

# Minutes

<b>Meeting name</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Wednesday, 26 February 2020</b>
<b>Start time</b>	<b>6.30 pm</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Parkside, Station Approach, Burton Street, Melton Mowbray LE13 1GH</b>

## Present:

**Chair**                      Councillor              M. Graham MBE  
(Chair)

**Councillors**

P. Faulkner (Vice-Chair)	T. Bains
R. Bindloss	R. Browne
S. Carter	P. Chandler
R. Child	P. Cumbers
R. de Burle	J. Douglas
C. Evans	C. Fisher
A. Freer-Jones	A. Hewson
L. Higgins	E. Holmes
J. Illingworth	S. Lumley
J. Orson	A. Pearson
P. Posnett MBE	D. Pritchett
R. Smedley	M. Steadman
J. Wilkinson	P. Wood

**Officers**

Chief Executive  
Deputy Chief Executive & Director for People & Communities  
Director for Corporate Services  
Director for Growth and Regeneration  
Corporate Services Manager  
Legal & Governance Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer)  
Democratic Services Manager  
Democratic Services Officer (CR)

The Reverend Kevin Ashby offered prayers.

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Minute</b>
CO58	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> An apology for absence was received from Councillor Glancy.</p>
CO59	<p><b>MINUTES</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.</p>
CO60	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> Councillors Orson, Pearson and Posnett each declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Leicestershire County Council due to their roles as County Councillors.</p> <p>Councillor Orson also declared a personal interest in relation to Item 8 as Chairman of LLR Police and Crime Panel where the precept for the Police and Crime Commissioner was approved.</p> <p>Councillor Carter declared a pecuniary interest in relation to Item 7, Recommendation 2.3 as a council tenant. He would leave the meeting during debate and decision on this item.</p> <p>Councillor Illingworth declared an interest pursuant to S.106 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992. He would leave the meeting during debate and decision on this item.</p>
CO61	<p><b>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> The Mayor had been pleased to present a cheque for £27,668 to his Charity – Rainbows Children's Hospice. This money had been raised by the "Jumping Grahams" a charity parachute jump that Councillor Graham and his family had organised and partaken in.</p> <p>The Mayor reminded Members of the Charity Race Night which he had organised with the assistance of Councillor Child. This event would take place on 19<sup>th</sup> March and Councillor Graham reminded members to indicate if they were attending as soon as possible so that arrangements could be finalised.</p>
CO62	<p><b>LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> The Leader provided the following announcement:</p> <p><i>The last Council meeting took place just before Christmas, shortly after the General Election, and early in the New Year I had the pleasure of welcoming our new MP Alicia Kearns to Parkside for a very productive first meeting. We have already identified a number of significant areas where we will be working together and have already taken significant steps forward in one of our key commitments. Our aspiration to deliver a second surgery for Melton has been strongly supported by our new MP, so much so that she has already gained the support of the Prime</i></p>

*Minister. We are due to be meeting with the CCG again shortly and will continue to make the case for choice and improved health services for our residents. We also look forward to welcoming the Prime Minister to Melton following his agreement to take up our MPs invitation.*

*On tonight's agenda we present our Corporate Strategy; an ambitious plan to help reshape our community and ensure our council is sustainable and fit for the coming decade. Our strategy proposes unprecedented investment in council housing services a greater focus on customer services and a commitment for this council to become carbon neutral by 2030. It puts resources into further increasing our ability to tackle anti-social behaviour, whilst also strengthening our corporate assets team so we can build more homes, support more jobs and help regenerate our town centre; as well as secure the income we need to ensure our financial sustainability. It is a bold plan, but any aspirations must be supported with the right resources and tonight we also present our Council Tax and budget proposals, which for the first time in 5 years will deliver a surplus against ongoing expenditure. At a time which the finances continue to be a challenge and the future funding settlement remain unclear, this is a fantastic achievement, particularly when you consider all we are seeking to do through our strategy. I was grateful for the extensive and robust discussions we had at Scrutiny in relation to our proposals and thank the Chair of Scrutiny for her diligence in leading such an effective process.*

*Our focus on council homes remains our top priority. Tonight we seek approval for rent setting, a new set of service charges and our Interim HRA Business Plan; the financial basis of our Housing Improvement Plan. We are committed to undertaking a full stock condition survey over the next two years and this will form the basis of a new 30 year business plan which will be produced in 2022. Our rent proposals seek to ensure the sustainability of our investment proposals and HRA; as do our service charge proposals which represent a first step towards a more comprehensive policy which we will bring back later in the year. We continue to actively monitor progress on bridging the gaps in compliance we identified last year and only today I chaired the latest Housing Improvement Board meeting where we received positive progress updates. Last week we had a further contact from the Regulator following our referral to them in October and once we've provided them with some further information next week I would expect we will receive their assessment of our position by mid March. As we know we have had some significant historical challenges and while there is still a way to go we have taken significant strides forward since last Autumn. On that note I am delighted to welcome Andrew Cotton, our new Director for Housing and Communities who is here tonight and will be leading the improvement journey. Andrew joins us formally in early April. One key challenge in effectively managing our stock has been reliable data and tonight another report before is the proposed investment in a new IT Housing system which will more effectively enable this to happen. Approval of this tonight will represent another important step as we look not only to improve, but to do so at pace.*

*In terms of the wider agenda, you will be aware of our track record of working collaboratively with our neighbouring district and borough councils. As we await the*

*government's Devolution White Paper we want to ensure we are best positioned to take advantage of any new funding settlement or arrangements. You will have seen from the recent letter signed by all District Leaders that we continue to encourage the County Council to work with us and to abandon their unsupported plans for a single unitary for Leicestershire. To further strengthen our district-led partnership we have agreed to form two strategic alliances; with Melton forming part of the Northern Leicestershire Strategic Alliance along with Charnwood and North West Leicestershire Councils. This strategic partnership will build on existing collaboration and will help co-ordinate important work on issues like reducing our carbon footprint, improving services and strengthening our town centres. The groupings are not hard lines on a map or formal arrangements but provide a further opportunity for councils to come together and work on shared services and shared agendas.*

*One area where we may wish to collaborate further is in encouraging more tourism to the area. I recently had the pleasure of joining the MP and a delegation from the Council on a visit to Belvoir Castle. It was great to hear their aspirations to work with us and increase links to the Rural Capital of Food and play their part in our place partnership work. To further support this work we are currently making preparations to hold a tourism forum where we look forward to launching the new Discover Melton website and I look forward to sharing more information about this with all members in due course.*

**CO63 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
 No questions had been received from members of the public.

**CO64 CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**

**1) A NEW CORPORATE STRATEGY 2020-2024**

The Leader moved the recommendations in the report and provided the following introduction:

Following the District Council elections in May 2019, the council had taken the opportunity to consider what the focus should be over the next 4 years. Working with all members, officers and the community the Cabinet were proud to have developed an ambitious new strategy which makes commitments to significantly invest in our housing services, environmental enforcement, improving customer services and delivering the homes, jobs and infrastructure the Borough requires. It also directly responded to the issues heard on doorsteps, during the election campaign, as well as those highlighted in the extensive 2019 residents' survey.

At a time of significant financial pressures, there was a need to prioritise and redirect resources to different areas. With this in mind, the new strategy sought to find a balance between affordability and ambition, a balance between investing in core services and in new initiatives.

The strategy would be underpinned by the vision to “become a first-class council; on the side of our communities and providing great service, where the customer comes first. We want to help people reach their potential, support the most vulnerable, and protect our rural environment. We want to provide more and better homes, create better jobs and regenerate the town. We want to ensure Melton prospers, benefiting those who live here and attracting others to visit and invest.”

As well as drawing upon the residents’ survey, the Council had consulted on the proposals during December 2019 and received positive feedback on our new priorities and key investment decisions.

These aspirations had been built into the budget and medium term financial strategy also before members on the agenda.

The Leader was very proud of the strategy and of what it would seek to achieve for residents and was delighted to recommend it to council for adoption.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Higgins.

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Councillor Illingworth left the meeting.

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During debate of the recommendations points raised included:

- i. Councillor Browne thanked those that had worked to develop the Corporate Plan and noted its ambition to deliver to residents and communities with Council Housing being a key priority. Delivery of growth and regeneration was welcomed. The vision to increase employment opportunities and improve skills would be a challenge but was a positive aspiration. Focusing on early years and focused intervention was key to ensuring that young people had the opportunity to learn and develop. Schemes such as Me and My Learning would be key to this. Working towards an environment where intervention services would help to tackle social issues and promote inclusivity and contribute to this key priority.
- ii. Councillor Child welcomed the proposals to invest in commercial property to achieve long term growth and regeneration. Such investments would require case by case analysis.

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Councillor Holmes left the meeting.

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- iii. Councillor Posnett commended some of the schemes that had contributed to increasing opportunities and support for young people such as Me and My Learning; Sure Start Centres; and the Learning Hub. There were many good examples of positive outcomes

- attributable to these valuable services;
- iv. Councillor Evans highlighted that the Cabinet were in a difficult situation, the Council had been struggling for some years and he hoped that this Strategy would provide some solutions. He pointed out that this was still not wholly inclusive as it referred to “Melton”, where it should refer to the “Borough” as otherwise those living in rural areas outside of the town would feel excluded.
  - v. Councillor Higgins highlighted that he represented both the rural areas and the town and that the Strategy was inclusive and aimed at improving services and living conditions in the whole Borough. There were many initiatives to support rural areas, such as the Rural Pub Support Package which was being looked at. There were also events and celebrations which were held in the Town, but were very much directed to attracting people from both the town and villages.

### **RESOLVED**

To **APPROVE** the new Corporate Strategy 2020-2024.

The above resolution was voted as follows:

#### **FOR THE MOTION (20)**

Bains, Bindloss, Browne, Chandler, Child, Cumbers, de Burle, Douglas, Faulkner, Fisher, Freer-Jones, Graham, Higgins, Lumley, Orson, Pearson, Posnett, Smedley, Steadman, Wilkinson.

#### **AGAINST THE MOTION (0)**

#### **ABSTAINING FROM THE MOTION (5)**

Carter, Evans, Hewson, Pritchett, Wood.

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Councillor Holmes returned to the meeting.

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## **2) INTERIM HRA BUSINESS PLAN JANUARY 2020**

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities introduced and moved the recommendations in the report. The Portfolio Holder provided a short introduction confirming that this was an interim plan with a full 30 year plan expected to be developed by Autumn 2022. The business plan was critical in ensuring that maintenance of high quality housing assets, focus on customer service and improving homes and neighbourhoods could be delivered in a financially sustainable way. The Housing Improvement Plan had already brought about significant changes, but there was still much to do. The interim business plan retained focus on project areas and prioritised compliance; stock condition; housing delivery; and customer care.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Orson.

## RESOLVED

- a) To **APPROVE** the Interim HRA Business Plan as set out in Section 6 of the report.
- b) To **APPROVE** the proposed Capital programme as proposed in Appendix A of the report.

The above resolutions were voted as follows:

FOR THE MOTION (26)

Bains, Bindloss, Browne, Carter, Chandler, Child, Cumbers, de Burle, Evans, Douglas, Faulkner, Fisher, Freer-Jones, Graham, Hewson, Higgins, Holmes, Lumley, Orson, Pearson, Posnett, Pritchett, Smedley, Steadman, Wilkinson, Wood.

AGAINST THE MOTION (0)

ABSTAINING FROM THE MOTION (0)

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Councillor Carter left the meeting.

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### 3) REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2020-21 - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities introduced and moved the recommendations in the report. The Portfolio Holder provided a brief summary of the recommendations and advised that provision and availability of high quality social housing also had a positive impact on the private rental and housing market.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Orson.

During debate of the recommendations points raised included:

- i. Councillor Evans confirmed that he wholly supported the revitalisation of the housing stock and had faith in the Portfolio Holder and the newly appointed Director for Housing and Communities to deliver the required improvements as a matter of urgency.

## RESOLVED

- a) To **APPROVE** the estimates for 2020-21 subject to receipt of the rent standard, with delegated authority being given to the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Communities in consultation with the Director for Corporate Services to amend the estimated working balance based on any changes to this standard;

- b) To **APPROVE** an average rent increase of 2.69% for all Council dwellings for 2020-21 with effect from 1 April 2020 and that when a property is re-let the rent continues to be brought into line with the Government's formula rent;
- c) To **APPROVE** a delegation to the Director for Housing & Communities in consultation with the Director for Corporate Services to access the Regeneration & Development Reserve balance for schemes and projects supporting the HAMP and in line with the HRA Business Plan.

The above resolutions were voted as follows:

FOR THE MOTION (25)

Bains, Bindloss, Browne, Chandler, Child, Cumbers, de Burle, Evans, Douglas, Faulkner, Fisher, Freer-Jones, Graham, Hewson, Higgins, Holmes, Lumley, Orson, Pearson, Posnett, Pritchett, Smedley, Steadman, Wilkinson, Wood.

AGAINST THE MOTION (0)

ABSTAINING FROM THE MOTION (0)

#### **4) CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020/21**

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Resources moved the recommendations in the report and provided the following introduction:

*I'm pleased to present the proposed Capital Programme for 2020/21 along with the updated Capital Strategy which has been recommended for approval by Cabinet.*

*The report outlines the proposed capital schemes for the forthcoming year along with how the schemes will be funded. This covers the capital programmes for the general Fund only with the Housing Revenue Account being presented as part of the interim HRA business plan.*

*The capital programme is integral to the council's budget framework and sits alongside the Treasury Management and Capital Strategies.*

*In particular the requirement for an updated Capital Strategy has been a key focus for the council over recent months in order to provide an overarching document which sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of capital investment. The capital strategy seeks to align with the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan. The Strategy aims to drive the authority's capital investment ambition whilst ensuring capital expenditure and its associated financing are sustainable in the long term.*

*However, members may have noticed that the capital programme is*



*relatively light which is a reflection of the need for condition surveys to be undertaken on Councils assets to help inform the future capital requirements. Officers will prioritising this work during 2020 with any associated capital requirement arising from this work being presented to members in due course as the capital programmes and strategies are further developed.*

*Future resources available to support further capital aspirations will be influenced by an Asset Disposal Policy. The developing Investment Strategy will consider strategic regeneration initiatives and the potential for commercial investment supported by borrowing.*

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Orson.

### **RESOLVED**

- a) To **APPROVE** funding for capital schemes in respect of General Expenses for 2020/21 and the sources that funding will be taken from, be as set out in Appendix A.
- b) To **APPROVE** the Capital Strategy at Appendix C.

The above resolutions were voted as follows:

#### FOR THE MOTION (20)

Bains, Bindloss, Browne, Chandler, Child, Cumbers, de Burle, Douglas, Faulkner, Fisher, Freer-Jones, Graham, Higgins, Lumley, Orson, Pearson, Posnett, Smedley, Steadman, Wilkinson.

#### AGAINST THE MOTION (0)

#### ABSTAINING FROM THE MOTION (6)

Carter, Evans, Hewson, Holmes, Pritchett, Wood.

### **5) GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2023/24**

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Resources moved the recommendations in the report and provided the following introduction:

*Melton Borough Council like many council's has lost significant funding in the last few years and continuing to provide the same services going forward without reviewing these is not an option if the council is going to balance its budget and focus limited financial resources in our priorities. In order to address this Members are approving a new corporate plan following consultation with our residents to ensure our budget and future investment decisions are built upon a new vision and priorities that will guide us in shaping a better future for Melton.*

*Growth and investment in housing, enforcement and service improvement is proposed in line with the new Strategy, but through redirecting resources and anticipated additional income and efficiencies delivered, it is proposed that there will be no draw on reserves to fund ongoing expenditure*

*The key elements in the budget proposed are:*

- *A balanced budget is set 2020/21*
- *Overall council tax increase of £5 the maximum allowed for a district council*
- *Recurring Expenditure growth on the general fund of £46,780*
- *One off growth expenditure of £158,750 (£100k funded from LLEP grants)*

*There is still much uncertainty regarding the council's finances as evidenced by the forward projections set out in the report. A review is underway of local government funding which will consider how scarce resources are distributed between the various local government tiers and individual authorities. Whilst a case has been made for the lack of funding in rural areas such as Melton, as a district we do not have the pressures of social care and children's services and central government will be looking to ensure these demand led services are adequately resourced from what will be a limited pot of funding for the sector. As such the Council needs to be prudent and ensure it can secure a sustainable financial position moving forward.*

*As a result of funding reductions the council has seen its reserves depleted due to the need to invest in key areas and deliver its capital programme, but the position has stabilised, with the budget for 2020/21 being a balanced one with no draw on reserves to fund ongoing expenditure. The government are also undertaking a Fair Funding Review around how councils are funded in the future which could have a further significant impact on the council's financial position moving forward. The council will also continue to explore opportunities to become more commercial as a way of helping to become more self-sufficient.*

*The risks in the report clearly show the extent of risk that now affects local authority budgets.*

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Orson.

## **RESOLVED**

- a) To **APPROVE** the proposals for General Expenses and Special Expenses MM as set out in Appendix A (i) and (ii) and summarised in paras 6.10 to 6.12 for inclusion in the 2020/21 budget resulting in the estimates set out in Appendix B;
- b) To **APPROVE** the revenue budget for 2020/21 for General and Special

Expenses as set out in Appendix B resulting in an overall council tax increase of £5, the individual council tax levels being as set out in para 6.12;

- c) To **APPROVE** that the permanent establishment be updated in line with the growth proposals;
- d) To **APPROVE** that any increase or shortfall against the target working balance on General Expenses at 31 March 2020 be adjusted by transfers to/from the Corporate Priorities Reserve and for Special Expenses Melton Mowbray any surplus/deficit be transferred to/from the Special Expenses Reserve;
- e) That members **NOTE** the changes made to the risk categorisation of budgets as set out in para 6.14 and Appendix D.

The above resolutions were voted as follows:

FOR THE MOTION (20)

Bains, Bindloss, Browne, Chandler, Child, Cumbers, de Burle, Douglas, Faulkner, Fisher, Freer-Jones, Graham, Higgins, Lumley, Orson, Pearson, Posnett, Smedley, Steadman, Wilkinson.

AGAINST THE MOTION (0)

ABSTAINING FROM THE MOTION (6)

Carter, Evans, Hewson, Holmes, Pritchett, Wood.

## **6) PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2020/21**

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Resources moved the recommendations in the report and provided the following introduction:

*I am pleased to present the annual treasury management strategy for 2020/21 alongside the prudential indicators which is a key strategy for the Council that sits alongside annual budget report and capital strategy which are being presented to Council elsewhere on the agenda this evening.*

*This report outlines the Council's prudential indicators for 2020/21 – 2022/23 and sets out the expected treasury operations for this period covering the legislation requirements placed upon the Council to manage its Treasury function effectively.*

*These policies and parameters provide an approved framework within which the officers undertake the day to day capital and treasury activities.*

*I am not proposing to go through all of the indicators and information in detail but the Director for Corporate Service and the Corporate Services Manager will be happy to answer any specific queries.*

*The Treasury Management Strategy is attached as Appendix A and covers the operation of the treasury function and its activities for the forthcoming year and reflects the Council's capital and commercial investment strategies. Officers have reviewed and taken advice from the Council's treasury management advisors when developing the strategy.*

*Two new areas have been included:*

*1. Sustainable and Ethical Investments*

*The Council recognises the importance of supporting sustainability and ethical investments and will be taking these issues in account when considering its investments.*

*2. Multi Asset Funds*

*This investment option has been added in as another long term investment option which will provide a greater level of return which would sit between the normal banking deposit returns and that of the property fund. This provides some more flexibility for investments over the medium term.*

*I would also like to highlight in terms of investment performance the Council is currently achieving an average rate of return of nearly 1.24% which is very good in the current economic environment with bank rates remaining low. Through effective management of the treasury portfolio officers are forecasting an additional £60k in additional investment returns during 2019/20 compared to the original budget.*

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Orson.

During debate of the recommendations points raised included:

- i. Councillor Child confirmed his understanding that any commercial strategy and funding requirements in relation to the housing company would come back to Council for approval.

**RESOLVED**

- a) To **ADOPT** and **APPROVE** the prudential indicators and limits.
- b) To **ADOPT** and **APPROVE** the Treasury Management Strategy and treasury management prudential indicators.
- c) To **APPROVE** the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement which sets out the Council's policy on MRP.

The above resolutions were voted as follows:

FOR THE MOTION (26)

Bains, Bindloss, Browne, Carter, Chandler, Child, Cumbers, de Burle, Douglas, Evans, Faulkner, Fisher, Freer-Jones, Graham, Higgins, Hewson, Holmes, Lumley, Orson, Pearson, Posnett, Pritchett, Smedley, Steadman, Wilkinson, Wood.

AGAINST THE MOTION (0)

ABSTAINING FROM THE MOTION (0)

CO65

**COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2020/21**

The Leader moved the recommendations and provided a brief introduction of the report which enabled the Council to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2020/21. The Leader highlighted that the proposed average Council Tax increase for Melton Borough Council was 2.47%.

Councillor Higgins seconded the recommendation in the report.

During debate of the recommendations points raised included:

- i. Councillor Evans noted that the reduction in local government funding had led to consistent increases in the level of council tax in order to ensure the council could continue to deliver services. This had an impact on residents who struggled to pay council tax.
- ii. Councillor Pearson highlighted that the government was being lobbied for fairer funding.
- iii. Councillor Higgins supported the increase in order to provide additional funds to unlock the potential of the Town and the Borough and to ensure that essential services could be delivered.

**RESOLVED**

To **NOTE** the calculations and **APPROVE** setting of the Council Tax for the year 2020/21 made in accordance with regulations set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The above resolution was voted as follows:

**FOR THE MOTION (26)**

Bains, Bindloss, Browne, Carter, Chandler, Child, Cumbers, de Burle, Evans, Douglas, Faulkner, Fisher, Freer-Jones, Graham, Hewson, Higgins, Holmes, Lumley, Orson, Pearson, Posnett, Pritchett, Smedley, Steadman, Wilkinson, Wood.

**AGAINST THE MOTION (0)**

**ABSTAINING FROM THE MOTION (0)**

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Councillor Illingworth returned to the meeting.

Councillor Browne left the meeting.

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CO66	<p><b>PAY POLICY STATEMENT</b></p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Resources moved the recommendation in the report and provided a brief summary of the report, setting out that it was a requirement under the Localism Act 2011.</p> <p>Councillor Orson seconded the recommendation in the report.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> To <b>APPROVE</b> and publish the Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21 at Appendix A.</p> <p>The above resolution was voted as follows:</p> <p>FOR THE MOTION (26) Bains, Bindloss, Carter, Chandler, Child, Cumbers, de Burle, Evans, Douglas, Faulkner, Fisher, Freer-Jones, Graham, Hewson, Higgins, Holmes, Illingworth, Lumley, Orson, Pearson, Posnett, Pritchett, Smedley, Steadman, Wilkinson, Wood.</p> <p>AGAINST THE MOTION (0)</p> <p>ABSTAINING FROM THE MOTION (0)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">--o0o-- Councillor Browne returned to the meeting --o0o--</p>
CO67	<p><b>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS</b></p> <p>In accordance with procedure rule 13.2, the following question was received from Councillor Evans :</p> <p><i>Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that the way Leicestershire County Council has recently decided to drastically cut the sponsored rural bus services throughout Melton Mowbray Borough is appalling and that the Council should communicate our concern in the strongest terms possible?</i></p> <p>The Leader responded as follows :</p> <p><i>The changes to the subsidised bus services follow quite extensive consultation by the County Council, firstly on its overall Passenger Transport Policy And Strategy in 2018, and more recently the specific changes to subsidised routes in the course 2019. This included activity in Melton including a drop in session held here in these offices.</i></p> <p><i>Leicestershire County Council explained that the motivations for making changes are many and various, but made no secret that financial pressures were a significant part of the consideration. ‘Cutting one’s cloth’ to respond to financial pressures is of course familiar to us and we know first-hand how it means you have</i></p>

*to face up to difficult decisions.*

*Whilst he agreed that the reductions to bus services would ideally be avoided, he noted in the detail that they were based on a detailed analysis of the use and cost of the services and this was not a wholesale stripping out of services. Whilst reduced in frequency, in the main services would be retained. In Councillor Evans' area for example, there would remain a 2 hourly service from Melton to Bottesford but a direct link to Bingham would be lost.*

*Therefore whilst he had sympathy for the concerns raised in the question, he also had sympathy for the County Council who like Melton faced difficult challenges balancing their budget. The County Council had committed to review the services annually and Melton would therefore have the opportunity to try to influence the position in the future.*

Councillor Evans asked the following supplementary question:

*I take it from the Leader's response that he is endorsing this cut? I have to say I am appalled as I know people who have lost jobs, also there are old people who can no longer get to their GP Surgery. The consultation on the changes was insufficient.*

The Leader responded that Councillor Evans had been misinformed regarding the consultation and that a full consultation had been conducted in 2016.

CO68

**MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

In accordance with the Constitution, motions on notice must be signed by at least two Members and be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Melton Borough.

The following motion was received from the Leader of the Council and Councillor Faulkner:

Following the Government's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition in 2017, Government has been encouraging Councils to formally adopt the definition as a clear message that antisemitic behaviour will not be tolerated. The Secretary of State wrote to all Council Leaders on 15 October 2019 to explain the need to take urgent action. I therefore encourage the Council to respond positively to this motion as this also fits with our recently adopted Equality Scheme and the Council's aspirations to champion diversity across the Borough.

Hatred, and particularly religious hatred, in all forms, is not something that should be tolerated in our society. Whilst there have been instances of hatred appallingly directed at several religions, worryingly there is an upward national trend in antisemitic hatred that must not be tolerated.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief recently

released a report which agreed that the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism can offer valuable guidance for identifying antisemitism in its various forms.

The IHRA definition is as follows:

‘Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities’.

This definition is encouraged in its use in ‘education, awareness-raising and for monitoring and responding to manifestations of antisemitism’.

Therefore the following motion was proposed by Councillor Orson, seconded by Councillor Faulkner and carried at the vote:

(1) Melton Borough Council agrees with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-semitism:

‘Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities’;

(2) Council notes that :

We have both a legal and a moral duty to show fairness and equality to our residents, our service users and our employees. We currently have systems in place to ensure that antisemitism is not tolerated within our District. These include our commitment to hate incident/crime reporting and also our Equality Plan, whilst these are not specific to antisemitism they both ensure that antisemitism is not tolerated. Through either of these channels we would expect any antisemitism to be identified and challenged appropriately. Antisemitism is covered under the characteristic ‘religion and belief’ in both hate incident/crime reporting and the Equality Act 2010;

(3) Subject to approval of recommendation (1) that as per the request from the Secretary of State the Council’s Democratic Services Manager be authorised to inform him of the Council decision.

The above resolution was voted as follows:

**FOR THE MOTION (27)**

Bains, Bindloss, Carter, Chandler, Child, Cumbers, Browne, de Burle, Evans, Douglas, Faulkner, Fisher, Freer-Jones, Graham, Hewson, Higgins, Holmes, Illingworth, Lumley, Orson, Pearson, Posnett, Pritchett, Smedley, Steadman, Wilkinson, Wood.

**AGAINST THE MOTION (0)**



	ABSTAINING FROM THE MOTION (0)
CO69	<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES</b></p> <p>There were no recommendations or reports from Committees.</p>
	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC</b></p> <p>The Mayor confirmed that the meeting would remain in public session unless detailed debate on the exempt appendix to Item 13 was required.</p>
CO70	<p><b>HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PLAN - IT SYSTEM INVESTMENT AND INTEGRATION PROJECT</b></p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities moved the recommendations and provided a brief introduction to the report. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the current Housing Management IT system was no longer fit for purpose and that an improved system was crucial in achieving the ambitions set out in the Housing Improvement Plan.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder noted that the Recommendation 2.5 should read: <i>Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to call off and award the Contract</i></p> <p>Councillor Orson seconded the recommendations in the report.</p> <p>During debate of the recommendations points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Councillor Evans was in support of the proposals and noted that it was important to ensure that relevant information about individual properties could be accessed so that the council had a complete picture.</li> <li>ii. Councillor Orson congratulated all those members that had voted to prioritise council housing through the Housing Improvement Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To <b>APPROVE</b> the use of the CCS Framework for a Housing Management System subject to the solution offered by Northgate Public Services meeting the Council's requirements;</li> <li>b) To <b>APPROVE</b> the addition of £237k to the 2020-21 capital programmes (£143k to be funded from the HRA Regeneration &amp; Development reserve and £94k from Capital Receipts);</li> <li>c) To <b>APPROVE</b> £7,500 one off revenue costs to be added to the 2020-21 revenue budgets (£4,470 to be funded from the HRA Regeneration &amp; Development reserve and £3,030 from the Flexible Homelessness Support grant;</li> <li>d) To <b>APPROVE</b> ongoing annual revenue costs of £93,822 for the new contract from 2020-21 be added into the revenue budget. £74,492 to be funded from the HRA Regeneration &amp; Development Reserve and the remaining general fund element to be funded by the Homelessness Support Grant with virements to be completed in line with the Financial Procedure Rules;</li> </ul>

e) **DELEGATED** authority to the Chief Executive to call off and award the Contract.

The above resolution was voted as follows:

**FOR THE MOTION (27)**

Bains, Bindloss, Carter, Chandler, Child, Cumbers, Browne, de Burle, Evans, Douglas, Faulkner, Fisher, Freer-Jones, Graham, Hewson, Higgins, Holmes, Illingworth, Lumley, Orson, Pearson, Posnett, Pritchett, Smedley, Steadman, Wilkinson, Wood.

**AGAINST THE MOTION (0)**

**ABSTAINING FROM THE MOTION (0)**

The meeting closed at: 8.23 pm

Mayor