

Minutes of Council

Meeting Date Tuesday, 23 February 2021

Members present: Councillor Steve Holgate (Mayor), Councillor Julia Berry (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Aaron Beaver, Martin Boardman, Alistair Bradley, Terry Brown, Val Counce, Mark Clifford, John Dalton, Graham Dunn, Christopher France, Gordon France, Margaret France, Peter Gabbott, Anthony Gee, Danny Gee, Tom Gray, Yvonne Hargreaves, Alex Hilton, Keith Iddon, Hasina Khan, Zara Khan, Margaret Lees, Roy Lees, Laura Lennox, Sheila Long, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, Matthew Lynch, June Molyneaux, Alistair Morwood, Steve Murfitt, Beverley Murray, Debra Platt, 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 of Customer and Digital), Mark Lester (Director of Commercial and Property), Chris Moister (Director of Governance), Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities), Jonathan Noad (Planning and Development), James Thomson (Deputy Director of Finance) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic and Member Services Team Leader)

Apologies: Councillor Jean Cronshaw

21.C.15 Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 26 January 2021 of Council

Decision that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 January 2021 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Mayor, subject to the correction of 21.C.10 Establishment of a Climate Change Working Group to remove the word (Chair) after Councillor Peter Wilson.

21.C.16 Declarations of Any Interests

There were no declarations of interests received.

21.C.17 Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor thanked key workers and all those involved in supporting people through these difficult times, particularly those currently supporting the vaccination programme.

21.C.18 Public Questions

There were no public questions for consideration.

21.C.19 General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax 2021/22

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the Executive's General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax 2021/22.

Councillor Wilson thanked the officers and the Labour Group for their hard work and input into the proposed budget. He thanked all the staff working for the council for their contributions in delivering services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

There continues to be uncertainty regarding the council's funding streams with the Government announcing a one-year financial settlement for 2021/22 rather than the expected multi-year settlement. There are also anticipated changes to the Business Rate Retention system and reforms to the New Homes Bonus. Due to this there is a proposed 1.99% increase in council tax in 2021/22.

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. The council recognised that reductions in funding and ongoing expenditure budget pressures have resulted in a forecast budget gap of £0.881m in 2021/22 increasing to £4.168m in 2023/24. To bridge this budget gap the Executive Cabinet has achieved forecast cumulative budget savings and additional income of £1.228m over the medium-term.

The council has a strong track record of investing in assets that enable improvements to local infrastructure and deliver new services to residents within the borough, including

- Market Walk Shopping Centre extension
- Strawberry Fields Digital Office Park
- Primrose Gardens
- purchase of the Logistics House site

Despite the budget savings identified there remain large forecast budget deficits of £1.749m in 2022/23 and £2.794m in 2023/24. 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 provides benefits to residents and businesses whilst also generating income.
2. To realise savings through the procurement of its contracts including joint contractual arrangements with South Ribble Council.
3. To identify 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

- £100,000 to support future planning applications and enable us to, if needed, defend locally made decisions.
- £60,000 to continue to support vulnerable individuals through funding for the social prescribing team – as well as securing more investment from the NHS.

Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities

- £500,000 including the removal of asbestos and for the demolition of bingo hall to make way for public realm works in the town centre making the town centre an even better place to live and work.
- £100,000 per year to improve the services from Chorley Bus Station.

A strong local economy

- £400,000 to fund our large commissions which enable third sector organisations to deliver support to residents against key priorities for the next three years.
- £15,000 to provide additional new support to the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector to provide support in the community.

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

- £100,000 to fund crucial works to the council's CCTV operations centre.
- £100,000 to refresh the Local Plan for the next five years.
- £120,000 to contribute to running of the Youth Zone including outreach work.
- £350,000 to deliver the Clayton-le-Woods parish building.

The council continues to invest through its capital programme to deliver on its ambitions. This will include:

- Improving local health services, including the new Whittle GP surgery.
- Improving and transforming the leisure centres to encourage our residents to be active and healthy.
- Continuing to support local service centres
- Driving economic development and delivering income generation through the Alker Lane development
- Supporting our town centre through the town centre masterplan

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley, thanked the staff for their work in supporting the community and businesses during the pandemic and the residents in playing their part in dealing with the challenges of the last year.

Councillor Bradley noted the future benefits of the developing shared services with South Ribble.

Before moving to the vote, the Mayor asked the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor John Walker, to present their Statement.

21.C.20 Conservative Group Statement 2021/22

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor John Walker, expressed his thanks to all the medical staff and support staff engaged in delivering the vaccination programme.

Reference was made to the grants made available by the Government relating to supporting businesses and residents during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillor Walker advised that the Conservative group had agreed to put opposition to the budget aside and focus on looking to the future.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Debra Platt, thanked NHS and all workers for their contributions during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members then debated the General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax 2021/22.

Councillor Martin Boardman, supported the approach of the Conservative group, but queried the need to increase council tax. Councillor Wilson noted the cumulative effect of not increasing council tax and the unknown impact of the fair funding review. He acknowledged increasing council tax was a difficult decision, but it was the right thing to do in the circumstances.

The motion, as indicated in Agenda Items 5 was proposed by the Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), 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: Councillor Steve Holgate (Mayor), Councillor Julia Berry (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Aaron Beaver, Alistair Bradley, Terry Brown, Mark Clifford, Christopher France, Gordon France, Margaret France, Peter Gabbott, Anthony Gee, Danny Gee, Tom Gray, Yvonne Hargreaves, Alex Hilton, Hasina Khan, Zara Khan, Margaret Lees, Roy Lees, Laura Lennox, Sheila Long, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, Matthew Lynch, June Molyneaux, Alistair Morwood, Steve Murfitt, Beverley Murray, Gillian Sharples, Paul Sloan, Joyce Snape, Kim Snape, Neville Whitham, Alan Whittaker, Peter Wilson

Against: None.

Abstain: Martin Boardman, Val Counce, Keith Iddon, Debra Platt, John Walker,

The vote was carried by majority, 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:**
 - **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 2021-22 to 2023-24 (Appendix D)**
- e) **Note significant budget movements from the 2020/21 budget (at Appendix E)**
- f) **Note the general fund forecast assumptions (at Appendix F)**
- g) **Approve the capital programme for 2020/21 to 2023/24 (Appendices G1, G2 & G3)**
- 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 2021**
- 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 2021/22 Report (at Appendix L)**
- m) Note the Assessing the Impact of Budget Proposals 2021/22 Report (at Appendix M)**
- n) Note Fees and Charges (at Appendix N)**

Formal Council Tax Resolution

1. It be noted that on 13 January 2021 the Deputy Director of Finance as Statutory Finance Officer calculated the Council Tax Base 2021/22

(a) for the whole Council area as 37,476.20 [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 2021/22 (excluding Parish precepts) is £7,336,340

3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

(a) £56,302,909 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) £48,263,330 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

(c) £8,039,579 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) £214.52 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) £1,489,490 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) £174.78 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 2021/22 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
116.52	135.94	155.36	174.78	213.62	252.46	291.30	349.56

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
970.79	1,132.59	1,294.39	1,468.19	1,779.79	2,103.39	2,426.98	2,912.38

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
150.97	175.13	201.29	228.46	276.77	327.09	377.42	452.90

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
48.18	56.21	64.24	72.27	88.33	104.39	120.45	144.54

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1,286.46	1,500.87	1,715.28	1,828.88	2,358.51	2,787.33	3,216.15	3,859.38

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 2021/22, it is considered not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 522B 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 2021/22 we estimate that a £1.00 Council Tax at Band D would raise £37,476.20 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 £2,021.10.

RESOLUTION 2

This shows the Council's net spending for 2021/22 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 2021/22. It also includes £741,535 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 £8,039,579 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 £214.52 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, i.e. 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 2021/22 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 £1,929.69 made up as follows:

	£
Chorley Borough Council	174.78
Lancashire County Council	1,456.19
Lancashire Police Authority	226.45
Lancashire Fire Authority	72.27

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	$\frac{12}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band G	$\frac{13}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band H	$\frac{14}{9}$ ths of Band D

The aggregate charge for Band A, for example, the charge is $\text{£}1,929.69 \times \frac{6}{9} = \text{£}1,286.46$; for Band B it is $\text{£}1,929.69 \times \frac{7}{9} = \text{£}1,500.87$.

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

21.C.21 Committee appointments

Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded the Decision to approve the following changes to Committee places:

1. Councillor Graham Dunn to be the council's representative on the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership Joint Scrutiny Committee.
2. The following members be appointed as reserves on the Climate Change Working Group
 1. Julia Berry
 2. Paul Sloan
 3. John Dalton
 4. Debra Platt

21.C.22 Alker Lane Development

The Mayor noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Mayor

Date