

Rutland County Council



Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.
Telephone 01572 722577 Email democraticservices@rutland.gov.uk

Minutes of the 251st **MEETING of the COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Monday, 4th September, 2023 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor A Brown (Chairman)	Councillor S Harvey (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor N Begy	Councillor T Carr
Councillor P Browne	Councillor M Chatfield
Councillor G Clifton	Councillor K Corby
Councillor H Edwards	Councillor D Ellison
Councillor M Farina	Councillor K Heckels
Councillor O Hemsley	Councillor A Johnson
Councillor A West	Councillor S McRobb
Councillor K Payne	Councillor R Payne
Councillor R Powell	Councillor T Smith
Councillor L Stephenson	Councillor G Waller
Councillor D Wilby	Councillor C Wise
Councillor H Zollinger-Ball	

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mark Andrews	Chief Executive
Kirsty Nutton	Strategic Director for Resources
Penny Sharp	Strategic Director for Places
Angela Wakefield	Strategic Director for Law and Governance
Tom Delaney	Democratic Services Manager

ABSENT: Councillor S Lambert Councillor R Ross

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Lambert and R Ross.

2 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- High Sheriff of Rutland's Osprey Cruise
- University of Leicester Summer Graduation Dinner and Graduation Ceremony
- The Northamptonshire & Royal Regiment Association Talavera Day Service
- Army Benevolent Fund Summer Luncheon
- Rainbow's Hospice Tour

- Leicestershire Police Inter-Cultural Social Event
- Flag Flying for Merchant Navy Day
- Lord Mayor of Leicester's Civic Service

The Chairman also reminded Members of his upcoming Civic Event and asked Members to RSVP if they had not already done so.

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

Councillor G Waller, Leader of the Council, announced to Members that since the last meeting of Council, Councillor R Payne had stepped down from Cabinet for personal reasons, and welcomed Councillor T Smith, who had taken up the position of Portfolio Holder for Children's Services. The Leader also informed Members that following the meeting of Cabinet on 15 August 2023, she had written to the Secretary of State for Transport and Transport Focus setting out the concerns of Cabinet regarding the proposals for closure of Oakham Station's ticket office and the impact for those with physical disabilities and learning difficulties. The Leader confirmed a response had been received from the relevant Minister of State.

Councillor T Smith, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, highlighted to Members the recently published and circulated report on performance of the Council and partners on local services that support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families, following an inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in May 2023. Councillor Smith highlighted the positive achievements and that Rutland was one of only four areas in the country to receive the highest possible inspection outcome.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2023.

It was moved by the Chairman and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July be approved. Upon being put to the vote, with 21 votes in favour and 4 abstentions, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED

a) That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 10 July be **APPROVED**.

6 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

7 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

No questions had been received from Members of the Council.

8 REFERRAL OF COMMITTEE DECISIONS TO THE COUNCIL

No referrals of Committee decisions had been received.

9 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS FROM CABINET MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM 10 JULY 2023 TO 4 SEPTEMBER 2023 (INCLUSIVE)

No call-ins had been received.

10 REPORT FROM THE CABINET

Report No. 122/2023 was received from the Cabinet containing recommendations made to Council for approval. The Chairman confirmed that he would take the two sets of recommendations from Cabinet separately and first invited Councillor A Johnson to introduce those related to the Reserves Strategy and Policy.

Members spoke in support of the proposed Strategy and the Council's approach to reserves and thanked the Portfolio Holder and officers for preparing the paper.

A motion to approve the recommendations of Report No. 114/2023 was moved by Councillor A Johnson and seconded. Upon being put to the vote, with 25 votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That Council, on the recommendation of Cabinet:

- a) **APPROVED** the Reserves Strategy & Policy at Appendix A, which set the future direction of travel and planned use of reserves.

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The Chairman highlighted to Members that the majority of appendices the following report contained exempt information and should not be discussed without Council first excluding the press and public, but it was his hope that as much of the debate and voting took place in the public domain as practicable.

Councillor C Wise then introduced the recommendations in Report No. 115/2023 – Waste and Street Cleansing Vehicle Provision – Options for Provision of Vehicles. The report set out recommendations with regard to the best option for the Council to make provision of vehicles and undertook an evaluation of costs, benefits and risks of each option.

It was moved by Councillor R Powell and seconded that the press and public be excluded in order for Council to be able to debate the contents of the report and its appendices in full. Upon being put to the vote, with 25 votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Press and Public be **EXCLUDED** from the meeting as Appendices A, B, C & E of the report contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3

of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

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The meeting moved to an exempt session at this point.

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Several Councillors set out concerns with the recommended option on the basis of the cost to the Council of purchasing new vehicles all at once rather than a mixed approach of purchasing and leasing, the potential impact of future legislative changes on effectiveness of vehicles in the medium-term, and areas of responsibility between the Council and a provider for maintenance of the vehicles.

Detailed responses were given with regard to the queries raised and it was confirmed that the recommended option before Council was considered by officers and Cabinet to be the best available option to protect the Council's interests through the advantages gained from purchasing a bulk of vehicles initially rather than continuing revenue costs from leasing.

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The Chairman returned the meeting to a public session at this point.

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A motion to approve the recommendations of Cabinet was moved by Councillor C Wise and seconded. Upon being put to the vote, with 13 votes in favour, 1 against, and 11 abstentions the motion was carried.

RESOLVED

That Council:

- a) **AUTHORISED** the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders with responsibility for Waste and Finance, to agree to fund the purchase of vehicles to provide the fleet for the contract, to be initially financed by the Contractor so that orders may be placed without delay.
- b) **AUTHORISED** the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Waste, to agree the fleet replacement programme with the Contractor.
- c) **APPROVED** the required capital contribution to the Contractor for the purchase of vehicles up to £2.069m as per the financial implications in Appendix B.
- d) **AMENDED** the Treasury Management Performance Indicators as per Appendix B.
- e) **AUTHORISED** the Strategic Director of Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Finance to incorporate the financing of the capital contribution into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy making best use of reserves and borrowing options to mitigate risks as outlined in paragraph 8 and Appendix B.

11 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Report No. 123/2023 was received from the Constitution Commission. Councillor G Waller, Chair of the Constitution Commission, introduced the report which recommended Council to approve several changes to the Council's Constitution which had been discussed in detail by the cross-party Commission.

Upon being put to the vote, with 25 votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That Council **APPROVED** the following changes to the Constitution:

- a) The Officer/Member Protocol at Appendix A.

The Amendments to the Constitution as set out in Paragraph 3 of the Report.

12 REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY

No reports had been received from Scrutiny.

13 JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Two written reports had been received from Members circulated via the agenda supplement:

- A report from Councillor R Ross regarding a meeting he had attended of the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
- A report from Councillor K Payne regarding a meeting of the Hanson Cement Ketton Liaison Committee attended by herself and Councillor M Farina.

RESOLVED

- a) That the reports from Councillors R Ross and K Payne be **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.

14 NOTICES OF MOTION

No notices of motion had been received.

15 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business for consideration.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted this would now be the Special Meeting of Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman which was due to convene shortly.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.29 pm.

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