

Minutes of Council

Meeting date Tuesday, 16 July 2024

Committee Members present: Councillor Gordon France (Mayor), Councillor Alistair Morwood (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Sarah Ainsworth, Irene Amahwe, Aaron Beaver, Julia Berry, Alistair Bradley, Michelle Brown, Mark Clifford, Margaret France, Danny Gee, Tommy Gray, Russ Green, Christine Heydon, Alex Hilton, Terry Howarth, Hasina Khan, Samir Khan, Zara Khan, Michelle Beach, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Matthew Lynch, Samantha Martin, Pauline McGovern, June Molyneaux, Dedrah Moss, Beverley Murray, Alan Platt, Debra Platt, Jean Sherwood, Craige Southern, Arjun Singh, Kim Snape, Jenny Whiffen, Neville Whitham, Alan Whittaker, Katie Wilkie, Joan Williamson and Peter Wilson

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance/Monitoring Officer), Asim Khan (Director of Customer and Digital), Gayle Wootton (Director of Planning and Property), Caroline Wolfenden (Director of Change and Delivery), Hollie Walmsley (Head of People, Policy and Partnerships) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)

Apologies: Councillor Chris Snow and Ryan Towers

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

17 Declarations of Any Interests

No declarations of interests were made.

18 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved (unanimously) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 May 2024 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

19 Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor congratulated the Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley on being awarded an MBE for Political and Public Services in the King's Birthday Honours List last month.

20 Public Questions

There were no public questions for consideration.

21 Executive Cabinet

Members considered a general report of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet meetings held on 13 June and 11 July.

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.**

22 Governance Committee

Members considered a general report of the Governance Committee meeting held on 22 May.

The Chair of the Governance Committee, Councillor Alan Platt, noted that not all members had completed the survey regarding Member Gifts and Hospitality for the Internal Audit Team and requested that they do so.

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.**

23 Chorley Council Annual Performance Report 2023/24

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery.

Overall performance against the Corporate Strategy in the 2023/24 financial year was excellent, with significant progress achieved across the Council's key priorities.

Looking ahead to the 2024/25 financial year, the council have a number of challenges to face as a local authority. Increases in demand for services, financial and political uncertainty, and as the cost of living crisis continues it was essential that the Council had a clear plan in place to deliver and support relief for those who are most in need of help while maintaining high quality public services.

The strategy continued to progress action to address the economic impact of unprecedented inflation rates and high cost of living, including support for businesses and activity to increase jobs and skills.

The strategy responded to the needs of communities, moving health and wellbeing initiatives into their next phase of delivery and doing more for neighbourhoods right across the borough.

Housing and homelessness prevention remained key themes with specific Council action to ensure that everyone was able to live in good quality, energy efficient and suitable homes.

Councillors thanked the officers for their work in producing and implementing the Strategy and noted the recent award of eight Green Flag awards within the Borough.

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

24 Food Waste Collections

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery.

There was a requirement to establish a capital budget for new food waste collection vehicles and food waste containers, in preparation for the implementation of food waste collections in 2026.

An assessment of the current position indicated that the initial funding allocation was insufficient, and an appeal to Defra would be submitted to present a case for the predicted shortfall.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley noted the wish to work in partnership with other local authorities on the procurement of these, where possible.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Platt, noted that some of the funding had already been received and noted that additional vehicles required would be stored at the council depot.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously) Approval for a capital budget of £1,556,116 to purchase food waste collection vehicles and food waste containers, subject to additional Government funding being received.**

25 Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement 2024

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

Local planning authorities were required to prepare a 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI). The purpose of the SCI was to provide the community with clarity on the levels of involvement and engagement that they should expect in the planning process with regard to plan-making and development management. The SCI set out the procedures and standards that the Council would follow when undertaking consultation with sectors of the community.

Following Council approval consultation on the draft SCI would take place between 19 August and 16 September and following the analysis of responses and subject to there being no material changes, a decision to adopt to SCI would be made by Council in the winter of 2024.

The Executive Member Planning and Development, Councillor Alistair Morwood, proposed and the Deputy Portfolio Holder, Councillor Alex Hilton seconded, and it

was Resolved (unanimously) Approval for a four-week period of consultation as required prior to adoption.

26 Designation Action Plan

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

The report outlined the Council's performance in the determination of planning applications, both as delegated decisions and those decided by Planning Committee and explained the Council's designation by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for underperforming in the quality of decisions on Major applications. It also sought approval of an Action Plan aimed at having the designation removed.

Members noted the need to move forwards with this and stressed the importance of adopting the new Local Plan.

The Executive Member Planning and Development, Councillor Alistair Morwood, proposed and the Deputy Portfolio Holder, Councillor Alex Hilton seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously) Approval of the Action Plan for formal adoption.**

27 Questions Asked under Council Procedure Rule 8

No questions were asked.

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

No Notices of Motion were received.

29 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.**

30 Levelling Up Fund - Budget Approval

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley, presented the confidential report of the Director of Planning and Property.

The project would deliver significant town centre regeneration, thus providing social and economic benefits including new jobs, increased tourism, additional Gross Value Added (GVA), additional high quality town centre living, a high-quality public square including improved public realm, new commercial space and office space.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Platt, queried the need for additional housing in this area, but Councillor Bradley explained the desire to build within the

town centre rather than on greenbelt. The rate of private sector building in the town centre also supported the demand for homes in this area.

The operation of the properties would be considered by the Development and Assets Working Group.

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

- 1. The progress of the Levelling Up, Town Centre Improvements and Civic Square Project be noted.**
- 2. Approval of the acceptance of the £20m Levelling Up grant.**
- 3. Approval to an increase in capital budgets of £38.762m taking the overall budget to £44.480m to deliver the Town Centre Improvements and Civic Square Project. The breakdown is detailed in point 38.**
- 4. Approval to the submission of the relevant statutory documentation to progress the new Levelling Up, Town Centre Improvements and Civic Square Project.**

31 Swimming Pool Support Fund - All Seasons Leisure Centre

The Executive Member for Early Intervention, Councillor Bev Murray, presented the confidential report of the Director of Communities and Leisure.

The grant funding was significant and would make a clear contribution to the operation of All Seasons Leisure Centre.

The installation of PV panels would reduce the leisure centre's electricity costs by generating renewable energy on-site and lead to significant long-term savings on utility bills.

These upgrades supported the council's commitment to sustainability and reducing carbon emissions by lowering the facility's reliance on non-renewable energy sources.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Platt, and other members welcomed the grant.

The Executive Member for Early Intervention, Councillor Bev Murray proposed, the Deputy Portfolio Holder, Councillor Hasina Khan seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

- 1. Approval to the acceptance of £181,500 from Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund.**
- 2. Approval to the increase to the budget equivalent to the funding to be added to the capital programme for the allocation of these funds for the installation of PV panels and additional metering and monitoring software at the leisure centre.**
- 3. Approval for works to be procured within All Seasons Leisure Centre Gym refurbishment contract.**

Mayor

Date