



# Rutland County Council

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Minutes of the 244<sup>th</sup> **MEETING of the COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Monday, 7th November, 2022 at 7.00 pm

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor J Dale (Chairman) Councillor P Ainsley Councillor D Blanksby Councillor A Brown Councillor P Browne Councillor W Cross Councillor S Harvey Councillor S Lambert Councillor R Payne Councillor R Powell Councillor G Waller Councillor R Wilson	Councillor N Begy (Vice-Chairman) Councillor E Baines Councillor K Bool Councillor G Brown Councillor J Burrows Councillor J Fox Councillor O Hemsley Councillor M Oxley Councillor K Payne Councillor L Stephenson Councillor D Wilby
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Councillor A MacCartney Councillor A Walters	Councillor L Toseland Councillor S Webb
<b>OFFICERS PRESENT:</b>	Mark Andrews Saverio Della Rocca Penny Sharp Angela Wakefield Tom Delaney Mathew Waik	Chief Executive Strategic Director for Resources Strategic Director for Places Director for Legal and Governance Governance Manager Communications Service Manager

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A MacCartney, L Toseland, A Walters and S Webb.

## 2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed Members that since the last meeting of Council he or the Vice-Chairman had attended the following events:

- Proclamation of King Charles III in the grounds of Oakham Castle, which had been well attended by the local community.
- Oakham in Bloom Annual Awards.
- A service of Commemoration for HM The Queen at All Saints' Church.

- The Investiture of the Lord Lieutenant's Cadets at Casterton College.
- The High Sherriff's Concert in aid of Rutland First Responders at the Falcon Hotel in Uppingham.

The Chairman had also attended the Oakham Rugby Club Centenary celebration and congratulated them on their longevity when many similar sized clubs had struggled in recent times.

Members were also reminded of the upcoming events taking place across the county on the upcoming weekend to commemorate Remembrance.

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

Councillor L Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy, informed Members that nominations for the Multum Awards had recently closed and judging of the nominations would be taking place later in the week.

Councillor R Powell, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport informed Members that discussions were ongoing with South Kesteven District Council regarding the proposed Stamford North Development, and it was expected that any developments within Rutland would count towards the county's housing supply, it was noted that this was important to confirm given the current stage of the Local Plan process and the application already submitted to the Council.

Councillor M Oxley updated Members on the situation at Fosters Bridge following an incident over the previous weekend, warm space provisions being made at all the Council operated libraries in Rutland over winter, and Councillor Oxley informed Members a display of poppies homemade by military veterans at HMP Stocken was on display at Oakham Castle.

Councillor S Harvey updated members on the work underway to support the 104 Ukrainians currently settled in the county going into the winter, on ongoing meetings held with the NHS regarding their work in the county and upcoming changes to Adult Social Care.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 5 September 2022.

It was moved by Councillor L Stephenson and seconded that the minutes of Council held on 5 September be approved. Upon being put to the vote, with 22 votes in favour and 1 abstention, the motion was carried.

## **RESOLVED**

- a) That the minutes of Council on 5 September 2022 be **APPROVED**.

### **6. PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No petitions, deputations or questions from members of the public had been received.

### **7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Two questions had been received from Members and the Chairman took these in the order they were received.

Councillor G Waller put her question as set out in the agenda supplement to Councillor R Powell, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport. In response Councillor Powell confirmed that only the sections of the proposed Stamford North development to be situated in Rutland had been submitted in a planning application. Although land had not been provided for a surgery it was set out that proposed community buildings may be able to host some medical services and it was confirmed talks were ongoing around any land provision in the South Kesteven side of the development. It was also confirmed that any Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds could be used for medical provision and spending priorities for CIL were due for Cabinet discussion in December with health likely to be a priority. But Members were reminded CIL alone could not guarantee medical provision which would rely on medical service providers coming forward with projects for CIL expenditure.

Councillor P Browne then put his question as set out in the agenda supplement to Councillor S Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care. In response Councillor Harvey confirmed that a strategic group of the Integrated Care Board was tasked with reviewing primary care within Rutland and was regularly updated with approved applications, with regard to Stamford North. Although health colleagues were disappointed in the lack of a masterplan for the proposed development it was confirmed the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and Lincolnshire ICBs were meeting with the local authorities and developers for the site monthly.

### **8. REFERRAL OF COMMITTEE DECISIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

There had been no referrals to Council.

### **9. CALL-IN OF DECISIONS FROM CABINET MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM 5 SEPTEMBER TO 7 NOVEMBER 2022 (INCLUSIVE)**

No call-ins had been received.

### **10. REPORT FROM THE CABINET**

Two reports had been received from the Cabinet for Council's consideration.

## 10a) FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Report No. 173/2022 was introduced by Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation, the report recommended Council's approval of a financial strategy as set out in the accompanying Report No. 158/2022 considered by Cabinet. In moving the recommendations Councillor Payne made an alteration to add the following additional recommendations:

- Council understands that the calculations in this strategy are based on the best information available this time, and for the purposes of the calculations (and only for that purpose) make reference to raising council tax by the maximum allowed (under the current rules) each year during the period of the strategy. However:
- Nothing in this strategy should be taken to predetermine the level of council tax (or rise in Council tax) in any year. The actual level of council tax will be calculated each year in the normal way according to need and will then be subject to approval by a meeting of Full Council.

The motion as altered was seconded. During debate several Members expressed concerns regarding the proposals for use of reserves in the short terms citing their wish for savings and referenced work that had previously taken place with Members to identify potential savings that could be supported by a majority of Members.

Councillor G Brown moved the following amendment as an additional recommendation:

- Cabinet will re-engage with members of the Council to bring forward costs savings at the earliest opportunity based on the work carried out by Members during the summer of 2022.

The amendment was seconded, and several Members spoke in support of the amendment citing the wish for further engagement. Members opposed to the amendment explained their view that the Council's financial circumstances had changed considerably since the previous engagement had taken place and the strategy as presented before Council presented the right approach to managing these circumstances.

Upon the amendment being put to the vote, with 10 votes in favour, 11 against and 1 abstention, the motion was defeated, and debate returned to the substantive motion.

Following further debate, the original motion was put to the vote, with 13 votes in favour, 5 against and 5 abstentions, the motion was carried.

## **RESOLVED**

- a) That Council **APPROVED** the recommendation from Cabinet to approve a financial strategy for closing the financial gap as detailed in Report No. 158/2022.

- b) Council understands that the calculations in this strategy are based on the best information available this time, and for the purposes of the calculations (and only for that purpose) make reference to raising council tax by the maximum allowed (under the current rules) each year during the period of the strategy. However:
- c) Nothing in this strategy should be taken to predetermine the level of council tax (or rise in Council tax) in any year. The actual level of council tax will be calculated each year in the normal way according to need and will then be subject to approval by a meeting of Full Council.

10b) EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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Councillor S Harvey left the meeting at 20:08

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The Chairman explained to Members that although efforts had been made to make a public report available on the next item, the clear advice from officers was that the following item in its seniority should be considered in a private session.

It was then moved by Councillor L Stephenson and seconded that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the reasons set out in the agenda. Upon being put to the vote, with 22 votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

**RESOLVED**

- a) That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as the following item of business was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

10c) WASTE AND STREETSCENE SERVICES (INCLUDING WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL) - CONTRACT OPTIONS

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Councillor S Harvey returned to the meeting at this point.

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Consideration was given to Report No. 174/2022 from the Cabinet, details of the debate are contained in an exempt annex to the minutes.

**RESOLVED**

- a) That the recommendations of Report No. 174/2022 be **APPROVED**.

**11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

No reports from Committees of the Council had been received.

**12. REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY**

No reports from Scrutiny had been received.

### **13. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Councillor G Waller updated Members on a recent meeting of the Carlton Hayes Mental Health Charity which considered grant applications from small mental health charity and explained there was a lack of applications from organisations working in Rutland and encouraged Members and officers to refer any groups they were aware of to Carlton Hayes.

Councillor P Ainsley updated Members on his work as Armed Forces Champion, including visits to 7 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps, and announced the scheduling of meetings for the Rutland Veterans Wellbeing Hub and the Forces Family Forum. Councillor Ainsley also referenced the placement of hand-made poppies at Oakham Castle made by veterans at HMP Stocken and reminded Members of the upcoming events to commemorate Remembrance.

Councillor K Bool updated Members on several community outreach projects that had been undertaken by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service and confirmed he would provide a more detailed report following several meetings of the Combined Fire Authority due later in the year.

Councillor E Baines updated Members on two recent meetings of the Rural Community Council for Leicestershire and Rutland. At the first meeting there had been a round-up of activity in the previous year including 23 people from 13 households helped across Rutland with offering support services and supporting voluntary action in rural communities. At the second meeting there had been an awards ceremony with approximately a third awarded to Rutland based organisations and individuals.

Councillor M Oxley informed Members that the annual Rutland Fairtrade Market would be taking place at Oakham castle on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

### **14. NOTICES OF MOTION**

No notices of motion had been received.

### **15. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**

Report No. 175/2022 was introduced by Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation, the report recommended the appointment of Gordon Grimes as the Council's Independent Person to advise and support the Council's standards processes following an open selection process.

Several Members spoke of their positive experience with Mr Grimes as the previously appointed Independent Person and spoke in support of his reappointment.

The recommendation to appoint Mr Grimes as an Independent Person was moved by Councillor K Payne and seconded. Upon being put to the vote, with 23 votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

## **RESOLVED**

That **APPROVED** the appointment of the recommended Independent Person.

### **16. POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS**

Report No. 176/2022 was introduced by Councillor L Stephenson. The report set out the required changes to the political balance calculations following the resignation of Councillor A Walters from the Independents and Green Group and set out revised allocations to Committees that had been shared and discussed with Group Leaders and non-aligned Members prior to the meeting.

The recommendations of Report No. 176/2022 were moved by Councillor L Stephenson and seconded. Upon being put to the vote, with 23 votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

## **RESOLVED**

That Council:

- a) **ADOPTED** the political balance calculation for the Council at Table A.
- b) **APPROVED** the allocation of seats to Political Groups, as determined by the political balance, as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- c) **NOTED** the revised group's nominations for Committees in Appendix A based on the seats allocated.
- d) **APPROVED** the appointment of non-aligned Members to Committees as outlined in Appendix A.

### **17. ANY URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business for consideration, but congratulations were expressed to Uppingham on having recently been awarded a Gold award in the small town category of East Midlands in Boom.

### **18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

5 December 2022.

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**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.16pm**

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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