

# MINUTES

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2017

2.00 PM



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## PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Judy Smith Chairman

Councillor Bob Adams  
Councillor Duncan Ashwell  
Councillor Ashley Baxter  
Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth  
Councillor Robert Broughton  
Councillor Teri Bryant  
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright  
Councillor George Chivers  
Councillor Michael Cook  
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 Michael King  
Councillor Matthew Lee  
Councillor David Mapp  
Councillor Charmaine Morgan

Councillor Nick Neilson  
Councillor Helen Powell  
Councillor Robert Reid  
Councillor Nick Robins  
Councillor Bob Russell  
Councillor Bob Sampson  
Councillor Ian Selby  
Councillor Jacky Smith  
Councillor Peter Stephens  
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  
Councillor Ray Wootten

## OFFICERS

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

## OFFICERS

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

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**78. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Benn, Forman, Mrs. Kaberry-Brown, Ms. Kingman, Manterfield, Dr. Moseley and Judy Stevens.

**79. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

No interests were disclosed.

**80. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2017 were proposed, seconded and agreed as a correct record.

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

The Council noted the Chairman's engagements.

**82. DETERMINATION OF BUDGET 2017/18 (AND INDICATIVE FOR 2018/19 AND 2019/20) - 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 £12.441M for 2017/18 shown at Appendix A to report number CFM409 (inclusive of special expenses) taking into consideration the savings and efficiencies shown at Appendix B to report number CFM409
- b. To approve a Council Tax increase of £4 (Band D equivalent) for 2017/18
- c. To note the indicative base estimates for 2018/19 and 2019/20 as detailed in the summary at Appendix A to report number CFM409.
- d. To approve the fees and charges as shown at Appendix C to report number CFM409
- e. To approve a pay award of 1% for 2017/18 based on the national award

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

- f. Approve the General Fund Capital programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22 detailed at page 1 of Appendix D to report number CFM409
- g. Approve the Capital Financing statement detailed at page 2 Appendix D to report number CFM409

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

- h. To approve the use of reserves as detailed at Appendix E to report number CFM409

### Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators

- i. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy provided at Appendix F to report number CFM409

### In relation to the Housing Revenue Account – Revenue

- j. To approve dwelling rent decrease of 1% providing an average rent of £79.28 (an average rental decrease of 81p per week)
- k. To approve an increase in garage rents of 2%
- l. To approve an increase of 3.4% in service charges for communal facilities and community rooms
- m. To approve an increase in shared ownership rents by 2%
- n. To approve the Housing Revenue Account for the year 2017/18 and indicative years 2018/19 and 2019/20 shown at Appendix G to report number CFM409
- o. To approve a pay award of 1% for 2017/18 based on the national award

### In relation to the Housing Revenue Account – Capital

- p. Approve the indicative Housing Investment Programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22 detailed at page 1 of Appendix H to report number CFM409
- q. Approve the Capital Financing statement detailed at page 2 of Appendix H to report number CFM409

### In relation to the Housing Revenue Account – Reserves and Balances

- r. To approve the use of the reserves as detailed at Appendix I to report number CFM409.

### Pay Policy Statement

- s. To approve the pay policy statement shown at Appendix J to report number CFM409

### Part B

- 1) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2017/18 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended)
  - a) £63,160,000 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) £50,104,000 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) £13,056,000 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) £4,625,000 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) £182.81 being the amount at c) above less the amount at d) above, all divided by the Council's tax base of 46,119.4 as recorded in minute 26 of the Executive meeting of 5 December 2016, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year 2017/18.
- f) £2,173,306 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- g) £135.68 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 5 December 2016, 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</u>
	<b>No.</b>
<b>Grantham combined</b>	<b>10655.95</b>
<b>Stamford combined</b>	<b>6893.98</b>
<b>Bourne Combined</b>	<b>5282.73</b>
<b>Allington</b>	<b>342.90</b>
<b>Ancaster</b>	<b>552.60</b>
<b>Aslackby</b>	<b>109.18</b>
<b>Barholm &amp; Stowe</b>	<b>33.19</b>
<b>Barkston and Syston combined</b>	<b>243.74</b>
<b>Barrowby</b>	<b>706.11</b>
<b>Baston</b>	<b>580.12</b>
<b>Belton &amp; Manthorpe</b>	<b>203.70</b>
<b>Billingborough</b>	<b>455.74</b>
<b>Bitchfield &amp; Bassingthorpe</b>	<b>54.99</b>
<b>Boothby Pagnell</b>	<b>63.59</b>

<b>Braceborough &amp; Wilsthorpe</b>	<b>139.44</b>
<b>Ropsley, Humby, Braceby, Sapperton combined</b>	<b>318.86</b>
<b>Burton Coggles</b>	<b>40.60</b>
<b>Careby</b>	<b>76.85</b>
<b>Carlby</b>	<b>203.91</b>
<b>Carlton Scroop and Normanton combined</b>	<b>124.64</b>
<b>Castle Bytham</b>	<b>293.28</b>
<b>Caythorpe &amp; Frieston</b>	<b>508.75</b>
<b>Claypole</b>	<b>508.72</b>
<b>Colsterwoth, Gunby &amp; Stainby, North Witham combined</b>	<b>745.20</b>
<b>Corby Glen &amp; Birkholme</b>	<b>398.12</b>
<b>Counthorpe &amp; Creeton</b>	<b>26.94</b>
<b>Deeping St James</b>	<b>2408.09</b>
<b>Denton</b>	<b>120.40</b>
<b>Dowsby</b>	<b>52.99</b>
<b>Dunsby</b>	<b>44.58</b>
<b>Stoke Rochford and Easton combined</b>	<b>84.92</b>
<b>Edenham</b>	<b>113.36</b>
<b>Fenton</b>	<b>59.37</b>
<b>Folkingham</b>	<b>268.73</b>
<b>Foston</b>	<b>218.99</b>
<b>Fulbeck</b>	<b>217.04</b>
<b>Greatford</b>	<b>126.70</b>
<b>Great Gonerby</b>	<b>719.40</b>
<b>Great Ponton</b>	<b>125.31</b>
<b>Haconby &amp; Stainfield</b>	<b>184.18</b>
<b>Harlaxton</b>	<b>336.76</b>
<b>Heydour</b>	<b>151.28</b>
<b>Honington</b>	<b>66.46</b>
<b>Horbling</b>	<b>157.93</b>
<b>Hougham</b>	<b>77.72</b>
<b>Hough-on-the-Hill</b>	<b>166.15</b>
<b>Ingoldsby</b>	<b>114.01</b>
<b>Irnham</b>	<b>110.45</b>
<b>Kirkby Underwood</b>	<b>80.31</b>
<b>Langtoft</b>	<b>750.41</b>
<b>Lenton, Keisby &amp; Osgodby</b>	<b>65.43</b>
<b>Little Bytham</b>	<b>109.78</b>
<b>Little Ponton &amp; Stroxton</b>	<b>67.46</b>
<b>Londonthorpe &amp; Harrowby without combined</b>	<b>1682.23</b>
<b>Long Bennington</b>	<b>927.21</b>
<b>Market Deeping</b>	<b>2149.21</b>

Marston	153.21
Morton & Hanthorpe	821.00
Old Somerby	90.15
Pickworth	74.02
Pointon & Sempringham	189.06
Rippingale	339.30
Sedgebrook	142.41
Skillington	134.24
South Witham	461.92
Stubton	73.05
Swayfield	144.58
Swinstead	81.22
Tallington	247.47
Thurlby	794.73
Toft Lound & Manthorpe	139.85
Uffington	314.74
Welby	81.38
Westborough & Dry Doddington	146.23
West Deeping	116.23
Witham-on-the-Hill	98.39
Woolsthorpe	136.76
Wyville cum Hungerton	18.77

- i) The amounts on the attached schedule (Appendix A to Part B, report number CFM409), 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 2017/18, 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 £
782.28	912.66	1043.04	1173.42	1434.18	1694.94	1955.70	2346.84

- k) That it be noted that for the year 2017/18, 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**

<b>A</b> <b>£</b>	<b>B</b> <b>£</b>	<b>C</b> <b>£</b>	<b>D</b> <b>£</b>	<b>E</b> <b>£</b>	<b>F</b> <b>£</b>	<b>G</b> <b>£</b>	<b>H</b> <b>£</b>
<b>136.98</b>	<b>159.81</b>	<b>182.64</b>	<b>205.47</b>	<b>251.13</b>	<b>296.79</b>	<b>342.45</b>	<b>410.94</b>

- i) 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 of report CFM409 as the levels of Council Tax for the year 2017/18 for the categories of dwellings shown in Appendix A to Part B of report CFM409.**

The Chairman drew Members' attention to an addendum to Part B of report number CFM409, which incorporated precept information for Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Police, both of which had determined their requirements after the report had been issued.

The Leader of the Council introduced report number CFM409 which contained the Executive's Budget Recommendations for 2017/18 and indicative budgets to 2019/20 for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and associated capital programmes. In proposing the recommendations the Leader explained that the proposals continued to build on the self-financing strategy that had been established, meeting priorities, being entrepreneurial and investing in business, while continuing to improve efficiencies and generate income. He emphasised an ongoing commitment to raise the district's profile through continued delivery of a festival programme. Additional resources had also been provided for street cleaning and refuse collection in response to residents' feedback.

Members' attention was drawn to the community fund, which had supported a range of projects across the district. The proposed Budget included further commitment to this fund.

Additional resources had also been committed to the production of the new Local Plan, which was a key document in delivering business and housing growth. 3,700 new homes were proposed to be delivered as part of Spitalgate Heath garden village, which was designated as part of a national programme that was designed to unlock the potential of whole development sites and expedite delivery. During 2017/18 work was also expected to commence on the new multiplex cinema in Grantham.

The Housing Revenue Account remained in a positive position. The Budget proposals continued to fund the Housing Investment Programme, which would be supported by a new Housing Strategy. Revenue generation had been affected by the Government's rent reduction policy meaning savings and efficiencies had to be found. Despite this, additional funding had been designated for neighbourhood

improvements and providing more insulation for the housing stock.

Progress had been made on the Council's digital agenda, with more services having been made available on the Council's website.

Those recommendations that related to the General Fund were seconded by the Executive Member, Finance and IT (recommendations a to i, r to s, and Part B). He stated that the 2017/18 budget and projections had been set against the backdrop of the 2015 spending review, which introduced the concept of core spending power, council tax increases and a 4-year deal which saw successful applicant councils given a 4-year funding settlement. This was based on submission of suitable efficiency plans that demonstrated how councils would manage reductions in Revenue Support Grant and move towards self-financing. South Kesteven District Council was awarded a 4-year deal, which gave a firmer idea of funding over that period. The forward-projections made assumptions of year-on-year increases in council tax and the use of new homes bonus to fund frontline services. The 2015 spending review also promised a review of New Homes Bonus.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy had been reviewed and updated focusing resources on delivering corporate plan priorities and providing a more flexible and responsive framework which put the Council on more of a business-like footing. Linked to this was a proposed investment of £2.8m into the Local Authority Controlled Company. The Capital Programme remained fully funded with no requirement to borrow.

Changes were expected to business rates, with the Government being committed to 100% business rate retention. Further information had yet to be provided on how this would affect the Council. The Executive Member also highlighted that the Government's Fairer Funding Review could see resources shifted to areas of national priority.

Recommendations j to q were seconded by the Executive Member, Housing. The proposed budget made provision for continued investment to improve the quality of the housing stock with planned works including 5,700 central heating upgrades, providing 105 properties with external wall insulation, 10 roof replacements and 130 kitchen upgrades.

£8m had been previously been committed to supporting new build houses and work had begun on 27 units. The budget also provided funding to enable open market purchases where appropriate to increase the Council's housing stock. The Executive Member reiterated that this was the second year of a national rent reduction programme, which would see the average weekly rent for a council tenant go down by approximately 81 pence. Ongoing improvements in the letting process had increased income by reducing the length of time properties were void.

The Council continued to set aside funding to make repayments against the loan taken out as part of the abolition of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. A comprehensive review of the Housing Business Plan was planned for 2017/18.

All three of the Executive Members who proposed or seconded the recommendations thanked Members for their input and their contributions into the

budget-setting process. They also thanked the officers who had been involved for their work. During debate several other members of Council expressed their gratitude to the officers for their work.

Members from across the floor spoke in support of the Budget and raised questions that were answered by the Executive Members and officers. A summary of comments is provided below:

- Members felt that the budget was fair and the books had been balanced well, leaving the Council in a strong financial position.
- Some members noted the compound effect on the Council's budget of opting for a £4 Council Tax increase rather than £5; the recommendation had taken account of consultation feedback and wider financial pressure on residents.
- Support was expressed for the festivals in Grantham, Stamford and now Deeping and a suggestion was made about the introduction of a heritage event in Bourne.
- Some disappointment was expressed because no provision had been made for Members to have a personal budget that they could use to support small projects in their Ward. Such an initiative had not been considered appropriated given the wider financial context.
- Take up of online services had increased, with further services due to be added. Actual savings of £114k had been achieved, together with income from being able to reduce the authority's footprint and rent out office accommodation to other organisations.
- The number of new homes that the Council could build was restricted by the availability of land.
- The workforce efficiency target built into the budget was an assessment of likely vacancies and the length of time recruitment would take; projected employee costs for these periods would not be included in the Budget.
- In negotiating the leisure management contract, the Council had secured a zero management fee.
- The Business Rate Volatility Reserve was used to cover costs arising by successful business rate appeals. This was a budgetary pressure that could not be accurately predicted and sat outside the control of the authority.
- The level of the Insurance Reserve was due to historical claims that were settled during the financial year.
- Government had recently announced a forthcoming fairer funding review. At the time of the meeting there was no information about how this might affect the authority.

- Government had also announced further changes to the welfare and benefit system that could impact on residents. The Council would develop its response when more information was known about the potential impacts of the changes.

The Labour group had three amendments to the Budget that it wished to propose. A copy of the amendments had been circulated for all Members prior to the meeting (Appendix 1 to the minutes). The amendments requested £6k for consultation on improving the gateways into the district's market towns, £5k for a feasibility study on the level of need and demand for a weekly bin collection for homes without external waste storage and £6k for the development of a business case for a new district-wide commercial waste collection service. In proposing the amendments, specific reference was made to the impression the gateways to each of the market towns gave to visitors and how it supported economic growth.

The proposer also stated that the extra funding in the budget for waste collection was welcomed, but highlighted that some properties did not have the benefit of external spaces for waste storage, so residents were forced to keep two-week's worth of household waste in their homes. This was highlighted as a particular problem for residents living in small flats and single rooms. She stated that the final amendment relating to a business waste collection service had the potential to generate income for the authority and provide services to businesses in rural areas where providers that were purely commercial might be reluctant. The amendments were seconded.

The Leader responded to the proposed amendments and suggested that all of them could be covered within the £350k identified over the next three years to look at issues relating to street waste and cleansing and that the Policy Development Groups could play a key role in carrying out that work.

Other Members speaking in favour of the amendments highlighted the benefits that they would bring to residents and businesses through the enhancement of the public realm.

In light of the comments from the Leader about the possibility of incorporating the suggestions raised through the amendments within the existing budgetary provision (working with the PDGs), the amendments were withdrawn.

As debate returned to the substantive motion, further comments were made about the benefits for local communities and organisations that had been realised through the community fund and the additional investment in that pot. The Council had granted funding totalling £202k, which contributed to the total value of the projects of £1.06M.

Further support was given to the suggestion of a heritage event for Bourne. Reference was also made to land in Bourne that had been bequeathed for recreational purposes together with the suggestion that Grantham could benefit if land was bequeathed for social housing purposes.

In summing up the Leader recommended the budget to Council and stated that while South Kesteven District Council was not immune to the national financial

situation, sound planning had left it in a stronger position than others and so far frontline services had been protected. He also referred to the geographic benefits enjoyed by the district and on how they had been capitalised, including the district's festivals and attracting national names to perform at the Meres Leisure Centre. Reference was also made to the consultation that had been undertaken on the level of council tax and how it had been taken into account and influenced the recommended annual increase.

Members had been reminded that where a vote was taken on recommendations related to the making of calculations in accordance with the Local Government and Finance Act 1992, a recorded vote was required. For votes on recommendations not related to this Act, the electronic voting system was used.

*Councillor Mrs. Sarah Stokes had left the meeting at 15:00 prior to any vote on the Budget. Councillor Adam Stokes was absent from the meeting during the first two recorded votes. He had, however returned to the Chamber for the electronic vote and the final recorded vote, in which he participated.*

A recorded vote was taken on recommendations a to e:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councillor Adams		
Councillor Ashwell		
Councillor Baxter		
Councillor Mrs Bosworth		
Councillor Broughton		
Councillor Bryant		
Councillor Mrs Cartwright		
Councillor Chivers		
Councillor M Cook		
Councillor K Cooke		
Councillor Coutts		
Councillor Craft		
Councillor Cunningham		
Councillor Dilks		
Councillor Dobson		
Councillor Evans		
Councillor Exton		
Councillor Goral		
Councillor Griffin		
Councillor Jeal		
Councillor King		
Councillor Lee		
Councillor Mapp		
Councillor Morgan		
Councillor Neilson		
Councillor Powell		
Councillor Reid		
Councillor Robins		
Councillor Russell		
Councillor Sampson		

Councillor Selby		
Councillor Jacky Smith		
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith		
Councillor P Stephens		
Councillor I Stokes		
Councillor Mrs Sumner		
Councillor Sumner		
Councillor Turner		
Councillor Ward		
Councillor Webster		
Councillor Westropp		
Councillor Wilkins		
Councillor Wood		
Councillor Woolley		
Councillor Mrs Wootten		
Councillor Wootten		
<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The recommendations were approved unanimously.

A recorded vote was taken on recommendations f to i

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councillor Adams		
Councillor Ashwell		
Councillor Baxter		
Councillor Mrs Bosworth		
Councillor Broughton		
Councillor Bryant		
Councillor Mrs Cartwright		
Councillor Chivers		
Councillor M Cook		
Councillor K Cooke		
Councillor Coutts		
Councillor Craft		
Councillor Cunningham		
Councillor Dilks		
Councillor Dobson		
Councillor Evans		
Councillor Exton		
Councillor Goral		
Councillor Griffin		
Councillor Jeal		
Councillor King		
Councillor Lee		
Councillor Mapp		
Councillor Morgan		
Councillor Neilson		
Councillor Powell		
Councillor Reid		

Councillor Robins		
Councillor Russell		
Councillor Sampson		
Councillor Selby		
Councillor Jacky Smith		
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith		
Councillor P Stephens		
Councillor I Stokes		
Councillor Mrs Sumner		
Councillor Sumner		
Councillor Turner		
Councillor Ward		
Councillor Webster		
Councillor Westropp		
Councillor Wilkins		
Councillor Wood		
Councillor Woolley		
Councillor Mrs Wootten		
Councillor Wootten		
<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The recommendations were approved unanimously.

An electronic vote was taken on recommendations j to s, which was carried unanimously.

A recorded vote was taken on Part B

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councillor Adams		
Councillor Ashwell		
Councillor Baxter		
Councillor Mrs Bosworth		
Councillor Broughton		
Councillor Bryant		
Councillor Mrs Cartwright		
Councillor Chivers		
Councillor M Cook		
Councillor K Cooke		
Councillor Coutts		
Councillor Craft		
Councillor Cunningham		
Councillor Dilks		
Councillor Dobson		
Councillor Evans		
Councillor Exton		
Councillor Goral		
Councillor Griffin		
Councillor Jeal		
Councillor King		

Councillor Lee		
Councillor Mapp		
Councillor Morgan		
Councillor Neilson		
Councillor Powell		
Councillor Reid		
Councillor Robins		
Councillor Russell		
Councillor Sampson		
Councillor Selby		
Councillor Jacky Smith		
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith		
Councillor P Stephens		
Councillor A Stokes		
Councillor I Stokes		
Councillor Mrs Sumner		
Councillor Sumner		
Councillor Turner		
Councillor Ward		
Councillor Webster		
Councillor Westropp		
Councillor Wilkins		
Councillor Wood		
Councillor Woolley		
Councillor Mrs Wootten		
Councillor Wootten		
<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The recommendations were approved unanimously.

*15:34 to 15:55 – the meeting was adjourned.*

**83. ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE SIZE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE AND THE ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS**

The Leader announced that Councillor King had been appointed to the Executive and would hold the Economic Development Portfolio. Councillor King acknowledged the appointment, stating that he looked forward to working with all Councillors and officers to promote growth and conservation and bringing forward major projects.

**84. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Decision:**

- 1. To appoint Councillor Bob Russell as the Council’s representative on the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board**
- 2. To appoint Councillors Craft, Mrs. Kaberry-Brown and Ian Stokes as the Council’s representatives on the Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board**

**3. To appoint Councillors Broughton, Dilks, Jacky Smith and Woolley as the Council's representatives on the Welland and Deeping Internal Drainage Board**

Report number LDS202 explained that the three-year term of office for Council representatives on the internal drainage boards was due to expire at the end of March 2017 and Council was asked to consider appointments for the following three-year term. It was proposed, seconded and, on being put to the vote, agreed that the Council's existing representatives on all three internal drainage boards should continue.

**85. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS**

**Decision:**

- 1. That Councillor Brian Sumner be appointed to fill the Conservative vacancy on the Communities Policy Development Group**
- 2. That Councillor Frank Turner be appointed to fill the Conservative vacancy on the Development Control Committee**

Report number LDS203 informed Council of Conservative vacancies on the Communities Policy Development Group and the Development Control Committee. The Leader nominated Councillor Brian Sumner to fill the vacancy on Communities PDG and Councillor Frank Turner to fill the vacancy on the Development Control Committee. These were seconded and, on being put to the vote, agreed.

**86. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION**

One Question Without Discussion had been received.

Question 1:

To: Scrutiny Committee

From: Councillor Ashley Baxter

Over the last five years, recycling rates in Lincolnshire have fallen from 52.8% down to 47.0% and in South Kesteven District they have fallen from 48.6% down to 43.2% which is almost as low as the national average.

In household recycling league tables, Lincolnshire's ranking out of 351 local authorities has fallen from 44<sup>th</sup> to 118<sup>th</sup>. South Kesteven's ranking has fallen from 88<sup>th</sup> down to 172<sup>nd</sup>.

Can the Scrutiny Committee please investigate why SKDC recycling rates have fallen so dramatically and what practical steps can be taken to promote waste prevention, recycling and composting in the District?

Article 4.8.3 of the Council's Constitution required the referral of all questions without discussion to the relevant Policy Development Group. As this question was addressed to the Scrutiny Committee, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that in this instance, in the interest of expediency, the question should be referred directly to that committee.

**87. NOTICES OF MOTION GIVEN UNDER ARTICLE 4.9:**

**Decision:**

**Illegal hare-coursing in Lincolnshire is a growing menace which can be described at best as an unwelcome resource challenge for our already stretched Lincolnshire Police and at worst an epidemic affecting the lives of decent law-abiding citizens who regularly feel threatened and intimidated by gangs of men with dogs.**

**In the last so-called hare-coursing 'season' from September 2015 to March 2016, there were 2,169 incidents involving hare coursing reported to Lincolnshire Police who made 174 arrests or reports for summons. Sadly, there has been a noticeable increase in hare- coursing incidents in the current 'season'.**

**Over one weekend last month (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017), 31 incidents were reported to police across the county, with more arrests and seizures of vehicles with our police officers spending a total of 168 hours on 'Operation Galileo' patrols and dealing with hare-coursing incidents.**

**At the last meeting of Deepings Neighbourhood Police Forum, residents of Deeping Fen and Langtoft Fen told shocking accounts of how they live in constant fear of gangs of up to 20 men with lurcher-type dogs arriving from all corners of the country, damaging property and threatening violence to anyone who gets in the way of their illegal activities:**

**A father told how he was forced to move his children away after hare-coursers barricaded a local road and threatened to burn down his family home. A mother described how she is frightened to let her children play outside for fear of the coursers dogs.**

**The National Farmers Union locally recently complained that illegal hare-coursing is getting 'out of control'.**

**As part of their ongoing 'Operation Galileo' to tackle hare-coursing, Lincolnshire Police recently confronted coursers on Deeping High Bank and near Hall Meadow Road, Deeping St James and have had some success with arrests and convictions.**

**In his first media interview since taking over, our new Chief Constable Bill Skelly said he was committed to tackling illegal hare-coursing and when he met with more than 100 South Lincs farmers concerned at the rise in hare-coursing, promised more resources to tackle the issue.**

However, in discussions with myself and other local community representatives to explore what more can be done, Chief Inspector Jim Tyner - District Commander for North & South Kesteven and district tactical lead for Operation Galileo - suggested that a formal Public Spaces Protection Order may be helpful in policing and preventing hare-coursing in our area.

Such an order could be made by this council, using the powers of Section 71 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, and in consultation with Lincolnshire Police, to prohibit would-be hare-courers from using certain public roads, and creating an offence for failure to comply.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1. Welcome the new Chief Constable's commitment to tackling illegal hare-coursing and congratulates Lincolnshire Police on Operation Galileo and work currently being undertaken.**
- 2. Work closely with Lincolnshire Police to take all reasonable steps possible to combat hare-coursing in South Kesteven including full consideration of all the options as appropriate to help improve the quality of life for local residents whose lives are being adversely affected by these illegal activities.**
- 3. For Councillor Wootten, in his capacity as the South Kesteven representative on the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel, to highlight and re-iterate the issue with the Police and Crime Commissioner and agree the most appropriate course of action on public awareness.**

One notice of motion had been submitted by Councillor Dilks:

*Illegal hare-coursing in Lincolnshire is a growing menace which can be described at best as an unwelcome resource challenge for our already stretched Lincolnshire Police and at worst an epidemic affecting the lives of decent law-abiding citizens who regularly feel threatened and intimidated by gangs of men with dogs.*

*In the last so-called hare-coursing 'season' from September 2015 to March 2016, there were 2,169 incidents involving hare coursing reported to Lincolnshire Police who made 174 arrests or reports for summons. Sadly, there has been a noticeable increase in hare- coursing incidents in the current 'season'.*

*Over one weekend last month (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017), 31 incidents were reported to police across the county, with more arrests and seizures of vehicles with our police officers spending a total of 168 hours on 'Operation Galileo' patrols and dealing with hare-coursing incidents.*

*At the last meeting of Deepings Neighbourhood Police Forum, residents of Deeping Fen and Langtoft Fen told shocking accounts of how they live in constant fear of gangs of up to 20 men with lurcher-type dogs arriving from all corners of the country, damaging property and threatening violence to anyone who gets in the way of their illegal activities:*

*A father told how he was forced to move his children away after hare-coursers barricaded a local road and threatened to burn down his family home. A mother described how she is frightened to let her children play outside for fear of the coursers dogs.*

*The National Farmers Union locally recently complained that illegal hare-coursing is getting 'out of control'.*

*As part of their ongoing 'Operation Galileo' to tackle hare-coursing, Lincolnshire Police recently confronted coursers on Deeping High Bank and near Hall Meadow Road, Deeping St James and have had some success with arrests and convictions.*

*In his first media interview since taking over, our new Chief Constable Bill Skelly said he was committed to tackling illegal hare-coursing and when he met with more than 100 South Lincs farmers concerned at the rise in hare-coursing, promised more resources to tackle the issue.*

*However, in discussions with myself and other local community representatives to explore what more can be done, Chief Inspector Jim Tyner - District Commander for North & South Kesteven and district tactical lead for Operation Galileo - suggested that a formal Public Spaces Protection Order may be helpful in policing and preventing hare-coursing in our area.*

*Such an order could be made by this council, using the powers of Section 71 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, and in consultation with Lincolnshire Police, to prohibit would-be hare-coursers from using certain public roads, and creating an offence for failure to comply.*

*Therefore, this Council resolves to:*

- 1. Welcome the new Chief Constable's commitment to tackling illegal hare-coursing.*
- 2. Work closely with Lincolnshire Police to take all reasonable steps possible to combat hare-coursing in South Kesteven including full consideration of a formal Public Spaces Protection Order as appropriate to help improve the quality of life for local residents whose lives are being adversely affected by these illegal activities.*
- 3. Publicise the issue of hare-coursing and the action being taken to*

*combat it through all appropriate means including an educational article in 'South Kesteven Today'.*

In proposing the motion, reference was made to the Deepings neighbourhood policing forum, at which the increase in the occurrence of hare-coursing had been highlighted. The proposer also talked about the impact of hare-coursing on local residents, citing examples of threats of violence and intimidation. In preparing the motion, he had worked with officers from Lincolnshire Police, including the local Police Community Support Officers, the area Inspector, divisional Chief Inspector and the new Chief Constable. Reference was also made to legislation that allowed the Council to adopt Public Space Protection Orders, which gave police the power of arrest if known hare-courers re-entered the area after they had been asked to leave. The Chief Constable had promised a step-change in the force's response to hare-coursing for the next season. He concluded by saying that the motion, if successful, would send a clear message that the Council supported local residents and police while demonstrating its opposition to hare-coursing and the other criminal activity associated with it.

The proposal was seconded.

An amendment was proposed and seconded, which changed the three items that the Council was asked to resolve:

1. Welcome the new Chief Constable's commitment to tackling illegal hare-coursing and congratulates Lincolnshire Police on Operation Galileo and work currently being undertaken.
2. Work closely with Lincolnshire Police to take all reasonable steps possible to combat hare-coursing in South Kesteven including full consideration of all the options as appropriate to help improve the quality of life for local residents whose lives are being adversely affected by these illegal activities.
3. For Councillor Wootten, in his capacity as the South Kesteven representative on the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel, to highlight and re-iterate the issue with the Police and Crime Commissioner and agree the most appropriate course of action on public awareness.

In proposing the amendment, sympathy was expressed for local communities and reference was made to the police's record in prosecuting hare-coursing through Operation Galileo. Both the proposer and seconder referred to existing powers in the Hunting Act 2004 and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act that could be used to tackle hare-coursing. Both expressed concerns about the enforceability of a Public Spaces Protection Order within the resources that Lincolnshire Police had available. A suggestion was made that while an Order should not be ruled out entirely, if it was a tool the police wanted, they could come forward with evidence to show that it was appropriate.

As Members debated the amendment, it was made clear that no one had been challenging police performance, instead the proposal had been about providing

an additional tool that could be used. It was also noted that the original proposition did not state that the Council would instigate a Public Spaces Protection Order, but it would consider it as an option, alongside any other available options. Members speaking against the amendment also questioned why it was not felt appropriate to raise awareness of the issue in SK Today. Those speaking against the amendment also reiterated that the motion had been produced in partnership with the police, who had asked for the Council's help.

One Member spoke of their experience with hare-courers, highlighting difficulties experienced by police in responding to calls, given the geography of the area. There was also discussion about the resourcing of Lincolnshire Police and the capacity and the practicalities of effectively policing the Order, which to cover the district's road network would need to cover the whole district. A suggestion was made that it was an issue that could be considered by the Communities Policy Development Group. The Chief Executive was asked whether the Chief Constable had made a formal request through her; she confirmed that she was not aware of any such request.

The proposer of the original motion was given the opportunity to sum up. He urged members to vote against the amendment, reminding them that the wording was developed in consultation with police officers. He added that local farmers and the National Farmers' Union did not feel that the action taken by Lincolnshire Police to date had been sufficient. While cognisant of available resources, he also reiterated that, when asked what the Council could do to help tackle the problem, it was the police that suggested a Public Spaces Protection Order. He added further that the motion did not ask the Council to commit to making an Order, but to consider it as one option. He added that awareness raising through SK Today was not a matter that should be deferred to the Police and Crime Commissioner. He asked for Members not to treat the motion but a way of showing support to local communities.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried and became the substantive motion. A vote was then taken on the new substantive motion, which was carried.

## **88. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting was closed at 16:50.

## SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL 2 MARCH 2017

### LABOUR GROUP BUDGET AMENDMENT 2017/18

The Labour Group proposes the following amendments to the South Kesteven District Council Budget 2017/18

#### **Amendment 1**

##### **A Better Place to Visit - First impressions**

**Consult with residents and businesses to identify what improvements can be made to improve/enhance the street scene/environment of the gateways into the market towns of SKDC. £6k**

#### **Amendment 2**

##### **A better place to Live**

**At present people are being forced to live in accommodation with food waste and other waste accumulating over two weeks in their homes. This is not only unacceptable for the residents concerned but affects neighbourhoods and others in their community when the waste is taken onto the street. The provision of a feasibility study to examine the level of demand/need for a weekly bin collection for homes in skdc with no external waste storage amenity.**

**£5k**

#### **Amendment 3**

##### **Business Waste Collection Service**

**The completion of a business case for a new District wide waste collection service. The objective being to identify if there is demand for such a service across the District, or parts of the District and to identify how such a service could be provided, and, at what potential cost/income for SKDC.**

**£6k**

**Total £17k one off payment**

## **SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL 2 MARCH 2017**

The following changes will be required to the Budget Report to accommodate the amendments.

### **Recommendations Part A (page 2)**

#### 1. In relation to the General Fund – Revenue

*Item a. will be amended to read:*

- a. To set a General Fund budget requirement of £12.441m for 2017/18 shown at Appendix A (inclusive of special expenses) taking into consideration the savings and efficiencies shown at Appendix B.

#### I. In relation to the General Fund – Reserves and Balances

*Item h. will continue to read:*

- h. to approve the use of reserves as detailed in Appendix E

### **Appendices – Appendix A and Appendix E**

The amendments will be reflected in the Appendices as follows:-

#### **Appendix A – Summary of General Fund Estimates 2017/18**

Priority Focus – Environment will be increased by £17k to £6,824k  
Movement on Reserves will see a net increase (£273k)

#### **Appendix E – General Fund Reserves Statement**

Local Priorities Reserve sub-total will be reduced by £17k leaving £7,259k  
General Revenue Reserve sub-total will be reduced by £17k leaving £13,886k  
General Fund Reserve Overall Total for 2017/18 will be reduced leaving £15,122k