

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

MEETING DATE Tuesday, 25 February 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Hasina Khan (Mayor), Councillor Steve Holgate (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Aaron Beaver, Eric Bell, Martin Boardman, Terry Brown, Val Counce, Mark Clifford, Jean Cronshaw, Jane Fitzsimons, Christopher France, Peter Gabbott, Anthony Gee, Danny Gee, Tom Gray, Alex Hilton, Keith Iddon, Zara Khan, Margaret Lees, Roy Lees, Laura Lennox, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, Matthew Lynch, June Molyneaux, Alistair Morwood, Steve Murfitt, Beverley Murray, Gillian Sharples, Paul Sloan, Joyce Snape, Kim Snape, John Walker, Paul Walmsley, Neville Whitham, Alan Whittaker and Peter Wilson

OFFICERS: Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Chris Sinnott (Deputy Chief Executive), Asim Khan (Director (Customer and Digital)), Mark Lester (Director (Business, Development and Growth)), Chris Moister (Director of Governance), James Thomson (Deputy Director of Finance), Angela Barrago (Service Lead - Communities), Cathryn Filbin (Electoral Services Team Leader) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic and Member Services Team Leader)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Julia Berry, Alistair Bradley, John Dalton, Graham Dunn, Gordon France, Margaret France, Yvonne Hargreaves, Sheila Long and Debra Platt

Three members of the public

20.C.14 Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 21 January 2020 of Council

Decision: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 January 2020 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Martin Boardman noted that a comment had been made by a Councillor during 20.C.13 Market Walk Update which referred to himself as "stupid". This had resulted in a complaint under the Code of Conduct. Councillor Boardman reminded all Members of the need to refrain from personal insults and requested an apology from the Councillor, stating that he will not attend meetings when the Councillor is present until an apology is received. The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson, agreed that there is a need to maintain respect when debating.

20.C.15 Declarations of Any Interests

There were no declarations of interests received.

20.C.16 Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, wished Councillor Debra Platt best wishes for her ongoing treatment for breast cancer.

The Mayor explained that a hand carved gavel had recently been presented to the Council in memory of Councillor Ralph Snape. Mr Corbett, a local woodturner, had presented the gavel in the presence of Councillor Joyce Snape, her son, Russell and the Mayor.

The Mayor thanked all those who attended her Valentine's Bollywood Ball and highlighted her Spring Concert featuring the Sing It Big Community Choir and Sing It Big Youth Choir will take place on 24 March at 7pm.

20.C.17 Public Questions

There were no public questions for consideration.

20.C.18 General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax 2020/21

The Mayor explained that this item and item 6. Fees and Charges Review 2020/21 will be considered at the same time.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the Executive's General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax 2020/21 and item 6. Fees and Charges Review 2020/21.

Councillor Wilson thanked the officers and the Labour Group for their hard work and input into the proposed budget. The Council is facing uncertainty in terms of funding streams, with a one-year funding settlement for 2020/21 only from the Government, changes to the Business Rate Retention system and New Homes Bonus.

Councillor Wilson referred to the achievements of the council in recent years, and the plans within the Corporate Strategy, which will be delivered by this proposed budget.

The council has been ambitious in its approach to meeting the budget deficit through generating efficiency savings and additional income. However, there remain large forecast budget deficits of £1.087m in 2021/22 and £2.061 in 2022/23. To achieve a sufficient reduction in net expenditure the Council's strategy will be:

1. To make the council more financially self-sufficient with specific emphasis on creating investment that generates income. This includes identifying future uncommitted resources to support income generating schemes.
2. To realise savings through the procurement of its contracts.
3. To identify the efficiencies through investment in infrastructure, ICT and through exploring alternative delivery models that will enable the council to balance the budget whilst seeking to minimise the impact on front line service users.

In summary, the proposals will:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all

- £50,000 ongoing investment in neighbourhood projects identified as priorities by local residents.
- £60,000 to fund resource for digital inclusion to ensure that residents from across the borough are enabled to access services online.

Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities

- £120,000 to support the ongoing work of the Youth Zone to continue to deliver high quality diversionary and wellbeing activities for young people in Chorley. This includes budget for additional outreach for those living further from the town centre.
- £50,000 to improve street cleaning and litter collections. Resident dissatisfaction was 12.79% for September 2019 compared to a target of 20%.

A strong local economy

- £125,000 to deliver an ambitious events programme including the Flower Show, Chorley Live and Christmas attractions attracting more than 69,000 people.

An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area

- £60,000 to support over 230 vulnerable individuals, achieving better wellbeing outcomes £70,000 to run and improve key bus routes in the borough to mitigate the impact of county wide cuts, ensuring that residents can access all areas of the borough.

With reference to the Capital Programme there will be investment in the Markets, on Chapel Street, affordable housing and local service centres. In addition, there will be investment in Westway Playing Fields, improvements to Union Street Offices, Astley Hall and Park and Whittle Health Hub. Large sites will be brought forward for development, a new masterplan for Tatton Recreation Ground and the surrounding area and large scale improvements to local leisure facilities as part of the renewal of the leisure management contract.

The total forecast level of reserves is expected to be £9.1m in 2020/21. These reserves are necessary to mitigate the financial impact of the uncertainty the council faces such as uncertainty regarding the national and local economy and uncertain future funding levels.

Councillor Wilson proposed the addition of several items to the Capital Programme in respect of delivering the green agenda, including £500k investment in the proposed initiatives. These include

- A tree for every resident by 2025
- Home Energy Efficiency
- Renewable energy and
- Air quality

Councillor Wilson updated Members on a petition relating to Buckshaw Parkway Section 106 funding. The council is in negotiations with Network Rail and the funding will be spent within Buckshaw Village on transport issues.

Through effective forward planning and through making prudent capital investments, the council has been able to balance the budget in 2020/21 without the need to increase council tax.

The Executive Member (Early Intervention), Councillor Bev Murray, highlighted the positive way the council has progressed during uncertain times, particularly around digital inclusion and community resilience.

Before moving to the vote, the Mayor asked the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Martin Boardman, to present their Alternative Budget.

20.C.19 Alternative Budget 2020/21

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Martin Boardman, presented the Alternative Budget 2020/21. This follows on from the alternative corporate strategy and sets out the Opposition's plan putting the wellbeing of residents and businesses at the heart of everything it does, while providing high quality services at a cost the people of Chorley can afford.

Councillor Boardman advised that, broadly, the Opposition support the direction of the administration's budget, but do not agree with the level of borrowing and risk undertaken by the administration.

The proposals within the Alternative Budget include revenue investment totalling up £1.4m per year and savings and additional income of up to £2.2m per year to ensure the budget is balanced without the need to increase Chorley Council's council tax charge.

The proposals include working better across teams and with partners to make many small changes that can have significant impacts across five themes:

- The Environment
- Economy & Education
- Community Safety
- Housing
- Health

In debating the proposals put forward by the opposition, Members raised issues around the proposed reduction to the annual charge for garden waste collection, savings from staffing, housing proposals and transport provision to enable young people to access the Youth Zone.

Members then debated the General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax 2020/21 and the Fees and Charges Review 2020/21.

In debating the proposals Members raised issues around the allocation of Section 106 money in Buckshaw Village, affordable housing provision, outreach work undertaken by the Youth Zone and the differing approaches of community centres.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Martin Boardman, made comments in relation to investment within the Town Centre and rural areas, the outcome of the pension review and works planned to Union Street offices.

There was general support for the proposals around the green agenda.

AMENDMENT

The adoption of the Alternative Budget as set out in the report, was moved as an amendment by the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Martin Boardman and seconded by the Shadow Cabinet Member (Early Intervention and Support), Councillor John Walker.

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: E Bell, M Boardman, V Counce, K Iddon, J Walker.

AGAINST: H Khan, S Holgate, A Beaver, T Brown, M Clifford, J Cronshaw, J Fitzsimons, C France, P Gabbott, A Gee, D Gee, T Gray, A Hilton, Z Khan, M Lees, R Lees, L Lennox, A Lowe, M Lowe, M Lynch, J Molyneaux, A Morwood, S Murfitt, B Murray, G Sharples, P Sloan, J Snape, K Snape, P Walmsley, N Whitham, A Whittaker, P Wilson.

The vote was **LOST**.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

The substantive motion, as indicated in Agenda Items 5 and 6, with the additional recommendations relating to delivering the green agenda was proposed by the Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson, and seconded by the Executive Member (Early Intervention), Councillor Bev Murray, 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: H Khan, S Holgate, A Beaver, T Brown, M Clifford, J Cronshaw, J Fitzsimons, C France, P Gabbott, A Gee, D Gee, T Gray, A Hilton, Z Khan, M Lees, R Lees, L Lennox, A Lowe, M Lowe, M Lynch, J Molyneaux, A Morwood, S Murfitt, B Murray, G Sharples, P Sloan, J Snape, K Snape, P Walmsley, N Whitham, A Whittaker, P Wilson.

AGAINST: E Bell, M Boardman, V Counce, K Iddon, J Walker.

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) **Approve the budget and proposals set out in this report including:**
 - **Council Tax set out in the resolutions (at Appendix A)**
 - b) **Note Special Expenses and Parish Precepts (at Appendix B)**
 - c) **Approve the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (Appendix C)**
 - d) **Note the Council's forecast cumulative budget deficit & budget strategy 2020-21 to 2022- 23 (Appendix D)**

- e) **Note significant budget movements from the 2019/20 Budget (at Appendix E)**
 - f) **Note the general fund forecast assumptions (at Appendix F)**
 - h) **Approve the Capital Strategy (Appendix H)**
 - i) **Approve the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix I) and note the advice of the treasury management consultants (Appendix I1)**
 - j) **Approve the Council's Pay Policy (at Appendix J) and publication on the Council's website from April 2020**
 - k) **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 K).**
 - l) **Note the Budget Consultation 2020/21 Report (at Appendix L)**
 - m) **Note the Assessing the Impact of Budget Proposals 2020/21 Report (at Appendix M)**
 - n) **Approve the recommendations from the outcome of consultation regarding changes to Council Tax Support Scheme (at Appendix N)**
- 2. Delivering the green agenda**
- a) **That the £500k investment in the proposed initiatives is approved.**
 - b) **That the revised appendices to the budget report, 'G1 Capital Programme 2019/20 – 2022/23 – Amended', 'G2 Capital Financing 2019/20 – 2022/23 – Amended' 'G3 Developer's Contributions 2017/18 - 2020/22 - Amended' are approved.**
 - c) **That the amended performance indicators outlined in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report are approved.**
- 3. Review of Fees and Charges**
- That the proposed 2% increase in fees and charges outlined in table 2 of this report be approved.**

FORMAL COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

Draft resolution on setting of the 2020/21 Council Tax for the Borough to be passed in approving the Executive Cabinet's recommendations for the Council's Budget

1. It be noted that on 31 January 2020 the Chief Executive as Statutory Finance Officer calculated the Council Tax Base 2020/21

(a) for the whole Council area as 37,438.52 [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 2020/21 (excluding Parish precepts) is £7,185,955

3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

(a) £51,959,600 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) £44,074,040 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

(c) £7,885,560 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) £210.63 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) £1,469,715 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) £171.37 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 2020/21 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

VALUATION BANDS							
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CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
114.25	133.29	152.33	171.37	209.45	247.53	285.62	342.74

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
933.55	1,089.14	1,244.73	1,400.32	1,711.50	2,022.68	2,333.87	2,800.64

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
140.97	164.46	187.96	211.45	258.44	305.43	352.42	422.90

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
47.24	55.11	62.99	70.86	86.61	102.35	118.10	141.72

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1,236.01	1,442.00	1,648.01	1,854.00	2,266.00	2,677.99	3,090.01	3,708.00

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 not increased for 2020/21, 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 2020/21 we estimate that a £1.00 Council Tax at Band D would raise £37,438.52 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 £2,033.46.

RESOLUTION 2

This shows the Council's net spending for 2020/21 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 2020/21. It also includes £737,901 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 £7,885,560 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 £210.63 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 2020/21 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 £1,854.00 made up as follows:

	£
Chorley Borough Council	171.37
Lancashire County Council	1,400.32
Lancashire Police Authority	211.45
Lancashire Fire Authority	70.86

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 £1,854.00 x $\frac{6}{9}$ = £1,236.01; for Band B it is £1,854.00 x $\frac{7}{9}$ = £1,442.00.

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***

20.C.20 Adoption of Central Lancashire Memorandum of Understanding

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the report of the Director of Early Intervention, which requests approval to the Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Co-operation which has been subject to consultation.

The three Central Lancashire Councils intend to implement a distribution of housing based on robust evidence. The evidence contained within the Central Lancashire Housing Study, produced by consultants Icenl, recommends that the most appropriate distribution of the minimum number of homes needed in the area is

Preston City Council	40%	410 homes per annum
South Ribble Borough Council	32.5%	334 homes per annum
Chorley Council	27.5%	282 homes per annum
Total	100%	1,026 per annum

This will be reviewed as the new local plan emerges and the spatial development policies are prepared.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Member (Public Protection), Councillor Alistair Morwood seconded the unanimous **Decision –**

- 1. To approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Co-operation between the Central Lancashire authorities as set out in Appendix 2 of this report, to take effect immediately following the approval by Preston City Council, South Ribble Borough Council and Chorley Council;**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive to amend the revised Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Co-operation by way of minor alterations which do not effect the substance or general content of the said document prior to it taking effect;**
- 3. To note that on the date of effect, the Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Cooperation will be implemented for Development Management purposes in the determination of planning applications; and**
- 4. The preparation of a single five year housing land supply for the purposes of determining planning applications & appeals which will include sharing information about specific sites.**

20.C.21 Polling station proposals for the new ward boundaries

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the report of the Returning Officer which proposes the location of polling stations based on the new ward boundary arrangements, as determined by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, following its electoral review of Chorley Council in 2018/19.

Councillor Wilson proposed an amendment to the recommendation within the report “to delegate the final decision for the location of the temporary mobile polling station intended to replace St Laurence’s Primary School in the Chorley North West Ward to the Returning Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources”.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Member (Customer and Digital), Councillor Adrian Lowe seconded the unanimous **Decision –**

- 1. To approve the amended list of polling stations detailed in the table at paragraph 13 which has been updated following further consultation.**
- 2. To delegate the final decision for the location of the temporary mobile polling station intended to replace St Laurence’s Primary School in the Chorley North West Ward to the Returning Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources.**
- 3. That the council launch a publicity campaign advising voters of any changes.**

20.C.22 Climate Change emergency update

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the report of the Chief Executive which provides an update on the actions that the council has, and will, take to address the Climate Change Emergency. This included giving away trees and positive action undertaken by council staff.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Martin Boardman, commented on the diesel generators used for the ice rink and the Flower Show and estimated that the CO2

produced over three years could amount to 100,00kg. Councillor Wilson noted the difficult balance when hosting events and environmental considerations.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Member (Early Intervention), Councillor Bev Murray seconded the **Decision – that the report be noted.**

20.C.23 Council appointments

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Member (Early Intervention), Councillor Bev Murray seconded the unanimous **Decision -**

To reduce the number on Appointments Panel from 9 to 6. (5:1:0)

Membership to be Councillors A Bradley, M Boardman, T Brown, J Fitzsimons, B Murray and P Wilson.

Reserves to remain Cllr M Lees and J Walker.

20.C.24 Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Member (Early Intervention), Councillor Bev Murray seconded the **Decision – 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.**

20.C.25 Site Acquisition

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the confidential report of the Director of Commercial Services.

The report advised Members of a proposal to purchase a site within Chorley as a commercial investment / potential future redevelopment asset and seeks approval to the making of a tender bid in respect of the purchase.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Martin Boardman, raised concerns over the level of borrowing required for this purchase and noted the late nature of the report.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Member (Early Intervention) Councillor Bev Murray seconded the **Decision by majority –**

- 1. To approve the submission of a tender bid for the purchase of a site within Chorley for the amount set out in the report.**
- 2. To approve additional PWLB borrowing to fund the total purchase costs including stamp duty at 4%.**
- 3. To note the intention to hold the site for investment and future development possibilities.**
- 4. That the decision for the final submission of the bid, any conditions attached to the submission and any issues arising from pre-submission due diligence be delegated to the Executive Member.**

Mayor

Date