sumner  
Councillor Frank Turner  
Councillor Dean Ward  
Councillor Mrs Andrea Webster  
Councillor Hannah Westropp  
Councillor Martin Wilkins  
Councillor Paul Wood  
Councillor Rosemary H Woolley  
Councillor Mrs Linda Wootten

## OFFICERS

Chief Executive (Beverly Agass)  
Strategic Directors (Tracey Blackwell,  
Steve Ingram, Daren Turner)  
Executive Manager, Corporate (Lucy  
Youles)

## OFFICERS

Corporate Finance Manager (Richard  
Wyles)  
Principal Democracy Officer (Jo Toomey)

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**60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cook, Forman, King, Lee and Mapp. The Chairman had also passed on the apologies of Father Craddock who had been unable to attend the meeting to lead prayers.

**61. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

No interests were disclosed.

**62. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2016 were proposed and seconded. An amendment to the minutes was proposed and seconded so that the minutes would read:

*“...political composition of working groups, how the documents relating to the working parties and minutes of the working parties would be recorded and made publicly available, the number of scheduled public meetings...”*

The Leader reassured members that considerations of the working group would go before the relevant policy development group for discussion and, where appropriate, onward recommendation.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was lost and a vote was taken on the minutes as presented in the agenda pack, which was carried.

**63. COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS)**

The Council noted the Chairman's engagements.

**64. DETERMINATION OF BUDGET 2016/17 (AND INDICATIVE FOR 2017/18 AND 2018/19) - GENERAL FUND, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND ASSOCIATED CAPITAL PROGRAMMES**

**Decision:**

**PART A**

**In relation to the General Fund - Revenue**

- a. to set a General Fund budget requirement of £12.403M for 2016/17 shown at Appendix A (inclusive of special expenses) of report number CFM358 taking into consideration the savings and efficiencies shown at Appendix B
- b. to approve a Council Tax increase of £5 (Band D equivalent) for 2016/17
- c. to note the indicative base estimates for 2017/18 and 2018/19 as detailed in the summary at Appendix A of report number CFM358
- d. To approve the fees and charges as shown at Appendix C of report number CFM358

**In relation to the General Fund – Capital**

- e. approve the General Fund Capital programme for 2016/17 to 2020/21 detailed at Appendix D page 1 of report number CFM358
- f. approve the Capital Financing statement detailed at Appendix D page 2 of report number CFM358

**In relation to the General Fund - Reserves and Balances**

- g. to approve the use of reserves as detailed at Appendix E of report number CFM358

**Management and prudential indicators**

- h. to approve the Treasury Management Strategy provided at Appendix F of report number CFM358

**In relation to the Housing Revenue Account - Revenue**

- i. to approve dwelling rent decrease of 1% providing an average rent of £80.09 (an average rental decrease of 81p per week)
- j. to approve an increase in garage rents of 1.5%
- k. to approve a decrease of 1% in service charges for communal facilities and community rooms
- l. to approve the Housing Revenue Account for the year 2016/17 (including the items at Appendix H in the report) and indicative years 2017/18 and 2018/19 shown at Appendix G of report number CFM358

**In relation to the Housing Revenue Account - Capital**

- m. approve the indicative Housing Investment Programme for 2016/17 to 2020/21 detailed at Appendix I page 1 of report number CFM358
- n. approve the Capital Financing statement detailed at Appendix I page 2 of report number CFM358

**In relation to the Housing Revenue Account - Reserves and balances**

- o. to approve the use of the reserves as detailed at Appendix J of report number CFM358

**Pay Policy Statement**

- p. to approve the pay policy statement shown at Appendix K of report number CFM358

**PART B**

That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act

1992 (as amended)

- a) £65,121,156 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2) (a) to (e) of the Act (including special expense and parish precepts).
- b) £51,378,667 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act.
- c) £13,742,489 being the amount by which the aggregate at a) above exceeds the aggregate at b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
- d) £5,695,400 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant increased by the amount of the sum to be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund
- e) £177.09 being the amount at c) above less the amount at d) above, all divided by the Council's tax base of 45,440.40 as recorded in minute 26 of the Executive meeting of 7 December 2015, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year 2016/17.
- f) £2,119,285 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- g) £132.03 being the amount of e) above, less the result given by dividing the amount of f) above by the Council's tax base relating to special items as set on 7 December 2015, 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 special item relates.
- h) Part of the Council's area being calculated by adding to the amount at (g) above the amounts of special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area, divided in each case by the individual tax bases as recorded in minute 33 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 special item relates.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Adjusted Band D Equivalents No.</u>
Grantham combined	10464.01
Stamford combined	6829.02

<b>Bourne Combined</b>	<b>5157.84</b>
<b>Allington</b>	<b>343.76</b>
<b>Ancaster</b>	<b>550.86</b>
<b>Aslackby</b>	<b>108.56</b>
<b>Barholm &amp; Stowe</b>	<b>33.63</b>
<b>Barkston and Syston combined</b>	<b>240.07</b>
<b>Barrowby</b>	<b>701.98</b>
<b>Baston</b>	<b>560.76</b>
<b>Belton &amp; Manthorpe</b>	<b>205.93</b>
<b>Billingborough</b>	<b>456.01</b>
<b>Bitchfield &amp; Bassingthorpe</b>	<b>55.96</b>
<b>Boothby Pagnell</b>	<b>62.49</b>
<b>Braceborough &amp; Wilsthorpe</b>	<b>141.19</b>
<b>Ropsley, Humby, Braceby, Sapperton combined</b>	<b>316.17</b>
<b>Burton Coggles</b>	<b>40.51</b>
<b>Careby</b>	<b>77.21</b>
<b>Carlby</b>	<b>198.44</b>
<b>Carlton Scroop and Normanton combined</b>	<b>125.40</b>
<b>Castle Bytham</b>	<b>292.09</b>
<b>Caythorpe &amp; Frieston</b>	<b>519.39</b>
<b>Claypole</b>	<b>514.45</b>
<b>Colsterwoth, Gunby &amp; Stainby, North Witham combined</b>	<b>739.53</b>
<b>Corby Glen &amp; Birkholme</b>	<b>398.55</b>
<b>Counthorpe &amp; Creeton</b>	<b>26.81</b>
<b>Deeping St James</b>	<b>2390.82</b>
<b>Denton</b>	<b>123.87</b>
<b>Dowsby</b>	<b>55.33</b>
<b>Dunsby</b>	<b>44.20</b>
<b>Stoke Rochford and Easton combined</b>	<b>83.14</b>
<b>Edenham</b>	<b>115.93</b>
<b>Fenton</b>	<b>57.89</b>
<b>Folkingham</b>	<b>274.63</b>
<b>Foston</b>	<b>213.13</b>
<b>Fulbeck</b>	<b>218.44</b>
<b>Greatford</b>	<b>126.29</b>
<b>Great Gonerby</b>	<b>718.62</b>
<b>Great Ponton</b>	<b>119.85</b>
<b>Haconby &amp; Stainfield</b>	<b>183.57</b>
<b>Harlaxton</b>	<b>334.95</b>
<b>Heydour</b>	<b>151.75</b>
<b>Honington</b>	<b>65.74</b>
<b>Horbling</b>	<b>159.04</b>
<b>Hougham</b>	<b>77.33</b>
<b>Hough-on-the-Hill</b>	<b>162.13</b>

Ingoldsby	115.30
Irnham	111.74
Kirkby Underwood	76.94
Langtoft	749.36
Lenton, Keisby & Osgodby	67.48
Little Bytham	110.83
Little Ponton & Stroxton	67.57
Londonthorpe & Harrowby without combined	1562.12
Long Bennington	919.78
Market Deeping	2092.17
Marston	153.35
Morton & Hanthorpe	805.77
Old Somerby	90.49
Pickworth	74.54
Pointon & Sempringham	189.41
Rippingale	338.28
Sedgebrook	140.09
Skillington	132.31
South Witham	456.22
Stubton	72.45
Swayfield	135.68
Swinstead	78.23
Tallington	224.79
Thurlby	790.21
Toft Lound & Manthorpe	138.02
Uffington	315.68
Welby	80.53
Westborough & Dry Doddington	143.95
West Deeping	116.47
Witham-on-the-Hill	96.79
Woolsthorpe	137.74
Wyville cum Hungerton	18.84

- i) The amounts on the schedule (Appendix A to Part B of report number CFM358), being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at g) above and h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, 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.
- j) That it be noted that for the year 2016/17, Lincolnshire County Council has stated the following amounts as a precept issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

### Valuation Band

A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
752.55	877.98	1,003.40	1,128.83	1,379.68	1,630.53	1,881.38	2,257.66

**k) That it be noted that for the year 2016/17, Police and Crime Commissioner has stated the following amounts as a precept issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-**

### Valuation Band

A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
134.34	156.73	179.12	201.51	246.29	291.07	335.85	403.02

**l) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at i), j) and k) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts in Appendix B to Part B as the levels of Council Tax for the year 2016/17 for the categories of dwellings shown in Appendix A to Part B of report number CFM358.**

*It was proposed, seconded and on being put to the vote agreed that article 4.11.4 of the Council's Constitution be suspended for this item only, removing the five-minute time restriction from members' speeches.*

The Council was asked to consider report number CFM358 on the determination of the Budget for 2016/17 and indicative budgets to 2018/19 for in respect of the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and associated Capital Programmes. An addendum to Part B of the Budget that updated members on precept information from Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Police had been circulated to all members. An appendix to the addendum was also circulated during the meeting.

The Leader proposed the recommendations listed in part A of the report. In so doing he commended the work done by officers in preparing the budget and requested his thanks be placed on record. During his speech the Leader explained that the budget had been designed to deliver the Council's priorities while continuing to provide services. He referred to the proposed increase in council tax of 3.58%. Reference was made to consultation undertaken with residents as part of the preparation of the budget. To meet reductions in grant funding, overheads had been reduced, new funding streams explored and two management reviews had taken place. The Fit for the Future programme had also facilitated the development of an investment strategy and work was also underway to create a local authority controlled company with a focus on private sector housing. The Leader also referred to some of the successful projects delivered in 2015/16 including the Stamford Georgian Festival, ongoing improvements to the Meres leisure centre and stadium and phase one works on the Grantham southern relief road. Some of the

bodies that had benefited from the community fund were also listed. Reference was also made to forthcoming projects like the Gravity Fields Festival in September 2016 and the delivery of further phases of the Grantham southern relief road.

The Executive Member, Resources seconded those recommendations that related to the General Fund, reiterating his thanks to the officers and members who had participated in the preparation of the Budget. He referred to the wider context of the Government Spending Review, specifically the ongoing protection of budgets for education, overseas aid and defence spending and the subsequent impact on local government funding. Reference was also made to the local retention of business rates noting associated risks, proposed changes to New Homes Bonus, the cost of providing services in rural areas and the opportunity for a four-year settlement following the signing-off of an efficiency plan (the settlement would be withdrawn if there were significant financial changes during the period it was in place). Further comment was made regarding council tax proposals; members noted that whilst the referendum limit for council tax increases had been set at 2%, as an authority with council tax levels in the lowest quartile, the Council had dispensation from Government to increase council tax by £5 a year on a band D property. Finally, members' attention was drawn to the proposed capital programme which was targeted at the Council's priorities and included an additional £5m to fund commercial investment.

The proposals that related to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) were seconded by the Executive Member, Housing. In seconding the recommendations she referred to the building programme that had seen the development of new council houses in the district. She also spoke of the challenges associated with a national four year rent reduction (1% year on year) for council properties. Increases of 1.5% were proposed for garage rents while charges for communal rooms and associated facilities would also reduce by 1%. The focus of the HRA capital programme focussed on new build housing, stock improvement and estate management. Members were reminded that in 2020 the Council would be required to pay the first instalment of the loan used to fund the self-financing of the HRA and advised that the ability to make this payment might be affected by the impact of rent reduction.

One member spoke in support of the budget, acknowledging the challenging financial circumstances in which it had to be set. The member went on to ask the Leader whether the creation of a literary festival in the Deepings could be considered given the successful festivals that the Council had held in Grantham and Stamford. The Leader agreed to this discussion but emphasised that consideration would only be given to a new event that aligned with Council priorities.

A series of amendments to the budget were proposed and seconded:

<b><i>Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>Comment</i></b>	<b><i>Cost</i></b>	<b><i>Outcomes</i></b>
<b><i>Tourism Growth Maximisation Feasibility</i></b>	<i>As tourism is one of the largest areas of growth in the UK economy, and given South Kesteven has direct rail and road</i>	<i>£5k</i>	<i>To identify through engagement with local residents and businesses, what initiatives can be made to the Market Towns and</i>

<b>Study</b>	<i>links to London and the rest of our region, more emphasis should be place on using tourism to grow our economy.</i>		<i>rural villages to identify how SKDC may support local businesses and communities best capitalise on the growing tourism industry including provision of improved marketing, Tourist Trails, Tourist Maps and Tourist Walks etc.</i>
<b>Grantham as a tourist hub</b>	<i>Grantham has an incredibly rich history including the Knights Templar, Civil War, WW1 and WW2, internationally renowned characters Sir Isaac Newton, Margaret Thatcher and Thomas Paine. It also has a rich industrial heritage but despite excellent road and rail links, Grantham has not fully capitalised on its heritage to create future economic growth.</i>	£5k	<i>To complete a feasibility study to identify whether a Heritage and Craft Centre may be sited in Grantham Town Centre, which complements the existing Museum and which attracts visitors from the region, nationally and internationally.</i>  <i>To identify potential location</i>  <i>To identify potential partners</i>  <i>To identify potential funding streams</i>
<b>Parity for The Deepings</b>	<i>An initiative has been proposed to give parity to The Deepings as Grantham has Gravity Fields bi-annually and Stamford has its Georgian Festival bi-annually.</i>	£20k	<i>Trial Fund to be set aside for a Literary Festival to take place during 2016/17 at The Deepings as a one off cost from General Reserves with the objective of identifying if the Festival increases visitor numbers and spend in The Deepings Area and beyond during the Festival Period. The fund will enable the Festival to be hosted, marketed and key guests to be invited.</i>
<b>A better place to live/visit</b>	<i>Whilst much of the District is rural and very attractive some of the areas of the District such as the gateways coming into Grantham from the South on London Road appear neglected. We need to improve the appearance of Grantham</i>	£5k	<i>To complete a feasibility study to identify what changes local people think will make the most difference to improving the gateways to Grantham including the possibility of improved street cleaning, providing more street trees, hanging baskets and benches</i>

	<i>to attract more visitors.</i>		<p><i>The study will include consulting with residents and local business people in Grantham to identify what changes they believe would make the most difference.</i></p> <p><i>To use the outcome when the Grantham Relief Road is completed as a basis for funding or seeking external funding to enhance the area.</i></p>
<b>Free Parking in Market Towns</b>	<i>There is a call from local businesses and residents for free parking in our Market towns Grantham and Stamford to increase visitor numbers.</i>	£5k	<i>To complete a feasibility study to identify what the barriers are to visitors coming by car to Grantham town centre and to identify if by offering free parking for one hour would encourage more visitors and encourage visitors to stay longer.</i>
<b>Improve Waste Collection Services for Businesses</b>	<i>Local businesses have indicated they are currently faced with costly and inadequate business waste collection services from the private sector. Rural areas in particular are poorly served by business waste contractors and anecdotal evidence indicates small business people are taking waste home.</i>	£5k	<p><i>To complete a feasibility study to identify if there is sufficient demand to make it viable for SKDC to provide a Business Waste Collection service across the District or part of the District as other local authorities do, and, identify whether it is possible to raise income from this activity.</i></p> <p><i>The study may consider working either alone or in partnership with existing business waste collection businesses.</i></p>
<b>Enhance quality of life</b>	<i>There are residents living within the District who have nowhere to put black bin waste outside their living accommodation. This is particularly relevant to town centre properties in houses being used for Multiple Occupancy with</i>	£5k	<p><i>To complete a feasibility study to identify how many residents are forced to live throughout the year with food waste within their living space for up to two weeks.</i></p> <p><i>To identify the potential cost of providing an optional weekly black bag collection</i></p>

	<p><i>no external garden or yard space provided. As a result some residents are living in intolerable conditions, especially in the summer months, or, are using the streets to leave black bins out which has an impact on the whole community.</i></p>		<p><i>service whether free or at additional cost.</i></p> <p><i>The service may be across the District or targeted areas with sufficient density of need to warrant make the service viable.</i></p>
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The proposals affected recommendations a and g as listed in report number CFM358. The proposer referred again to the financial backdrop of the budget and changes to the funding available to district councils. In recognising the financial context, she explained that the amendment was designed with the future in mind; feasibility work would already be completed so that plans could be implemented when the financial position improved.

In proposing the amendment, a brief overview was given of each of the projects and the potential benefits anticipated by the proposer. In summarising the amendment, the proposer explained that each provision was intended to make the district more attractive to visitors, improve the quality of life for people living within it and provide support and services to businesses operating in the district.

The seconder of the amendment reiterated the intentions behind it. He also referred to the proposal for a literary festival for the Deepings and the comments made by the Leader earlier in the debate.

A request was made that any vote on a festival for the Deepings be considered separately from the rest of the amendment.

As the proposer of the original motion the Leader stated that he was disappointed that the proposals had not been raised through the policy development groups or directly with him earlier in the year. The proposer of the amendment stated that information had been provided to the Leader and that, whilst waste had been considered by Communities PDG, a commercial waste service had not been discussed.

Comments were made about the Leader's commitment to consider opportunities for a literary festival in the Deepings and the potential effect of that commitment if the amendment was lost. Consequently, the proposer of the amendment agreed to withdraw the proposal related to a festival for the Deepings.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken on the amendment because it would affect the making of calculations in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councillor Baxter Councillor Broughton Councillor Dilks Councillor Morgan Councillor Powell Councillor Sampson Councillor Selby	Councillor Adams Councillor Ashwell Councillor Mrs Bosworth Councillor Brown Councillor Bryant Councillor Mrs Cartwright Councillor Chivers Councillor Cooke Councillor outs Councillor Craft Councillor Cunningham Councillor Dobson Councillor Evans Councillor Exton Councillor Goral Councillor Griffin Councillor Jeal Councillor Mrs. Kaberry-Brown Councillor Kingman Councillor Manterfield Councillor Dr. Moseley Councillor Neilson Councillor Reid Councillor Robins Councillor Russell Councillor Jacky Smith Councillor Judy Smith Councillor P. Stephens Councillor A. Stokes Councillor I. Stokes Councillor Mrs. S. Stokes Councillor Mrs Sumner Councillor Sumner Councillor Turner Councillor Ward Councillor Webster Councillor Westropp Councillor Wilkins Councillor Woolley Councillor Mrs. Wootten Councillor R. Wootten	Councillor J. Stevens Councillor Wood
<b>7</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>2</b>

The amendment was lost.

Discussion returned to the substantive motion where further comments were made about the provision of a festival for the Deepings, the extent of new build council housing, new facilities at the Meres leisure centre and wider provision across the district, and the reduction in rents for council tenants.

The Leader, as the proposer of the budget was given the opportunity to sum up. In doing so he referred to a meeting he had previously had with Market Deeping Town Council and Deeping St. James Parish Council, asking them to suggest solutions to improve access to leisure. He also emphasised that no allocation had been included in the 2016/17 budget for a festival in the Deepings.

The recommendations were split into sections and separate votes were taken on each. Where proposals related to the making of calculations in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, a recorded vote was taken. The electronic voting system was used for all other votes.

Recommendations a to d:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councillor Adams		Councillor Dilks
Councillor Ashwell		Councillor Morgan
Councillor Baxter		Councillor Powell
Councillor Mrs Bosworth		Councillor A. Stokes
Councillor Broughton		
Councillor Brown		
Councillor Bryant		
Councillor Mrs. Cartwright		
Councillor Chivers		
Councillor Cooke		
Councillor Coutts		
Councillor Craft		
Councillor Cunningham		
Councillor Dobson		
Councillor Evans		
Councillor Exton		
Councillor Goral		
Councillor Griffin		
Councillor Jeal		
Councillor Mrs. Kaberry-Brown		
Councillor Kingman		
Councillor Manterfield		
Councillor Dr. Moseley		
Councillor Neilson		
Councillor Reid		
Councillor Robins		
Councillor Russell		
Councillor Sampson		
Councillor Selby		
Councillor Jacky Smith		
Councillor Judy Smith		
Councillor P. Stephens		
Councillor J. Stevens		
Councillor I. Stokes		
Councillor Mrs. Stokes		

Councillor Mrs. Sumner Councillor Sumner Councillor Turner Councillor Ward Councillor Webster Councillor Westropp Councillor Wilkins Councillor Wood Councillor Woolley Councillor Mrs. Wootten Councillor R. Wootten		
<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

The recommendations were approved.

Recommendations e and f:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councillor Adams Councillor Ashwell Councillor Baxter Councillor Mrs. Bosworth Councillor Broughton Councillor brown Councillor Bryant Councillor Mrs. Cartwright Councillor Chivers Councillor Cooke Councillor Coutts Councillor Craft Councillor Cunningham Councillor Dobson Councillor Evans Councillor Exton Councillor Goral Councillor Griffin Councillor Jeal Councillor Mrs. Kaberry-Brown Councillor Kingman Councillor Manterfield Councillor Dr. Moseley Councillor Neilson Councillor Powell Councillor Reid Councillor Robins Councillor Russell Councillor Sampson Councillor Selby Councillor Jacky Smith		Councillor Dilks Councillor Morgan

Councillor Judy Smith Councillor P. Stephens Councillor J. Stevens Councillor A. Stokes Councillor I. Stokes Councillor Mrs. Stokes Councillor Mrs. Sumner Councillor Sumner Councillor Turner Councillor Ward Councillor Webster Councillor Westropp Councillor Wilkins Councillor Wood Councillor Woolley Councillor Mrs. Wootten Councillor R. Wootten		
<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

The recommendations were approved.

Recommendation g:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councillor Adams Councillor Ashwell Councillor Baxter Councillor Mrs. Bosworth Councillor Broughton Councillor brown Councillor Bryant Councillor Mrs. Cartwright Councillor Chivers Councillor Cooke Councillor Coutts Councillor Craft Councillor Cunningham Councillor Dobson Councillor Evans Councillor Exton Councillor Goral Councillor Griffin Councillor Jeal Councillor Mrs. Kaberry-Brown Councillor Kingman Councillor Manterfield Councillor Dr. Moseley Councillor Neilson Councillor Powell		Councillor Dilks Councillor Morgan

Councillor Reid Councillor Robins Councillor Russell Councillor Sampson Councillor Selby Councillor Jacky Smith Councillor Judy Smith Councillor P. Stephens Councillor J. Stevens Councillor A. Stokes Councillor I. Stokes Councillor Mrs. Stokes Councillor Mrs. Sumner Councillor Sumner Councillor Turner Councillor Ward Councillor Webster Councillor Westropp Councillor Wilkins Councillor Wood Councillor Woolley Councillor Mrs. Wootten Councillor R. Wootten		
<b>48</b>		<b>2</b>

The recommendation was approved.

Recommendation h:

*(Councillors Ashwell and Mrs. Kaberry-Brown had left the meeting prior to this vote taking place. Neither Councillor returned to the meeting)*

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councillor Adams Councillor Baxter Councillor Mrs. Bosworth Councillor Broughton Councillor Brown Councillor Bryant Councillor Mrs. Cartwright Councillor Chivers Councillor Cooke Councillor Coutts Councillor Craft Councillor Cunningham Councillor Dilks Councillor Dobson Councillor Evans Councillor Exton		

Councillor Goral		
Councillor Griffin		
Councillor Jeal		
Councillor Kingman		
Councillor Manterfield		
Councillor Morgan		
Councillor Dr. Moseley		
Councillor Neilson		
Councillor Powell		
Councillor Reid		
Councillor Robins		
Councillor Russell		
Councillor Sampson		
Councillor Selby		
Councillor Jacky Smith		
Councillor Judy Smith		
Councillor P. Stephens		
Councillor J. Stevens		
Councillor A. Stokes		
Councillor I. Stokes		
Councillor Mrs. Stokes		
Councillor Mrs. Sumner		
Councillor Sumner		
Councillor Turner		
Councillor Ward		
Councillor Webster		
Councillor Westropp		
Councillor Wilkins		
Councillor Wood		
Councillor Woolley		
Councillor Mrs. Wootten		
Councillor R. Wootten		
<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The recommendation was approved.

Separate electronic votes were taken on recommendations i to l, m and n, o and p, all of which were carried.

*15:50 to 16:13 – the meeting adjourned. (Councillor Adam Stokes did not return to the meeting following the recess)*

The recommendations detailed in Part B of report number CFM358, were proposed, seconded and subject to a further recorded vote:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councillor Adams Councillor Mrs Bosworth Councillor Broughton		Councillor Baxter

Councillor Brown		
Councillor Bryant		
Councillor Mrs. Cartwright		
Councillor Chivers		
Councillor Cooke		
Councillor Coutts		
Councillor Craft		
Councillor Cunningham		
Councillor Dilks		
Councillor Dobson		
Councillor Evans		
Councillor Exton		
Councillor Goral		
Councillor Griffin		
Councillor Jeal		
Councillor Kingman		
Councillor Manterfield		
Councillor Morgan		
Councillor Dr. Moseley		
Councillor Neilson		
Councillor Powell		
Councillor Reid		
Councillor Robins		
Councillor Russell		
Councillor Sampson		
Councillor Selby		
Councillor Jacky Smith		
Councillor Judy Smith		
Councillor P. Stephens		
Councillor J. Stevens		
Councillor I. Stokes		
Councillor Mrs. Stokes		
Councillor Mrs. Sumner		
Councillor Sumner		
Councillor Turner		
Councillor Ward		
Councillor Webster		
Councillor Westropp		
Councillor Wilkins		
Councillor Wood		
Councillor Woolley		
Councillor Mrs. Wootten		
Councillor R. Wootten		
<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

The vote was carried and the recommendations were approved.

**65. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

**Decision:**

**That the Council approves the recommendations made by the Constitution Committee at its meeting on 1 February 2016 that:**

**1.1 Local Authority Controlled Company**

**1.1.1 A new Article 12 be added to the Council's Constitution to establish a Shareholder Committee to support the development of a wholly owned local authority company**

**1.1.2 The Terms of Reference as shown at Appendix 2 of report number LDS168 are incorporated into the Constitution at the new Article 12**

**1.1.3 The numbering of subsequent articles be amended to include the new Article 12**

**1.1.4 These recommendations take effect at the Annual Council meeting on 21 April 2016**

**1.2 The timing of meetings remain as currently scheduled**

**1.3 Voting to appoint representatives on outside bodies remains as currently set out in the Constitution at Article 4.13.7**

**1.4 The proposed changes to the policy development groups, as agreed at Council on 21 January 2016, should be implemented from the annual council meeting on 21 April 2016**

The Chairman of the Council, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Constitution Committee presented its recommendations from the meeting held on 1 February 2016. In summarising report number LDS168, he explained that the Committee had considered arrangements for the creation of a Shareholder Committee as part of the development of a Local Authority Controlled Company. It had also considered other issues as requested by Council: the timing of meetings, arrangements for voting on appointments to outside bodies and the date of implementation for changes to the policy development groups agreed at Council on 21 January 2016. The proposals were seconded.

Separate votes were taken on each point, all of which were carried.

**66. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

**Decision:**

**1.1 That the Council adopts the recommendations made by the**

### **Welland Independent Remuneration Panel:**

- a. That travel and subsistence expenses should be met for all Councillors on Working Groups provided that they have been appointed in a properly constituted Meeting Body comprising more than one Political Group and that the membership of the Working Group is open to all Members of that Meeting Body.
- b. That the same principle should apply for a Councillor invited to serve on a Working Group but not on the parent Meeting Body.
- c. That, whilst recognising that the role of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the new Shareholder Committee is likely to justify an enhanced Special Responsibility Allowance for the post holders, it is premature at this moment to take an objective judgement on the matter. The matter should be revisited when the workload and increased responsibilities are clearer.

### **1.2 That the Constitution be amended to incorporate the revisions to the approved Scheme of Remuneration**

Members were invited to consider the report of the Welland Independent Remuneration Panel, which the Council had asked to meet to consider the payment of mileage and subsistence allowances for members of properly constituted working group meetings of PDGs and the Scrutiny Committee where membership comprised only one political group. The panel was also asked to come to a view on the payment of special responsibility allowances for the chairman and vice-chairman of the local authority controlled company shareholder committee. The Panel's report and its recommendations were presented in report LDS169.

The Panel's recommendations were proposed, seconded and, on being put to the vote, agreed.

### **67. NOTICES OF MOTION GIVEN UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12:**

A notice of motion had been submitted by Councillor Baxter:

#### ***The council notes that:***

1. *Across the country, many public services have been outsourced to private sector providers. Local government outsourcing doubled under the last parliament.*
2. *The award of tenders to private sector partners is often beset with difficulty. It is not a guarantee of efficiency or value for money.*
3. *Outsourcing has often failed to deliver the expected savings to the taxpayer, and failed to lead to better service provision. In-house provision can provide better value for money and more flexibility at a time of severe budget cuts.*
4. *Research shows that the public want to see more transparency and*

*accountability over outsourcing contracts, and they want public ownership to be the default for running services.*

***The council believes that:***

- 5. Transparency is needed in the provision of public services. Public service contracts and performance and financial data of providers should always be available. Freedom of Information legislation should apply to private companies running public services.*
- 6. Accountability is needed in the provision of public services. Meaningful consultation with the public and other stakeholders regarding service delivery objectives should take place before any outsourcing or privatisation.*
- 7. Public ownership should be the default, so a public interest case must be made for any outsourcing or privatisation. There should always be an in-house bid on the table if services are contracted out (or an explanation given why not).*
- 8. Social value must be the over-riding priority whenever contracts are awarded.*

***The council resolves to:***

- 9. Consult local residents and stakeholders before Council services (above the value of £50,000/annum) are outsourced to the private sector.*
- 10. Give consideration to in-house provision before the tender process commences for new contracts as well as for existing contracts due to expire.*
- 11. Publicly commit to the principles of transparency*

In proposing his motion Councillor Baxter spoke about the Council's commitment to delivering the best possible public services in the best way. While he recognised that there were some examples of successful public/private partnerships delivering local authority services he also referred to some that had proved less successful. He also connected provision of a quality service with a provider that had a local interest that went beyond the terms of its current contract. Councillor Baxter explained that the intention of his motion was to ensure that full public consultation was undertaken if the Council considered outsourcing any of its services, that an in-house approach should be considered alongside a proposal to tender or re-tender to the external market, and to ensure that any decision to outsource was transparent and accountable, providing the public with the same opportunities to interrogate the contract as if it was being delivered by the Council.

The motion was seconded. The following amendment was then proposed and seconded:

***This Council resolves that:***

- Against the backdrop of very clear and continued financial constraints*

*and as discussed by the Resources PDG at their meeting on 8 October 2015, this council will continue to explore and evaluate a range of delivery models in order to provide high quality, cost-effective customer-focused services.*

- *This council will look to continue to adopt a mixed economy approach of best providers including internal, external, public/public and public/private partnerships*
- *This Council recognises that this continued and longstanding approach in a range of areas, including grounds maintenance, building control and leisure has, for example, enabled continued leisure provision throughout the district and by effective management resulted in the leisure management fee reducing from circa £675,000 per annum 3 years ago to zero during 2016/17.*
- *This Council is committed to maintaining frontline services wherever possible despite a £4.3m reduction in government grant over the last few years.*

In response to concerns raised by some members, the Monitoring Officer clarified the validity of the amendment in accordance with article 4.11.6 of the Constitution. Some members who spoke against the amendment were concerned that it did not include mention of transparency. During debate this comment was rebutted, with members who supported the amendment stating that arrangements for ensuring transparency were enumerated within the Council's Constitution and to support a motion calling for transparency implied that it was a new concept. Other members challenged this by saying that if provision was already within the Constitution then there would be no detriment from including it in any resolution of the Council. The proposer of the original motion was given the opportunity to sum up. In so doing he urged members to vote against the amendment as it destroyed the original motion that had been put before Council. The amendment was subsequently put to the vote and won, making it the new substantive motion.

One member expressed disappointment, as they did not feel the two perspectives presented were mutually exclusive. Consequently the proposition was made that the substantive motion be amended by adding paragraph 5 of Councillor Baxter's original motion. This was seconded. The Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer advised that this amendment was not admissible as it compelled the Council to require external service-providers to comply with freedom of information legislation, which it was not empowered to do. The wording in Councillor Baxter's original motion did not require the Council to enforce partners' transparency; instead it was a statement that "this Council believes". The proposer of the amendment subsequently adjusted the wording so that the following was added to the substantive motion:

*"Transparency is needed in the provision of public services. Public service contracts and performance and financial data of providers should always be available."*

On being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

Debate returned to the substantive motion. Those Councillors who spoke against the motion stated that they were not suggesting that the Council had not acted in a transparent way, instead they felt an overt commitment would be appropriate. Consequently a new amendment was proposed that the following phrase should be included in the substantive motion:

*“Continued transparency is needed in the provision of public services. Public service contracts and performance and financial data of providers should always be available.”*

*17:00 - As the meeting had been in progress for three hours, in accordance with Article 4.6.4 of the Council’s Constitution, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the meeting should be extended by a further 30 minutes.*

The proposer of the substantive motion stated that he was prepared to accept the amendment.

Following further brief comments from members that reiterated points raised earlier in the debate, the substantive motion was put to the vote and lost.

## **68. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting was closed at 17:02.