

- Present:** Councillor Sue Burke (*in the Chair*),  
Councillor Biff Bean, Councillor Bill Bilton, Councillor Alan Briggs, Councillor Kathleen Brothwell, Councillor Chris Burke, Councillor Bob Bushell, Councillor Liz Bushell, Councillor Thomas Dyer, Councillor Geoff Ellis, Councillor Gary Hewson, Councillor Ronald Hills, Councillor Jackie Kirk, Councillor Rosanne Kirk, Councillor Jane Loffhagen, Councillor Rebecca Longbottom, Councillor Helena Mair, Councillor Councillor Bill Mara, Councillor Adrianna McNulty, Councillor Laura McWilliams, Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Councillor Neil Murray, Councillor Donald Nannestad, Councillor Lucinda Preston, Councillor Christopher Reid, Councillor Hilton Spratt, Councillor Edmund Strengiel, Councillor Ralph Toofany, Councillor Naomi Tweddle, Councillor Pat Vaughan and Councillor Loraine Woolley
- Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Yvonne Bodger and Councillor Andy Kerry

**34. Announcements**

The Mayor informed Council that Councillor Andy Kerry had recently been unwell and was making a steady recovery at home. Members wished Councillor Kerry well in his convalescence.

**35. Confirmation of Minutes - 21 January 2020**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2020 be confirmed.

**36. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Ralph Toofany declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest with regard to the agenda item titled 'Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2025'. Councillor Toofany was an allotment tenant. A dispensation by the Monitoring Officer had been granted to enable any member who was an allotment tenant to participate in proceedings relating to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the setting of the budget.

Councillor Pat Vaughan declared a Personal Interest with regard to the agenda item titled 'Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2025'. Councillor Vaughan's granddaughter worked in the Council's finance department.

**37. Receive Any Questions under Council Procedure Rule 11 from Members of the Public and Provide Answers thereon**

No questions from the public had been received.

**38. Receive Any Questions under Council Procedure Rule 12 from Members and Provide Answers thereon**

**Question by Councillor Hilton Spratt to the Leader of the Council**

Councillor Spratt asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

“What arrangements has the Council made to celebrate VE Day?”

Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council, reported that the Council was organising a Tri-Service Parade with the Navy, Army and Air Force similar to that held in 2018 for Armistice Day and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War. The Parade was scheduled to commence at St. Martin’s Square, led by a marching band, and stop at the War Memorial for a salute and wreath-laying by civic dignitaries. There would be a short service at the War Memorial, following which the three Services would march to City Square where a bugler would sound the Last Post/Reveille at 2.55pm to coincide with the rest of the country. During the evening, a 1940’s style picnic with bands and military equipment on display would be held at Boutham Park.

As a supplementary, Councillor Spratt said that it was very fitting to celebrate the end of that war and the defeat it entailed regarding genocide and the holocaust, particularly in the context of the motion this Council had agreed at its previous meeting in respect of anti-semitism.

**Question by Councillor Thomas Dyer to the Portfolio Holder for Quality Housing**

Councillor Dyer asked the Portfolio Holder for Quality Housing the following question:

“What procedure does the Council have in place if an existing Council tenant wishes to have an electric vehicle charging point fitted? Do we signpost and support tenants with this? Do we have the appropriate local contractors in place to complete this work if requested?”

Councillor Donald Nannestad, Portfolio Holder for Quality Housing, reported that the Council had not appointed a specific contractor for this purpose. He made the point, however, that when people bought electric cars they would often be signposted to local firms who could undertake that work. New properties often did have electric charging points included and this was the case with the Council’s new-build properties. For those older properties that did not have charging points for electric vehicles, the Council would signpost people to a Government scheme which currently offered up to a 75% grant for the works to be undertaken. The Council would be looking at ways to encourage tenants to take up electric charging points in the future, should they be interested in switching to electric vehicles.

Councillor Dyer asked the following question as a supplementary:

“Is there a timeframe for when a Council policy or public-facing document will be made available for residents on this issue?”

Councillor Nannestad responded by saying that this would be looked into, but reminded Council that the Housing Strategy and thirty-year Business Plan were both in the process of being developed. The climate change agenda, including provision for the use of electric vehicles, needed to be reflected as part of the development of both documents.

**39. Receive Reports under Council Procedure Rule 2 (vi) from Members**

**(a) Report by Councillor Bob Bushell - Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place**

Councillor Bob Bushell, Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place, presented a report on the work of his portfolio and provided updates on the following areas:

- allotments;
- equipped play areas;
- parks;
- Boutham Park;
- Hartsholme Country Park and Camp Site;
- the Commons;
- volunteering;
- arboriculture;
- bereavement services and the crematorium;
- licensing;
- food health and safety;
- waste and recycling;
- sport, recreation and leisure services.

Councillor Pat Vaughan, promoted woodland burials as a sustainable alternative to cremation and use of cemeteries but acknowledged that this did not take place in Lincoln. He questioned how many people had recently been buried at the cemetery on Long Leas Road.

Councillor Bushell confirmed that woodland burials were not undertaken in the city, however, there were other agencies in Lincolnshire that did provide such a ceremony. The City Council was increasingly using the cemetery at Long Leas road, with 95 burials having occurred there in recent months. There were sustainable options available in Lincoln, with an increased use of wicker coffins as opposed to traditional wood. Additionally, enviro-board coffins could be used at the crematorium which released lower emissions when burnt.

Councillor Christopher Reid queried the section of the report in relation to bus shelters where it had been claimed that funding was withdrawn by necessity of government imposed cuts. He argued that the withdrawal of funding for bus shelters had not been imposed by the government and had in fact been a decision of the administration.

Councillor Bushell, in response, highlighted that significant cuts in local government funding as part of the government's austerity measures had led to the Council having to make difficult decisions regarding its prioritisation of resources.

Councillor Toofany highlighted the problem of fly-tipping, which he felt had significantly increased in some areas. He asked what more could be done to identify those responsible and take necessary action.

Councillor Bushell acknowledged that fly-tipping was a persistent problem but that the Council did try to prevent this where possible and prosecute accordingly where it could.

Councillor Thomas Dyer referred to residents on Hykeham Road last week not having their green bins emptied, which was as a result of sickness absence and a national shortage of HGV refuse collection drivers. He therefore asked what plans were in place to ensure that this situation was managed locally.

Councillor Bushell reported that residents on Hykeham Road had their green bins collected the next day, with messages having been sent out via social media to keep residents as updated as possible. The retention of HGV refuse collection drivers was a national problem, with one of the key issues being that drivers attained their HGV licence but then often moved on to more lucrative jobs such as long-distance lorry driving, for example. Officers were working on ways in which this could be addressed.

Councillor Ronald Hills was concerned that Hartsholme Country Park was rapidly becoming dilapidated, together with bungalows and houses located within its boundary.

Councillor Bushell highlighted that the Council had a good record with the Arboretum and Boutham Park in respect of the restoration and maintenance of parks and was very positive about the future of Hartsholme Country Park. He acknowledged that this would require a bid via the National Heritage Lottery Fund in the same way that had been the case with Boutham Park and was sure that this would be achieved in due course.

The report was noted.

**(b) Report by Councillor Donald Nannestad - Portfolio Holder for Quality Housing**

Councillor Donald Nannestad, Portfolio Holder for Quality Housing, presented a report on the work of his portfolio and provided updates on the following areas:

- the centenary of Council housing in Lincoln and a series of events involving tenants to mark the anniversary;
- homelessness;
- tenancy management;
- new build and allocations;
- the right to buy scheme;
- vehicle fleet and a potential move towards use of electric vehicles.

Councillor Vaughan reported that, in respect of tenancy management, the number of cases considered by the Housing Appeals Panel had dropped in the last year.

Councillor Nannestad reported that lots of work had been undertaken with tenants of the sustainability of their tenancies and that feedback from the Housing Appeals Panel had assisted in this.

The report was noted.

**(c) Report by Councillor Jane Loffhagen - Chair of the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Jane Loffhagen, Chair of the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee, presented a report on the work of the Committee, particularly in respect of the Scrutiny Review into Social Isolation. It was noted that a further Scrutiny Review into Community Integration had now commenced.

The report was noted.

**(d) Report by Councillor Lucinda Preston - Sustainability Advocate**

Councillor Lucinda Preston, Sustainability Advocate, presented a report on her advocacy role, which included updates on the following areas:

- sustainability and the City of Lincoln Council;
- tackling climate change;
- the Lincoln Climate Commission;
- the scope of Lincoln's roadmap to zero carbon;
- sustainability in respect of housing;
- sustainability in respect of reducing single use plastic;
- sustainability in respect of waste and recycling;
- sustainability in respect of improving the environment;
- sustainability in respect of transport;
- sustainability in respect of food.

Councillor Chris Burke highlighted the excellent information available on the City Council's website regarding sustainability and felt that it was important for this work to continue.

Councillor Ronald Hills encouraged all members of Council to take advantage of the technology available to them and adopt paperless working in respect of the Council's meetings.

Councillor Christopher Reid asked whether the Western Growth Corridor development included carbon neutral initiatives and whether the scheme itself was considered as carbon neutral. He questioned how this development would help the Council contribute to its net reduction in carbon emissions. Councillor Reid was also of the view that more work needed to be done on the sustainability section of the Council's website by way of offering suggestions and help to residents rather than solely providing information.

Councillor Preston reported that a statement of carbon neutrality would form part of the planning application associated with the Western Growth Corridor which, as a development, would be designed to be as carbon neutral as possible.

In respect of the website, Councillor Preston acknowledged that this was a work in progress and that other authorities, such as Cambridge City Council, had adopted online toolkits which residents could use. It was the aim to have something similar on the Council's website in due course as the content grew and developed.

The report was noted.

**40. To Consider the Following Recommendations of the Executive and Committees of the Council**

**(a) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2025**

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that Council Procedure Rule 17.4 regarding the content and length of speeches be suspended to allow the Leader of the Council and a representative of the Opposition unlimited time to speak on this item.

Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council, proposed the recommendations contained within the report, subject to amendments to specific fees and charges as set out on the supplement which had been published and circulated.

Councillor Donald Nannestad, Deputy Leader of the Council, seconded the proposal.

Councillor Thomas Dyer, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, proposed a number of amendments by way of an alternative budget which comprised:

- investment in further managed workspaces. These were particularly needed in the South of the City where there was already a lot of investment in North Hykeham by North Kesteven District Council;
- an increase in sheltered bus stops throughout the city ensuring, where practicably possible, a sheltered bus stop was available comprising an initial investment of £50,000 - £75,000;
- investment to create more electric vehicle charging stations across the City comprising an initial investment of £50,000;
- all Council Housing Revenue Account vehicles which were procured after 2025 to be electric;
- a free garden waste bin for residents under a new, reformed service - £300,000;
- a 10% increase in public waste bins across the city - £20,000;
- payment of initial rent guarantees in the form of a loan to allow people to rent private housing – cost neutral;
- maintenance cost of increasing sheltered bus stops throughout the city - £20,000;
- the creation of ‘pop-in’ parking, to encourage more people to shop locally and use the city centre – cost neutral;
- a full review into the staff management structure to save £250,000 per annum;
- further staffing investment in online services, to make the digital face of the authority the easiest and most efficient way to do business with the Council – cost neutral;
- more shared services with neighbouring Councils;
- a full review into the Sincil Bank neighbourhood working scheme;
- developing unused Council owned buildings and/or land where possible;
- reforming the amount Councillors received who had additional responsibility;
- fundamentally review all outsourced contracts when they were due for renewal;
- a full review of external grants the Council issued. The current spend was over £400,000 per annum;

- a green audit to investigate the usage of utilities (gas, electricity and water). The current bill stood at over £850,000;
- a full review of what the authority posted and, where statutorily possible, use of email rather than hard copies.

Councillor Hilton Spratt, Leader of the Opposition, seconded the amendment.

In voting on the amendment, the amendment was lost.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7 a recorded vote was taken, the result of which was as follows:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstention</b>
Councillor Briggs	Councillor Bean	
Councillor Dyer	Councillor Bilton	
Councillor Hills	Councillor Brothwell	
Councillor Mara	Councillor C Burke	
Councillor Reid	Councillor S Burke	
Councillor Spratt	Councillor B Bushell	
Councillor Strengiel	Councillor L Bushell	
	Councillor Ellis	
	Councillor Hewson	
	Councillor J Kirk	
	Councillor R Kirk	
	Councillor Loffhagen	
	Councillor Longbottom	
	Councillor Mair	
	Councillor McNulty	
	Councillor McWilliams	
	Councillor Metcalfe	
	Councillor Murray	
	Councillor Nannestad	
	Councillor Preston	
	Councillor Toofany	
	Councillor Tweddle	
	Councillor Vaughan	
	Councillor Woolley	

In voting on the original motion it was RESOLVED that the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2025 and Capital Strategy 2020-2025, including the following specific elements, be approved:

- a proposed Council Tax increase of 1.9% for 2020/21;
- a housing rent increase of 2.7% for 2020/21, as agreed at Council on 21 January 2020;
- the inclusion of the Council as a member of the Lincolnshire Business Rates Pool in 2020/21;
- the General Fund revenue forecast 2020/21-2024/25 as shown in Appendix 1 of the report and the main basis on which the budget has been calculated, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report;
- the General Investment Programme 2020/21-2024/25 as shown in Appendix 2 of the report and the main basis on which the programme has been calculated, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report;

- the draft Housing Revenue Account forecast 2020/21-2024/25 as shown in Appendix 3 of the report and the main basis on which the programme has been calculated, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report;
- the draft Housing Investment Programme 2020/21-2024/25 as shown in Appendix 4 of the report and the main basis on which the programme has been calculated, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7 a recorded vote was taken, the result of which was as follows:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstention</b>
Councillor Bean	Councillor Briggs	
Councillor Bilton	Councillor Dyer	
Councillor Brothwell	Councillor Hills	
Councillor C Burke	Councillor Mara	
Councillor S Burke	Councillor Reid	
Councillor B Bushell	Councillor Spratt	
Councillor L Bushell	Councillor Strengiel	
Councillor Ellis		
Councillor Hewson		
Councillor J Kirk		
Councillor R Kirk		
Councillor Loffhagen		
Councillor Longbottom		
Councillor Mair		
Councillor McNulty		
Councillor McWilliams		
Councillor Metcalfe		
Councillor Murray		
Councillor Nannestad		
Councillor Preston		
Councillor Toofany		
Councillor Twedde		
Councillor Vaughan		
Councillor Woolley		

**(b) Council Tax 2020/21**

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that Council:

- (1) Accepts the 6 January 2020 Executive recommendation that the Council Tax Base for 2020/21, as calculated in accordance with The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, be 24,689.50.
- (2) Calculates the following amounts for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
  - a) £105,217,640 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.



- b) £98,302,610 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- c) £6,915,030 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(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 31A (4) of the Act).
- d) £280.08 being the amount at 2(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- e) £0 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
- f) £280.08 being the amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(e) above, all divided by the amount at 1 above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year

g) **City of Lincoln Council**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
£186.72	£217.84	£248.96	£280.08
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
£342.32	£404.56	£466.80	£560.16

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 2(f) above by the number which, in proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular band divided by the number which in proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different bands.

- (3) Note that for the year 2020/21 Lincolnshire County Council have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with the dwelling bandings shown below:

**Lincolnshire County Council**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
£891.72	£1,040.34	£1,188.96	£1,337.58
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
£1,634.82	£1,932.06	£2,229.30	£2,675.16

- (4) Note that for the year 2020/21 the Police and Crime Commissioner has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with the dwelling bandings shown below:

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
£167.58	£195.51	£223.44	£251.37
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
£307.23	£363.09	£418.95	£502.74

- (5) Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(g), 3 and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby set the following as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2020/21 in accordance with the dwelling bandings shown below:

**Total Council Tax Charge 2020/21**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
£1,246.02	£1,453.69	£1,661.36	£1,869.03
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
£2,284.37	£2,699.71	£3,115.05	£3,738.06

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7 a recorded vote was taken, the result of which was as follows:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstention</b>
Councillor Bean		
Councillor Bilton		
Councillor Briggs		
Councillor Brothwell		
Councillor B C Burke		
Councillor S Burke		
Councillor B Bushell		
Councillor L Bushell		
Councillor Dyer		
Councillor Ellis		
Councillor Hewson		
Councillor Hills		
Councillor J Kirk		
Councillor R Kirk		
Councillor Loffhagen		
Councillor Longbottom		
Councillor Mair		
Councillor Mara		
Councillor McNulty		
Councillor McWilliams		
Councillor Metcalfe		
Councillor Murray		
Councillor Nannestad		
Councillor Preston		
Councillor Reid		
Councillor Spratt		
Councillor Strengiel		
Councillor Toofany		
Councillor Twedde		
Councillor Vaughan		
Councillor Woolley		

**(c) Prudential Indicators 2019/20 - 2022/23 and Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21**

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

- (1) That the prudential indicators, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (2) That the revised Minimum Revenue Position Policy, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.
- (3) That the Treasury Management Strategy, including the treasury management prudential indicators and the Investment Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.
- (4) That the revised Treasury Management Practices and Schedules, as set out in Appendix 4 of the report, be approved.

**(d) Vision 2020 Strategic Plan**

The Vision 2020 Strategic Plan was noted.

**(e) Vision 2025 Strategic Plan**

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Vision 2025 Strategic Plan be approved.

**(f) Pay Policy Statement 2020/21**

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement 2020/21 be approved.

**41. Annual Timetable of Meetings 2020/21**

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the annual timetable of Council meetings for 2020/21 be approved.