

Council

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Bridget Wayman (Chairman), Cllr Christopher Newbury (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Nick Dye, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Andrew Oliver, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr David Vigar, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Derek Walters, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Graham Wright

26 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Liz Alstrom, David Bowler, Richard Budden, Clare Cape, Sam Charleston, Caroline Corbin, Jane Davies, Dr Monica Devendran, Sarah Gibson MP, Gavin Grant, Howard Greenman, Mel Jacob, Simon Jacobs, Johnny Kidney, Carole King, Kathryn MacDermid, Robert MacNaughton, Dr Brian Mathew MP, Dr Mark McClelland, Charles McGrath, Paul Oatway QPM, Sam Pearce-Kearney, Antonio Piazza, Rich Rogers, Tom Rounds, Jo Trigg, Tim Trimble, and Robert Yuill.

27 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of disclosable interest.

28 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman noted that as it was last meeting of Full Council before the local elections on 1 May 2025, it would therefore be the final meeting for many Members. She took the opportunity to thank everyone for their work as councillors in the last four years and, in particular, those Members who would not be standing again for election.

Those Members who had specifically confirmed with officers they would not be standing at the local elections were noted, including Cllrs Steve Bucknell, Mark Connolly, Sarah Gibson MP, Peter Hutton, Johnny Kidney, Dr Brian Mathew MP, Simon Jacobs, Ian McLennan, Tim Trimble, David Vigar, Derek Walters, and Suzanne Wickham. The full list of retiring Members would be noted at the next meeting after the local elections.

Opportunity was then provided for retiring Members to say a few words in response to the announcements.

Cllr Wickham spoke of the benefit of village organisations in her area, and praised the often overlooked work of parish councils, and how much they had assisted her work as the local unitary councillor.

Cllr Connolly noted he had served on the council since Wiltshire County Council in 1993 and was currently the longest continuously serving Member. He noted the large changes in local government organisation in that time, from moving to a Cabinet system, Swindon becoming its own authority, and then the creation of the unitary authority in 2009. He thanked officers for their outstanding support and to all Members who had supported and worked with him over the last 32 years.

Cllr Bucknell noted he had been on Wiltshire Council for one term but had also served on North Wiltshire District Council as well as continuing to serve on Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council. He noted the committed and hardworking people had worked with including officers and other members, and how he had enjoyed helping residents with their problems and chairing the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel. He also expressed some frustration with the difficulty in getting things done locally given the huge size of the authority and endorsed non-political approaches to dealing with problems.

Cllr McLennan noted he had been first elected to office in 1995 and enjoyed most of his 30 years as an elected Member. He noted the role could be challenging but with time, effort, and support from other Members good results could be achieved, noting efforts to tackle school traffic issues in Laverstock. He thanked officers and Members for their support, and also praised the work of the Electoral Review Committee for which had had been a Member through several community governance reviews.

Cllr Hutton gave thanks to officers who he said were a huge asset to the council. He encouraged Members' work on committees where a lot of activity took place and encouraged Members to always respect one another as they all sought to deliver for the people of Wiltshire.

Cllr Vigar thanked all those who had given him advice and support since being elected in 2021 and noted that through being a Member he had encountered many groups and people providing support and services in the county and that he would continue to work with those voluntary organisations and others as a result. He thanked the residents of Trowbridge Grove for electing him.

Cllr Walters noted the difficulties in first becoming a Member during the Covid-19 pandemic. He said that Members typically worked hard for the benefit of their communities and encouraged all sides to limit how party political they would be. He gave particular thanks to Cllr Caroline Thomas and Cllr Tamara Reay for support and assistance in his area.

Cllr Laura Mayes, as Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, and Skills, paid particular tribute to Cllrs Hutton and Wickham for their work supporting her as portfolio holders.

29 **Public Participation**

The procedure for public speaking at the meeting was detailed.

30 **Local Transport Plan (LTP4)**

The Chairman called upon Cllr Tamara Reay, Cabinet Member for Transport and Assets, to introduce the report. Cllr Reay moved the proposal set out in the report to adopt the Local Transport Plan (LTP4), which was seconded by Cllr Richard Clewer.

Cllr Reay provided detail on the background and preparation of the Plan, noting the particular importance of transport within a large rural county such as Wiltshire. The executive summary document was highlighted given the necessarily extensive nature of the formal Plan documentation. She also set out the vision for transport in the council area in the Plan, investment in public transport and active transport, not penalising residents who needed to use cars, and thanked residents and stakeholders for responding to help shape the plan, as well as work from the council's overview and scrutiny task groups and committees.

A public statement was then received from Andrew Nicolson, Wiltshire Climate Alliance, criticising development of the LTP4 in the context of the council's climate emergency commitments.

Questions from Members of the Public were received as detailed in the Agenda Supplement. Mr Nicolson asked a supplementary question asking for detail on estimates of how much the local authority could influence the level of emissions. Cllr Reay stated she would arrange for someone to provide further detail. Mr Nicolson also asked how the council was collaborating with neighbouring authorities on cross boundary measures for example to reduce car trips. Cllr Reay stated the council worked with others through the sub-national transport body, including on a range of strategies relating to transport matters, and also worked with the rail industry to bring forward investment to move more journeys from car to rail.

Group Leaders were then given the opportunity to comment on the report and proposal.

Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, thanked all those who had contributed to the extensive piece of work that was the LTP4. He noted that it was more of a strategy than a formal plan, but the name was a requirement. He stated it was not the role of the council to assess if journeys were essential or how people chose to make those journeys, but it needed a structure to work to provide infrastructure and choice wherever possible, and so the direction of travel went along with the need to reduce carbon emissions. He considered the Plan to be an evidence and thoughtful approach to achieving those goals without penalising motorists.

Cllr Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, thanked Mr Nicolson and the Wiltshire Climate Alliance for holding the council to account on this and other matters. He raised concerns that despite its large size the LTP4 may be aspirational rather than practical in terms of delivery. He expressed disappointment in the level of responses the council was able to encourage. Cllr Thorn stated he would support the proposal, though hoped there would be opportunity to make changes in the future, and that the delivery plans would be critical.

Cllr Ernie Clark, Leader of the Independent Group, also drew attention to the level of public responses to such an important document.

Cllr Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, stated it was important to have a local transport plan, and noted views on what was important in transport changed over time and it was necessary to allow the plan to evolve to be made to work for local residents.

The item was then opened to general debate for all Members.

There were comments that the LTP4 balanced the council's transport aspirations within constraints which existed, for example pursuing carbon neutrality goals without targeting current residents. The importance of public transport and road safety were discussed, along with continued importance of cars in the county, the impact of more developments without offstreet parking, and long term difficulties in some areas in advancing cycle networks for example around Royal Wootton Bassett.

Some concerns were raised by some Members that the LTP4 remained vague and lacking in measurable actions, though the Plan was still supported. It was also suggested it was reliant upon government funding or decisions which could or already had been reduced or removed, and as such lacked substance. Others suggested the council needed to improve its joined up working across all services to deliver the proposed outcomes or aspirations from the policies.

Other comments included reference to digital connectivity, challenges in working collaboratively with neighbouring authorities when it was felt some of their actions impacted negatively upon Wiltshire residents such as encouraging HGV traffic into the county.

Cllr Reay then responded to the points raised. She acknowledged the document was lengthy but that the level of detail was necessary in order to qualify for funding streams and deliver on its aims. The delivery plan section was highlighted as critical. She noted the comments on level of consultation responses, that it had been a challenge given the nature of the documents but thanked the Communications team for their positive efforts. Cllr Reay provided further detail on matters raised such as EV charging, access to bus stops, a national highways study looking to secure further funding for the A350 and A303, and noting the Leader was meeting the minister responsible for railways to discuss the need to improve capacity.

At the conclusion of debate, it was then,

Resolved:

That Council:

- 1) Adopts the Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) (2025 - 2038); and,**
- 2) Delegates authority to the Director, Highways and Transport, in consultation with the Director, Legal and Governance, and the Cabinet Member for Transport and Assets, to make any necessary minor changes to the document before it is published.**

In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote.

Votes for the Motion (54)

Votes against the Motion (0)

Votes in abstention (2)

Details of the vote are attached as an appendix to the minutes.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30am – 12.20pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services,
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Recorded Vote – Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council – 11 March 2025

Item 4 – Local Transport Plan (LTP4)

That Council:

Adopts the Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) (2025 - 2038); and

Delegates authority to the Director, Highways and Transport, in consultation with the Director, Legal and Governance, and the Cabinet Member for Transport and Assets, to make any necessary minor changes to the document before it is published.

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	CLlr Phil Alford, CLlr Helen Belcher OBE, CLlr Chuck Berry, CLlr Ian Blair-Pilling, CLlr Nick Botterill, CLlr Richard Britton, CLlr Allison Bucknell, CLlr Steve Bucknell, CLlr Daniel Cave, CLlr Mary Champion, CLlr Pauline Church, CLlr Richard Clewer, CLlr Zoë Clewer, CLlr Mark Connolly, CLlr Brian Dalton, CLlr Andrew Davis, CLlr Adrian Foster, CLlr Ross Henning, CLlr Sven Hocking, CLlr Nick Holder, CLlr Ruth Hopkinson, CLlr Peter Hutton, CLlr Tony Jackson, CLlr George Jeans, CLlr Gordon King, CLlr Edward Kirk, CLlr Laura Mayes, CLlr Ian McLennan, CLlr Dominic Muns, CLlr Nabil Najjar, CLlr Ashley O'Neill, CLlr Andrew Oliver, CLlr Stewart Palmen, CLlr Bill Parks, CLlr Tony Pickernell, CLlr Nic Puntis, CLlr Tamara Reay, CLlr Pip Ridout, CLlr Ricky Rogers, CLlr Mike Sankey, CLlr Jonathon Seed, CLlr Martin Smith, CLlr Caroline Thomas, CLlr Ian Thorn, CLlr Elizabeth Threlfall, CLlr Mark Verbinnen, CLlr David Vigar, CLlr Iain Wallis, CLlr Derek Walters, CLlr Stuart Wheeler, CLlr Philip Whitehead, CLlr Suzanne Wickham, CLlr Christopher Williams, CLlr Graham Wright	54
Against	None	0
Abstain	CLlr Nick Dye, CLlr Bridget Wayman	2

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Extraordinary Full Council Meeting – 11 March 2025 – Members’ Attendance

Councillor Name	Time in (Meeting start - 10.30)	Time Out (Meeting close - 12.20)
Phil Alford	Meeting start	Meeting close
Liz Alstrom	Apologies	
Helen Belcher OBE	Meeting start	Meeting close
Chuck Berry	Meeting start	Meeting close
Ian Blair-Pilling	Meeting start	Meeting close
Nick Botterill	Meeting start	Meeting close
David Bowler	Apologies	
Richard Britton	Meeting start	Meeting close
Allison Bucknell	Meeting start	Meeting close
Steve Bucknell	Meeting start	Meeting close
Richard Budden	Apologies	
Clare Cape	Apologies	
Trevor Carbin	Meeting start	Meeting close
Daniel Cave	Meeting start	Meeting close
Mary Champion	Meeting start	Meeting close
Sam Charleston	Apologies	
Pauline Church	Meeting start	Meeting close
Ernie Clark	Meeting start	Meeting close
Richard Clewer	Meeting start	Meeting close
Zoë Clewer	Meeting start	Meeting close
Mark Connolly	Meeting start	Meeting close
Caroline Corbin	Apologies	
Kevin Daley	Absent	
Brian Dalton	Meeting start	Meeting close
Jane Davies	Apologies	
Andrew Davis	Meeting start	Meeting close
Matthew Dean	Absent	
Dr Monica Devendran	Apologies	
Nick Dye	Meeting start	Meeting close
Adrian Foster	Meeting start	Meeting close
Sarah Gibson MP	Apologies	
Gavin Grant	Apologies	
Howard Greenman	Apologies	
Ross Henning	Meeting start	Meeting close
Sven Hocking	Meeting start	Meeting close
Nick Holder	Meeting start	Meeting close
Ruth Hopkinson	Meeting start	Meeting close
Jon Hubbard	Absent	
Peter Hutton	Meeting start	Meeting close
Tony Jackson	Meeting start	Meeting close

Mel Jacob	Apologies	
Simon Jacobs	Apologies	
George Jeans	Meeting start	Meeting close
Johnny Kidney	Apologies	
Carole King	Apologies	
Gordon King	Meeting start	Meeting close
Edward Kirk	Meeting start	Meeting close
Jerry Kunkler	Absent	
Jacqui Lay	Meeting start	Meeting close
Kathryn MacDermid	Apologies	
Robert MacNaughton	Apologies	
Dr Brian Mathew MP	Apologies	
Laura Mayes	Meeting start	Meeting close
Dr Mark McClelland	Apologies	
Charles McGrath	Apologies	
Ian McLennan	Meeting start	Meeting close
Dominic Muns	Meeting start	Meeting close
Dr Nick Murry	Absent	
Nabil Najjar	Meeting start	Meeting close
Kelvin Nash	Absent	
Christopher Newbury	Meeting start	Meeting close
Ashley O'Neill	Meeting start	Meeting close
Jack Oatley	Absent	
Paul Oatway QPM	Apologies	
Andrew Oliver	Meeting start	Meeting close
Stewart Palmen	Absent	
Bill Parks	Meeting start	Meeting close
Sam Pearce-Kearney	Apologies	
Antonio Piazza	Apologies	
Tony Pickernell	Meeting start	Meeting close
Horace Prickett	Absent	
Nic Puntis	Meeting start	Meeting close
Tamara Reay	Meeting start	Meeting close
Pip Ridout	Meeting start	Meeting close
Rich Rogers	Apologies	
Ricky Rogers	Meeting start	Meeting close
Tom Rounds	Apologies	
Paul Sample JP	Meeting start	Meeting close
Mike Sankey	Meeting start	Meeting close
Jonathon Seed	Meeting start	Meeting close
James Sheppard	Absent	
Martin Smith	Meeting start	Meeting close
Caroline Thomas	Meeting start	Meeting close
Ian Thorn	Meeting start	Meeting close
Elizabeth Threlfall	Meeting start	Meeting close
Jo Trigg	Apologies	

Tim Trimble	Apologies	
Mark Verbinnen	Meeting start	Meeting close
David Vigar	Meeting start	Meeting close
Iain Wallis	Meeting start	Meeting close
Derek Walters	Meeting start	Meeting close
Bridget Wayman	Meeting start	Meeting close
Stuart Wheeler	Meeting start	Meeting close
Philip Whitehead	Meeting start	Meeting close
Suzanne Wickham	Meeting start	Meeting close
Christopher Williams	Meeting start	Meeting close
Graham Wright	Meeting start	Meeting close
Robert Yuill	Apologies	

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