



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, 25 FEBRUARY 2015 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. **MATTERS RESERVED TO FULL COUNCIL**
 - 3.1 General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/16 to 2016/17
 - 3.2 Housing Revenue Account Budget 2015/16
4. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Filming and Recording the Meeting

The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. In accordance with government regulations and the Council's policy, persons and press attending any meeting of the Council open to the public (except Licensing Sub Committees and where the public have been formally excluded) are allowed to record and/or report all or part of that meeting. Details of the Council's policy are available at www.leicester.gov.uk or from Democratic Support.

If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc.

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;

- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

PRESENT:

JOHN THOMAS, LORD MAYOR
CHAIRMAN

SIR PETER SOULSBY – CITY MAYOR

Abbey Ward

HARSHAD DAHYABHAI BHAVSAR
ANNETTE BYRNE
VIJAY SINGH RIYAIT

Aylestone Ward

ADAM CLARKE
NIGEL CARL PORTER

Beaumont Leys Ward

VIOLET GEDDES GRAHAM DEMPSTER
PAUL THOMAS WESTLEY

Belgrave Ward

RASHMIKANT JOSHI

Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

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

RITA PATEL
BARBARA ANNE POTTER
GURINDER SINGH SANDHU

Knighton Ward

ROSS GRANT
INDERJIT SINGH GUGNANI
DR LYNN MOORE

Latimer Ward

MANJULA PAUL SOOD

New Parks Ward

DAWN ALFONSO
STEPHEN PETER CORRALL
MALCOLM WILLIAM UNSWORTH

Rushey Mead Ward

PIARA SINGH CLAIR
ROSS WILLMOTT

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

Westcotes Ward

ANDREW IAN CONNELLY
SARAH CHRISTINE RUSSELL

Western Park Ward

DR SUSAN BARTON
GEORGE COLE

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Before the meeting formally commenced the Lord Mayor invited his chaplain to say a short prayer.

Council

The Lord Mayor reminded Members that this meeting was the last one scheduled of the current Council term and informed Members that several colleagues had indicated that they would not be standing at the forthcoming election. A formal 'thank you' event was being organised to be held at the Town Hall on May 18th for Members not continuing as Councillors. The Lord Mayor led Council in a round of applause to thank those Members for their work for the City.

The Lord Mayor indicated that he intended to call a short adjournment between the two meetings scheduled for the evening in order for the customary whole Councillor photo to be taken.

Illuminated Address

The Lord Mayor was delighted to note that the next announcement was the presentation of an Illuminated Address to Councillor Mustafa Kamal in recognition of his very successful year as Lord Mayor in 2013 / 14. He however noted that Councillor Kamal unfortunately could not attend the meeting this evening so arrangements would be made to deliver it to him.

New Food Hall

The Lord Mayor was pleased to announce that the new Leicester Market Food Hall had recently won an award from the National Association of British Markets as the best new food hall and a Civic award for its design.

Charity Quiz Night

The Lord Mayor noted that a charity Quiz Night was being held Thursday 26th February with all proceeds going to his charity appeal benefiting; Sea Cadets, Prostate Cancer UK and Silver Star Diabetes. It was noted that there were still some spaces with details available from the Member & Civic Support Team.

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 Westely - family member who is a Council tenant
- Councillor Byrne - Council tenant and family member who is a Council tenant
- Councillor Shelton – family member who is a Council tenant
- Councillor Osman – family member who is a Council tenant
- Councillor Aqbany - family member who is a Council tenant
- Councillor Joshi – family member who is a Council tenant
- Councillor Newcombe - family member who is a Council tenant
- Councillor Mayat – family member who is a Council tenant
- Councillor Bhavsar - family member who is a Council tenant
- Councillor Corrall - family member who is a Council tenant

It was noted that Members had identified interests as below:

Cllr Aqbany	Family member ‘Council leasee’ for accommodation. School governor at Taylor Road Primary School. Member of Unison Trade Union.
Cllr Barton	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests.
Cllr Bhatti	Own properties in Rushey Mead and Abbey wards. Wife holds Blue Badge. Hold concessionary bus pass.
Cllr Byrne	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests.
Cllr Chowdhury	Work full -time for Bangladesh Youth & Cultural Shomiti which receives some funding from Leicester City Council. Wife also works part-time for Bangladesh Youth and Cultural Shomiti. Son and daughter-in-law work for the Local Education

	Authority as school teachers. Director of Qualification Development Services. Hold a Leicester City Council Concessionary Bus Pass.
Cllr Clair	Hold concessionary bus pass.
Cllr Cooke	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests.
Cllr Dawood	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests.
Cllr Fonseca	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests.
Cllr Grant	Sister-in-law works as a teacher in a City school.
Cllr Kitterick	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests.
Cllr Moore	Sole publisher of 'The Children's Book of Richard III' which I am supplying to 'Visit Leicester', schools and the Museum Service. My company 'The Reading Shop' is currently teaching a looked-after child in after school classes.
Cllr Newcombe	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests.
Cllr R Patel	Sister works for the Council in Property Services.
Cllr Riyait	Employed by Experian (Credit Services) as a Technical Lead. Wife employed in a local City Council school. Member of the Community Union.
Cllr Russell	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests.
Cllr Singh Sandhu	Father attends non-residential care at Guru Teg Bahadur Day Centre which is funded by the City Council. Father has a 'Blue Badge' which is issued by the City Council.
Cllr Senior	Partner is a City Council employee.
Cllr Singh	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests.
Cllr Sood	Member of Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation.
Sir Peter Soulsby	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests.
Cllr Westley	No further declarations in addition to that listed on the Register of Interests.

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.

MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16 TO 2016/17

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 and General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2015/16 – Formal Resolutions were available at the meeting and are attached to these minutes.

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

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 published on 24 February and attached as Appendix B to the Script and available at the meeting.
- 3) Note the EIA in respect of the proposed council tax increase.
- 4) Approve the recommendations set out in section 3.1 of the report ‘General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/16 – 2016/17’ without amendment.
- 5) Approve the formal budget resolution as set out in Appendix C to the Script and available at the meeting.

An Amendment

Moved by Councillor Naylor, seconded by Councillor Potter.

That all the words in the substantive motion after “That Council:” be deleted and replaced with the words:

“is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the budget as recommended by the City Mayor, subject to the amendments set out in Annex A of Appendix D to this resolution.
- 2.2 To add £6.9m to corporate budgets, and grant authority to the City Mayor to determine how this is spent in line with the policies described in Annex A of Appendix D.
- 2.3 To note that on 8th January 2015 the City Mayor calculated the Council Tax Base for 2015/16 as 65,903. [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Act].
- 2.4 To agree that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2015/16 is £85,802,400.
- 2.5 To agree the following amounts be calculated for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Section 31A and Section 31B of the Act:
 - (a) £947,214,700 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.

- (b) £861,412,300 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £85,802,400 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) £1,301.9498 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 in the table 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 2015/16 for each of the valuation bands.

Valuation Band	Council	Fire	Police	Total
A	867.9665	40.2874	119.9967	1,028.25
B	1,012.6276	47.0020	139.9962	1,199.63
C	1,157.2887	53.7165	159.9956	1,371.00
D	1,301.9498	60.4311	179.9951	1,542.38
E	1,591.2720	73.8602	219.9940	1,885.13
F	1,880.5942	87.2894	259.9929	2,227.88
G	2,169.9163	100.7185	299.9918	2,570.63
H	2,603.8996	120.8622	359.9902	3,084.75

- 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 £11,862,217
- (b) Fire authority £3,982,591
- 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 £1,301.9498.
- 2.10 To determine under Section 52ZB of the Act, that the relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2015/16 is not excessive in accordance with principles issued under section 52ZC of the Act and approved by Parliament on 10th February 2015 (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 2015/16 is excessive, and to note that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum.

The Lord Mayor put the amendment to the vote and declared it lost.

The Lord Mayor put the original motion to the vote.

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

For the motion:

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

Against the motion

Councillors Grant, Naylor, Porter, Potter

There were no abstentions.

The Lord Mayor declared the motion carried.

32. 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 published on 24 February and attached as Appendix B to the Script and available at the meeting.
- 3) Note the EIA in respect of the proposed council tax increase.
- 4) Approve the recommendations set out in section 3.1 of the report 'General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/16 – 2016/17' without amendment.
- 5) Approve the formal budget resolution as set out in Appendix C to the Script and available at the meeting.

Housing Revenue Account Budget 2015/16

The Assistant City Mayor for Housing submitted a report which gave details of the Housing

Revenue Account revenue budget and capital programme for 2015/16 together with details of the rules regarding scheme approvals and proposed rent and service charge increases.

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

33. That Council:

- 1) Approve the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2015/16 as given in Appendix A of the report, including the efficiency savings and growth items detailed in section 3 of the report.
- 2) Agree a rent increase of 2.2% and a service charge increase of 2.2% excluding heating charges and communal cleaning charges.
- 3) Delegates the City Mayor to agree heating charges and communal cleaning charges later in 2015; and
- 4) Approve the increase in the charge for right to buy pre-sale questionnaires to £125.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7pm.