

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON THURSDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.11 PM

<u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u>		
Mayor - Councillor M Latif Darr Deputy Mayor - Councillor Robert F Eaton		
COUNCILLORS (19):		
Mrs L M Broadley	M H Charlesworth	Mrs S B Morris
Mrs L Eaton	B Dave	G S Atwal
L A Bentley	D A Gamble	Ms A R Bond
G A Boulter	J Kaufman	Ms K Chalk
J W Boyce	Mrs H E Loydall	B Fahey
F S Broadley	K J Loydall	
Miss M V Chamberlain	R E R Morris	
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE (4):		
S J Ball	M W L Hall	
Mrs A E Court	A Thorpe	

Min Ref.	Narrative	Officer Resp.
57.	<p><u>CALLING TO ORDER OF THE MEETING AND PRAYERS</u></p> <p>The meeting of the Council was called to order to receive His Worship The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>The meeting was led in prayer by the Chaplin.</p>	
58.	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>An apology for absence was received from Councillors D M Carter, Mrs S Z Haq, T Barr, Dr T K Khong and R H Thakor.</p>	
59.	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
60.	<p><u>READING, CONFIRMATION AND SIGNING OF MINUTES</u></p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 08 December 2015 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.</p>	
61.	<p><u>ACTION LIST</u></p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The Action List arising from the previous meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 08 December 2015 be noted by Members.</p>	

62.	<p><u>MOTIONS ON NOTICE</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
63.	<p><u>PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
64.	<p><u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></p> <p>The Mayor presented to Members the list of Official Mayoral Engagements attended by The Mayor and, or, Deputy Mayor as set out at agenda item 8a in the first supplementary agenda update (at page 1). The Mayor further confirmed his attendance at the 'Lessons from the Holocaust' event on 20 January 2016 (at line 4) and the 'High Sheriff Changeover' event due to be held on 08 April 2016 (at line 25).</p> <p>In accordance with Rule 7.3 of Part 4 of the Constitution, the Mayor moved for the order of business to be altered and agenda item 9, 'Leader's Statement' be taken at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The order of business be altered and agenda item 9, 'Leader's Statement' be taken at the end of the meeting.</p>	
65.	<p><u>CORPORATE PLAN</u></p> <p>The Council gave consideration to the report and appendix (at pages 19 - 24) as delivered by the Chief Executive, which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>The Chief Executive directed Members' attention to paragraphs 4.1 to 4.9 of the Corporate Plan, 'The Council's Commitments' as set out in Appendix A (at pages 22 - 23). He noted that the delivery of the nine commitments, and the wider Corporate Plan, was entirely dependent upon the four-year financial settlement (as only recently clarified by central government) and would predominantly feature in a revision of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in due course. On a national level, the settlement was said to realise an ever diminishing role for local government and an expectation that local authorities were to become increasingly more self-sufficient. The Chief Executive reported that Heads of Service and Managers were working to respond to the challenges faced and to ensure that the Council's commitments were achievable in accordance with the soon-to-be revised MTFS.</p> <p>With reference to 'Governance Structure' at paragraph 2.2 (at page 21), citing '5 Conservatives', Councillor B Fahey stated that, in fact, there were 6 Conservative Members and requested the same be amended. The Member further questioned the accuracy of the commitment made at paragraph 4.1.a, 'Maintain Front Line Services' (at page 22) alleging that 'free shoppers' car parking' was restricted (i.e. a maximum of three hours) and that 'weekly collection of waste and recycling' was fortnightly.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council noted the error made at paragraph 2.2 and</p>	

	<p>assured Opposition Members that the requested amendment would be made, accordingly. In respect of paragraph 4.1.a, the Leader stated that: residents of the Borough understood what was meant by 'free shoppers' car parking' (without further clarification); refuse/residual and recyclable waste were, in fact, collected on a weekly-basis; and garden waste was collected on a fortnightly-basis.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The overarching Corporate Plan for the life-cycle of this Council be agreed by Members.</p>	
<p>66.</p>	<p><u>BUDGET PROPOSALS 2016/17</u></p> <p>The Council gave consideration to the report and appendices (at pages 25 - 56) as jointly-delivered by the Chief Executive, in the absence of the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer), and the Chair of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee, Councillor Mrs S B Morris, which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>The Chief Executive stated that the report was a technical consolidation for Members' consideration of the information hitherto resolved at the meetings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 19 January 2016 and the Policy, Finance and Development Committee held on 02 February 2016, respectively.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs S B Morris sought to introduce the Council's Budget proposals for 2016/17, noting the challenging times faced by the public sector and, in particular, local government. With reference to the 'General Fund Budget Summary 2016/17' as set out in Appendix 1 (at page 30), the net Committee expenditure in 2016/17 was cited to be just under £6.1 million, over £300,000 less than in 2015/16, owing to a reduction in the Council's Revenue Support Grant of over £400,00 whilst, at the same time, the costs of financing the Council's investment in services had increased. This was said to include investment in a new fleet of refuse vehicles and the two, new Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools which had doubled the annual interest and principal repayments from £306,000 in 2015/16 to £626,000 in 2016/17.</p> <p>The Member stated that in order to balance the books, the Council was proposing to identify savings in 2016/17 largely around staffing levels, citing the Council's earlier resolution in December 2015 to reduce the use of agency, contractor and interim staff. In addition, savings were said to be found from the current establishment by deleting posts that have been vacant for some time. She stated that a further review of the establishment across the Council's services would also be undertaken, in respect of which: any staff reductions would only be agreed if there was certainty that community services would not be affected; and no compulsorily redundancies would be sought, thus avoiding considerable costs and risks to service disruption. She further stated that in future years, the Council would look to find further savings from the better use of technology, asset rationalisation and new ways of working.</p> <p>The Member reported that grant funding from central government was to be reduced from £1.1 million in 2015/16 to just over £700,000 in 2016/17, with</p>	

all local authorities having seen similar reductions. She stated that the government had announced their intention to phase out this grant entirely by 2020, which would see further reductions. At a national level, it was said that the government's belief in an economic recovery would mean that there will be more business activity (and more business rates for Councils to collect) in the coming years, and that the extra business rate income would offset the reductions in grant. However, the problem for Councils like Oadby and Wigston was said to be a difficult one, insofar as it was hard to see where the extra business rates were likely to materialise: as such, the issue required further consideration and would feature in the iteration of the Council's MTFS next month.

The Member noted that, for the first time in some years, the Council was proposing to increase its Council Tax given that the Council Tax Freeze Grant would not be available from 2016/17 and signposted Members to the details set out at agenda item 12 (at pages 57 - 60) and the first supplementary agenda update (at pages 2- 9).

The Member equally noted that, despite the significant financial challenges, the Council would continue to invest in the long-term in services, assets and infrastructure. With reference to the 'Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2018/19' as set out in Appendix 4 (at page 39), the Programme was said to include: over £3.7 million on the refurbishment of Boulter Crescent; just under £800,000 on new, more efficient refuse vehicles; over £400,000 on disabled facilities grants to improve the quality of life for local residents; and £250,000 on the Blaby Road Park Pavilion.

With reference to the 'Housing Revenue Account' as set out in Appendix 3 (at page 33), citing the effect this Council's spending plans, the Member stated that, in respect of Housing Services, the government had decided that in each of the next four years, housing rents were to be reduced by 1% in order to reduce the bill for housing benefits. However, it was noted that although rents were being reduced, the Council's policy of increasing service charges and garage rents by CPI inflation plus 1% would continue, which for 2016/17 equated to an increase of 1.1%.

With reference to the 'Risk and Sensitivity Analysis for 2016/17' as set out in Appendix 7 (at pages 51 - 56), the Member advised that the Council's overarching financial policy was to ensure that the Council did nothing to put its financial standing at risk. As part of the planning of the 2016/17 budget, she informed Members that she had instructed the Council's Interim Chief Financial Officer to systematically review the proposals (as outlined) and to give his professional advice on the associated risks, as set out in Appendices 6 and 7 (at pages 41 - 45 and 46 - 49). Based on his advice, the recommendations contained in the report regarding the use and maintenance of reserves were set out at paragraphs 2.6 and 4.6.

The Member stated that, give the challenges faced, the Council would have to change the way it does business. This was to be said to be (already) achieved: with the successful opening of the Customer Service Centre; by seeing reductions in staff numbers, whilst working smarter and making better use of new technology; and by finding new ways of engaging and working with our partner organisations. Commending the Budget, the Member surmised that she remained confident that the Council would continue to thrive and described the Council as being ambitious for the area,

for the communities it served and for the way it would operate.

Councillor Mrs S B Morris moved the recommendations as set out at paragraphs 2.1. to 2.8 of the report (at pages 25 - 26).

Councillor Mrs L M Broadley commended the Council's capacity to balance its books without affecting frontline services given the difficulties posed by funding cutbacks.

Councillor Mrs L M Broadley seconded the recommendations.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor B Dave, raised an concern in respect of the underlying issues pertaining to the Budget's preparation as a statutorily-mandated accounting exercise, citing an approximate under/overspends of c. £1 million and the fluctuation of cost-centre budget allocations purportedly ring-fenced for specific service-area purposes. He stated that there were no significant concerns in respect of the Budget's overall intended direction nor with the figures contained therein.

Councillor Mrs S B Morris advised that the process(es) concerning the Budget's preparation was a highly prescriptive one as dictated by government regulations.

Councillor J Kaufman acknowledged the significant achievements secured by a small, Liberal Democrat administered Council (viz. free garden waste collections, free parking, two new leisure facilities, Customer Service Centre's opening) which continued to serve and benefit the residents of the Borough, despite the increasingly-austere economic climate all local authorities continued to weather. The Member commended all the Council's Officers involved who made their realisation possible.

With reference to the 'General Fund Budget Summary 2016/17' as set out in Appendix 1 (at page 30), Councillor G S Atwal enquired as to the rate of interest accumulated upon the two-fold increase in capital financing (i.e. from £306,180 to 626,660) across 2015/16 and 2016/17. The Member also enquired as to the impact of the proposed reductions to staffing costs upon the viability of the Council's workforce. He further stated that he supported a more progressive policy in respect of increases to Council Tax in order to lessen the immediate impact upon residents.

With reference to the 'Housing Revenue Account' (HRA) as set out in Appendix 3 (at page 33), Councillor G A Boulter stated that government-led requirement to reduce rents by 1% per annum over the next four years served to weaken the Council's HRA Business Plan. He further raised concerns as to implications stemming from the concurrent reductions in housing benefit and the increases in private-sector rents, which was said to be prohibiting many young and single people from being adequately-housed and, or, securing a footing on the property-ladder. The Member nevertheless commended the high-standard of the Council's housing stock, citing the refurbishments currently being undertaken at Boulter Crescent, Wigston. The Member lastly criticised the government-led requirement for the Council to dispose of its highest-valued housing stock, as a means to plug the financial gap sustained to Housing Associations following the extension of the Right to Buy scheme as opposed to any reinvestment of funds into housing stock. He invited Opposition Members to lobby their

Conservative counterparts in Parliament to address the same.

The Chief Executive accepted the concerns raised by Councillor B Dave. He stated that a concerted effort was needed to prudently balance the Budget and in innovative ways to adapt to the ever-changing economic climate. He reported that the two-fold increase in capital financing was a result of an intended investment in a new fleet of recycling vehicles and the two, new leisure facilities: as part of the contract, it was said that the latter now negated the payment of an ongoing management fee and ultimately accrued a significant saving to this Council over the contract's lifetime.

Councillor Mrs A R Bond alleged that there was a disproportionate concentration of capital works in the Wigston area. She further raised a concern of a resident who had condemned the state of repair of Chartwell House, Oadby and requested that in/exterior refurbishment works be undertaken as soon as practicable.

Councillor G A Boulter reported that capital works were being undertaken in the Oadby area, citing refurbishments at King Street, Oadby as an example. He stated that the structural integrity of Chartwell House was not at any imminent/dangerous risk, that its refurbishment programme was to be brought forward and that re-painting of the building exterior was to be completed before the year end.

The Leader of the Council stated that capital receipts were invested throughout the Borough's three urban areas. He reported that Chartwell House had been earmarked for potential refurbishment and further encouraged Members to use the Members' Enquiry System so that residents' concerns could be captured.

The Leader of the Council emphasised that the Council's recent investments sought to secure long-term savings and that considerations about appropriate reserve levels were important to maximise the benefit of investment opportunities if, and when, implemented sensibly with a degree of forward-planning. For example, and with reference to the comments made by the Chief Executive, he reported that a £6 million saving was to be accrued over the leisure contract's 20-year period. He acknowledged the challenges ahead faced by this Council but remained confident in protecting front-line services within the Borough and in such a way as to continue to improve the standard and efficiency of service-delivery within inherited budgetary-constraints. He noted that although the balancing of the Budget was a complex exercise, which required further attention by the Interim Chief Finance Officer, he said that this Council's position was comparatively strong and commended the same.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The General Fund net revenue budget estimates for 2016/17 totalling £6,414,876 be approved (as set out in Appendix 1);
- (ii) The capital programme for 2016/17 amounting to £6,323,764 be approved (as set out in Appendix 2);
- (iii) The Housing Revenue Account draft estimates for 2016/17 be approved (as set out in Appendix 3);
- (iv) The Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer be authorised to arrange the financing of the capital programme, as necessary;

	<p>(v) A decrease of 1.00% in housing rents (as set out in Appendix 3, paragraph 4.2) and increases in other charges (as described in Appendix 3, paragraph 2) be approved;</p> <p>(vi) The list of reserves and balances (as set out in Appendix 5) be approved;</p> <p>(vii) As set out in the Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer's statement (at Appendix 6), the following polices be approved, namely:</p> <p>(a) An absolute minimum level of General Fund reserves of 5% of annual net expenditure throughout the period between 2016/17 to 2019/20 be held;</p> <p>(b) An absolute minimum level of General Fund reserves of 5% of annual net Holding an optimal level of reserves of between 5% and 10% of annual net expenditure over the period 2016/17 to 2019/20 be held to cover the absolute minimum level of reserves, in-year risks, cash flow needs and unforeseen circumstances;</p> <p>(c) A maximum recommended level of reserves of 10% of annual net expenditure for the period 2016/17 to 2019/250 be held to provide additional resilience to implement the Medium Term Financial Plan;</p> <p>(d) A Reserves Strategy be adopted to maintain the recommended optimal level of reserves within the relevant period (2016/17 to 2019/20); and</p> <p>(e) In relation to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), reserves at a minimum of £300,000 be maintained.</p> <p>(viii) The risks and sensitivities surrounding the Budget (as set out in Appendix 7) be noted by Members.</p> <p>Votes For 20 Votes Against 0 Abstentions 1</p>	
67.	<p><u>COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2016/17</u></p> <p>The Council gave consideration to the report in the first supplementary agenda update (at pages 2 -9), as jointly-delivered by the Chief Executive, in the absence of the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer), and the Chair of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee, Councillor Mrs S B Morris, which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council sought to clarify that report set out in the first supplementary agenda update (at pages 2 -9) was to supersede the original report in provided in main agenda document (at pages 57 - 60) due to short-notice revision of the precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs S B Morris requested that the substantive recommendation set out at paragraph 2.1. of the report (at page 6) be amended to incorporate an increase of 1.99% in Council Tax and, subject to that amendment, commended the report to Members.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs S B Morris moved the recommendations as set out at</p>	

paragraphs 2.1. to 2.5 of the report (as amended).

Councillor Mrs L M Broadley stated that the proposed increase in Council Tax was the first for this Council in five-years: however, noted that the Council still remained one of the lowest-setting authorities across all Leicester/shire District and Borough Councils.

Councillor Mrs L M Broadley seconded the recommendations (as amended).

The Leader of the Opposition sought further clarification as the recommendation at paragraph 2.1 (as amended).

Councillor Mrs S B Morris advised that the amendment to the substantive recommendation opted to incorporate an increase of 1.99%, as opposed to an increase of £5, to the rate of Council Tax for 2016/17.

The Opposition Leader enquired as to the reason for the increase in the Council's base rate.

Councillor Mrs S B Morris advised that the increase of 1.99% served to normalise the Council base rate as a result, and subsequent to, the successive acceptance of the Council Tax Freeze Grant (CTFG) for the preceding five-years.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor M H Charlesworth, stated that the CTFG was taken in previous years in the knowledge that future budgets were to be amended, accordingly. He noted that the levying of Council Tax was done for prudent, as opposed to political, purposes which required a sensible approach to avoid service failure.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) It be noted that, under powers delegated to the Chief Finance Officer, the Council be calculated at the amount of 16,944.20 as its Council Tax base for the financial year 2016/17 and that an increase of 1.99% in Council Tax be approved in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.
- (ii) The Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 be approved at £3,501,210;
- (iii) The following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2016/17 in accordance with sections 30 to 306 (as amended) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (a) £19,017,644 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act;
 - (b) £15,516,434 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act;
 - (c) £3,501,210 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3 a) above exceeds the aggregate at iii(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year;
 - (d) £206.63 being the amount at iii(c) divided by the amount a 1 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31 B

- of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
- (e) Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at iii(d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, be applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act, as the amount to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands below.

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
137.75	160.71	183.67	206.63	252.55	298.47	344.39	413.26

- (iv) It is noted that for the year 2016/17, Leicestershire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire, and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories shown below.

Precepting Authorities - Valuation Bands

Leicestershire County Council :-							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
751.60	876.87	1,002.14	1,127.40	1,377.94	1,628.47	1,879.00	2,254.80
Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire :-							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
122.39	142.78	163.18	183.58	224.38	265.17	305.97	367.16
Leicestershire Fire Authority :-							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
41.08	47.93	54.77	61.62	75.31	89.01	102.70	123.24

- (v) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at ii(e) and iii above, the Council, in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,052.82	1,228.29	1,403.76	1,579.23	1,930.18	2,281.12	2,632.06	3,158.46

Votes For 20
 Votes Against 1
 Abstentions 0

68. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2016/2017

	<p>The Council gave consideration to the report and appendices (at pages 61 - 70) as delivered by the Director of Services, which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>The Director of Services stated that the annual publication of the Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix A (at pages 63 – 69), was a statutory obligation outlining, amongst other things, the pay of the Council’s staff: most notably, a pay comparison between its Chief Officers vis-a-vis its lowest-paid employees. She reported that the Living Wage was introduced by this Council back in 2013 and would continue to be paid to those few qualifying employees for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader welcomed the Council’s continuance of the Living Wage and moved the recommendation at paragraph 2 of the report (at page 61).</p> <p>Councillor D A Gamble seconded the recommendation.</p> <p>Councillor B Fahey enquired as to the respective number(s) of permanent, full-time, part-time and agency Council staff currently employed in each salary banding.</p> <p>Councillor S B Morris advised that the information requested was not readily available at this meeting but would be provided to the Member in due course.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17 be approved.</p>	
69.	<p><u>RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>The Council gave consideration to the report (at pages 71 - 78) as delivered and summarised by the Planning, Policy and Regeneration Manager, which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader enquired as to what the government’s intended position was to be should New Homes Bonuses (NHB’s) be phased out as understood.</p> <p>The Planning, Policy and Regeneration Manager advised that the government’s proposal sought to amend as oppose to phase out the NHB’s incentive scheme in respect of: a reduction in the number of years that NWB’s are paid (i.e. from six to four years) and; to limit NWB allocations for none/late submission of Local Plans.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs L Eaton left the Chamber at 8:15 pm.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The proposed comments as set out in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.15 and 3.18 to 3.20 of the report be approved as the Council’s response to the Government consultations.</p>	
70.	<p><u>UPDATE ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDERS</u></p>	

	<p>The Council gave consideration to the report as set out in the second supplementary agenda update (at pages 1 - 3) as delivered and summarised by the Planning, Policy and Regeneration Manager, which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>(i) The progress on the Local Development Orders and the future work programme be noted by Members; and</p> <p>(ii) The statutory consultation beginning on Monday, 22 February 2016 be noted by Members.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs L Eaton returned to the Chamber at 8:21 pm.</p>	
71.	<p><u>RECEIVING OF MINUTES FOR INFORMATION</u></p> <p>The Council received the minutes as set out at agenda item numbers 16a - 16m (pages 8 - 155), together with the supplementary update (at pages 10 – 23), from the meetings of the below-mentioned Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Outside Bodies for the purposes of information:-</p> <p>a. Minutes of the Oadby Residents' Forum held on Wednesday, 04 November 2015;</p> <p>b. Minutes of the South Wigston Residents' Forum held on Tuesday, 10 November 2015;</p> <p>c. Minutes of the Wigston Residents' Forum held on Wednesday, 11 November 2015;</p> <p>d. Minutes of the Development Control Committee held on Thursday, 19 November 2015;</p> <p>e. Minutes of the Greening of the Borough Working Group held on Monday, 23 November 2015;</p> <p>f. Minutes of the Community Engagement Forum held on Thursday, 10 December 2015;</p> <p>g. Minutes of the Development Control Sub-Committee (Enforcement) held on Monday, 11 January 2016;</p> <p>h. Minutes of the Place Shaping Working Group held on Tuesday, 12 January 2016;</p> <p>i. Minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on Thursday, 14 January 2016;</p> <p>j. Minutes of the Change Management Committee held on Wednesday, 20 January 2016;</p> <p>k. Minutes of the Development Control Committee held on Thursday, 21 January 2016; and</p> <p>l. Minutes of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee held on Tuesday, 02 February 2016</p>	
72.	<p><u>LEADER'S STATEMENT</u></p> <p>The Leader of the Council, Councillor J W Boyce, noted the progress made to date in respect of the Combined Authority for Leicester/shire (CA) which had since included a first draft its Terms of Reference and Constitution which were not likely to be finalised until May or June of this year. It was said that a number of governance-related implications also required addressing, namely: the fact that the Leaders of this Council and Melton Borough Council did not enjoy an executive, decision-making capacity; and</p>	

	<p>the election and accountability of a directly-elected Mayor. The matter of reserved and delegated powers to be exercised, respectively, by the CA and the Constituent Member Councils, and the need for commensurate budget allocations to allow the same, was also said to be the subject of ongoing negotiations. Proposals determining the membership status of those local authorities bordering the Leicester/shire area (i.e. Rutland Country Council) were also under consideration in addition to whether the geo-political remit of any CA ought to combine the Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire areas.</p> <p>The Leader further informed Members that work was currently being undertaken in respect of the framing of a proposal by this Council in response to a request requiring details of the available provision and infrastructure within the Borough to meet the government's commitment to accommodate 20,000 Syrian refugees. The proposal was said to be complex one entertaining several service-area implications: however, it was emphasised that the re-housing needs of those Syrian refugees to be met within this Borough were to be resourced from the private-sector. On a wider-aspect, the Leader also informed Members that Kennedy House, a former homelessness unit based in South Wigston, had recently been identified by the Home Office and G4S for inclusion in the National Asylum-Seeker Dispersal Scheme to house asylum-seekers whilst their applications were being determined. He stated that discussions were currently being held between all stakeholders and interested parties to secure the best deal possible, most notably surrounding those asylum-seekers' entitlement to certain rights, and the implications thereof, granted by virtue of the asylum decision-making process in deeming to have a "local connection" to the Borough. It was assured that Members were to be kept informed about future developments.</p>	
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THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.29 PM



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MAYOR

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TUESDAY, 19 APRIL 2016

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