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**NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**

**22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Shepherd (in the Chair)  
Councillors Barber, Barfield, Beasant, Bolton, Bramley, Brookes, Brown, Burton, Cairns, Chase, Colquhoun, Cracknell, Dickerson, Fenty, Goodwin, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hyldon-King, Jackson, James, Lindley, McGilligan-Fell, Mickleburgh, Oxby, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Rogers, Rudd, Shreeve, Stockton, Sutton, Walker, Watson, K. Wheatley, P. Wheatley.

<b>OFFICERS:</b>	Joanne Hewson	Deputy Chief Executive
	Simon Jones	Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer)
	Sharon Wroot	Director of Finance, Resources and Operations
	Iain Lovell	Group Manager – Customer and Communications
	Paul Windley	Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager

NEL.143 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and he announced that a wine tasting evening would take place on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 in aid of the Mayor's charities.

NEL.144 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillors Darby, De Freitas and Wilson.

NEL.145 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Rogers declared a personal interest in NEL.146 as an employee of the North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

**OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK, COMMISSIONING PLAN AND BUDGET**

Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder Finance, Community Assets, Governance and Tourism setting out the Outcomes Framework, Commissioning Plan and Budget, which outlined in detail how the Council planned to deliver its agreed financial strategy over the next three years. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 and the minutes of that meeting were circulated for members' reference.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Oxby, made his budget statement and moved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Cabinet meeting.

Councillor Oxby commented on his sense of pride that his administration continued to meet the challenge of a much diminished revenue budget, owing to unprecedented government cuts, while still driving innovation, improvement and local economic growth, focusing on the most vulnerable of our citizens but remaining prepared to take some very difficult decisions. He reflected on the financial difficulties being faced by other local authorities, noting that there was insufficient funding nationally for children's services and adult social services. He commented on how his administration had started to address long-standing local challenges such as low land values, the skills gap, the health inequality gap and low aspiration. He referred to external funding that had been generated to support key regeneration and growth projects; the securing of the Town Deal as well as the Housing Zone and Heritage Action Zone; the transformation of children's services and the ground-breaking health and social care partnership with the CCG. He stated that this was a budget for growth, based on strong financial stewardship, involving a deal with local residents to build on the flagship Town Deal, invest in enforcement activity; continue to modernise waste and recycling operations; build on investment programmes like the Coastal Communities Fund and the South Humber Industrial Investment Programme; build on the success of Housing Zone and Heritage Action Zone status to deliver the right mix of extra-care and social housing and restore key heritage assets; continue the ground-breaking early intervention and prevention work; invest in targeted cleansing operations in our untidiest wards; work with partners to support the most vulnerable in our communities to live as independently as possible; and ensure that local people are equipped with the skills to fill the jobs being brought to this area. However, he warned that the financial cliff edge facing local government had not disappeared and it could not be repeatedly left to local authorities to take the hardest financial hit as its key statutory services were put at risk.

Councillor Jackson, as Leader of the Conservative Group, voiced his opposition to the budget proposals. He noted that proposals previously put forward by his group to generate funding, such as changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme, had not been supported by the administration. He also questioned comments about cuts to funding, noting that the medium term financial plan showed that there had been a slight increase to the total revenue budget. He felt that the ruling administration had brought stagnation and inactivity rather than improvement. He referred to loss of income caused by the purchase of the O'Neill's site in Cleethorpes; the delay with sorting out the public toilets issue; the continued expense of clearing up after

illegal encampments while a gypsy and traveller site remained unresolved; and the lack of enforcement activity. He felt that the administration had failed the people of North East Lincolnshire.

Councillor Beasant, as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, commented on the difficulty in presenting amendments to the proposals due to the lack of detail within the financial envelopes. He raised concerns with the impact on the street scene of overflowing recycling bins and the lack of enforcement. He referred to previous proposals which had not been acted upon, such as moving to all out elections and going paperless. In conclusion, he stated that he could not support the budget proposals.

Councillor Stockton, as Leader of the UK Independence Party Group, also could not support the budget proposals. He felt that residents were already struggling without a further increase to the Council Tax.

All Members had the opportunity to take part in the ensuing debate. Following the debate, the Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to exercise his right of reply. The Mayor then put the budget recommendations to a recorded vote in accordance with the Constitution. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

#### For the Motion

Councillors Barber, Bolton, Brown, Burton, Goodwin, Hyldon-King, James, Mickleburgh, Oxby, Patrick, Rogers, Sutton, Walker, Watson, K. Wheatley and P. Wheatley (16 votes).

#### Against the Motion

Councillors Barfield, Beasant, Bramley, Brookes, Cairns, Chase, Colquhoun, Cracknell, Dickerson, Fenty, Harness, Hasthorpe, Jackson, Lindley, McGilligan-Fell, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Rudd, Shreeve and Stockton (20 votes).

#### Abstained

Councillor Shepherd (1 vote).

The motion was therefore declared lost.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at this point to allow clarification of next steps with approval of the budget. Upon reconvening the meeting, the Mayor announced that there would be a special meeting of Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 to further consider the budget proposals and to fix the Council Tax for the 2018/2019 financial year.

Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder Finance, Community Assets, Governance and Tourism presenting the restated Treasury Policy Statement and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Treasury Management Policy Statement, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report now submitted, be approved.
- (2) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2018/19, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report now submitted, be approved.
- (3) That the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, as set out at Annex 2 of Appendix 2 to the report now submitted, be approved.
- (4) That the CIPFA Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (2017 Edition) be adopted.

NEL.148 **PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

Council considered a report from the Leader of the Council seeking approval of the Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19.

RESOLVED - That the pay policy statement for the period 2018/19 be approved.

NEL.149 **DISPENSATION – SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Council considered a report from the Chief Executive seeking to grant a special dispensation to Councillor Annie Darby, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, for health reasons.

RESOLVED – That a special dispensation be granted to Councillor Annie Darby, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, for health reasons.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.04 p.m.