

Executive Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require Council decisions appear as separate items on the agenda.

General Report of the Meeting Held on 12 October 2023

Holiday Activities and Food Provision 2024 – 25 Procurement

2. Councillor Bev Murray, Executive Member for Early Intervention presented the report of the Director of Communities and Leisure which highlighted the Holiday Activity and Food Provision programme, its need and value to children at risk of food poverty in Chorley.
3. In summary, Chorley has 2,727 children aged 4 to 16 receiving free school meals. The programme aims to address food poverty during the school holidays. In line with national requirements, the 2024-25 delivery will be delivered for a week in the Easter and Christmas holidays, and four weeks in the summer holidays with a minimum of four hours of activities each day, four days a week.
4. We noted and expressed concern about the levels of childhood poverty, praised the programme and desired its extension to support more than 25% of children receiving free school meals. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Civil Penalties Policy

5. Councillor Bev Murray, Executive Member for Early Intervention presented the report of the Director of Communities and Leisure which sought to utilise the ability to impose the Civil Penalties Policy as a contained within the Housing and Planning Act 2016 (part 2 Rogue landlords and Property agents in England).
6. A civil penalty will require the same burden of proof as a criminal prosecution but will allow a more efficient and straightforward method of tackling offences without the need for criminal proceedings. Issued penalties will be between £500 and £30,000. Criminal proceedings will still be considered for serious breaches of legislation. We approved the recommendations within the report.

General Report of the Meeting Held on 9 November

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Empty Properties Final Report

7. The Overview and Scrutiny Task Group Final Report was noted and accepted for consideration, with a view to responding to recommendations at a future meeting.

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report Q2

8. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out the councils revenue and reserves forecast for 2023/24 based on the financial position at 30 September 2023.

9. An overspend of £423,000 is forecast, and due to the pay award negotiation, there is an unfunded budget pressure of £146,000, which revises the forecast outturn overspend to £569,000.
10. Within the councils medium term financial strategy, it is reported that the funding reserves are to be maintained at £4,000,000 to protect the council against future financial risks. It is forecast that at 31 March 2024, the General Fund Reserve will be £4,202,000. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Capital and Balance Sheet Monitoring Report Q2

11. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Finance which highlighted the outturn financial position of the council in respect of the capital programme as of 30 September 2023.
12. The capital budget for 2023/24 was initially set at £21,103,000 but amended July 2023 to £18,190,000. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Chorley Quarter Two Performance Monitoring Report

13. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Chief Executive which set out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the second quarter of 2023/24, the period covered 1 July to 30 September 2023.
14. Overall performance of the Corporate Strategy Projects is considered excellent with 90% of projects rated green. The one red rated project is the Local Plan, it is not where it is hoped to be, and issues include staffing and the complex nature of coordinating with two other local authorities.
15. Chorley's employment rate is 64.1% against the regional average of 73.8%. Work to be undertaken to explore the measure of economic activity and to gain a greater understanding behind the cause of the figure. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Property Valuation Services Procurement

16. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Finance which sought approval to undertake a procurement exercise with South Ribble Borough Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council for the renewal of the property valuation services.
17. The current contract expires in December 2024, a new, long-term agreement will create interest and competition within procurement and lead to preferential pricing. The tender exercise is to be undertaken in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules and Procurement Guidance. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Chorley Council Sustainable Building Policy – Approval of Policy

18. Councillor Adrian Lowe, Executive Member for Customer, Streetscene and Environment presented the report of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive which highlighted the council's Sustainability Building Policy to ensure feasibility and promote sustainable development across the buildings owned, and controlled by the council, in addition to all new council owned developments. We approved the recommendations

within the report.

General Report of the Meeting Held on 7 December

Print Strategy

19. Councillor Adrian Lowe, Executive Member for Customer, Streetscene and Environment presented the report of the Director of Customer and Digital which set out to review the proposed Print Strategy.
20. The council aims to provide and match the need for on demand services, and to set a standard to maximise efficiency, minimise environment impact and reduce council costs associated with printing and mailing. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Shared Building Control

21. Councillor Alistair Morwood, Executive Member for Planning and Development presented the confidential report of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive which outlined proposals for the shared building control service.
22. The Shared Services Joint Committee agreed to commence a review into a shared building control service between Chorley and South Ribble to ensure resilience for both councils given the technical and specialist skills required in building control. We approved the recommendations within the report.

The following Executive Member Decision was taken using the Special Urgency Procedure since September 2023

Executive Member (Resources)

Strawberry Meadows – Block A02 – Grant of a Lease

Recommendations

23. To note the report.

Councillor Alistair Bradley
Executive Leader

MP