

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

MEETING DATE Tuesday, 27 February 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mark Perks (Mayor), Councillor Margaret Lees (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Aaron Beaver, Eric Bell, Martin Boardman, Alistair Bradley, Charlie Bromilow, Terry Brown, Henry Counce, Paul Clark, Jean Cronshaw, Alan Cullens, John Dalton, Doreen Dickinson, Graham Dunn, Christopher France, Gordon France, Margaret France, Jane Fitzsimons, Anthony Gee, Danny Gee, Tom Gray, Keith Iddon, Mark Jarnell, Hasina Khan, Zara Khan, Paul Leadbetter, Roy Lees, Sheila Long, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, Matthew Lynch, June Molyneaux, Greg Morgan, Mick Muncaster, Steve Murfitt, Beverley Murray, Debra Platt, Joyce Snape, Kim Snape, Richard Toon, John Walker, Paul Walmsley, Alan Whittaker and Peter Wilson

OFFICERS: Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Chris Sinnott (Director (Early Intervention and Support)), Asim Khan (Director (Customer and Digital)), Mark Lester (Director (Business, Development and Growth)), Rebecca Huddleston (Director (Policy and Governance)), Chris Moister (Head of Legal, Democratic & HR Services) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic and Member Services Team Leader)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Alistair Morwood and Ralph Snape

18.C.494 Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 23 January 2018 of Council

Decision: That the minutes of the last Council meeting held on 23 January 2018 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

18.C.495 Declarations of Any Interests

There were no declarations of interests received.

18.C.496 Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor advised that up to 30 children from Parklands High School and Albany Academy have now successfully completed the Mayor's Award Programme.

As it is 100 years since women were given the right to vote a series of events have been planned. 8 March is International Women's Day and a banner will be installed at the Town Hall at 10am. The Mayor invited all female Councillors to attend.

18.C.497 Public Questions

There were no public questions for consideration.

18.C.498 General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax 2018/19

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member (Resources) presented the Executive's General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax proposals for 2018/19 and item 7. Fees and Charges Policy and a Review of Fees and Charges. He explained that both items would be considered at the same time.

Councillor Wilson thanked the officers and the Labour Group for their hard work and input into the proposed budget. He referred to the achievements of the Council in recent years, investing significant sums in the provision of services, both in the town centre and rural areas, noting this was achieved during a period of austerity and the requirement to make £3 1/2 million in savings.

Councillor Wilson explained that the budget had resilience for the future. Chorley Council has experienced, and will continue to experience in the coming three years, large reductions in its major funding sources, including Revenue Support Grant, Retained Business Rates, New Homes Bonus and income from LCC. The forecast budget deficit for 2019/20 is £1.6m and £2.2 in 2020/21.

Through savings achieved to date, additional income identified, a review of net financing, the use of unutilised reserves and increases in council tax the Council is able to set a balanced budget in 2018/19 with some resources available to invest.

The proposed budget is consistent with the Medium Term Financial Strategy and safeguards the financial resilience of the Council's maintaining the level of working balances at £4.0m.

Councillor Wilson explained that, in addition to a balanced budget, there are proposals for investment to support the Corporate Strategy. This includes the delivery of the Digital Office Park, Primrose Gardens extra care facility and the delivery of the Market Walk extension. The Council is working with partners to deliver some of these projects.

Councillor Bradley, Executive Leader of the Council, noted that the majority of Lancashire Districts are increasing their council tax. The proposed budget is in line with an agreed plan to become self-sufficient and to invest in the services that residents want.

In summary, the report set out proposals that will:

- Mitigate the reduction in Central Government funding by increasing Council Tax by 2.99% in 2018/19 and including a forecast 2.99% increase in Council Tax in 2019/20 and a forecast 2% increase in 2020/21 as part of the medium term budget strategy.
- Deliver budget efficiency savings and increased income in 2018/19 onwards
- Continue to deliver investment in strategic priorities including £0.897m in 2018/19 and £0.673m in 2019/20

- Seek to bridge the forecasted budget gap, in particular through the procurement of its contracts, through sharing services with other councils and investing in projects that generate net income streams for the Council.
- Is consistent with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- Minimise the revenue impact of the Council's borrowing commitment to fund the capital programme.
- Safeguard the financial resilience of the Council's budget by maintaining the level of working balances at £4.0m.

The following appendices were attached to the main report on the General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax for 2018/19, providing supporting information to the budget proposals:

Appendix A: Formal Council Tax Resolution 2018/19

Appendix B: Special Expenses & Parish Precepts 2018/19

Appendix C: Delivering Our Priorities - Chorley Council Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2020/21

Appendix D: Cumulative Budget Deficit & Budget Strategy 2018-19 to 2020-21

Appendix E: Variance Analysis - Movements from 2017-18 Original Estimates

Appendix F: General Fund Forecast Assumptions

Appendix G1 to G3: Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2020/21, Capital Financing, Developer Contributions

Appendix H: Treasury Strategy 2018/19 to 2020/21

Appendix H1: Advice of Treasury Management Consultants

Appendix I: Pay Policy 2018-19

Appendix J: Report of the Chief Finance Officer

Appendix K: Budget Consultation 2018/19

Appendix L: Assessing the impact of 2018/19 Budget proposals

There were no questions raised on the Administration's Budget Proposal.

Before moving to the vote, the Mayor asked the Conservative Group to present their Alternative Budget.

18.C.499 ALTERNATIVE BUDGET 2018/19

Councillor Martin Boardman, Shadow Executive Member for Resources presented the Conservative Group's Alternative Budget. The focus of the proposals was in line with the Alternative Corporate Strategy:

- A place where people will 'start well, live well and age well';
- A better place to shop and do business;
- A better place for learning and earning;
- A better place to visit; and
- A better place to call home.

The proposed budget includes revenue investment totalling £1,030,000 in 2018/19, savings and additional income totalling £803,000 in 2018/19 as well as achieving a balanced budget.

Councillor Boardman noted that there are similarities in the two budgets, but there are key differences, including the introduction of a borough wide partnership grants fund, which will make available £300,000 per year to support a wide range of third sector projects across the borough. In addition, there is no support for Crime Reduction &

Social Disorder Prevention, Neighbourhood Preferred Projects and the LCC Transition Fund and a reduction in support for Core Funding Grants and the Chorley Council Events Programme.

Councillor Boardman advised that the proposed budget will stop the market walk extension, reinstate the Flat Iron car park and propose to develop a smaller leisure and restaurant scheme on the Oak House and Gala Bingo site. Once developed and opened the scheme could deliver a net rental income, after borrowing costs, of approximately £150,000 per annum.

Councillor Alan Cullens, Leader of the Conservative Group, noted that the alternative budget develops the town centre, but with a reduced risk, developing the markets and investing in rural areas.

In debating the proposals put forward by the opposition, Members raised issues around investment in rural areas, investment in PSCO's, the proposed grants fund, reduction in Neighbourhood Preferred Projects and the impact on community centres and bus routes, the proposed sixth form college, staffing reductions and housing plans.

AMENDMENT

The adoption of the Alternative Budget as set out in the report, was moved as an amendment by Councillor Martin Boardman, Shadow Executive Member (Resources) and seconded by Councillor Alan Cullens, Leader of the Conservative Group.

In line with the legal requirement for all budget decisions to be recorded, this proposal was put to the vote and recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors E Bell, M Boardman, H Counce, A Cullens, J Dalton, D Dickinson, K Iddon, P Leadbetter, S Long, G Morgan, M Muncaster, D Platt, J Walker.

AGAINST: Councillors A Beaver, A Bradley, C Bromilow, T Brown, P Clark, J Cronshaw, G Dunn, J Fitzsimons, C France, G France, M France, A Gee, D Gee, T Gray, M Janell, H Khan, Z Khan, M Lees, R Lees, A Lowe, M Lowe, M Lynch, J Molyneaux, S Murfitt, B Murray, J Snape, K Snape, R Toon, P Walmsley, A Whittaker, P Wilson.

ABSTAIN: Councillor Mark Perks.

The vote was **LOST**.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

The substantive motion, as indicated in Agenda Item 5 and 7, and proposed by Councillor P Wilson, Executive Member (Resources) and seconded by Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader was then put to the vote and recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors A Beaver, A Bradley, C Bromilow, T Brown, P Clark, J Cronshaw, G Dunn, J Fitzsimons, C France, G France, M France, A Gee, D Gee, T Gray, M Janell, H Khan, Z Khan, M Lees, R Lees, A Lowe, M Lowe, M Lynch, J Molyneaux, S Murfitt, B Murray, J Snape, K Snape, R Toon, P Walmsley, A Whittaker, P Wilson.

AGAINST: Councillors E Bell, M Boardman, H Counce, A Cullens, J Dalton, D Dickinson, K Iddon, P Leadbetter, S Long, G Morgan, M Muncaster, D Platt, J Walker.

ABSTAIN: Councillor Mark Perks.

The vote was **CARRIED** and it was therefore a **DECISION** –

1. That the budget and proposals as set out in the report in item 5 and supporting appendices be approved to include:
 - a) The budget and proposals set out in this report including the Council Tax set out in the resolutions (at Appendix A).
 - b) To note the Special Expenses and Parish Precepts (at Appendix B)
 - c) The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (Appendix C)
 - d) To note the Council's cumulative budget deficit & budget strategy 2018-19 to 2020-21 (Appendix D)
 - e) To note significant budget movements from the 2017/18 budget (at Appendix E)
 - f) To note the general fund forecast assumptions (at Appendix F)
 - g) The capital programme for 2018/19 and note the indicative programme to 2020/21 (Appendices G1, G2 & G3)
 - h) The Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix H) and note the advice of the treasury management consultants (Appendix H1)
 - i) The Council's Pay Policy (at Appendix I) and publication on the Council's website from April 2018
 - j) To note the advice of the Statutory Finance Officer in relation to the robustness of the budget and the risks contained within it as set out in the Statutory Report (Appendix J).
 - k) To note the Budget Consultation 2018/19 Report (at Appendix K)
 - l) To note the Assessing the Impact of Budget Proposals 2018/19 Report (at Appendix L)
2. Approval granted to
 - The fees and charges policy (attached as appendix 1) for the Council's discretionary fees and charges
 - Amendments to the Council's current fees and charges to be implemented as at 1 April 2018
 - Increases in the Council's 2018/19 income budgets
3. To note the full list of fees and charges given in Appendix 3 of the report. This will be adjusted with any approved changes to the schedule of fees agreed in this report.

The Council Tax set out in Appendix A1 be approved as follows:

1. It be noted that on 8 December 2017 the Chief Executive as Statutory Finance Officer calculated the Council Tax Base 2018/19
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 36,614.18 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates (as in the attached Table 2).
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018/19 (excluding Parish precepts) is £6,823,780
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

(a) £55,965,660 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.

(b) £48,470,420 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

(c) £7,495,240 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).

(d) £204.71 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

(e) £1,403,011 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Special Expenses and Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as in the attached Table 1).

(f) £166.39 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

4. To note that the County Council, the Police Authority and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2018/19 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

VALUATION BANDS

CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
110.93	129.41	147.90	166.39	203.37	240.34	277.32	332.78

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
863.28	1,007.16	1,151.04	1,294.92	1,582.68	1,870.44	2,158.20	2,589.84

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
118.30	138.02	157.73	177.45	216.88	256.32	295.75	354.90

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
44.97	52.47	59.96	67.46	82.45	97.44	112.43	134.92

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1,137.48	1,327.06	1,516.63	1,706.22	2,085.38	2,464.54	2,843.70	3,412.44

6. That the Statutory Finance Officer and his officers be authorised to take any action necessary to ensure collection and recovery of the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates.

7. As the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 has increased by 2.99% and is in line with the permitted increase for 2018/19, it is considered not excessive in

accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

EXPLANATION OF COUNCIL TAX SETTING RESOLUTION	
RESOLUTION 1	
(a)	Before we can calculate the Council Tax to be charged, we first have to calculate the Council Tax base. The Council Tax base is the amount which a Band D Council Tax of £1.00 would raise. For 2018/19 we estimate that a £1.00 Council Tax at Band D would raise £36,614.18 in the Chorley area.
(b)	This shows the "base" figure for each Parish in the area. For example, a £1.00 Band D Council Tax in Adlington would raise £2,016.68.
RESOLUTION 2	
	This shows the Council's net spending for 2018/19 excluding the cost of Parish precepts.
RESOLUTION 3	
(a)	This is the grand total of money which the Council estimates it will spend on all services in 2018/19. It also includes £709,757 which Parish Councils need to run their services.
(b)	This is the grand total of money which the Council estimates it will receive from various sources in the year. This includes Central Government and business rates, car park charges, investment income, government grants in respect of benefits, etc.
(c)	This is the difference between 2(a) and 2(b) and is in effect the Council's and Parishes net spending on services.
(d)	The difference between 2(a) and 2(b) is £7,495,240 and this is the amount we need to charge Council Taxpayers. This is divided by the base (see 1(a) above) and the resulting figure of £204.71 is the average Band D Council Tax for all Borough and Parish services.
(e)	The total of all the amounts needed from Council Taxpayers by the Parish Councils in the area and for Chorley Borough Special Expenses.
(f)	This is the Band D Council Tax for Chorley Borough Council's own services, ie. excluding Parish Council spending and Special Expenses
RESOLUTION 4	
	Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Fire Authority and the Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire are separate bodies who have worked out their own estimates of spending and income for 2018/19 and have set taxes in a similar way to Chorley Borough Council. This resolution notes their final decision.

RESOLUTION 5

This pulls together the Council Taxes for Chorley Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Fire Authority. For example, the aggregate amount for Band D is £1,706.22 made up as follows:

	£
Chorley Borough Council	166.39
Lancashire County Council	1,294.92
Lancashire Police Authority	177.45
Lancashire Fire Authority	67.46

The rate for each property Band is calculated by reference to the Band D charge. The following ratios apply:

Band A	$\frac{6}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band B	$\frac{7}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band C	$\frac{8}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band D	$\frac{9}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band E	$\frac{11}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band F	$\frac{13}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band G	$\frac{15}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band H	$\frac{18}{9}$ ths of Band D

The aggregate charge for Band A, for example, the charge is $\text{£}1,706.22 \times \frac{6}{9} = \text{£}1,137.48$; for Band B it is $\text{£}1,706.22 \times \frac{7}{9} = \text{£}1,327.06$.

RESOLUTION 6

Formally authorise the necessary staff to take legal action to collect arrears as and when this is necessary. **For the vast majority of taxpayers, this is not needed**

18.C.500 Fees and Charges Policy and a Review of Fees and Charges

This item was considered at item 5 on the agenda.

18.C.501 Electoral Review Committee

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member (Resources) presented the report of the Director (Policy and Governance) which corrected the political proportionality to the Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee, and to consider a formal request to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to defer the 2019 local borough elections.

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member (Resources) proposed, Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader, seconded the **DECISION**:

- 1. To approve the amendments to the membership of the Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee, with the political proportionality of 5 Labour (and 2 substitutes), 3 Conservative (and 2 substitutes) and 1 seat to be allocated to the smaller groups within the Council. Councillor Alan Whittaker was appointed as the fifth Labour member.**
- 2. To approve a formal request being made to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to defer the 2019 local borough elections due to the whole of Council election in 2020. This would result in a cost saving to the Council of approximately £120,000.**

18.C.502 Any urgent business previously agreed with the Mayor

The Mayor accepted the following item of urgent business, as requested by the Executive Leader of the Council, as the ongoing issue in question affects many residents within Chorley.

Members considered the urgent item, which was circulated just prior to the meeting and supported the proposals and to write to the Secretary of State if the situation is not resolved imminently. A suggestion was made that a managed process is needed to close the tip and to also contact the Public Health England to request information about the other gasses from the site.

Decision: That the Executive Leader redraft the proposal and circulate it to all Members before implementing it.

Mayor

Date