MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2017 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor - Councillor Robert F Eaton Deputy Mayor - Councillor Mrs Samia Z Haq

COUNCILLORS (16):

G S Atwal L A Bentley G A Boulter J W Boyce Mrs L M Broadley F S Broadley D M Carter Ms K M Chalk M H Charlesworth M L Darr Mrs L Eaton D A Gamble

J Kaufman K J Loydall Mrs S B Morris R E R Morris

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE (5):

S J Ball Mrs A E Court M W L Hall M Hone A Thorpe

Min Ref.	Narrative	Officer Resp.
68.	CALLING TO ORDER OF THE MEETING AND PRAYERS	
	The meeting of the Council was called to order to receive His Worship The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.	
69.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	An apology for absence was received from Councillors E R Barr, Miss A R Bond, Miss M V Chamberlain, B Dave, R E Fahey, Mrs H E Loydall, Dr T K Khong and R Thakor.	
70.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	In accordance with paragraph 4.15.5 of the Members' Code of Conduct, and in respect of the item of business at agenda item 11, all Members in attendance declared a disclosable personal pecuniary interest insofar as being residents of the Borough whose respective households were subject to the setting and levying of Council Tax (or precept) under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.	
71.	READING, CONFIRMATION AND SIGNING OF MINUTES	
71a.	MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 06 DECEMBER 2016	
	RESOLVED THAT:	
	The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 06 December 2016 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.	
71b.	MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2017	

	RESOLVED THAT:	
	The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 17 January 2017 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.	
72.	ACTION LIST	
	RESOLVED THAT:	
	The Action List arising from the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 06 December 2016 be noted by Members.	
73.	MOTIONS ON NOTICE	
	None.	
74.	PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS	
	None.	
75.	MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
	The Mayor expressed his gratitude to all those who attended the Mayor's Charity Curry Night held at the Cuisine of India, Wigston on Monday 14 February which raised a total of £1,200 in trust of the Mayor's nominated charity, the Leicester Children's Holiday Centre (Mablethorpe).	
	The Mayor further announced that a charitable 'Afternoon Tea with the Mayor' event was to be held at the Wigston Magna Methodist Church, Wigston on Saturday 11 March and that he would be hosting a charitable tombola stall at the Easter/Spring Fair to be held at Brocks Hill Country Park, Oadby on Saturday 15 April.	
75a.	LIST OF OFFICIAL MAYORAL/DEPUTY MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS	
	RESOLVED THAT:	
	The list of Official Mayoral Engagements attended by The Mayor and, or, Deputy Mayor be noted by Members.	
	In accordance with Rule 7.3 of Part 4 of the Constitution, the Mayor moved for the order of business to be altered and taken in the order as reflected in the minutes.	
	RESOLVED THAT:	
	The order of business be altered, accordingly.	
76.	BUDGET PROPOSALS 2017/18	
	The Council gave consideration to the report and appendices (at pages 20 - 50) as delivered and summarised by the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.	
	The Interim Chief Finance Officer reported that the proposed Budget for	

2017/18 was predicated on the requirement incumbent upon Council to make a total of c. £1.4m efficiency savings by 2020 due to the progressive nature of cuts to the Revenue Support Grant (RSG).

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was said to have set a target of £860k in 2017/18, of which £710k of efficiency saving had already been found with the remaining £150k to be borrowed from General Reserves to balance the budget. The Capital Programme was said to be indicative of project-work that the Council could afford to undertaken in 2017/18 and that a worked-up, detailed report for each proposed scheme will be brought their respective committees for approval.

It was emphasised that the proposed Budget was, inter alia, based upon:

- (a) a minimum level of General Fund reserves of 5% of annual net expenditure (throughout the period between 2017/18 to 2020/21);
- (b) the assumption of a 1% pay award and upward inflation of 2.5%;
- (c) the assumption that the Scale(s) of Fees and Charges would be revised upwards (as resolved at the meeting of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee held on 01 November 2017);
- (d) the same levels of business rates (non-domestic rates) being levied and collected, accordingly;
- (e) the adopted Council Tax Support Scheme remaining unchanged (as resolved the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 17 January 2017); and
- (f) a reduction in the award of New Homes Bonuses (NHB's) as set out in the Government's Grant Settlement.

The proposed Budget was said to be a balanced budget capable of being delivered with no significant cuts to frontline services or redundancies anticipated in 2017/18: however, it was advised that, and in conjunction with the work being undertaken by the Change Management Committee in relation to the Four-Year Efficiency Plan, these two heads were not exempt from future reconsideration in 2018/19.

The Chair of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee, Councillor Mrs SB Morris, commended the proposed Budget for 2017/18 to the Council. She noted that in view of the non-attendance of all six (Conservative) Opposition Members, there was no alternative budget put forward by the same upon which a cross-party debate could be properly had.

Councillor Mrs L M Broadley enquired as whether the Capital Programme included provision for a footpath to the Parklands Leisure Centre from Wigston Road, Oadby.

The Interim Chief Finance Officer answered affirmatively. He advised that a composite report regarding car parking provision, highway and access routes was to be brought to a subsequent meeting of the Service Delivery Committee.

Councillor G A Boulter sought assurances from the Interim Chief Finance Officer to ensure that the full amount allocated by the Government for 2017/18 for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) would be received from Leicestershire County Council.

The Interim Chief Finance Officer offered such assurances.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor J W Boyce, commended the proposed delivery of a balanced budget: however noted that, over the coming years, further challenges and difficult decisions lay ahead requiring service areas needing to be carefully re/assessed to find further efficiency savings including exploring any opportunities to invest in Council services as a means to achieve the same. He welcomed the bringing forward of a Capital Programme (CP) for 2017/18 which, although might not capable of being delivered in its entirety, would seek the decision of Members as to how to implement and to what extent.					
		r requested that the process in determining the CP allocation be preconcile budget-planning with the budget-process.	МНо		
		Mrs S B Morris moved the recommendations <i>en bloc</i> as set out at s 2.1 to 2.9 of the report (at pages 20 - 21).			
Cour	ncillor	D A Gamble seconded the recommendations.			
RES	OLVE	D THAT:			
(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii)	£6,60 The 0 appro The 1 appro The 0 the c A dec and i appro The 1 As se	General Fund net revenue budget estimates for 2017/18 totalling 01,700 be approved (Appendix 1); Capital Programme for 2017/18 amounting to £3,691,000 be oved (Appendix 2); Housing Revenue Account draft estimates for 2017/18 be oved (Appendix 3); Chief Financial Officer be authorised to arrange the financing of apital programme as necessary; crease of 1.00% in housing rents (Appendix 3, paragraph 4.2) ncreases in other charges (Appendix 3, paragraph 2) be oved; ist of reserves and balances (Appendix 4) be approved; et out in the Chief Financial Officer's Statement (Appendix 5), the ving policy be approved: The holding an absolute minimum level of General Fund reserves of 5% of annual net expenditure throughout the period between 2017/18 to 2020/21; The holding an absolute minimum level of General Fund			
	(b) (c) (d)	reserves of 5% of annual net Holding an optimal level of reserves of between 5% and 10% of annual net expenditure over the period 2017/18 to 2020/21 to cover the absolute minimum level of reserves, in-year risks, cash flow needs and unforeseen circumstances; The holding a maximum recommended level of reserves of 10% of annual net expenditure for the period 2017/18 to 2020/21 to provide additional resilience to implement the Medium Term Financial Plan; The adoption of a Reserves Strategy to maintain the			
	(e)	recommended optimal level of reserves within the relevant period (2017/18 to 2020/21); and In relation to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), maintaining reserves at a minimum of £300,000.			
(viii)	The r noted	risks and sensitivities surrounding the budget (Appendix 6) be d;			

	 (ix) Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Financial Officer to amend the estimates to account for any changes to the final Formula Funding amount over the provisional figure by adjusting the contribution to/from the Budget Equilibrium Reserve as appropriate. In accordance with Regulation 2 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) 						
	In accordance with Regulation 2 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the names of the persons who casted a vote for the motion or against the motion or who abstained from voting were recorded as follows:-						
	Votes For (17)	L A Bentley G A Boutler J W Boyce Mrs L M Broadley F S Broadley D M Carter Ms K M Chalk M H Charlesworth M L Darr Mrs L Eaton R F Eaton D A Gamble Mrs S Z Haq J Kaufman K J Loydall R E R Morris Mrs S B Morris					
	Votes Against None (0)						
	Abstentions (1)	G S Atwal					
77.	COUNCIL TAX SET	TING 2017/18					
	The Council gave consideration to the report (at pages 51 - 54) as delivered and summarised by the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.						
	The Interim Chief Finance Officer reiterated that the proposed increase in Council Tax for 2017/18 was predicated on the aforementioned requirement(s) incumbent upon Council to make a total of c. £1.4m efficiency savings by 2020 (Min. Ref. 76). The average Council Tax (Band D) for 2017/18 (including all precepts) was reported to be 3.47% representing an increase of approximately £55.00 per annum: this was said to translate into an approximate increase receipted to this Council of £5.00 per annum.						

tha with thro upo	The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor M H Charlesworth, announced that LCC had resolved a last minute adjustment to its budget in terms of the withdrawal of a £1.3bn transport provision which LCC sought to re-claw through precept collections via the seven Borough and District authorities upon the erroneous assumption that taxes and rates were not being presently collected to their fullest extent.								
Bor	The Deputy Leader requested that the collection rates for the seven Borough and District authorities be compiled in a composite document and forwarded to Members.								МНо
writ if a gov aut	The Interim Chief Finance Officer stated that the County Treasurer had written to all Leicestershire authorities on the same matter, who advised that if any one authority was able to collect at the national average rate for local government, a small proportion would be passported back out to that authority. He confirmed that the collection rate for this Council was significantly above average and the second best in Leicestershire.								
		r Mrs S B hs 2.1 to 2					n bloc as	set out at	
Co	uncillo	r D A Gan	nble secor	nded the	recommer	ndations.			
RE	SOLV	ED THAT	:						
(i) (ii) (iii)	the Council has calculated the amount of 17,155.70 as its Council Tax base for the financial year 2017/18 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012;								
(a)	£18	al Govern	being the	aggregat	e of the ar			ouncil	
(b)	£14		being the	aggregat	e of the ar	nounts wh	nich the C	ouncil	
(c)	 estimates for the items set out in section 31 A (3) of the Act; £3,630,690 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3 a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3 b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31 A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax 								
(d)	 Requirement for the year; (d) £211.63 being the amount at 3 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)	Val	uation Ba	Inds						
	А	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
14	1.09	164.60	188.12	211.63	258.66	305.69	352.72	423.26	
	Bei	ng the am	ounts give	en by mul	tiplying the	e amount	at (iii)(d) a	above by	

the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is 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.

(iv) Precepting Authorities - Valuation Bands

It be noted that for the year 2017/18, 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 and that Leicestershire County Council have indicated that their provisional precept will be confirmed on 22 February 2017.

	1011110 000	nty Counc	:II :-				
Α	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
781.59	911.85	1,042.12	1,172.38	1,432.91	1,693.44	1,953.97	2,344.7
Police a	nd Crime (Commissio	oner for Le	icestershi	re :-		1
А	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
124.82	145.62	166.43	187.23	228.84	270.44	312.05	374.46
Leiceste	rshire Fire	Authority	:-				
А	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
41.89	48.88	55.86	62.84	76.80	90.77	104.73	125.68
Lo am	cal Goveri iounts as f	nment Fin the amou	ance Act nts of Cou	1992, her Incil Tax fo	or the yea	tion 30 (2) he followir	of the
Loe am of t	cal Goveri	nment Fin the amou	ance Act nts of Cou	1992, her Incil Tax fo	eby sets tl or the yea	tion 30 (2) he followir	of the ng
Loc am of t	cal Govern nounts as t the catego	nment Fin the amou	ance Act nts of Cou	1992, her Incil Tax fo	eby sets tl or the yea	tion 30 (2) he followir	of the g
Loo arr of t	cal Govern nounts as t the catego n Bands	nment Fin the amou pries of dw	ance Act nts of Cou vellings sh	1992, her Incil Tax fo Iown belo	eby sets tl or the yea w.	tion 30 (2) he followir r 2017/18	of the ig for each
Lo arr of t Valuatio	cal Govern nounts as t the catego n Bands B	nment Fin the amou pries of dw C	ance Act nts of Cou vellings sh	1992, her incil Tax fo iown belo E	eby sets tl or the yea w. F	tion 30 (2) he followir r 2017/18 G	ig for each H
Loc am of f Valuatio A £ 1,089.39 In accord (England casted a	cal Govern nounts as t the catego n Bands B £ 1,270.95 dance with t) (Amend vote for the ere record	C C £ 1,452.53 C Regulation ne motion ed as follo	D 1,634.08 or agains	1992, here incil Tax fe iown belo £ 1,997.21 e Local Au 2014, the	eby sets th or the yea w. F £ 2,360.34 uthorities (names of	tion 30 (2) he followir r 2017/18 G £ 2,723.47 Standing the perso	of the ng for each <u>£</u> 3,268.16 Orders) ns who

		J W Boyce Mrs L M Broadley F S Broadley D M Carter Ms K M Chalk M H Charlesworth M L Darr Mrs L Eaton R F Eaton D A Gamble Mrs S Z Haq J Kaufman K J Loydall R E R Morris Mrs S B Morris				
	Votes Against (0)	None				
	Abstentions (1)	G S Atwal				
78.	PAY POLICY STAT	EMENT 2017/18				
	The Council gave consideration to the report and appendices (at pages 55 - 64) as delivered and summarised by the Director of Services / Monitoring Officer which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.					
	The Leader moved the report (at page 55).	ne recommendation as set out at paragraph 2 of the				
	Councillor K J Loydall seconded the recommendation.					
	UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:					
	The Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 be approved.					
79.	OPTING INTO THE APPOINTMENTS	NATIONAL SCHEME FOR AUDITOR				
	The Council gave consideration to the report and appendix (at pages 65 - 71) as delivered and summarised by the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.					
	Councillor G A Boulter enquired as to the cost borne to the Council to opt-in into the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSSA) option. He further expressed his disappointment at the prospective increase in external auditing fees for 2018/19.					
	borne to the Council by PSSA (an indepe the Local Governme the appointed audito	nance Officer advised that there would be no direct cost The formal procurement process was to be undertaken indent company limited by guarantee incorporated by int Association) and the associated-costs absorbed by rs. He stated that the increase in external auditing fees eed for a further depth of audit and the concentration of				

	resources to meet new audit submission deadlines.	
	The Deputy Leader enquired as to whether the procurement process was to be undertaken at arm's-length.	
	The Interim Chief Finance Officer advised that the process would attempt to appoint the same audit firm for the same geo-administrative area (i.e. Leicestershire) by way of initiation(s) to tender with the opportunity for post-tender negotiations.	
	Councillor J Kaufman enquired as to how the Council was to suitably appraise the quality and cost-effectiveness of the services tendered by prospective audit firms.	
	The Interim Chief Finance Officer advised that a bar for quality was to be set by the PSSA and all prospective tendering audit firms to be highly-reputable with extensive and suitable experience in local government audit.	
	Councillor Mrs L M Broadley moved the recommendation as set out at paragraph 2 of the report (at page 65).	
	Councillor J Kaufman seconded the recommendation.	
	UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:	
	The Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited's (PSSA) invitation to opt in to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1 April 2018 be accepted.	
	Councillor D M Carter left the Chamber at 7:48 pm.	
80.	STATEMENT OF COOPERATION AND OBJECTIVELY-ASSESSED NEED	
	The Council gave consideration to the report and appendix (at pages 72 - 80) as delivered and summarised by the Planning, Development and Regeneration Manager which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.	
	The Leader commended the work undertaken by Officers. He further announced that a Full Members' Briefing was to be held on Wednesday, 8 March 2017 to brief Members on the Local Plan, the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) and the Government's Housing White Paper (HWP). He stated that the Council had little or no control over the number of dwelling-houses to be built due to HWP on the subject and that, alternatively, it would be prudent to concentrate on the quality <i>vis-a-vis</i> quantity of any future proposed developments.	
	The Deputy Leader enquired as to whether the potential supply for the Oadby and Wigston area at paragraph 3.7 (at page 74) included all land-type sites (viz. brownfield, greenfield, sites cleared by demotion etc.).	
	The Planning, Development and Regeneration Manager advised that the supply included: all completions since 2011, current housing developments with planning permission (included sites under construction); current housing allocations; and units identified within the most recent Strategic	

		Leader moved the recommendations <i>en bloc</i> as set out at paragraphs o 2.3 of the report (at pages 72 - 73).					
	The [Deputy Leader seconded the recommendations.					
	UNA	NIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:					
	(i) (ii)	The Joint Statement of Cooperation be approved; The outcome of the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which identifies that the annual objectively assessed housing need for the Borough being 148 dwellings from 2011 up to 2031 and 155 dwelling from 2011 up to 2036 be noted; and					
	(iii)	The work being undertaken by the Council to identify a Local Plan housing target be noted.					
	Coun	ncillor G S Atwal left the Chamber at 7:52 pm.					
81.	REC	EIVING OF MINUTES FOR INFORMATION					
	Wedr state	spect of the minutes of the Wigston Residents' Forum held on nesday, 16 November 2016 at agenda item 15c, Councillor L A Bentley d that he was in attendance at this meeting and requested that the tes be amended, accordingly.					
	UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:						
	The r	minutes (as amended) as set out at:					
	(i)	agenda item numbers 15a, 15c - 15l, 15n, and 15o of the main					
	(ii) (iii)	agenda document (pages 81 - 87); agenda item numbers 15m and 15p of the first supplementary agenda update document (No.1) (pages 10 - 29); and agenda item number 15b of the second supplementary agenda update document (No. 2) (pages 1 - 9).					
	Grou	the meetings of the below-mentioned Committees, Forums, Working ps and Outside Bodies for the purposes of information be received by council.					
	(a)	Minutes of the Oadby Residents' Forum held on Wednesday, 02 November 2016;					
	(b)	Minutes of the South Wigston Residents' Forum held on Tuesday, 08 November 2016;					
	(c)	Minutes of the Wigston Residents' Forum held on Wednesday, 16 November 2016;					
	(d)	Minutes of the Development Control Committee held on Thursday, 17 November 2016;					
	(e)	Minutes of the Greening the Borough Working Group held on Monday, 28 November 2016;					
	(f)	Minutes of the Community Engagement Forum held on Thursday, 08 December 2016;					
	(g)	Minutes of the Community Safety Partnership held on Monday, 12 December 2016;					
	(h)	Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee (Panel Hearing) held on Wednesday, 14 December 2016;					
	(i)	Minutes of the Development Control Committee held on Thursday, 15					

	(j)	December 2016; Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on Tuesday, 10 January 2017;				
	(k)	Minutes of the Change Management Committee held on Wednesday, 11 January 2017;				
	 (I) Minutes of the Service Delivery Committee held on Tuesday, 17 January 2017; 					
	(m) Minutes of the Development Control Committee held on Thursday, 19 January 2017;					
	(n)	Minutes of the Children and Young Peoples' Forum held on Wednesday, 25 January 2017;				
	(o)	Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee (Panel Hearing) held on Tuesday, 31 January 2017; and				
	(p)	Minutes of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee held on Tuesday, 31 January 2017.				
82.	LEADER'S STATEMENT					
	The Leader of the Council, Councillor J W Boyce, circulated a document issuing guidance to Members pertaining to data protection in respect of associated matters related to the grievance and ongoing disciplinary investigation. He once again made every assurance that, once the investigation process had been properly concluded, a Members' Briefing Session would be held and the full details of the investigations would be made available in the public domain to the extent permissible by law.					
	Councillor G A Boulter enquired as to whether the Leader of the Council would join him in extending his gratitude to the Council's grounds maintenance staff for their expeditious work to clear felled trees and debris from the Borough's highways in the wake of Storm Doris (in accordance with Rule 11.1 of Part 4 of the Constitution).					
	The Leader answered in the affirmative, adding that the Council's grounds maintenance staff had met and exceeded expectations: an attribute that he described as being typical of all the Council's highly-dedicated members of staff.					

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.04 PM

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MAYOR

TUESDAY, 25 APRIL 2017