

MINUTES

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 3 MARCH 2022

1.00 PM



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councillor Breda-Rae Griffin (Chairman)

Councillor Helen Crawford (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ashley Baxter

Councillor David Bellamy

Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing

Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth

Councillor Louise Clack

Councillor Richard Cleaver

Councillor Kelham Cooke

Councillor Phil Dilks

Councillor John Dawson

Councillor Barry Dobson

Councillor Ben Green

Councillor Jan Hansen

Councillor Graham Jeal

Councillor Gloria Johnson

Councillor Ms Jane Kingman

Councillor Philip Knowles

Councillor Matthew Lee

Councillor Nikki Manterfield

Councillor Annie Mason

Councillor Penny Milnes

Councillor Virginia Moran

Councillor Robert Reid

Councillor Kaffy Rice-Oxley

Councillor Nick Robins

Councillor Penny Robins

Councillor Susan Sandall

Councillor Ian Selby

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

OFFICERS

Karen Bradford (Chief Executive)

Alan Robinson (Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer)

Andrew Cotton (Director of Housing and Property)

Nicola McCoy-Brown (Director of Culture and Economic Growth)

Richard Wyles (Interim Chief Finance Officer)

Ken Lyon (Assistant Chief Executive)

Graham Watts (Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Chris Prime (Interim Communications Manager)
Lucy Bonshor (Democratic Services Officer)
Sarah Downs (Democratic Services Officer)
Amy Pryde (Democratic Services Officer)
Sam Selby (Cabinet and Member Development Officer)
Anita Eckersley (Civic and Member Services Officer)
Vicky Gisby (Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive)
Louise Field (Executive Assistant to the Leader of the Council)
Patrick Astill (Communications Officer)

76. Introduction

The Chairman of the Council commenced the meeting by reporting that former Councillor Vic Kerr had recently passed away. He had represented the Loveden Ward on the Council between 5 May 1993 and 11 May 2015 and had served on a number of Committees during that time, including the Constitution Committee, Planning Committee, Standards Committee and the Licensing Committee. Members of the Council observed a minute's silence in his memory. Councillor Ian Selby paid a personal tribute to former Councillor Kerr and the Leader of the Council also reflected on his service to the Council.

The Chairman of the Council invited the Leader of the Council to make a statement regarding the conflict in Ukraine. The Leader referred to a joint statement from all Council Leaders in Lincolnshire, which outlined that plans were in place to welcome any Ukraine refugees who sought safety in the county and were working together to ensure they could support the welfare of families and individuals suffering because of the Russian invasion. The Leader reported that further meetings of Council Leaders and Chief Executives in Lincolnshire had been held and would continue to do so, with all Authorities in the county working closely with the Home Office and other relevant Government Departments or organisations to ensure that appropriate support was in place across Lincolnshire.

The Chairman took this opportunity to congratulate Councillors Ben Green and Richard Dixon-Warren following their successful election to the Council on 24 February 2022 and welcomed them to the Authority. It was noted that Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren had been unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment, but Councillor Green was welcomed to his first meeting.

The Chairman invited Councillor Ian Stokes to make a statement.

Councillor Ian Stokes apologised for wording he had used at a meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee on 20 October 2021 stating that it was unacceptable and had been used by accident. He expressed that he was truly and deeply sorry for any offence caused to anyone in attendance at the meeting or in the district.

The Chairman invited the Leader to make a statement.

The Leader paid tribute to Mr Ken Lyon, Assistant Chief Executive, who was attending his last meeting of Full Council prior to leaving the Authority. The Leader praised Mr Lyon for his contribution to the Council, particularly highlighting the significant role he had played in the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the way in which he had spearheaded community spirit, acting as an ambassador for the district. On behalf of the Council, the Leader awarded Mr Lyon with South Kesteven District Council's shield in recognition of his service. Mr Lyon placed on record his thanks to all Members of the Council.

The Chairman proposed a procedural motion to amend the running order of the agenda so that agenda item 7, Members' Open Questions, was moved to the last item on the agenda in order that all business could be considered first.

The proposal was seconded.

Upon being put to the vote the proposal was **AGREED**.

77. Public Open Forum

No members of the public had registered to speak.

78. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bob Broughton, George Chivers, Richard Dixon-Warren, Paul Fellows, Rosemary Kaberry-Brown, Anna Kelly, Charmaine Morgan and Judy Smith.

79. Disclosure of Interests

No interests were disclosed.

80. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2022

The minutes of the meeting held 27 January 2022 were proposed, seconded and agreed as a correct record.

81. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)

The Council noted the Chairman's engagements.

82. Budget Proposals for 2022/23 and indicative budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the budget proposals for 2022/23 and indicative budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 and reported the requirement for the Council to set a balanced budget and agree the level of Council Tax for 2022/23.

A summary of proposals was contained as part of the report. It was highlighted that the proposals had been developed over the last five months in parallel with regular financial monitoring that took place through meetings of the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, with this being more frequent than usual due to financial volatility arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Cabinet Member for Finance took this opportunity to place on record his gratitude to the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its diligence throughout the financial year and thanked Cabinet, the Finance Team and budget holders across the Council for their work and contributions to the proposals set out in the report.

It was highlighted that the budget proposals had been scrutinised in detail at the meeting of the Budget Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 January 2022 where unanimous, cross-party support was given to the recommendations. This was followed by consideration at Cabinet on 13 January 2022 prior to a public consultation with South Kesteven residents and businesses between 14 and 28 January 2022. The draft proposals, including the outcomes of the consultation process, were reported to Cabinet on 8 February 2022 where the draft proposals were recommended to Full Council for approval.

The budget proposals for 2022/23 had been compiled following the recommendation from Cabinet to increase the District Council element of Council Tax by £5 a year, per Band D equivalent property, in order to take advantage of the limited availability of a higher level without the need for a referendum. 265 responses had been received following the public consultation process and approximately 30% supported the increase after taking into account the financial challenges the Council was facing, recognising the need to continue to invest and support the local economy and population. It was noted that over 66% of the Council's residents resided in Band A to C properties and that only 8.5% of the overall Council Tax bill was attributable to South Kesteven District Council.

The Cabinet Member highlighted, in line with the rest of the country, that other areas of expenditure had increased for the Council, emphasising the need to increase income where possible.

The Council was committed to the continuation of developing and delivering the objectives of its Corporate Plan, with no reliance on its reserves. The Cabinet Member presented the various elements of the report, as follows:

- Summary of General Fund estimates
- Proposed budget bids
- Proposed savings
- Proposed changes to fees and charges
- General fund budget increases
- Treasury investment financial forecasts
- Council Tax proposals

- Housing Revenue Account proposed budget bids
- Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 rent proposals
- Housing Revenue Account fees and charges
- General Fund Capital Programme
- Housing Investment Programme
- Budgeted General fund revenue reserve movements
- Budgeted Housing Revenue Account reserve movements
- Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy

Table 1 in the report identified a deficit for 2023/24 which reflected the implications of the financial investment in the Deepings Leisure Centre. A work programme to secure sustainability was in the process of being developed and the Cabinet Member looked forward to working with Members on this. The following other key aspects of the budget proposals were outlined:

- The recent decision by the Council to bring services delivered by InvestSK Ltd back in-house had been reflected in the budget proposals. The work of the Council's other companies would continue to be reviewed by the Companies Committee
- The reserves statement showed a forecast balance of £6.9m as at March 2022, which indicated a resilient financial cushion
- The estimates set out in the budget proposals were considered to be robust, as set out in the statement by the Chief Finance Officer within the report, with the financial position of the Council being strong
- There were financial challenges associated with the Housing Revenue Account. The stock condition survey would be available early in the new financial year and could change spending priorities, depending upon the outcome
- £66m had been committed as part of the Council's Capital Programme over the next three years, with 16% attributable to external borrowing and the remainder being met by the Council's resources or external grant funding
- Appendix I set out the statutory resolution for Council to consider in respect of Council Tax. A revised version of this Appendix had been published.

The Cabinet Member for Finance formally proposed the recommendations contained within the report, subject to consideration of the revised Appendix I document in relation to recommendation 3.

The Leader of the Opposition seconded the proposal.

In debating the proposal the following points were noted:

- The Council Tax increase was reasonable given the financial pressure the Council faced
- The inclusion of the investment in the Deepings Leisure Centre was pleasing to see as part of the budget proposals, however, this placed a consequential

burden on the Council's finances in the coming years which may require additional savings

- Despite the financial challenges faced over the previous year, the budget proposals sought to keep the economy moving, particularly through initiatives such as the Welcome Back Fund, the Future High Streets Fund and Heritage Action Zone funding
- The Council remained committed to making South Kesteven the best place to live, work and visit
- Local Authorities across the country were beginning to feel the financial strain following the difficulties of the previous two years, with the whole Local Government sector experiencing significant financial challenge
- The budget proposals reflected the Council's commitment to meet the funding challenge in a way that maximised its existing revenue but would also limit the burden on taxpayers, with a commitment to protecting the services it provided
- The Council should be very proud of the work it had done in relation to housing, which had moved the service into a much sounder footing
- There were still challenges in relation to climate change following the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, however, the Climate Change Action Group would continue to have a key role to play
- In order to take the district forward economically and politically it would be necessary to agree upon a devolution deal with the Government, in terms of funding and decision-making powers.
- A question was raised regarding the Council's Communications budget, suggesting that less of the budget should be allocated to external consultants than in previous years
- Reference was made to a commitment three years ago stating that £30m would be invested in affordable housing over a five-year period. An update on progress was requested in terms of how much had been spent to date, how much had been allocated in the current budget for the coming year and how many houses would be built in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25
- It was concerning that only £20,000 per annum had been allocated to the climate change budget
- A question was raised as to why the food waste collection trial was being cancelled
- The budget made further cuts to key services, with the District Council's element of the Council Tax being increased despite respondents to the consultation opposing it
- The removal of the Ward Member Grant was disappointing, with examples given of how the fund had benefitted small community groups
- Proposals in the budget in relation to housing did very little to address the approximate 1,300 currently on the housing waiting list for Council housing
- A suggestion was made to introduce a phased budgeting approach, particularly around those budgets identified as high risk in the risk register. A concern was expressed that some of the risks had been undervalued and would need more regular financial monitoring
- The food waste collection trial had been cancelled as it was the intention to align this with the national scheme which would now not be rolled out until

2025. A decision had previously been taken not to purchase new freighters, which would cost approximately £225,000, and instead maintain second-hand machines. These repair costs had equated to £60,000. Rolling out the scheme across the district would cost approximately £3.5m which the Council could not currently afford. It was understood that funding would be made available by the Government to assist Local Authorities in rolling out a food waste collection service as part of the nationwide initiative in 2025

- Problems associated with housing stock and the required investment in the Deepings Leisure Centre were the result of a lack of maintenance and neglect
- The Community Awards had been held successfully this year in line with a modest budget, whereas the budget proposals for 2022/23 included an £8,000 commitment. A question was raised as to why this had increased

Councillor Ashley Baxter proposed an amendment to the budget proposals, as follows:

- The deletion of the line in Table 3 referring to 'Food Waste Services (Pilot)
- An increase in the climate change budget from £20,000 to £40,000
- That these changes be funded from the Stabilisation Reserve Budget

The amendment was seconded.

In debating the amendment the following points were noted:

- Food waste collection would become law in two or three years so it did not make sense to cancel the programme when it would need to be reintroduced again
- A £20,000 allocation to something as considerable as climate change restricted the Council in being able to do anything significant
- The two vehicles currently used for collecting food waste were coming to the end of their useful life and incurred a combined maintenance cost of £60,000. Replacement freighters would cost approximately £225,000 which the Council could not currently commit to
- The Climate Change Action Group was in place to develop policies and initiatives or even commission work which could be costed and then referred back to Full Council at the relevant time in terms of budget allocation. The initial allocation in the budget of £20,000 did not therefore represent everything the Council would commit to addressing the issue of climate change
- The food waste collection trial had been very useful but it was the intention to roll this out to the whole district and not just the areas selected as part of the trial. The Government would assist Councils with the implementation of a mandatory food waste collection service. It was therefore proposed to wait until 2025, or whenever the Government introduced the legislation, before launching a plan in partnership with the rest of the county via the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership utilising the funding the Government would provide. This matter had been discussed at a meeting of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership earlier in the day prior to this meeting of Full Council

- The food collection scheme was a trial which had reached its conclusion and it was not viable to continue it

A recorded vote on the amendment was required as it related to the Council's budget, the results of which were as follows:

For: Councillors Ashley Baxter, Harrish Bisnauthsing, Louise Clack, Phil Dilks, Virginia Moran and Amanda Wheeler (6)

Against: Councillors David Bellamy, Pam Bosworth, Kelham Cooke, Helen Crawford, John Dawson, Barry Dobson, Ben Green, Breda-Rae Griffin, Graham Jeal, Gloria Johnson, Jane Kingman, Philip Knowles, Matthew Lee, Nikki Manterfield, Annie Mason, Penny Milnes, Robert Reid, Kaffy Rice-Oxley, Nick Robins, Penny Robins, Susan Sandall, Jacky Smith, Judy Stevens, Adam Stokes, Ian Stokes, Jill Thomas, Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Sarah Trotter, Dean Ward, Hannah Westropp, Hilary Westropp, Mark Whittington, Jane Wood, Paul Wood, Sue Woolley, Linda Wootten and Ray Wootten (37)

Abstain: Councillors Richard Cleaver, Jan Hansen, Ian Selby and Lee Steptoe (4)

The amendment was lost.

Returning to the original motion, the Cabinet Member for Finance commended the budget which would help the Council achieve the aims and objectives of its Corporate Plan.

A recorded vote on the motion was required as it related to the Council's budget, the results of which were as follows:

For: Councillors David Bellamy, Harrish Bisnauthsing, Pam Bosworth, Kelham Cooke, Helen Crawford, John Dawson, Barry Dobson, Ben Green, Breda-Rae Griffin, Graham Jeal, Gloria Johnson, Jane Kingman, Philip Knowles, Matthew Lee, Nikki Manterfield, Annie Mason, Penny Milnes, Robert Reid, Kaffy Rice-Oxley, Nick Robins, Penny Robins, Susan Sandall, Ian Selby, Jacky Smith, Judy Stevens, Adam Stokes, Ian Stokes, Jill Thomas, Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Sarah Trotter, Dean Ward, Hannah Westropp, Hilary Westropp, Mark Whittington, Jane Wood, Paul Wood, Sue Woolley, Linda Wootten and Ray Wootten (39)

Against: Councillor Lee Steptoe (1)

Abstain: Councillors Ashley Baxter, Louise Clack, Richard Cleaver, Phil Dilks, Jan Hansen, Virginia Moran and Amanda Wheeler (7)

DECISION:

That Full Council:

- 1. Sets a General Fund budget requirement of £14.562m for 2022/23 detailed at section 2 of the report and shown in detail at Appendix A (inclusive of special expenses).**
- 2. Approves a Council Tax base of 48,706.7 for the South Kesteven District.**
- 3. Approves a Council Tax level of £173.59 for 2022/23 (Band D property inclusive of special expense area) and the revised statutory resolution shown at Appendix I.**
- 4. Notes the indicative base estimates for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as detailed in the summary at Appendix A.**
- 5. Approves the fees and charges detailed at section 4 of the report and shown at Appendix B.**
- 6. Approves the General Fund Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2024/25 and the budget carry forwards for 2021/22 detailed at section 5 of the report and shown at Appendix C.**
- 7. Approves the General Fund Capital Financing Statement detailed at Appendix C**
- 8. Approves the movements in General Fund Revenue and Capital reserves and balanced detailed at section 7 of this report and shown at Appendix D.**
- 9. Approves the Treasury Management Strategy Statement detailed at section 9 of the report and provided at Appendix G.**
- 10. Approves the updated Capital Strategy as detailed in Appendix H.**
- 11. Approves Housing Revenue Account dwelling rent increases of 4.1% (CPI + 1%) in accordance with Government guideline rent providing an average rent of £84.06 (an average rental increase of £3.28 per week).**
- 12. Approves an increase in Housing Revenue Account garage rents of 3%.**
- 13. Approves an average increase of 3% in Housing Revenue Account service charges for communal facilities and communal rooms.**

14. Approves an increase in shared ownership rents by 4.1% (CPI + 1%).
15. Approves the Housing Revenue Account Revenue Summary for the year 2022/23 and notes the indicative budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 show at Appendix A.
16. Approves the Housing Capital Investment Programme for 2022/23 to 2023/24 and the budget carry forwards for 2021/22 detailed at section 5 of the report and as shown at Appendix C.
17. Approves the Housing Revenue Account Capital Financing Statement detailed at Appendix C.
18. Approves the Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital reserves and balances detailed at section 7 of the report and shown at Appendix D.

83. Pay Policy Statement 2022/23

The Chairman of the Employment Committee presented the report and proposed that Full Council approved the Pay Policy Statement 2022-23.

The production and publication of the Pay Policy Statement was a requirement of the Localism Act 2011 and was reviewed annually to ensure that it accurately reflected the Council's position and was aligned with the outcomes and objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan.

The Pay Policy Statement was a factual document and had been considered at the meeting of the Employment Committee held on 19 January 2022, where it was unanimously recommended to Full Council for approval.

The proposal was seconded.

In answer to a question regarding the current corporate restructure, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Pay Policy Statement for next year would incorporate any changes arising as a consequence of the implementation of the restructure. It was also confirmed that regular consultation took place with Trade Union representatives and specific engagement had ensued in relation to the corporate restructure proposals.

On being put to the vote, the proposal was **AGREED**.

DECISION:

That the Pay Policy Statement 2022-23 be approved.

84. Public Sector Audit Appointments

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report and proposed that the Council opted into the Public Sector Audit Appointments national scheme for the provision of external audit services.

The Council had officially been invited to join a national scheme for the provision of external audit services. The proposal outlined in the report was endorsed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy who supported the proposal of the sector working together in order to deliver transparency, timeliness, value for money and promotion of consistently high-quality audits. Benefits of joining the scheme were set out in paragraph 1.5 of the report.

The proposal was seconded.

On being put to the vote, the proposal was **AGREED**.

DECISION:

That the Council opts into the Public Sector Audit Appointments national scheme for the provision of external audit services.

85. Membership of Committees

The Leader of the Council presented the report and proposed the recommendations contained within the report, subject to the following appointments:

- Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren onto the Governance and Audit Committee to fill a Conservative Group vacancy
- Councillors Ben Green and Richard Dixon-Warren onto the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to fill a Conservative Group vacancy and replace Councillor David Bellamy
- Councillor Ben Green onto the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to fill a Conservative vacancy
- Councillor Ray Wooten as Chairman of the Constitution Committee
- Councillor Breda-Rae Griffin as Vice-Chairman of the Constitution Committee
- Councillor Paul Wood as the Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee
- Councillor Kaffy Rice-Oxley as the Vice-Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee

- Councillor Gloria Johnson as the Vice-Chairman of the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

It was noted that a vacancy on the Constitution Committee would be deferred until the Council's Annual Meeting.

The proposal was seconded.

A comment was made that it was unhealthy for the Chairman of the Constitution Committee to be the spouse of the Cabinet Member responsible for governance.

A question was raised as to when and how a resignation had been received from the Chairman of the Constitution Committee. It was noted that this had been received by the Leader upon Councillor Mark Whittington accepting the role of Cabinet Member.

On being put to the vote, the proposal was **AGREED**.

DECISION:

That Council:

- 1. Notes that Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren was elected to the Aveland Ward following a By-Election on 24 February 2022 and has given notice that he will join the Conservative Group.**
- 2. Notes that Councillor Ben Green was elected to the Isaac Newton Ward following a By-Election on 24 February 2022 and has given notice that he will join the Conservative Group.**
- 3. Approves the above appointments.**

(The meeting temporarily adjourned at this stage of proceedings).

86. Dispensation for Councillor Attendance

The Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report which invited Full Council to consider a dispensation under the Local Government Act 1972 to excuse the non-attendance of Councillors Rosemary Kaberry-Brown and Judy Smith at a meeting of the Council within a six-month period due to ill health.

The granting of a dispensation was proposed.

The proposal was seconded.

It was noted that both Members had been long-serving Councillors who were great representatives of their communities and were still very active on the Council and in their local wards.

On being put to the vote, the proposal was **AGREED**.

DECISION:

That a dispensation be granted for Councillors Rosemary Kaberry-Brown and Judy Smith from attending meetings of the Council to avoid disqualification as Members of South Kesteven District Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

87. Notices of Motion given under Article 4.9 of the Council's Constitution (deferred from the previous meeting held on 27 January 2022):

(a) Councillor Ashley Baxter

Councillor Ashley Baxter proposed the following motion:

"This Council resolves:

- *to encourage organisers of public firework displays within the South Kesteven District to publicise in advance of their events, in order to allow residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people*
- *to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks*
- *to write to the MPs representing the South Kesteven District, and the relevant Minister of State, urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays*
- *to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display."*

In presenting the motion Councillor Baxter highlighted that residents had contacted him requesting the Council to support the reduction in the disturbance and distress caused to animals and vulnerable people by fireworks. He felt it was reasonable for people to publish and provide notice of when fireworks were likely to be used when making arrangements which involved the use of fireworks. It was noted that this motion had the backing of the RSCPA.

The motion was seconded.

In debating the motion the following points were noted:

- people became very upset and distressed when they did not know in advance when fireworks were being used
- some religious festivals embraced the use of fireworks
- military jets and motorcycles were other examples of things creating levels of noise in excess of acceptable noise limits
- the main event where fireworks were used was on or around 5 November, which residents prepared for every year
- religious festivals may embrace the use of fireworks, but they did not have to be loud as it was the lights as opposed to the noise that was significant
- the impact of loud fireworks on animals was terrifying
- publication in advance of using fireworks should be encouraged and South Kesteven District Council already did this for organised events, highlighting issues relating to post traumatic stress disorder, vulnerability and care for animals on its website and social media platforms
- the Council had no enforcement powers in relation to the use of fireworks, with the County Council's Trading Standards having a role to ensure that fireworks being sold met required standards
- the main problem was not in relation to planned events but when individuals used fireworks in their own gardens without notice

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

(b) Councillor Phil Dilks

The original Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Phil Dilks at the meeting of Full Council held on 27 January 2022 was referred to the Climate Change Action Group for further consideration. The Climate Change Action Group met on 15 February 2022, and the following revised Motion was proposed by Councillor Dilks:

"I welcome the cross-party support and in particular meetings with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Policy and the assistant Director of Planning that has brought about this amended motion and I recognise the work of the Climate Change Action Group. This amended motion seeks to confirm and strengthen Climate Change mitigation considerations when determining major planning applications across South Kesteven.

This Council resolves:

- 1) Planning Committee reports to clearly set out any climate change mitigation or adaption measures where they are proposed as part of a development proposal;*
- 2) The desire for development proposals to address climate change and sustainability will be emphasised during pre-application discussions;*
- 3) That the challenges of climate change are addressed through the local plan review. This will be an opportunity to develop policies that mitigate climate change by reducing emissions as well as adapting to a changing climate. The planning*

policy team will work with the Council's Climate Change Action group to seek feedback throughout this process;

- 4) That the use of technical advice notes to complement the recently adopted Design Guide will be explored. Advice notes would help inform developers of the Council's expectations and provide guidance around how they can address the climate change challenges through their development proposals;*
- 5) That the Council will write to Government to lobby and encourage them to do more through legislation and guidance, including planning and building control, to ensure that climate change and adaptation challenges are dealt with by taking a top down approach to policy making. Government should also do more to require developers to proactively address climate change challenges by reducing carbon emissions."*

In presenting the motion, Councillor Dilks explained that the motion had been originally proposed from his perspective as a member of the Planning Committee where he had found there to be some hypocrisy when considering aspects of some planning applications without taking climate change into account in the knowledge that the Council had itself declared a climate change emergency.

Councillor Nick Robins seconded the motion and welcomed the cross-party collaboration that had occurred on this issue. He agreed that planning was a vital tool to challenge climate change and that new policies should be developed to address issues and expectations relating to climate change, building on the work of the Climate Change Action Group and ensure that this was a key consideration in the development of the next Local Plan.

Councillor Robins proposed an amendment to paragraph 5 of the motion to include reference to South Kesteven Members of Parliament. This was accepted by the mover of the original motion and became the substantive motion.

In debating the substantive motion, the following points were noted:

- Until sufficient legislation was in place the role of the Local Planning Authority was limited, however, the lobbying proposed as part of the motion was supported
- The Climate Change Action Group should meet at least quarterly
- The Council had a very competent Climate Change Officer on its establishment and the expertise of a Professor at the University of Lincoln who would add value to the Council's climate change considerations
- It was frustrating that the current legislation was not robust enough in this area
- The Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recently recommended a range of measures in respect of its new build properties to address climate change which would not only help the Council address the climate change emergency declaration but also deliver savings to tenants

Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was **AGREED**.

DECISION:

This Council resolves:

- 1. Planning Committee reports to clearly set out any climate change mitigation or adaption measures where they are proposed as part of a development proposal.**
- 2. The desire for development proposals to address climate change and sustainability will be emphasised during pre-application discussions.**
- 3. That the challenges of climate change are addressed through the local plan review. This will be an opportunity to develop policies that mitigate climate change by reducing emissions as well as adapting to a changing climate. The planning policy team will work with the Council's Climate Change Action group to seek feedback throughout this process.**
- 4. That the use of technical advice notes to complement the recently adopted Design Guide will be explored. Advice notes would help inform developers of the Council's expectations and provide guidance around how they can address the climate change challenges through their development proposals.**
- 5. That the Council will write to South Kesteven Members of Parliament and Government to lobby and encourage them to do more through legislation and guidance, including planning and building control, to ensure that climate change and adaption challenges are dealt with by taking a top down approach to policy making. Government should also do more to require developers to proactively address climate change challenges by reducing carbon emissions.**

88. Members' Open Questions

Question 1: Councillor Kaffy Rice-Oxley to Councillor Mark Whittington (Cabinet Member for Waste)

Councillor Kaffy Rice-Oxley asked for an update on proposals for a national food waste recycling scheme.

The Cabinet Member for Waste referred to the previous debate at this meeting on this matter and reminded Council that the Environmental Health Act 2021 placed a legal obligation on Councils to identify and collect different waste streams, one of which was food waste. In anticipation of this Act of Parliament, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs launched a consultation and it was understood that feedback from this would be reported back in the Spring 2022. In accordance with the legislation, it was anticipated that a national rollout of food waste collection would be introduced in March 2025. Finance was an issue, as had been

previously highlighted, but there were potential avenues of funding such as New Burdens Funding that would assist Councils in providing this additional service.

The food waste collection trial resulted in approximately 24 tonnes of food waste being collected per month, with six tonnes transported weekly to Hemswell where it was converted into biogas and biofertiliser. This presented its own challenges in respect of the Council's carbon footprint.

It was noted that the Council would be committed to the food waste collection programme when rolled out by the Government nationally and sufficient funding was provided to support its implementation.

Question 2: Councillor Susan Sandall to Councillor Mark Whittington (Cabinet Member for Waste)

Councillor Susan Sandall asked for confirmation as to the Council's policy in relation to fly-tipping.

The Cabinet Member for Waste provided an assurance that the Council had a zero tolerance in respect of fly-tipping, highlighting that it was a crime and led to a blight on the countryside.

It was reported that the Council as recently as 4 March 2022 had successfully prosecuted a fly-tipper in Grantham and rural locations in South Kesteven and North Kesteven, with another prosecution in the pipeline. £60,000 was spent a year in relation to fly-tipping which funded one vehicle and two members of staff, together with investigation costs.

Evidence received from members of the public was used and led to the successful prosecution on 4 March. Fly-tipping could be reported to the Council via its website and members of the public were encouraged to do so as it meant that the Council could take immediate action.

Question 3: Councillor Penny Robins to Councillor Mark Whittington (Cabinet Member for Waste)

Councillor Penny Robins asked for clarification as to refuse collections on bank holidays associated with Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Cabinet Member for Waste confirmed that as the bank holidays associated with Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee were on a Thursday and Friday, normal collections would resume with employers paid overtime, which had been accounted for in the budget.

A request was made to inform the waste collection team should any Member be aware of road closures in their respective wards which may potentially disrupt collection routes.

Question 4: Councillor Ashley Baxter

Prior to asking a question, Councillor Baxter sought clarification as to paragraph 4.8.1 of the Constitution in relation to open questions by Members which stated that open questions at Council would not be allowed at the Council's budget meeting.

The Chief Executive explained that the item had been included on the agenda in error and thanked him for bringing this to the attention of Council.

The Chairman of the Council reported that the duration of the meeting had exceeded three hours. It was proposed and seconded that the meeting be extended by 30 minutes to allow for the remainder of Members' questions.

It was noted that, in accordance with paragraph 4.8.1 of the Constitution, this item should not have been included on the agenda so there would be no other business for Council to consider.

Given that a procedural motion to extend the time of the meeting had been proposed and seconded, the proposition was put to the vote.

Upon being put to the vote, the proposition was lost.

89. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 16:17.