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NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

20th February 2025

Present: Councillor Beasant (in the Chair)

Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Bonner, Boyd, Bright, Brookes, Cairns, Clough, Cracknell, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Farren, Freeston, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Humphrey, Jackson, Kaczmarek, Lindley, Mickleburgh, Mill, Morland, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Shutt, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Wheatley and Wilson.

Officers in Attendance:

- Rob Walsh (Chief Executive)
- Zoe Campbell (Senior Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- David Humm (Civic Chauffeur and Assistant)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance - Monitoring Officer)
- Eve Richardson Smith (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)
- Sharon Wroot (Executive Director Place and Resources - Section 151 Officer)

The proceedings were opened with prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain.

NEL.71 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded Members of the forthcoming Mayor's quiz night and coffee morning, both in aid of the Mayoral charities. In addition, he hoped Members would join him for a 24-hour litter pick on 1st April 2025, also in support of the Mayoral charities.

NEL.72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillors Downes, Goodwin, Haggis and Jervis.

NEL.73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer provided general advice to Members on declaring interests with regard to the budget and setting of the Council Tax.

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any item on the agenda for this meeting.

NEL.74 BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 – 2027/28

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets presenting the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025/26 – 2027/28.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jackson, made his budget statement and moved the recommendations as set out in the report together with an additional recommendation agreed at the meeting of Cabinet on 12th February 2024. This related to a recommendation from formal budget scrutiny requesting that a budget of £150k be apportioned for the next two years from the planned use of flexible capital receipts to the public health budget to support transformational projects, which was agreed by Cabinet subject to the realisation of appropriate capital receipts and appropriate projects being accompanied by suitable business cases.

The Leader noted that the proposed budget supported the strategic outcomes and priorities set out in the Council Plan, as agreed by Council at its meeting in December 2024. The focus was on making North East Lincolnshire a better place for our children and young people approach, delivering what was needed to attract new investment, jobs and wealth to the area. He set out the approach to be taken to funding key areas of the council's business and reported on the significant regeneration programme being delivered across the Borough. Investment in frontline services was being maintained. Reserves were also being bolstered in recognition of the economic challenges faced by the council. He noted that the council was one of few local authorities not levying the full 5% council tax increase. The Leader thanked the finance team for their work on the budget and he took the opportunity to thank officers for the work put in to delivering services across the council. He commended the budget to the council, noting that his administration was delivering its priorities whilst maintaining healthy and sustainable finances.

Councillor Harness, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, seconded the budget recommendations and summarised the key financial points in the report.

Councillor Wheatley, as Leader of the Labour Group, voiced her opposition to the budget proposals. She felt that the budget proposals did not address the areas that needed action, for example, taking young people out of poverty. She felt that the proposals lacked ambition and focus and failed to meet the expectations of residents.

Councillor Aisthorpe moved an amendment to the budget to pilot an Operation Clean and Green scheme for a period of one year funded by a £200k allocation from the 2025/25 Transformation Fund as follows:

4 Barrow Operatives (£35k each) - £140k
1 Urban Litter Ranger post - £38k
Associated equipment - £22k
Total cost - £200k

This would include the extension of enhanced cleaning to East Marsh, West Marsh, Park, Heneage, South and Sidney Sussex wards, the introduction of a community driven maintenance programme to enhance cleanliness, and the launch of a new group booking system for the 'Bulky Waste Collection' service. The Communities Scrutiny Panel would review the scheme's impact and cost effectiveness throughout the year. If the pilot proved successful, further consideration would be given to expanding the initiative, with future funding options explored to ensure its sustainability beyond the initial trial period.

This was seconded by Councillor Emmerson.

The Section 151 Officer provided advice to Council on the amendment.

Following a debate, the Mayor put the amendment to a recorded vote in accordance with the Constitution. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the amendment:

Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Beasant, Bonner, Boyd, Bright, Brookes, Cairns, Clough, Cracknell, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Farren, Freeston, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Humphrey, Jackson, Kaczmarek, Lindley, Mickleburgh, Mill, Morland, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Shutt, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Wheatley and Wilson (38 votes).

Against the amendment:

None.

The amendment was declared carried and the substantive motion, as amended, was then subject to a debate. The Mayor then put the substantive motion, as amended, to a recorded vote in accordance with the Constitution. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the Motion

Councillors Aisthorpe, Beasant, Bonner, Boyd, Bright, Brookes, Cairns, Cracknell, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, K Swinburn and S Swinburn (25 votes).

Against the Motion

Councillors Augusta, Clough, Farren, Freeston, Humphrey, Kaczmarek, Mickelburgh, Mill, Morland, Patrick, Shutt, Wheatley and Wilson (13 votes).

The motion was therefore declared carried and it was

RESOLVED –

1. That the 2025/26 Budget and summary 2025/26 – 2027/28 Medium Term Financial Plan be approved.
2. That a 1.98% increase in Council Tax in 2025/26 be approved.
3. That the application of a 2% Adult Social Care precept in 2025/26 be approved.
4. That the business plans, as contained within Appendix 1 (Annex 1) of the report now submitted, be approved.
5. That the Capital Investment Strategy, as included within Appendix 1 (Annex 3) of the report now submitted, be approved.
6. That the 2025/26 - 2027/28 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix 1 (Annex 2) of the report now submitted, be approved.
7. That the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy, as included within Appendix 1 (Annex 7) of the report now submitted, be approved.
8. That, further to the recommendation from formal budget scrutiny, a budget of £150k be apportioned for the next two years from the planned use of flexible capital receipts to the public health budget to support transformational projects, subject to the realisation of appropriate capital receipts and appropriate projects being accompanied by suitable business cases and that the Section 151 Officer be authorised to make appropriate adjustments to the Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan.

9. That an Operation Clean and Green scheme be piloted for a period of one year funded by a £200k allocation from the 2025/25 Transformation Fund with the scheme's impact and cost effectiveness reviewed by the Communities Scrutiny Panel throughout the year.

NEL.75 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

The Mayor moved that the Council's Standing Orders governing the length of meetings be suspended to permit this meeting to continue beyond 10.00 p.m. This was seconded by Councillor Jackson. Upon a show of hands, the motion was carried and it was:

RESOLVED - That the Council's Standing Orders governing the length of meetings be suspended to permit this meeting to continue beyond 10.00 p.m.

There was a brief adjournment of the meeting at this point to allow circulation of the Council Tax resolution.

NEL.76 COUNCIL TAX 2025/26

The Council considered setting the Council Tax for North East Lincolnshire properties for 2025/26 following the decisions made in NEL.74 above.

A recorded vote was taken in accordance with the Constitution and the votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the Motion

Councillors Aisthorpe, Beasant, Bonner, Boyd, Bright, Brookes, Cairns, Cracknell, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, K Swinburn and S Swinburn (25 votes).

Against the Motion

Councillors Augusta, Clough, Farren, Freeston, Humphrey, Kaczmarek, Mickleburgh, Mill, Morland, Patrick, Shutt, Wheatley and Wilson (13 votes).

The motion was therefore declared carried and it was

RESOLVED –

1. That it be noted that on 12th December 2024 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for 2025/26:

- (a) for the whole Council area as 47,205.46 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
- (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as detailed below and in the attached Appendix A.

<u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	
Parish of Ashby-cum-Fenby	132.75
Parish of Barnoldby-Le-Beck	227.52
Parish of Bradley	78.58
Parish of Brigsley	174.41
Parish of Great Coates	488.85
Parish of Habrough	204.14
Parish of Healing	1,244.04
Parish of Humberston	2,729.10
Town of Immingham	2,628.67
Parish of Irby	59.77
Parish of Laceby	1,140.60
Parish of New Waltham	2,081.25
Parish of Stallingborough	442.02
Parish of Waltham	2,295.39
Cleethorpes	9,698.26
Grimsby	23,320.38
TOTAL	46945.73
Note - The Council tax base total for parish areas to which no special items relate is:	259.73

2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2025/26 (excluding Parish precepts) is £92,146,949.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2025/26 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- (a) £387,163,152 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.

- (b) (£294,031,167) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £ 93,131,985 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) £1,972.91 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £1,035,545.99 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix A) and Charter Trustees.
- (f) £1,950.97 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
- (g) £1.53 Grimsby and Cleethorpes Special Expense area £50,509.84
being the amounts to be added to the amount at 3(f) above being the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Councils area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h) Part of the Council's Area

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Parish of Ashby-cum-Fenby	1,324.95	1,545.78	1,766.60	1,987.43	2,429.08	2,870.73	3,312.38	3,974.86
Parish of Barnoldby-le-Beck	1,314.15	1,533.17	1,752.20	1,971.22	2,409.27	2,847.32	3,285.37	3,942.44
Parish of Bradley	1,351.55	1,576.80	1,802.06	2,027.32	2,477.84	2,928.35	3,378.87	4,054.64
Parish of Brigsley	1,313.76	1,532.72	1,751.68	1,970.64	2,408.56	2,846.48	3,284.40	3,941.28
Parish of Great Coates	1,355.14	1,581.00	1,806.85	2,032.71	2,484.42	2,936.14	3,387.85	4,065.42
Parish of Habrough	1,315.99	1,535.33	1,754.66	1,973.99	2,412.65	2,851.32	3,289.98	3,947.98
Parish of Healing	1,343.52	1,567.44	1,791.36	2,015.28	2,463.12	2,910.96	3,358.80	4,030.56
Parish of Humberston	1,331.18	1,553.04	1,774.91	1,996.77	2,440.50	2,884.22	3,327.95	3,993.54
Town of Immingham	1,400.35	1,633.75	1,867.14	2,100.53	2,567.31	3,034.10	3,500.88	4,201.06
Parish of Irby	1,354.69	1,580.47	1,806.25	2,032.03	2,483.59	2,935.15	3,386.72	4,064.06
Parish of Laceby	1,326.51	1,547.60	1,768.68	1,989.77	2,431.94	2,874.11	3,316.28	3,979.54
Parish of New Waltham	1,328.35	1,549.74	1,771.13	1,992.52	2,435.30	2,878.08	3,320.87	3,985.04
Parish of Stallingborough	1,376.06	1,605.40	1,834.75	2,064.09	2,522.78	2,981.46	3,440.15	4,128.18
Parish of Waltham	1,326.15	1,547.17	1,768.20	1,989.22	2,431.27	2,873.32	3,315.37	3,978.44
Grimsby	1,302.53	1,519.61	1,736.70	1,953.79	2,387.97	2,822.14	3,256.32	3,907.58
Cleethorpes	1,303.04	1,520.21	1,737.39	1,954.56	2,388.91	2,823.25	3,257.60	3,909.12
All other parts of the								
Council's area	1,300.65	1,517.42	1,734.20	1,950.97	2,384.52	2,818.07	3,251.62	3,901.94

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(g) 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 amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. To note that for the year 2025/26 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside and the Humberside Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside	196.78	229.58	262.37	295.17	360.76	426.36	491.95	590.34
Humberside Fire Authority	68.62	80.06	91.49	102.93	125.80	148.68	171.55	205.86
TOTAL	265.40	309.64	353.86	398.10	486.56	575.04	663.50	796.20

5. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2025/26 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

		Valuation Bands							
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
		£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
	Parish of Ashby-cum-Fenby	1,590.35	1,855.42	2,120.46	2,385.53	2,915.64	3,445.77	3,975.88	4,771.06
	Parish of Barnoldby-le-Beck	1,579.55	1,842.81	2,106.06	2,369.32	2,895.83	3,422.36	3,948.87	4,738.64
	Parish of Bradley	1,616.95	1,886.44	2,155.92	2,425.42	2,964.40	3,503.39	4,042.37	4,850.84
	Parish of Brigsley	1,579.16	1,842.36	2,105.54	2,368.74	2,895.12	3,421.52	3,947.90	4,737.48
	Parish of Great Coates	1,620.54	1,890.64	2,160.71	2,430.81	2,970.98	3,511.18	4,051.35	4,861.62
	Parish of Habrough	1,581.39	1,844.97	2,108.52	2,372.09	2,899.21	3,426.36	3,953.48	4,744.18
	Parish of Healing	1,608.92	1,877.08	2,145.22	2,413.38	2,949.68	3,486.00	4,022.30	4,826.76
	Parish of Humberston	1,596.58	1,862.68	2,128.77	2,394.87	2,927.06	3,459.26	3,991.45	4,789.74
	Town of Immingham	1,665.75	1,943.39	2,221.00	2,498.63	3,053.87	3,609.14	4,164.38	4,997.26
	Parish of Irby	1,620.09	1,890.11	2,160.11	2,430.13	2,970.15	3,510.19	4,050.22	4,860.26
	Parish of Laceby	1,591.91	1,857.24	2,122.54	2,387.87	2,918.50	3,449.15	3,979.78	4,775.74
	Parish of New Waltham	1,593.75	1,859.38	2,124.99	2,390.62	2,921.86	3,453.12	3,984.37	4,781.24
	Parish of Stallingborough	1,641.46	1,915.04	2,188.61	2,462.19	3,009.34	3,556.50	4,103.65	4,924.38
	Parish of Waltham	1,591.55	1,856.81	2,122.06	2,387.32	2,917.83	3,448.36	3,978.87	4,774.64
	Grimsby	1,567.93	1,829.25	2,090.56	2,351.89	2,874.53	3,397.18	3,919.82	4,703.78
	Cleethorpes	1,568.44	1,829.85	2,091.25	2,352.66	2,875.47	3,398.29	3,921.10	4,705.32
	All other parts of the								
	Council's area	1,566.05	1,827.06	2,088.06	2,349.07	2,871.08	3,393.11	3,915.12	4,698.14

6. That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2025/26 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

APPENDIX A

PRECEPTS 2025/26

The following precepts have been levied on North East Lincolnshire (comparable figures are shown for 2024/25) :-

	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26 Council Tax @ Band D Equivalent
	£	£	£ p
Ashby-cum-Fenby	4,631	4,840	36.46
Barnoldby-le-Beck	4,223	4,607	20.25
Bradley	6,000	6,000	76.35
Brigsley	3,118	3,430	19.67
Great Coates	38,588	39,960	81.74
Habrough	4,255	4,700	23.02
Healing	72,500	80,000	64.31
Humberston	120,000	125,000	45.80
Immingham	378,852	393,135	149.56
Irby	3,440	4,845	81.06
Laceby	41,631	44,251	38.80
New Waltham	76,472	86,472	41.55
Stallingborough	50,000	50,000	113.12
Waltham	80,743	87,796	38.25
Cleethorpes - Charter Trustees	10,000	20,000	2.06
Grimsby - Charter Trustees	30,000	30,000	1.29
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	924,453	985,036	
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Note – Councillors Cracknell and Parkinson left the meeting at this point.

NEL.77 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY STATEMENT 2025-26

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets presenting the restated Treasury Policy Statement and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

Councillor Harness moved the recommendation as set out in the report. This was seconded by Councillor Jackson.

Councillor Wilson raised a Point of Order seeking clarification of the recommendation within the report. He then moved an amendment to clarify that the report was to be noted. This was seconded by Councillor Augusta.

Upon a show of hands, the amendment was carried.

Following a debate, the substantive motion as amended was put to the vote. Upon a show of hands, it was

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.02 p.m.