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To: All Members of the Borough Council

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Charnwood Borough Council to be held in the Victoria Room, Loughborough Town Hall on Monday, 26th February 2024 at 6.30 pm for the following business.



Chief Executive

Southfields
Loughborough

23rd February 2024

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

- 6.1. GENERAL FUND AND HRA REVENUE BUDGETS AND COUNCIL TAX 2024/25 3 - 16

The full Council Tax Recommendations, which the Council must consider in order to set a Council Tax Levy and General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets for 2024/25, is attached.

10. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 17 - 26

To deal with the following questions on notice, submitted under Full Council Procedure 9.9(a):

Councillors, please send your question, request for position statement or motion on notice to:

Karen Widdowson, Head of Democracy
Council Offices, Southfield Road, Loughborough, LE11 2TX
Email: democracy@charnwood.gov.uk

COUNCIL – 26th FEBRUARY 2024

Supplementary Report of the Cabinet

Part A

2024/25 GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVENUE BUDGETS AND SPECIAL EXPENSES – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Purpose of the Supplementary Report

To enable the Council to adopt a General Fund Revenue Budget, a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and a Council Tax levy for 2024/25 in line with legislative requirements.

Policy Context

The budget is essential to all policies of the Council and the setting of a Council Tax levy is a legal requirement of the Council. The rents should be within specified parameters set by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Recommendations

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, as amended by minute 77.1 of Council on 27th February 2018.
2. That:
 - a. the Original Budget for 2024/25 be £20,395,951
 - b. the base Council Tax be set at £144.68 at Band D; and
 - c. the Loughborough Special Rate be set at £82.72
3. That the amounts below be approved as the Council Tax Base for 2024/25:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 59,678.6 [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

2024/25 Council Tax - Parish Precepts

Part of the Councils Area

	Council Tax Base
Anstey	2,683.20
Barkby / Barkby Thorpe	162.50
Barrow-Upon-Soar	2,577.00
Beeby	39.00
Birstall	4,601.60
Burton-on-the-Wolds, Cotes, & Prestwold	574.90
Cossington	220.10
East Goscote	935.20
Hamilton Lee	285.50
Hathern	885.10
Hoton	147.70
Mountsorrel	3,084.10
Newtown Linford	535.40
Queniborough	1,229.50
Quorndon	2,578.70
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	88.50
Rearsby	499.90
Rothley	2,348.20
Seagrave	284.70
Shepshed	5,172.60
Sileby	3,064.50
South Croxton	134.60
Stonebow Village	73.50
Swithland	155.80
Syston	4,381.50
Thrussington	254.00
Thurcaston & Cropston	938.70
Thurmaston	2,923.40
Ulverscroft	62.40
Walton-on-the-Wolds	132.10
Wanlip	86.30
Woodhouse	1,005.20
Wymeswold	634.70
	42,780.20
Loughborough (Special Expenses)	16,898.40
Total	59,678.60

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, 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 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- a) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish precepts) is £10,032,136.
 - b) £66,513,553 being the gross expenditure 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) £51,602,957 being the gross Income which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
 - d) £14,910,596 being the amount by which the aggregate at 5(b) above exceeds the aggregate at 5(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) £249.85 being the amount at 5(d) above (Item R), all divided by Item T 4(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) £6,276,296 being the aggregate amount of Loughborough special items and Parish precepts referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - g) £144.68 being the amount at 5(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 5(f) above by Item T (4(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:

Part of the Council's area

<u>Parish, etc</u>	<u>District Band D Charge</u>
Anstey	290.98
Barkby and Barkby Thorpe	236.93
Barrow-upon-Soar	248.20
Beeby	144.68
Birstall	253.80
Burton-on-the-Wolds / Cotes / Prestwold	206.56
Cossington	224.19
East Goscote	221.67
Hamilton Lea	144.68
Hathern	201.17
Hoton	244.03
Mountsorrel	335.86
Newtown Linford	261.60
Queniborough	201.27
Quorndon	280.13
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	184.23
Rearsby	199.63
Rothley	233.69
Seagrave	220.96
Shepshed	229.47
Sileby	236.47
South Croxton	239.35
Stonebow Village	144.68
Swithland	179.98
Syston	298.38
Thrussington	197.83
Thurcaston & Cropston	201.54
Thurmaston	331.91
Ulverscroft	144.68
Walton-on-the-Wolds	185.56
Wanlip	195.66
Woodhouse	241.99
Wymeswold	220.51
Loughborough Special Expense Area	227.40

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 5(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 4(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.

Parish	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
-	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Anstey	193.983	226.319	258.644	290.98	355.641	420.302	484.963	581.96
Barkby and Barkby Thorpe	157.953	184.279	210.604	236.93	289.581	342.232	394.883	473.86
Barrow-upon-Soar	165.463	193.049	220.624	248.2	303.351	358.512	413.663	496.4
Beeby	96.4533	112.529	128.604	144.68	176.831	208.982	241.133	289.36
Birstall	169.203	197.399	225.604	253.8	310.201	366.602	423.003	507.6
Burton-on-the-Wolds / Cotes / Prestwold	137.043	159.879	182.724	205.56	251.241	296.922	342.603	411.12
Cossington	149.463	174.369	199.284	224.19	274.011	323.832	373.653	448.38
East Goscote	147.783	172.409	197.044	221.67	270.931	320.192	369.453	443.34
Hamilton Lea	96.4533	112.529	128.604	144.68	176.831	208.982	241.133	289.36
Hathern	134.113	156.469	178.814	201.17	245.871	290.582	335.283	402.34
Hoton	162.683	189.799	216.914	244.03	298.261	352.492	406.713	488.06
Mountsorrel	223.903	261.229	298.544	335.86	410.491	485.132	559.763	671.72
Newtown Linford	174.403	203.469	232.534	261.6	319.731	377.862	436.003	523.2
Queniborough	134.183	156.539	178.904	201.27	246.001	290.722	335.453	402.54
Quorndon	186.753	217.879	249.004	280.13	342.381	404.632	466.883	560.26
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	122.823	143.289	163.764	184.23	225.171	266.112	307.053	368.46
Rearsby	131.083	152.939	174.784	196.63	240.321	284.022	327.713	393.26
Rothley	155.793	181.759	207.724	233.69	285.621	337.552	389.483	467.38
Seagrave	147.303	171.859	196.404	220.96	270.061	319.162	368.263	441.92
Shepshed	152.983	178.479	203.974	229.47	280.461	331.452	382.453	458.94
Sileby	157.643	183.919	210.194	236.47	289.021	341.572	394.113	472.94
South Croxton	159.563	186.159	212.754	239.35	292.541	345.732	398.913	478.7
Stonebow Village	96.4533	112.529	128.604	144.68	176.831	208.982	241.133	289.36
Swithland	119.983	139.989	159.984	179.98	219.971	259.972	299.963	359.96
Syston	198.923	232.069	265.224	298.38	364.691	430.992	497.303	596.76
Thrussington	131.883	153.869	175.844	197.83	241.791	285.752	329.713	395.66
Thurcaston & Cropston	134.363	156.749	179.144	201.54	246.331	291.112	335.903	403.08
Thurmaston	221.273	258.149	295.034	331.91	405.671	479.422	553.183	663.82
Ulverscroft	96.4533	112.529	128.604	144.68	176.831	208.982	241.133	289.36
Walton-on-the-Wolds	123.703	144.329	164.944	185.56	226.791	268.032	309.263	371.12
Wanlip	130.443	152.179	173.924	195.66	239.141	282.622	326.103	391.32
Woodhouse	161.323	188.219	215.104	241.99	295.761	349.542	403.313	483.98
Wymeswold	147.003	171.509	196.004	220.51	269.511	318.512	367.513	441.02
Loughborough Special Expense Area	151.603	176.869	202.134	227.4	277.931	328.462	379.003	454.8

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

5. That it be noted that the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire ('PCCL') and the Combined 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							
	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
LEICS COUNTY COUNCIL and Adult Social care	1067.7200	1245.6733	1423.6267	1601.5800	1957.4867	2313.3933	2669.3000	3203.1600
COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY	54.4352	63.5077	72.5803	81.6528	99.7979	117.9429	136.0880	163.3056
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER	190.8201	222.6235	254.4268	286.2302	349.8369	413.4436	477.0503	572.4604
CHARNWOOD BOROUGH	96.4533	112.5289	128.6044	144.6800	176.8311	208.9822	241.1333	289.3600
TOTAL	1409.4287	1644.3334	1879.2382	2114.1430	2583.9526	3053.7621	3523.5717	4228.2860

The split between the County Council precept and the additional Adult Social Care precept is shown 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
LEICS COUNTY COUNCIL and adult social care	1067.72	1245.67	1423.63	1601.58	1957.49	2313.39	2669.30	3203.16
COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY	54.44	63.51	72.58	81.65	99.80	117.94	136.09	163.30
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER	190.82	222.62	254.43	286.23	349.84	413.44	477.05	572.46
CHARNWOOD BOROUGH	96.45	112.53	128.60	144.68	176.83	208.98	241.13	289.36
TOTAL	1409.43	1644.34	1879.24	2114.14	2583.95	3053.76	3523.57	4228.28

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 table overleaf as the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
ANSTEY	1506.96	1758.12	2009.28	2260.44	2762.77	3265.07	3767.40	4520.88
BARKBY / BARKBY THORPE	1470.93	1716.08	1961.24	2206.39	2696.71	3187.00	3677.32	4412.78
BARROW-UPON-SOAR	1478.44	1724.85	1971.26	2217.66	2710.48	3203.28	3696.10	4435.32
BEEBY	1409.43	1644.33	1879.24	2114.14	2583.96	3053.75	3523.57	4228.28
BIRSTALL	1482.18	1729.20	1976.24	2223.26	2717.33	3211.37	3705.44	4446.52
BURTON-ON-THE-WOLDS, COTES & PRESTWOLD	1450.02	1691.68	1933.36	2175.02	2658.37	3141.69	3625.04	4350.04
COSSINGTON	1462.44	1706.17	1949.92	2193.65	2681.14	3168.60	3656.09	4387.30
EAST GOSCOTE	1460.76	1704.21	1947.68	2191.13	2678.06	3164.96	3651.89	4382.26
HAMILTON LEA	1409.43	1644.33	1879.24	2114.14	2583.96	3053.75	3523.57	4228.28
HATHERN	1447.09	1688.27	1929.45	2170.63	2653.00	3135.35	3617.72	4341.26
HOTON	1475.66	1721.60	1967.55	2213.49	2705.39	3197.26	3689.15	4426.98
MOUNTSORREL	1536.88	1793.03	2049.18	2305.32	2817.62	3329.90	3842.20	4610.64
NEWTOWN LINFORD	1487.38	1735.27	1983.17	2231.06	2726.86	3222.63	3718.44	4462.12
QUENIBOROUGH	1447.16	1688.34	1929.54	2170.73	2653.13	3135.49	3617.89	4341.46
QUORNDON	1499.73	1749.68	1999.64	2249.59	2749.51	3249.40	3749.32	4499.18
RATCLIFFE-ON-THE-WREAKE	1435.80	1675.09	1914.40	2153.69	2632.30	3110.88	3589.49	4307.38
REARSBY	1444.06	1684.74	1925.42	2166.09	2647.45	3128.79	3610.15	4332.18
ROTHLEY	1468.77	1713.56	1958.36	2203.15	2692.75	3182.32	3671.92	4406.30
SEAGRAVE	1460.28	1703.66	1947.04	2190.42	2677.19	3163.93	3650.70	4380.84
SHEPSHED	1465.96	1710.28	1954.61	2198.93	2687.59	3176.22	3664.89	4397.86
SILEBY	1470.62	1715.72	1960.83	2205.93	2696.15	3186.34	3676.55	4411.86
SOUTH CROXTON	1472.54	1717.96	1963.39	2208.81	2699.67	3190.50	3681.35	4417.62
STONEBOW VILLAGE	1409.43	1644.33	1879.24	2114.14	2583.96	3053.75	3523.57	4228.28
SWITHLAND	1432.96	1671.79	1910.62	2149.44	2627.10	3104.74	3582.40	4298.88
SYSTON	1511.90	1763.87	2015.86	2267.84	2771.82	3275.76	3779.74	4535.68
THRUSSINGTON	1444.86	1685.67	1926.48	2167.29	2648.92	3130.52	3612.15	4334.58
THURCASTON & CROPSTON	1447.34	1688.55	1929.78	2171.00	2653.46	3135.88	3618.34	4342.00
THURMASTON	1534.25	1789.95	2045.67	2301.37	2812.80	3324.19	3835.62	4602.74
ULVERSCROFT	1409.43	1644.33	1879.24	2114.14	2583.96	3053.75	3523.57	4228.28
WALTON-ON-THE-WOLDS	1436.68	1676.13	1915.58	2155.02	2633.92	3112.80	3591.70	4310.04
WANLIP	1443.42	1683.98	1924.56	2165.12	2646.27	3127.39	3608.54	4330.24
WOODHOUSE	1474.30	1720.02	1965.74	2211.45	2702.89	3194.31	3685.75	4422.90
WYMESWOLD	1459.98	1703.31	1946.64	2189.97	2676.64	3163.28	3649.95	4379.94
LOUGHBOROUGH (SPECIAL EXPENSES)	1464.58	1708.67	1952.77	2196.86	2685.06	3173.23	3661.44	4393.72

7. That the original HRA Budget for 2024/25 as outlined in Appendix 5 of the General Fund and HRA Revenue budget report of the Cabinet be approved.
8. That the HRA weekly rents be amended in line with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) guidance.
9. To amend the non-HRA dwelling properties rents in line with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) guidance.
10. That the HRA service charges be approved in accordance with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) guidance.
11. That shop rents retain their current rents in accordance with the assessment by the Valuation Office.
12. To approve that garage rents are increased in accordance with an assessment by the Valuation Office.
13. That the Leasehold Management and Administration charge increases to £180.35 per annum Leasehold flats, and £112.98 for Leasehold shops.
14. That the Lifeline weekly charge is increased in-line with CPI +1% and that the new digital Lifeline Service charge is set to recover costs.
15. That it be determined that the basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive according to the principles set out by the Secretary of State.
16. That the NNDR tax base for 2024/25 will be £47,737,592.
17. That the Loughborough Special Levy at £82.72, a 1.99% increase on 2023/24 rate.

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 2024/25 and to set the Council Tax and Loughborough Special Expenses in accordance with legal and statutory requirements.
3. To set the Council's 2024/25 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 2024/25.
8. To comply with social housing rents guidance for 2024/25.
9. To reflect the greater flexibility for rental options for non-HRA dwellings.

10. To ensure the correct alignment of costs and service charges for tenants in accordance with best practice.
11. So that shop rents remain affordable and are charged in line with the assessment by the Valuation Office.
12. To increase the rent generated for garages in line with the guidance from the Valuation Office.
13. So that there is sufficient recovery of the costs associated with operating the leasehold flat and shop services.
14. That there is sufficient recovery of the costs associated with operating the Lifeline service.
15. To comply with the requirements of section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
16. To set the Council's NNDR tax base in accordance with statutory requirements.
17. To ensure sufficient funding to the Loughborough Special budget in line with overall £5.00 increase in Council Tax.

Policy Justification

The budgets are essential to all policies of the Council and the setting of a Council Tax levy is a legal requirement of the Council and the rents should be within guidance issued by CLG. Similarly, the Council Tax Base is required to be set by statute.

Implementation Timetable

The new budgets, rents, service charges, etc. will become effective on or after 1st April 2024.

Report Implications

Financial Implications

Without the agreement of budgets, rents, service charges, etc. the Council would be acting illegally and would not be able to function for any length of time.

Risk Management

There are no direct risks in approving the recommendations of this report and the inherent risk elements of the budgets, etc. are covered by the main budget report to the Cabinet on 8th February 2024.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Papers: None

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Part B

Background

1. A report of the Head of Finance setting out the proposed General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets for 2024/25 has been circulated as part of the Council agenda for 26th February 2024. The budgets set out in that report represent the financial spending plans for all services of the Council and it is a legal requirement to set a balanced budget each financial year.
2. Appendix 1 shows a General Fund budget figure of £ 20,395,951
3. Council is requested to consider the full Council Tax Resolution, set out in the recommendations and reasons above, in order to set a Council Tax levy and General Fund revenue budget and Housing Revenue Account budget for 2024/25.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Final version of Appendix 1 of the General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets report submitted to Cabinet on 8th February 2024.

Appendix 2 - Final version of Appendix 2 Council Tax Analysis report submitted to Cabinet on 8th February 2024, has been amended to include approved precept information.

Appendix 1

Actual 2022/23	General Fund Budget Summary	Original Budget 2023/24	Draft Budget 2024/25	Original Budget 2024/25	Movement Draft to Original 2024/25
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000
18,829	Net General Fund Service Expenditure	19,220	21,627	21,627	0
0	Less MRP & Interest & Commercial Reserve	(929)	0	0	0
0	Net Options for Change (Saving)/Pressure		(366)	(366)	0
0	Service Savings (Ongoing)	(417)	(124)	(91)	33
0	Service Savings (Oneoff)	0	(72)	(72)	0
0	Community Grants (Oneoff)	0	100	100	0
0	Service Pressures (Ongoing)	1,931	309	420	111
0	Service Pressures (Oneoff)	579	122	122	0
18,829	Net Service Expenditure	20,383	21,597	21,741	144
85	Revenue Contributions to Capital	0	0	0	0
1,302	EZ LLEP Contribution				0
	MRP Charge	604	611	611	0
280	Interest Paid	230	58	58	0
(1,076)	Less: Interest on Balances	(1,500)	(1,300)	(1,300)	0
19,420	Total Borough Expenditure	19,717	20,965	21,109	144
5	Contribution (from)/to Reinvestment Reserve	500	274	274	0
77	Contribution(from)/to Working Balance	(1,297)	1	1	0
0	Contribution to/(from) business rates pool		(141)	(141)	0
122	Contribution (from)/to Collection Fund	0	0	0	0
(35)	Contribution(from)/ to Capital Plan Reserve	0	(850)	(872)	(22)
200	Contribution(from)/to Commercialisation Reserve	325	26	26	0
(142)	Contribution (from)/to Other Reserves	0	0	0	0
0	Contribution (from)/to Growth Support Fund		0	0	0
19,647	Precept Requirement	19,245	20,274	20,396	122
					0
174	Revenue Support Grant	329	353	350	(3)
6,604	NNDR	6,400	6,800	7,100	300
	Funding Guarantee		3,000	2,474	(526)
7,981	Council Tax Receipts	8,314	8,711	8,634	(76)
1,346	Loughborough Special Levy	1,367	1,410	1,398	(13)
1,631	New Homes Bonus	373	0	404	404
0	Services Grant	0	0	27	27
1,790	General Government Grants	2,462	0	0	0
122	Collection Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	0	0	8	8
19,647	Precept Income	19,245	20,274	20,396	122

Actual 2022/23	Revenue Balances	Final Budget 2023/24	Draft Budget 2024/25	Original Budget 2024/25	Movement Draft to Original 2024/25
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000
(6,567)	Working Balance at 1 April	(6,211)	(6,766)	(6,766)	0
0	Use of reserve committed in 2023/24		1,295	1,295	0
(199)	Transfer (from)/to General Fund	1,297	(1)	(1)	(0)
0	Transfer (from)/to Reinvestment Reserve	500	0	0	0
(6,766)	Balance at 31 March	(4,414)	(5,472)	(5,472)	(0)
(495)	Reinvestment Reserve Balance at 1 April	(328)	(500)	(500)	0
	Allocated balance	328	418	418	0
(5)	Transfer (from)/to General Fund	(500)	(274)	(274)	0
(500)	Balance at 31 March	(500)	(356)	(356)	0
(1,909)	Capital Plan Reserve Balance at 1 April	(1,695)	(1,874)	(1,874)	0
	Contribution (from)/to Business Rates Pool		(850)	(872)	
35	Transfer from/(to) General Fund	0	850	872	22
(1,874)	Balance at 31 March	(1,695)	(1,874)	(1,874)	0
0	Growth Support Fund Balance at 1 April		0	0	0
	Transfer (from)/to General Fund				0
0	Balance at 31 March		0	0	0
(3,051)	NDR Deficit COVID Reserve at 1 April	(3,052)	(1,477)	(1,477)	0
1,574	Funding of NDR COVID Deficit	3,052			0
(1,477)	Balance at 31 March	0	(1,477)	(1,477)	0
0	Business Rates Pool Reserve at 1 April	0	0	0	0
0	Monies received in year	0	(1,702)	(1,702)	0
0	Use of reserve 2022/23	0	72	72	0
0	Use of reserve committed in 2023/24	0	135	135	0
0	Use of reserve committed in 2024/25	0	141	141	0
0	Use of reserve committed in 2025/26	0			0
0	Transfer (from)/to Capital Plan Reserve		850	872	
0	Transfer (from)/to General Fund	0	0		0
0	Balance carried forward	0	(505)	(483)	22
(3,344)	Other Revenue Reserve Balances at 1 April	(3,343)	(3,403)	(3,403)	0
(59)	Transfer (from)/to General Fund	(325)	(26)	(26)	0
(3,403)	Balance at 31 March	(3,668)	(3,429)	(3,429)	0
(14,020)	TOTAL BALANCES	(10,277)	(13,111)	(13,090)	22

COUNCIL TAX ANALYSIS 2024/25					
2023/24			2024/25		%
59,186.3		TAX BASE (at CBC collection rate)	59,678.6		Change
16,855.2		LOUGHBOROUGH TAX BASE	16,898.4		Per Band D
					0.83
£	£ p		£	£ p	%
19,245,129	325.16	TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT	20,395,951	341.76	5.11
(1,367,125)	(23.10)	Less: Loughborough Special Levy	(1,397,836)	(23.42)	1.39
17,878,004	302.06	Less:	18,998,115	318.34	5.39
(373,187)	(6.31)	New Homes Bonus	(404,254)	(6.77)	7.29
(6,400,000)	(108.13)	NNDR	(7,100,000)	(118.97)	10.02
(2,295,397)	(38.78)	Funding Guarantee	(2,473,608)	(41.45)	6.88
(166,753)	(2.82)	Services Grant	(27,319)	(0.46)	(83.69)
(328,767)	(5.55)	Revenue Support Grant	(350,444)	(5.87)	5.77
8,313,900	140.47		8,642,490	144.82	3.10
0	0.00	Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	(8,190)	(0.14)	0.00
8,313,900	140.47	BASIC BOROUGH PRECEPT	8,634,300	144.68	3.00
		Other Precepts			
4,565,965	77.15	Parishes	4,878,460	81.75	5.96
90,286,510	1,525.46	Leicestershire County Council	95,580,088	1,601.58	4.99
4,692,882	79.29	Combined Fire Authority	4,872,925	81.65	2.98
16,171,485	273.23	Police & Crime Commissioner for Leics	17,081,818	286.23	4.76
115,716,842	1,955.13		122,413,291	2,051.21	4.91
1,367,125	81.11	SPECIAL LEVY (LOUGHBOROUGH)	1,397,836	82.72	1.99
125,397,867	2,118.70	TOTAL REQUIREMENT	132,445,427	2,219.31	4.75
124,030,742	2,095.60	AVERAGE PARISH PRECEPT	131,047,591	2,195.89	4.79
120,831,902	2,099.56	LOUGHBOROUGH PRECEPT	127,566,967	2,196.86	4.63

COUNCIL – 26TH FEBRUARY 2024

ITEM 10 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

10.1 Councillor Westley – Planning Application Call-In

The recent changes to the Constitution adopted by this Council in November 2023 and supported unanimously by the Labour/Green coalition has caused significant upset on this side and amongst our residents.

When calling-in a planning application on perfectly valid planning grounds, it is now a requirement per the Constitution for the Ward Councillor to state why the application is 'controversial' or 'of significant public interest'. Would the Lead Member clearly define both 'controversial' and 'of significant public interest' in the context of future planning applications, and provide examples?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

This is a matter of fact and degree and for the ward councillors to explain in their submissions to the Planning Service. It is unlikely that a dispute between two neighbours could be considered controversial or in the wider public interest. By the same token, it would be difficult to argue that a scheme that had attracted petitions and media interest was not of significant public interest.

10.2 Councillor D Taylor – Audit

After reading the Audit Committee reports, there are a lot of delayed internal audits and over twenty-seven overdue recommendations not implemented. Can the leader explain why this is? What is the Leader doing about this? What is the risk to the council?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

With regards the suggestion of a lot of delayed internal audits; there have been three postponed audits. Two of these were postponed due to service pressures but are still expected to be completed in time for the 2023/24 annual audit opinion, the report for this will be presented to Audit Committee at the July 2024 meeting. The final postponed audit is one that will be cancelled as the legislation in relation to this audit has yet to be finalised and therefore it is not possible to carry out this audit. An audit in this area will be completed following the legislation being given ascent.

With regards overdue recommendations not yet having been implemented; the progress report of the Internal Audit manager confirms that as at 31 December 2023, there were 3 overdue recommendations and 24 extended recommendations. Reports are submitted to Senior Leadership Team on a monthly basis to enable them to manage and monitor the status of audit recommendations. Additionally, where recommendations are of concern due to the extensions these are highlighted to the Audit Committee and they will request a further update from the relevant manager. If this is not satisfactory

the Audit Committee has the option to further refer this to Cabinet as an area of concern. The majority of extended recommendations are due to either the implementation of the control being more detailed than originally expected or due to staffing issues within the service.

Any particular areas of potential risk, including overdue recommendations, and how this is being managed, can also be discussed between portfolio holders and relevant Directors or Heads of Service.

10.3 Councillor D Taylor – Council Tax

Almost thirty councils are planning to make use of new powers to increase council tax on second homes. Councils can charge a council tax premium of up to 100% for any property left empty for more than 72 days a year. Can the Leader advise if there are any plans to amend the current charges on empty homes following the change in legislation and reduce the length of time a property is empty before additional council tax is charged?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

Since the 1st April 2019 the Council has charged an empty homes premium. The empty homes premium is added to any property which has remained empty and unfurnished for longer than two years; regardless of how long the current owner has had the property. We are currently undertaking a review of the properties that have been empty for 1 -2 years to understand the implications of introducing the premium charge after 1 year instead of 2.

With regards to the second homes charge, at present we don't have any plans to introduce the additional charge for second homes within the borough. All homes that are furnished and unoccupied are charged the full Council Tax charge. To consider introducing any such additional premiums for 2nd homes the Council will firstly need to accurately identify the second homes within the borough as this is not a metric that is currently recorded within our system. The Council have requested that this information is captured so we can then assess this to determine if there is a need to introduce in the future.

10.4 Councillor D Taylor – Planning

Following my question to the Lead Member for Planning at the Council meeting on 6th November 2023 about the lead member only attending the Plans Committee meeting once since taking up the position in May 2023, the Lead Member responded:

She also said that Plans Committee meetings often coincided with meetings of the Cabinet which made it difficult for her to attend Plans Committee meetings on a regular basis.

There have been no clashes between the meetings of Plans Committee with Cabinet Meetings when I asked the question, so what the cabinet member told the Council is incorrect.

Can the Leader explain why the Lead Member for Planning gave information to the Council that was not true?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

Members of Cabinet met on the following dates where there were clashes with Plans Committee:

27 July 23: Plans Committee and Forward Programme/CMB

28 Sept 23: Plans Committee and Forward Programme/CMB

14 Dec 23: Plans Committee and Cabinet (because the scheduled meeting of Plans Committee was brought forward by a week to avoid Christmas).

25 Jan 24: Plans Committee and Forward Programme/CMB

10.5 Councillor Snartt – Strategic Housing Needs

In my previous question to Council I asked two simple questions: The percentage of two bedroom homes built by year over the last five years and the number of bungalows built by year over the last five years. Disappointingly, the answer was the current Core Strategy was not set up to monitor this data.

The Core Strategy states: We need to increase the number of two bedroom homes and that to do this around 30-35% of all homes delivered should be smaller two bedroom homes. Accordingly, I ask the Leader:

1. How do the Council know if it is meeting the strategic housing needs of 30-35% of all homes delivered should be smaller two bedroom homes?
2. If the data is not monitored how does the Council know if it is meeting the needs of the Borough population, especially first time buyers and people needing to downsize?
3. Does the Leader agree with me that this data is too important to wait to be monitored until the new Local Plan, Core Strategy is in place?
4. Is the Council letting down first time buyers and people who need to downsize by not monitoring this data?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

While it is agreed that this information is helpful, which is why the Council has put in place arrangements to collect it, the Council's planning policies require a range of factors to be considered when considering whether development proposals provide an appropriate mix of housing.

In relation to meeting housing needs, the key development plan policy is Core Strategy Policy CS3, which states that: "We will [meet our community's housing needs] by seeking an appropriate mix of types, tenures and sizes of homes, having regard to identified housing needs and the character of the area". The

introductory sentence of the policy also states that this will be done in the context of “having regard to market conditions, economic viability and other infrastructure requirements”. A scheme that diverges from the housing mix set out in the latest evidence (the 2020 Charnwood Housing Needs Assessment and the 2022 Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Needs Assessment) would therefore still comply with the policy if that divergence is justified by the character of the area or the context of the economics of bringing forward development.

The local plan inspectors have not sought main modifications to Policy H1 of the new local plan to remove or alter the policy wording that states that the suitability of the proposed housing mix on developments can in future use the extent to which needs have already been met as a consideration. It is to support this change in policy wording that this data is now being collected.

In the context of the current planning policy the Council has sufficient information to determine planning applications. To support the new local plan the Council has been collecting this information for ‘homes completed’ since April 2023 and will also be adding retrospective information for ‘homes completed’ from April 2021 onwards so that the available data corresponds to the plan period for the new local plan.

For the reasons set out above it is not considered that the Council is letting anyone down in relation to this issue.

10.6 Councillor Bokor– Responses to Supplementary Questions

Can the Leader explain why we are not receiving written responses to our questions in a timely manner and why we must continually chase for response.

We waited for a response from a question Cllr D. Taylor asked on 6th November 2023 until 31st January 2024. This is not acceptable in my opinion.

Can the Leader please ensure that promised written responses are provided promptly following a meeting and what he expects the time scale to be for response?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

During this Council year, there have been eight supplementary questions requiring a written response following the Council meeting. Other than the example highlighted, there have not been any issues raised regarding the time taken to receive responses to supplementary questions. I apologise that in this instance the response was delayed.

Given the complex nature of some of the supplementary questions asked by members which require in depth research, six weeks is considered a fair time scale for responses to be received.

10.7 Councillor Bokor– Unlicensed HMOs

We understand there are 2000 unlicensed HMOs and that this is a Labour manifesto commitment. What is the Council's current strategy on HMO licensing and what is the income associated with it likely to be over the period of the MTFs?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

3 housing licensing schemes currently operate within Charnwood:

- *Mandatory Licensing – for privately rented HMOs occupied by 5 or more households*
- *Additional Licensing - for privately rented HMOs occupied by 3 or more households*
- *Selective Licensing – for all types of privately rented properties occupied by 1 or more households within the Hastings and Lemyngton wards*

The mandatory licensing scheme came into force in 2004. The additional and selective licensing schemes were implemented on 1st April 2023 and opened for applications on 1st February 2023. The council has since received a total of 2,415 applications across the additional, selective and mandatory license schemes. 213 were applications for renewals for existing licensed properties and 2,202 were applications for new licenses for previously unlicensed properties.

When an application for a license is received officers from the housing standards team will assess and determine license applications. This assessment includes checks relating to the landlord and the property. When an application for a license has been approved a draft licence is issued with a 21 day cooling off period after which a full license can be issued.

When a report of a potential unlicensed property is received officers from the housing standards team will contact the landlord to advise them of the need to apply for a license and the process for applying for a license. Should the landlord refuse or fail to make an application enforcement action will be taken. The penalty for running an unlicensed property is up to £50,000.

There is a fee of up to £700 per licence under each of the mandatory, additional and selective licensing schemes. The fee is paid in 2 parts. Part A (£395) is due when the application is made. Part B (up to £305) is due when the licence is issued. Over £1.2 million in fees has been received since 1st February 2023, mostly from part 1 payments. A further £462,990 is expected to be received from part 2 payments once all of the license applications have been determined. The housing standards team are working to determine the remaining applications by 31st March 2024.

Income relating to license applications is used to fund the implementation and delivery of the licensing schemes. This includes, for example, advising landlords on licensing requirements, assessment and determination of license applications, issuing draft and full licenses, responding to reports of unlicensed properties, inspections of properties. The income has been used to fund an

application and management system, 6 housing licensing administration officers and 2 additional housing standards officers.

There are currently 852 fully licensed HMOs in Charnwood. A further 1,306 applications for HMO licenses have been received and are in the process of being determined.

10.8 Councillor Harper-Davies– Community Grants

Could the Leader explain how the £100,000 of community grants is to be allocated and why it is to be spent over 1 year rather than 2 or 3 years?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

Budgets for community grants are set on an annual basis. A report setting out the approach to community grants in 2024/2025 is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on the 7th March 2024.

10.9 Councillor Harper-Davies – Community Safety Partnership Response to Anti-Social Behaviour

Our residents in Mountsorrel are concerned over the increase of crime and ASB, please can the lead member and chair of our Community Safety Partnership advise us of what actions they are taking with the police to address our residents' concerns?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

The Community Safety Partnership places a statutory duty on the relevant authorities to work collaboratively with the aim of reducing crime and disorder. The partnership discharges this duty through its delivery operating model which takes a risk centred approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

The CSP also undertakes an annual Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA) to identify any areas of emerging threat, risk and harm. The PSA in the first instance undertakes a scanning exercise collecting a wealth of data from different agencies such as the police and the council. Detailed analysis of that data forms the basis of the recommendations made to the CSP.

I can confirm that the 2023/24 Partnership Strategic Assessment identified a number of key locations in terms of crime and anti-social behaviour in Charnwood. However, in answering this question on notice, I can further confirm that Mountsorrel – (Police Beat 57), was not identified as an emerging location of concern. In fact, during Quarter 1 – Quarter 3 of the current 2023/24 performance year, the partnership has seen the following in respect of reported crime and anti-social behaviour within Mountsorrel:

- *-4.7% reduction in recorded crime*
- *-34.4% reduction in reported anti-social behaviour*

The partnership is alive to the public perception of crime and disorder and is currently working on creating an effective communications strategy to ensure our communities are aware of the excellent work that is delivered through the CSP, in order to tackle crime and disorder. We will be sure to prioritise Mountsorrel in our communications plan as it is clear that the public perception of crime and anti-social behaviour does not match the levels of reported incidents within that community.

10.10 Councillor Infield– Assessment of Flood Risk

With rapidly changing climate, Environment Agency flood maps can no longer be relied on. These maps are only updated every 6 years which is too infrequent, and research indicates that the way they model the impact of future rainfall is inadequate; for example, they do not factor in the impact of a succession of storms as has been experienced recently in the UK. How should the planning system respond in these circumstances when assessing flood risk for new build?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

The matter of how the planning system should respond to the points raised is a broader matter for the government and its agencies to take forward. The Council has a duty to prepare its Local Plan and also makes decisions on planning applications in the context of the law, government policy and guidance. The Council has sought to ensure it uses the most relevant and up to date flood risk mapping by working with the Environment Agency together with expert flood risk consultants.

10.11 Councillor Snartt– Amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework

Recently the Conservative Government amended the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to help Councils like Charnwood who have done ‘the right thing’ in developing a Local Plan. Therefore, I understand the Council have only to demonstrate a four year housing land supply against a five year supply.

Accordingly, so that Parish Councils, residents groups and residents understand the current position with this important area of the NPPF decision making process, would the Leader on behalf of the Labour/Green coalition give the following details.

1. Why did the Labour administration delay in implementing the December 2023 amendments to the NPPF, and was the Lead Member involved in this decision?
2. Is the Council now in a position to communicate the amendments to the public in a media release, confirming that the Council has a four year land supply and is compliant with the NPPF amendments?

3. Will the Labour administration give guidance to officers to review the current speculative planning applications, which do not fit with the Local Plan, bringing them forward for determination in line with the amended NPPF?
4. Does the Leader agree with me this is a good outcome for Councils like Charnwood who have done the right thing by producing a Local Plan, and congratulate the previous Conservative administration for moving this forward to the examination stage?
5. Does the Leader also agree with me this is a better Conservative way to reward Councils such as Charnwood who have done the right thing?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

The Labour administration are not involved in the decision making process for planning applications and its worth reminding councillors that the Plans Committee is formed of balanced membership and is expected to be politically neutral.

The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is obliged to determine planning applications within statutory timeframes having regard to the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In this context, the government introduced a revised NPPF on 19 December 2023. This is a significant material consideration in making planning decisions and it came into immediate effect for planning decisions. Its impact was immediately felt given the deadline for officer reports for the 25 January 2024 Plans Committee was in early January.

Legal opinion was submitted by an applicant from leading Counsel on 20 December 2023 arguing a particular interpretation to be given to the NPPF and this view also had traction in the profession. Officers therefore obtained their own legal opinion, which was received on 15 January and confirmed that the four year supply should be calculated against a four year delivery period rather than five. This position was shared at the Plans Committee Training event on 22 January 2024. While it took two weeks to clarify the interpretation to be given to the revisions of the NPPF, there was no delay in implementing its provisions in relation to housing supply, as they related to decisions that were reserved to the Plans Committee on 25 January.

Subsequently on 5 February, DLUHC's Chief Planning Officer wrote to Local Planning Authorities to advise the Planning Practice Guide would be amended to confirm the government's intended policy in the NPPF. This action has been explained in a further briefing note from officers to Councillors issued on DATE 2024.

All planning applications waiting determination will be considered in light of the revised NPPF. As explained in the briefing note to Councillors, the demonstration of a four year supply does not on its own provide a pass/fail test for unplanned planning applications. The introduction of the four year supply is part of a package of measures that government have introduced in the revised

NPPF to support local decision making and acknowledge councils like Charnwood that have done the right thing by advancing a local plan.

10.12 Councillor Fryer – Carillon

Would the Leader explain and clarify why the Carillon can no longer be treated as a museum for the Leicestershire Yeomanry whose collection of about 4000 items has been exhibited there since 1988 with the full support of Charnwood Borough Council?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

The Council allocated £250,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Funding for the full reinstallation of the Museum and appointed contractors to oversee the project. Liaison between the contractors and the Planning Service at Charnwood Borough Council revealed that no records exist suggesting the museum has never been granted the relevant planning or building regulations approval. The current approvals are limited to that of a scheduled monument although there is an established planning use for the museum.

Relevant permissions could be sought, however, informal conversations with the Council's building control inspectors have indicated that a museum located over more than the ground floor is very unlikely to be given approval due to the limited means of fire escape. This information has been shared with the Carillon War Memorial Museum Trustees.

It is also become apparent from council documents linked to an incident of suicide in 1985, that access to the balcony should be by supervised groups of limited number. This has not necessarily been the case more recently other than the overall numbers in the Tower being controlled. The view is that supervised visits might be operated in the future if sufficient controls are in place.

A number of alternative options may be available should the trust wish to explore them. Officers are waiting for the museum trustees to decide how they would like to proceed.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO COUNCIL – PROCEDURE

- **Councillors are required to submit a question on notice in writing by 12noon on the eighth working day prior to Council, the title of the question is published on the Council Agenda.**
- **Questions and responses will be published at the end of the previous working day (usually the Friday prior to a Council meeting on a Monday) and will be available at the Council meeting for Councillors, the press, and the public.**

- After the questions and responses are published **Councillors may indicate that they wish to ask a supplementary question by noon on the day of the Council meeting.**
- The Mayor will invite those Councillors who have indicated that they wish to do so to ask a supplementary question.
- The Leader (or relevant Lead Member on behalf of the Leader) or Chair of the Committee is able to respond.
- The total time each person can speak on a single question is time limited.