

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 13 June 2024

Revenue Budget Outturn 2023/24

2. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Finance which sets out the provisional outturn for revenue and reserves for 2023/24 for the council.
3. Based on the position at 31 March 2024, the provisional outturn, which included the unfunded budget pressure of £146,000 following the payment of the 2023/24 pay award in November 2024, is an overspend of £1.170m.
4. The Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy approved in February 2024 that the minimum level of General Fund Reserves should be maintained at £4m to protect the council against future financial risk. At 31 March 2024, the General Fund balance was £4.092m.
5. I noted that many Lancashire Districts are also experiencing financial challenges, with some debts being one off in nature, and being required to be dealt with in the accounts.
6. We noted the 2023/24 provisional outturn for revenue and reserves, based on the position at 31 March 2024 and the virements made to and from the revenue budget during the period, as detailed in Appendix 2.

Capital and Balance Sheet Outturn 2023-24

7. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Finance which reports the outturn financial position of the council in respect of the capital programme at 31 March 2024. Key issues were highlighted, and key variances explained, in addition to an overview of various elements contained within the Council's balance sheet at 31 March 2024.
8. The Capital Budget for 2023/24 was set at £21.103 by the Council in February 2023. This was increased due to the approval of the 2022/23 outturn to £22.998m, then amended in the Quarter 1, Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 Capital Monitoring Reports, which covered the first nine months of the year to £15.882m as approved by the Executive Cabinet in February 2024.
9. We approved the revised capital programme, attached at Appendix A, which includes an amendment to the programme of £3.989m. We noted the variations to the programme (detailed by scheme at Appendix B) and the position in the Balance Sheet monitoring section of the report, in respect of cash, investment and loan balances, and debtors, as at 31st March 2024.

Chorley Quarter Four Performance Monitoring Report 2023/24

10. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery which sets out the performance against delivery of the Corporate Strategy during the fourth quarter of 2023/24, covered 1 January 2024 to March 2024.
11. Overall performance of the Corporate Strategy projects is good, with 84% (916) projects rated green and are progressing according to schedule. 16% (3) projects are rated Amber which was a warning of potential delays.
12. Councillor Alistair Morwood, Executive Member for Planning and Development, reported a correction to the report in that the % of major planning applications decided in 13 weeks is, in fact, 88%. This was within the target of 80%.
13. We discussed the resident satisfaction scores and acknowledged that these are lower than previously, but still higher than the national average. Results from the LGA mirrored the results also.
14. The issue of fuel poverty was considered. This is due to a number of factors, including high utility bills, but also residents living in large, older properties or terraces which are not necessarily as insulated as other properties.
15. We noted the report.

Key Contracts and Partnerships Framework Refresh

16. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery which presents the refreshed Key Contracts and Partnerships Framework.
17. The report sets out monitoring arrangements for contracts and partnerships whose significant justified additional scrutiny, this can be due to the combination of monetary value, length of the commitment, their impact on the council's strategic objectives or the level of associated risk.
18. The framework currently monitors 14 contracts and partnerships, 10 of which are also monitored by South Ribble's Key Contract and Partnership Framework. The framework refresh proposes to create a shared framework with South Ribble Borough Council, to support aligned ways of working for shared services staff while ensuring the framework remains fit for purpose.
19. We approved the refreshed Key Contracts and Partnerships Framework.

Merchant Acquiring Services Tender

20. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Finance which sets out agreement to enter a joint procurement exercise with South Ribble Borough Council and Preston City Council, supported by an external specialist consultant in the area to procure Merchant Acquiring Services.

21. Merchant Acquiring services are the means by which the council processes credit and debit card payments from customers. They allow card transactions to be processed securely and ensure that customers are offered a choice of payment channels for council services. Council income collected via credit/debit cards equates to approximately £5.5m per year, and over 45,000 transactions.
22. We discussed the criteria, noting the quality, social value and price for the contract.
23. We approved the procurement strategy and the proposed evaluation criteria for the contract. We delegated authority to the Executive Member (Resources) to enter into a contract with the successful bidder identified through the procurement process.

Closure of Council Charities

24. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Finance which sets out the proposal to wind up and close four small charities and/or providing an administrative service, and to ensure proper use of any resulting funds.
25. The outlined charities no longer meet their intended purpose in any meaningful way. As only minimal amounts of interest are generated, there was little that they can practically achieve. There are also no current trustees to conduct business of the charities.
26. The Charities are, 'Edward McKnight Memorial Fund', 'William Cocker Charity', 'H T Parke's Baths Fund', and 'W B Park's Charity'. The purpose of each of the charities is set out in the report.
27. We agreed that the William Cocker Charity, the WB Parks Charity, the HT Parkes Baths Fund and the McKnight Memorial Fund be closed, and that approval given to distribute any monies to similar charities or causes. In addition, that the determination of the recipients of the balance on each fund be delegated to the Chair of the Governance Committee and the Executive Member for Resources, the outcome of which to be reported to a future Governance Committee meeting.

All Seasons Gym Refurbishment - Procurement Strategy

28. Councillor Bev Murray, Executive Member for Early Intervention, presented the confidential report of the Director of Communities which requests approval for the procurement strategy to undertake the All Seasons Leisure Centre Improvements.
29. All Seasons Leisure Centre is the largest of the three venues and offers both wet and dry facilities. The centre consists of a 47-station gym, a 25m pool, a teaching pool, four courts and two court sport halls. Group exercise and group cycle studios, and two squash courts.
30. The Leisure Centre historically faced underinvestment while outsourced. However, since the council took back control, a significant opportunity presented itself to revitalise and enhance the services provided.

31. Members supported the investment into All Seasons.
32. We approved the procurement strategy for the refurbishment of the gym at All Seasons leisure centre, including the inclusion in the procurement exercise for the installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels and additional metering and monitoring software at All Seasons Leisure centre. Funding for the works has been awarded from Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund, this approval is subject to Council decision to confirm the acceptance of the funds.
33. We approved a full public consultation on the family facilities in the pool and authority to award a direct contract following the completion of the consultation and to delegate the contract award to the Executive Member of Early Intervention.
34. We also approved the direct contract award to Lyndhurst Precision Ltd for the manufacture of a pool walkway and delegated the contract award for the main contractor to the Executive Member of Early Intervention for sign off.
35. We noted, following the completion of a condition survey further works maybe included in the refurbishment package to limit disruption, costs will be quantified at the second stage and that further reports will come forward as part of the wider leisure improvements.

Recommendations

36. To note the report.

Councillor Alistair Bradley
Executive Leader

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