

Minutes of Council

Meeting date Tuesday, 16 April 2024

Committee Members present: Councillor Tommy Gray (Mayor), and Councillors Sarah Ainsworth, Aaron Beaver, Julia Berry, Alistair Bradley, Michelle Brown, Mark Clifford, Karen Derbyshire, Danny Gee, Christine Heydon, Terry Howarth, Hasina Khan, Samir Khan, Zara Khan, Michelle Beach, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Matthew Lynch, Samantha Martin, Pauline McGovern, June Molyneaux, Alistair Morwood, Dedrah Moss, Beverley Murray, Alan Platt, Debra Platt, Aidy Riggott, Chris Snow, Arjun Singh, Kim Snape, Ryan Towers, Jenny Whiffen, Neville Whitham, Alan Whittaker, Joan Williamson and Peter Wilson

Committee Members present virtually (non-voting): Councillor Jean Sherwood

Officers: Sarah Bullock (Deputy Chief Executive), Gayle Wootton (Director of Planning and Property), Chris Moister (Director of Governance/Monitoring Officer), Tasneem Safdar (Head of Legal and Procurement), Chris Walmsley (Head of Streetscene and Waste) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)

Apologies: Councillors Alan Cullens, Gordon France, Margaret France, Alex Hilton and Craig Southern

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

86 Silence

The Mayor invited Members to observe a minute's silence in memory of Lord Doug Hoyle.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Alistair Bradley and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Platt, paid tribute and sent their condolences to the family.

87 Declarations of Any Interests

No declarations of interests were made.

88 **Mayoral Announcements**

The Mayor advised he had visited London in March with Councillor Bradley to attend the Your UK Parliament Week Awards at the House of Commons, where Chorley was announced the winner of the Constituency of the Year Award.

The Mayor thanked those councillors retiring this year for all their hard work and dedication in serving the people of Chorley and gave his best wishes to those standing for election in May.

89 **Minutes**

Resolved (unanimously) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 February 2024 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

90 **Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Mayor advised he had changed the order of the agenda to take this item before the related item of Public Questions.

The Chair of the Governance Committee, Councillor Alan Platt, presented the report of the Monitoring Officer.

The purpose of the report was to agree to a temporary suspension of Standing Orders to reduce in scope the right of the public to speak at Full Council and Executive Cabinet meetings.

Whilst it was a requirement that meetings of the Council were held in public, there was no statutory right for the public to address the meeting. At the meeting on 27 February last the meeting was disrupted when a member of the public abused their rights in the constitution, leading to the meeting being suspended and the police being called to clear the room.

Following a suggestion from Councillor Aidy Riggott it was acknowledged that this matter be considered by the Governance Committee at their first meeting in the new municipal year.

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)**

- 1. That Standing Order 6 of Part A Appendix 3 to the Constitution (and the relevant procedure rules at Part E) be suspended, with the right of the public to speak at Council meetings being removed and the procedure detailed below being implemented.**

Members of the public may ask one written question on any item on the Agenda for the Council meeting. This must be submitted to the Chief Executive by midday on the day, two working days before the day of the meeting. A written response will be provided to the member of the public.

There will be no provision to ask a supplemental question and whilst the member of the public is permitted to attend the meeting there is no associated right to speak.

The written question and response will be available with the minutes of the meeting.

2. That this suspension of standing orders and implementation of the temporary changes is to continue until further decision by the Council.

91 Public Questions

There were no public questions for consideration.

92 Executive Cabinet

Members considered a general report of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet meetings held on 22 February and 21 March.

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.**

93 Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Task and Finish Groups

Members considered a general report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 March, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 7 March 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.**

94 Governance Committee

Members considered a general report of the Governance Committee meeting held on 8 February and 13 March.

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.**

95 Adoption of New Code of Conduct for Members and Social Media Protocol

The Chair of the Governance Committee, Councillor Alan Platt, presented the report of the Monitoring Officer.

The purpose of the report was to present the new form Code of Conduct for Members and refreshed Social Media Protocol Council for adoption.

Councillor Platt thanked the members and officers for their work on the two documents.

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)**

1. That Council approves for adoption a new form Code of Conduct for Members.

2. That Council approves for adoption an updated and refreshed Social Media Protocol.

96 Capital Budget for Fleet Replacement

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the report of the Director of Customer and Digital.

There were a number of vehicles, such as tipper vans, that were reaching the end of their operational life and need to be replaced over the next 1-2 years. As a result, a recurring budget was requested to enable purchases to come forward when required.

This capital budget would be funded from the existing revenue budget held within the service for lease/hire costs.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment), Councillor Adrian Lowe seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

To establish a capital budget of £300,000 recurring annual budget for fleet replacement.

97 Local Development Scheme (LDS)

The Executive Member Planning and Development, Councillor Alistair Morwood, presented the report of the Director of Planning and Property.

The report presented the contents of the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS).

The preparation of the Local Plan was fluid, and it was common planning practice to make changes to the LDS to ensure the most up to date timetable was published to inform stakeholders of the plan preparation process.

The three Central Lancashire Authorities remain absolutely committed to the delivery of the new Local Plan under the existing statutory plan-making regime.

The Executive Member Planning and Development, Councillor Alistair Morwood, proposed and the Chair of Planning Committee, Councillor June Molyneaux seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

To approve the publishing of the updated LDS to the Central Lancashire Local Plan website and associated Central Lancashire Authority websites.

98 Questions Asked under Council Procedure Rule 8

No questions were asked.

99 To consider the Notices of Motion given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10

No Notices of Motion were received.

100 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 1972.

101 Birkacre Reservoir Embankment Repairs - Budget Approval

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson presented the confidential report of the Director of Planning and Property.

The purpose of the report was to ensure the essential reservoir embankment works specified by the Environment Agency were completed by the end of 2024 in order to maintain the reservoir safety and satisfy the Inspecting Engineer's recommendations.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Platt, spoke in favour of the proposals.

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

- 1. To approve procurement exercise to undertake a competitive tender for essential reservoir embankment work through the open Chest portal in accordance with procurement procedures and to appoint the successful contractor.**
- 2. To approve a 3-year rolling programme to undertake to undertake further repairs to the west and southwest elevations.**
- 3. To approve the establishment of a budget totalling £400,000 to be added to the capital programme.**
- 4. To delegate the approval of the procurement strategies to the Director of Property and Planning for recommendation 1 & 2.**
- 5. To delegate the contract award decisions for the Contractor to the Executive Member of Resources for approval.**

Mayor

Date