

MINUTES of a meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2018

Present: Councillor V Richichi (Chairman)

Councillors R Adams, G A Allman, R Ashman, R D Bayliss, R Blunt, R Boam, J Bridges, R Canny, J Clarke, N Clarke, J Cotterill, J G Coxon, D Everitt, T Eynon, F Fenning, J Geary, S Gillard, T Gillard, L Goacher, D Harrison, G Houlst, J Houlst, R Johnson, G Jones, J Legrys, S McKendrick, T J Pendleton, P Purver, N J Rushton, A C Saffell, S Sheahan, N Smith, A V Smith MBE, M Specht, D J Stevenson and M B Wyatt

Officers: J Arnold, Ms T Ashe, Mr G Jones, Mrs M Long, Mrs M Meredith, Mrs B Smith and Miss E Warhurst

## **55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Merrie and P Purver.

## **56. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor S McKendrick declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10, Budget and Council Tax 2018/19, as a trustee of Moira Furnace.

During the debate Councillor F Fenning declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10, Budget and Council Tax 2018/19, as a voluntary debt counsellor.

## **57. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

The Chairman stated that 2017 had been a sad year for many people in many ways and he referred to various tragedies which had occurred. He felt that one should never be afraid to speak out against injustice.

The Chairman believed that the council was going to go from strength to strength with the Chief Executive at the helm. He expressed pride in being associated with the council and felt that success needed to be publicised.

The Chairman made reference to the numerous functions he had attended in aid of various charities and he urged all members to attend his charity dinner on 6 April.

## **58. LEADER'S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader announced that on 16 January, Cabinet approved the next steps in our journey to deliver a new Marlborough Square in Coalville. He stated that he was particularly pleased that the redesign had been drawn up alongside local businesses and organisations that use the square including the bus and taxi companies and unanimous support had been received. He explained that the work formed part of the council's Choose Coalville project, which aims to regenerate and build confidence in the town. He added that this development saw North West Leicestershire District Council investing a further £1.1 million in the town. He referred to the local desire to make Marlborough Square a great place so it could be a central point in the town and a place that people wanted to go to and enjoy. He stated that the plans would remove the existing clutter and create a flexible space that could be used for many activities including outdoor markets and cultural events. He reported that Leicestershire County Council had now been commissioned to carry out detailed design work which would lead to a public exhibition and any further refinement of the design proposal. Once approved it would take up to six months to carry out the work, with the new square expected to be completed by winter 2018/19.

Chairman's initials

The Leader thanked all those involved in the Planning Peer Challenge Review which took place on 13 – 15 February. He advised that the written report was still awaited but members and officers had had the opportunity to hear face to face directly from the peer team at the end of the three day process. He emphasised that the Peer Review had been invited in as a critical friend and as a key supporter in the council's journey of continuous improvement. He stated that the team had reminded us that many things were working well and we have a lot to build on including our high level of performance, our strategic joint working across the County on strategic growth and having a local plan adopted with a 5 year housing land supply. He commented that the passion and commitment of ward members to support and make a difference in our communities had also been clearly seen by the Group. However, several key recommendations were made at the briefing which would provide us with an opportunity to make improvements to our services. This would ensure that the customer experience and perception of planning and transparency of decision making can be of the highest standards. He gave his commitment to work jointly across political groups and with the Chief Executive to develop an action plan which would need to be owned and delivered jointly.

The Leader announced that the business rate pilot bid had not been successful, however it had been indicated that there would be a second round of pilots it was hoped that a future bid would be successful.

The Leader provided an update on the former bus station as Ashby Road. He reassured members that action was being taken to monitor the current situation and work with the owner of the site. He added that officers were in regular contact with the owner who had invested a significant amount in the site and wanted to develop a car show room in line with the approved planning permission. He stated that the current condition of the site was of concern and was being kept under observation, however, there was security fencing around the site and a contractor was being employed by the owner to secure the site. He added that the Council would maintain a regular dialogue with the owner and keep up the pressure to bring forward this scheme.

Councillor J Legrys stated that he fully supported the work on Marlborough Square however he commented that there was a long way to go and he was not convinced it would be completed by Christmas 2018. He thanked and commended the Chief Executive for bringing the peer review team to the council and looked forward to receiving the report. In respect of the former bus station, he stated that lots of people were becoming angry and frustrated. He referred to the issues with fly tipping at the site. He understood that the land was not in the council's ownership however he asked that this matter continue to be pursued.

Councillor N Smith welcomed the support from Councillor J Legrys on the Marlborough Square development. Regarding the peer review, he felt that the recommendations should be implemented, as there was no point inviting comments from a critical friend and then ignoring them. He agreed with the comments made in respect of the former bus station.

Councillor M Specht thanked the Chief Executive for instigating the peer review. He commended the team and stated that the recommendations had to be taken on board cross-party. He commented that most planning authorities undertook a peer review when they were close to special measures. He pointed out that the council also had the luxury of having the local plan in place.

The Leader thanked Councillor J Legrys for his support for the Marlborough Square project and felt that Coalville projects had to be supported by the three main political parties. He thanked the Chief Executive for bringing about the peer review and welcomed the cross-party support. He added that this matter should not be political.

The Community Services Portfolio Holder provided an update on the leisure project and reported that the process of finding a partner to build a leisure centre in Coalville and to manage that and Hood Park had begun with interest submissions due this week. She advised that the project team would assess the submissions and shortlist up to 5 bidders to take forward. A further member briefing session would take place on 3 April would provide an update on the shortlisting process and an opportunity for members to help guide and shape the key social, health and community outcomes for the next stage of the procurement.

The Community Services Portfolio Holder announced that Hermitage Leisure Centre had been inspected by QUEST, a nationally recognised scheme that assessed how well leisure centres were being managed. She reported that the score had increased from good in 2004 to very good in 2018. Of particular recognition was the ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, the learn to swim scheme, the high regard of members for the centre, and team and skills development. It was evident that the workforce was motivated and she congratulated all leisure staff for improving their score.

The Community Services Portfolio Holder highlighted the results of the waste satisfaction survey, drawing particular attention to the impressive response rate, the consistently high overall satisfaction rate of 93% and the improvements in satisfaction with town centre cleanliness. She congratulated the waste team for their efforts especially in the recent bad weather conditions. She added that a recycling strategy would be developed this year and she hoped to considerably increase the current recycling rate of 46.7%.

Councillor N Clarke asked what plans were in place to increase the recycling rate as this had been at the same level for a number of years and particularly considering the importance of recycling income.

The Community Services Portfolio Holder acknowledged that the rates had remained static, however she assured members that with a new Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Place now in post, plans were being progressed to increase the rates.

The Housing Portfolio Holder provided an update on affordable housing provision and announced that this year the council had acquired 26 affordable houses from developments. He highlighted planned and pending developments which would provide additional affordable housing in Ashby de la Zouch and Measham, and in particular the 6 new affordable houses being built at Linford and Verdon. He stated that this was the first time affordable housing had been built by the council in a generation.

The Housing Portfolio paid tribute to Pauline Innett, a former tenant who had recently passed away. She was a very enthusiastic member of several tenants' working groups. She was a founding member of the Green and Decent programme which resulted in the selection of air sourced heat pumps as the replacement for solid fuel heating systems in off-gas areas. He reported that there were 400 houses in off-gas areas which would receive their replacement heating systems from March.

The Housing Portfolio Holder announced that a further 2 families had been housed in the district under the Syrian refugee project. Both families had settled in with support from the county wide scheme co-ordinator and the children had started school.

## **59. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

There were no questions received.

## **60. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Councillor J Legrys put the following question to Councillor A V Smith;

“Mantle Lane Rail Bridge Coalville – Improvement to Environment

I refer to the response to my question to for council on 12 September 2017.

I am grateful the work carried out so far by the council’s environmental teams.

I would appreciate an update to the suggested improvements made by Cllr Smith on 12 September 2017”.

Councillor A V Smith gave the following response:

“As you will be aware Mantle Lane Bridge and associated areas are the responsibility of Network Rail however, colleagues from our Environmental Protection Team and Street Cleansing Team continue with their efforts to keep on top of the improvements to the environment of this area. These teams actively carry out the following duties to sustain this approach as follows:-

Big Spring Clean

We are again joining in with this initiative on 3rd March 2018 and will include the same areas as last year.

Street Cleansing

Street cleansing attend the area regularly and sweep where they can including the areas where there are bird droppings, they also litter pick the steps.

East Midlands Housing

Our Enforcement Team have visited residents and discussed issues regarding bin/boxes being left out, they have confirmed this have proved successful and closed the case.

Traffic Management

Street Cleansing take every opportunity to ‘jump on’ to road closures to cleanse where they wouldn’t normally be able to.

The teams will continue to work together and proactively in maintaining these improvements. I would also reiterate my offer made in my response of Sept 2017 regarding the Government’s Litter Innovation Fund available through DEFRA. We would be happy to offer support to you with an application if you decided you wanted to apply for a grant”.

As a supplementary question, Councillor J Legrys requested that action be taken to clear the vegetation that was growing around the bridge when work was being undertaken there on 3 March.

Councillor A V Smith agreed that Mantle Lane Bridge was an ongoing problem and she could see no reason why the vegetation could not be cleared. She emphasised the importance of improving the area as it was viewed as a gateway to the town, particularly with the planned improvements to Marlborough Square.

Councillor R Adams put the following question to Councillor R D Bayliss:

“For each of the years 2010/11 to 2016/17 please provide the number of NWLDC council houses sold under the right to buy, disposed of by other means, new build and

acquisitions. Please also provide the latest projections for 2017/18 and for each year, show the net change to the housing stock.”

Councillor R D Bayliss gave the following response:

“Please find detailed in table 1 below the relevant figures as requested for the housing stock owned by NWLDC. Although the level of Right To Buys are largely outside the control of the Council, you will note that as part of the Council’s New Build programme at Linford and Verdon Crescent, Coalville the first new homes (6 in total) will be handed over before the end of March 2018.

A total of 26 new homes in 2017/18 at Ashby (across two sites) and Measham have also been added to the Council’s housing stock as part of s106 agreements with developers.

Whilst the disposals in 2017/18 included 10 flats at Westgates, Ibstock this site is being developed by East Midlands Homes to deliver 13 homes for affordable rent.

**Table 1 - North West Leicestershire District Council – Changes in Housing Stock**

Year	RTB	Other Disposals	New Build	Acquisitions	Net change
2010/11	4	8	0	0	-12
2011/12	2	0	0	0	-2
2012/13	15	0	0	0	-15
2013/14	36	14	0	0	-50
2014/15	23	0	0	0	-23
2015/16	33	0	0	0	-33
2016/17	45	1	0	1	-45
2017/18*	47	11	6	26	-26

\*2017/18 = forecast numbers

It should also be noted that housing associations continue to produce new homes which increase the supply of affordable housing as described in table 2 below.

**Table 2 - Delivery of New Homes by Registered Providers**

Year	Total Affordable homes delivered by Registered Providers
2010-11	63
2011-12	60
2012-13	91
2013-14	157
2014-15	117
2015-16	126
2016-17	140
2017-18 (to end of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter)	110

When these are combined with movements in the Council's housing stock, table 3 below shows that in each of the last three years (2014/15, 2015/16, and 2016/17) the total supply of affordable homes in the district increased by 94 homes, 93 homes and 95 homes respectively.

**Table 3 – Net Changes in Affordable Housing in North West Leicestershire**

Year	Number of Affordable Homes delivered by Registered Providers	Net change in Council Housing Stock	Increase in affordable housing within the district
2010-11	63	-12	51
2011-12	60	-2	58
2012-13	91	-15	76
2013-14	157	-50	107
2014-15	117	-23	94
2015-16	126	-33	93
2016-17	140	-45	95
2017-18 (to end of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter)	110	-26	84
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>658</b>

Councillor R Adams stated that the Labour Group supported the building of social housing as long as it was suitable social housing. He added that he would like to recognise and support people's aspirations to own their homes. As a supplementary question, he asked if the Portfolio Holder would agree that the right to buy scheme introduced by the Conservative government in 1980 and supported by successive governments, including Labour governments, was outdated and in desperate need of review being 38 years old. He also asked if the Portfolio Holder would agree that as the figures from across the country showed that only one new property was being built for every 5 sold under right to buy, our housing stock was a valuable but dwindling resource and that meant there were longer waiting times for people in need of suitable social housing. He asked that the Portfolio Holder provide details of the total market value of council houses sold in the district since 2011 under the right to buy scheme and the total amount of discounts given for the same period.

Councillor R D Bayliss responded that he could not comment on the right to buy scheme. He would seek verification on the figures relating to the build ratio and the market value and a response would be provided after the meeting.

Councillor N Clarke put the following question to Councillor A V Smith:

“As you are probably aware, the inappropriate use of motorcycles on the recreational ground off Cropston Drive continues to be a problem. In recent time this issue has even meant disruption to football matches. It also creates considerable work for our parks and gardens department in repair and maintenance of the football pitches.

I understand the Community safety and Community focus teams together with the Police have been working hard to help resolve the situation. However, the problem continues and the present situation is not acceptable.

Can the portfolio holder please give assurances that;

- 1) Section 59 signs will be erected at the Cropston Drive site without delay.
- 2) The Council makes available proper time and resources in order to make the Cropston Drive recreational ground less accessible to motorcycles.

Chairman's initials

3) Continues to work with the Police, Football Club, local members and other agencies where appropriate in order to help find a solution to this problem”.

Councillor A V Smith gave the following response:

“Controlling inappropriate access to this sportsground is problematic given the range of access points and paths and its vital role as local open space.

The problem with the inappropriate use of motorcycles is sadly an issue across the district in a number of areas. The current issue at Cropston Drive is very much a policing issue and we are working in partnership with them and the football club to resolve the matter. We will be erecting appropriate signage shortly which will enable swifter action to be taken by the police. We are also encouraging the public to continue to report all incidents to 101 (telephone or online) as this will help build a picture of the timing and regularity of the incidents which will help the police take action.

The council’s grounds maintenance team are also proactively maintaining the grounds to enable the football club’s matches to be played including repairing the fencing in a timely manner as and when any vandalism occurs. We will continue to work with the police and local stakeholders and prosecute offenders where appropriate. We are also working with partner agencies including Warning Zone to educate local young people on the problems caused by off road motorcycling”.

As a supplementary question, Councillor N Clarke asked whether the Portfolio Holder believed that the significant reduction in police officers in North West Leicestershire due to cuts from government in recent years had had a detrimental effect on providing a resolution to this type of anti-social behaviour and other criminal activity.

Councillor A V Smith responded that the motorcycles churning up our fields was a significant problem however she felt it was not appropriate for her to comment on police figures. She added that officers were working on this issue and it was a case of working together.

## **61. MOTIONS**

No motions were received.

## **62. PETITIONS**

No petitions were received.

## **63. MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings held on 21 November 2017 and 23 January 2018.

Councillor S Sheahan referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2017 and requested that his statement on page 19 be amended to read “he stated that the labour group had agreed to a free vote and this had not been an easy decision”.

Councillor M Specht referred to the observation he had made in the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2017 regarding the Local Plan and the alterations to the limits to development in Coleorton. He reported that to date he had not received a response to his question.

It was moved by Councillor V Richichi, seconded by Councillor J Clarke and

RESOLVED THAT:

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meetings held on 21 November 2017 and 23 January 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **64. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2018/19**

Councillor N J Rushton presented the report to members. He highlighted the recommendation to freeze the council tax for the ninth consecutive year giving an average saving of £5 in 2018/19 to council tax payers and a total saving of over £150 since the freeze was first introduced in 2010. He drew members' attention to the projected surplus in the general fund budget of £299,000, the favourable movement in the council tax base and the significant increase in business rates income due to the high level of growth in the district. He advised that nearly £3 million would be received in new homes bones due to the planning permissions granted. He explained the proposal to start a self-sufficiency reserve, transferring £9,000 of existing general fund balances and committing to transfer surpluses arising from 2017/18 and 2018/19. He added that the fair funding review would take place in 2021 and establishing a self-sufficiency reserve was a prudent measure in preparation for this. He explained that council house rents would reduce by 1% in line with the government's four-year rent reduction strategy. He referred members to the draft budget summary at appendix 4a with a projected balance of £2.9 million being paid into the loan redemption reserve. Council were asked to approve the Capital Programmes for 2019/20 – 2022/23 for indicative purposes only.

Councillor N J Rushton moved the recommendations as set out in the report. The motion was seconded by Councillor R Blunt who reserved his comments.

The Chairman referred to the amendments to the motion which had been circulated in the additional papers. He invited Councillor A C Saffell to put forward his amendment.

Councillor A C Saffell spoke to his amendment and stated that as the staff budget was such a large proportion of the total budget, you would imagine that this would have reduced, however the council was employing more staff than ever before. He felt that this was a shocking state of affairs and something needed to be done. He added that his proposal was good practice in many private sector businesses and it invigorated the whole organisation. He felt that it was time to implement similar measures with a new Chief Executive in post. He expressed shock at the amount of money spent on staff and highlighted that reducing that figure by 20% would save £4 million. He moved the recommendation as set out in the additional papers.

Councillor R Canny seconded the motion, expressing concerns about the amount and cost of agency staffing.

Councillor S Sheahan commented that this was a disgraceful amendment and felt that it would be one of the worst business practices to put such pressure on staff in an organisation that as struggling to provide services. He stated that the amendment should be treated with the contempt it deserved.

Councillor N J Rushton exercised his right of reply and stated that he could not accept this amendment as this was a service based industry and a 20% cut could not be made without due consideration. He stated that the principle of looking into this issue was valid, particularly in respect of agency staffing. He advised that the Chairman of Policy Development Group had given an undertaking to consider this matter further at a future meeting. He invited Councillor A C Saffell to withdraw his amendment.

Councillor M Specht reiterated that as Chairman of Policy Development Group he was more than happy for the committee to give this issue further consideration.

The Chairman then put the motion to the vote. A recorded vote being required, the voting was as follows:

<b>Amendment to the Budget submitted by Councillor A C Saffell</b>	
Councillor Ron Adams	Against
Councillor Graham Allman	Against
Councillor Robert Ashman	Against
Councillor Roger Bayliss	Against
Councillor Richard Blunt	Against
Councillor Russell Boam	Against
Councillor John Bridges	Against
Councillor Rachel Canny	For
Councillor John Clarke	Against
Councillor Nick Clarke	Against
Councillor John Cotterill	Against
Councillor John Coxon	Against
Councillor David Everitt	Against
Councillor Dr Terri Eynon	Against
Councillor Felix Fenning	Against
Councillor John Geary	Against
Councillor Stuart Gillard	Against
Councillor Tony Gillard	Against
Councillor Louise Goacher	Against
Councillor Dan Harrison	Against
Councillor Gill Houtt	Against
Councillor Jim Houtt	Against
Councillor Russell Johnson	Against
Councillor Geraint Jones	Against
Councillor John Legrys	Against
Councillor Susan McKendrick	Against
Councillor Trevor Pendleton	Against
Councillor Paula Purver	Against
Councillor Virge Richichi	Against
Councillor Nicholas Rushton	Against
Councillor Tony Saffell	For
Councillor Sean Sheahan	Against
Councillor Nigel Smith	Against
Councillor Alison Smith MBE	Against
Councillor Michael Specht	Against
Councillor David Stevenson	Against
Councillor Michael Wyatt	Abstain
<b>Rejected</b>	

The motion was declared LOST.

The Chairman invited Councillor S Sheahan to put forward his amendment.

Councillor S Sheahan spoke to his amendment and stated that the £25,000 for the Citizens advice Bureau would fund an advice worker for universal credit issues. He added that since the universal credit had been introduced the Citizens Advice Bureau had seen increased hardship, eviction rates and increased workloads. He commented that the proposal would avoid unnecessary hardship for our tenants and reduce pressure on other serviced. He added that the workload could be reviewed after 6 months. In respect of the air quality action plan, the funding could be utilised to support additional research or targeted monitoring depending upon what would give the greatest benefit.

Councillor F Fenning seconded the motion and reserved his comments.

Chairman's initials

Councillor T Eynon stated that this money was sitting in a small corner of the budget and needed to be utilised for something useful. She added that according to the money advice service, this council employed bailiffs for 3000 cases, representing an increase of 120%. She reiterated that some tenants would struggle with the introduction of the universal credit. She explained that the use of bailiffs added 7.5% onto the debtor's bill, and resulted in the council having to spend more on people that were already struggling. She felt that eliminating the use of bailiffs seemed an eminently sensible and compassionate measure, and would not the council anything.

Councillor F Fenning declared a non-pecuniary interest as a voluntary debt counsellor. He stated that in supporting this amendment he was saddened that a significant amount of support had not been allocated to the Citizens Advice Bureau. He added that anyone who had attended a tribunal would realise the significant funding required. He felt that the proposals would give an indication of a desire to take a softer approach and to develop our communities. He also felt that an air quality action plan was vitally needed. He expressed support for the amendment.

Councillor N J Rushton advised that budget provision had been made to undertake an air quality action plan next year and he assured members that if additional funding was required it would be found. In respect of support to the Citizens Advice Bureau he felt the current level of support with 2 members of staff was adequate and it was recognised that the district was receiving a good level of service from the Citizens Advice Bureau. He explained that it was the council's duty to seek to collect debts and he assured member that bailiffs were only used as a last resort. He urged members to vote against the amendment.

The Chairman then put the motion to the vote. A recorded vote being required, the voting was as follows:

<b>Amendment to the Budget submitted by Councillor S Sheahan</b>	
Councillor Ron Adams	For
Councillor Graham Allman	Against
Councillor Robert Ashman	Against
Councillor Roger Bayliss	Against
Councillor Richard Blunt	Against
Councillor Russell Boam	Against
Councillor John Bridges	Against
Councillor Rachel Canny	Abstain
Councillor John Clarke	Against
Councillor Nick Clarke	For
Councillor John Cotterill	Against
Councillor John Coxon	Against
Councillor David Everitt	For
Councillor Dr Terri Eynon	For
Councillor Felix Fenning	For
Councillor John Geary	For
Councillor Stuart Gillard	Against
Councillor Tony Gillard	Against
Councillor Louise Goacher	Against
Councillor Dan Harrison	Against
Councillor Gill Hout	Against
Councillor Jim Hout	Against
Councillor Russell Johnson	For
Councillor Geraint Jones	Against
Councillor John Legrys	For

Chairman's initials

Councillor Susan McKendrick	For
Councillor Trevor Pendleton	Against
Councillor Paula Purver	Against
Councillor Virge Richichi	Against
Councillor Nicholas Rushton	Against
Councillor Tony Saffell	Abstain
Councillor Sean Sheahan	For
Councillor Nigel Smith	Against
Councillor Alison Smith MBE	Against
Councillor Michael Specht	Against
Councillor David Stevenson	Against
Councillor Michael Wyatt	Against
<b>Rejected</b>	

The motion was declared LOST.

The Chairman referred members to the substantive motion as set out in the agenda.

Councillor S Sheahan stated that the Labour group would abstain from voting due to the flaws in the budget. He felt there was an overreliance on unsustainable funding streams and he did not believe opportunities to put pressure on government to provide suitable funding were being maximised.

Councillor J Legrys expressed concern that constituents were questioning value for money. He felt that the council should return to providing services to people within its remit.

Councillor R Johnson welcomed the employment of a compliance and enforcement officer as suggested in the Labour Group's amendment to the previous year's budget.

Councillor F Fenning thanked the officers who had been preparing budgets from last September in order to reach a sensible financial settlement. He appreciated all the work which had been undertaken and he looked forward to possibly a more open budget process in future. He expressed concern that the council was not able to budget effectively to ensure that expenditure was spent. He added that this vital process was unfortunately misunderstood by the general public.

Councillor T Eynon stated that in setting the precept, it was necessary to be aware of the needs of our community and how much they can afford to pay and she felt this council did have that in mind. She referred all members to the Stop the Knock website ad highlighted that this council was sending out bailiffs to over 3000 households, whilst Chester Borough Council had sent bailiffs to 2 households. She advised that evidence on good practice had been provided to the LGA on cost cutting and she hoped this could be part of the transformation.

Councillor R Blunt commented that he had no optimism regarding funding from central government. He highlighted the improvements that were being made for residents, including a new car park in Ashby de la Zouch, a reinvigorated Coalville, a bypass for Kegworth, new social housing and a new leisure centre. He believed that this was a budget all members could be proud of and he urged all members to support it.

Councillor N J Rushton highlight that one council had increased its council tax by 49%. He added that this was the ninth year our council tax had been frozen and members should be proud of this. He explained that this was possible due to the massive growth in the region, the increases in business rates, sustainable good growth and an extra £3 million in new homes bonus. He added that a contingency fund was being set up. He

highlighted the losses that had been sustained this year in particular, including the loss of recycling income and the increase in staff wages.

The Chairman then put the motion to the vote.

A recorded vote having been requested, the voting was as follows:

<b>Substantive motion (Motion)</b>	
Councillor Ron Adams	Abstain
Councillor Graham Allman	For
Councillor Robert Ashman	For
Councillor Roger Bayliss	For
Councillor Richard Blunt	For
Councillor Russell Boam	For
Councillor John Bridges	For
Councillor Rachel Canny	Abstain
Councillor John Clarke	For
Councillor Nick Clarke	Abstain
Councillor John Cotterill	For
Councillor John Coxon	For
Councillor David Everitt	Abstain
Councillor Dr Terri Eynon	Abstain
Councillor Felix Fenning	Abstain
Councillor John Geary	Abstain
Councillor Stuart Gillard	For
Councillor Tony Gillard	For
Councillor Louise Goacher	For
Councillor Dan Harrison	For
Councillor Gill Hoult	For
Councillor Jim Hoult	For
Councillor Russell Johnson	Abstain
Councillor Geraint Jones	Abstain
Councillor John Legrys	Abstain
Councillor Susan McKendrick	Abstain
Councillor Trevor Pendleton	For
Councillor Paula Purver	For
Councillor Virge Richichi	For
Councillor Nicholas Rushton	For
Councillor Tony Saffell	Against
Councillor Sean Sheahan	Abstain
Councillor Nigel Smith	For
Councillor Alison Smith MBE	For
Councillor Michael Specht	For
Councillor David Stevenson	For
Councillor Michael Wyatt	For
<b>Carried</b>	

The motion was declared CARRIED.

It was therefore

RESOLVED THAT:

Chairman's initials

1. The Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Cabinet on 6 February 2018 be approved.
2. The Section 151 Officer's comments on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves be noted.
3. The General Fund Revenue Budget for 2018/19 be approved.
4. The Special Expenses Revenue Budget for 2018/19 be approved.
5. The district council tax in 2018/19 be frozen.
6. The creation of a new self-sufficiency reserve be approved.
7. The transfer of £900k of General Fund reserves and the forecasted surplus income over expenditure (currently projected at £1.86m) in 2017/18 to the self-sufficiency reserve be approved.
8. The transfer of any surplus income over expenditure in 2018/19 to the self-sufficiency reserve (currently budgeted as £299,000) be approved.
9. The decrease in council house rents for 2018/19 by 1% (average of 79 pence per week) be approved.
10. The increase of 3.9% (25 pence per week) in garage rents for 2018/19 be approved.
11. Central heating charges for 2018/19 remaining at the same level as for 2017/18 be approved.
12. The average increase of 0.40% (1.6 pence per week) in service charge for 2018/19 be approved.
13. The ground rent increase at Appleby Magna caravan site of 3.9% (£2.04 per week) on the anniversary of each individual rent agreement in 2018/19 be approved.
14. The Lifeline charges for private customers be maintained at the 2017/18 level and increased by 3.9% for registered provider customers from April 2018.
15. The proposed General Fund, Special Expenses and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes for 2018/19 and planned financing be approved.
16. The vehicle replacement programme for 2019/20 be approved.
17. The Capital Programmes 2019/20 – 2022/23 be approved for indicative purposes only.
18. The 2018/19 Capital Strategy be approved (in line with the prudential code).
19. The following amounts for the year 2018/19 be approved in accordance with section 31b of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
  - (1) 32,852 being the amount calculated by the council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its council tax base for the year.

- (2) the amounts specified in Appendix 6 Table A of this report being the amounts calculated by the council, in accordance with section 34 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
20. The following amounts be now calculated by the council for the year 2018/19 in accordance with sections 31a and 31b of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
- (1) district / parish gross expenditure  
£63,276,299 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in section 31a (2) of the Act.
- (2) income  
£55,575,013 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in section 31a (3) of the Act.
- (3) district / parish net expenditure  
£7,701,286 being the amount by which the aggregate at 20(1) above exceeds the aggregate at 20(2) above, calculated by the council in accordance with section 31a (4) of the Act as its council tax requirement for the year.
- (4) basic amount of tax (including average parish precepts)  
£234.42 being the amount at 20(3) above, divided by the amount stated as the council tax base in parts of the council's area, calculated by the council in accordance with section 31 b of the Act as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- (5) parish precepts/special expenses  
£2,491,616 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 35(1) of the Act.
- (6) basic amount of tax (basic council tax – district)  
£158.58 being the amount at 20(4) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 20(5) above by the amount as stated as the council tax base for the whole of the council area, calculated by the council in accordance with section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- (7) basic amount of tax (parished areas)  
The amounts listed in column 5 of table b of Appendix 6 to this report, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 20(6) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the council's area mentioned, divided in each case by the amount stated as the council tax base in parts of the council area, 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.
- (8) district /parish council tax rates  
The amounts set out in in Table C Appendix 6 to this report being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 20(6) and 20(7) 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 dwelling listed in different valuation bands.

21. Major precepting authorities

It be noted that the amounts set out in Table D Appendix 6 to this report are the amounts notified by Leicestershire County Council, Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner and the combined fire authority in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as their precepts for 2018/19 for each of the categories of dwellings listed.

22. council tax rates – all bands

That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 20(8) (Table C Appendix 6) and 21 (Table D Appendix 6) above, the council in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the amounts of council tax for the council's area for the year 2018/19 for each of the categories of dwellings as shown in Table E Appendix 6.

23. Referendums relating to council tax increases

It be noted that the relevant basic amount of council tax for 2018/19 is not excessive.

**65. THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2018/19 AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2018/19 TO 2020/21**

Councillor N J Rushton presented the report to members.

It was moved by Councillor N J Rushton, seconded by Councillor G Jones and

RESOLVED THAT:

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2018/19, Prudential Indicators - revised 2017/18 and 2018/19 To 2020/21 and the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement be approved.

**66. NOTIFICATION OF AN URGENT DECISION - BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT BID**

Councillor R Blunt presented the report to members.

It was moved by Councillor R Blunt, seconded by Councillor A V Smith and

RESOLVED THAT:

The report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.01 pm

Chairman's signature