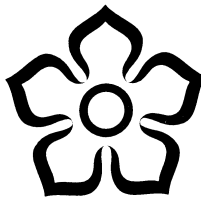


Wednesday, 26 February 2014





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, 26 FEBRUARY 2014 duly convened for the business hereunder mentioned.

=====

**BUSINESS**

=====

1. **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
3. **DECISIONS RESERVED TO COUNCIL**

To receive and consider reports of the Executive as follows:

- 3.1 General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/15 to 2015/16
  - 3.2 Housing Revenue Account Budget (including Capital Programme) 2014/15
4. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

**PRESENT:**

**MUSTAFA KAMAL, LORD MAYOR**  
**CHAIRMAN**

**Abbey Ward**

HARSHAD DAHYABHAI BHAVSAR  
ANNETTE BYRNE  
VIJAY SINGH RIYAIT

**Aylestone Ward**

ADAM CLARKE  
NIGEL CARL PORTER

**Beaumont Leys Ward**

VIOLET GEDDES GRAHAM DEMPSTER  
SUNDIP MEGHANI  
PAUL THOMAS WESTLEY

**Belgrave Ward**

RASHMIKANT JOSHI  
JOHN WILLIAM THOMAS

**Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields**

MICHAEL ERNEST COOKE  
WAYNE JAN NAYLOR

**Castle Ward**

NEIL CLAYTON  
PATRICK JOSEPH KITTERICK  
LYNN SENIOR

**Charnwood Ward**

PAUL DARREN NEWCOMBE  
ABDUL RAZAK OSMAN

**Coleman Ward**

MIAN MOHAMMED MAYAT  
DEBORAH SANGSTER

**Freemen Ward**

WILLIAM HENRY SHELTON

**Humberstone and Hamilton Ward**

BARBARA ANNE POTTER  
GURINDER SINGH SANDHU

**Knighton Ward**

ROSS GRANT  
INDERJIT SINGH GUGNANI  
DR LYNN MOORE

**Latimer Ward**

VEEJAY PATEL  
MANJULA PAUL SOOD

**New Parks Ward**

DAWN ALFONSO  
STEPHEN PETER CORRALL  
MALCOLM WILLIAM UNSWORTH

**Rushey Mead Ward**

CULDIPP SINGH BHATTI  
PIARA SINGH CLAIR

**Spinney Hills Ward**

HANIF AQBANY  
SHOFIQL ISLAM CHOWDHURY  
MOHAMMED DAWOOD

**Stoneygate Ward**

LUCY CHAPLIN  
IQBAL ALIBHAI DESAI

Evington Ward

DEEPAK BAJAJ  
BALJIT SINGH

Eyres Monsell Ward

VIRGINIA CLEAVER  
RORY PALMER

Fosse Ward

TED CASSIDY  
SUSAN WADDINGTON

Thurncourt Ward

LUIS FONSECA  
ROBERT WANN

Westcotes Ward

ANDREW IAN CONNELLY  
SARAH CHRISTINE RUSSELL

Western Park Ward

DR SUSAN BARTON  
GEORGE COLE



## **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

At the request of the Lord Mayor the Monitoring Officer addressed Council and gave the following advice regarding the declaration of interests at the meeting.

Members did not need to declare interests that already appeared on their Register of Interests, which is a publically accessible and available document. The Localism Act 2011 expressly excuses a Member from having to re-declare interests that appear on the Register.

Over and above interests declared on the Register, Members had, following the Monitoring Officer's written invitation issued in January, given details of items they wished to declare at the meeting and these were appended to the Council script and would appear in the minutes when published. Therefore there was no need to verbally re-declare these at the meeting unless these were prejudicial ODIs or DPIs that would require the Member to leave the room and desist from voting. As always, the judgement remains one for the Member to make, with the Monitoring Officer only able to offer advice.

The Monitoring Officer advised that under the provisions of section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 any Member who was in two or more months of arrears of Council Tax should not vote on the items for consideration at the meeting. Criminal liability attaches to such a Member who does so.

The Monitoring Officer stated that he had been asked to grant one category of dispensation, without which in his opinion it might be necessary for those members to leave the Chamber. After consultation with the Standards Committee I thereby grant a dispensation to elected members who are council tenants (or have family members or close associates who are council tenants) to enable them to remain and participate and vote on both the Budget proposals and, crucially, the Housing Revenue Account proposals that come before the meeting tonight. It was noted that the names of those members covered by this dispensation would appear in the minutes of the meeting. Members were asked to raise their hand if they wish to be granted the benefit of this dispensation and to declare why.

Councillor Clayton with the approval of the Lord Mayor sought to clarify that if a Member was a Council tenant or had a family member in that position a dispensation should be sought. The Monitoring Officer confirmed this was the case.

In response to the above statement the following Members sought and received dispensations:

Councillor Potter – Council tenant and family member who is a Council tenant  
Councillor Aqbany - family member who is a Council tenant  
Councillor Fonseca – family member who is a Council tenant  
Councillor Shelton – family member who is a Council tenant  
Councillor Joshi – family member who is a Council tenant  
Councillor Byrne – family member who is a Council tenant  
Councillor Mayat – family member who is a Council tenant

It was noted that Members had identified interests as below:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Description of Interest</b>
Councillor Alfonso	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Aqbany	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Bajaj	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Barton	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Bhatti	I am a holder of a concessionary fare card Residential house where I live is built on land within the Council area (address given) Wife disabled badge holder
Councillor Bhavsar	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Byrne	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Cassidy	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Chaplin	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Chowdhury	- I work full-time for Bangladesh Youth & Cultural Shomiti which receives some funding from Leicester City Council - My son and daughter-in-law work as a teacher in Judgemeadow Community College and Montrose Primary School respectively - My wife also works part-time for Bangladesh Youth and Cultural Shomiti - I am a Director of Overseas Qualification Development Services - I hold a Leicester City Council Concessionary Bus Pass
Councillor Clair	My parents are in receipt of a social care package.
Councillor Clarke	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Clayton	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Cleaver	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Cole	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Connelly	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Cooke	I represent the City Council on the Braunstone Foundation Board. The Foundation benefits from financial support from the Council for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the Multi Access Centre</li> <li>▪ NLDC grants</li> <li>▪ Ad hoc funds secured as a consequence of successful bids for Council services that are being recommissioned – none currently.</li> </ul>
Councillor Corral	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the



	Register of Interests
Councillor Cutkelvin	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Dawood	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Dempster	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Desai	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Fonseca	Sister in law Council tenant, brother in law Housing Association tenant, brother in law holds a single allotment plot, son works for Bradgate Mental Health Unit
Councillor Glover	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Grant	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Gugnani	Member of Federation of Sikh Organisations, wife holds a Blue Badge Scheme permit
Councillor Joshi	I work for a voluntary organisation, my wife works for Reablement Team in Adult Social Care, sister is a Council tenant
Councillor Kamal	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Kitterick	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Mayat	Family member lives in a Council property
Councillor Meghani	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Moore	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Naylor	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Newcombe	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Osman	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Palmer	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor V Patel	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Porter	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Potter	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Riyait	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Russell	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Sandhu	Father is living with me and last year he applied for Disabled Facilities Grant last year but has yet to receive approval, member of UNISON
Councillor Sangster	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Senior	Council tax payer in Leicester no further declarations in

	addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Shelton	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Singh	I am a member of Unison apart from this no further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Mrs Sood	Police Independent Advisory Group member, Chair Leicester Council of Faiths, Patron CLASP, mother in receipt of social care package, Sport England East Midlands Champion, Blue Badge holder, concessionary bus pass holder, carer's support, Fibromyalgia – honourable member, St Martins Guild – patron, Special Olympics – community patron, LE1 strategic board member on behalf of Council of Faiths, patron GNG girls football team, Girl Guides ambassador,
Sir Peter Soulsby	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Unsworth	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Waddington	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests
Councillor Westley	Member Unite union Family members Council tenants

The Lord Mayor invited Members to declare any further interests they might have in the business on the agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

No further declarations were given.

### **DECISIONS RESERVED TO COUNCIL**

#### **GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15 TO 2015/16**

The City Mayor submitted his proposed budget for 2014/15 to 2015/16. The report contained details of the budget strategy and ceilings, comments received from scrutiny, trades unions and partners and a range of proposals including the scheme of virement.

Details of the recommendation of the City Mayor, details of the Council Tax resolution and an amended minute extract from Children and Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission on 4 February were available at the meeting and are attached to these minutes.

Moved by the City Mayor and seconded by the Deputy City Mayor:

36. That Council:

- 1) Thank partners, scrutiny committees, trade unions and others who have commented on our draft budget;
- 2) Note the comments made in my formal Decision Notice dated 25 February and attached as Appendix B;

- 3) Note a revision to the collection fund surplus for 2013/14 reported in January and referred to in paragraph 12.17 of the Council report, arising from Government guidance on providing for the cost of backdated appeals;
- 4) Approve the recommendations set out in section 3.1 of the report 'General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/15 – 2015/16' without amendment;
- 5) Approve the formal budget resolution as set out in section 2 of Appendix C.

**Councillors Clayton, Kitterick and Moore rose to request that the names of the Councillors voting for or against the proposition be recorded by the Monitoring Officer in the minutes of the meeting under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 29. It was noted that this request was made in response to the recent change in Government regulations.**

**For the motion:**

Councillors

Alfonso, Aqbany, Bajaj, Barton, Bhatti, Bhavasar, Byrne, Chaplin, Chowdhury, Clair, Clarke, Clayton, Cleaver, Cole, Connelly, Cooke, Corral, Dawood, Dempster, Fonseca, Gugnani, Joshi, Kitterick, Mayat, Meghani, Moore, Naylor, Newcombe, Osman, Palmer, V Patel, Potter, Riyait, Russell, Sandhu, Sangster, Senior, Shelton, Singh, City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby, Unsworth, Wann, Westley, High Bailiff Councillor Cassidy, Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Thomas, Lord Mayor Councillor Kamal.

**Against the motion**

Councillor Grant

There were no abstentions.

The Lord Mayor declared the motion carried.

**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET (INCLUDING CAPITAL PROGRAMME) 2014/15**

The Assistant City Mayor for Housing submitted a report which gave details of the Housing Revenue Account revenue budget and capital programme for 2014/15 together with details of the rules regarding scheme approvals and proposed rent and service charge increases.

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

37. That Council:

- 1) approve the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2014/15 as given in Appendix A to the report, including the efficiency savings and growth items detailed in sections 5.1.9 and 5.1.10;
- 2) agree a rent increase of 3.2% and a service charge increase of 3% (excluding gas charges);

- 3) approve the HRA Capital Programme for 2014/15 and the draft programme for 2015/16 and 2016/17, as set out in Appendix E to the report;
- 4) note the rules regarding scheme approvals and variations, detailed in section 5.1.14 to the report.

**ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**Close of Meeting**

There being no other business the Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6.43pm.



Council

26<sup>th</sup> February 2014

---

**General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2014/15 – Formal Resolutions**

---

1. **Purpose**

- 1.1 The Council is required to set its Council Tax for 2014/15 before 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014, under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 1.2 If Council approves the 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.
- 2.2 To note that on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 the City Mayor calculated the Council Tax Base for 2014/15 as 64,375. [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 2014/15 is £82,177,900.
- 2.4 To agree the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Section 31A and Section 31B of the Act:
- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| (a) £923,735,400 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act. |
| (b) £841,557,500 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act. |

(c) £82,177,900 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) £1,276.5499 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.

2.6 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.

2.7 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 2014/15 for each of the valuation bands.

Valuation Band	Council	Police	Fire	Total
A	851.0333	117.6554	39.5013	1,008.19
B	992.8721	137.2646	46.0849	1,176.22
C	1,134.7110	156.8739	52.6684	1,344.25
D	1,276.5499	176.4831	59.2520	1,512.28
E	1,560.2277	215.7016	72.4191	1,848.35
F	1,843.9054	254.9200	85.5862	2,184.41
G	2,127.5832	294.1385	98.7533	2,520.48
H	2,553.0998	352.9662	118.5040	3,024.57

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

(a) Police & Crime Commissioner £11,361,100

(b) Fire authority £3,814,348

2.9 To determine under Section 52ZX of the Act (as amended by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014) that the relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15 is £1,276.5499

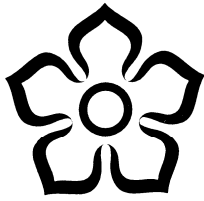
2.10 To determine under Section 52ZB of the Act, that the relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15 is not excessive in accordance with principles issued under section 52ZC of the Act and approved by Parliament on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 (being an increase of less than 2%).

2.11 To note that, as the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for

2014/15 is excessive, and to note that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum.







Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND SCHOOLS SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2014 at 5.30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Willmott (Chair)  
Councillor Unsworth (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Cole	Councillor Potter
Councillor Dawood	Councillor Senior
Councillor Naylor	

Standing Invitees (Non-Voting):

Peter Flack – Teaching Unions  
Anu Kapur – Leicester Secular Society

In Attendance:

Councillor Dempster – Assistant Mayor (Children, Young People and Schools)

Also present:

Councillor Chaplin  
Councillor Kitterick

\* \* \* \* \*

**177. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Rabiha Hannan (Faith Representative) and Bernard Monaghan (Roman Catholic Diocese).

## **178. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Senior declared an Other Disclosable interest in agenda item 6, "General Fund Budget 2014/15 to 2015/16", in that her partner was a Council employee in the Transport Strategy service.

Although not a member of the Commission, Peter Flack, a Standing Invitee to the meeting as a representative of teaching unions, declared an Other Disclosable interest in agenda item 6, "General Fund Budget 2014/15 to 2015/16", in that his partner worked in the Early Years Intervention service.

Councillors Dawood, Naylor, Senior and Unsworth each declared an Other Disclosable Interest in agenda item 10, "Adventure Playgrounds Task Group", as they each had an adventure playground in the Wards they represented.

Councillor Cole declared an Other Disclosable Interest in the general business of the meeting, as his wife was a teacher.

Councillor Potter declared an Other Disclosable Interest in the general business of the meeting, as she was a former Looked After Child and was the Chair of the Safeguarding Children Panel.

Councillor Senior declared an Other Disclosable interest in the general business of the meeting as she was a member of Unison.

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, these interests were not considered so significant that they were likely to prejudice the Councillors' judgement of the public interest. They were not, therefore, required to withdraw from the meeting.

## **182. GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2014/15 TO 2015/16**

The Strategic Director for Children's Services submitted a report setting out the draft budget proposals for 2014/15 to 2015/16 for the Education and Children's Services departmental portfolio. The Commission was asked to make comments to the Overview Select Committee. These comments would be considered by that Committee at its meeting on 13 February 2014 and its views reported views to the City Mayor prior to the City Mayor making his final proposals to the Council.

Councillor Dempster, Assistant Mayor with responsibility for Children, Young People and Schools, reminded the Commission that this was difficult budget, as the service was funded by various grants, as well as the General Fund. Substantial cuts to the service already had been made, but more would be needed.

At the invitation of the Chair, Peter Flack, representing the teaching unions, made the following comments:-

- The government had particularly targeted children's services for financial cuts. For example, the budget for Early Prevention had been reduced by approximately 30% and the budget for Moving Barriers had been reduced by approximately 10%. The children with the greatest need should be the top priority, so the Council should do whatever it could to maintain services;
- The reduction in the School Improvement Service was a great concern. This needed to develop an effective trading service outside of Leicester, and needed to be in a strong position to do this; and
- It was questioned whether children of pre-school age could be supported through Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG) and therefore whether it was possible to fund Early Years teachers through this. Although there was a small element of grant left over from previous years, this would only provide funding for one or two years.

The following points were then made by the Commission during discussion on the draft budget proposals:-

- Residents should be made aware of the severity of the cuts that needed to be made;
- The proposal to combine teams where practical in localities and utilise buildings more efficiently was welcomed;
- More information was needed on the cuts proposed to the Special Educational Needs service and the miscellaneous budgets that were scheduled to cease;
- A discussion previously had been held on whether savings could be achieved by changing the policy on how often checks should be made through the Disclosing and Barring Service (DBS), (minute 174, "Proposed Changes to the Adventure Playgrounds Service", 6 January 2014 referred). Following this, it had been established that projected annual expenditure on re-checks was £101,000 over the coming year. As re-checks were not required by the government, a change in the policy could result in a financial saving to the Council;
- Was the number of Looked After Children declining? They needed to be offered the same opportunities as other children, so care should be taken to ensure that sufficient funding was available to enable this to happen; and
- Individual elements of the budget could not be considered in isolation. The whole budget for the portfolio needed to be considered, as reducing funding for any part of the children's services budget could put children at risk.

In reply, Councillor Dempster advised that:-

- It was recognised that duplication needed to be reduced and the best use possible made of Council buildings;
- The Schools Forum could be asked to endorse expenditure on Early Years teachers from the DSG, as it would come from the Higher Needs block;
- The cost to schools of making DBS checks was met from DSG funding, so reducing the number of checks made would not achieve the savings being sought. In addition, there could be a deterrent effect of making regular DBS checks, as people could be encouraged to make disclosures themselves if they knew that regular checks were made;
- A lot of the funding for the Special Educational Needs Service was through the DSG, so further work was needed on how savings could be achieved. However, at present it was anticipated that a saving of approximately 10% of this year's budget would be sought;
- The Council considered that it was very important that the School Improvement service did not decline. A pro-active approach therefore was being taken to reconfigure the service and build on partnerships that already had been established. Discussions would be held with schools as soon as possible about what form the service should take in the future;
- Further details could be provided on the miscellaneous budgets that it was proposed should cease. For example, the government had changed the way that the Key Stage 4 Foundation Learning budget was distributed, so that it would go direct to schools, rather than the local authority;
- The number of Looked After Children in the city generally was stable, although there had been a slight drop recently. However, the number fluctuated over time. Nationally, there was an upward trend in their number, but the work undertaken by the authority meant that there was some confidence that the number locally would continue to decline; and
- The Council's corporate parenting responsibilities were taken very seriously and it was hoped that the work being done, (for example, through the Safeguarding Children Panel), would enable the downward movement to continue. It was recognised that funding had to be available to support this and that services across the Council needed to consider what the implications of their provision were for Looked After Children.

Peter Flack recognised the reasons for combining teams where practical in localities and use buildings more effectively. However, staff working in children's centres believed that locating social services staff in those centres would discourage parents from attending, as they would view the centres as having a very different purpose to their current one. Councillor Dempster acknowledged this and confirmed that a wide range of factors needed to be taken in to account to ensure that services located together complemented

each other.

RESOLVED:

That the Overview Select Committee be requested to consider the points raised above and in particular to be advised that:-

- a) This Commission is dismayed at the level of cuts proposed for the Education and Children's Services departmental portfolio;
- b) This Commission requests that the Executive be asked to review the Council's current Disclosing and Barring Service checking policy to see if savings can be achieved;
- c) This Commission supports the identification of genuine efficiency savings;
- d) This Commission requests that the Executive support this Commission in its concern that School Improvement services should not be reduced to the extent that they can no longer operate, especially in view of their successful work to date; and
- e) This Commission requests that the issues raised during its consideration of the findings of the Adventure Playgrounds Task Group be taken in to consideration during consideration of the budget proposals, (see minute 186, "Adventure Playgrounds Task Group", below).



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

1.	<b>DECISION TITLE</b>	Housing Revenue Account Budget (including Capital Programme) 2014/15 – Recommendation to Council
2.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	None
3.	<b>DATE OF DECISION</b>	25 February 2014
4.	<b>DECISION MAKER</b>	Councillor Connelly – Assistant Mayor (Housing)
5.	<b>DECISION TAKEN</b>	That Council be recommended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To approve the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2014/15 as given in Appendix A to the report, including the efficiency savings and growth items detailed in sections 5.1.9 and 5.1.10.</li> <li>(ii) To agree a rent increase of 3.2% and a service charge increase of 3% (excluding gas charges).</li> <li>(iii) To approve the HRA Capital Programme for 2014/15 and the draft programme for 2015/16 and 2016/17, as set out in Appendix E.</li> <li>(iv) To note the rules regarding scheme approvals and variations, detailed in section 5.1.14.</li> </ul>
6.	<b>REASON FOR DECISION</b>	Members are required to approve the increase to rents and service charges to be applied from 1st April 2014 so the authority can comply with the statutory requirement to give tenants at least a month's notice of any variation in their rents and service charges.  The HRA funds capital work to meet the following key priorities :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. provide quality rented homes;</li> <li>b. create thriving safe communities so neighbourhoods are attractive and safe places where people want to live;</li> <li>c. make Leicester a low carbon city and reduce fuel poverty;</li> <li>d. provide appropriate housing to meet peoples' changing needs; and</li> <li>e. make Leicester a place to do business.</li> </ul>
7.	a) <b>KEY DECISION Y/N?</b> b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? y/n	No



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

8.	<b>OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>	Two options for rent increases are set out in Appendix B together with the impact on the revenue raised: a 3.2% increase (RPI); or, a 4.7% increase (formula rent).
9.	<b>DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Members of a Scrutiny Commission or any 5 Councillors can ask for the decision to be called-in.</li> <li>• Notification of Call-In with reasons must be made to the Monitoring Officer</li> </ul>	N/A
10.	<b>SIGNATURE OF DECISION MAKER</b> (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of Executive Member)	