

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT CIVIC SUITE 2, BROCKS HILL COUNCIL OFFICES, WASHBROOK LANE, OADBY,
LEICESTER, LE2 5JJ ON TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT

I K Ridley
S S Athwal

Chair
Vice-Chair



Meeting ID: 2947

COUNCILLORS

N Alam
L A Bentley
G A Boulter
M H Charlesworth
J K Ford
D A Gamble
C S Gore
S Z Haq
P Joshi
J Kaufman
K J Loydall

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

S J Ball	Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Monitoring Officer (Solicitor)
M Smith	Community Safety & Youth Officer
A Thorpe	Head of Built Environment
C Warren	Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer
S Wheeliker	Senior Democratic & Electoral Services Officer

105. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M L Darr.

106. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

None.

107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

108. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 September 2025 be taken as read, confirmed and approved.

109. ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

110. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

111. BUDGET MONITORING (Q2 2025/26)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 8 – 18 of the agenda reports pack) which provided the Committee with the forecast Outturn position for the Council for the financial year 2025/26, at the end Quarter 2.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The contents of the report and the appendices be noted; and**
- ii) The carry forward of slippage as shown in the Capital projects be approved.**

112. SUNDRY DEBTOR AND REVENUES WRITE OFFS (Q2 2025/26)

The Committee gave consideration to the report (as set out at pages 3 – 6 of the first agenda update) which provided Members with an update on the status of debts written off under delegated powers.

Councillors requested that the council tax write offs be broken down to show the amounts lost to each authority in future reports. The Chief Finance Officer confirmed this would be included from now on.

By general affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The contents of the report and appendix be noted.

113. TREASURY MID-YEAR REPORT (2025/26)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 19 - 35 of the agenda reports pack) which detailed the performance and activities of the authority's treasury management function for the financial year 2025/26 to 30 September 2025.

By general affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The content of the report and appendices be noted.

114. TOWN CENTRE WIFI AND FOOTFALL - REVIEW OF SYSTEMS

In accordance with Rule 6.3 of Section 1 of Part 4 of the Constitution, the Chair moved for the order of business to be altered and taken in the order as reflected in the minutes.

The Committee gave consideration to the report (as set out at pages 39 – 42 of the agenda reports pack and pages 2 -3 of the second agenda update) which investigated the continued use of the public Wi-Fi and footfall monitoring in the Borough.

Councillor M H Charlesworth suggested that the recommendation include 'an alternative more cost-efficient and accurate means of counting footfall' (emphasis added) which was accepted by the proposer and seconder.

It was also suggested by the Head of Built Environment that the Chair of Policy, Finance & Development Committee and the Chair of Place Shaping & Climate Change Working Group be involved in the procurement process for the replacement technology, which was also accepted by the proposer and seconder.

It was moved by Councillor S Z Haq, seconded by Councillor J Kaufman, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The content of the report be noted;**
- ii) The Council proceed along the lines set out in Option 4 of this report (to stop providing free Wi Fi and to move to an alternative more cost-efficient and accurate means of counting footfall); and**
- iii) The Chairs of the Policy, Finance & Development Committee and Place Shaping & Climate Change Working Group be involved in the procurement process.**

115. 2026/27 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGETS, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND 2026/27 - 2030/31 DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMMES

The Committee gave consideration to the report (as set out at pages 7 – 13 of the first agenda update) which presented the revised General Fund Annual Budget for 2026/27 and an updated MTFP for 2026/27 to 2030/31, and also provided an update on the capital programme for 2026/27 as well as the HRA Annual Budget for 2025/26.

By general affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The contents of the report be noted; and**
- ii) The intention to increase Housing Rents, Garages and Service Charges by a minimum of 4.8%, pending the outcome of the Rent Convergence review currently underway be noted.**

116. RESIDENT FORUM FUNDING REQUESTS

The Committee gave consideration to the report (as set out at pages 36 – 38 of the agenda reports pack) which sought approval for funding to be released to the Oadby Residents Forum for the requesting party.

It was moved by Councillor D A Gamble, seconded by Councillor J Kaufman, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The content of the report be noted; and**
- ii) The request for funding to be released to the Oadby 50 Plus Group be**

approved.

117. EVENT BOOKING & VENUE HIRE POLICY (2025)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 14 – 25 of the first agenda update pack) which sought approval for the Event Booking and Venue Hire Policy (2025).

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The Event Booking and Venue Hire Policy (2025) (as set out at Appendix 1 to this report) be approved; and**
- ii) The Information Sheet for Event Booking and Venue Hire (as set out at Appendix 2 to this report) be approved.**

118. STANDARDS & ETHICAL INDICATORS (Q2 2025/26)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 43 – 53 of the agenda reports pack) which presented the figures for local determination of complaints and ethical indicators for Q2 2025-26.

By general affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The content of the report and appendix be noted.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.32 pm