

CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VICTORIA ROOM, TOWN HALL, LOUGHBOROUGH ON 1ST MARCH 2010

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor R. Brown)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor S. Campbell)

Councillor T. Barkley
Councillor A. Bava
Councillor D. Bebbington
Councillor I. Bentley
Councillor J. Bokor
Councillor B. Burr
Councillor R. Campsall
Councillor J. Capleton
Councillor C. Duffy
Councillor H. Edwards
Councillor H. Fryer
Councillor G. Gay
Councillor D. Goss
Councillor D. Green
Councillor S. Hampson
Councillor P. Harley
Councillor L. Harper-Davies
Councillor C. Harris
Councillor S. Hodgson
Councillor J. Hunt
Councillor M. Hunt
Councillor K. Jones
Councillor S. Jones

Councillor R. Jukes
Councillor P. Lewis
Councillor J. Miah
Councillor B. Newton
Councillor P. Osborne
Councillor K. Pacey
Councillor C. Popley
Councillor M. Preston
Councillor C. Radford
Councillor P. Ranson
Councillor R. Shepherd
Councillor D. Slater
Councillor G. Smith
Councillor D. Snartt
Councillor N. Stork
Councillor J. Sutherland
Councillor J. Tormey
Councillor J. Vincent
Councillor D. Walker
Councillor R. Wilson
Councillor D. Wise
Councillor P. Youell

Honorary Alderman Dodd

70. PRAYERS

The Reverend Jane Carter opened the meeting with prayers and remembered former Councillor Harry Booth and Iris Burden (Councillor Radford's mother), both had recently passed away.

71. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bush, P. Day, K. Legge, A. Noon and B. Seaton and from Honorary Aldermen Hurst and Stott.

72. DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST

The following disclosures of interest were made:

- (i) by Councillor Bebbington – Personal Interest, as an employee of Capita, in Item 7.1 on the agenda – 2010-11 General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax Base 2010-11 and Special Expenses;
- (ii) by Councillor J. Hunt – Personal Interest, as an employee of Citizens Advice Bureau, in Item 7.1 on the agenda – 2010-11 General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax Base 2010-11 and Special Expenses;
- (iii) by Councillor Miah – Personal Interest, concerning Community Grants, in Item 7.1 on the agenda – 2010-11 General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax Base 2010-11 and Special Expenses;
- (iv) by Councillor Newton – Personal Interest, as a member of an organisation which receives grants from the Council, in Item 7.1 on the agenda – 2010-11 General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax Base 2010-11 and Special Expenses;
- (v) by Councillor Snartt – Personal Interest, in respect of the Youth Impact Team, in Item 6.4 on the agenda – Questions on Notice – Criminal Damage – Birstall;
- (vi) by Councillor Stork – Personal Interest, as a Director of Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing, in Item 7.1 on the agenda – 2010-11 General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax Base 2010-11 and Special Expenses; and
- (vii) by Councillor Vincent – Personal Interest, as a member of an organisation which receives grants from the Council, in Item 7.1 on the agenda – 2010-11 General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax Base 2010-11 and Special Expenses.

73. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2010 were confirmed and signed.

74. ANNOUNCEMENTS

74.1 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor made the following announcements:

Harry Booth

“Councillors may have heard that on Saturday 20th February 2010, former Councillor Harry Booth sadly passed away. Harry was Borough councillor for

Syston between May 1991 and May 1995. I attended Harry's funeral today and on behalf of the Council passed on condolences to his family".

Councillor Iain Bentley

"I would like to congratulate Councillor Iain Bentley on his recent election and welcome him back to the Council".

Iris Burden (Councillor Radford's mother)

"I would like to offer my and the Council's condolences to Councillor Radford and her family, following the sad news that her mother, Iris Burden, passed away today".

Congratulations to Councillor Harper-Davies

"I would like to congratulate Councillor Leigh Harper Davies on her marriage to David Emmins in January. Both I and the Council wish you all the best with your married life together".

Congratulations to Councillor Kate Legge

"I would like to congratulate Councillor Kate Legge and her partner, Peter, on the birth of their baby son on 11th February. For those Councillors who don't know his name is Daniel and he weighed in at 7lb 7oz".

Mayor's Charity – A Musical Evening

"A musical evening has been arranged to raise money for my charity appeal, which is supporting Warning Zone and Wishes 4 Kids. It will be held on Saturday 27th March 2010 at Sileby Methodist Church, Sileby and features the Loughborough Ladies Choir. Tickets are just £5 and can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Mayor or Sileby Methodist Church".

74.2 Leader's Announcements

The Leader made no announcements.

74.3 Chief Executive's Announcements

The Chief Executive made no announcements.

75. PETITIONS

The Mayor received a petition from Councillor Popley, concerning opposition to the closure of Hall Croft Toilets in Shepshed. The Mayor announced that the petition would be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

76. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

76.1 Councillor Gay – Reforming Procedure and Layout at Council Meetings

Councillor Gay had given notice under Council Procedure Rule 5(i) of the following question:

“In May and June of last year, I raised, with Councillor Max Hunt and others, the matter of reforming procedure and layout etc. at Full Council. As a result, I was invited to attend a meeting of Party Leaders and officers in order to discuss this. At this meeting, which took place as long ago as Tuesday 23rd June 2009, it was agreed that, to progress this matter further, officers would draw up proposals to be tabled at Cabinet. As far as can be ascertained from Cabinet agendas, this has not taken place. Could the Leader confirm that this is the case and inform Council of any moves to progress this matter?”

The Leader, Councillor Preston, responded:

“Council at its last meeting (11th January 2010) agreed changes to the Council procedure rules (minute 63.2) and these are being used for the first time at this meeting (1st March 2010). These changes were also considered by Cabinet on 17th December 2009 (Cabinet minute 127). The Constitution, which includes Council procedure rules, is reviewed annually”.

“Concerning the layout, Councillor Gay will remember that at the Group Leaders' Meeting on Tuesday 23rd June 2009, I spoke about plans to refurbish the Old Magistrates Court and use former Court Number 1 as a Council Chamber. Cabinet considered a report in respect of this matter at its meeting on 29th October 2009 and agreed Option 1 - "Retain the building and refurbish the ground floor to provide accommodation for commercial rent plus a Council meeting chamber facility" (Cabinet minute 104). Since then a Project Board has been established to manage the conversion of the Old Magistrates Court and this includes Cabinet Lead Members and Officers from Democratic Services. Plans are being drafted for the conversion of Court Number 1 into a Council Chamber and once in final draft form will be circulated to all members of the Council for their comments. A reasonable consultation period will be set in order to allow Councillors to seek clarification on the draft plans from Officers.”

Councillor Gay, in asking a supplementary question and making a statement, sought clarification as to whether it was the intention for the Council to meet in Court Number 1 and if so, what would be the costs and would the proposals address the issues raised at the Group Leaders' meeting on 23rd June 2009. He added that Councillors should be consulted on the principle.

In response, the Leader, Councillor Preston, stated that Councillors would be consulted on the proposals for a Council Chamber in the old court number 1 and that it was important for realistic proposals to be drafted for consultation.

He added that all the costs associated with the project were set out in the Cabinet report, presented on 29th October 2009.

76.2 Councillor Max Hunt – Litter Picking and Bin Emptying in Loughborough

Councillor Hunt had given notice under Council Procedure Rule 5(i) of the following question:

“In a report of 16th February 2010, the Director of Leisure and Environment stated that litter collection and bin emptying on green spaces was now conducted by the Environmental Services Contract and the result was an overall reduction in costs across the Borough of £1.25m. However the report of the Chief Executive on 17th December 2009 stated that the costs for the various parks have increased due to higher litter picking costs, which incurred a higher charge on Loughborough Council Tax payers. Could the Leader explain why such an apparently large reduction in costs across the Borough can result in higher costs in Loughborough?”

The Lead Member, Councillor Fryer, responded:

“This is due to the apportionment of costs against the different land types as depicted in the Environmental Services Contract. Some areas of land in Loughborough that have been added to this Contract from Grounds Maintenance Contract responsibility previously, are a higher rate as it is being undertaken by Serco to a higher standard. Both the Grounds Maintenance and the Environmental Services Contract have improved the standards to which they are performing which have resulted in higher customer satisfaction ratings.”

Councillor M. Hunt, in asking a supplementary question and making a statement, sought clarification on the meaning of the term ‘apportionment of costs’. He added that Loughborough Council Tax payers were paying more under the new contract due to there now being two separate teams.

In response, the Lead Member, Councillor Fryer, stated that the new cleansing contract had resulted in higher standards, a higher satisfaction rate and a saving of £1.5 million. She added that Loughborough Council Tax Payers were paying 2p per week for higher standards.

76.3 Councillor Max Hunt – Grounds Maintenance Costs

Councillor Hunt had given notice under Council Procedure Rule 5(i) of the following question:

- A. “Costs of Loughborough Grounds Maintenance – On 16th February 2010 the Scrutiny Commission were told that "during the 2009/10 financial year on-going direct savings on Grounds Maintenance [across the Borough] of £88,600 have been achieved". Could the Leader explain

why such an apparently helpful reduction in costs across the Borough can result in higher Grounds Maintenance costs in Loughborough?”

- B. “Costs of Borough Grounds Maintenance – Although a saving is projected for Grounds Maintenance in 2009/10 following the review which resulted in a new structure implemented in January 2009, there are apparently offsetting costs due to increases in Support Service costs. Could the Leader (a) quantify these costs and identify exactly what Support Services have increased and (b) tell Council what specific savings have been made this year through the freezing of posts in Grounds Maintenance under the Managed Vacancy policy?”
- C. “Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing Grounds Maintenance Contract – It is understood that the Borough's costs for grounds maintenance have increased due to a renegotiation of our contract with Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing. Could the Leader quantify the loss anticipated for 2009/10 and explain how the contract has altered to the Borough's disadvantage?”
- D. “Contracts with Parish Councils in Charnwood – Could the Leader list the Parish Councils who
- (a) currently have a grounds maintenance contract with the Borough Council and the date on which they are each currently to terminate and which of these include litter picking of Green Spaces; and
 - (b) currently employ their own litter picking or additional cleansing staff, as far as it is known and indicate what losses are projected on income from Grounds Maintenance Services to Parish Councils in 2009/10?”

The Lead Member, Councillor Lewis, responded:

- A. “Please refer to response in 6.2. as this covers the same points and is also reflected in the response to question 6.8 raised by Councillor Miah at last Full Council meeting 11th January 2010”.
- B. “(a) The Support Service costs have increased by £30,000. In the main this is due to £14,200 increase in HR recharges; £7,900 increase in Performance & Internal Audit recharges, £3,900 increase in Payments recharges and £2800 increase in Payroll recharges”.
- “(b) A £51,200 saving has been made this year through the freezing of posts in Grounds Maintenance under the Managed Vacancy policy”.
- C. “The loss of income to Grounds Maintenance in 2009/10 from the renegotiated Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing (CNH) Service Level Agreement (SLA) is £12,900, based on the new SLA commencing on 1st December 2009”.

“The renegotiated SLA with Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing has not resulted in any disadvantages for the Borough. The changes involve the cleansing and litter picking elements being removed from the Grounds Maintenance SLA and a separate SLA being negotiated with Environmental Services for the cleansing and litter picking elements and these being added to the Environmental Services Contract”.

D. “(a) Two grounds maintenance contracts with parishes ceased during 2009/10. As a result, there are currently no grounds maintenance contracts with Parish Councils”.

“(b) Officers are only aware of two Parish Councils. Syston Town Council and East Goscote Parish Council, that employ their own staff. They have had this arrangement (to litter pick and cleanse land that they are responsible for) for some years prior to current waste contract, so this had no bearing on the costs of new Waste Contract”.

“(c) The loss of income to Grounds Maintenance from Parish Council contracts in 2009/10 is £13,200. This is when these contracts ceased, and this concurs with the response in D (a) that there are currently no grounds maintenance contracts with Parish Councils”.

Councillor M. Hunt, in asking a supplementary question and making a statement, queried why recharges had increased significantly?

In response, the Lead Member, Councillor Lewis, stated that there were 72 sites maintained in Loughborough, maintenance of these sites had improved, including public satisfaction, therefore, the new arrangements were providing value for money for Loughborough Council Tax payers.

76.4 Councillor Bava – Criminal Damage – Birstall

Councillor Bava had given notice under Council Procedure Rule 5(i) of the following question:

“During the last month in Birstall Watermead Ward, there have been nearly 30 reports of criminal damage, including ten to vehicles. Would the Leader indicate what assistance our Community Safety Unit has been able to provide the police and Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch in identifying and eradicating the on going problem? Could he also indicate how many visits over the last three months have been made by the IMPACT team and what positive assistance we are giving to young people in the village?”

The Lead Member, Councillor Snartt, responded:

“As Councillor Bava may be aware Birstall has been the focus of ongoing partnership work led by the Charnwood Borough Council Head of Communities and Inspector Southall Syston LPU. All reports of criminal

damage are recorded as crimes by the police and their figures are similar to those noted in the question”.

“Over the last twelve months the Birstall Action Group with members drawn from the Communities and Partnerships Team (Community Safety and Anti Social Behaviour Units) Charnwood LPU; Parish Council; Youth Impact Team and Leicestershire Youth Services have carried out the following actions:

1. A Graffiti work shop was delivered in Birstall in July/August and art work completed on the football pavilion and Longslade School. This was well received locally.
2. In support of local concern and in an effort to educate local young people about the consequences of perpetrating anti-social behaviour, an Acceptable Behaviour Contract programme was rolled out in Longslade School.
3. Copies of the Charnwood Community Safety Partnership booklet ‘Safe and Secure’ was delivered to homes in Birstall and additional copies were left with the Parish Council for distribution.
4. Monthly press releases were issued through the Birstall Post by the project team to provide reassurance to local residents and to update them regarding action being taken.
5. Funding was identified to open a youth facility on Friday nights in an effort to engage local young people in diversionary activities.
6. Funding was also identified to commission the making of a DVD called Youth Voice, which captured young peoples wants and needs.
7. Numerous warning letters were sent out to young people and their parents in relation to graffiti and other anti-social behaviour.
8. 5 young persons have been arrested in relation to graffiti offences and 4 more are due to be arrested. All 9 individuals will be referred to the ASB Steering Group for consideration of appropriate further interventions.
9. To deal with continuing problems the Head of communities and Partnerships and the Charnwood LPU Commander will be holding a problem solving workshop with other partners in early April”.

“The youth Impact Team are currently in Birstall 3 nights per week. During the month of January this was somewhat curtailed because of weather conditions and annual leave arrangement.”

Councillor Bava, in asking a supplementary question and making a statement, asked whether the trouble makers identified were from Birstall or from

outside and he thanked the Lead Member for his response and the action taken by the Birstall Action Group.

In response, the Lead Member, Councillor Snartt, stated that it appeared that the majority of the trouble makers identified were from outside Birstall, partly due to the local secondary school and college having a wider catchment area and he thanked Councillor Bava for his concern and reassured him that work continued with residents and partners in order to continue with the improvements, which had been made.

77. BUSINESS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

77.1 2010-11 GENERAL FUND AND HRA REVENUE BUDGETS AND COUNCIL TAX BASE 2010-11 AND SPECIAL EXPENSES

A report of the Chief Executive, setting out the proposed General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets for 2010/11, was submitted (item 7.1 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

A supplementary report of the Chief Executive was also submitted, which set out the full recommendations and reasons required in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, in order that the Council could adopt a General Fund Revenue Budget, Housing Revenue Account Budget and, following receipt of all the precepts for the precepting authorities, adopt a Council Tax levy for 2010/2011.

It was proposed by Councillor Osborne and seconded by Councillor Barkley:

1. that the expenses incurred by the Council in performing in Loughborough a function performed elsewhere in its area by a parish council or the chairman of a parish meeting be treated as special expenses for the purposes of Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to the extent provided in minute 72 (C) 1 of Council February 2008;
2. that
 - a. the Original Budget for 2010/11 be £19,806,500,
 - b. the base Council Tax be set at £102.62 at Band D, and
 - c. the Loughborough Special Rate be set at £73.84;
3. that the amounts below be approved as the Council Tax Base for 2010/11 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - a) 53,934.2 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year;

b)

Part of the Council's area

<u>Parish, etc</u>	<u>Council Tax Base 2010/11</u>
Anstey	2218.9
Barkby	146.2
Barkby Thorpe	16.3
Barrow-upon-Soar	2117.0
Beeby	34.1
Birstall	4074.2
Burton-on-the-Wolds	485.7
Cossington	220.2
Cotes	12.9
East Goscote	916.6
Hathern	728.1
Hoton	146.6
Mountsorrel	2791.6
Newtown Linford	507.2
Prestwold	32.9
Queniborough	944.6
Quorndon	2194.4
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	86.2
Rearsby	434.8
Rothley	1690.6
Seagrave	261.6
Shepshed	4522.8
Sileby	2494.1
South Croxton	126.2
Swithland	152.6
Syston	4179.7
Thrussington	257.6
Thurcaston & Cropston	948.9
Thurmaston	2866.8
Ulverscroft	61.7
Walton-on-the-Wolds	132.2
Wanlip	82.9
Woodhouse	956.4
Wymeswold	583.8
Loughborough Special Expense Area	16507.8

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

4. that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2010/11 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) 70,538,723 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act
- (b) 48,680,500 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act
- (c) 21,858,223 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year
- (d) 12,513,727 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, additional grant or SSA Reduction Grant
- (e) 173.26 being the amount at 4(c) above less the amount at 4(d) above, all divided by the amount at 3(a) 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
- (f) 3,809,708 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
- (g) 102.62 being the amount of 4(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(f) above by the amount at 3(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relate.

(h) Part of the Council's area

<u>Parish, etc</u>	<u>District Band D Charge</u>
Anstey	172.05
Barkby and Barkby Thorpe	141.08
Barrow-upon-Soar	172.60

Beeby	102.62
Birstall	187.31
Burton-on-the-Wolds / Cotes / Prestwold	134.60
Cossington	148.03
East Goscote	162.95
Hathern	150.28
Hoton	141.84
Mountsorrel	164.28
Newtown Linford	177.54
Queniborough	139.67
Quorndon	175.21
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	131.62
Rearsby	144.04
Rothley	158.81
Seagrave	160.72
Shepshed	171.83
Sileby	166.19
South Croxton	160.70
Swithland	125.56
Syston	197.00
Thrussington	120.09
Thurcaston & Cropston	136.34
Thurmaston	201.20
Ulverscroft	102.62
Walton-on-the-Wolds	132.88
Wanlip	126.75
Woodhouse	163.94
Wymeswold	134.65
Loughborough Special Expense Area	176.46

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(i)

Part of the Council's area

Parish	Valuation							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Anstey	114.70	133.82	152.94	172.05	210.28	248.52	286.75	344.10
Barkby and Barkby	94.05	109.73	125.41	141.08	172.43	203.78	235.13	282.16
Barrow-upon-Soar	115.06	134.25	153.42	172.60	210.95	249.31	287.66	345.20
Beeby	68.41	79.82	91.22	102.62	125.42	148.23	171.03	205.24
Birstall	124.87	145.69	166.50	187.31	228.93	270.56	312.18	374.62

Burton-on-the-Wolds / Cotes / Prestwold	89.73	104.69	119.65	134.60	164.51	194.42	224.33	269.20
Cossington	98.68	115.14	131.58	148.03	180.92	213.82	246.71	296.06
East Goscote	108.63	126.74	144.85	162.95	199.16	235.37	271.58	325.90
Hathern	100.18	116.89	133.58	150.28	183.67	217.07	250.46	300.56
Hoton	94.56	110.32	126.08	141.84	173.36	204.88	236.40	283.68
Mountsorrel	109.52	127.78	146.03	164.28	200.78	237.29	273.80	328.56
Newtown Linford	118.36	138.09	157.82	177.54	216.99	256.45	295.90	355.08
Queniborough	93.11	108.64	124.15	139.67	170.70	201.75	232.78	279.34
Quorndon	116.80	136.28	155.74	175.21	214.14	253.08	292.01	350.42
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	87.74	102.38	117.00	131.62	160.86	190.12	219.36	263.24
Rearsby	96.02	112.04	128.04	144.04	176.04	208.06	240.06	288.08
Rothley	105.87	123.52	141.17	158.81	194.10	229.39	264.68	317.62
Seagrave	107.14	125.01	142.86	160.72	196.43	232.15	267.86	321.44
Shepshed	114.55	133.65	152.74	171.83	210.01	248.20	286.38	343.66
Sileby	110.79	129.26	147.73	166.19	203.12	240.05	276.98	332.38
South Croxton	107.13	124.99	142.85	160.70	196.41	232.12	267.83	321.40
Swithland	83.70	97.66	111.61	125.56	153.46	181.37	209.26	251.12
Syston	131.33	153.23	175.11	197.00	240.77	284.56	328.33	394.00
Thrussington	80.06	93.41	106.75	120.09	146.77	173.46	200.15	240.18
Thurcaston & Cropston	90.89	106.05	121.19	136.34	166.63	196.94	227.23	272.68
Thurmaston	134.13	156.49	178.85	201.20	245.91	290.62	335.33	402.40
Ulverscroft	68.41	79.82	91.22	102.62	125.42	148.23	171.03	205.24
Walton-on-the-Wolds	88.58	103.36	118.12	132.88	162.40	191.94	221.46	265.76
Wanlip	84.50	98.59	112.67	126.75	154.91	183.08	211.25	253.50
Woodhouse	109.29	127.51	145.73	163.94	200.37	236.80	273.23	327.88
Wymeswold	89.76	104.73	119.69	134.65	164.57	194.50	224.41	269.30
Loughborough Special Expense Area	117.64	137.25	156.86	176.46	215.67	254.89	294.10	352.92

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in the valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

5. that it be noted that for the year 2009/10 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
<u>Leicestershire County Council</u>							
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
708.67	826.78	944.89	1063.00	1299.22	1535.44	1771.67	2126.00

Leicestershire Police Authority

£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
113.09	131.94	150.79	169.63	207.33	245.03	282.72	339.27

Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Fire Authority

£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
35.58	41.52	47.45	53.38	65.24	77.10	88.96	106.75

6. that having calculated the aggregate in each case of amounts of 4(i) and 5 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts of council tax for the year 2009/10 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	BAND A 6/9	BAND B 7/9	BAND C 8/9	BAND D 1	BAND E 11/9	BAND F 13/9	BAND G 15/9	BAND H 18/9
ANSTEY	972.04	1134.06	1296.07	1458.06	1782.07	2106.09	2430.10	2916.12
BARKBY / BARKBY THORPE	951.39	1109.97	1268.54	1427.09	1744.22	2061.35	2378.48	2854.18
BARROW-UPON-SOAR	972.40	1134.49	1296.55	1458.61	1782.74	2106.88	2431.01	2917.22
BEEBY	925.75	1080.06	1234.35	1388.63	1697.21	2005.80	2314.38	2777.26
BIRSTALL	982.21	1145.93	1309.63	1473.32	1800.72	2128.13	2455.53	2946.64
BURTON-ON-THE-WOLDS, COTES & PRESTWOLD	947.07	1104.93	1262.78	1420.61	1736.30	2051.99	2367.68	2841.22
COSSINGTON	956.02	1115.38	1274.71	1434.04	1752.71	2071.39	2390.06	2868.08
EAST GOSCOTE	965.97	1126.98	1287.98	1448.96	1770.95	2092.94	2414.93	2897.92
HATHERN	957.52	1117.13	1276.71	1436.29	1755.46	2074.64	2393.81	2872.58
HOTON	951.90	1110.56	1269.21	1427.85	1745.15	2062.45	2379.75	2855.70
MOUNTSORREL	966.86	1128.02	1289.16	1450.29	1772.57	2094.86	2417.15	2900.58
NEWTOWN LINFORD	975.70	1138.33	1300.95	1463.55	1788.78	2114.02	2439.25	2927.10
QUENIBOROUGH	950.45	1108.88	1267.28	1425.68	1742.49	2059.32	2376.13	2851.36
QUORNDON	974.14	1136.52	1298.87	1461.22	1785.93	2110.65	2435.36	2922.44
RATCLIFFE-ON-THE-	945.08	1102.62	1260.13	1417.63	1732.65	2047.69	2362.71	2835.26
REARSBY	953.36	1112.28	1271.17	1430.05	1747.83	2065.63	2383.41	2860.10
ROTHLEY	963.21	1123.76	1284.30	1444.82	1765.89	2086.96	2408.03	2889.64
SEAGRAVE	964.48	1125.25	1285.99	1446.73	1768.22	2089.72	2411.21	2893.46
SHEPSHED	971.89	1133.89	1295.87	1457.84	1781.80	2105.77	2429.73	2915.68
SILEBY	968.13	1129.50	1290.86	1452.20	1774.91	2097.62	2420.33	2904.40
SOUTH CROXTON	964.47	1125.23	1285.98	1446.71	1768.20	2089.69	2411.18	2893.42
SWITHLAND	941.04	1097.90	1254.74	1411.57	1725.25	2038.94	2352.61	2823.14
SYSTON	988.67	1153.47	1318.24	1483.01	1812.56	2142.13	2471.68	2966.02
THRUSSINGTON	937.40	1093.65	1249.88	1406.10	1718.56	2031.03	2343.50	2812.20
THURCASTON &	948.23	1106.29	1264.32	1422.35	1738.42	2054.51	2370.58	2844.70
THURMASTON	991.47	1156.73	1321.98	1487.21	1817.70	2148.19	2478.68	2974.42
ULVERSCROFT	925.75	1080.06	1234.35	1388.63	1697.21	2005.80	2314.38	2777.26
WALTON-ON-THE-	945.92	1103.60	1261.25	1418.89	1734.19	2049.51	2364.81	2837.78
WANLIP	941.84	1098.83	1255.80	1412.76	1726.70	2040.65	2354.60	2825.52
WOODHOUSE	966.63	1127.75	1288.86	1449.95	1772.16	2094.37	2416.58	2899.90
WYMESWOLD	947.10	1104.97	1262.82	1420.66	1736.36	2052.07	2367.76	2841.32
LOUGHBOROUGH (SPECIAL EXPENSES)	974.98	1137.49	1299.99	1462.47	1787.46	2112.46	2437.45	2924.94

7. that the Original Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 5 of the report of the Chief Executive be approved;

8. that the increases to weekly rents be approved in line with the Department of Communities and Local Government guidance on rent restructuring as based on the final housing subsidy determination;
9. that the service charges be approved in accordance with the Communities and Local Government guidance on rent restructuring regarding the de-pooling of service charges, inclusive of new charges where applicable as based on the final housing subsidy determination;
10. that shop and garage rents remain at the existing levels; and
11. that the Leasehold Management and Administration charge be increased to £99 per annum.

Amendments were proposed as follows:

- (i) by Councillor M. Hunt and seconded by Councillor Vincent that the Medium Term Financial Strategy governing this budget be brought to Council without delay incorporating provisional projections for the following two or three years.

The reason given for the amendment was that it was currently unclear what the associated strategy was concerning the budget, which was being presented and that it was unclear what new projects were being proposed.

The amendment was defeated.

- (ii) by Councillor Newton and seconded by Councillor Miah that the £28,000 reduction in Community Grants for 2010/11 be reinstated using the £30,000 allocated from the additional income generated from the leisure services contract and that the cost of consultants for the Leisure Services Contract Procurement be funded fully from the Reinvestment Reserve.

The reason given for the amendment was to support and empower community groups and organisations to provide services and projects in and for the local community.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13(iv), Councillors Green, Harris and Miah requested that the names of those Members for and against the amendment or abstaining from voting be recorded.

The amendment was defeated, the voting being as follows:

For the amendment – Councillors Bava, Campsall, Edwards, Gay, Green, Harris, M. Hunt, Miah, Newton, Popley, Smith, Stork, Sutherland, Tormey, Vincent, Walker and Wilson.

Against the amendment – Councillors Barkley, Bebbington, Bentley, Bokor, Brown, Burr, Campbell, Capleton, Fryer, Goss, Hampson, Harley, Harper-

Davies, Hodgson, J. Hunt, K. Jones, S. Jones, Jukes, Lewis, Osborne, Pacey, Preston, Ranson, Shepherd, Slater, Snartt and Wise.

Abstaining on the amendment – Councillor Duffy.

Note: Councillor Radford, had left the meeting by this point.

- (iii) by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Stork that the vacant frozen post in Economic Development be re-established at a cost of £27,500 with an immediate brief to address the effects of the recession for small and medium sized businesses in Charnwood and that this be funded primarily from penalties from the Environmental Services contract.

The reason given for the amendment was to provide much needed support to local small and medium sized businesses in difficult economic times.

The amendment was defeated.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

1. that the expenses incurred by the Council in performing in Loughborough a function performed elsewhere in its area by a parish council or the chairman of a parish meeting be treated as special expenses for the purposes of Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to the extent provided in minute 72 (C) 1 of Council February 2008;
2. that
 - d. the Original Budget for 2010/11 be £19,806,500,
 - e. the base Council Tax be set at £102.62 at Band D, and
 - f. the Loughborough Special Rate be set at £73.84;
3. that the amounts below be approved as the Council Tax Base for 2010/11 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - a) 53,934.2 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year;
 - b)

Part of the Council's area

<u>Parish, etc</u>	<u>Council Tax Base 2010/11</u>
Anstey	2218.9
Barkby	146.2
Barkby Thorpe	16.3

Barrow-upon-Soar	2117.0
Beeby	34.1
Birstall	4074.2
Burton-on-the-Wolds	485.7
Cossington	220.2
Cotes	12.9
East Goscote	916.6
Hathern	728.1
Hoton	146.6
Mountsorrel	2791.6
Newtown Linford	507.2
Prestwold	32.9
Queniborough	944.6
Quorndon	2194.4
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	86.2
Rearsby	434.8
Rothley	1690.6
Seagrave	261.6
Shepshed	4522.8
Sileby	2494.1
South Croxton	126.2
Swithland	152.6
Syston	4179.7
Thrussington	257.6
Thurcaston & Cropston	948.9
Thurmaston	2866.8
Ulverscroft	61.7
Walton-on-the-Wolds	132.2
Wanlip	82.9
Woodhouse	956.4
Wymeswold	583.8
Loughborough Special Expense Area	16507.8

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

4. that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2010/11 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (a) 70,538,723 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act
 - (b) 48,680,500 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act

- (c) 21,858,223 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year
- (d) 12,513,727 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, additional grant or SSA Reduction Grant
- (e) 173.26 being the amount at 4(c) above less the amount at 4(d) above, all divided by the amount at 3(a) 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
- (f) 3,809,708 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
- (g) 102.62 being the amount of 4(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(f) above by the amount at 3(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relate.

(h)

Part of the Council's area

<u>Parish, etc</u>	<u>District Band D Charge</u>
Anstey	172.05
Barkby and Barkby Thorpe	141.08
Barrow-upon-Soar	172.60
Beeby	102.62
Birstall	187.31
Burton-on-the-Wolds / Cotes / Prestwold	134.60
Cossington	148.03
East Goscote	162.95
Hathern	150.28
Hoton	141.84
Mountsorrel	164.28
Newtown Linford	177.54
Queniborough	139.67
Quorndon	175.21
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	131.62

Rearsby	144.04
Rothley	158.81
Seagrave	160.72
Shepshed	171.83
Sileby	166.19
South Croxton	160.70
Swithland	125.56
Syston	197.00
Thrussington	120.09
Thurcaston & Cropston	136.34
Thurmaston	201.20
Ulverscroft	102.62
Walton-on-the-Wolds	132.88
Wanlip	126.75
Woodhouse	163.94
Wymeswold	134.65
Loughborough Special Expense Area	176.46

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(i)

Part of the Council's area

Parish	Valuation							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Anstey	114.70	133.82	152.94	172.05	210.28	248.52	286.75	344.10
Barkby and Barkby	94.05	109.73	125.41	141.08	172.43	203.78	235.13	282.16
Barrow-upon-Soar	115.06	134.25	153.42	172.60	210.95	249.31	287.66	345.20
Beeby	68.41	79.82	91.22	102.62	125.42	148.23	171.03	205.24
Birstall	124.87	145.69	166.50	187.31	228.93	270.56	312.18	374.62
Burton-on-the-Wolds / Cotes / Prestwold	89.73	104.69	119.65	134.60	164.51	194.42	224.33	269.20
Cossington	98.68	115.14	131.58	148.03	180.92	213.82	246.71	296.06
East Goscote	108.63	126.74	144.85	162.95	199.16	235.37	271.58	325.90
Hathern	100.18	116.89	133.58	150.28	183.67	217.07	250.46	300.56
Hoton	94.56	110.32	126.08	141.84	173.36	204.88	236.40	283.68
Mountsorrel	109.52	127.78	146.03	164.28	200.78	237.29	273.80	328.56
Newtown Linford	118.36	138.09	157.82	177.54	216.99	256.45	295.90	355.08
Queniborough	93.11	108.64	124.15	139.67	170.70	201.75	232.78	279.34
Quorndon	116.80	136.28	155.74	175.21	214.14	253.08	292.01	350.42
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	87.74	102.38	117.00	131.62	160.86	190.12	219.36	263.24
Rearsby	96.02	112.04	128.04	144.04	176.04	208.06	240.06	288.08
Rothley	105.87	123.52	141.17	158.81	194.10	229.39	264.68	317.62
Seagrave	107.14	125.01	142.86	160.72	196.43	232.15	267.86	321.44

Shepshed	114.55	133.65	152.74	171.83	210.01	248.20	286.38	343.66
Sileby	110.79	129.26	147.73	166.19	203.12	240.05	276.98	332.38
South Croxton	107.13	124.99	142.85	160.70	196.41	232.12	267.83	321.40
Swithland	83.70	97.66	111.61	125.56	153.46	181.37	209.26	251.12
Syston	131.33	153.23	175.11	197.00	240.77	284.56	328.33	394.00
Thrussington	80.06	93.41	106.75	120.09	146.77	173.46	200.15	240.18
Thurcaston & Cropston	90.89	106.05	121.19	136.34	166.63	196.94	227.23	272.68
Thurmaston	134.13	156.49	178.85	201.20	245.91	290.62	335.33	402.40
Ulverscroft	68.41	79.82	91.22	102.62	125.42	148.23	171.03	205.24
Walton-on-the-Wolds	88.58	103.36	118.12	132.88	162.40	191.94	221.46	265.76
Wanlip	84.50	98.59	112.67	126.75	154.91	183.08	211.25	253.50
Woodhouse	109.29	127.51	145.73	163.94	200.37	236.80	273.23	327.88
Wymeswold	89.76	104.73	119.69	134.65	164.57	194.50	224.41	269.30
Loughborough Special Expense Area	117.64	137.25	156.86	176.46	215.67	254.89	294.10	352.92

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in the valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

5. that it be noted that for the year 2009/10 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
<u>Leicestershire County Council</u>							
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
708.67	826.78	944.89	1063.00	1299.22	1535.44	1771.67	2126.00
<u>Leicestershire Police Authority</u>							
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
113.09	131.94	150.79	169.63	207.33	245.03	282.72	339.27
<u>Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Fire Authority</u>							
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
35.58	41.52	47.45	53.38	65.24	77.10	88.96	106.75

6. that having calculated the aggregate in each case of amounts of 4(i) and 5 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts of council tax for the year 2009/10 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	BAND A 6/9	BAND B 7/9	BAND C 8/9	BAND D 1	BAND E 11/9	BAND F 13/9	BAND G 15/9	BAND H 18/9
ANSTEY	972.04	1134.06	1296.07	1458.06	1782.07	2106.09	2430.10	2916.12
BARKBY / BARKBY THORPE	951.39	1109.97	1268.54	1427.09	1744.22	2061.35	2378.48	2854.18
BARROW-UPON-SOAR	972.40	1134.49	1296.55	1458.61	1782.74	2106.88	2431.01	2917.22
BEEBY	925.75	1080.06	1234.35	1388.63	1697.21	2005.80	2314.38	2777.26
BIRSTALL	982.21	1145.93	1309.63	1473.32	1800.72	2128.13	2455.53	2946.64
BURTON-ON-THE-WOLDS, COTES & PRESTWOLD	947.07	1104.93	1262.78	1420.61	1736.30	2051.99	2367.68	2841.22
COSSINGTON	956.02	1115.38	1274.71	1434.04	1752.71	2071.39	2390.06	2868.08
EAST GOSCOTE	965.97	1126.98	1287.98	1448.96	1770.95	2092.94	2414.93	2897.92
HATHERN	957.52	1117.13	1276.71	1436.29	1755.46	2074.64	2393.81	2872.58
HOTON	951.90	1110.56	1269.21	1427.85	1745.15	2062.45	2379.75	2855.70
MOUNTSORREL	966.86	1128.02	1289.16	1450.29	1772.57	2094.86	2417.15	2900.58
NEWTOWN LINFORD	975.70	1138.33	1300.95	1463.55	1788.78	2114.02	2439.25	2927.10
QUENIBOROUGH	950.45	1108.88	1267.28	1425.68	1742.49	2059.32	2376.13	2851.36
QUORNDON	974.14	1136.52	1298.87	1461.22	1785.93	2110.65	2435.36	2922.44
RATCLIFFE-ON-THE- REARBY	945.08	1102.62	1260.13	1417.63	1732.65	2047.69	2362.71	2835.26
ROTHLEY	963.21	1123.76	1284.30	1444.82	1765.89	2086.96	2408.03	2889.64
SEAGRAVE	964.48	1125.25	1285.99	1446.73	1768.22	2089.72	2411.21	2893.46
SHEPSHED	971.89	1133.89	1295.87	1457.84	1781.80	2105.77	2429.73	2915.68
SILEBY	968.13	1129.50	1290.86	1452.20	1774.91	2097.62	2420.33	2904.40
SOUTH CROXTON	964.47	1125.23	1285.98	1446.71	1768.20	2089.69	2411.18	2893.42
SWITHLAND	941.04	1097.90	1254.74	1411.57	1725.25	2038.94	2352.61	2823.14
SYSTON	988.67	1153.47	1318.24	1483.01	1812.56	2142.13	2471.68	2966.02
THRUSSINGTON	937.40	1093.65	1249.88	1406.10	1718.56	2031.03	2343.50	2812.20
THURCASTON & THURMASTON	948.23	1106.29	1264.32	1422.35	1738.42	2054.51	2370.58	2844.70
ULVERSCROFT	925.75	1080.06	1234.35	1388.63	1697.21	2005.80	2314.38	2777.26
WALTON-ON-THE- WANLIP	945.92	1103.60	1261.25	1418.89	1734.19	2049.51	2364.81	2837.78
WOODHOUSE	966.63	1127.75	1288.86	1449.95	1772.16	2094.37	2416.58	2899.90
WYMESWOLD	947.10	1104.97	1262.82	1420.66	1736.36	2052.07	2367.76	2841.32
LOUGHBOROUGH (SPECIAL EXPENSES)	974.98	1137.49	1299.99	1462.47	1787.46	2112.46	2437.45	2924.94

7. that the Original Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 5 of the report of the Chief Executive be approved;
8. that the increases to weekly rents be approved in line with the Department of Communities and Local Government guidance on rent restructuring as based on the final housing subsidy determination;
9. that the service charges be approved in accordance with the Communities and Local Government guidance on rent restructuring regarding the de-pooling of service charges, inclusive of new charges where applicable as based on the final housing subsidy determination;
10. that shop and garage rents remain at the existing levels; and
11. that the Leasehold Management and Administration charge be increased to £99 per annum.

Reasons

1. To set the definition of the Loughborough Special Expenses in accordance with Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
2. To ensure that the necessary finance would be available to carry out services in 2010/11 and to set the Council Tax and Loughborough Special Expenses in accordance with legal and statutory requirements.
3. To set the Council's 2010/11 Council Tax Base in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 4-6. To set a Council Tax in accordance with legal and statutory requirements.
7. To ensure sufficient funding for the Housing Revenue Account in 2010/11.
8. To ensure sufficient resources would be made available to the Housing Revenue Account in 2010/11.
9. To ensure the correct alignment of costs and service charges for tenants in accordance with best practice.
10. In order that shop rents were in line with the evaluation made by the Head of Property Services and garage rents reflect current market conditions.
11. That there would be sufficient recovery of the costs associated with operating the leasehold flat and shop services.

77.2 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL IN RESPECT OF ALLOWANCES PAID TO MEMBERS OF CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL 2010-11

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted, which set out the findings and the recommendations of the Independent Panel in Respect of Allowances Paid to Members of Charnwood Borough Council and the revised Scheme of Members' Allowances (item 7.2 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Preston and seconded by Councillor M. Hunt and

RESOLVED

1. that the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel be approved and that the Scheme of Members' Allowances [part 6 of the Council's Constitution] be amended accordingly; and

2. that the appointment of the existing 4 members of the Panel be extended to the Annual Council Meeting in 2011.

Reasons

1. To comply with The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.
2. To appoint members to the Independent Remuneration Panel for the 2010/2011 Council Year.

77.3 TIMETABLE FOR COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS (2010/2011)

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted, which set out a proposed timetable for Council and Committee meetings for the next Council Year (2010/2011), subject to any amendments, which may result from a review of scrutiny (item 7.3 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Preston and seconded by Councillor M. Hunt and

RESOLVED that the timetable for Council and Committee meetings for 2010/2011, attached as Appendix I to the report of the Chief Executive, be approved.

Reason

To ensure that a schedule of meetings for 2010/2011 was agreed and could be published accordingly.

78. CALL-IN REFERENCES

There were no call-in references.

79. MINUTE REFERENCES

No minutes had been referred in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2(h).

80. URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS EXEMPT FROM CALL-IN

There were no urgent executive decisions exempt from call-in.

81. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

No Motions on Notice had been submitted.

82. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

The Council considered making appointments to the vacancies on Licensing Committee and Standards Committee, which were created following the resignation of Councillor Rick Astill in December 2009.

It was proposed by Councillor Preston and seconded by Councillor Bokor and

RESOLVED that Councillor Bentley be appointed to the vacancies on Licensing Committee and Standards Committee.

Reason

To fill the vacancies on Licensing Committee and Standards Committee, which were created following the resignation of Councillor Rick Astill in December 2009, and were allocated to the Conservative Group.