

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES,
STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.00**

PM

PRESENT

Mrs L Kaufman Mayor
Mrs R H Adams Deputy Mayor



COUNCILLORS

N Alam
L A Bentley
G A Boulter
J W Boyce Leader of the Council
Mrs L M Broadley
F S Broadley
D M Carter
Mrs H E Darling JP
F S Ghattoraya Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Mrs S Z Haq Deputy Leader of the Council
Miss P V Joshi Leader of the Opposition
J Kaufman
Mrs H E Loydall
K J Loydall
D W Loydall
Mrs S B Morris
Dr I K Ridley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

S J Ball Assistant Solicitor
Ms T Bingham Strategic Director / Section 151 Officer
C Campbell Head of Finance / Deputy Section 151 Officer
Mrs A E Court Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Mrs P Fisher Head of Customer Service & Transformation
D M Gill Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer
A Thorpe Head of Built Environment
S Tucker Democratic & Electoral Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer
S Wheeliker Democratic Services Officer

125. CALLING TO ORDER OF THE MEETING

The meeting of the Council was called to order to receive Her Worship The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of late Alderman Duncan Lucas and Councillor Robert Eaton.

126. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillors M H Charlesworth, M L Darr, Mrs L Eaton JP, D A Gamble, Ms C D Kozłowski and R E R Morris.

127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Full Council Council Tax & Budget Setting (2021/22)
Thursday, 24 February 2022

Mayor's
Initials

None.

128. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 December 2021 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

129. ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There was no Action List arising from the previous meeting held on 21 December 2021.

130. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

None.

131. PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

None.

132. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

132a. OFFICIAL MAYORAL / DEPUTY MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

By affirmation of the meeting, it was:

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The list of Official Engagements attended by The Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor be noted.

In accordance with Rule 6.3 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.

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The order of business be altered accordingly.

133. COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2022/23

Councillor F S Ghattoraya entered the meeting at 7.13pm after the commencement of the debate, and therefore did not take part in the vote thereon.

The Council gave consideration to the report (as set out at pages 10 - 15 of the agenda reports pack) which asked it set and approve the amount of Council Tax for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston for 2021/22 in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. A brief summary of

the proposals was delivered by the Vice-Chair of Policy, Finance and Development Committee, Councillor Dr I K Ridley, followed by an update from the Head of Finance.

A number of Members drew attention to the fact that the Borough Council only receives 12% of Council Tax collected, and requested that the Council should communicate clearly to its residents that despite being the collection authority, the majority of the percentage split (72%) goes to Leicestershire County Council.

A number of questions were raised by Members regarding how the £150 Council Tax rebate for properties in Bands A-D would be administered, and reassurance was sought that payments would be made to eligible households as efficiently as possible. It was confirmed by Officers that government guidance had only been issued the day before the meeting so the detail was still being reviewed, however residents were to be encouraged to sign-up for direct debit payments in order to receive the rebate automatically early in the financial year 2022/23. It was clarified that where the Council does not hold live direct debit instructions for an eligible household, contact would be made in order for them to make a claim.

The recommendations were moved en bloc by Councillor Dr I K Ridley, seconded by Mrs S B Morris and it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- A. It be noted that under powers delegated to the Chief Financial Officer, the Council has calculated the amount of 17,602.15 as its Council Tax base for the financial year 2022/23 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.**
- B. It be noted that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022/23 is £4,215,715.**
- C. The following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2022/23 in accordance with sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended):**
 - (i) £35,644,007 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act.**
 - (ii) £31,428,292 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act.**
 - (iii) £4,215,715 being the amount by which the aggregate at C(i) above exceeds the aggregate at C(ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31 A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year.**
 - (iv) £239.50 being the amount at C(iii) divided by the amount at A above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 3 B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.**

(v) Valuation Bands

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Base Element of the 2022/2 Council Tax			
A	B	C	D
£	£	£	£
159.67	186.28	212.89	239.50
E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£
292.72	345.94	399.17	479.00

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at C(iv) 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.

- D. It is noted that for the year 2022/23, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester/shire, and the Leicester/shire 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 23 February 2022.**

Precepting Authorities - Valuation Bands

Leicestershire County Council			
A	B	C	D
£	£	£	£
968.64	1,130.08	1,291.52	1,452.96
E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£
1,775.84	2,098.72	2,421.60	2,905.92

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester and Leicestershire

A	B	C	D
£	£	£	£
172.15	200.85	229.54	258.23
E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£
315.61	373.00	430.38	516.46

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority			
A	B	C	D
£	£	£	£
49.53	57.78	66.04	74.29
E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£
90.80	107.31	123.82	148.58

- E. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at C(v) and D above, the Council, in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, set the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.**

Valuation Bands

Total Council Tax Payable by - Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Residents			
A	B	C	D
£	£	£	£
1,349.99	1,574.99	1,799.99	2,024.98
E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£
2,474.97	2,924.97	3,374.97	4,049.96

In accordance with Rule 18.3.2 of Part 4 of the Constitution, as required by Regulation 4 and Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (as amended), the names of the Members who casted a vote for the motion or against the motion or who abstained from voting were recorded as follows:

Votes For (18)	Votes Against (0)	Abstentions (0)
Mrs R H Adams		
N Alam		
L A Bentley		
G A Boulter		
J W Boyce		
Mrs L M Broadley		
F S Broadley		
D M Carter		
Ms H E Darling		
Mrs S Z Haq		
Miss P V Joshi		
J Kaufman		
Mrs L Kaufman		
K J Loydall		
D W Loydall		
Mrs S B Morris		
Dr I K Ridley		

134. BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23

The Council gave consideration to the report as set out on pages 16 – 46 of the agenda, which asked it to review the draft budget estimates for 2022/23, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) forecasts, and the 2022/23 Capital Programme and proposed sources of funding. A brief summary of the proposals was delivered by the Vice-Chair of Policy, Finance and Development Committee, Councillor Dr I K Ridley, followed by an update from the Head of Finance.

The Head of Finance tabled the following corrections to the original report:

- (i) Page 21 Paragraph 9.2 - The General Fund balance is £1.348m and is forecast to be **£1.011m** at 1 April 2022, assuming current year financial outturn is as forecast at Q3; and
- (ii) Page 35, Section E - The updated MTFP presents a total deficit by 2025/26 of **£320k**. There are currently plans being explored to create new funding streams, but the cost of implementation and the timing of the streams is a risk.

Acknowledging the continued pressures faced, Members commended the work undertaken by Officers to achieve delivery of a balanced budget.

It was moved by Councillor Dr I K Ridley, seconded by Councillor Mrs S Z Haq and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) **The Section 151 Officer’s statement on the robustness of the budget and**

- the adequacy of reserves be noted;
- (ii) The Revenue Budget 2022/23 be approved;
- (iii) The HRA budget for 2022/23 be approved;
- (iv) The new Capital Schemes of the General Fund and HRA be approved; and
- (v) The Capital Strategy be approved.

135. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGIES 2022/23

The Council gave consideration to the report as set out on pages 47-85 of the agenda, which asked it to review the Treasury Management Policy, the Council's Prudential indicators, the Treasury Strategy and Plan and the Investment Strategy for 2022/23. A brief summary of the proposals was delivered by the Vice-Chair of Policy, Finance and Development Committee, Councillor Dr I K Ridley, followed by an update from the Head of Finance.

It was moved by Councillor Dr I K Ridley, seconded by the Leader of the Council and

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Treasury Management Policy be approved;
- (ii) The Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 be approved;
- (iii) The Treasury Strategy and Plan 2022/23 be approved; and
- (iv) The Investment Strategy 2022/23 be approved;

Votes For: 18
Votes Against: 0
Abstentions: 1

136. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23

The Council gave consideration to the report as set out on pages 86-95 of the agenda, which asked it to review the proposed Pay Policy Statement for the coming financial year 2022/23.

It was moved by Mrs L M Bradley, seconded by the Leader of the Council and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 be approved;
- (ii) Once agreement at national level is reached, the pay structure incorporating the National Joint Council (NJC) 2021/22 pay award will be brought back to Council for approval; and
- (iii) The continued commitment to paying the Real Living Wage for 2022/23 be approved.

137. AMENDMENT TO MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES (FEBRUARY 2022)

The Council gave consideration to the report as set out on pages 6-8 of the agenda update, which asked it to ratify amendments to the representation on the Committees, Sub-Committees and other Panels and Boards to which the Council appoints, as a consequence of a recent by-election in Wigston Meadowcourt Ward.

It was moved by the Leader of the Council, seconded by Mrs S B Morris and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) **The revised allocation of seats to political groups be approved; and**
- (ii) **The proposed appointment of nominations to those seats be approved.**

138. LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader of the Council presented a Statement outlining his recent work, the administration's plans and an overview of recent decisions taken since the previous meeting of the Council.

The Leader expressed shock and concern regarding the escalation of conflict in Ukraine and stated that the Borough would seek to support the settlement of refugees displaced by the violence. A Member suggested that it would send a message of solidarity if the Council were to raise the Ukrainian Flag in Peace Memorial Park, Wigston.

The Leader called upon health providers to consider carefully the location and accessibility of Covid vaccination sites, given that parts of the Borough still lagged well behind the national average rates of vaccination. It was also announced that a Covid Recovery Plan, a refresh of the Council's Corporate Plan and a review of the Member Enquiry system would all be forthcoming.

It was confirmed that a Communications Strategy was currently being worked on with a view to being put before Members at either Policy, Finance and Development Committee in March 2022, or Full Council in April 2022. It was also confirmed that an update on the lunchtime opening of the Customer Service Centre would be provided to the March meeting of Service Delivery Committee.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.25 PM



Mayor

Tuesday, 5 April 2022

*Printed and published by Democratic Services, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council,
Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2DR*