

Minutes of Council

Meeting date Tuesday, 18 July 2023

Committee Members present: Councillor Tommy Gray (Mayor), Councillor Gordon France (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Sarah Ainsworth, Aaron Beaver, Julia Berry, Alistair Bradley, Michelle Brown, Mark Clifford, Alan Cullens, Karen Derbyshire, Margaret France, Danny Gee, Christine Heydon, Alex Hilton, Terry Howarth, Hasina Khan, Samir Khan, Zara Khan, Michelle Le Marinel, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Matthew Lynch, Samantha Martin, Pauline McGovern, June Molyneaux, Alistair Morwood, Beverley Murray, Alan Platt, Aidy Riggott, Jean Sherwood, Chris Snow, Craige Southern, Kim Snape, Ryan Towers, Jenny Whiffen, Neville Whitham, Alan Whittaker, Joan Williamson and Peter Wilson

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance/Monitoring Officer), Asim Khan (Director of Customer and Digital), Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities), Victoria Willett (Director of Change and Delivery), Neil Halton (Principal Management Accountant) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)

Apologies: Councillors Dedrah Moss and Arjun Singh

5 members of the public

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

16 Minute's silence

The Mayor invited Members to observe a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Keith Iddon.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Alistair Bradley and Councillors Alistair Morwood and Craige Southern paid tribute and sent their condolences to the family.

17 Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 16 May 2023 of Council

Resolved (unanimously) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 May 2023 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

18 **Declarations of Any Interests**

Councillor Aidy Riggott declared a personal interest in item 17. Asset Acquisition in Chorley Town Centre, as a Cabinet member at Lancashire County Council.

19 **Mayoral Announcements**

The Mayor updated members on his fundraising activities and charity events, including a cricket match and nature walk.

20 **Public Questions**

There were no public questions for consideration.

21 **Executive Cabinet**

Members considered a general report of the meetings of Executive Cabinet held on 15 June and 13 July.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.**

22 **Governance Committee**

Members considered a general report of the Governance Committee meeting held on 24 June.

The Chair of the Governance Committee, Councillor Alan Platt proposed the report and the Vice Chair of Governance Committee, Councillor Mark Clifford seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.**

23 **Committee appointments**

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens proposed and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Platt seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that Councillor Aidy Riggott be appointed Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

24 **Chorley Council Annual Performance Report 2022/23**

On behalf of the Council, the Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley, thanked Vicky Willett, Director of Change and Delivery, for her hard work and commitment to the Council, and wished her all the best in her new role.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the Council's Annual Report which summarised the council's achievements during 2022/23.

The report detailed performance against each of the council's key priority areas, highlighting successful delivery of key projects. These include:

- Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all
- Clean safe and healthy communities
- A strong local economy

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

Despite the challenging period due to the cost of living crisis and inflation affecting the economy, the Council had continued to deliver against its priorities and provided support to local residents and businesses that have been most impacted.

Looking ahead, challenges for the Council include continuing to support residents and businesses to recover from unprecedented challenges within the economy, including the cost of living crisis and managing the increase demand on services that the Council provides.

The Corporate Strategy for 2023/24 has been fully refreshed with new priorities and action, building on the work undertaken in 2022/23.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson, thanked officers of the council for their work on projects and their delivery of services for the residents of the Borough.

Councillors Mark Clifford and Jean Sherwood contributed to the debate.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.**

25 Chorley UKSPF Programme

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the report of the Director (Change and Delivery).

The report provided members with an overview of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) framework for Chorley Council.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens, supported the proposals, particularly in rural areas.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. **To approve the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Delivery Framework for Chorley, in order to progress delivery of the fund, and to begin commissioning of the programmes within it.**
2. **To accept £4,212,901 of the UKSPF and £400,000 of the Rural Economic Prosperity Fund (REPF) from the UK Government**
3. **To approve a rural capital grants scheme utilising the REPF to enable eligible rural businesses to bid for funds to make capital improvements to their operations.**
4. **To note the allocation of the funds would be administered by the Executive in accordance with the terms of the scheme.**

26 Homes for Ukraine funding

The Executive Member (Homes and Housing), Councillor Terry Howarth presented the report of the Director (Communities).

The report provided a breakdown of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) funding committed to the council to assist with the costs of supporting Ukrainian refugees (also known as guests) and local sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine (HfU) Scheme.

The Executive Member (Homes and Housing), Councillor Terry Howarth proposed and the Executive Member (Early Intervention), Councillor Beverley Murray seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. **To receive the Ukrainian guest funding allocation of £476,000 and create a budget to allocate the funding.**
2. **To receive further Ukrainian guest grant funding allocations and create an equivalent level of budget to allocate the funding for subsequent financial years.**
3. **To note the funds would allocated by the Executive Member for Homes and Housing in accordance with the requirements of the scheme.**

27 **Questions Asked under Council Procedure Rule 8 (if any)**

No questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 8.

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

The Mayor noted there were two Notices of Motion for consideration.

Councillor Ryan Towers presented a Motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 relating to Local Government Pay. This was seconded by Councillor Kim Snape.

Councillors Michelle Le Marinel, Alan Cullens, Aidy Riggott, Joan Williamson, Karen Derbyshire and Alistair Bradley contributed to the debate.

Councillor Ryan Towers proposed, Councillor Kim Snape seconded, and it was **Resolved (by majority 35:4:0) that the motion be supported.**

Councillor Samantha Martin presented a Motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 relating to the closure of rail ticket offices. This was seconded by Councillor Sarah Ainsworth.

Councillors Alan Cullens, Aidy Riggott, Jean Sherwood, Kim Snape and Matthew Lynch contributed to the debate.

Councillor Samantha Martin proposed, Councillor Sarah Ainsworth seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the motion be supported.**

29 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously) 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.

30 Grant of a Lease - Offices 33a 34 35 36 37 Strawberry Fields Digital Office Park

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

- 1. To accept the terms and approve the issue of a 12-year lease to Panache Cruises.**
- 2. To grant authority to instruct the Director of Governance to complete the legal formalities.**
- 3. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive and the Executive Member for Resources to agree any subsequent variations to the terms reported.**

31 Grant of a lease - Unit 4b/5 Market Walk Extension, Market Walk

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

- 1. To approve the terms and grant authority to issue instructions to the Director of Governance to complete the Lease to the CFH (North West) Limited, subject to:**
 - a) Financial checks on CFH (North West) Limited being undertaken by finance and signed off by the Chief Executive;**
 - b) Parent company guarantee being provided to cover risk of council capital expenditure at lease outset;**
 - c) Net income after incentives equates to £58,000 per annum, in line with comparable properties on Market Walk and occupies a previously vacant unit.**

32 Queens Road Car Park - Enhancement Works

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive.

Members discussed the timescales for completion, the width of spaces, the future installation of Electric Vehicle charging points and considerations around CCTV.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

- 1. To vire a budget of £321,000 from the existing, approved, Public Realm Town Centre capital budget to the Queens Road car park enhancement scheme.**
- 2. To approve the final design as shown in Appendix A.**

33 **Asset Acquisition in Chorley Town Centre**

Councillor Aidy Riggott declared a personal interest as a Cabinet member at Lancashire County Council.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive.

In response to a query from the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens, queried Councillor Bradley confirmed a condition survey had been undertaken and not that the building was not complex in design. Risks associated with the proposals had been considered.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (by majority 35:3:1)**

- 1. To approve the transfer of Chorley Bus Station and its associated staffing and operation from Lancashire County Council to Chorley Council.**
- 2. To delegate to the Director of Governance, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources, the authority to finalise and agree the heads of terms for the transfer.**

34 **Relocation of the Bengal Street depot - budget and progress update**

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive.

Members debated the proposals, with Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Platt. It was noted that the future plans for the Bengal Street depot would be considered at the Wholly Owned Company working group. The constraints of the former depot at Yarrow were acknowledged.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

- 1. To approve an overall capital budget of £3,750,000 to re-locate the Bengal Street depot to the Common Bank Industrial Estate site.**
- 2. To approve a new revenue budget for the associated borrowing costs of £192k per annum from 2024/25 onwards.**
- 3. To approve the re-location of the Bengal Street depot and Streetscene function to the Common Bank Industrial Estate site.**
- 4. To approve the purchase of the long lease hold interest at Common Bank Industrial Estate site.**
- 5. To note the commencement of HR procedures to consult with employees regarding the change of working location.**
- 6. To note a further report will be brought forward and delegated for the Executive Members attention to review and approve the costs attributed to staff impacted with regards to the relocation of the workplace.**

35 **Tatton Gardens - Project Completion Report**

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens, supported the proposals, particularly the medical facility.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

- 1. To approve the increase of the capital budget by £980,000 to £17,130,000 covering the contractor's claim and additional fees incurred throughout the negotiation process.**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Director of Governance in consultation with the Executive Leader to agree the final construction cost with the contractor within the approved capital budget.**

36 New hospital proposal

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

Mayor

Date