### **Special Council**

### Tuesday, 25 February 2014

**Present:** Councillor John Walker (Mayor), Councillor Roy Lees (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Eric Bell, Julia Berry, Alistair Bradley, Terry Brown, Jean Cronshaw, Matthew Crow, John Dalton, David Dickinson, Doreen Dickinson, Graham Dunn, Dennis Edgerley, Robert Finnamore, Christopher France, Anthony Gee, Danny Gee, Peter Goldsworthy, Marie Gray, Alison Hansford, Harold Heaton, Steve Holgate, Keith Iddon, Kevin Joyce, Hasina Khan, Paul Leadbetter, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, June Molyneaux, Greg Morgan, Mick Muncaster, 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)

#### 14.C.114 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ken Ball, Henry Caunce and Magda Cullens.

# 14.C.115 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 7 JANUARY 2014

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the last Council meeting held on 7 January 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### 14.C.116 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

### 14.C.117 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked everyone for their support for his recent Charity Ball which had raised more than £3700 for his chosen charities. The next charity event was a Gala Night on 28 March 2014, hosted by Dave Spikey.

### 14.C.118 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

### 14.C.119 RECORDED VOTES AT BUDGET MEETINGS

Members considered a letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government advising that the Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 were being introduced from 25 February 2014, and this required that votes taken at Budget Meetings should be recorded. This applied to both substantive budget motions and also any proposed amendments at meetings.

Council Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution would need to be revised accordingly.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed, the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded and it was RESOLVED – that the practice of recording votes at the Annual Budget Council be adopted with immediate effect, and the Council Procedure Rules be revised accordingly.

## 14.C.120 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME AND DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS

Members considered a report of the Chief Executive which had been agreed at Executive Cabinet on 16 January 2014 and forwarded to Council for full approval.

The Council Tax support scheme and the discounts and exemptions for empty properties policy had been implemented in April 2013 as a result of requirements under the Local Government Finance Act 2012. The report reviewed the impact of the policy which showed a decrease in claims for Council tax support over the year and also a reduction in the number of long term empty properties. The recommendation was for a continuation of the existing approach for 2014/15.

The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance, Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley seconded and it was RESOLVED – that the existing Council Tax support scheme and discounts and exemptions policy be continued for 2014/15.

# 14.C.121 GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX FOR 2014/15

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented the Executive's General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax proposals for 2104/15.

The report recommended a balanced budget for 2014/15 with Council tax being frozen for a further year. The key elements of the budget proposals were that:

- The budget addresses the previously forecasted budget deficit position for 2014/15 in advance of the year, delivering £0.938m worth of budget savings.
- The proposals contain headroom of £0.040m in the budget for 2014/15 to fund recurring investment.
- The proposals do not contain cuts to front line services.
- Revenue and Capital New Investments would be delivered totalling £1.3m in 2014/15.
- This brings the total committed to New Investments since 2013/14 to £4 1m
- The proposals are consistent with the authority's Corporate Priorities and aim to bring income into the Council.
- The proposals are consistent with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- The Council's borrowing commitment to fund the Capital programme would be reduced.

Attached to the main report were the following appendices containing technical and budgetary information to support the proposals:

Appendix A1 Formal Council tax resolution

Appendix A2 Council pay policy

Appendix A3 Fees and charges

Appendix A4 Business rates: local discounts discretionary rate relief policy

Appendix B1 Capital programme 2014/15 to 2016/17

Appendix B2 Capital programme financing 2014/15 to 2016/17

Appendix B3 Developer contributions 2014/15 to 2016/17

Appendix C Budget investment package 2014/15

Appendix C1 Project mandates for budget investment

Appendix D Treasury strategies and prudential indicators 2014/15 to 2016/17

Appendix E Report of the Statutory Finance Officer

Appendix F Medium term financial strategy

Appendix F1 Analysis of budget variations 2014/15 to 2016/17

Appendix G Significant budget movements from 2013/14

Appendix G1 Base budget review

Appendix H Special expenses and parish precepts

Appendix I Budget consultation 2014/15

Appendix J Assessing the impact of the 2014/15 budget proposals.

Members debated the Executive's proposed budget.

### **AMENDMENT**

Councillor Kevin Joyce proposed and Councillor Greg Morgan seconded a Conservative Group amendment which supported all budget proposals but with:

- the deletion of £100,000 for inward investment delivery and £100,000 to undertake town centre and Steeley Lane pilot action plans; and
- the inclusion of a further £200,000 savings to be achieved from a management restructure.

On being put to the vote, Members cast their vote as follows:

**FOR**: Councillors Bell, Dalton, David Dickinson, Doreen Dickinson, Goldsworthy, Gray, Hansford, Heaton, Iddon, Joyce, Leadbetter, Morgan, Muncaster, Perks, Platt, G Russell, and R Russell

**AGAINST:** Councillors Berry, Bradley, Brown, Cronshaw, Crow, Dunn, Edgerley, Finnamore, France, A Gee, D Gee, Holgate, Khan, Lees, A Lowe, M Lowe, Molyneaux, Murfitt, Murray, Phipps, Rogerson, J Snape, K Snape, R Snape, Walmsley and Wilson

**ABSTAIN:** The Mayor, Councillor John Walker.

The amendment was LOST.

### **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION**

The substantive motion as set out in the report was then proposed by the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance, Councillor Peter Wilson and seconded by the Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley.

On being put to the vote, Members cast their vote as follows:

**FOR:** Councillors Berry, Bradley, Brown, Cronshaw, Crow, Dunn, Edgerley, Finnamore, France, A Gee, D Gee, Holgate, Khan, Lees, A Lowe, M Lowe, Molyneaux, Murfitt, Murray, Phipps, Rogerson, J Snape, K Snape, R Snape, Walmsley and Wilson

**AGAINST:** Councillors Bell, Dalton, David Dickinson, Doreen Dickinson, Goldsworthy

Gray, Hansford, Heaton, Iddon, Joyce, Leadbetter, Morgan, Muncaster, Platt, G Russell, and R Russell

ABSTAIN: The Mayor, Councillor John Walker and Councillor Perks

The substantive motion was CARRIED and it was therefore RESOLVED -

- 1. That the budget and proposals set out in the report be approved, including:
- a. The Council's Pay Policy (Appendix A2) for publication on the Council's website from April.
- b. Maintaining fees and charges (Appendix A3) at current 2013/14 levels.
- c. Business Rates Local Discounts Relief Policy (at Appendix A4).
- 2. That the Capital Programme to 2016/17 (Appendices B1, B2, and B3) be approved.
- 3. That the Budget Investment Package report (Appendices C and C1) be approved.
- 4. That the Treasury Management Strategy and its core principles (Appendix D) be approved.
- 5. That the advice of the Statutory Finance Officer in relation to the robustness of the budget and the risks contained in the budget be noted, as set out in the Statutory Report (Appendix E).
- 6. That the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved (Appendices F and F1).
- 7. That Significant Budget Movements from the 2013/14 Budget (Appendices G and G1) be noted.
- 8. That the Special Expenses and Parish Precepts be noted (Appendix H).
- 9. That the Budget Consultation 2014/15 report be noted (Appendix I).
- 10. That the report Assessing the Impact of Budget Proposals 2014/15 be noted (Appendix J).
- 11. That the formal Council Tax resolution (Appendix A1) be approved as follows:
- 1. It be noted that on 12 December 2013 the Chief Executive as Statutory Finance Officer calculated the Council Tax Base 2014/15

- (a) for the whole Council area as 33,244.78 [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. Calculated that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 (excluding Parish precepts) is £5,897,950
- 3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- (a) £60,290,980 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) £53,828,320 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £6,462,660 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) £194.40 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) £1,197,026 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.
- 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 2014/15 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

### **VALUATION BANDS**

## CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
105.59	123.19	140.79	158.39	193.59	228.79	263.99	316.78

#### LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Α	В	C	D	Ш	F	G	Η
738.49	861.58	984.66	1,107.74	1,353.90	1,600.07	1,846.23	2,215.48

## POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE

Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
103.97	121.30	138.63	155.96	190.62	225.28	259.93	311.92

### LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
42.43	49.51	56.58	63.65	77.79	91.94	106.08	127.30

### AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
990.48	1,155.58	1,320.66	1,485.74	1,815.90	2,146.08	2,476.23	2,971.48

- 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 there is no increase in the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15 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.

### **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 2014/15 we estimate that a £1.00 Council Tax at Band D would raise £33,244.78 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 £1,781.71.

### **RESOLUTION 2**

This shows the Council's net spending for 2014/15 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 2014/15. It also includes £603,009 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 £6,462,660 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 £194.40 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 2014/15 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 £1,485.74 made up as follows:

	£
Chorley Borough Council Lancashire County Council Lancashire Police Authority Lancashire Fire Authority	158.39 1,107.74 155.96 63.65

The rate for each property Band is calculated by reference to the Band D charge. The following ratios apply:

Band A	<sup>6</sup> / <sub>9</sub> ths of Band D
Band B	<sup>7</sup> <sub>9</sub> ths of Band D
Band C	<sup>8</sup> <sub>9</sub> ths of Band D
Band D	<sup>9</sup> ths of Band D

Band E	<sup>11</sup> / <sub>9</sub> ths of Band D
Band F	<sup>13</sup> / <sub>9</sub> ths of Band D
Band G	<sup>15</sup> / <sub>9</sub> ths of Band D
Band H	<sup>18</sup> / <sub>9</sub> ths of Band D

The aggregate charge for Band A, for example, the charge is £1,485.74 x 6 ÷ 9 = £990.48; for Band B it is £1,485.74 x 7 ÷ 9 = £1,155.58.

### **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* 

Chorley Borough Council - Council Tax 2014/15

ſ	- 23.64 - 26.59 -	- 20.68 - 23.64 - 26.59 -	17.73 - 20.68 - 23.64 - 26.59 -
7.65 19.72 8.61 22.18	17.25 7.65 19.72 8.61 - 23.64 - 26.59	14.79 6.70 17.25 7.65 19.72 8.61 - 20.68 - 28.64 - 26.59	0         5.74         14.79         6.70         17.25         7.65         19.72         8.61           17.73         -         20.68         -         23.64         -         26.59
	20.49 4.29 21.68 15.08 18.46 15.41 6.91 18.75 25.67 1.92 25.67 1.92 11.18 6.06 81.34 1.19 36.50 - 18.16 - 24.69 - 11.04 18.67 17.25 7.65	17.56     3.76     20.49     4.29       18.59     13.20     21.68     15.08       15.83     13.49     18.46     15.41       5.92     16.40     6.91     18.75       22.00     1.68     25.67     1.92       9.59     5.30     11.18     6.06       69.72     1.04     81.34     1.19       31.29     -     36.50     -       15.57     -     18.16     -       21.16     -     24.69     -       47.79     6.70     17.25     7.65       14.79     6.70     17.25     7.65       -     20.68     -     23.64	3.22     17.56     3.76     20.49     4.29       11.31     18.59     13.20     21.68     15.08       11.56     15.83     13.49     18.46     15.41       14.06     5.92     16.40     6.91     18.75       4.55     9.59     5.30     11.18     6.06       0.89     69.72     1.04     81.34     1.19       -     31.29     -     36.50     -       -     15.57     -     18.16     -       -     21.16     -     24.69     -       14.00     9.47     16.33     11.04     18.67       5.74     14.79     6.70     17.25     7.65       17.73     -     20.68     -     23.64
		17.56 3.76 18.59 13.20 15.83 13.49 5.92 16.40 22.00 1.68 9.59 5.30 69.72 1.04 31.29 - 15.57 - 21.16 - 21.16 - 21.16 - 21.17 6.70 - 14.79 6.70	3.22     17.56     3.76       11.31     18.69     13.20       11.56     15.83     13.49       14.06     5.92     16.40       0.89     69.72     1.04       0.89     69.72     1.04       0.89     69.72     1.04       0.89     69.72     1.04       0.89     69.72     1.04       0.99     69.72     1.04       0.70     -     15.67     -       0     14.00     9.47     16.33       0     5.74     14.79     6.70       17.73     -     20.68

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		2013/14			2014/15		
Parish Council	Tax	Precepts F	Council Tax	Тах Вясь	Precepts f	Council Tax	СТах
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Adlington	1,752.44	17,500	8.95	1,781.71	17,500	8.80	-0.15
Anderton	462.49	4,700	9.53	468.30	4,700	9.41	-0.12
Anglezarke	16.60	×	0.00	16.06		00:00	00:00
Astley Village	902.60	22,980	21.16	889.23	22,693	21.16	00:00
Bretherton	279.00	10,130	34.82	275.91	9,370	32.46	-2.36
Brindle	443.38	6,800	14.72	445.11	6,800	14.66	-0.06
Charnock Richard	679.77	25,000	36.27	660.07	27,000	40.38	4.11
Clayton le Woods	4,189.08	95,240	20.00	4,206.33	74,553	15.00	-5.00
Coppull	2,043.55	79,550	33.75	2,015.95	81,400	35.13	1.38
Croston	965.49	21,510	20.79	963.03	21,460	20.79	0.00
Cuerden	40.02	1,030	25.69	38.91	1,030	26.42	0.73
Eccleston	1,506.24	41,310	26.34	1,506.97	41,330	26.34	0.00
Euxton	3,597.38	102,880	28.12	3,759.46	106,523	27.88	-0.24
Heapey	364.93	8,990	23.74	357.75	8,820	23.74	00'0
Heath Charnock	759.55	7,100	8.91	784.18	7,300	88.88	-0.03
Heskin	331.05	10,810	31.01	334.22	11,573	33.00	1.99
Hoghton	346.44	5,000	13.95	336.01	5,000	14.38	0.43
Mawdesley	729.76	26,000	34.54	719.15	76,000	104.58	70.04
Rivington	47.36	2,500	49.21	49.67	2,500	46.93	-2.28
Ulnes Walton	245.01	5,930	23.37	241.71	5,850	23.35	-0.02
Wheelton	378.56	12,000	30.56	376.19	12,372	31.74	1.18
Whittle Woods	2,138.14	31,965	14.95	2,250.77	31,965	14.20	-0.75
Withnell	1,172.44	29,270	23.70	1,162.75	27,270	22.18	-1.52
All other parts of the Council's area.	9,359.38	-		9,605.34	2.	ī	
TOTAL / AVERAGE	32,750.66	568,195	16.18	33,244.78	603,009	16.99	0.81

#### 14.C.122 CALL IN PROCEDURES

Members considered a report of the Chief Executive on a review of the call in procedures, which had been agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 January 2014 and was forwarded for full Council approval.

A cross party task group had looked into the current call in arrangements in Chorley and also those in place in other authorities in Lancashire and made two recommendations for change and a number of points of clarification. Any change to the call in procedure required Council approval and a change to the Constitution.

The two key changes were:

- to reduce the call in period from the current 10 working days down to 5 in order to speed up the implementation of executive decisions; and
- to ensure a special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is always called to hear any request for a decision to be called in.

Councillor Steve Holgate, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee proposed, Councillor Mark Perks, Vice Chair seconded and it was **RESOLVED** –

- 1. That two keys changes be made to the call in process:
  - a. The call in period after a decision has been made be reduced from 10 working days to working 5 days in order to speed up the implementation of decisions across the Council.
  - b. That the procedure be revised so that on receipt of a call in request, a Special Meeting of the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee be called.
- 2. That the following procedural points be approved for clarification:
  - a. "Days" refers to working days.
  - b. After the Chair has agreed a call in as valid, notice of a full meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be given within 5 days.
  - c. The person submitting the call in (whether councillor or public) should present their request/case at the meeting.
  - d. Meetings will normally be in public (unless the item is a confidential one) and the public can submit questions on notice, as with other meetings.
  - e. If the Councillor requesting the call in, is a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee hearing the call in, he/she will present the item but should not take part in the vote on that item.
  - f. If the Committee asks the Executive Cabinet or Executive Member to reconsider the issue as a result of a call in, the subsequent decision of the Executive Cabinet or Executive Member should be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3. That the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.

Chair