

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Thursday, 26 February 2026 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

J Whitbourn (Chairman)
A Harrison (Vice-Chairman)

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| B Alcock | A Casson | G P Scalese |
| D Ashby | N Chapman | I Sheard |
| J R Astill | S Chauhan | E J Sneath |
| J Avery | L J Eldridge | T Sneath |
| P Barnes | M Geaney | A Spencer |
| A C Beal | M Hasan | G J Taylor |
| H J W Bingham | J Le Sage | J Tyrrell |
| M D Booth | M Le Sage | A R Woolf |
| C J T H Brewis | P A Redgate | C N Worth |
| T A Carter | J L Reynolds | |

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors R A Gibson, J L King, A C Tennant and D J Wilkinson,

In Attendance: The Chief Executive, the Assistant Director - Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), the Interim Strategic Finance Manager, the Finance Team Leader, the Assistant Director - Communities and Housing Services, the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development (PSPS), the HR Transformation Manager (PSPS), the Group Communications and Engagement Manager - Corporate, the Democratic Services Manager and the Democratic Services Officer.

93. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the open and restricted minutes of Full Council held on 28 January 2026.

AGREED:

That both the open and restricted minutes of Full Council held on 28 January 2026 be signed as a correct record.

94. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

There were none.

95. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairlady reported her attendance at the following events across the

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district:

- Spalding Sea Cadets Open Evening at the United Reform Church;
- The Chairlady's Charity Race Night at Welland Yacht Club; and

Upcoming events included:

- A Flower Arranging Competition on 28 March 2026 as part of the Spring into Spalding event. Local participation was encouraged; and
- The Chairlady's Civic Reception at the Cley Hall Hotel on 2 May 2026.

96. PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATES

Consideration was given to the report of the Leader which asked the Council to note Portfolio Holder updates on work being undertaken within each of their Portfolios.

Members were reminded that the report was for noting only and that any questions arising from its contents should be raised under Agenda item 8 – Questions Without Notice.

DECISION:

That the Portfolio Holder updates be noted.

97. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.

The Leader did not make any announcements.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Environmental Services announced the following:

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership had recently announced that it would fund the provision of paper and card bins for South Holland. This represented a capital saving of £1.4 million, as the Council would no longer need to use or borrow that sum. In addition, this created a reduction of £70,000 per annum in revenue costs. The Portfolio Holder thanked Councillor Brookes at the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership for working with SHDC to secure this outcome.

98. QUESTIONS ASKED ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 6

There were none.

99. QUESTIONS ASKED WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

Question to: Councillor Casson

Question from: Councillor Barnes

Subject: Fly-tipping

Councillor Barnes referred to data from the reporting website 'FixMyStreet', noting that 366 reports of fly-tipping had been recorded in the previous year

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and that 14 reports had been made in the past week. He commented that, when projected across a full year, this would equate to approximately 728 incidents. He queried the provision that would be made to Kingdom (the council's enviro-crime contractor), or any other enforcement contractor, to increase capacity in response to the projected rise. He also requested a breakdown of the locations of fly-tipping reports across the district to determine whether the correct areas were being targeted. In response, Councillor Casson acknowledged the concerns regarding rising fly-tipping levels, noting both the national trend and recent severe cases featured in the media. He stated that many incidents were not reported and encouraged residents to do so, as Kingdom could only investigate cases that had been formally logged. He explained that, where no evidence could be found such as within loads of bricks or rubble, enforcement action was often not possible. He confirmed that Kingdom investigated all reports received and had recently secured successful prosecutions.

As a related supplementary question, Councillor Barnes reiterated that reports were being made, as evidenced by the recorded figures, and sought clarification on where those incidents were occurring and how many were being properly investigated. He acknowledged that some types of fly-tipping, such as sofas or rubble, might not yield evidence, but emphasised the need to understand how many cases were nonetheless subject to investigation. He further noted that, with the maximum fine for fly-tipping now increased to £1,000, it was in Kingdom's interest to investigate more incidents, which could have implications for future enforcement capacity. In response, Councillor Casson advised that fly-tipping reports were received by Waste Services, who then liaised with the Enforcement Team. Councillor Astill, as the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services was invited to respond, and added that existing statistics indicated a decrease in fly-tipping, confirming that figures by ward area would be circulated. He explained that although reports submitted via FixMyStreet were actioned by Waste Services, the system interacted differently with internal SHDC processes and was not updated in the same way as Lincolnshire County Council's highway-related reporting system. He advised that the most effective and preferred method for residents to report incidents was via the Council's own website and forms.

Question to: Councillor Worth

Question from: Councillor Chapman

Subject: Withdrawal of funding from the Food Enterprise Zone

Councillor Chapman referred to Lincolnshire County Council's withdrawal of funding from the Food Enterprise Zone at Holbeach and asked the Leader for his assessment of the likely impact on the site and wider business confidence. In response, Councillor Worth stated that the withdrawal of funding would have a significant impact. He reported that the Executive Member for Economic Development at the County Council had suggested that the Food Enterprise Zone was underused; however, he considered such underuse to be inevitable in the absence of investment in essential infrastructure, including lighting,

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energy, electricity supply and roads. Without this investment, businesses would not locate on the site, and he therefore regarded the County Council's decision as failing to support local businesses in South Holland. He added that businesses would come forward if the necessary infrastructure was provided. He referred to comments made in the Mayor's recent budget announcement, in which it had been stated that "infrastructure comes before expansion", and the importance of supporting the farming industry to access innovation and new technologies. Councillor Worth expressed strong agreement with both points and confirmed that he would be writing to the Mayor to seek support in this matter, given that Lincolnshire County Council had opted not to do so.

Question to: Councillor Casson
Question from: Councillor Avery
Subject: Fly-tipping at South Drove

Councillor Avery requested an update on the clearance of the significant fly-tipping activity at South Drove, a matter raised at the previous Council meeting. In response, Councillor Casson reported that delays in clearing the fly-tip had occurred due to the Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board requirement to prioritise the manning of pumps following heavy rainfall. Since the last meeting, a bund had been installed to prevent further fly-tipping, which had already produced a noticeable improvement, although some existing waste remained. Following a site visit that morning, Councillor Casson advised that the bund had been temporarily opened to allow the Drainage Board access to clear the remaining waste. He assured members that the area would be cleared shortly and apologised for the delay. He noted that the road had been closed for a period, necessitating the removal of machinery for safety reasons, but confirmed that work had now resumed.

Question to: Councillor Astill
Question from: Councillor Booth
Subject: Wheelie Bin Exemption Process

Councillor Booth asked when residents would be able to contact the Council regarding exemptions from the new wheelie bin collection service, particularly for those unable to manage wheelie bins. He also sought clarification on the appropriate point of contact for such enquiries. In response, Councillor Astill advised that the information was not yet available. He explained that the Council was currently in a mobilisation phase and was working with the Communications Team and the Waste Services Team to determine the criteria for the provision of wheelie bins to households. He hoped to arrange a Member Briefing in April 2026 or early May 2026 to provide an update. He confirmed that the relevant information would be published as soon as possible and added that assessments for wheelie bin eligibility would be undertaken. The service was already aware of properties on restricted collection rounds, and these would form part of the assessment process. Councillor Astill further noted that a set of 'Frequently Asked Questions' had been published on the Council's website, and that an insert was expected to be issued with Council

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Tax bills directing residents to this information.

Question to: Councillor Astill

Question from: Councillor Woolf

Subject: Waste Policies and Fly-tipping Concern

Following recent scrutiny of Waste Policies by the Policy Development Panel and their subsequent approval by Cabinet, Councillor Woolf reiterated concerns regarding the potential for increased fly-tipping once the new service was implemented, although he stated that he hoped this would not materialise. He requested that additional measures be explored to ensure fly-tipping did not increase following implementation. In response, Councillor Astill reported that partner councils, particularly East Lindsey, had not experienced a rise in fly-tipping when wheelie bins were introduced several years earlier, and that evidence from other authorities indicated similar outcomes. He reiterated, as noted earlier in the meeting, that fly-tipping levels in 2024/25 had decreased compared to the previous year, and hoped that this downward trend would continue. Councillor Astill advised that the Council's Engagement Team would be active within communities to educate residents on recycling and correct use of the various containers. The ongoing communications campaign, delivered through the Council's website and local newspapers, would continue to emphasise the appropriate disposal of waste and the importance of only using licensed waste carriers. He further noted that the approved policies clearly set out the enforcement measures to be applied where necessary.

Question to: Councillor Astill

Question from: Councillor Brewis

Subject: New Waste Collection Communication Programme

Councillor Brewis expressed his strong objection to the decision to introduce wheelie bins, highlighting a large number of terraced properties in Sutton Bridge and many elderly residents who would struggle to move the bins. He asked how the Council intended to manage the complexity of the new collection system, noting that some residents already presented the wrong waste for collection under the current weekly service. He queried whether a full education and communication programme would be provided and, specifically, whether every household would receive a timetable showing the days on which each type of waste would be collected. In response, Councillor Astill stated that he had received two letters on this matter from residents in the member's ward, which he would reply to. He reiterated that the Council was planning a district-wide programme of engagement, to begin shortly, and confirmed that the intention was to provide a hard-copy timetable. The most effective method of distribution was currently being determined.

Question to: Councillor Redgate

Question from: Councillor Beal

Subject: Efficiency Savings update

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Councillor Beal referred to the recent publication of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2025 and requested that the Finance Portfolio Holder provide further detail regarding the 2025/26 budget. He noted that the budget required efficiency savings of £1.2m, rising to £1.8m by 2028/29, and asked for an update on progress to date and the controls in place to monitor delivery. In response, Councillor Redgate advised that the 2025/26 budget contained an efficiency requirement of approximately £1.2m. Over the past year, officers had identified efficiencies and, by the end of Quarter 2 2025/26, more than half of the requirement had been delivered. It was anticipated that, through ongoing financial monitoring, the Quarter 3 2025/26 position would confirm delivery of the full requirement. For the forthcoming financial year, he reported that sufficient savings and income opportunities had been identified through the budget process to enable a balanced budget without the need for in-year efficiencies. Looking further ahead, he stated that the negative impact of the local government finance settlement, combined with the timing of benefits expected from the Waste Service transformation programme and the revised Leisure Contract, would result in a projected budget gap of approximately £1.6m for 2027/28. This gap was projected to reduce over the following two years before returning to a balanced position. Councillor Redgate added that the absence of in-year efficiency requirements would enable focus on addressing the 2027/28 gap, which would be managed through existing mechanisms. These included the Transformation Board, which monitored, scrutinised and supported delivery of agreed efficiency proposals; regular financial monitoring for officers and Cabinet, through which any necessary corrective action would be identified; and a review by Internal Audit of savings identification and monitoring processes to support further improvements. Ultimately, External Audit would review the position and report through its annual Value for Money statement. In conclusion, Councillor Redgate stated that the measures outlined demonstrated a healthy financial position and a robust framework being in place.

Question to: Councillor Worth
Question from: Councillor Sheard
Subject: Remembrance Parade

Councillor Sheard sought reassurance that the Remembrance Parade for 2026 would be delivered properly, professionally and in accordance with the expected standards. She reported that several military organisations had expressed concerns that their views were not being sufficiently considered in the organisation of the event, and she sought assurance that the Council's role and responsibilities were distinct from those of the Royal British Legion (RBL). She also asked for confirmation that every effort would be made to ensure that the parade was carried out correctly. In response, the Councillor Worth confirmed that the Council's role in relation to the Remembrance Parade was limited to arranging the necessary road closures and ensuring that appropriate safety measures were in place. He advised that the RBL was responsible for the organisation and running of the parade, and therefore he could not comment on its behalf. However, he confirmed that the Council would continue

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to work closely with the RBL and other relevant organisations to support the effective delivery of the event and noted the concerns raised.

Question to: Councillor Astill
Question from: Councillor Avery
Subject: Waste Vehicles

Councillor Avery referred to a recent local newspaper headline and queried whether the new waste and recycling vehicles would be electric, seeking clarification on the associated logistics and practicalities. In response, Councillor Astill advised that the headline had overstated the issue, and that the full article had clarified that the Council was not moving to fully electric refuse or food-waste vehicles. He confirmed that the electric element related solely to the mechanism at the rear of the waste vehicles, which would be electrically powered rather than hydraulic. This represented the most efficient option currently available, as the technology required for fully electric refuse vehicles was not yet sufficiently advanced.

Question to: Councillor Astill
Question from: Councillor T Sneath
Subject: Food Waste Collection

Councillor Sneath noted the level of public interest in forthcoming waste collection changes and asked whether the authority remained on track to be operational for food waste collections by October 2026, as reported by Lincolnshire County Council. In response, Councillor Astill advised that October 2026 was an indicative timeframe rather than a confirmed start date, and that the earliest point at which the Council would implement the new collection arrangements would be from October 2026 onwards. He stated that further details would be announced in due course.

Question to: Councillor Bingham
Question from: Councillor Eldridge
Subject: Solar Developments on Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Councillor Eldridge referred to the recent decision of the Planning Inspector to enable the progression of an appeal for a solar development at Cordwell Farms, located entirely on Grade 1 agricultural land, where permission had now been granted. She also referred to a further appeal relating to the Fendike Solar proposal in her ward, for which a decision was awaited, as well as a rescheduled appeal for another application in the same ward. She noted that each appeal carried a financial cost to the Council, and therefore ultimately to residents, which should not be overlooked. Given that previous appeal decisions had to be taken into account when assessing planning applications, and in light of the increasing number of large-scale solar developments proposed across the district, Councillor Eldridge asked that the Council consider the broader, strategic question of whether it could continue to demonstrate the necessary tenacity to properly value and protect the district's

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Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land. In response, Councillor Bingham expressed concern regarding recent appeal outcomes in which Planning Inspectors had placed limited weight on the impact of large-scale solar development on BMV land and local landscape character. He observed that, although individual applications represented a relatively small proportion of BMV land, the cumulative impact of multiple schemes coming forward across Lincolnshire and South Holland was a significant issue. He commented that national policy direction was influencing these decisions and that further applications were likely. He stated that the Council was not opposed to renewable-energy development in principle and had supported schemes where they were appropriately located, however proposals needed to be situated in suitable locations, with lower-grade land and rooftop or commercial-site opportunities prioritised. He noted that large-scale proposals and forthcoming Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects could, over time, alter the landscape character of the district, and confirmed that the Council would continue to put forward its evidence and local considerations through both the Planning and appeal processes.

Question to: Councillor Carter

Question from: Councillor Hasan

Subject: Houses in Multiple Occupation and Infrastructure

Councillor Hasan raised concerns regarding the increasing number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) in his area, particularly on St Thomas' Road, Priory Road and Spring Gardens. He noted that some properties accommodated between 10 and 12 occupants but did not appear to have adequate parking provision, resulting in parking congestion, blocked access and unsafe conditions for residents and other road users. He queried the local infrastructure considerations, including parking capacity and road safety, when determining applications for such developments, and the steps that could be taken where issues had already arisen. In response, Councillor Carter confirmed that a revised HMO policy had recently been considered through the scrutiny process, including detailed discussion of fees and property standards. She noted that national minimum standards, such as minimum room sizes, were set by Government, but that the Council had examined whether higher local standards were appropriate. She advised that planning considerations, including matters relating to parking and amenity, were assessed as part of the application process. She acknowledged that some HMOs had created parking pressures in certain areas and advised that issues could be considered at the point of licence renewal, although refusals could only be made on statutory grounds. She reiterated that significant work had been undertaken in reviewing regulations and standards within the new policy and confirmed that officers remained mindful of the impact of HMOs on local neighbourhoods.

100. COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the following Committees and Panels were noted:

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- Governance and Audit Committee – 29 January 2026
- Planning Committee – 7 January 2026
- Joint Performance Monitoring Panel/Policy Development Panel (Budget Scrutiny) – 13 January 2026
- Planning Committee – 11 February 2026

101. KEY DECISION PLAN

Consideration was given to the Key Decision Plan.

DECISION:

That the Key Decision Plan be noted.

102. REPORT FROM CABINET MEETING ON 17 FEBRUARY 2026

Consideration was given to the report of the Cabinet meeting hold on 17 February 2026 which sought approval for the Cabinet's recommendations.

The Portfolio Holder for Public Protection introduced the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Strategy, which set out how South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey District Councils would work collaboratively with partners, including Lincolnshire Police, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, and the voluntary and community sector, to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime across South and East Lincolnshire.

Members were advised that the strategy fulfilled the Council's statutory duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and aligned with countywide activity undertaken through the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership.

It was noted that the strategy had been informed by police data, health data and public feedback, and was structured around the following four Priority Areas:

- Tackling antisocial behaviour in communities;
- Understanding the fear of crime;
- Adopting a place-based approach; and
- Encouraging increased reporting of crime and antisocial behaviour.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the strategy underpinned the corporate priority of 'creating safe and resilient communities' and would strengthen the Council's reputation for responding effectively to local concerns.

Members were informed that the Council's Scrutiny Committee had reviewed the strategy and expressed its support.

DECISION:

That Council:

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- 1) Adopted the Community Safety Strategy which set out the areas of focus identified by the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership; and
- 2) Authorised the Executive of the authority to make further amendments to the Strategy as required to meet emerging needs identified.

103. ANNUAL BUDGET REPORT 2026/27, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL STRATEGY, TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY/STRATEGY, ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN, AND LIVING WAGE SUPPLEMENT

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) to approve the General Fund Budget and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budgets for 2026/27, including the use of reserves, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital Programme and Strategy, Treasury Management Policy/Strategy, the Annual Delivery Plan and Living Wage Supplement, including the approval of Council Tax levels.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance introduced the report by thanking the Finance Team for their diligent work in producing a balanced budget, and expressed appreciation to Cabinet Members, Assistant Directors and officers for their commitment throughout the process. The following main points were highlighted:

- The Annual Delivery Plan document reflected the anticipated impacts of Local Government Reorganisation and set out a broad programme of activity to support communities;
- Ongoing partnership work continued to influence national discussions on Local Government Reorganisation and Internal Drainage Board (IDB) levies;
- Investment in a new Local Plan was highlighted, as were savings achieved through the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership which had exceeded the initial £42m savings target, and the recent procurement of a leisure operator, which would deliver further efficiencies;
- It was noted that the budget had been prepared amid significant financial pressures, changes to the Local Government Finance system, increased reliance on Revenue Support Grant and locally raised Council Tax;
- Provision had been made for the introduction of a food waste collection service, and members were advised of continued Internal Drainage Board (IDB) pressures, with the 2026/27 levy exceeding £3.7m and accounting for 55% of the Council Tax retained by the authority;
- Despite challenges, the proposed budget delivered a balanced and sustainable position with no in-year efficiency target for 2026/27 whilst protecting services and maintaining capacity for investment. The Capital Programme totalled over £25m, and Treasury Management activity had supported the balanced position through increased returns;

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- The proposed Council Tax of £214.92 for a Band D property equated to an increase of 12 pence per week from the 2025/26 position. Members were asked to note that 74% of properties in South Holland fell within the A to C Council Tax brackets and therefore increases were lower, as follows: Band A, 8 pence; Band B, 10 pence; and Band C, 11 pence;
- The following minor amendments to Fees and Charges at Appendix 5 were to be noted:
 - In respect of 'Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licences' at page 225 of the agenda pack, the word 'renewal' needed to be added at the second row, with the 2026/27 fee amended to £229 instead of £240; and
 - In respect of 'Scrap Metal' at page 226 of the agenda pack, the third row needed to be removed; and
- Further proposals included a significant investment in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and HRA Capital Programme, focussing on Decent Homes and Major Adaptations and Green Homes Energy Efficiency. Use of the Spalding Special Expense Reserve for parks and play areas was also proposed, with a detailed plan to follow.

In conclusion, the Portfolio Holder stated that the budget responded to a highly challenging financial environment and demonstrated strong planning and commitment to local services whilst positioning the Council for a stable future.

The following issues were raised:

- The Leader congratulated the Finance team and Section 151 Officer for preparing a balanced budget under challenging circumstances. On this point he noted that the Government settlement had assumed a 3% Council Tax increase, which if not applied would have resulted in a reduction of resources of approximately £250,000. Also, that a significant number of grants appeared to have been rolled into the overall funding allocation which blurred the clarity on whether the Council was receiving a greater or lesser level of support than in previous years. The savings delivered through the partnership were therefore crucial and contributed to the Council's financial stability, exceeding the targeted £42 million to achieve £47 million over five years.
- Members referred to the significant (55%) proportion of district Council Tax being directed to Internal Drainage Boards and raised concern regarding the associated impact on local services. The efforts of the Internal Drainage Board Special Interest Group were noted, and disappointment expressed that concerns had not been recognised nationally.
- Members praised officers for the presentation of a balanced budget under challenging circumstances and stated that their involvement in the process over the preceding months had served to minimise queries at the current meeting.

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DECISION:

That, incorporating the presented minor amendments in respect of Fees and Charges, Council approved the following recommendations as considered by Cabinet,:

- 1) The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (at Appendix 1) be approved;
- 2) That it be noted that the Council Tax Base for South Holland District Council of 31,567 and 9,746 for Spalding Special Expenses (Band D equivalent) has been set for 2026/27 and on the 23 December 2025 by the Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer under offer delegation in line with the Constitution;
- 3) That the Revenue Estimates for the General Fund, HRA and Spalding Special Expense for 2026/27 (Appendices 1, 1a, 1b and 1c) be approved;
- 4) The additions to and use of reserves (as detailed at Appendix 1) be approved;
- 5) The Capital Programmes and Capital Strategy (Appendices 2a, 2b and 3) be approved;
- 6) That the Treasury Management Statement, Treasury Management Strategy Statement, MRP Policy and Annual Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Practices (Appendix 4a, 4b and 4c) be approved;
- 7) The Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/27 (Appendix 5) be approved;
- 8) That it be noted that on 28 January 2026 Council approved the housing rent increase for 2026/27;
- 9) That the report of the Section 151 Officer, under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations and adequacy of proposed financial reserves be noted (Paragraph 11);
- 10) That the Council Tax for a Band D property in 2026/27 be set at £214.92 (£6.39 per annum increase on 2025/26 levels) for South Holland District Council and £23.40 (£0.27 per annum increase on 2025/26 levels) for Spalding Special Expenses.
- 11) That Annual Delivery Plan for 2026/27 (Appendix 6) be approved; and

That Council:

- 12) Approved the application of the Living Wage Supplement to be paid to all employees whose current hourly rate fell below the Real Living Wage

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Foundation rate of £13.45 with effect from 1 April 2026 as outlined in paragraph 10.2 of this report.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 a recorded vote was taken on each Budget decision. The vote was as follows:

| For | Against | Abstain | Absent/Apologies |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Councillor Alcock | | | Councillor Gibson |
| Councillor Ashby | | | Councillor Hutchinson |
| Councillor Astill | | | Councillor King |
| Councillor Avery | | | Councillor Slade |
| Councillor Barnes | | | Councillor Tennant |
| Councillor Beal | | | Councillor Wilkinson |
| Councillor Bingham | | | |
| Councillor Booth | | | |
| Councillor Brewis | | | |
| Councillor Carter | | | |
| Councillor Casson | | | |
| Councillor Chapman | | | |
| Councillor Chauhan | | | |
| Councillor Eldridge | | | |
| Councillor Geaney | | | |
| Councillor Harrison | | | |
| Councillor Hasan | | | |
| Councillor J Le Sage | | | |
| Councillor M Le Sage | | | |
| Councillor Redgate | | | |
| Councillor Reynolds | | | |
| Councillor Scalese | | | |
| Councillor Sheard | | | |
| Councillor E Sneath | | | |
| Councillor T Sneath | | | |
| Councillor Spencer | | | |
| Councillor Taylor | | | |
| Councillor Tyrrell | | | |
| Councillor Whitbourn | | | |
| Councillor Woolf | | | |
| Councillor Worth | | | |

104. COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) to set the amounts of Council Tax applicable for 2026/27 for each valuation band and in each part of the district.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report and noted that:

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- Since Council Tax affected all households, residents experiencing financial difficulty were strongly encouraged to contact the Council for support and advice; and
- Following approval of the Council's budget at agenda item 12, the Council Tax Setting report incorporated the relevant resolutions necessary to bring together all elements for the setting of the Council Tax for 2026/27, as summarised at point 4.1 of the report and detailed in Appendices A to E. In this respect the Council was fulfilling its obligations as a billing authority in the manner specified by law and regulation.

DECISION:

That the formal Council Tax resolutions for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix A and summarised in paragraph 4.1 (and detailed below) and the accompanying appendices B to E be approved

4.0 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS

4.1 The required resolutions for the approval of the levels of Council Tax are set out at Appendix A. The figures relating to the District Council and the average of the parishes are summarised in the following table:

| Resolution Ref | Description | SHDC | Parish Precept | Total |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| (3a) | Gross Expend | £50,631,400 | £1,804,877 | £52,436,277 |
| (3b) | Gross Income | £43,847,020 | - | £43,847,020 |
| (2,3c and 3e) | | £6,784,380 | £1,804,877 | £8,589,257 |
| | Divided by Tax Base | 31,567 | 31,567 | 31,567 |
| (3d and 3f) | Band D Council Tax | £214.92 | £57.18 | £272.10 |

Council is recommended to approve the following resolutions:

1. It is to be noted that on 23 December 2025 the Council calculated: -
 - (a) The Council Tax Base for 2026/27 for the District as **31,567** (item T in the formula in section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended) and;
 - (b) Dwellings in those parts of the district to which a Parish precept relates as shown in **Appendix B**
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2026/27 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£6,784,380**.

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3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2026/27 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act): -

- (a) £52,436,277 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act;
- (b) £43,847,020 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;
- (c) £8,589,257 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (item R in the formula in Section 31a (4) of the Act);
- (d) £272.10 being the amount at 3(c) divided by the amount at 1(a) (item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts);
- (e) £1,804,877 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Including Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (see **Appendix B**);
- (f) £214.92 being the amount at 3(d) less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) by the amount at 1(a) calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its areas to which no parish precept relates;
- (g) The figures shown in *Appendix C*, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the district divided in each case by the amount at 1(b), 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 (Band D equivalent);
- (h) The figures shown in *Appendix D*, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(g) by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a

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particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2026/27 the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Lincolnshire 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:-

| Council Tax 2026/27 | A £ | B £ | C £ | D £ | E £ | F £ | G £ | H £ |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Lincolnshire County Council | 1,115.34 | 1,301.23 | 1,487.12 | 1,673.01 | 2,044.79 | 2,416.57 | 2,788.35 | 3,346.02 |
| Police & Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire | 222.06 | 259.07 | 296.08 | 333.09 | 407.11 | 481.13 | 555.15 | 666.18 |

5. That having calculated the aggregate in each case the amounts at 3(f) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in **Appendix E** as the amount of Council Tax for 2026/27 of the categories of dwellings shown and that the relevant basic amount of Council Tax calculated for 2026/2027 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

6. **Appendix F** provides definitions for the formal Council Tax resolution.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 a recorded vote was taken on each Budget decision. The vote was as follows:

| For | Against | Abstain | Absent/Apologies |
|--------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| Councillor Alcock | | | Councillor Gibson |
| Councillor Ashby | | | Councillor Hutchinson |
| Councillor Astill | | | Councillor King |
| Councillor Avery | | | Councillor Slade |
| Councillor Barnes | | | Councillor Tennant |
| Councillor Beal | | | Councillor Wilkinson |
| Councillor Bingham | | | |
| Councillor Booth | | | |
| Councillor Brewis | | | |
| Councillor Carter | | | |
| Councillor Casson | | | |
| Councillor Chapman | | | |
| Councillor Chauhan | | | |

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| | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Councillor Eldridge | | | |
| Councillor Geaney | | | |
| Councillor Harrison | | | |
| Councillor Hasan | | | |
| Councillor J Le Sage | | | |
| Councillor M Le Sage | | | |
| Councillor Redgate | | | |
| Councillor Reynolds | | | |
| Councillor Scalese | | | |
| Councillor Sheard | | | |
| Councillor E Sneath | | | |
| Councillor T Sneath | | | |
| Councillor Spencer | | | |
| Councillor Taylor | | | |
| Councillor Tyrrell | | | |
| Councillor Whitbourn | | | |
| Councillor Woolf | | | |
| Councillor Worth | | | |

105. PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive which sought approval of the Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Environmental Services presented the report and outlined the statutory requirement under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 for the statement to be approved annually by Council. He highlighted the remuneration information that must be included, as outlined at point 1 of the report, and the need to publish the final Statement by 31 March 2026.

No issues were raised.

DECISION:

That the Pay Policy Statement, at Appendix 1, be approved.

106. TERMS AND CONDITIONS ALIGNMENT ACROSS THE SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Human Resources & Organisational Development (PSPS) which brought forward proposals for alignment of further Terms and Conditions and sought Council agreement to commence delivery.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Environmental Services presented the report which detailed the next phase of the Partnership's Terms and Conditions alignment work. He stated that several terms, conditions and employment

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policies had previously been aligned and a shared pay structure had been implemented for shared officers. The report proposed further alignment of seven terms and conditions and three employment policies as summarised at point 2 of the report, with relevant full policy documents set out at Appendices A, B and C. It was noted that the report had been considered by the Policy Development Panel and if approved by Council, would proceed to consultation.

- Members referred to the recommendations and queried whether any constraints applied to the delegated authority given to the Chief Executive to make future revisions.
 - The Assistant Director – Governance (Monitoring Officer) clarified that: recommendation ‘a’ granted delegated authority to undertake consultation on the proposed changes; and recommendation ‘b’ allowed implementation after consultation, provided the changes did not exceed those approved by Council. Therefore, the delegation did not allow unrestricted or enhanced changes beyond those set out in the report.

DECISION:

That Council:

- a) Delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service: to lead the employment consultation(s) (excluding those related to the Chief Executive) to further revise Terms and Conditions of employment to seek greater alignment across the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership; and to implement an enhanced on-call provision for the Housing Landlord Services Team at South Holland District Council who undertake emergency repairs outside of working hours;
- b) Delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to implement revised Terms and Conditions (excluding those that impact the Chief Executive), after staff and union consultation taking into consideration any changes that arise through consultation from the workforce and unions, provided changes are less than or equal to those approved by Council. This includes approving any new policies and policy updates required for implementation; and
- c) Approved an amendment to the Pay Policy Statement 2026/27, if following a period of consultation, the proposed changes were implemented as set out in this report, specifically for South Holland District Council, the details related to: ‘Redundancy and Severance Payments’ would be amended.

107. HEALTH SCRUTINY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE REPORT

Consideration was given to the report of Councillor G Scalese which provided South Holland District Council with an update following the latest meeting of the Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Committee.

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DECISION:

That the report be noted.

108. NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEES AND OTHER SEATS AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION.

There were none.

109. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

(The meeting ended at 7.40 pm)

(End of minutes)