

Council



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Thursday, 23 May 2019 at 2.00 pm
Shekinah Room - Jubilee Church Life Centre, 1-5 London
Road, Grantham. NG31 6EY

Members: Councillor George Chivers, Chairman of the Council (Chairman)
Mr Brian Sumner (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Bob Adams
Councillor Ashley Baxter
Councillor David Bellamy
Councillor Chris Benn
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth
Councillor Robert Broughton
Councillor Louise Clack
Councillor Kelham Cooke
Councillor John Cottier
Councillor Helen Crawford
Councillor John Dawson
Councillor Phil Dilks
Councillor Barry Dobson
Councillor Mike Exton
Councillor Paul Fellows
Councillor Helen Goral
Councillor Breda Griffin
Councillor Jan Hansen

Councillor Graham Jeal
Councillor Gloria Johnson
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown
Councillor Anna Kelly
Councillor Ms Jane Kingman
Councillor Philip Knowles
Councillor Matthew Lee
Councillor Nikki Manterfield
Councillor Annie Mason
Councillor Penny Milnes
Councillor Virginia Moran
Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Councillor Dr Peter Moseley
Councillor Robert Reid
Councillor Nick Robins
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Councillor Jacky Smith

Councillor Lee Steptoe
Councillor Judy Stevens
Councillor Adam Stokes
Councillor Ian Stokes
Councillor Jill Thomas
Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew
Councillor Sarah Trotter
Councillor Dean Ward
Councillor Hannah Westropp
Councillor Hilary Westropp
Councillor Amanda Wheeler
Councillor Mark Whittington
Councillor Jane Wood
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Sue Woolley
Councillor Linda Wootten
Councillor Ray Wootten

Agenda

For those Councillors who wish to attend, prayers will be held in the Shekinah Room at 1:55pm before the commencement of the meeting. Please be seated by 1:50pm.

1. Election of the Chairman of the District Council

The Chairman will take the chair, make the declaration of acceptance of office and be invested with the chain of office.

2. Vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman of the District Council

The Vice-Chairman will make the declaration of acceptance of office and be invested with the Vice-Chairman's medallion.

4. Apologies for Absence

5. Disclosure of Interests

Members are asked to disclose any interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.

6. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2019

(Pages 5 - 19)

7. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)

(Page 21)

A list of events attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council.

8. Election of the Leader of the Council

Members will elect the Leader of the Council.

9. Announcement on the size and membership of the Cabinet and the allocation of Cabinet Members' remits

The Leader will announce the members of the Cabinet, together with details of the remits of each of the Cabinet Members.

10. Appointments to committees including the appointment of their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

(To follow)

Report of the Chief Executive setting out the political balance of the Council and asking the Council to agree the membership of its committees and the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for those Committees.

11. Timetable of Council and committee meetings

(To follow)

Report of the Chief Executive asking Council to approve a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council and the timetable for its committees for the 2019/20 municipal year.

12. Appointment of representatives to outside bodies

(To follow)

Report of the Chief Executive to consider nominations to represent the District Council on outside bodies.

13. Meetings of the Cabinet

(Pages 23 - 32)

Report of the Leader of the Council.

14. Members' Open Questions

A 45-minute period in which members may ask questions of the Leader, Cabinet Members, the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and opposition group leaders excluding the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Planning Committee, Licensing and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committees and Governance and Audit Committee.

15. Notices of Motion given under Article 4.9 of the Council's Constitution:

a) Councillor Phil Dilks

This motion addresses serious concerns about rising crime in my ward and across South Kesteven at the same time as police officer and PCSO numbers are in the process of being cut throughout Lincolnshire in the face of a severe funding gap identified by the Chief Constable of £3.2 million this year.

For example, in the Market Deeping and Uffington police area which covers the ward I represent, last year (2018) there were 229 reports of violent and sexual offences – up from 135 the previous year – a worrying rise of 69%.

The increase became even more worrying in January this year which saw another big rise, followed by an even bigger rise in February (the most recent figures available).

In my ward of Deeping St James and my neighbouring ward of Market and West Deeping, the official police figures show there were three violent and sexual offences reported in February last year – less than one a week.

In February this year, in the same relatively small area, there was one violent and sexual offence reported for every day of the month - up from less than one a week.

Our police service has been cut to the bone nationally over recent years. Lincolnshire has suffered from a historically low and unfair Government funding formula, but has still seen the number of police officers reduced by almost 150 since 2010 (down from 1,245 to 1,060) as part of cutting 21,000 police officers across the country.

Last September our Chief Constable Bill Skelly revealed that his force is already stretched to breaking point and facing a massive funding gap in what he needs to effectively police Lincolnshire and fight rising crime. He warned that without additional resources, there would have to be even less policing in Lincolnshire – and even fewer police officers protecting us all.

In February this year, as the Government funding and Budget for Lincolnshire Police was finalised for the current year, the Chief Constable revealed that he would have to make savings of £3.2 million – and even more next year.

So right now he is in the process of cutting another 40 police officers and 33 PCSOs. We are also seeing up to 30 police support staff cut.

In light of this worrying position of further police cuts at the same time as crime is rising in our county, this Council resolves to:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to our local MPs outlining our concerns and lobbying for their urgent intervention with a view to increasing funding to Lincolnshire Police so that the current further reductions in numbers of police officers and PCSO can be halted.
2. Invite the Chairman of the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agenda 'Local Crime Statistics and Police Funding' as an item to be urgently scrutinised with evidence and 'witnesses' to be engaged as appropriate.

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MINUTES

COUNCIL

FRIDAY, 1 MARCH 2019

2.00 PM



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councillor George Chivers Chairman

Councillor Bob Adams
Councillor Duncan Ashwell
Councillor Ashley Baxter
Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth
Councillor Robert Broughton
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor Michael Cook
Councillor Kelham Cooke
Councillor Nick Craft
Councillor Felicity Cunningham
Councillor Phil Dilks
Councillor Barry Dobson
Councillor Mike Exton
Councillor Tracey Forman
Councillor Helen Goral
Councillor Graham Jeal
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown
Councillor Michael King
Councillor Ms Jane Kingman
Councillor Matthew Lee

Councillor Nikki Manterfield
Councillor Dr Peter Moseley
Councillor Robert Reid
Councillor Nick Robins
Councillor Bob Russell
Councillor Bob Sampson
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Councillor Jacky Smith
Councillor Adam Stokes
Councillor Ian Stokes
Councillor Mrs Sarah Stokes
Councillor Brian Sumner
Councillor David Taylor
Councillor Dean Ward
Councillor Hannah Westropp
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Linda Wootten
Councillor Ray Wootten

OFFICERS

Chief Executive (Aidan Rave)
Strategic Director (Debbie Muddimer,
Gary Smith, Paul Thomas)
Assistant Chief Executive (Lee Sirdifield,
Ken Lyon)

OFFICERS

Assistant Director, Resources (Richard
Wyles)
Principal Democracy Officer (Jo Toomey)

69. Public Open Forum

Question 1

From: Phil Gadd, Grantham
To: Councillor Nick Neilson, the Cabinet Member for Housing

“The residents at Riverside flats used to organise meals for themselves twice per week as a social event in the community centre on site. A small charge was made to cover the costs of the food. Afterwards, they would play cards or bingo, it was a chance for the elderly to meet, socialise and avoid loneliness.

However, SKDC decide a couple of years ago that if a friend or family member attended a charge of £20 for each 3 hours was incurred for the hire of the centre. So, the additional costs of £60 per week made the meals and activities too expensive. The meals and socials no longer take place.

Mr Cooke said at the Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committee “The council was transforming itself by using more technology and also becoming more commercial”

It is good to see that the Council are becoming more commercially aware but should they not have some discrimination between voluntary and commercial organisations?”

In response to Mr. Gadd's question, the Cabinet Member for Housing stated that commercial rates were only charged where the booking or hiring of a venue would generate a commercial profit for the organisation. For the purposes of providing food and meals for the residents of Riverside, and for people who did not live there, a charitable fee would be charged rather than a commercial rate (£5.15 for up to three hours or £10.30 for the day). There were other schemes across the district at which meals were organised for residents; these were charged at the charitable rate.

Mr. Gadd responded, stating that commercial rates had been applied to the previous meals scheme that had been run at the complex; bookings were required 3-months prior to the event with payment in advance. He referred to the Belvoir Hunt, stating that the activity of a commercial organisation was being supported by the Council. Mr Gadd suggested that the Council should review its policy. The Cabinet Member stated that it was something that the Council would look into and agreed to speak to Mr. Gadd after the meeting.

Question 2

From: Phil Gadd, Grantham
To: Councillor Nick Neilson, the Cabinet Member for Housing

Riverside Flats, Grantham

“I understand that the heating and hot water issue raised at last month's meeting are planned for permanent repairs later this year – many thanks.

However, it appears that the issue could have been resolved earlier if ALL the complaints had been correctly logged. I have received a spreadsheet from SKDC and Liberty gas which shows heating and hot water issues were only logged from December 2018.

Many calls were made throughout the previous years, none of these were logged. If they had been it would have highlighted an ongoing problem within the site.

Could you please explain why residents' complaints were unrecorded from previous years?"

The Cabinet Member for Housing stated that the Council should have taken action to ensure that the issues faced by residents in Riverside were avoided by assessing and renewing the whole pipe network that feeds hot water and heating to the flats.

The Cabinet Member for Housing apologised that it had taken longer than it should have done to provide Mr. Gadd with the information he had requested and gave his assurance that the Assistant Director for Housing would look into the matter. The information that was provided contained all of the issues and complaints related to heating and hot water from Riverside but was limited to the correspondence between the Council's Housing Repairs Team and Liberty Gas. The information did not include the issues raised by residents through the Customer Service Centre. The Cabinet Member for Housing stated that this would be added to the information that had already been supplied to show the total number of complaints and issues that were dealt with since 2016.

The Cabinet Member for Housing concluded that the Council's current focus was ensuring that improvements were undertaken to provide a consistent and constant source of heating and hot water for tenants. Surveyors and contractors had been on site carrying out assessments and scheduling the work that was involved in delivering this, which remained on schedule to start in April 2019.

As part of his response, Mr. Gadd referred to a number of complaints that he knew had been made that were not reflected in the figures that he had been provided. He asked whether there was an issue with the reporting system or whether the calls prior to 2018 would have gone directly to Liberty Gas.

70. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rachael Cooke, Coutts, Evans, Griffin, Mapp, Dr. Moseley, Powell, Stephens, Brenda Sumner, Trollope-Bellew, Turner, Webster and Wilkins.

71. Disclosure of Interests

Councillors K Cooke and Lee disclosed an interest in agenda item 7: '*Budget 2019/20: A district that works for everyone, delivering opportunity*', because they were both Directors of InvestSK.

72. Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2019 were proposed, seconded and agreed as a correct record.

73. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)

The Council noted the Chairman's engagements. The Chairman also drew Members' attention to his Gala concert, which was taking place on 22 March 2019, and encouraged them to get their tickets.

74. Pay Policy Statement 2019/20

The Leader of the Council proposed the recommendations in the report on the Pay Policy Statement 2019/20. He explained that the Council was required to produce an annual Pay Policy Statement that set out the reasoning behind its pay policy and that served as a statement of intent to increase staff pay by 2%. He drew Members' attention to the fact that the Council had its own pay policy but followed national advice. The proposition was seconded.

One Member asked whether the Pay Policy Statement applied only to those officers who were employed directly to the Council or whether it extended to staff employed by any of the Council's companies. Another Member stated that she felt the document should have been subject to Equality Analysis to ensure that any gender pay gap issues were addressed.

In summing up, the Leader stated that the Pay Policy Statement only applied to those staff who were employed directly by the Council. He explained that the content of the document had to adhere to national Regulations. He added that if any further information was needed in relation to gender issues, the Head of Paid Service would be able to provide reassurance or meet with the Councillor to discuss any concerns.

The proposition was put to the vote and the Council **AGREED**:

To approve the Pay Policy Statement 2019/20

75. Budget 2019/20: A district that works for everyone, delivering opportunity

It was proposed, seconded, and on being put to the vote, agreed, for this item only, to suspend Article 4.11.4 of the Council's Constitution, which limited the amount of time for which Members could speak to five minutes, and instead allowing them to speak for up to ten minutes.

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the 'Budget 2019/20: a district that works for everyone, delivering opportunity' and proposed the recommendations within the report. In making his proposition he stated that the proposed Budget supported the Council's ambition and promise to residents to make the district a better place to live, work and invest. He reminded Members that the Council was legally required to set a balanced budget; he added that the proposals before Members had been robustly scrutinised by the Budget Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Cabinet Member for Finance explained that the Council's reserves were higher than a large number of authorities and that the Budget proposed using a proportion

of them to support the Council's growth ambitions and projects designed to create assets and increase income for the future. The Budget included funding for the acquisition, facilitation and development of strategic sites that brought the Council opportunities to achieve returns through a balanced portfolio. Provision had been made in the Budget for funding to support InvestSK and EnvironmentSK.

Members were advised that 2019/20 was the final year of a four-year settlement with government and the final year of the Council being able to increase Council Tax by £5 on a Band D property. Council Tax proposals had been subject to public consultation earlier in January/February 2019, when 53.3% of respondents supported an increase. The Cabinet Member for Finance added that the Council needed to continue to work hard to find efficiencies and savings to offset reduced Government support from 2020/21. Reference was made to proposals for fees and charges as well as a 1% decrease in housing rents.

The Cabinet Member concluded his proposition by stating that the Budget would also allow delivery of existing priorities, including the cinema and the public realm project. He stated that the Budget was designed to strike a balance between the financial challenges that the Council would face and taking steps to meet those challenges.

In seconding the proposition, the Leader of the Council referred to the design of the Budget which focussed on delivery and ensuring people had the chance to benefit from the new opportunities that the Council was helping to create. He spoke about the progress the Council had made in achieving its aims, which were supported by the adoption of a new Corporate Plan that focussed on resource, capacity and capability. He spoke about the work InvestSK had been undertaking with a range of partners and stakeholders across the district and the imminent launch of DeliverSK. He spoke of a desire to design and commission the best, most competitive services for communities across the district and referred to some specific projects, including the Big Clean

The Leader spoke about creating an organisation that was as efficient and agile as possible to reduce the burden placed on the public purse. He referred to transformation programmes that were underway and the introduction of new technologies like intelligent automation and predictive analytics.

He concluded by referring to his Portfolio and what the Council Tax increase of £5 on a Band D property would help to deliver and how it would help design new services around communities' needs to ensure that they were clean, safe places where people were proud to live. He added that the Budget would give the Council the means to realise the growing ambition that existed across the district.

One Member, who spoke against the Budget proposals referred to savings proposals for 2018/19 that had not been achieved. Reference was also made to occasions in-year when Members were asked to make revisions to the approved Budget.

Support was expressed for programmes that would see the development of additional Council housing.

A number of Members referred to investment proposals, with some concerns being raised about the achievability of using the full £10m allocation, and the use of borrowing to fund the allocation.

Members referred to the use of reserves and questions raised during the Budget-setting process about its sustainability. One Member expressed support for the use of reserves as he did not consider it appropriate for the Council to increase Council Tax and bank what had not been spent. Reference was also made to questions that had been asked in relation to investment income and whether any income could be anticipated from the cinema in 2019/20. In response to the question, Members were advised that no income would be received from the cinema during 2019/20 to give it the chance to become established.

One Member spoke about the impact of delays associated with Universal Credit on local Foodbanks and the increased demand they had faced in 2018/19. An amendment was proposed that £10,000 be set aside from reserves to support Grantham Foodbank. The seconder agreed to support the amendment on the basis that the amount was increased to £15,000 to support Foodbanks across the district. The proposer agreed.

During brief debate on the amendment, support was expressed for the work of the Foodbanks. Reference was also made to a recent issue regarding the disposal of waste from the Grantham Foodbank and measures that had been put in place to resolve the problems that were being experienced.

A vote was taken on the proposal, proposed by Councillor Morgan and seconded by Councillor Matthew Lee:

“To amend recommendation 1 to increase the Budget requirement to £14.706m to reflect the creation of a £15,000 budget for Foodbank support across South Kesteven. This budget to be funded from the Local Priorities Reserve.”

The vote was carried and the amendment became part of the substantive motion.

One Member referred to a letter he had received as the Chairman of the Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He read excerpts from the letter and appealed to Members to remember the largely rural nature of the district and the residents that lived in those rural areas. He outlined how residents in rural areas felt that there was a disparity between them and residents living in the district's towns. Some Members highlighted programmes from which rural areas had benefitted.

Comments were made in support of the proposals within the Budget, with the suggestion being made that if there were aspects with which opposition Members were not happy, they could present an alternative Budget. Several Opposition Group Leaders explained why they had chosen not to put forward an opposition Budget.

Several Cabinet Members spoke about projects and activity that fell within their Portfolios that were being supported through the Budget proposals, these included:

- The Property Investment Policy, which would give the Council the opportunity to make purchases during the year
- Improvements that would be made to the Council's website and the intranet, with consideration being given to the creation of an app
- Investment in IT equipment to support Council staff
- Treating assets commercially to achieve a return
- Service level reviews and using modern technology
- Investment in the visitor economy programme
- The introduction of a new market in Market Deeping
- No increases to car parking charges or penalty charge notices
- No increase in market fees
- The new cinema in Grantham, which had been handed over to the operator earlier in the day
- Provision of university-level education as part of the cinema development project
- The commitment to meet decent homes standards and tackle fuel poverty
- An allocation to invest in social properties

Reference was made to the changes that had been made to the 2018/19 Budget in-year. Several Members who spoke stated that it was important for the Council to be flexible and make adjustments to react to any situations that arose and take advantage of opportunities.

The proposer was given an opportunity to sum-up and in so-doing he reiterated how the Budget would support growth and the local economy of South Kesteven.

A recorded vote was taken in respect of the proposals relating to the General Fund:

For: Councillors Adams, Ashwell, Mrs. Bosworth, Broughton, Mrs. Cartwright, Chivers, K. Cooke, Dilks, Dobson, Exton, Forman, Goral, Jeal, King, Kingman, Lee, Manterfield, Morgan, Neilson, Reid, Robins, Russell, Selby, Jacky Smith, Judy Smith, A. Stokes, I. Stokes, Brian Sumner, Taylor, Ward, Westropp, Wood, L. Wootten, R. Wootten (34)

Against: Councillor Baxter (1)

Abstain: Councillors M. Cook, Craft, Cunningham and Sampson (4)

(Both Councillors Mrs Kaberry-Brown and Sarah Stokes had left the meeting prior to the recorded vote and neither returned).

The proposals were carried. A further vote was taken (by show of hands) on the recommendations relating to the Housing Revenue Account, which was carried. The Council therefore **AGREED**:

General Fund

1. **To set a General Fund budget requirement of £14.706m for 2019/20 detailed at section 4 of the report to Council (inclusive of special**

expenses and the creation of a £15,000 Budget to support Foodbanks across South Kesteven with the Budget to be funded from the Local Priorities Reserve)

2. **To approve a Council Tax increase of £5 (Band D equivalent) for 2019/20**
3. **To note the indicative base estimates for 2020/21 and 2021/22 as detailed at section 4 of the report to Council**
4. **Approve the General Fund Capital programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 and financing statement detailed at section 4 of the report to Council and shown at Appendix D**
5. **To approve the movements in General Fund Revenue and Capital reserves and balances detailed at section 8 of the report to Council and shown at Appendix E as amended by point 1 (above)**
6. **To approve the fees and charges detailed at section 4 of the report to Council and shown at Appendix F**
7. **To approve the Treasury Management Strategy detailed at section 7 of the report to Council and provided at Appendix G**
8. **To approve the Capital Strategy detailed at section 6 of the report to Council and provided at Appendix H**
9. **To approve the Property Investment Policy detailed at section 6 of the report to Council and provided at Appendix I**
10. **To approve Council Tax recommendations as set out in Part B of the report at Appendix K**

Housing Revenue Account

11. **To approve dwelling rent decreases of 1% in accordance with Government guideline rent providing an average rent of £77.62 (an average rental decrease of £0.81 per a week)**
12. **To approve an increase in garage rents of 2.5%**
13. **To approve an average increase of 2.5% in service charges for communal facilities and communal rooms**
14. **To approve an increase in shared ownership rents by CPI +1% (4%)**
15. **To approve the Housing Revenue Account budget for the year 2019/20 and indicative years 2020/21 and 2021/22**

16. Approve the Housing Investment programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 and the Financing statement detailed at section 6 of the report to Council and as shown at Appendix D

17. To approve the movements in HRA revenue and Capital reserves and balances detailed at section 8 of the report to Council and shown at Appendix E.

76. Appointment of the Independent Person

The Chairman of the Employment Committee presented his report, which proposed the appointment of George Welsh and Gordon Grimes to the post of Independent Person. The recruitment of the Independent Person was delegated by the Employment Committee to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council. Interviews had taken place in February and the individuals named in the report were nominated to the position. The proposition was seconded and, on being put the vote, the Council **AGREED:**

To appoint George Welsh and Gordon Grimes to the post of Independent Person with immediate effect for a period of four years.

77. Changes to the Leader's Scheme of Delegation

The Leader presented his report, which outlined changes to his Scheme of Delegation. He stated that soft facilities and information technology had moved from the remit of the Deputy Leader to the Cabinet Member for Environment. Members noted the contents of the report.

78. Arrangements for the operation of the Council's Committees from May 2019

The Deputy Leader of the Council proposed the recommendations in his report on arrangements for the operation of the Council's Committees from May 2019. In so doing, he explained that the review process began when comments had been made during a full Council meeting in relation to the Council's Committees and the overview and scrutiny function of the Council. He felt that it was important to complete the review prior to the election and to do so, a cross-party working group had been set up. He expressed his thanks to Ben Bix, the Council's former Head of Governance, who had supported the review.

The Deputy Leader outlined the proposals, which included a reduction in the number of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, with a change to the name of the Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee so it was more clear which items it would consider, and the joining of the Communities and Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committees because of the overlap in their remits. The revised overview and scrutiny committees would receive the support of a dedicated scrutiny officer.

The Deputy Leader highlighted changes to the Development Management Committee, which would see it renamed the Planning Committee and reduce from 15 members to 13. He also stated that it was proposed that all major applications would

be considered by the Committee and outlined a change to the process through which Members could call-in decisions for consideration by the Committee.

The Deputy Leader concluded his overview by saying that each committee would determine the time, location and day of its meetings. The proposition was seconded.

There was some discussion about ensuring that all political groups were represented on the new Planning Committee as there was concern that, once the political balance rules had been applied, the smaller number of seats could mean that opposition groups would not be represented. Consideration was given to the proposition of an amendment that would require representation from all political groups on the Planning Committee. The Leader stated that he could not accept such a proposition but stated that he was keen for all groups to be represented and had gifted seats to groups in the past to ensure that they could play an active role in the Council's Committees. In a gesture of good faith, no amendment was tabled. A suggestion was made that the Planning Committee could meet in the new municipal year to discuss its terms of reference, which could include the number of members. Some Members spoke against this suggestion as they felt that it was the Committee's role to work within the terms of reference set out in the Constitution as prescribed by the Council. The number of Members on the Committee had been the source of debate in the working group; the recommendation was based on the average number of Members who attended the meeting, the size of other councils' planning committees and the need to ensure that expertise was not lost.

Comments were made about the benefits of effective scrutiny and how it served an important role in improving the quality of decision-making. Some discussion ensued about the split of the scrutiny and policy development functions. Some Members found the separation beneficial while others felt that a single committee would not have sufficient capacity to carry out all the work that would be required of it given the ambitions of the Council.

One Member said that they welcomed the review and highlighted areas where he felt the current arrangements could have worked better. He spoke of his experience at overview and scrutiny committees and the need to ensure that there was sufficient time to scrutinise items before they were presented to Cabinet for decision; this sentiment was reiterated by other Members.

An amendment was proposed, that recommendation 13, which related to the proposed reduction in size of the Planning Committee, be removed. The proposition was not seconded, so the amendment fell.

One Member suggested that consideration should be given to ensuring that appointments to positions, including chairmanships, vice-chairmanships and Cabinet positions reflected the diversity of Members of the Council.

The Deputy Leader was given the opportunity to sum up; he stated that he believed in better accountability and hoped that this would be supported through the proposed changes. He suggested that the Cabinet Forward Plan could enhance the development of work programmes and help ensure that pre-decision scrutiny was

built into the decision-making timeline. He added that he was keen for more Members to be given the opportunity to speak and participate.

The proposition was put to the vote and the Council **AGREED** to:

1. **Dissolve the Growth Committee, the Communities and Wellbeing Committee, together with Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committees**
2. **Continue the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee as constituted**
3. **Continue the Culture and Visitor Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee as constituted**
4. **Establish a Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, of 9 Members**
5. **Establish a Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, of 7 Members**
6. **Amend clause 6.8.1 of the Constitution to insert (ix) *Consider the Work Programme document for the Committee***
7. **Amend Article 7.1 (ii) of the Constitution: to Chair a *quarterly* meeting of the Chairmen of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees**
8. **Dissolve the Shareholder Committee**
9. **Establish a Companies Committee for 2019/20**
10. **The Constitution Committee reviewing and preparing terms of reference for all Committees as part of its forthcoming review of the Constitution**
11. **Amend Article 10.1 (i): The Constitution Committee will be composed of seven Councillors appointed annually at the annual Council meeting**
12. **Amend Article 9 of the Constitution to rename the Development Management Committee as the Planning Committee from 2019/20, and consequently thereafter throughout the Constitution**
13. **Amend clause 9.11 of the Constitution so that the Planning Committee be composed of 13 members**
14. **A new clause be inserted in Article 16 of the Constitution (page 119) – Officers – ...*Except in the following circumstances: All applications for major development, where “major development” means development involving any one or more of the following –***
 - a) ***The provision of dwelling houses where –***

- i) *The number of dwelling houses to be provided is 10 or more; or*
- ii) *The development is to be carried out on a site having an area of 0.5 hectares or more, and it is not known whether the development falls within sub-paragraph (a) (i)*
- b) *The provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 square metres or more; or*
- c) *Development carried out on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more*

15. Amend Article 16 of the Constitution to insert a second bullet point on page 119 – *Include a statement that the Councillor has consulted the Ward Member(s) for those Ward (s) in which the application was made*

16. Amend Article 16, of the Constitution page 120, 3rd bullet point to state *applications by or on behalf of the Council's Senior Management Team, or an employee within the Development Management or Planning Policy functions of the Council*

17. That a review of the effectiveness of these changes be undertaken after one year of operation

79. Minutes of Cabinet meetings approved since 31 January 2019

The Leader presented his report, attached to which were the Cabinet minutes from the meeting held on 17 January 2019. In presenting the report, the Leader took the opportunity to thank those Members who were not seeking re-election for their service and wished them the very best. He also asked that his thanks to the Members of his Cabinet be placed on record.

One Member asked about street lighting, which had been the subject of recommendations from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Recommendations had been submitted to Cabinet, which had sent the report back to the Committee with a number of questions to be addressed. The member of the Council who raised the matter understood that the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee had referred the matter back for determination. The Leader stated that it as a matter that was important both to him and the Cabinet Member for Environment but that there were a number of questions that still needed to be answered before the Cabinet considered the Committee's recommendations. He suggested that the Committee work with the Cabinet Member for Environment and that the Cabinet would be happy to consider the Committee's recommendations when its report was ready.

Another Member referred to the visitor guide for the district and commended its quality.

Members noted the report.

80. Notices of Motion given under Article 4.9:

(a) Councillor Ashley Baxter

Councillor Baxter presented his motion:

"This Council pledges to hold at least one formal meeting (e.g. an OSC meeting) in each of the 3 smaller towns (Stamford, Bourne and Market Deeping) during each calendar year.

The Council mandates the Chief Executive to liaise with relevant Members and Officers to organise suitable dates and venues."

In proposing his motion, Councillor Baxter referred to previous occasions when he had brought the matter before Council. He made reference to meetings held by Cabinet in each of the district's four towns and the support that they had received. He then referred to the locations that had been used for the overview and scrutiny committees. He said that holding meetings in other locations showed a willingness to engage with communities around the district, and his suggestion was to hold three meetings a year outside of Grantham. The motion was seconded.

Reference was made to visits that were undertaken by the Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committee which had seen it travel to locations across the district and how useful they had been to help Members understand the vagaries of the different areas.

In speaking against the proposal, the Leader stated that he was not going to instruct the Chairman of each committee or the Chief Executive on the venue of meetings, but suggested that members of those committees should have their own debate. He suggested that it might be appropriate for a committee to hold a meeting in an alternative location if there was a matter that related specifically to that area on the agenda. He said that he had found value in the meetings that the Cabinet had held away from Grantham.

Councillor Baxter was given the opportunity to sum up and stated that the proposal was about getting Members out and about and experiencing the rest of the district.

A vote was taken and the Council **AGREED**:

To not support the motion submitted by Councillor Baxter

(b) Councillor Phil Dilks

Councillor Dilks proposed his motion:

"This Council is committed to maintaining the highest standards of probity in its actions, demonstrating openness and transparency and delivering best possible value for council tax payers' money: Given the numerous concerns and increasing

costs associated with the restructure of the Council's senior management team, it is resolved to urgently review the process to date to establish whether it has been:

- a) Consistent with the Council's objectives;*
- b) Fair to all staff members who have been impacted;*
- c) Best value for money.*

It is hoped this review will provide an opportunity to both reassure those we seek to serve of the integrity of the process and enable any lessons to be learned for the future."

In proposing his motion, Councillor Dilks reflected on the changes that had been made in respect of the Council's senior management structure over the previous 18-months. He suggested that it would be prudent to review the process that was followed to identify any lessons to be learned and address concerns and questions over the way appointments had been made. He referred to his role on the Employment Committee and conversations he had had with some officers about their perceptions on recruitment. He wanted to ensure that through any such process staff were treated fairly. He concluded by saying that he was proposing the review to reassure those that the Council serves of the integrity of the process and ensuring the highest standards of transparency, openness and accountability. The proposition was seconded.

During the seconder's speech, they referred to conversations that they had had with members of staff and their experiences of the recent review.

A number of Members spoke against the proposition, with their comments including:

- Confidence in the current senior management team
- The success of a council was dependent on its political leadership and the quality of its staff
- Three factors had been borne in mind during the re-structure: the long-term interests of the Council, HR and legal advice and protecting the dignity of the individual concerned
- Group Leaders were asked about the process that should be undergone for all of the vacant posts (external advert, internal advert, etc.)
- Scrutiny was provided through the Employment Committee

Those Members who spoke in support of the motion stated that it was not indicating that the Council had done something wrong, but suggested it could learn lessons about what could be improved in the future. Reference was made to feedback from the 2018 staff survey, which indicated that officers did not believe that policies were applied fairly across the Council; recruitment and selection was amongst the areas that were covered by the question.

The proposer was given the opportunity to sum up. He reiterated that his motion was not intended as a criticism and expressed his support for the current senior team. He reiterated that the motivation was ensuring transparency and accountability.

A vote was taken and the Council **AGREED**:

To not support the motion submitted by Councillor Dilks

81. Grantham Hospital

Councillor Morgan had been granted permission by the Chairman to make an announcement.

She stated that she had been contacted earlier in the day about a meeting held by the Lincolnshire Community Health Services Group at which the future of Grantham Hospital was discussed. She updated Council on a number of proposed changes and initiatives relating to the operation of Grantham Hospital, all of which would be subject to consultation later in the year. She concluded by saying that she hoped that the Council would continue to back the fight to save the hospital.

82. Close of meeting

The meeting was closed at 16:49.

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Agenda Item 7

List of Chairman's Engagements

2 March 2019 – 23 May 2019

Date	Ref	Organisation and Event	Location
Friday 08.03.19	GC066	Mayor's Charity Show	The Guildhall, Grantham
Sunday 10.03.19	GC073	Mayor of Market Rasen Church Civic Service	St. Thomas's Church, Market Rasen
Monday 11.03.19	GC070	Commonwealth Flag Raising	Newton Room, the Guildhall, Grantham
Wednesday 13.03.19	GC074	Grantham Rotary Club, Children of Courage Awards and lunch 2019	Urban Hotel, Grantham
Sunday 17.03.19	GC075	Mayor and Mayoress of Sleaford Civic Service	Riverside Church, Sleaford
Friday 22.03.19	GC051	Chairman's Charity Gala	The Guildhall, Grantham
Saturday 23.03.19	GC089	ATC Dining In	Belton Golf Club, Grantham
Sunday 24.03.19	GC076	Louth Civic Service	St James's Church, Louth
Friday 29.03.19	GC081	Deputy Mayor of Stamford's Civic Dinner	Burghley Golf Club, Stamford
Friday 05.04.19	GC088	NKDC Chairman's Civic Reception	NKDC Civic Suite, Sleaford
Sunday 07.04.19	GC090	Falklands Veteran's Visit	Finkin Street Church and Grantham Museum
Sunday 07.04.19	GC083	Grantham Mid Lent Fair	The Ballroom, The Guildhall Guildhall Arts Centre
Friday 12.04.19	GC082	SKDC Chairman's Civic Dinner	Belton Park Golf Club, Grantham
Monday 15.04.19	GC087	88 th Charter Dinner	Belton Park Golf Club Grantham
Tuesday 23.04.19	GC085	Deeping St James PC Annual Parish Meeting	The Conference Centre, The Deepings School
Sunday 28.04.19	GC084	The Mayor of Lincolns Civic Service	Holy Cross Church, St Helen's Avenue, Lincoln LN6 7RA
Sunday 05.05.19	GC092	Opening of the Play Park Dysart Park (Gingerbread Man Race)	Dysart Park, Grantham
Tuesday 14.05.19	GC091	RAF Wittering – Freedom Parade Mayor of the City of Peterborough	Cathedral Square and the Town Hall, Peterborough

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Council

23 May 2019

Report of: Councillor Matthew Lee

The Leader of the Council

Minutes of Cabinet meetings approved since 1 March 2019

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 7 February 2019 as approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on 7 March 2019 are provided for Councillors' information. The minutes of the Cabinet's meeting held on 7 March 2019 will be made available at a future meeting of the Council following their approval by the Cabinet.

Report Author

Jo Toomey, Principal Democracy Officer

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Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
Administrative	Administrative	All Wards
Reviewed by:	Margaret Welton, Senior Research and Support Assistant	13 May 2019
Approved by:	Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Chief Executive, Transformation and Change	14 May 2019
Signed off by:	Councillor Matthew Lee, The Leader of the Council	14 May 2019

Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

1. Council is asked to note the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 7 February 2019 as attached at appendix 1 to this report.

1 The Background to the Report

- 1.1 South Kesteven District Council operates a Leader and Cabinet arrangement as established under the Local Government Act 2000. In 2010 the Council adopted the strong Leader model under provisions within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 1.2 The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 set out the responsible body for different functions, specifically those functions that are not executive functions, those that may be determined by an authority's executive. All other functions are, by default, executive functions and would therefore, under the Council's arrangements, be determined by the Cabinet. The requirements of these Regulations mean that at all its meetings, the Cabinet may make some decisions outright whilst in other instances it may make recommendations to Council.
- 1.3 The minutes of the Cabinet's meetings are made available to the Council to note the decisions taken by the Cabinet. The agenda, reports to Cabinet and individual Cabinet Member decisions are all available on the Council's website should Members wish to read them.

2 Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no financial comments arising as a result of the report.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Debbie Muddimer, Strategic Director - Resources

3 Legal and Governance Implications

- 3.1 There is a requirement to publish Cabinet decisions in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. These minutes have been recorded to inform Members of the deliberations at the meeting.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Chief Executive, Transformation and Change

4 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

- 4.1 This report provides Members with the record of Cabinet meetings. Where appropriate, analyses in respect of equalities and safeguarding relevant to its decisions will be presented to Cabinet with reports as individual issues come forward.

5 Risk and Mitigation

- 5.1 Risk has been considered as part of this report and no specific high risks have been identified.

6 Community Safety Implications

- 6.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

7 Background Papers

- 7.1 There are no background papers relating to this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1: The approved minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 7 February 2019.

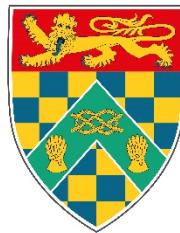
Report Timeline:	Date of Publication on Forward Plan (if required)	Not required
	Previously Considered by: Council	1 March 2019
	Final Decision date	No decision required

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MINUTES

CABINET

THURSDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2019



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

THE LEADER: Councillor Matthew Lee (Chairman)

THE DEPUTY LEADER: Councillor Kelham Cooke

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Helen Goral

Councillor Dr Peter Moseley

Councillor Nick Neilson

Councillor Nick Robins

Councillor Jacky Smith

Councillor Adam Stokes

NON-CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Bob Adams

Councillor Bob Sampson

Councillor Linda Wootten

Councillor Ray Wootten

OFFICERS

Chief Executive (Aidan Rave)

Strategic Director, Growth (Paul Thomas)

Strategic Director, Resources (Debbie Muddimer)

Strategic Director, Commercial & Operational (Gary Smith)

Assistant Chief Executive, Transformation & Change (Lee Sirdifield)

Assistant Chief Executive, Housing Delivery (Ken Lyon)

Assistant Director, Commercial & Operational (Ian Yates)

Assistant Director, Housing (Harry Rai)

InvestSK (Steve Bowyer)

Head of Governance (Ben Bix)

Principal Democracy Officer (Jo Toomey)

CO77. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2019 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following corrections:

- The standing reports to Cabinet (LDS337, LDS338, LDS339 and LDS340) were presented by the Deputy Leader

- The police officer attending the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee was Detective Chief Superintendent Davidson

CO78. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY)

Councillor Dr. Moseley stated that he was a Director of EnvironmentSK, which was the subject of some of the recommendations within the Budget Proposals 2019/20 report.

The Deputy Leader expressed his gratitude to the people who had supported the Cabinet team that entered the Rotary Club Swimarathon, which had raised just under £1,000.

CO79. BUDGET PROPOSALS 2019/20 (BUDGET FRAMEWORK - RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

The Cabinet Member introduced his report on the Budget proposals for 2019/20. In doing so he explained that the Council was required to set a balanced budget and that the proposals set out in the report were based on a Council Tax increase of £5 on a Band D property while supporting the Council in meeting its growth ambitions. Since the Cabinet had met on 17 January 2019, there had been a public consultation exercise on Council Tax proposals, which ran between 21 January and 4 February 2019.

The Cabinet Member for Finance highlighted the change that had been made to accommodate budgetary provision for a Scrutiny Officer since Cabinet had considered the draft Budget proposals on 17 January 2019. He informed Cabinet Members that, in respect of proposals relating to the use of the Council's reserves, that their levels would still be higher than other local authorities and supported by assets that would provide the Council with income in the future.

Members of the Cabinet were given the opportunity to debate the Budget proposals, key points raised in debate included:

- The review of the Council's committee arrangements to make the Council's decision-making arrangements work in the best way possible, from which the recommendation for a Scrutiny Officer had arisen
- The creation of a new website for the Council to replace outdated technology
- Improvements that were being made to IT to enable the organisation to work in a modern and agile way
- The intention to continue conducting an annual staff survey and the recent launch of the new Employee Handbook
- The Council was able to increase Council Tax by £5 on a Band D property because it had a dispensation from Government as it was one of the lowest charging authorities in the country
- The work being undertaken by 'Little Clean' teams, which were part of the legacy of the 'Big Clean' initiative
- Work had been undertaken to align the vehicle replacement schedule so that it would have a more even effect on the Budget

- If the Council did not increase Council Tax then it would impact on the services that it could deliver and its ability to achieve its ambitions
- The preparation of the Budget had included engagement and involvement from all parties through the Scrutiny function
- The prices for market stalls had been frozen to assist natural growth and a new market was being launched in Market Deeping
- Bus station charges had been frozen
- Investment in visitor economy included a new visitor website and a new festival for Bourne; funding for the visitor guide had also been secured for a further year
- The Budget included £50k of additional support to help businesses move into new premises, which would bring economic benefits in the future
- The Property Investment Policy stated that it was an ambition of the Council to continue growing the economy
- The Council had exchanged contracts in the purchase of the Cummins Generator site in Stamford on Monday 4 February 2019
- Work was underway on the Council's Asset Management Strategy to make sure the Council was effective managing its assets and achieve the right return
- There was a commitment to regenerating all parts of the district, either by the Council directly, a private sector partner or one of the Council's companies
- The new cinema development in Grantham would be an asset both to the Council and the town
- The creation of a Technology and Innovation Centre as part of the cinema project would bring a higher education offer to the district
- The Budget included £100k additional spend to support the skills agenda
- Proposals in the Budget would enable the development of additional Council homes and help resolve housing issues that exist within the district

The Leader recorded his thanks to the Members and officers who put together the Budget and highlighted his aim to strive for continual improvement and wanting the Council to be seen as organisation that wants to engage and support people.

It was agreed that the Cabinet **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:**

1. **To set a General Fund budget requirement of £14.632m for 2019/20 detailed at section 3 of this report and shown in detail at Appendix A (inclusive of special expenses).**
2. **To propose a Council Tax level of £5 for 2019/20 (Band D property)**
3. **To note the indicative base estimates for 2020/21 and 2021/22 as detailed in the summary at Appendix A.**
4. **To approve dwelling rent decreases of 1% in accordance with Government guideline rent providing an average rent of £77.62 (an average rental decrease of £0.81 per a week)**
5. **To approve an increase in garage rents of 2.5%**

6. To approve an average increase of 2.5% in service charges for communal facilities and communal rooms
7. To approve an increase in shared ownership rents by CPI +1% (4%)
8. To approve the Housing Revenue Account for the year 2019/20 and indicative years 2020/21 and 2021/22 detailed at section 5 of this report and shown at Appendix A
9. Approve the General Fund Capital programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 detailed at section 6 of this report and shown at Appendix D
10. Approve the Capital Financing statement detailed at Appendix D
11. Approve the Housing Investment programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 detailed at section 6 of this report and as shown at Appendix D
12. Approve the Capital Financing statement detailed at Appendix D
13. To approve the movements in Revenue and Capital reserves and balances detailed at section 8 of this report and shown at Appendix E.
14. To approve the movements in HRA revenue and Capital reserves and balances detailed at section 8 of this report and shown at Appendix E.
15. To approve the fees and charges detailed at section 4 of this report and shown at Appendix F.
16. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy detailed at section 7 of this report and provided at Appendix G
17. To approve the Capital Strategy detailed at section 6 of this report and provided at Appendix H
18. To approve the Property Investment Policy detailed at section 6 of this report and provided at Appendix I
19. That the title of the report is changed from 'Budget Proposals 2019/20' to 'A district that works for everyone, delivering opportunity'

CO80. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET BY THE COUNCIL OR OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The report of the Leader of the Council informed Cabinet Members of any recommendations that had been made to Cabinet by the Council or Overview and Scrutiny Committees since it last met on 17 January 2019.

It was noted that the recommendations of the Budget Overview and Scrutiny Committee were reported at the last meeting of the Cabinet, when the draft Budget was considered. The Committee's recommendations were also captured within the report of the Cabinet Members for Finance and Housing which gave details of the final Budget proposals.

The Chairman of the Culture and Visitor Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee briefly summarised the matters that it had considered during its meeting on 24 January 2019, highlighting specifically the feedback from the first 'Big Conversation' event, an item on scoping sports development activities and the new 'Discover SK' brochure that had been produced. She also highlighted the forthcoming Deepings Literary Festival which would run between the 23 and 26 May 2019.

The Chairman of the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee reminded Members that it would next meet on Tuesday 12 February 2019 when Detective Chief Superintendent Davidson would speak to the Committee about modern day slavery; an invitation had been extended to all members of the Council. It was suggested that a representative or representatives of the senior team could also attend to help understand the measures and actions the Council could take. He added that he was expecting an update on the future of healthcare in Lincolnshire within the following two weeks, adding that he would update the Leader when he received the information.

The Chairman of the Rural Overview and Scrutiny gave an overview of items considered at its previous meeting including transformation and innovation and the introduction of an Armed Forces Discount Card, which was going to be taken forward. He also referred to the Bourne Cycle Festival stating that concerns had been raised by some rural Members that they had not been consulted on the event, which had put them in a difficult position when they had been approached by local farmers.

The Chairman of the Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committee also emphasised the rural nature of the district and how he would like to see initiatives that would benefit the rural community. The Leader challenged the statement and listed initiatives that the Council had run from which rural communities and benefited. He added that the recognition of the rurality of the district had led to the creation of the Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that the Chairman had a role championing the rural community outside of Cabinet.

CO81. ITEMS RAISED BY CABINET MEMBERS INCLUDING REPORTS ON KEY AND NON KEY DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS.

The Cabinet noted the report of the Leader of the Council which informed Cabinet Members of decisions that had been taken by individual Members since the last meeting of the Cabinet was held on 17 January 2019.

- **Appendix 1:** Grantham, Wyndham Park. Application for Centenary Fields status

Designation of Centenary Fields status for Wyndham Park, Grantham would ensure that the park was protected as a living remembrance for those who lost their lives in the First World War

- **Appendix 2:** Council Tax for long-term empty dwellings

A change in government policy meant that the Council could increase the premium for long-term empty dwellings. One non-Cabinet Member asked for clarification that the premium would not be applied to properties owned by service personnel; the Councillor was advised that the position would be clarified and he would be provided with a written response to the question.

CO82. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

Cabinet Members noted the report of the Leader of the Council appended to which was the Cabinet's Forward Plan. The Forward Plan gave an indication of the items that would be presented to Cabinet over the following twelve-month period. The plan also included items that were scheduled to be considered at meetings of the Council during that period.

CO83. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was closed at 14:42.

DATE DECISIONS EFFECTIVE:

The recommendations made at item CO79 stand referred to Council on 1 March 2019.