

Council
Tuesday, 17 September 2024

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 17 September 2024. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

2 Minutes

Approved.

5 Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Task and Finish Groups

Noted.

6 Governance Committee

Noted.

7 Governance Committee Annual Report

Noted.

8 Acceptance of Wolfson Foundation Funding of £100K

1. To accept grant funding of £100,000 from the Wolfson Foundation to carry out renovations to the West Wing of Astley Hall.
2. To approve an increase in the capital budget at Astley Hall for an amount equivalent to the grant sum to reflect the receipt.

9 Local Authority Housing Fund - Grant Acceptance

1. To accept the LAHG funding.
2. To approve the establishment of a new capital programme budget to commence acquisition of housing stock and repairs to 17 – 23 Gillibrand Street.
3. To approve the future Acquisitions for three Afghanistan resettlement properties.
4. To approve the acceptance of the grant for three new Afghanistan refugee families following the acquisition of three new properties.
5. To delegate the decision to award the contract for the repairs to Gillibrand Street to the Executive Member for Resources'.
6. To authorise the Executive Member for Housing to take further decisions on the acquisitions of refugee properties, in accordance with standing orders and the financial regulations of the council.

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

An amendment was approved to the Notice of Motion which was approved.

This council notes the Labour government's recent decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Allowance only to pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits such as Pension Credit, as announced recently by Chancellor Rachel Reeves. Chorley Council recognises that this decision was taken as part of measures to tackle the £22bn 'black hole' in the public finances left by the previous Conservative government.

The council acknowledges the significant role that Winter Fuel Allowance played in helping older residents in Chorley and across the UK to afford their heating bills during the winter months and the additional strain the removal of this allowance will place on vulnerable pensioners and those who do not claim or are not entitled to Pension Credit.

Therefore, the council resolves to undertake the following in support of our residents:

- Bring forward a council led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible for Pension Credit, working with partners, charities and community organisations to ensure all eligible pensioners claim their entitlement.
- Continue Chorley's Council's ongoing work to support people with their fuel bills and assist those who are vulnerable during the winter months through schemes such as the
 - o Affordable Warmth Grants,
 - o Warm/Welcome Spaces Scheme,
 - o UKSPF Cost of Living Grants
- The Leader of the Council is to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to outline the concerns of councillors and members of the public in Chorley about the impact of this decision and urge the government to extend further targeted financial support to the most vulnerable groups who are impacted by this decision.

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