

CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

**MEETING OF THE CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL
HELD IN
THE PRESTON ROOM, WOODGATE CHAMBERS, LOUGHBOROUGH
ON MONDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY 2013**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor D. Wise)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor S. Forrest)

Councillor T. Barkley	Councillor R. Jukes
Councillor L. Bebbington	Councillor J. Miah
Councillor I. Bentley	Councillor J. Morgan
Councillor M. Blain	Councillor B. Newton
Councillor J. Bokor	Councillor K. Pacey
Councillor J. Bradshaw	Councillor A. Paling
Councillor B. Burr	Councillor T. Parton
Councillor R. Campsall	Councillor C. Poole
Councillor J. Capleton	Councillor C. Radford
Councillor J. Choudhury	Councillor P. Ranson
Councillor P. Day	Councillor B. Seaton
Councillor C. Duffy	Councillor R. Sharp
Councillor H. Fryer	Councillor R. Shepherd
Councillor D. Gaskell	Councillor S. Shergill
Councillor D. Grimley	Councillor D. Slater
Councillor S. Hampson	Councillor M. Smidowicz
Councillor P. Harley	Councillor M. Smith
Councillor L. Harper-Davies	Councillor S. Smith
Councillor C. Harris	Councillor D. Snartt
Councillor J. Hunt	Councillor J. Sutherland
Councillor M. Hunt	Councillor E. Vardy
Councillor K. Jones	Councillor P. Youell
Councillor S. Jones	

Honorary Alderman J. Tormey

65. OPENING PRAYERS

The Mayor opened the meeting with the following announcement: "It is with sadness that I inform Council that Ethel Holland Mayoress to Councillor McCaig in 1993/1994 passed away peacefully on 19th February 2013 aged 92 and reunited with her loving husband Bob. Ethel's funeral service will be at 12.00noon on Friday 1st March 2013 at Christ Church Mountsorrel".

The Reverend Robert Gladstone opened the meeting with prayers and remembered the life and service of Ethel Holland. Council Members reflected in a moment of silence.

66. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M. Lowe, P. Osborne, N. Stork and A. Williams and Honorary Aldermen J. Bush, B. Dodd, F. Hurst and D. Stott.

67. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTEREST

No disclosures of pecuniary and personal interest were made.

68. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 14th January 2013 were confirmed and signed.

69. ANNOUNCEMENTS

69.1 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made by the Mayor.

69.2 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made by the Leader.

69.3 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made by the Chief Executive.

70. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

71. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

71.1 EUROPEAN TWINNING VISITS

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

“With the award of a €5000 grant, can the Leader inform me what plans do our European Twins have for visiting us this year?”

In response the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Strategic Support, Councillor Hampson, stated:

“Charnwood Borough Council, and its partners the Loughborough Twinning Association and Voluntary Action Charnwood, have been successful in obtaining European Union funding of €5000 to promote and facilitate building links between the voluntary and community organisations of Loughborough and its twin towns. The funding will help us run a weekend of events in Loughborough between 5th and 7th April 2013 where representatives from the town and community and voluntary groups will be able to meet and share ideas with their counterparts from Epinal, Gembloux, Schwabish Hall and Zamosc”.

“A full programme of events has been put together for our European counterparts including:

- meeting members of the Warwick Way Residents Association to be shown the initiatives undertaken in the area to improve the quality of life for residents on the estate;
- attending an open morning at John Storer House, which will also be open to the public, where local organisations will be able to recruit volunteers; attendees will be able to learn more about the breadth and depth of community and voluntary activity within Loughborough and the Borough of Charnwood and community organisations will be able to learn more about how things operate in the twin towns and to express an interest in further links being developed;
- an opportunity for a discussion with local groups, local politicians, community and voluntary group leaders about the role of the voluntary and community sectors in the twin towns, the emerging role, the role of the local government, funding and future support; and
- reopening and dedication of Fearon Fountain, recognising the role of Henry Fearon in bringing clean water to Loughborough and the impact this had on the poor and vulnerable of his day”.

Councillor Smidowicz asked a supplementary question stating that she appreciated that there was a lot to undertake in the short time that our visitors would be with us, however, what would be the highlight of the planned programme and would it be confined within the 5000 euro gift?

In response, Councillor Hampson stated that it would be a busy weekend for our visitors, a full programme had been developed, which would highlight the important role that voluntary and community groups play in the life of Charnwood. He added that the event would be paid for within the available budget.

71.2 POLICY DECISION MAKING INFORMATION

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

“Would the Leader please clarify as to what extent information gathered by Ward Councillors can currently be used in contributing to and informing policy decision making?”

In response the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Strategic Support, Councillor Hampson, stated:

“The Council has a number of processes and mechanisms in place whereby ward councillors have the opportunity to contribute to policy decision making. The scrutiny process allows for opportunities through committees (e.g. Policy Scrutiny group) and specific panels (e.g. CCTV panel, Gipsy and Traveller Panel) for ward councillors to comment on policies and strategies as they are being developed. Some key corporate projects may decide to have Member Reference Groups to support the development of a policy e.g. the LDF”.

“Additionally as part of the development of many strategies and the development of the Corporate Plan there is a period of public consultation and ward councillors can contribute and put forward information and views gathered from their constituents through these consultation mechanisms”.

Councillor Parton made a statement adding that he and other Councillors had all offered data and further information concerning issues in their Wards and this information had not been used by the Council when considering the issues. Councillor Parton asked a supplementary question asking that information gathered by Ward Councillors be considered as part of the evidence gathering process?

In response, Councillor Hampson stated that the straight answer was yes, however, it was important that information gathered by Councillors was correct, robust and objective in order that it could be officially considered.

71.3 BARRIERS TO HOUSING AND SERVICES

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

“Is the Leader aware that the Wolds (East and West) has the highest level of deprivation in the Borough, as classified by Government figures for Barriers to Housing and Services? What is the Borough Council doing to address this?”

In response the Lead Member for Planning and Sustainability, Councillor Blain, stated:

“The Borough Council is aware of data in relation deprivation. There are seven indicators that the Government uses to measure deprivation and ‘Barriers to Housing and Services’ is one of these indicators. The Council has used all seven indicators of deprivation to identify Priority Neighbourhoods in Charnwood taking account of a broader range of issues, including educational attainment, incomes and levels of unemployment. Priority Neighbourhoods have therefore been identified taking a balanced view against a range of indicators”.

“Data around deprivation, especially in relation to Priority Neighbourhoods has been used to inform the emerging Local Plan Core Strategy, including the overall spatial strategy. The range of social, economic and environmental evidence used to inform the spatial strategy has been referred to in the Objective Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal Report which accompanied the Core Strategy Report to Cabinet on 27th September 2012”.

“The Borough Council is seeking to respond to particular issues identified in our communities using evidence about deprivation alongside other evidence for example on transport and travel patterns and access to services and facilities. For villages in the east and west Wolds, the emerging Local Plan Core Strategy policies seek to avoid significant new development that will be reliant on the car for access to services whilst securing higher levels of affordable housing to meet local needs, and where possible protecting and enhancing local facilities for people that live in the Wolds”.

Councillor M. Hunt made a statement stating that Government figures for Barriers to Housing and Services stated that the Wolds was deprived today. Councillor M. Hunt added this prevented young people buying houses and residents travelling to access services such as a doctor’s surgery. Councillor M. Hunt asked a supplementary question seeking what the Council was doing currently to address these issues?

In response, Councillor Blain stated that tackling deprivation was a high priority for the Council and many initiatives were being undertaken. Councillor Blain added, that because these initiatives crossed portfolios, that he would undertake to obtain a comprehensive response in the form of a written answer in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5(iii)(c).

71.4 CORE STRATEGY TRAFFIC ASSESSMENT CONGESTION SEVERITY

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

“The Core Strategy Traffic Assessment Congestion Severity Indices at peak hour traffic for the five Core Strategies tested so far are:

Congestion Severity Index (AM Peak)

DS1 (West Loughborough/SWL/Shepshed/East Thurmaston)	133
DS2(East Loughborough/South Loughborough/ Shepshed/ East Thurmaston)	111
DS3(West Loughborough/Cotes/Shepshed/ East Thurmaston)	127
DS4(West Loughborough/South Loughborough/ Shepshed/East Thurmaston)	133
PS (West Loughborough/West Shepshed/ East Thurmaston)	160

With the preferred strategy starting from a lower base line than the DS results (i.e. 58 vs. 82). What conclusion do you draw from this?”

In response the Lead Member for Planning and Sustainability, Councillor Blain, stated:

“The reason for the variance between the severity index figures for the emerging development strategies modelled in Stage 1 and the single emerging development strategy modelled in Stage 2 can be explained as follows:

- Following the completion of the Stage 1 work, MVA undertook some analysis in July 2012 of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) within LLITM. As a result of this work, alterations (network improvements) were made by MVA to the SRN for the 2008 Base Year. These amendments meant that the Base Year results were slightly different to those used for Stage 1 and as a consequence, meant that the 2026 Reference Case needed to be re-run. This in turn has meant that the Stage 2 Reference Case results are different to Stage 1.

- The mitigation package has also been refined for Stage 2 and includes numerous public transport and highway schemes which were not modelled in Stage 1. This will also have had an impact on the difference between the Severity Index results for Stages 1 and 2.
- The Stage 1 work assessed four possible permutations of a single emerging development strategy and the main purpose was to ensure that all development options were modelled. It was never intended that one of these would be picked as a single emerging development strategy but that the Stage 1 work, along with other evidence, would inform the development of a single emerging development strategy to be tested in Stage 2”.

“In conclusion, the reasons explained above therefore mean that it is not possible to make a comparison between the Stage 1 and Stage 2 transport modelling work”.

Councillor M. Hunt made a statement adding that the statistics in his question were interesting since five tests had been undertaken across five scenarios and the latest one was the worst. Councillor M. Hunt added that the purpose of transport modelling was to obtain reliable and consistent results, yet the concluding paragraph of the written answer confirmed that it was not possible to make a comparison between stage 1 and stage 2 of the transport modelling.

In response, Councillor Blain stated that it was difficult for non practitioners to follow the data and the reason the results were different was that the base data changed between the stages, which was one of the reasons for the delay with obtaining the results. Councillor Blain added that stage 2 data was more reliable and that it confirmed the assumptions made in the Core Strategy.

71.5 LOCALISATION OF COUNCIL TAX – SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE?

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

“At its meeting of 22nd November 2012, the Cabinet accepted Overview Scrutiny Group recommendations to amend the discounts applied to second and empty home owners so that the burden of meeting the Council Tax benefit cuts could be shared by those more able to afford the increase in payments”.

“Overview Scrutiny Group outlined the reason for the proposal as to *‘maximise Council Tax income in order that increased funds could be*

added to the discretionary fund...so that more vulnerable people could be supported”.

“In view of this, could the Leader confirm:

1. That the income from second and empty homes was estimated at £687,000 in the Full Council papers of 14th January 2013, an increase of **£257,000** on the figure outlined in the 22nd November 2012 Cabinet papers reflecting the impact of the Overview Scrutiny Group recommendations?
2. That this estimate excludes £20,000 additional funds generated from changes to the second adult rebate?
3. That this estimate excludes £20,000-£40,000 additional income generated from changes to second homes discounts?
4. How much of this additional c£300,000 income has been added to the discretionary funds that stood at £60,000 (Local Council Tax discretionary discount fund) and £132,000 (discretionary housing payments fund) at the time of the 22nd November 2012 meeting?”.

In response the Lead Member for Customer Services, Councillor Bokor, stated:

“The Cabinet Item was clear to state that as this was the first year of this new scheme many of the numbers within the report were based on best information available but in many cases they were necessarily estimates and reliant on a high proportion of households in all categories paying the new debt levied. If these estimates are not realised then the Council would need to find any shortfall from elsewhere within its budgets”.

“At the time the Cabinet item was submitted the actual financial details of the Government settlement for 2013/14 had not been received. The addendum to the Council report of 14th January 2013 showed revised numbers reflecting details of the settlement as well as the impact of changes to second and empty homes. Specifically:

- The revised estimates in the addendum do show an increase in projected revenues from empty properties of £257,000
- The amount of £20,000 in respect of the second adult rebate is actually included within the savings for the new scheme; this is unchanged from the cabinet report
- The addendum does exclude potential revenues generated from changes in the second home discount”.

“It may also be noted, however, that as a result of the financial settlement, the estimated funding shortfall across all preceptors increased by £144,000, with Charnwood bearing the brunt of this impact”.

“At this stage no specific additional funding has been allocated to the discretionary funds. However, the budget proposals do include an additional £100,000 to address potential impacts arising from the various Welfare Changes expected in 2013/14”.

Councillor Sharp made a statement welcoming the Overview Scrutiny Group recommendations concerning the scheme of local Council Tax Support, which would unlock additional funding to provide further support for the elderly and vulnerable. Councillor Sharp added that Cabinet supported the Overview Scrutiny Group recommendations yet the discretionary fund had not been increased. Councillor Sharp asked a supplementary question, would the amounts in the discretionary fund be increased?

In response, Councillor Bokor stated that the 8.5% cap applied by Charnwood and across Leicestershire and Rutland was one of the lowest, contrasting to an average of 20% across the Country. Councillor Bokor stated that the discretionary fund would be £92,000 this year and added that less than 30% of Councils nationally were providing a discretionary fund. Councillor Bokor concluded that it was important to get the balance right and support those in need, judging claimants on an individual basis.

71.6 LOUGHBOROUGH PEDESTRIANISATION PROPOSALS

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

“Does the Leader agree that following the report in The Loughborough Echo on information given at Loughborough South West Forum there is great concern over the possible continuation of buses running both ways through the proposed pedestrianisation section in Loughborough?”

“Recognition should be given to the contribution the Town Team has made in working with officers widening visitor and shopper amenities in the town centre”.

“Would he ensure that their contribution is refreshed and in particular they be consulted on this unpopular plan to maintain the two way bus system?”

In response the Leader of the Council, Councillor Slater, stated:

“The approved Loughborough Town Centre Master Plan is committed to the delivery of a “walkable” town centre, easily accessible by public transport, on foot and by bicycle. It is committed also to achieving high quality design in buildings and public spaces”.

“The completion of the Inner Relief Road is supported as a key component of the strategy to divert traffic away from the centre, affording the opportunity to reduce severance, encourage investment, and create a high quality public realm supported by bus hubs. Sketch designs provide for the implementation of the County Council’s original proposal to trial for one year south bound bus services only along the A6 corridor. The Master Plan acknowledges that in the longer term there is the option to completely pedestrianise the area”.

“The Town Team continues to be closely engaged in the monitoring and delivery of the Master Plan. The team works closely with representatives of the County highway authority responsible for the implementation of the Inner Relief Road, bus hubs and related improvements to the public realm to improve pedestrian comfort and safety”.

“The County Council is expected to confirm a variation to the proposed trial to permit both north and south bound bus traffic through the Market Place section of the A6 corridor. If the 12 month trial proceeds on that basis the Town Team, along with all other interested stake holders, will be able to contribute to its evaluation. The highway authority may then take into consideration all representations received in informing its final decision”.

“In the meantime I shall be seeking assurances as to the establishment and enforcement of a code of practice, reinforced by traffic regulation orders as necessary, to ensure safe operating procedures including clear priorities and adherence to “walking pace” speed controls through the pedestrianised area”.

Councillor M. Smith made a statement stating that bus stops should be located on the ring road and not be allowed to pass through the pedestrianised area, adding that such arrangements worked well during the Fair. Councillor M. Smith asked a supplementary question urging the Leader to raise concerns with the Highways Authority and bus companies?

In response, Councillor Slater stated that was having discussions with County Council officers and the County Council Lead Member. Councillor Slater added that he would be asking the County Council Cabinet a question on the matter and that he would be urging a

consultation to be undertaken with members of the public and bus companies on the proposals.

71.7 FOOD TESTING

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

“Does Leicestershire have robust food testing facilities? If so, will they be advising people of any local problems?”

In response, the Lead Member for Housing and Regulatory Services, Councillor J. Hunt, stated:

“Unfortunately I cannot confirm whether all the food testing facilities are robust across the whole of Leicestershire, as that is a question that would need to be directed to each District Council, Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council. However, I can confirm the arrangements that are in place for food sampling undertaken by this Council”.

“The Council does undertake a food sampling programme within the borough. This is specifically to undertake proactive checks of food which is either manufactured or sold within the area. Officers of the Food Safety section of the Council undertake approximately 350 samples each year in order to check for microbiological quality (mainly bacteriological such as E.coli and Salmonella). The type of food that is sampled is directed by the Health Protection Agency (HPA)”.

“This microbiological sampling is carried out by the HPA Food, Water and Environmental Microbiology Laboratory, which is based at the Good Hope Hospital in Birmingham. The laboratory is recognised as an ‘Official Control Laboratory’ by the Food Standards Agency and is accredited to ISO 17025. It is also formally accredited by UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service)”.

“Food sampling is carried out by competent staff in line with the FSA’s sampling guidelines”.

“The Council also undertake reactive type sampling of food, following the receipt of complaints. This may include microbiological tests and also contamination due to ‘foreign bodies’. This type of analysis is undertaken by the ‘Public Analyst’, which is currently Cardiff Scientific Services, based in Cardiff. This laboratory is also UKAS accredited and also designated as an ‘Official Control Laboratory’, to ensure that samples are analysed in line with nationally agreed standards and will stand up to legal challenge”.

“The Council are required to use Laboratories that are designated by the FSA for ‘Official Food Control’. A full list of these Laboratories are provided by the FSA on their website. All of these controls in place ensure that the Laboratories the Council use are as ‘robust’ as possible for food sampling undertaken by the Food Safety Service and in line with National Guidelines”.

“Where there are any Food Safety issues identified as part of this sampling process, if they relate to individual premises, these are dealt with by the Food Safety Team, who ensure that relevant action is taken to resolve the problems. Where there are issues of national significance, which will involve the removal of products from sale, this is co-ordinated by the Food Standards Agency. This will also include, where necessary the publication of information concerning affected food premises”.

“The Council is not responsible for general compositional sampling of food, such as DNA testing, which is the responsibility of Trading Standards”.

Councillor Jukes made a statement adding that the public had concerns around food safety and that Leicestershire should have its own facilities, he added that monitoring was important especially given the different religious groups in the area who wanted reassurance concerning the whether meat was labelled correctly.

In response, Councillor J. Hunt stated that she was aware of the points raised and clarified the responsibilities of the Borough Council, which were in relation to bacteria, foreign bodies and pasteurisation. Councillor J. Hunt added that the Council responded both proactively and reactively and used nationally recognised facilities to test samples.

72. BUSINESS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

72.1 CHARNWOOD OPEN SPACES

A report of Cabinet, setting out, following a period of public consultation, Charnwood’s Open Spaces Strategy for 2013-2028, for consideration and approval, was submitted (item 7.1 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Fryer and seconded by Councillor Blain and

RESOLVED

1. that the Charnwood Open Spaces Strategy for 2013-2028, as set out in Appendix A of the report of Cabinet (filed with these minutes), be approved; and
2. that delegated authority be given to the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces, in consultation with the Lead Member for Waste Operations and Open Spaces, to make minor amendments to the Strategy prior to publication, taking into account the recommendations of the Overview Scrutiny Group on 11th February 2013 and the comments of Cabinet members.

Reasons

1. To enable the Strategy, which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, to be adopted in order to protect and improve open spaces in Charnwood.
2. To ensure that the issues raised by Overview Scrutiny Group, reflected in the second recommendation of the Group to Cabinet, along with additional modifications identified by Cabinet Members, to be incorporated as appropriate into the Strategy.

72.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STRATEGY FOR 2013-14

A report of Cabinet, setting out the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, as well as the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy, for consideration and approval, was submitted (item 7.2 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Barkley and seconded by Councillor Morgan and

RESOLVED

1. that the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy, as shown as an Appendix to the report of Cabinet (files with these minutes), be approved; and
2. that the Prudential and Treasury Indicators set out in sections 2 and 3 of the Strategy be approved.

Reasons

1. To ensure that the Council's governance and management procedures for Treasury Management reflect best practice and comply with the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice, Guidance Notes and Treasury Management Policy Statement.
2. To ensure that funding of capital expenditure would be taken within the totality of the Council's financial position and that borrowing and investment would only be carried out with proper regard to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

72.3 2013/14 COUNCIL TAX BASE AND SPECIAL EXPENSES AND 2013/14 GENERAL FUND AND HRA REVENUE BUDGETS

A report of the Cabinet setting out the proposed General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets for 2013/14 along with the proposed Council Tax levy, and the 2013/14 Original Budget for the Housing Revenue Account together with proposals to increase rent and service charges, was submitted (item 7.3 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Following Leicestershire County Council setting its precept on 20th February 2013, the full Council Tax recommendations, which the Council had to consider in order to set a Council Tax Levy and General Fund and HRA revenue budgets for 2013/14, was also circulated (filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Barkley and seconded by Councillor Morgan and

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
 - a. the Original Budget for 2013/14 be £17,652,402,
 - b. the base Council Tax be set at £102.62 at Band D, and
 - c. the Loughborough Special Rate be set at £73.51;
3. that the amounts below be approved as the Council tax base for 2013/14:

- (a) for the whole Council area as 50,212.1 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
- (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates:

Part of the Council's area

<u>Parish, etc</u>	<u>Council Tax Base</u> <u>2013/14</u>
Anstey	2071.4
Barkby	136.8
Barkby Thorpe	14.7
Barrow-upon-Soar	2138.6
Beeby	33.0
Birstall	4008.2
Burton-on-the-Wolds	483.5
Cossington	217.4
Cotes	11.2
East Goscote	839.0
Hathern	755.2
Hoton	142.6
Mountsorrel	2586.7
Newtown Linford	506.8
Prestwold	29.6
Queniborough	904.6
Quorndon	2159.8
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	86.6
Rearsby	454.3
Rothley	1735.6
Seagrave	258.9
Shepshed	4154.9
Sileby	2269.3
South Croxton	123.7
Swithland	150.9
Syston	3875.6
Thrussington	250.2
Thurcaston & Cropston	920.2
Thurmaston	2548.1
Ulverscroft	63.4
Walton-on-the-Wolds	126.3
Wanlip	84.9

<u>Parish, etc</u>	<u>Council Tax Base</u> <u>2013/14</u>
Woodhouse	928.1
Wymeswold	558.8
Loughborough Special Expense Area	14583.2

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 calculated for the year 2013/14 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- a) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2013/14 (excluding Parish precepts) be £6,224,777,
 - b) £63,226,827 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,
 - c) £54,400,023 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act,
 - d) £8,826,804 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(b) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(c) 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 31B of the Act),
 - e) £175.79 being the amount at 4(d) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (3(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts),
 - f) £3,674,038 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as set out in Appendix A of the Supplementary Report of Cabinet, filed with these minutes),

- g) £102.62 being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(f) above by Item T (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 Parish precept relates,
- h) Part of the Council's Area:

<u>Parish, etc</u>	<u>District Band D Charge</u>
Anstey	196.29
Barkby and Barkby Thorpe	150.52
Barrow-upon-Soar	189.22
Beeby	102.62
Birstall	186.18
Burton-on-the-Wolds / Cotes / Prestwold	151.88
Cossington	226.06
East Goscote	166.29
Hathern	151.63
Hoton	173.58
Mountsorrel	165.18
Newtown Linford	176.85
Queniborough	141.66
Quorndon	184.16
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	131.49
Rearsby	142.26
Rothley	155.04
Seagrave	162.34
Shepshed	171.15
Sileby	167.47
South Croxton	172.70
Swithland	119.19
Syston	193.46
Thrussington	120.71
Thurcaston & Cropston	138.08
Thurmaston	209.31
Ulverscroft	102.62
Walton-on-the-Wolds	130.16
Wanlip	126.18

<u>Parish, etc</u>	<u>District Band D Charge</u>
Woodhouse	169.19
Wymeswold	135.18
Loughborough Special Expense Area	176.13

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 year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate, and

i) Part of the Council's area:

Parish	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Anstey	130.86	152.67	174.48	196.29	239.91	283.53	327.15	392.58
Barkby and Barkby Thorpe	100.34	117.08	133.80	150.52	183.96	217.42	250.86	301.04
Barrow-upon-Soar	126.14	147.18	168.20	189.22	231.26	273.32	315.36	378.44
Beeby	68.41	79.82	91.22	102.62	125.42	148.23	171.03	205.24
Birstall	124.12	144.81	165.50	186.18	227.55	268.93	310.30	372.36
Burton-on-the-Wolds / Cotes / Prestwold	101.25	118.13	135.01	151.88	185.63	219.38	253.13	303.76
Cossington	150.70	175.83	200.94	226.06	276.29	326.53	376.76	452.12
East Goscote	110.86	129.34	147.82	166.29	203.24	240.20	277.15	332.58
Hathern	101.08	117.94	134.78	151.63	185.32	219.02	252.71	303.26
Hoton	115.72	135.01	154.30	173.58	212.15	250.73	289.30	347.16
Mountsorrel	110.12	128.48	146.83	165.18	201.88	238.59	275.30	330.36
Newtown Linford	117.90	137.55	157.20	176.85	216.15	255.45	294.75	353.70
Queniborough	94.44	110.18	125.92	141.66	173.14	204.62	236.10	283.32
Quorndon	122.77	143.24	163.70	184.16	225.08	266.01	306.93	368.32
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	87.66	102.27	116.88	131.49	160.71	189.93	219.15	262.98
Rearsby	94.84	110.65	126.46	142.26	173.87	205.49	237.10	284.52
Rothley	103.36	120.59	137.82	155.04	189.49	223.95	258.40	310.08
Seagrave	108.22	126.27	144.30	162.34	198.41	234.49	270.56	324.68
Shepshed	114.10	133.12	152.14	171.15	209.18	247.22	285.25	342.30
Sileby	111.64	130.26	148.86	167.47	204.68	241.90	279.11	334.94
South Croxton	115.13	134.33	153.51	172.70	211.07	249.46	287.83	345.40

Parish	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Swithland	79.46	92.71	105.95	119.19	145.67	172.16	198.65	238.38
Syston	128.97	150.47	171.97	193.46	236.45	279.44	322.43	386.92
Thrussington	80.47	93.89	107.30	120.71	147.53	174.36	201.18	241.42
Thurcaston & Cropston	92.05	107.40	122.74	138.08	168.76	199.45	230.13	276.16
Thurmaston	139.54	162.80	186.06	209.31	255.82	302.34	348.85	418.62
Ulverscroft	68.41	79.82	91.22	102.62	125.42	148.23	171.03	205.24
Walton-on-the-Wolds	86.77	101.24	115.70	130.16	159.08	188.01	216.93	260.32
Wanlip	84.12	98.14	112.16	126.18	154.22	182.26	210.30	252.36
Woodhouse	112.79	131.60	150.39	169.19	206.78	244.39	281.98	338.38
Wymeswold	90.12	105.14	120.16	135.18	165.22	195.26	225.30	270.36
Loughborough Special Expense Area	117.42	136.99	156.56	176.13	215.27	254.41	293.55	352.26

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, be applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion be 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 the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire ('PCCL') and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

	REQUIREMENTS (TO 2 DECIMAL PLACES)							
	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Leicestershire County Council	708.67	826.78	944.89	1063.00	1299.22	1535.44	1771.66	2126.00
Combined Fire Authority	38.92	45.40	51.89	58.38	71.35	84.32	97.29	116.75
PCCL	115.92	135.24	154.55	173.87	212.51	251.15	289.79	347.75

6. that the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2013/14 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

	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	994.37	1160.09	1325.81	1491.54	1822.99	2154.44	2485.89	2983.08
BARKBY / BARKBY THORPE	963.85	1124.50	1285.13	1445.77	1767.04	2088.33	2409.60	2891.54
BARROW-UPON-SOAR	989.65	1154.60	1319.53	1484.47	1814.34	2144.23	2474.10	2968.94
BEEBY	931.92	1087.24	1242.55	1397.87	1708.50	2019.14	2329.77	2795.74
BIRSTALL	987.63	1152.23	1316.83	1481.43	1810.63	2139.84	2469.04	2962.86
BURTON-ON-THE- WOLDS, COTES & PRESTWOLD	964.76	1125.55	1286.34	1447.13	1768.71	2090.29	2411.87	2894.26
COSSINGTON	1014.21	1183.25	1352.27	1521.31	1859.37	2197.44	2535.50	3042.62
EAST GOSCOTE	974.37	1136.76	1299.15	1461.54	1786.32	2111.11	2435.89	2923.08
HATHERN	964.59	1125.36	1286.11	1446.88	1768.40	2089.93	2411.45	2893.76
HOTON	979.23	1142.43	1305.63	1468.83	1795.23	2121.64	2448.04	2937.66
MOUNTSORREL	973.63	1135.90	1298.16	1460.43	1784.96	2109.50	2434.04	2920.86
NEWTOWN LINFORD	981.41	1144.97	1308.53	1472.10	1799.23	2126.36	2453.49	2944.20
QUENIBOROUGH	957.95	1117.60	1277.25	1436.91	1756.22	2075.53	2394.84	2873.82
QUORNDON	986.28	1150.66	1315.03	1479.41	1808.16	2136.92	2465.67	2958.82
RATCLIFFE-ON-THE- WREAKE	951.17	1109.69	1268.21	1426.74	1743.79	2060.84	2377.89	2853.48
REARSBY	958.35	1118.07	1277.79	1437.51	1756.95	2076.40	2395.84	2875.02
ROTHLEY	966.87	1128.01	1289.15	1450.29	1772.57	2094.86	2417.14	2900.58
SEAGRAVE	971.73	1133.69	1295.63	1457.59	1781.49	2105.40	2429.30	2915.18
SHEPSHED	977.61	1140.54	1303.47	1466.40	1792.26	2118.13	2443.99	2932.80
SILEBY	975.15	1137.68	1300.19	1462.72	1787.76	2112.81	2437.85	2925.44
SOUTH CROXTON	978.64	1141.75	1304.84	1467.95	1794.15	2120.37	2446.57	2935.90
SWITHLAND	942.97	1100.13	1257.28	1414.44	1728.75	2043.07	2357.39	2828.88
SYSTON	992.48	1157.89	1323.30	1488.71	1819.53	2150.35	2481.17	2977.42
THRUSSINGTON	943.98	1101.31	1258.63	1415.96	1730.61	2045.27	2359.92	2831.92
THURCASTON & CROPSTON	955.56	1114.82	1274.07	1433.33	1751.84	2070.36	2388.87	2866.66
THURMASTON	1003.05	1170.22	1337.39	1504.56	1838.90	2173.25	2507.59	3009.12
ULVERSCROFT	931.92	1087.24	1242.55	1397.87	1708.50	2019.14	2329.77	2795.74
WALTON-ON-THE- WOLDS	950.28	1108.66	1267.03	1425.41	1742.16	2058.92	2375.67	2850.82
WANLIP	947.63	1105.56	1263.49	1421.43	1737.30	2053.17	2369.04	2842.86
WOODHOUSE	976.30	1139.02	1301.72	1464.44	1789.86	2115.30	2440.72	2928.88

	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
WYMESWOLD	953.63	1112.56	1271.49	1430.43	1748.30	2066.17	2384.04	2860.86
LOUGHBOROUGH (SPECIAL EXPENSES)	980.93	1144.41	1307.89	1471.38	1798.35	2125.32	2452.29	2942.76

7. that the Original Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2013/14 as set out in Appendix 5 of the report of the Head of Finance and Property Services to Cabinet (filed with these minutes) 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;
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;
10. that the increases to shop rents by the Retail Price Index, being the applicable rate of 2.6%, be approved;
11. that garage rents increase by the Retail Price Index plus 0.5% being 3.1%;
12. that the Leasehold Management and Administration charge be reduced by £9.35, 8.6%, to £100.00 per annum;
13. that it be determined that the basic amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 was not excessive according to the principles set out by the Secretary of State; and
14. that the National Non Domestic Rates tax base for 2013/14 be £43,282,458.

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 2013/14 and to set the Council Tax and Loughborough Special Expenses in accordance with legal and statutory requirements.

3. To set the Council's 2013/14 Council Tax Base in accordance with the regulations made under Section 31B 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 2013/14.
8. To ensure sufficient resources would be made available to the Housing Revenue Account in 2013/14.
9. To ensure the correct alignment of costs and service charges for tenants in accordance with best practice.
10. To ensure that shop rents were in line with the evaluation made by the Head of Finance and Property Services.
11. To ensure that garage rents reflect current market conditions.
12. To ensure there would be sufficient recovery of the costs associated with operating the leasehold flat and shop services.
13. To comply with the requirements of section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
14. To set the Council's National Non Domestic Rates tax base in accordance with statutory requirements.

72.4 ELECTION FEES AND EXPENSES FOR 2013/14

A report of the Chief Executive, setting out scales of election fees payable to the Returning Officer for any Borough or Parish Council elections during 2013/14, was submitted (item 7.4 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

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

RESOLVED that the scales of election fees appended to the report of the Chief Executive (files with these minutes) be adopted for 2013/14 in relation to any Borough or Parish Council elections which may be required.

Reason

To ensure an approved scale of fees could be applied in respect of any Borough or Parish Council elections which may take place during 2013/14.

72.5 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2013/14

A report of the Personnel Committee, setting out the Council's Pay Policy Statement covering the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014, was submitted (item 7.4 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

A supplementary report of the Chief Executive was also submitted, setting out an additional element for inclusion under the severance payments section in the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 (filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Hampson and seconded by Councillor Barkley that the Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 be approved and adopted, as set out in appendix A of the report considered by the Personnel Committee; subject to the following additional wording being included in the Severance Payments section of the proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14: *"In future, full Council will be given the opportunity to vote on severance packages over £100,000 before they are approved. The information presented will clearly set out the components of the severance package (e.g. salary paid in lieu, redundancy compensation, pension entitlements, holiday pay and any bonuses, fees or allowances paid)"*.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Sharp and seconded by Councillor Miah that the Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 be approved and adopted, as set out in appendix A of the report considered by the Personnel Committee; subject to the following additional wording being included:

- (i) in the Severance Payments section of the proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14: *"In future, full Council will be given the opportunity to vote on severance packages over £100,000 before they are approved. The information presented will clearly set out the components of the severance package (e.g. salary paid in lieu, redundancy compensation, pension entitlements, holiday pay and any bonuses, fees or allowances paid)"*; and
- (ii) in the Purpose Section of the proposed Pay Policy Statement 2013/14: *"It is the Council's aim to adopt the Living wage as a baseline for salary provision for all employees of Charnwood Borough Council and seek to negotiate an agreed introduction during 2013/2014"*.

The reason given for the amendment was to ensure that the Council met its obligations under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011; to ensure that the Council gives due regard to the further supplementary guidance issued by the Secretary of State on 20th February 2013 in relation to the production of Pay Policy Statements for 2013-14; and to ensure the Council's commitment to pay all its employees at least the minimum of the Living Wage would be honoured. The amendment was defeated.

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

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 be approved and adopted, as set out in appendix A to the report considered by the Personnel Committee; subject to the following additional wording being included in the Severance Payments section of the proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14: *"In future, full Council will be given the opportunity to vote on severance packages over £100,000 before they are approved. The information presented will clearly set out the components of the severance package (e.g. salary paid in lieu, redundancy compensation, pension entitlements, holiday pay and any bonuses, fees or allowances paid)"*.

Reason

To ensure that the Council met its obligations under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 and to ensure that the Council gives due regard to the further supplementary guidance issued by the Secretary of State on 20th February 2013 in relation to the production of Pay Policy Statements for 2013/14.

72.6 REVIEW OF THE GAMBLING STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES 2013/14

A report of the Licensing Committee, requesting that Council consider the findings of the recent consultation on the review of the Council's Gambling Statement of Principles and that the updated statement be approved, was submitted (item 7.6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Pacey and seconded by Councillor Newton that the updated Gambling Statement of Principles, appended to the report of the Head of Regulatory Services to Licensing Committee (filed with these minutes), be approved; and that the Council retain its policy of not permitting Casino Premises Licences within the Borough.

Councillor Sharp raised a query concerning the position on betting machines in the Gambling Statement of Principles, which related only

to regulatory aspects. Councillor Sharp requested that the impact on debt be taken into account. In response, Councillor Pacey undertook to raise the issue with Officers with a view to it being considered by Licensing Committee as appropriate.

RESOLVED

1. that the updated Gambling Statement of Principles, appended to the report of the Head of Regulatory Services to Licensing Committee (filed with these minutes), be approved; and
2. that the Council retain its policy of not permitting Casino Premises Licences within the Borough.

Reasons

1. To ensure that, as per Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005, the Council has an up to date Statement of Principles to adhere to which sets out the Council's policy in respect of its responsibilities under the Gambling Act 2005 and meeting the licensing objectives.
2. To ensure that the Council regularly reviews its policy position in respect of Casino premises.

73. CALL IN REFERENCES

There were no call in references from Scrutiny.

74. MINUTE REFERENCES

There were no minute references.

75. URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS EXEMPT FROM CALL-IN

There had been no executive decisions which were exempt from call-in since the Council meeting on 14th January 2013.

76. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

76.1 THE BEDROOM TAX

A Motion on Notice had been submitted by Councillor Sharp in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1 (item 11.1 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Sharp and seconded by Councillor Poole:

That this Council resolves to support the amendment of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 in order to repeal changes to Housing Benefit, commonly known as 'Bedroom Tax', and to write to the Secretary of State asking him to rethink his plans which would adversely affect 660,000 tenants nationally including 1,000 of the poorest and most vulnerable in Charnwood.

Reasons given for submitting the motion:

1. the Bedroom Tax would place an intolerable financial burden on 1,000 households in Charnwood, many of whom include working or disabled occupants and/or children living in poverty, for a housing choice that was not theirs as most were placed in housing by this Council;
2. the Government's rationale was for tenants who were under-occupying to downsize to alternate properties; however, there was not sufficient housing in Charnwood to facilitate this and we would, therefore, be forcing tenants to accept additional rent charges;
3. the provisions of the 'Bedroom Tax' were inconsistent and fail to consider the additional needs of many households with regards to disabilities; adaption's made to homes, foster carers, and parents of serving military or who share custody of their children;
4. the size criteria in the social rented sector would restrict housing benefit to allow one bedroom for each person or couple living as part of the household with the following exceptions:
 - a. children under 16 of the same gender would be expected to share,
 - b. children under 10 regardless of gender would be expected to share,
 - c. disabled tenant or partner who needs non resident overnight carer would be allowed an extra bedroom;

This would mean a family with two teenage girls under the age of 16 would be considered to be over occupying a three-bedroom house; and a family of a boy and girl aged 9 would be under occupying, could downsize to another property and in 12 months' time would be over occupying.

The motion on notice was put to Council to decide whether it wished to send the motion to Cabinet for further consideration. In pursuance of Council Procedure Rule 13(iv), Councillors Miah and Poole requested that the names of those Members for and against the amendment or abstaining from voting be recorded.

The motion was defeated, the voting being as follows:

For – Councillors Choudhury, Forrest, Harris, Miah, Newton, Poole, Sharp, M. Smith, S. Smith and Youell.

Against – Councillors Barkley, Bebbington, Bentley, Blain, Bokor, Burr, Capleton, Day, Fryer, Gaskell, Grimley, Hampson, Harley, Harper-Davies, J. Hunt, K. Jones, S. Jones, Jukes, Morgan, Pacey, Parton, Ranson, Seaton, Shepherd, Shergill, Slater, Smidowicz, Snartt, Vardy and Wise..

Abstaining – Councillors Campsall, Duffy, Radford, and Sutherland.

Councillors Bradshaw, M. Hunt and Paling had left the meeting prior to the commencement of the item.

76.2 GRIT BINS/GRITTING

A Motion on Notice had been submitted by Councillor M. Smith in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1 (item 11.2 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor M. Smith and seconded by Councillor Poole and

RESOLVED that the following Motion on Notice be referred to Cabinet for consideration in accordance with the procedure for motions on notice, as set out in Council Procedure Rule 15:

Many Councillors would have received complaints or stories about the problems experienced in the Borough during the recent snowfall. Aside from the loud criticism of the lack of gritting on pavements, slips and trips were a plenty, particularly in a range of landlord serviced sites owned by the Council and numerous partially owned landlord serviced sites. And many elderly residents found themselves housebound, so fearful were they of conditions outside.

This Council supports the provision of a 'Snow Warden' scheme that allows local communities to provide their own support to residents, particularly the elderly and infirm, during times of icy and dangerous conditions on pavements and car parks so allowing safer access to shops and facilities during difficult weather conditions.

It is recommended, therefore, that this Council appoints a dedicated 'Snow Warden' officer for the next 12 months tasked with liaising with Parish Councils, resident groups and the hard to reach communities to ensure a major roll out of the scheme across the Borough and that a sizeable and effective network of Snow Wardens be established.

77. 2013/2014 TIMETABLE FOR COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND MEMBER TRAINING

A report of the Chief Executive, setting out a proposed timetable for Council and Committee meetings for the next Council Year (2013/2014) and designated Member Training days, was submitted (item 12 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Slater and seconded by Councillor Miah and

RESOLVED

1. that the schedule of Council, Cabinet and committee meetings, for 2013/2014, attached as Appendix 1 to the report of the Chief Executive, be approved;
2. that the schedule of scrutiny meetings, for 2013/2014, attached as Appendix 2 to the report of the Chief Executive, be approved subject to the outcome of the scrutiny review; and that, where the scrutiny review results in changes to scrutiny bodies, a revised schedule of scrutiny meetings be approved by the Scrutiny Management Board in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 27; and
3. that the proposed dates for member training days, attached as Appendix 3 to the report of the Chief Executive, be endorsed.

Reasons

1. To ensure that a schedule of meetings for 2013/2014 was agreed and published accordingly.
2. To ensure that a schedule of scrutiny meetings for 2013/2014 was agreed and can be amended accordingly if, as a result of the scrutiny review, changes were made to the structure of scrutiny and/or frequency of scrutiny meetings.
3. To ensure that there would be a structure to training and development days for Councillors.

78. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

There were no proposals to consider.