



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.

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Minutes of the 258th (**SPECIAL**) **MEETING** of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Thursday, 18th April, 2024 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor A Brown (Chairman)	Councillor S Harvey (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor N Begy	Councillor P Browne
Councillor T Carr	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 S Lambert	Councillor S McRobb
Councillor K Payne	Councillor R Payne
Councillor R Powell	Councillor T Smith
Councillor L Stephenson	Councillor G Waller
Councillor A West	Councillor D Wilby
Councillor C Wise	Councillor H Zollinger-Ball

APOLOGIES: Councillor R Ross

OFFICERS PRESENT:	Mark Andrews	Chief Executive
	Penny Sharp	Strategic Director for Places
	Kim Sorsky	Strategic Director for Adults and Health
	Kirsty Nutton	Strategic Director for Resources
	Angela Wakefield	Strategic Director for Law and Governance
	Mathew Waik	Communications Service Manager
	Tom Delaney	Democratic Services Manager
	Jane Narey	Scrutiny Officer
	David Ebbage	Democratic Services Officer
	Kate Haworth	Civic Officer

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Ross.

2 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman confirmed he would make a full set of announcements at the next scheduled meeting of Council.

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

There were no announcements from the Leader, Members of the Cabinet, or the Head of Paid Service.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T Carr declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 – Report from the Cabinet: Leisure Financing– as a member of the sports club. Councillor Carr confirmed she had been advised this was not required to be declared and she was able to participate in the debate but wished to declare the matter in the interests of transparency.

5 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no petitions, deputations or questions from members of the public. However, it was set out the Chief Executive had rejected four questions as to answer them would have required the disclosure of exempt information.

6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

There were no questions from Members of the Council.

7 REPORT FROM THE CABINET

Report No. 56/2024 was received from the Cabinet. Councillor G Waller, Leader of the Council set out that Cabinet had acted upon the direction given to it by Council and had met on 16 April for the purpose of approving a recommendation to Council on the proposed options for funding leisure in Rutland. The full set of recommendations of Report No. 56/2024 were moved by Councillor Waller and seconded.

Members spoke against the motion, setting out their view that the proposed redirection of funding allocated for Flood Management and the Climate Change Officer to Leisure Services for management of Catmose Leisure Centre could not be justified given the impact these would have on the affected service areas. Portfolio Holders also set out their rationale for why other areas of Council business had not been able to be considered.

Other Members also spoke setting out their disappointment with the choice presented to them and that other solutions had not been able to be found to provide further funding.

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Councillor O Hemsley left the meeting at 20:10 and did not return.

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The Chairman set out he would take a vote on each recommendation in turn as set out in the agenda supplement and that as the first recommendation had the effect of changing the Council's agreed budget, a recorded vote would be required.

Upon the first recommendation being put to the vote there voted in favour:

Councillors N Begy, A Brown, T, Carr, M Chatfield, H Edwards, and S Harvey.

There voted against:

Councillors P Browne, K Corby, D Ellison, M Farina, A Johnson, S Lambert, S McRobb, K Payne, R Payne, R Powell, T Smith, G Waller, A West, D Wilby, C Wise, and H Zollinger-Ball

There abstained:

Councillors G Clifton, K Heckels and L Stepehsnon.

Therefore, with 6 votes in favour, 16 against and 3 abstentions the motion was not carried.

As per the sequence set out in the report supplement, the Chairman proceeded to the alternative second recommendation. With 13 votes in favour, 2 against and 10 abstentions the motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

- a) That Council **DELEGATED** authority to the Strategic Director for Places in consultation with the Strategic Director for Resources, the Strategic Director for Law & Governance and the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Finance, to not award the leisure contract and conclude arrangements regarding any financial liabilities to the Council arising from the decision. Where the total financial liabilities to the Council arising from the decision taken exceed £250,000, the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Resources, the Strategic Director for Law & Governance and the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Finance, will take a report to Cabinet seeking approval to conclude arrangements.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was noted to be Annual Council on Monday, 20 May.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

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