

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD AT CIVIC SUITE, BROCKS HILL COUNCIL OFFICES, WASHBROOK LANE, OADBY, LEICESTER, LE2 5JJ ON TUESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

**PRESENT**

C D Kozlowski                      Mayor  
J K Chohan                         Deputy Mayor



**Meeting ID: 2714**

**COUNCILLORS**

R H Adams  
N Alam                                 Deputy Leader of the Opposition  
S S Athwal  
L A Bentley                         Deputy Leader of the Council  
G A Boulter  
L M Broadley  
F S Broadley  
M H Charlesworth  
H E Darling  
M L Darr  
J K Ford  
D A Gamble  
F S Ghattoraya  
C S Gore                                 Leader of the Opposition  
S Z Haq                                 Leader of the Council  
J Kaufman  
K J Loydall  
C J R Martin  
C A M Walter

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

A E Court                                 Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service  
D M Gill                                 Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer  
S Wheeliker                                 Senior Democratic & Electoral Services Officer

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

P Joshi                                     Attending remotely  
R V Joshi                                     Attending remotely

**25. CALLING TO ORDER OF THE MEETING**

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

**26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillors G G Hunt and I K Ridley.

Councillors P Joshi and R V Joshi attended the meeting remotely, but in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, were not considered present for the purposes of voting.

## **27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members declared a pecuniary interest with regard to item 6a of the agenda, insofar as they, their partners and/or other members of their household are currently or were previously in receipt of Winter Fuel Payments.

R H Adams  
S S Athwal  
G A Boulter  
L M Broadley  
F S Broadley  
M H Charlesworth  
J K Chohan  
M L Darr  
F S Ghattoraya  
C S Gore  
J Kaufman  
K J Loydall  
C J R Martin  
C A M Walter

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011, the Monitoring Officer granted an exemption to those named above in order to allow them to participate in the debate and vote thereon.

## **28. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

### **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:**

**The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 July 2024 be taken as read, confirmed and approved.**

## **29. ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was no Action List arising from the previous meeting.

## **30. MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

### **30a. WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS**

The Council gave consideration to the Motion on Notice (as set out at page 8 of the agenda reports pack) regarding the UK Government's decision to require means-testing to qualify for Winter Fuel Payments.

It was moved by the Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor G A Boulter and

### **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:**

- (i) The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the policy on linking Winter Fuel Payments to Pension Credit receipt to be immediately paused and introduce a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments; and**

- (ii) **A significant awareness campaign to maximise uptake of pension credits be urgently commenced.**

### **Postscript**

A copy of the letter sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer is attached to this minute.

### **31. PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

None.

### **32. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor thanked Members for attending her Charity Night on 9 September 2024, noting it raised over £800.00 for her chosen charities, and reminded Members the next Mayoral Charity Night will be on 3 February 2025.

### **32a. 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.**

### **33. LEADER'S STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council presented a statement outlining her recent work and meetings she has attended, the administration's plans and an overview of recent decisions taken since the previous meeting of the Council, together with fielding questions in relation to her statement.

The Leader spoke about her fading hope in the new UK Government due to further cuts in services, the change in winter fuel allowance eligibility and retaining the 2-child benefit cap, as well as the need to continue with the Council's Sustainability Plan to achieve a balanced budget and avoid issuing a Section 114 notice.

The Leader also spoke about the need to ensure the transition to fortnightly refuse collections be as smooth as possible for residents and assured residents that the privately-owned green spaces that were up for sale by developers would remain as public open spaces in being designated as such in planning terms.

### **34. APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S LGBCE 'COUNCIL SIZE' SUBMISSION (OCTOBER 2024)**

The Council gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 11 – 29 of the agenda reports pack), which provided Members with the opportunity to comment on and approve for submission a report to the Local Government Boundary Commission of England (LGBCE) setting out what number of Councillors the Council itself considered appropriate as part of the ongoing LGBCE review.

Councillor M H Charlesworth proposed an amendment to the report (a copy of which is attached to this minute) recommending a reduction in Councillor numbers to achieve

parity with other Councils in terms of number of electors per Councillor. The amendment was not seconded and therefore it was not voted upon.

Councillor F S Ghattoraya left the Civic Suite at 7:39 pm and re-entered at 7:46 pm.

Councillor M L Darr left the Civic Suite at 7.55 pm and did not return.

It was moved by Councillor G A Boulter, seconded by Councillor C S Gore and

**RESOLVED THAT:**

**Members approved the report for submission, subject to final amendments made following consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition, the Head of Paid Service / Chief Executive and the Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer.**

<b>For</b>	19
<b>Against</b>	1
<b>Abstentions</b>	0

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.17 pm**