

Leicester
City Council

At a meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL held at the Town Hall at FIVE O'CLOCK in the afternoon on Wednesday, 17 FEBRUARY 2021 duly convened for the business hereunder mentioned.

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BUSINESS

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1. **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
3. **STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR / EXECUTIVE**
4. **MATTERS RESERVED TO FULL COUNCIL**
 - 4 a) General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22
 - 4 b) Capital Programme 2021/22
 - 4 c) Housing Revenue Account Budget (including Capital Programme) 2021/22
 - 4 d) Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22
 - 4 e) Investment Strategy 2020/21
5. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

PRESENT:

ANNETTE BYRNE, LORD MAYOR
CHAIRMAN

SIR PETER SOULSBY – CITY MAYOR

Abbey Ward

MANJIT KAUR SAINI
VIJAY SINGH RIYAIT

Aylestone Ward

ADAM CLARKE
NIGEL CARL PORTER

Beaumont Leys Ward

HEMANT RAE BHATIA
VI DEMPSTER
PAUL THOMAS WESTLEY

Belgrave Ward

PADMINI CHAMUND
NITA SOLANKI
MAHENDRA VALAND

Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

SUE BARTON
KULWINDER SINGH JOHAL

Castle Ward

PATRICK JOSEPH KITTERICK
DANNY MYERS
DEBORAH ANNE SANGSTER

Evington Ward

DEEPAK BAJAJ
RATILAL BHAGWAN GOVIND
SUE HUNTER

Eyres Monsell Ward

ELAINE PANTLING
KAREN PICKERING

North Evington Ward

LUIS FONSECA
RASHMIKANT JOSHI

Rushey Mead Ward

PIARA SINGH CLAIR
RITA PATEL
ROSS WILLMOTT

Saffron Ward

ELLY CUTKELVIN
WILLIAM SHELTON

Spinney Hills Ward

MISBAH BATOOL
MUSTAFA MALIK

Stoneygate Ward

KIRK MASTER
SHARMEN RAHMAN
AMINUR THALUKDAR

Thurncourt Ward

TERESA ALDRED
STEPHAN GEE

Troon Ward

DIANE CANK

Westcotes Ward

JACKY NANGREAVE
SARAH RUSSELL

Fosse Ward

TED CASSIDY
SUE WADDINGTON

Humberstone and Hamilton Ward

RUMA ALI
GURINDER SINGH SANDHU

Knighton Ward

MELISSA MARCH
DR LYNN MOORE
GEOFF WHITTLE

Western Ward

LINDSAY BROADWELL
GEORGE COLE
GARY O'DONNELL

Wycliffe Ward

MOHAMMED DAWOOD

1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome and Covid reflection

The Lord Mayor welcomed all those present virtually to the meeting.

The Lord Mayor reflected upon the past year and the challenges which every person in the city has had to face. She noted the sad loss of over 600 lives to Coronavirus in the city, and the impact on those affected by the loss.

Also noted was the other impacts that people had faced around financial uncertainty and mental health problems, but also the kindness and generosity of those who had provided support and help within their communities.

The efforts of a range of key workers, such as teachers, NHS and Council staff to maintain services during the pandemic. She also noted the efforts of local councillors within their communities.

The roll out of the vaccine programme, it was hoped would help return life to more normality.

The meeting held 2 minutes silence to remember all those who had lost their lives during the pandemic.

Meeting arrangements

As this was the first virtual meeting of full Council, the Lord Mayor explained some of the practical arrangements for the meeting, such as using the hand raise button when indicating to speaking and when voting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Lord Mayor invited the Monitoring Officer to make a statement in relation to declarations for the budget meeting.

The Monitoring Officer reminded Members that there was no requirement to declare any interests already on their registers. He also explained about Section 106 of the Local Government Act 1992 requirements regarding the need for voting members to not be 2 months or more in arrears of Council tax payments. He further outlined details of a dispensation which, following consultation with the Standards Committee, he could grant to elected members who were Council tenants or had family members or close associates who were Council tenants. Without this dispensation it would not be possible for members with an interest in this area to vote on either the General Fund Revenue Budget or the Housing Revenue Account.

The following members sought and were granted a dispensation:

Councillor Thalukdar – family members who were Council tenants.

Councillor Nangreave – partner who was a Council tenant.

Councillor Westley - family members who were Council tenants.

Councillor Pickering - family members who were Council tenants.

Lord Mayor, Councillor Byrne – Council tenant.

Councillor Cank - family members who were Council tenants.

Councillor Hunter - family members who were Council tenants.

Councillor Chamund - family members who were Council tenants.

The Lord Mayor then asked Members to declare any other interests they might have in the business on the agenda not already declared on their register of interests.

There were no relevant declarations made under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

3. STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR/EXECUTIVE

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair – Food Service Plan

Councillor Clair informed Council about the change in the current year to the Food Service Plan arrangements. Due to the pandemic, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) recognised the challenges faced by local authorities, therefore the requirement to provide a Food Service Plan had been waived for the current year. He did however assure Council that a plan was being worked on for the 2021/22 year. Council was also assured that high priority food safety work had continued throughout the pandemic with regular inspections taking place in high risk businesses. There had also been a focus on ensuring that food businesses were working in a Covid safe way. A backlog of more routine work had however been built up due to the change in focus, but this was recognised by the FSA and they had developed a flexible inspection process where the focus was more on businesses where compliance had been poor. The 2021/2022 Food Service Plan would set out a strategy of working with businesses to manage food safety and balancing risks around Covid with more usual food safety risks.

Council noted the position statement regarding the Food Service Plan.

4. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22

The City Mayor submitted his proposed budget for 2021/22 and medium term projections up to 2024. The report contained details of the financial pressures facing the Council, the proposed budget strategy including assessments of risk, impact and consultation outcomes.

Details of the City Mayor's Recommendation of General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 and the General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 – Formal Resolutions were circulated to Members prior to the meeting and are attached to these minutes.

Moved by the City Mayor, seconded by Councillor Cassidy:

That Council:

Thanks scrutiny committees who have commented on our draft budget;

Notes the comments made in the City Mayor's formal Decision Notice published on 16 February 2021 and attached as Appendix A to the script and available prior to the meeting and attached to these minutes;

Approves the recommendations set out in section 3.1 of the report 'General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22' without amendment; and

Approves the formal budget resolution as set out in Appendix B to the script and available at the meeting."

The Lord Mayor put the motion to the vote.

It was noted that under the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the names of the Councillors voting for or against the proposition or abstaining would be recorded by the City Barrister and Monitoring Officer and included in the minutes of the meeting.

For the motion:

Councillors Aldred, Ali, Bajaj, Barton, Batool, Broadwell, Byrne, Cank, Cassidy, Chamund, Clair, Clarke, Cole, Cutkelvin, Dawood, Dempster, Fonseca, Gee, Govind, Hunter, Joshi, Kitterick, Malik, March, Master, Moore, Myers, Nangreave, O'Donnell, Pantling, Patel, Pickering, Rahman, Rae Bhatia, Riyait, Russell, Kaur Saini, Singh Johal, Singh Sandhu, Sangster, Shelton, Solanki, Soulsby (City Mayor), Thalukdar, Valand, Waddington, Westley, Whittle, Willmott.

Against the motion:

Councillor Porter.

The Lord Mayor declared the motion carried.

5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22

A report was considered which sought approval of a Capital Programme for the Council for the period 2020/21. Details were included within the report of the resources position and proposed projects. The report had been considered at the meeting on 4th February 2021 and a copy of the minutes were circulated to Members with the agenda.

Moved by the City Mayor, seconded by Councillor Cassidy and carried:

That Council:

Thanks the Overview Select Committee for their comments on our draft budget, which were attached to the report;

Notes the comments made in the City Mayor's formal Recommendation to Council Notice published on 16 February 2021 and attached as Appendix D to the script, made available prior to the meeting and attached to these minutes; and

Approves the recommendations set out in section 2 of the report 'Capital Programme 2021/22' without amendment.

6. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET (INCLUDING CAPITAL PROGRAMME) 2021/22

Moved by Councillor Cutkelvin, seconded by Councillor Westley and carried:

That Council:

Thanks the Tenants and Leaseholders Forum, Housing Scrutiny Commission, Overview Select Committee and others who have commented on our draft Housing Revenue Account budget. The comments of the Housing Scrutiny Commission and

Overview Select Committee were included in the report.

Notes the comments made in the Assistant City Mayor, Education and Housing's formal recommendation to Council notice published on 16 February 2021 and attached as Appendix E to the script and made available prior to the meeting; and

Approves the recommendations set out in Section 3 of the report 'Housing Revenue Account Budget (including HRA Capital Programme) 2021/22 without amendment.

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021/22

Moved by the City Mayor, seconded by Councillor Cassidy and carried:

That Council notes the comments of the Overview Select Committee attached to the report and approves the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22, which includes the annual Treasury Investment Strategy at Appendix B of the report.

8. INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2020/21

Moved by the City Mayor, seconded by Councillor Cassidy and carried:

That Council notes the comments of the Overview Select Committee attached as an appendix to the report and approves the Investment Strategy.

9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no urgent business, the Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6.50pm.


RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

1.	Decision title	Recommendation of General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22
2.	Declarations of interest	None
3.	Date of decision	16 February 2021
4.	Decision maker	City Mayor
5.	Decision taken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To thank scrutiny committees and other consultees who have considered our draft budget. 2. In response to comments made: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) As the Council is well aware, our financial position is very difficult, with the pandemic severely disrupting our finances after a decade of Government cuts. This has required a different approach to the budget strategy, and I am very grateful to OSC for supporting the budget; b) I gave a commitment at OSC to provide additional support to Public Health, which accords with the views of external consultees who have responded. Initially, I propose to increase the budget by £0.2m per year, to support capacity (the need for which has been demonstrated by the pandemic). I will keep this under review during the year and am open to further increases if need is demonstrated; c) Scrutiny Committees and the Race Equality Centre have expressed concern about increasing council tax by 5% at a time when people may struggle to pay. I recognise these concerns, and strongly believe the Government should have given us more grant to pay for adult social care instead of expecting us to increase council tax. To mitigate the impact of the increase, the submitted report

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

		<p>includes additional budget for discretionary housing payments, crisis support grants and council tax hardship relief.</p> <p>3. To note the equality assessment of the proposed tax rise and (in the light of the findings and having regard to the implications and the additional support discussed above) to recommend the budget and tax rise to the Council as proposed in the report, subject to the change described at 2(b) above;</p> <p>4. To ask the Director of Finance to prepare the formal budget resolution for 2021/22, referred to in Section 3 of the Council report.</p>
6.	Reason for decision	<p>The revenue budget forms part of the budget and policy framework. Its approval is the responsibility of the full Council. The City Mayor is responsible for the preparation of a proposal for Council consideration.</p> <p>A draft budget was published, and a formal decision to that effect was made by the City Mayor on 8th December. The budget was considered by a number of scrutiny commissions, whose comments were considered by Overview Select Committee on 4th February. Minutes of the commissions and Overview Select Committee will be circulated to Council members in advance of the budget meeting.</p>
7.	<p>A) KEY DECISION Yes/No?</p> <p>b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? Yes/no</p>	a) No
8.	Options considered	Not Applicable

**RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL
EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

9.	Deadline for call-in <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 members of a scrutiny commission or any 5 councillors can ask for the decision to be called-in.• Notification of call-in with reasons must be made to the monitoring officer	Not Applicable.
10.	Signature of decision maker (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of executive member)	

Council

17th February 2021

General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2021/22 – Formal Resolutions

1. **Purpose**

- 1.1 The Council is required to set its Council Tax for 2021/22 before 11th March 2021, under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 1.2 If Council approves the City Mayor's proposed budget, the formal resolutions required by the Act are set out below.

Resolutions

2. Council is recommended:
- 2.1 To approve the budget as recommended by the City Mayor, thereby agreeing the recommendations in the report circulated separately (as amended by his proposal).
- 2.2 To note that the Director of Finance has calculated the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 as 74,806 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Act].
- 2.3 To agree that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 is £126,790,200.
- 2.4 To agree the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Section 31A and Section 31B of the Act:
- | | |
|------------------|--|
| (a) £911,430,100 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act. |
| (b) £784,639,900 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act. |
| (c) £126,790,200 | being the amount by which 2.4(a) above exceeds 2.4(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) £1,694.9202 being the amount at 2.4(c) above (Item R) divided by the amount at 2.2 above (Item T), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

2.5 To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner and Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Act as indicated below.

2.6 To agree that the Council, in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Act, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2021/22 for each of the valuation bands.

Valuation Band	Council	Police	Fire	Total
A	1,129.9468	165.4868	46.1933	1,341.6269
B	1,318.2713	193.0679	53.8922	1,565.2314
C	1,506.5957	220.6491	61.5911	1,788.8359
D	1,694.9202	248.2302	69.2900	2,012.4404
E	2,071.5691	303.3925	84.6878	2,459.6494
F	2,448.2181	358.5547	100.0856	2,906.8584
G	2,824.8670	413.7170	115.4833	3,354.0673
H	3,389.8404	496.4604	138.5800	4,024.8808


2.7 To note that the following sums are payable in precepts to the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Fire authority (exclusive of collection fund surplus or deficit):

(a) Police & Crime Commissioner £18,569,108.34

(b) Fire authority £5,183,308.00

2.8 To determine under Section 52ZB of the Act, that the relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 is not excessive in accordance with principles issued under section 52ZC of the Act and approved by Parliament on 10th February 2021 (being an increase of less than 5%).

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

1.	Decision title	Recommendation to Council of the Capital Programme for 2021/22
2.	Declarations of interest	None
3.	Date of decision	16 February 2021
4.	Decision maker	City Mayor
5.	Decision taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To thank the Overview Select Committee for their comments and their support of the draft programme. • To propose that the Council adopts the programme in the report included with the agenda.
6.	Reason for decision	It is a requirement of the constitution that the City Mayor recommends a capital programme to the Council.
7.	A) KEY DECISION Yes/No? b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? Yes/no	No
8.	Options considered	N/A
9.	Deadline for call-in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 members of a scrutiny commission or any 5 councillors can ask for the decision to be called-in. • Notification of call-in with reasons must be made to the monitoring officer 	N/A – recommendations to Council in respect of the budget and policy framework are exempt from call in.
10.	Signature of decision maker (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of executive member)	

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

1.	Decision title	Recommendation of the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22
2.	Declarations of interest	None
3.	Date of decision	16 February 2021
4.	Decision maker	Assistant City Mayor Education and Housing
5.	Decision taken	<p>To recommend Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To thank the Tenants' and Leaseholders' Forum, Housing Scrutiny Commission, Overview Select Committee and others who have commented on our draft Housing Revenue Account budget; 2. To approve the Housing Revenue and Capital budgets for 2021/22 as described in the report; 3. To note the financial pressures on the HRA; 4. To note the equality assessment of the proposed revenue and capital reductions required to present a balanced budget; 5. To approve the approach to implement a 1.5% increase in rent; 6. To approve the increase in service charges of 2%, and increase in garage rent of 1.5% for 2021/22; 7. To approve the proposal for Hostel rents for 2021/22 as set out in the report; 8. To note that the scheme of virement (included within the General Fund Revenue Budget report) applies also to the HRA budget with total expenditure and total income acting as budget ceilings for this purpose; <p>To note that the capital strategy in the capital programme report applies also to the HRA.</p>

**RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL
EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

6.	Reason for decision	<p>The Housing Revenue Account budget forms part of the budget and policy framework. Its approval is the responsibility of the full Council. The City Mayor is responsible for the preparation of a proposal for Council consideration.</p> <p>A draft budget was considered by the Housing Scrutiny Commission on 11 January 2021 and by the Overview Select Committee on 4 February 2021.</p>
7.	A) KEY DECISION Yes/No? b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? Yes/no	No
8.	Options considered	Not applicable.
9.	Deadline for call-in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 members of a scrutiny commission or any 5 councillors can ask for the decision to be called-in. • Notification of call-in with reasons must be made to the monitoring officer 	Not applicable.
10.	Signature of decision maker (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of executive member)	