

Minutes of Council

Meeting Date Tuesday, 28 February 2023

Members present: Councillor Julia Berry (Mayor), Councillor Tommy Gray (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Sarah Ainsworth, Aaron Beaver, Martin Boardman, Alistair Bradley, Sam Chapman, Mark Clifford, Alan Cullens, Magda Cullens, Karen Derbyshire, Gordon France, Margaret France, Danny Gee, Terry Howarth, Keith Iddon, Hasina Khan, Samir Khan, Zara Khan, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Michelle Le Marinel, June Molyneaux, Alistair Morwood, Dedrah Moss, Beverley Murray, James Nevett, Alan Platt, Debra Platt, Aidy Riggott, Jean Sherwood, Arjun Singh, Kim Snape, Ryan Towers, John Walker, Jenny Whiffen, Neville Whitham, Alan Whittaker and Peter Wilson

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Louise Mattinson (Director of Finance), Chris Moister (Director of Governance), Asim Khan (Director of Customer and Digital), Vicky Willett (Director of Change and Delivery) and Nina Neisser (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Harold Heaton, Alex Hilton and Matthew Lynch

81 Declarations of Any Interests

No declarations of interests were declared.

82 Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 24 January 2023 of Council

Resolved (unanimously) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 January 2023 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

83 Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor advised that Councillors Hasina, Samir and Zara Khan would be undertaking a sponsored fast for Ramadan, starting on 21 March – all money raised would go towards the Mayor's Chosen Charities.

The Mayor thanked everyone who had booked their tickets for the Charity Ball and reminded those who hadn't paid to contact Paula Brindle as soon as possible to arrange payment.

84 Public Questions

There were no public questions for consideration.

85 Revenue Budget 2023/24, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme 2023-2026

The Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Member for Resources, Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the Executive's Revenue Budget 2023/24, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme 2023-26.

Councillor Wilson thanked officers and the Labour Group for their hard work and input into the proposed budget. He noted the previous post-covid budgets and the uncertainties this continued to create. The main challenges for the council included the rapid increase in inflation, the cost of living crisis and the impact of the Government's budget on local councils. The proposed budget would continue to provide the support needed for residents, communities, and businesses in the borough.

The 2023/24 budget and the MTFs for the next 2 years had been updated to take account of the following:

- Due to the continued pressures on council budgets, alongside reduced levels of funding from government to meet these increasing costs, the figures include a proposed 1.99% increase in council tax in 2023/24;
- The figures also include a proposed 2.99% increase in council tax in 2024/25 and of 1.99% in 2025/26; these proposals will be revisited each year as part of the budget setting process and will be dependent upon the outcome of the government's reviews of both the future funding framework and the future distribution of funding between councils (i.e. the long awaited Fair Funding Review), the review of the business rates system and the development of the 'Levelling-Up' agenda;
- Continued investment is reflected in ongoing revenue budgets to ensure delivery of corporate strategy priorities.

Although the level of funding in cash terms has increased by £1.9m from £13.6m in 2016/17 to £15.5m in 2023/24 (13.9%), the real terms reduction over this period, as measured by CPI, is 26.9%. Despite this, the council has been, and remains, ambitious in its approach to addressing the budget deficit by generating efficiency savings and additional income.

Councillor Wilson referred to the achievements of the council in recent years, and the plans within the Corporate Strategy, which would be delivered by the proposed budget, including:

Housing where residents can live well

- £2.8m of further investment in affordable homes and adaptation grants
- £100k investment in measures to improve home energy efficiency
- £50k to investigate flexible housing solutions to meet the needs of all communities

A green and sustainable borough

- £35k to plant more trees as part of establishing green corridors

- £200k environmental improvements and proactive activity to clean up neighbourhoods
- £80k to deliver energy improvement measures for businesses
- £50k to deliver additional Electric Vehicle charging points

An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas

- £150k to continue improving Astley Hall
- £400k to improve rural business connectivity
- £240k to provide additional support for businesses
- £10k to launch a skills and jobs programme for local residents
- £441k over the MTFs for investment within bus shelters

Healthy, safe and engaged communities

- £120k to provide more support for families and young people to access services that can give them the best start in life
- £15k for health and wellbeing activities that can be accessed by residents within their local

The council continues to invest in the borough and this budget includes £23.053m of capital investment from 2023/24 to 2025/26. This includes investment in;

- Provision of affordable housing, support for refugees and adaptations to assist residents in their homes;
- Improving and transforming the leisure centres to encourage our residents to be active and healthy, along with investment in play, recreation and open spaces;
- Driving economic development and delivering income generation through the completion of the Strawberry Meadows development;
- Supporting our town centre through the town centre masterplan;
- Delivering the green agenda, including decarbonisation of council properties; Rationalisation of council accommodation The council will continue its success of investing in assets that benefit residents and businesses whilst also generating a net income to the council.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley supported and seconded the proposed budget and noted the challenges faced by the council and how the proposed budget would address this.

Before moving to the vote, the Mayor asked Shadow Cabinet Member (Finance, Shared Services and Governance), Councillor Sam Chapman to present the Conservative Group amendment.

86 Conservative Group proposed amendment to Budget

Shadow Cabinet Member (Finance, Shared Services and Governance), Councillor Sam Chapman expressed his thanks to the Conservative group and officers for their contribution to the proposed amendment.

Councillor Chapman highlighted that the Administration's proposed 1.99% increase to Council Tax would generate an additional £140,000 in revenue to the council in 2023/24, and in each subsequent year thereafter. Similarly, the proposed 1.99% increase to Special Expenses would generate an additional £21,135 in revenue.

Therefore, the Conservative Group proposed:

1. a freeze on Council Tax in 2023/24,
2. a freeze on Special Expenses in 2023/24,

with the loss in revenue offset in 2023/4 by reducing the Climate Change Reserve by the same amount, and with the future loss in revenue addressed by the same means as the identified funding gap for those years in the Medium Term Financial Strategy i.e. through savings identified in the development and delivery of the Transformation Strategy and Savings Programme.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens, seconded and supported the amendments, particularly regarding the freeze on Council Tax and Special Expenses.

Amendment

The adoption of the Alternative Budget as set out in the report, was moved as an amendment by the Shadow Cabinet Member (Finance, Shared Services and Governance), Councillor Sam Chapman and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens.

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 Martin Boardman, Sam Chapman, Alan Cullens, Magda Cullens, Keith Iddon, Alan Platt, Debra Platt, Aidy Riggott, and John Walker.

Against: Councillors Sarah Ainsworth, Aaron Beaver, Julia Berry (Mayor), Alistair Bradley, Mark Clifford, Karen Derbyshire, Gordon France, Margaret France, Danny Gee, Tom Gray (Deputy Mayor), Terry Howarth, Hasina Khan, Samir Khan, Zara Khan, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Michelle Le Marinel, June Molyneaux, Alistair Morwood, Dedrah Moss, Beverley Murray, James Nevett, Jean Sherwood, Arjun Singh, Kim Snape, Ryan Towers, Jenny Whiffen, Neville Whitham, Alan Whittaker and Peter Wilson.

The vote was **lost** (9:30:0).

Substantive motion

The substantive motion, as indicated in Agenda Item 5 was proposed by the Deputy Executive Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson, and seconded by the Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley, was then put to the vote.

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 Sarah Ainsworth, Aaron Beaver, Julia Berry (Mayor), Alistair Bradley, Mark Clifford, Karen Derbyshire, Gordon France, Margaret France, Danny Gee, Tom Gray (Deputy Mayor), Terry Howarth, Hasina Khan, Samir Khan, Zara Khan, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Michelle Le Marinel, June Molyneaux, Alistair Morwood, Dedrah Moss, Beverley Murray, James Nevett, Jean Sherwood, Arjun Singh, Kim Snape, Ryan Towers, Jenny Whiffen, Neville Whitham, Alan Whittaker and Peter Wilson.

Against: Councillors Martin Boardman, Sam Chapman, Alan Cullens, Magda Cullens, Keith Iddon, Alan Platt, Debra Platt, Aidy Riggott, and John Walker.

The vote was carried by majority (30:9:0), and it was therefore a **Decision** That the budget and proposals as set out in the report in item 5 and supporting appendices be approved to include:

- a) Approve the budget and proposals set out in this report, including the level of Council Tax as set out in the Formal Council Tax Resolution, including Special Expenses & Parish Precepts 2023/24, at Appendix A;
- b) Note the advice of the Chief Finance Officer in relation to the robustness of the estimates within the overall budget, including the risks contained within it and the adequacy of the proposed level of financial reserves, as set out in the Statutory Report at Appendices B1 – B3;
- c) Approve the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at Appendix C;
- d) Note the council's forecast Cumulative Budget Deficit and Budget Strategy 2023-24 to 2025-26 at Appendix D;
- e) Note the analysis of the movement in the 2023/24 Budget from the position approved by Council in February 2022 at Appendix E;
- f) Approve the capital programme for 2023/24 to 2025/26 (Appendices F1, F2 & F3);
- g) Approve the Capital Strategy at Appendix G;
- h) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix H and note the advice of the treasury management consultants at Appendix H1;
- i) Approve the council's Pay Policy at Appendix I for publication on the council's website from April 2023 (including Appendix I (i) – the payscales for Chorley Council and Appendix I (ii) – the payscales for Shared Services);
- j) Note the budget consultation 2023/24 Report at Appendix J;
- k) Note the Assessing the Impact of Budget Proposals 2023/24 Report at Appendix K

FORMAL COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

1. It be noted that on 31st January 2023 the Director of Finance as Statutory Finance Officer calculated the Council Tax Base 2023/24

(a) for the whole Council area as 38,342.53 [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 2023/24 (excluding Parish precepts) is £7,807,800

3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

(a) £58,579,500 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) £49,925,923 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

(c) £8,615,281 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) £224.69 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) £1,644,127 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) £181.81 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 2023/24 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
121.21	141.41	161.61	181.81	222.21	262.61	303.02	363.62

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1,049.81	1,224.77	1,399.74	1,574.71	1,924.65	2,274.58	2,624.52	3,149.42

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
167.63	195.57	223.51	251.45	307.33	363.21	419.08	502.90

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
54.85	63.99	73.13	82.27	100.55	118.83	137.12	164.54

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1,393.50	1,625.74	1,857.99	2,090.24	2,554.74	3,019.23	3,483.74	4,180.48

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 has increased by 1.99% for 2023/24, 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 2023/24 we estimate that a £1.00 Council Tax at Band D would raise £38,342.53 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 £2,105.11.

RESOLUTION 2

This shows the Council’s net spending for 2023/24 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 2023/24. It also includes £807,481 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 £8,615,281 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 £224.69 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 2023/24 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 £2,090.24 made up as follows:

	£
Chorley Borough Council	181.81
Lancashire County Council	1,574.71
Lancashire Police Authority	251.45
Lancashire Fire Authority	82.27

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 $\text{£}2,090.24 \times 6 \div 9 = \text{£}1,393.50$; for Band B it is $\text{£}2,090.24 \times 7 \div 9 = \text{£}1,625.74$.

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**

		Band A		Band B		Band C		Band D		Band E		Band F		Band G		Band H	
Lancashire County Council			1,049.81		1,224.77		1,399.74		1,574.71		1,924.65		2,274.58		2,624.52		3,149.42
Chorley Borough Council (Excluding Special Expenses)			121.21		141.41		161.61		181.81		222.21		262.61		303.02		363.62
Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire			167.63		195.57		223.51		251.45		307.33		363.21		419.08		502.90
Lancashire Fire Authority			54.85		63.99		73.13		82.27		100.55		118.83		137.12		164.54
Sub Total			1,393.50		1,625.74		1,857.99		2,090.24		2,554.74		3,019.23		3,483.74		4,180.48
Parish and town councils	Total Parish precept	Special Expenses	Parish Precept	Special Expenses	Parish Precept	Special Expenses	Parish Precept	Special Expenses	Parish Precept	Special Expenses	Parish Precept	Special Expenses	Parish Precept	Special Expenses	Parish Precept	Special Expenses	Parish Precept
Adlington	£20,900.00	3.69	6.23	4.30	7.26	4.92	8.30	5.53	9.34	6.76	11.42	7.99	13.49	9.22	15.57	11.06	18.68
Anderston	£5,500.00	1.57	6.91	1.83	8.06	2.09	9.21	2.35	10.36	2.87	12.66	3.39	14.96	3.92	17.27	4.70	20.72
Anglezarke	£0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Astley Village	£24,420.00	20.71	14.67	24.16	17.11	27.61	19.56	31.06	22.00	37.96	26.89	44.86	31.78	51.77	36.67	62.12	44.00
Bretherton	£16,950.00	-	35.39	-	41.28	-	47.18	-	53.08	-	64.88	-	76.67	-	88.47	-	106.16
Brindle	£7,500.00	3.57	10.38	4.17	12.11	4.76	13.84	5.36	15.57	6.55	19.03	7.74	22.49	8.93	25.95	10.72	31.14
Chamock Richard	£34,055.00	2.95	32.94	3.44	38.43	3.93	43.92	4.42	49.41	5.40	60.39	6.38	71.37	7.37	82.35	8.84	98.82
Clayton le Woods	£166,210.00	28.79	20.00	33.59	23.33	38.39	26.67	43.19	30.00	52.79	36.67	62.39	43.33	71.98	50.00	86.38	60.00
Coppull	£121,900.00	6.05	31.54	7.06	36.80	8.07	42.05	9.08	47.31	11.10	57.82	13.12	68.34	15.13	78.85	18.16	94.62
Croston	£27,250.00	7.08	15.87	8.26	18.52	9.44	21.16	10.62	23.81	12.98	29.10	15.34	34.39	17.70	39.68	21.24	47.62
Cuerden	£1,290.00	8.69	20.37	10.13	23.76	11.58	27.16	13.03	30.55	15.93	37.34	18.82	44.13	21.72	50.92	26.06	61.10
Eccleston	£49,626.00	3.70	19.18	4.32	22.38	4.93	25.57	5.55	28.77	6.78	35.16	8.02	41.56	9.25	47.95	11.10	57.54
Euxton	£179,909.00	12.99	24.11	15.15	28.12	17.32	32.14	19.48	36.16	23.81	44.20	28.14	52.23	32.47	60.27	38.96	72.32
Heapey	£9,160.00	13.27	15.82	15.48	18.46	17.69	21.09	19.90	23.73	24.32	29.00	28.74	34.28	33.17	39.55	39.80	47.46
Heath Chamock	£8,500.00	16.13	6.77	18.81	7.89	21.50	9.02	24.19	10.15	29.57	12.41	34.94	14.66	40.32	16.92	48.38	20.30
Heskin	£14,196.00	1.66	24.87	1.94	29.02	2.21	33.16	2.49	37.31	3.04	45.60	3.60	53.89	4.15	62.18	4.98	74.62
Hoghton	£6,000.00	5.22	10.59	6.09	12.36	6.96	14.12	7.83	15.89	9.57	19.42	11.31	22.95	13.05	26.48	15.66	31.78
Mawdesley	£36,486.00	1.03	27.77	1.20	32.40	1.37	37.03	1.54	41.66	1.88	50.92	2.22	60.18	2.57	69.43	3.08	83.32
Rivington	£2,500.00	-	27.58	-	32.18	-	36.77	-	41.37	-	50.56	-	59.76	-	68.95	-	82.74
Ulnes Walton	£6,340.00	-	15.57	-	18.16	-	20.76	-	23.35	-	28.54	-	33.73	-	38.92	-	46.70
Wheilton	£15,425.00	-	23.44	-	27.35	-	31.25	-	35.16	-	42.97	-	50.79	-	58.60	-	70.32
Whittle le Woods	£59,660.00	16.07	15.33	18.74	17.89	21.42	20.44	24.10	23.00	29.46	28.11	34.81	33.22	40.17	38.33	48.20	46.00
Withnell	£32,000.00	6.59	16.06	7.68	18.74	8.78	21.41	9.88	24.09	12.08	29.44	14.27	34.80	16.47	40.15	19.76	48.18
All other parts of the Council's area		20.35	-	23.74	-	27.13	-	30.52	-	37.30	-	44.08	-	50.87	-	61.04	-

PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS							
Parish Council	2022/23			2023/24			C Tax Increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	
Adlington	2,035.80	19,000	8.44	2,042.62	20,900	9.34	0.90
Anderton	499.80	5,200	9.82	502.45	5,500	10.36	0.54
Anglezarke	20.20	-	0.00	19.80	-	0.00	0.00
Astley Village	927.20	24,274	22.00	933.68	24,420	22.00	0.00
Bretherton	303.50	15,450	49.54	311.54	16,950	53.08	3.54
Brindle	466.10	6,800	14.00	464.26	7,500	15.57	1.57
Charnock Richard	681.90	32,000	46.42	682.25	34,055	49.41	2.99
Clayton le Woods	5,140.20	139,963	25.00	5,158.41	166,210	30.00	5.00
Coppull	2,330.20	110,330	42.81	2,353.31	121,900	47.31	4.50
Croston	1,081.70	25,970	22.68	1,084.09	27,250	23.81	1.13
Cuerden	41.80	1,290	30.81	42.15	1,290	30.55	-0.26
Eccleston	1,673.30	47,480	27.40	1,667.86	49,626	28.77	1.37
Euxton	4,914.50	176,000	35.46	4,927.56	179,909	36.16	0.70
Heapey	371.80	9,150	23.73	372.23	9,160	23.73	0.00
Heath Charnock	806.90	8,200	9.75	804.74	8,500	10.15	0.40
Heskin	370.40	14,196	36.86	365.86	14,196	37.31	0.45
Hoghton	362.70	6,000	16.08	367.11	6,000	15.89	-0.19
Mawdesley	848.60	33,169	38.15	856.79	36,486	41.66	3.51
Rivington	54.70	2,500	42.61	56.34	2,500	41.37	-1.24
Ulnes Walton	261.00	6,300	23.35	262.73	6,340	23.35	0.00
Wheulton	413.90	14,976	35.14	426.41	15,425	35.16	0.02
Whittle Woods	2,563.20	59,070	23.05	2,593.57	59,660	23.00	-0.05
Withnell	1,249.90	31,000	23.62	1,266.73	32,000	24.09	0.47
All other parts of the Council's area	10,688.70	-	-	10,780.03	-	-	
TOTAL / AVERAGE	38,108.00	788,318	19.68	38,342.53	845,777	21.06	1.38

87 Any urgent business previously agreed with the Mayor - Notice of Motion

The Mayor accepted an urgent item of business on the basis that it was time constrained.

Councillor James Nevett proposed, and Councillor Jean Sherwood seconded the following Notice of Motion:

“The week 27th February to 5th March marks Eating Disorders Awareness Week (EDAW) in the UK, a time marked annually to increase awareness of the more than 1.25 million people who suffer from eating disorders in the United Kingdom (according to Beat, the UK eating disorder charity) and the millions of people who are indirectly affected as family, friends and loved ones. For 2023, the theme of EDAW is raising awareness about male sufferers of eating disorders who often go ignored or overlooked. One in four sufferers of eating disorders are men, yet harmful stereotypes about eating disorders only affecting girls and women, that they are about attention-seeking, that male sufferers just enjoy ‘working out’, or they are ‘fussy eaters’, persist. Research from Beat suggests that 1 in 5 male sufferers have never spoken out, 3 in 5 were disappointed with the support available, and 4 in 5 believed greater awareness would help men to access treatment sooner.

Therefore, this motion calls on the council to acknowledge the importance of Eating Disorders Awareness Week and raising the profile of male sufferers. This motion encourages the council’s Lead Member for Health Services and the Champion for Mental Health Awareness to raise the importance of improving NHS eating disorders services for both children and adults wherever possible, and to highlight these issues in their work with community groups and partner organisations. This motion calls on the council to establish an eating disorders support page on its website in the residents section, alongside the current pages on alcohol, drugs, smoking and adult mental health, to signpost members of the public to the support available from Beat and the Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust. The council should have available the range of digital and print resources published by Beat which provide useful information on eating disorders, how sufferers can access treatment, and advice to family and friends who support loved ones suffering from eating disorders.”

Councillor Le Marinel thanked Cllr James Nevett for bringing the important motion forward to Council and the proposed an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Margaret France. Following discussion, a friendly amendment was agreed.

Resolved (unanimously) to support the amended Notice of Motion as follows:
The week 27th February to 5th March marks Eating Disorders Awareness Week (EDAW) in the UK, a time marked annually to increase awareness of the more than 1.25 million people who suffer from eating disorders in the United Kingdom (according to Beat, the leading UK eating disorder charity) and the millions of people who are indirectly affected as family, friends and loved ones. For 2023, the theme of EDAW is raising awareness about male sufferers of eating disorders who often go ignored or overlooked. One in four sufferers of eating disorders are men, yet harmful stereotypes about eating disorders only affecting girls and women, that they are about attention-seeking, that male sufferers just enjoy ‘working out’, or they are ‘fussy eaters’, persist. Research from Beat suggests that 1 in 5 male sufferers have never spoken out, 3 in 5 were disappointed with the support available, and 4 in 5 believed greater awareness would help men to access treatment sooner.

Therefore, this motion calls on the council to acknowledge the importance of Eating Disorders Awareness Week and raise the profile of all (and in particular male) sufferers. This motion encourages the council's Lead Member for Health Services and the Champion for Mental Health Awareness to raise the importance of improving NHS eating disorders services for both children and adults wherever possible, and to highlight these issues in their work with community groups and partner organisations. This motion calls on the council to establish an eating disorders support page on its website in the residents section, alongside the current pages on alcohol, drugs, smoking and adult mental health, to signpost members of the public to the support available from both charitable organisations expert in this fields and the Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust. The council should have available the range of digital and print resources published by Beat which provide useful information on eating disorders, how sufferers can access treatment, and advice to family and friends who support loved ones suffering from eating disorders.

88 Any urgent business previously agreed with the Mayor - Committee Appointments

The Mayor advised she had accepted this item of urgent business.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Executive Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously): That Councillor Michelle Le Marinel replace Councillor Alex Hilton on the Equality Forum.**

Mayor

Date