



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at The Great Hall at The Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Thursday 20 July 2023 at 5.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor John Shephard (Chair)
Councillor Jo Gilford (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Rufia Ashraf
Councillor Jamal Alwahabi
Councillor Azizur Rahman
Councillor Anthony S. Bagot-Webb
Councillor Fiona Baker
Councillor Dermot Bambridge
Councillor Harry Barrett
Councillor Sally Beardsworth
Councillor Phil Bignell
Councillor Rebecca Breese
Councillor Adam Brown
Councillor Michael Brown
Councillor Muna Cali
Councillor Pinder Chauhan
Councillor Nazim Choudary
Councillor Imran Ahmed Chowdhury BEM
Councillor Paul Clark
Councillor Stephen Clarke
Councillor Maggie Clubley
Councillor Fiona Cole
Councillor Julie Davenport
Councillor Janice Duffy
Councillor Paul Dyball
Councillor Alison Eastwood
Councillor Louisa Fowler
Councillor Rupert Frost
Councillor Terry Gilford
Councillor Matt Golby
Councillor André González De Savage
Councillor Andrew Grant
Councillor Mike Hallam
Councillor Enam Haque
Councillor Lauryn Harrington-Carter
Councillor Jonathan Harris
Councillor Cheryl Hawes
Councillor Rosie Herring
Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Councillor James Hill

Councillor Nigel Hinch
Councillor Keith Holland-Delamere
Councillor Mark Hughes
Councillor Rosie Humphreys
Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift
Councillor Koulla Jolley
Councillor Paul Joyce
Councillor Andrew Kilbride
Councillor Anna King
Councillor Phil Larratt
Councillor Daniel Lister
Councillor Malcolm Longley
Councillor Peter Matten
Councillor Ian McCord
Councillor Dennis Meredith
Councillor Charles Morton
Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Councillor Kevin Parker
Councillor Suresh Patel
Councillor Ken Pritchard
Councillor Bob Purser
Councillor Wendy Randall
Councillor Emma Roberts
Councillor Jake Roberts
Councillor Sam Rumens
Councillor Cathrine Russell
Councillor Brian Sargeant
Councillor David Smith
Councillor Zoe Smith
Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms
Councillor Laura Stevenson
Councillor Danielle Stone
Councillor Winston Strachan
Councillor Nick Sturges-Alex
Councillor Walter Tarasiewicz
Councillor Mike Warren

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Ann Addison
Councillor William Barter
Councillor Lizzy Bowen
Councillor Alan Chantler
Councillor Raymond Connolly
Councillor Karen Cooper
Councillor Daniel Cribbin
Councillor Gareth Eales
Councillor Terrie Eales
Councillor Penelope Flavell
Councillor David James
Councillor Jamie Lane

Councillor Greg Lunn
Councillor Charles Manners
Councillor Colin Morgan
Councillor Lisa Samiotis
Councillor Sue Sharps

Officers:

Martin Henry (Chief Finance Officer)
Cath Whitehead (Director of Legal & Democratic and Monitoring Officer)
Paul Hanson (Head of Democratic and Elections)
Tracy Tiff (Deputy Democratic Services Manager)
Ed Bostock (Democratic Services Officer)

134. **Declarations of Interest**

None advised.

135. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced the passing of 2 former councillors.

Former Councillor Wendy Amos passed away recently. Wendy was a member of Daventry District Council from 1996 until 2012, representing the Flore Ward and also serving as Chairman of the Council. Her husband Richard was a member of Northamptonshire County Council until his death in 2006. Together they ran the Crossroads Hotel and Restaurant in Weedon. They were dedicated to supporting the local community and were part of the successful campaign to construct the Flore Bypass, which opened in 2018.

Councillor A Brown paid tribute to former councillor Amos and praised her dedication and selflessness. He noted that she continued to serve residents even after she left politics.

Former Councillor William Alfred (Alf) Goodridge also passed away recently. He was a member of Daventry District Council from 1979 to 2003, mainly representing the Drayton Ward. He was also a member of Northamptonshire County Council from 1981 to 1993, representing the Daventry West Division. Alf was awarded an MBE for services to the community and served as mayor of Daventry on five occasions. He successfully campaigned with others for a new build Danetre Hospital and in his later years was an active member of Friends of Danetre Hospital.

The Chairman led Council in a minute's applause in honour of former councillors Amos and Goodridge.

136. **Housing Acquisitions Programmes**

Jean Lineker addressed Council and commented that there were currently 4,000 people on the Council's waiting list and questioned why the Council was not

prioritising local people. She also voiced concern around checks being carried out on people living in hotels.

Kim Fuller addressed Council and questioned how much money was being paid to Palintir and its associates. She commented that the company held UK residents' personal data and questioned why this information had not been shared with local residents by the Council.

Councillor A Brown presented the report which sought approval to increase the capital programme in the Housing Revenue Account for additional acquisitions, for the Council to directly procure properties in Local Authority Housing Fund Round 1 and participate in Round 2.

Councillor D Smith seconded the report.

Members discussed the report and made the following comments:

- It was right that WNC should play its part in housing refugees.
- This money was ring-fenced and not being taken away from people on council's waiting list.
- The Labour group broadly supported the recommendations and encouraged the administration to move forward with the programme at speed.
- The cost of temporary accommodation was noted; a question was asked around where refugees may have to go if they had to leave hotels before the new homes were acquired.
- Sympathy was expressed for families living in hotels.
- A question was asked as to whether the new houses would be subject to Right to Buy in the future.
- The DLUHC had recently handed back £1.9bn to the Treasury after struggling to find projects to spend it on; this was puzzling as there was a nationwide lack of housing.
- It was hoped that the new homes met the required standards for insulation.
- It was confirmed that the homes would remain in council circulation; Right to Buy would not automatically apply to them due to the tenure types involved.
- The implications of families leaving hotels were being closely examined by the Communities and Housing teams; each family was being monitored and advised appropriately and would continue to be looked after until their housing needs were satisfied.
- Clarity was sought regarding the purchase ceilings calculated which would deliver a breakeven point over the 40-year period.

RESOLVED:

1. Council agreed to the recommendation of Cabinet to approve an increase in the capital programme of £10.907m additional funding/borrowing in the Housing Revenue Account to deliver the LAHF R1 and R2 programmes.

137. Urgent Business (previously agreed with the Chairman)

None advised.

Council - 20 July 2023

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____