

Minutes of Council

Meeting date Tuesday, 19 September 2023

Committee Members present: Councillor Gordon France (Mayor), and Councillors Gordon France, Sarah Ainsworth, Aaron Beaver, Julia Berry, Alistair Bradley, Michelle Brown, Mark Clifford, Alan Cullens, Karen Derbyshire, Margaret France, Danny Gee, Christine Heydon, Alex Hilton, Terry Howarth, Hasina Khan, Samir Khan, Michelle Le Marinel, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Samantha Martin, Pauline McGovern, June Molyneaux, Alistair Morwood, Dedrah Moss, Beverley Murray, Alan Platt, Debra Platt, Aidy Riggott, Jean Sherwood, Chris Snow, Craige Southern, Arjun Singh, Ryan Towers, Neville Whitham, Alan Whittaker and Peter Wilson

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Kim Rennie (Interim Deputy Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance/Monitoring Officer), Louise Mattinson (Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer), Asim Khan (Director of Customer and Digital), Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities and Leisure) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)

Apologies: Councillor Tommy Gray, Zara Khan, Matthew Lynch, Kim Snape, Jenny Whiffen and Joan Williamson

One member of the public

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

38 Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 18 July 2023 of Council

Resolved (unanimously) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 July 2023 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

39 Declarations of Any Interests

No declarations of interests were declared.

40 Mayoral Announcements

The Deputy Mayor updated members on fundraising activities and charity events, including a cricket match and a forthcoming Christmas Tea Dance.

41 **Public Questions**

There were no public questions for consideration.

42 **Executive Cabinet**

Members considered a general report of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet meeting held on 13 September.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.**

43 **Governance Committee**

Members considered a general report of the Governance Committee meeting held on 2 August.

The Chair of the Governance Committee, Councillor Alan Platt proposed the report and the Vice Chair of Governance Committee, Councillor Mark Clifford seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.**

44 **Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Task and Finish Groups**

Members considered a general report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1 August, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 27 July and Task Group update.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Aidy Riggott proposed the report and the Vice Chair, Councillor Roy Lees seconded, and it was **Resolved (Unanimously) that the report be noted.**

45 **Scrutiny Reporting Back - Chorley Council's Annual Report on Overview and Scrutiny 2022/23**

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Aidy Riggott, presented Scrutiny Reporting Back, a summary of the work of the Committee in 2022/2023.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Aidy Riggott proposed the report and the Vice Chair, Councillor Roy Lees seconded, and it was **Resolved (Unanimously) that the report be noted.**

46 **Committee appointments**

The Returning Officer, Chris Sinnott, reported that Councillor Debra Platt had been elected at the by election on 14 September 2023.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens proposed and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Platt seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. **To note the election of Councillor Debra Platt at the by election on 14 September 20223.**
2. **To note the following committee appointments**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Debra Platt
Planning Committee	Councillor Debra Platt
Licensing and Public Safety Committee	Councillor Debra Platt
Local Plan Working Group	Councillor Debra Platt
3. **To note Cllr Craige Southern as the Planning Shadow spokesperson.**

47 Polling station relocation

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson presented the report of the Chief Executive and Returning Officer.

The report advised that, due to increasing pupil numbers, the headteacher at St Peter's CE Primary School had asked that an alternative venue be found to site polling station 31. This was due to the room, that would normally be used as a polling station, had been turned into a permanent classroom.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously) That polling station 31 which related to polling district CHN&A04 currently hosted at St Peter's CE Primary School, Eaves Lane, Chorley be relocated to St Joseph's Parish Centre, Harpers Lane, Chorley.**

48 Members Allowances - Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the report of the Director of Governance.

The Council is required to appoint and instruct the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to review the current Members Allowances Scheme and make recommendations on any changes to the Scheme for determination by Council.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. **To appoint**
 - **Lorraine Norris, former Chief Executive of Preston City Council**
 - **Phil Davies, former Elections Manager at Chorley Council**
 - **Diane Gradwell, Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice Lancashire West****as members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of three years.**
2. **To reappoint Dennis Benson as the Chair of the Panel for the next three years.**
3. **That the Panel be requested to consider particularly a new role within the Members Allowances Scheme, to review the annual uprate mechanism and make recommendations on any changes to the Scheme for Council approval.**

49 **Change of Working Group Name and Updated Terms of Reference**

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the report of the Chief Executive.

The report requested to change the name of the Wholly Owned Company and Projects Working Group, to the Development and Assets Working Group, and to update the Terms of Reference accordingly.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens, welcomed the report and the clarity regarding the positive function undertaken by the working group.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

- 1. To approve the change of name of the Wholly Owned Company and Projects Working Group, to the Development and Assets Working Group.**
- 2. To approve the updated Terms of Reference for the Working Group.**

50 **Leisure Company Additional Support**

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson presented the report of the Director of Finance.

The report detailed a request from the Council's wholly owned subsidiary company, Chorley Leisure Ltd, for financial support due to the extraordinary and unbudgeted increases in energy costs, an assumed increase in salary costs over the 5% budgeted (based on the latest offer made in the 2023/24 LJNCC pay negotiations), and a shortfall in income levels.

Members noted the work undertaken by the Council since taking the leisure function back in house, including an app. Memberships had continued to increase and were now at 73% of pre-pandemic figures and swimming lessons were at 104% of these levels.

It was noted that the funding would come from a specific reserve for the Leisure Company.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Member (Early Intervention), Councillor Bev Murray seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously) To approve the request from Chorley Leisure Ltd for financial support of £1.122m, a breakdown of which is included in the body of the report.**

51 **Questions Asked under Council Procedure Rule 8**

No questions were asked.

52 **To consider the Notices of Motion given in accordance with Council procedure Rule 10**

No Notice of Motion were received.

53 To consider petitions presented in accordance with Council procedure Rule 23

No petitions were received.

54 Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act.**

55 Plan Making

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive.

Members noted the current position and that the current target date for the submission of the Local Plan was June 2025.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

- 1. The Council reaffirms the commitment to the Central Lancashire Local Plan and to having a new Local Plan.**
- 2. The Council to seek to use reasonable endeavours via the plan making system to retain employment need within the borough, allocating sufficient future land supply to accommodate that need, as opposed to relying on provision being made by South Ribble or Preston.**

Mayor

Date