

Special Council

Thursday, 28 February 2013

Present: Councillor June Molyneaux (Mayor), Councillor John Walker (Deputy Mayor) and Ken Ball, Eric Bell, Julia Berry, Alistair Bradley, Terry Brown, Jean Cronshaw, Matthew Crow, John Dalton, David Dickinson, Doreen Dickinson, Dennis Edgerley, Robert Finnamore, Christopher France, Anthony Gee, Danny Gee, Peter Goldsworthy, Alison Hansford, Harold Heaton, Steve Holgate, Keith Iddon, Kevin Joyce, Hasina Khan, Paul Leadbetter, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, Greg Morgan, Steve Murfitt, Beverley Murray, Mark Perks, Alan Platt, Pauline Phipps, Dave Rogerson, Geoffrey Russell, Rosie Russell, Joyce Snape, Kim Snape, Ralph Snape, Paul Walmsley and Peter Wilson

Also in attendance

Officers: Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Lesley-Ann Fenton (Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy), Jamie Carson (Director of People and Places), Chris Moister (Head of Governance) and Carol Russell (Democratic Services Manager)

13.C.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Henry Counce, Magda Cullens, Graham Dunn, Marie Gray and Mick Muncaster.

13.C.20 MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY, 8 JANUARY 2013 OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the last Council meeting held on 8 January 2013 be confirmed as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

13.C.21 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

13.C.22 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor expressed her thanks to all those who had supported the Charity Ball in February which had been a great success and had raised £3809 towards her chosen charities. She also thanked those who had assisted her fundraising activities through sponsored events and through the donation of prizes and gifts.

13.C.23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There had been no requests received from members of the public.

13.C.24 GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2013/14

The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented the Executive's General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax proposals for 2013/2014.

The report detailed the elements of the proposals which recommended that Council Tax be frozen in 2013/14 at 2012/13 levels.

Resources had been allocated in line with the key priorities of:

- Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all
- Clean, safe and healthy communities
- An ambitious Council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area
- A strong local economy.

The key features of the budget being proposed in addition to the zero Council tax increase were:

- A programme of new investment totalling £2.824m
- £0.45m set aside to restructure debt and achieve a saving in the revenue budget of £0.060m.
- Maintaining general balances at a minimum of £2m in line with the requirements of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Attached to the main report was a series of appendices providing technical and budgetary information to support the proposals which were either for Members information or approval. These were as follows:

Appendix A1 Formal Council Tax resolution

Appendix A2 Pay policy – a revised pay policy was circulated at the meeting which included some changes to the structure of senior management remuneration.

Appendix A3 Proposed fees and charges for 2013/14

Appendix B1 Capital programme for 2012/13

Appendix B2 Capital programme for 2013/14 to 2015/16

Appendix B3 Capital programme proposed changes 2012/13 to 2015/16

Appendix B4 Section 106 and similar developers' contributions

Appendix C Budget investment package

Appendix C1 Investment project mandates

Appendix D Treasury strategies and prudential indicators 2013/14 to 2015/16

Appendix E Statutory Finance Officer report

Appendix F Medium term financial strategy 2013/14 to 2015/16

Appendix F1 Analysis of budget variations 2013/14 to 2015/16

Appendix G Significant budget movements 2012/13 to 2013/14

Appendix H Special expenses 2013/14

Appendix I Budget consultation 2013/14

Appendix J Equality impact assessment 2013/14 budget proposals

Members debated the Executive's proposed budget.

Councillor Peter Goldsworthy, Leader of the Conservative Group proposed and Councillor Greg Morgan, Deputy Leader seconded, the following amendment:

That Labour's spending plans be curbed and in doing so we propose

- *Council tax be reduced in year by 10%*
- *To reduce not increase, debt*
- *To reduce spending plans but leave spending to rise on those policy areas we find beneficial*
- *Maintain healthy balances*

This would be achieved through the following:

Capital proposals

- *Remove the £1m capital spend for “Regeneration Projects” referred to in the main report.*
- *Offer the former McDonalds site for sale for housing or commercial development – reclaiming the £476,000 purchase price.*
- *Increase debt repayments by £864,000, utilising underspend in 2012/13 of £564,000 and £300,000 from the town centre reserve.*

Consequently, as a result of the proposed changes, total borrowing will fall by £2.114m to £8.490m - a reduction of 20%

Revenue proposals

- *Reducing revenue growth to £463,500 by delivering only on the following items – business rate and refurbishment grants; active generation; street games; Clean up Chorley campaign; street furniture; employee health scheme; support to the VCFS network; 16/17 year old drop in scheme; free swimming; employment initiative with Runshaw.*
- *Use the New Homes Bonus as revenue income of £739,000 in 2013/14 increasing in the next two years to over £2m.*

On being put to the vote, the amendment was LOST

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance proposed, Councillor Alistair Bradley seconded and it was **RESOLVED –**

- 1. The Council approves the freezing of Council tax in 2013/14 at 2012/13 levels and agrees the budget set out in the report as follows:**
 - 1.1 The Council’s pay policy as circulated at the meeting be approved for publication on the Council’s website from April.**
 - 1.2 The Council’s fees and charges be maintained at 2012/13 levels (Appendix A3).**
 - 1.3 The capital programme to 2015/16 be approved (Appendices B1, B2, B3 and B4).**
 - 1.4 The budget investment package be approved (Appendix C and C1).**
 - 1.5 The Treasury Management Strategy and its core principles be approved (Appendix D).**
 - 1.6 The advice of the Statutory Finance Officer in relation to the robustness of the budget and the risks contained in the budget be noted (Appendix E).**
 - 1.7 The Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved (Appendices F and F1).**
 - 1.8 Significant budget movements from the 2012/13 budget be noted (Appendix G).**

1.9 The Special Expenses and Parish precepts be noted (Appendix H).

1.10 The Budget consultation 2013/14 report be noted (Appendix I).

1.11 The Equality Impact Assessment of the 2013/14 budget proposals be noted (Appendix J).

2. The formal Council tax resolution be approved (Appendix A1) as follows:

2.1 It be noted that on 8 January 2013 the Chief Executive as Statutory Finance Officer calculated the Council Tax Base 2013/14

(a) for the whole Council area as 32,750.66 [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).

2.2 Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2013/14 (excluding Parish precepts) is £5,810,300

2.3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2013/14 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

(a) £57,901,580 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) £51,561,380 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

(c) £6,340,200 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) £193.59 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) £1,152,818 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) £158.39 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.

2.4 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.

2.5 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 2013/14 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

VALUATION BANDS

CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
105.59	123.19	140.79	158.39	193.59	228.79	263.99	316.78

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
724.09	844.77	965.45	1,086.13	1,327.49	1,568.85	1,810.22	2,172.26

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
101.95	118.94	135.93	152.92	186.90	220.88	254.87	305.84

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
42.43	49.51	56.58	63.65	77.79	91.94	106.08	127.30

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
974.06	1,136.41	1,298.75	1,461.09	1,785.77	2,110.46	2,435.16	2,922.18

2.6 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.

2.7 As there is no increase in the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 and is therefore below the allowable increase of 2.0%, it is considered not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Table 1

Chorley Borough Council - Council Tax 2013/14

	Band A		Band B		Band C		Band D		Band E		Band F		Band G		Band H	
	Special Expenses	Parish Precept														
Lancashire County Council		724.09		844.77		985.45		1,086.13		1,327.49		1,585.85		1,810.22		2,172.26
Chorley Borough Council (Excluding Special Expenses)		105.59		123.19		140.79		158.39		193.59		228.79		283.99		316.78
Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire		101.95		118.94		135.93		152.92		186.90		220.88		254.87		305.84
Lancashire Fire Authority		42.43		49.51		56.58		63.65		77.79		91.94		105.08		127.30
Sub Total		974.06		1,136.41		1,288.75		1,461.09		1,785.77		2,110.46		2,435.16		2,822.18
Parish and town councils	Special Expenses	Parish Precept														
Adlington	3.21	5.97	3.74	6.96	4.28	7.96	4.81	8.95	5.88	10.94	6.95	12.93	8.02	14.92	9.62	17.90
Anderton	1.37	6.35	1.60	7.41	1.83	8.47	2.06	9.53	2.52	11.55	2.98	13.77	3.43	15.88	4.12	19.06
Anglezarke	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Astley Village	18.04	14.11	21.05	16.46	24.05	18.81	27.06	21.16	33.07	25.89	30.56	39.09	45.10	35.27	54.12	42.32
Bretherton	-	23.21	-	27.08	-	30.95	-	34.82	-	42.68	-	50.30	-	58.03	-	69.64
Brindle	3.12	9.81	3.84	11.45	4.16	13.08	4.58	14.72	5.72	17.99	6.76	21.26	7.80	24.53	9.36	29.44
Charnock Richard	2.57	24.18	2.99	28.21	3.42	32.24	3.85	36.27	4.71	44.33	5.56	52.39	6.42	60.45	7.70	72.54
Clayton le Woods	25.09	13.33	29.27	15.58	33.45	17.78	37.63	20.00	45.99	24.44	54.35	29.89	62.72	33.33	75.28	40.00
Copull	5.27	22.50	6.15	26.25	7.03	30.00	7.91	33.75	9.67	41.25	11.43	48.75	13.18	56.25	15.62	67.50
Croston	6.17	13.86	7.19	16.17	8.22	18.48	9.25	20.79	11.31	25.41	13.36	30.03	15.42	34.65	18.50	41.58
Cuerden	7.57	17.13	8.83	19.98	10.09	22.84	11.35	25.69	13.87	31.40	16.39	31.11	18.92	42.82	22.70	51.38
Eccleston	3.22	17.95	3.76	20.49	4.29	23.41	4.83	26.34	5.90	32.19	6.98	38.05	8.05	43.90	9.86	52.68
Euxton	11.31	18.75	13.20	21.87	15.03	25.00	16.97	28.12	20.74	34.37	24.51	40.62	28.28	46.87	33.94	56.24
Haspel	11.56	15.83	13.49	18.48	15.41	21.10	17.34	23.74	21.19	29.02	25.05	34.29	28.90	39.57	34.68	47.48
Heath Charnock	14.06	5.94	16.40	6.93	18.75	7.92	21.09	8.91	25.78	10.89	30.46	35.15	43.85	54.18	67.82	84.42
Heskin	1.44	20.67	1.68	24.12	1.92	27.56	2.16	31.01	2.84	37.90	3.12	44.79	3.80	51.68	4.32	62.02
Houghton	4.55	9.30	5.30	10.85	6.05	12.40	6.82	13.95	8.34	17.05	9.85	20.15	11.37	23.25	13.84	27.90
Mawdesley	0.89	23.03	1.04	26.86	1.19	30.70	1.34	34.54	1.64	42.22	1.94	49.89	2.23	57.57	2.88	69.08
Rivington	-	32.81	-	38.27	-	43.74	-	49.21	-	60.15	-	71.08	-	82.02	-	98.42
Ulmes Walton	-	15.58	-	18.18	-	20.77	-	23.37	-	28.58	-	33.78	-	38.95	-	46.74
Wheaton	-	20.37	-	23.77	-	27.16	-	30.56	-	37.35	-	44.14	-	50.93	-	61.12
Whittle Woods	14.00	9.97	16.33	11.63	18.67	13.29	21.00	14.95	25.67	18.27	30.33	21.59	35.00	34.82	42.00	29.90
Withnell	5.74	15.90	6.70	18.43	7.65	21.07	8.61	23.70	10.52	28.97	12.44	34.23	14.35	39.50	17.22	47.40
All Other parts of the Council's area	17.91	-	20.89	-	23.88	-	26.86	-	32.83	-	38.80	-	44.77	-	53.72	-

Table 2

PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS							
Parish Council	2012/13			2013/14			C Tax Increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	
Adlington	1,955.60	17,500.00	8.95	1,752.44	17,500.00	8.95	0.00
Anderton	494.10	4,600.00	9.31	462.49	4,700.00	9.53	0.22
Anglezarke	17.20	-	0.00	16.60	-	0.00	0.00
Astley Village	1,085.90	22,980.00	21.16	902.60	22,980.00	21.16	0.00
Bretherton	291.50	9,680.00	33.21	279.00	10,130.00	34.82	1.61
Brindle	462.10	6,800.00	14.72	443.38	6,800.00	14.72	0.00
Charnock Richard	689.20	25,000.00	36.27	679.77	25,000.00	36.27	0.00
Clayton le Woods	4,761.80	95,240.00	20.00	4,189.08	95,240.00	20.00	0.00
Coppull	2,356.20	79,750.00	33.85	2,043.55	79,550.00	33.75	-0.10
Croston	1,036.50	21,010.00	20.27	965.49	21,510.00	20.79	0.52
Cuerden	40.10	1,030.00	25.69	40.02	1,030.00	25.69	0.00
Eccleston	1,568.10	41,310.00	26.34	1,506.24	41,310.00	26.34	0.00
Euxton	3,656.90	104,270.00	28.51	3,597.38	102,880.00	28.12	-0.39
Heapey	378.70	8,990.00	23.74	364.93	8,990.00	23.74	0.00
Heath Charnock	791.80	8,250.00	10.42	759.55	7,100.00	8.91	-1.51
Heskin	348.60	10,810.00	31.01	331.05	10,810.00	31.01	0.00
Hoghton	358.30	5,000.00	13.95	346.44	5,000.00	13.95	0.00
Mawdesley	753.70	25,000.00	33.17	729.76	26,000.00	34.54	1.37
Rivington	50.80	2,500.00	49.21	47.36	2,500.00	49.21	0.00
Ulnes Walton	254.80	5,360.00	21.04	245.01	5,930.00	23.37	2.33
Wheilton	393.90	11,130.00	28.26	378.56	12,000.00	30.56	2.30
Whittle Woods	2,123.40	31,740.00	14.95	2,138.14	31,965.00	14.95	0.00
Withnell	1,234.90	29,270.00	23.70	1,172.44	29,270.00	23.70	0.00
All other parts of the Council's area	10,909.70	-	-	9,359.38	-	-	
TOTAL/AVERAGE	36,013.80	567,220.00	15.75	32,750.66	568,195.00	16.18	0.43

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 2013/14 we estimate that a £1.00 Council Tax at Band D would raise £32,750.66 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 £1,752.44.

RESOLUTION 2

This shows the Council’s net spending for 2013/14 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 2013/14. It also includes £568,200 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 £6,340,200 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 £193.59 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 2013/14 and have set taxes in a similar way to Chorley Borough Council. This resolution notes their final decision.

1:

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 £1,461.09 made up as follows:

	£
Chorley Borough Council	158.39
Lancashire County Council	1,086.13
Lancashire Police Authority	152.92
Lancashire Fire Authority	63.65

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 $\text{£}1,461.09 \times \frac{6}{9} = \text{£}974.06$; for Band B it is $\text{£}1,461.09 \times \frac{7}{9} = \text{£}1,136.41$.

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***