

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Full Council** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Thursday, 7 March 2024 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor C Brooks (Chair)
Councillor J Hall (Vice-Chair)

Councillor N Allen, Councillor A Amer, Councillor A Brazier, Councillor L Brazier, Councillor I Brown, Councillor R Cozens, Councillor S Crosby, Councillor P Farmer, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor S Forde, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor R Holloway, Councillor R Jackson, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor J Lee, Councillor K Melton, Councillor S Michael, Councillor D Moore, Councillor E Oldham, Councillor P Peacock, Councillor C Penny, Councillor M Pringle, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor N Ross, Councillor S Saddington, Councillor T Smith, Councillor M Shakeshaft, Councillor M Spoor, Councillor P Taylor, Councillor L Tift, Councillor T Thompson, Councillor T Wendels and Councillor T Wildgust

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor L Dales, Councillor D Darby and Councillor K Roberts

78 NOTIFICATION TO THOSE PRESENT THAT THE MEETING WILL BE RECORDED AND STREAMED ONLINE

The Chair advised the Council that the meeting was being recorded and streamed online in accordance with usual practice.

79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The Council noted the interests previously declared by Members in Agenda Item No. 17 – Minutes for Noting.

Councillors P Harris, P Rainbow, M Shakeshaft and T Wendels declared other registerable interests in relation to Agenda Item No. 6 – the debating of the ‘Stop the Closure of Southwell Swimming Pool’ as Trustees of Southwell Leisure Centre.

Councillors S Forde, A Freeman and M Pringle declared other registerable interests in the same item as Directors of Active4Today.

80 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2024

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

81 COMMUNICATIONS WHICH THE CHAIR, LEADER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR PORTFOLIO HOLDERS MAY WISH TO LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Portfolio Holder for Biodiversity & Environmental Services informed the Council that it was World Book Day and took the opportunity to align how many aspects of Council services contributed to shaping children's experience of the day.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing informed the Council that Alexander Lodge, the Council's new temporary accommodation, had reached practical completion and that it would soon be receiving its first occupants. In addition, the Lodge had been shortlisted for an EEM Building Communities Carbon Reduction Project of the Year Award.

The Portfolio Holder also reported that the Council had been shortlisted for two more awards: a Refurbishment Project of the Year Award for the Eton Avenue Shops Refurbishment; and an Employee Development Award. He also referred to the Big Newark Sleepout 2024, the proceeds from which would go to the YMCA and Emmaus Trust. Finally, the Portfolio Holder advised Members of the recycling of old IT equipment to local schools, community groups and charities.

82 IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE NO. 3.1 TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION OR THE DEBATING OF ANY PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The Chair advised the Council that a petition entitled "Stop the Closure of Southwell Swimming Pool" with 2370 signatures, had been submitted on 6 March 2024. Given this was outside the requisite timeframe for submission of petitions, the Chair advised that she was minded to accept the petition given the strong local interest, and running the Council in an open and transparent manner.

The Leader of the Council opened the debate on the petition. In opening the debate he referred to the large amount of misinformation being communicated and he set out in full the Council's position and commitment to build a new pool.

Following his introduction, the Leader moved that the Council confirm the position already taken by the Cabinet on 19 December 2023, to replace and not repair the swimming pool. This motion was seconded by Councillor L Brazier.

Following the debate of the petition, the motion proposed, on being put to the Council, was agreed with 31 votes for, 1 against and 4 abstentions.

83 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCIL

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.2 one question had been submitted by a member of the public to the Council. Details of the question put forward and the response given by Councillors E Oldham and M Spors are attached as Appendix to the minutes.

84 REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING FOR 2024/25

The Council considered the report of the Leader of the Council relating to the Revenue Budget and Council Tax Setting for 2024/25.

The report indicated that, in setting the level of Council Tax for 2024/2025, it was necessary to consider the requirements of the Council Tax Collection Fund for

2024/2025. This incorporated the District Council's Council Tax Requirement, Parish Council Precepts and the Council Tax requirements of Nottinghamshire County Council, the Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner and the Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service.

The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 20 February 2024, recommended that the District Council's Council Tax Requirement for 2024/25, excluding Parish Council precepts, should be £19,878.850 as detailed in the Council's Budget Book for 2024/2025.

It was reported that all Parish Council precepts had been received. Parish precepts totalled £3,880,857.65.

Nottinghamshire County Council had set a precept on Newark & Sherwood District Council's Collection fund for 2024/2025 of £76,858,275. The Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner had set a precept on Newark & Sherwood District Council's Collection fund for 2024/2025 of £12,000,333 and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service had proposed a precept on Newark & Sherwood District Council's Collection fund for 2024/2025 of £3,921,861.

In accordance with Rule 3.4.3 (b) written notice had been received that an amendment would be proposed and seconded. Councillor R Holloway accordingly proposed and Councillor J Kellas seconded that "Council approves:

- 1) As outlined in 3.1 of the proposals that the revenue estimates for 2024/25 and schedule of fees and charges, as submitted in the Council's budget book are approved subject to the following changes as outlined below:-
 - a) Council Tax bands be set at an increase of 1.94% on 2023/24 values;
 - b) Paragraph 3.27 of the budget book - "Music and Art" extra budget request be reduced from £95,000 to £15,000 hence a reduction in budget of £80,000; and
 - c) Paragraph 3.27 of the budget book – "Other changes" extra budget request be reduced from £40,308 to £35,678 hence a reduction in budget of £4,630.

A saving of £84,630 as required for the reduced Council Tax of 1.94%.

- 2) Proposal (g) will change to £8,201,400 being the amount of 3 (c) less the amount 3(d) plus the amount at 3 (e) less the amount of 3 (f) calculated by the Council as its net Council Tax requirement for the year;
- 3) Proposal (h) will change to £192.83 being the amount at 3 (g) divided by the amount at 2 (a) calculated by the Council in accordance with section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates; and
- 4) Proposal (j) will change to £284.08 being the amount at 3 (g) above plus the amount at 3 (i) above divided by the amount at 2 (a) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year."

Members debated the proposed amendment and in being put to the vote, it was lost with 14 votes for and 22 against.

In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 5.4, a recorded vote was taken as follows:

Councillor	Vote
Neil Allen	For
Adrian Amer	Against
Alice Brazier	Against
Lee Brazier	Against
Celia Brooks	Against
Irene Brown	For
Rowan Cozens	Against
Susan Crosby	Against
Phil Farmer	For
Simon Forde	Against
Andy Freeman	Against
Jean Hall	Against
Peter Harris	Against
Simon Haynes	For
Rhona Holloway	For
Roger Jackson	For
Jack Kellas	For
Johno Lee	For
Keith Melton	Against
Sylvia Michael	For
David Moore	Against
Emma Oldham	Against
Paul Peacock	Against
Claire Penny	Against
Mike Pringle	Against
Penny Rainbow	For
Neil Ross	Against
Sue Saddington	For
Maurice Shakeshaft	Against
Tom Smith	For
Matthew Spoons	Against
Paul Taylor	Against
Tina Thompson	Against
Linda Tift	Against
Timothy Wendels	For
Tim Wildgust	For

The Council considered the substantive motion proposed by Councillor P Peacock and seconded by Councillor R Cozens and it was AGREED (with 22 votes for and 14 against) that the recommendations as set out in the report and attached as Appendix B to these minutes be approved.

In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 5.6.1, a recorded vote was taken as follows:

Councillor	Vote
Neil Allen	Against
Adrian Amer	For
Alice Brazier	For
Lee Brazier	For
Celia Brooks	For
Irene Brown	Against
Rowan Cozens	For
Susan Crosby	For
Phil Farmer	Against
Simon Forde	For
Andy Freeman	For
Jean Hall	For
Peter Harris	For
Simon Haynes	Against
Rhona Holloway	Against
Roger Jackson	Against
Jack Kellas	Against
Johno Lee	Against
Keith Melton	For
Sylvia Michael	Against
David Moore	For
Emma Oldham	For
Paul Peacock	For
Claire Penny	For
Mike Pringle	For
Penny Rainbow	Against
Neil Ross	For
Sue Saddington	Against
Maurice Shakeshaft	For
Tom Smith	Against
Matthew Spoons	For
Paul Taylor	For
Tina Thompson	For
Linda Tift	For
Timothy Wendels	Against
Tim Wildgust	Against

85 CAPITAL PROGRAMME BUDGET 2024/25 TO 2027/28

The Council considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive / Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer which set out the proposed Capital Programme for the period 2024/25 to 2027/28. Following the Cabinet’s consideration of the Capital Programme at its meeting on 20 February 2024 and in accordance with Financial Regulation 6.2.3, the final programme was recommended to Council for approval.

Attached as Appendix 1 to the report was the report submitted to the Cabinet on 20 February 2024 which detailed the resources available, the Council's existing committed programme and the priority schemes identified.

The Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28 proposed investment of £149.328m over the 4-year programme. This comprised of General Fund projects of £64.401m and HRA projects of £84.927m (made up of Property Investment and the New Build Programme). The expenditure was financed by a combination of Government Grants, Third Party Contributions, Capital Receipts, Revenue Support (through the HRA Major Repairs Reserve, General Fund reserves) and borrowing.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the General Fund schemes shown in Appendix A to the report and the Housing Revenue Account schemes shown in Appendix B to the report be approved as committed expenditure in the Capital Programme;
- b) the Capital Programme be managed in accordance with Financial Regulation 6.2.3;
- c) in accordance with the delegation to the Section 151 Officer in the Council's Constitution to arrange financing of the Council's Capital Programme, the Capital Programme for the financial years 2024/25 to 2027/28 be financed to maximise the resources available, having regard to the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and subsequent legislation; and
- d) any changes above the limit delegated to the Section 151 Officer (i.e. £10,000), either in funding or the total cost of the capital scheme, be reported to the Cabinet for consideration.

(Councillor J Lee was absent from the meeting during this item and did not vote).

86 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024/25 TO 2027/28

The Council considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive / Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer which sought approval for the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the four financial years between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2028 (2024/25 to 2027/28). A copy of the Plan was attached as an Appendix to the report. The MTFP aimed to provide both Members and officers with a clear financial framework for delivering the Council's Community Plan objectives over the next four years. Updating the MTFP was an essential pre-requisite to the annual budget setting for future years.

The MTFP showed that the Council was able to set a balanced budget for 2024/25, but

would need to reduce expenditure and/or increase income in order to mitigate future anticipated shortfalls in funding. The Council would need to continually consider how best to manage demand for its services, as well as continually monitoring and reviewing how best to deliver services.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2024/25 to 2027/28 be approved.

(Councillors J Kellas and J Lee were absent from the meeting for this item and did not vote).

87 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/25

The Council considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive / Director - Resources and Section 151 Officer which sought approval for the Treasury Management Strategy, which incorporated the Borrowing Strategy, Investment Strategy and Treasury Prudential Indicators, which had all been updated in accordance with latest guidance and in line with legislative requirements. The strategies were attached as appendices to the report. The Audit & Governance Committee had considered all of the strategies at their meeting held on 21 February 2024 and recommended these to Full Council for approval.

AGREED (unanimously) that Council approves:

- a) the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25, incorporating the Borrowing Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy, contained within Appendix A to the report;
- b) the Treasury Prudential Indicators and Limits, contained within Appendix A to the report; and
- c) the Authorised Limit Treasury Prudential Indicator contained within Appendix A to the report.

(Councillors N Allen, J Kellas and J Lee were absent from the meeting during this item and did not vote).

88 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2024/25

The Council considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive / Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer which sought approval for the Capital Strategy 2024/25 which incorporated the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Capital Prudential Indicators, updated in accordance with latest guidance and with legislative requirements. The strategies were attached as appendices to the report. The Audit & Governance Committee had considered the proposed Capital Strategy 2024/25 at their meeting held on 21 February 2024 and recommended it to Full Council for approval.

AGREED (unanimously) that Council approves:

- a) the Capital Strategy 2023/24 contained within Appendix A to the report;
- b) the Capital Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2023/24, contained within Appendix A to the report;
- c) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement as contained within Appendix C to the report, which sets out the Council's policy on MRP; and
- d) the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy, contained within Appendix D to the report.

(Councillor J Lee was absent from the meeting during this item and did not vote).

89 INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2024/25

The Council considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive / Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer which sought approval for the Investment Strategy 2024/25 which met the requirements of statutory guidance issued by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities. The Audit & Governance Committee had considered the proposed Investment Strategy 2024/25 at their meeting held on 21 February 2024 and recommended it to Full Council for approval.

AGREED (unanimously) that Council approve:

- a) the Non-Treasury Investment Strategy 2024/25 attached as Appendix A to the report; and
- b) the Investment Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2024/25, contained within Appendix A to the report.

90 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024/25

The Council considered the report of the Director – Customer Services & Organisational Development which sought approval of the Pay Policy Statement (attached as Appendix A to the report) for 2024/25. In accordance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011, the Council was required to produce a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year. The Pay Policy Statement set out the authority's policies for the financial year relating to:

- the remuneration of the authority's lowest-paid employees (together with a definition of "lowest-paid employees") and the reasons for adopting that definition;
- the relationship between remuneration of Chief Officers and that of other officers (pay multiples); and
- the remuneration of Chief Officers.

The Cabinet, at their meeting held on 20 February 2024, recommended the Pay Policy Statement to the Council for adoption.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 be approved.

91 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

The Council considered the report of the Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services which sought approval for a final scheme for Polling Districts and Polling Places following a review undertaken and public consultation considered by the General Purposes Committee at their meeting held on 29 February 2024.

In considering the proposed scheme, a number of Members commented on specific Wards making suggestions as to possible alternative polling places which could be explored by the Council's Returning Officer.

AGREED (unanimously) that Council approve:

- a) the proposed scheme, as set out in the appendix to the report; and
- b) delegated authority being given to the Returning Officer to make subsequent amendments to the scheme going forward following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the General Purposes Committee and appropriate local Ward Members.

92 NOTICES OF MOTION

The Chair informed the Council that the Motion submitted in accordance with Rule No. 3.4.3 concerning a provision of NHS Services in Newark had been withdrawn and would therefore not be debated.

93 MINUTES FOR NOTING

93a CABINET - 20 FEBRUARY 2024

Minute No. 102 – Southwell Leisure Centre

Councillor P Harris sought clarity on what the alternative proposal would be should the Charity Commission not approve of the freehold transfer of the land, and asked if that was the case, would a long lease be considered.

Councillor P Peacock reported that legal advice which had been obtained suggested that there were no obvious reasons why the Charity Commission would not approve of the transfer of land. He added that if the freehold transfer did not come about, this would put the Trust at risk of not being able to provide any leisure provision.

93b PLANNING COMMITTEE - 15 FEBRUARY 2024

93c AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 21 FEBRUARY 2024

Meeting closed at 8.58 pm.

Chair