

**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, 12 SEPTEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.02 PM**

PRESENT

M H Charlesworth Chair
F S Broadley Vice-Chair



Meeting ID: 2539

COUNCILLORS

N Alam
S S Athwal
G A Boulter
M L Darr
J K Ford
D A Gamble
C S Gore
S Z Haq
G G Hunt
P Joshi
K J Loydall
I K Ridley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

S J Ball Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer
B Bull Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer
A E Court Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
P Fisher Strategic Director
D M Gill Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer
T Hatton Head of Customer Service & Transformation
A Kidder Interim Finance Manager
A Thorpe Head of Built Environment
S Wheeliker Democratic & Electoral Services Officer

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor L A Bentley.

15. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

Councillor J K Chohan be allowed to substitute for Councillor L A Bentley without prior notice having been given to the Head of Law & Democracy.

Councillor J K Chohan substituted for Councillor L A Bentley.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**Policy, Finance & Development
Committee**
Tuesday, 12 September 2023, 7.00 pm

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Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ*

None.

17. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor G A Boulter, seconded by Councillor K J Loydall, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 June 2023 be taken as read, confirmed and approved.

18. ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

19. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

20. BUDGET MONITORING (Q1 2023/24)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 7 – 24 of the agenda reports pack), which provided an update following the end of the first quarter on the forecast financial position for the Council for the financial year 2023/24.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The contents of the report and appendices be noted; and**
- ii) The additions to the Capital Programme as detailed at paragraph 9.5 be approved.**

21. BUDGET SETTING APPROACH (2024/25)

The Committee gave consideration to the report (as set out at pages 25 – 31 of the agenda reports pack), which consulted Members on the approach to setting the 2024/25 budget and updated Members on the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) position and progress of the Sustainability Programme.

It was proposed by Councillor C S Gore, seconded by Councillor P Joshi, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

Recommendation A be amended to increase the membership of the 'Star Chambers' by one, to include a member of the opposition.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The Budget Approach for 2024/25 be agreed and recommended to Council; and**
- ii) The updated MTFP budget gaps and the progress on the Sustainability Programme be noted.**

22. COUNCIL TAX EMPTY HOMES UPDATE (SEPTEMBER 2023)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 32 – 40 of the agenda reports pack), which presented the Council Tax charges on the Empty Properties Policy (Empty Homes Premium) for approval by the Committee.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor D A Gamble, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The increase in the Empty Homes Premium as detailed in Paragraph 2 be approved;**
- ii) A six-month grace period for new purchases of properties which are already subject to the additional premium be approved; and**
- iii) The introduction of the Council Tax charges on the Empty Properties Policy (Empty Homes Premium) be approved.**

23. PEOPLE STRATEGY (2023-2026)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 41 – 89 of the agenda reports pack), which asked Members to note a new People Strategy for 2023 – 2026, which is applicable to all Council staff.

By general affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The content of the report be noted;**
- ii) The People Strategy 2023 – 2026 be noted; and**
- iii) The Action Plan 2023 – 2026 be noted.**

24. STANDARDS & ETHICAL INDICATORS (Q1 2023/24)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 90 – 100 of the agenda reports pack), which asked the Committee to note the figures for local determination of complaints and ethical indicators for Q1 2023/24.

By general affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The content of the report and appendix be noted.**

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.25 pm