



MINUTES OF	EXECUTIVE CABINET
MEETING DATE	Thursday, 22 January 2015
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Councillor Alistair Bradley (Chair), Councillor Peter Wilson (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Beverley Murray, Adrian Lowe and Paul Walmsley
MEMBER RESPONSIBLE:	Councillors Terry Brown, Hasina Khan, Steve Holgate and Danny Gee
COUNCIL CHAMPIONS:	Councillors June Molyneaux and Julia Berry
OFFICERS:	Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Lesley-Ann Fenton (Director of Customer and Advice Services), Jamie Carson (Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community), Chris Moister (Head of Governance), Simon Clark (Head of Health, Environment and Neighbourhoods), Susan Guinness (Head of Shared Financial Services), Sarah James (Head of Policy (Public Service Reform)), Andrew Daniels (Communications Manager) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic and Member Services Officer)
APOLOGIES:	Councillor Graham Dunn
OTHER MEMBERS:	Councillors Margaret France, Matthew Lynch, Mick Muncaster and John Walker

15.EC.94 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 11 December 2014 of Executive Cabinet

Decision: The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 11 December 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Executive Leader.

15.EC.95 Declarations of Any Interests

There were no declarations of any interests.

15.EC.96 Public Questions

The Executive Leader reported that there had been no requests from members of the public to speak on any of the meeting's agenda items.

15.EC.97 2015/16 Budget and Summary Budget Position Over the Medium Term

The report of the Chief Executive was presented by the Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson.

It was proposed that Council Tax be frozen and not increase in 2015/16. This would be the third consecutive year that the current administration had achieved a balanced budget position for the forthcoming financial year without increasing Council Tax.

The administration had seen large scale reductions in Central Government grant placing unprecedented levels of pressure on the Councils budget.

The proposed budgeted new investments for 2015/16 were set out within the report, and included a Chorley Flower Show and additional events at Astley Hall and Park. Proposed capital schemes included a community centre at Buckshaw Village, a Youth Zone and improvements to Market Street.

The projected budget position consistently showed a significant budget gap in future years 2016/17 and 2017/18. This shortfall, together with heightened uncertainty and risk in the form of year on year variable new funding regimes, meant that budget austerity measures would continue to impact on the Council's budget.

NHB receipts in respect of 2013/14 to 2015/16 had not been built into the base budget as recurring core funding. This was to enable the Council to improve budget resilience and flexibility to respond to future annual uncertainty inherent in the new public finance funding regimes. Future years' awards would be dependent upon the level of housing development.

The consultation on the proposed budget would focus on obtaining feedback on the key investment areas in order to help prioritise activity. It would also highlight the impact of a reduction in Council funds and ask residents to give the Council their views on the budget. The consultation would invite responses from residents, partners, parish groups and other stakeholders through a variety of methods including a short survey. Results would be analysed and published in February for consideration as part of budget finalisation.

The Executive Leader commented on the ambitious nature of the budget and Members supported the projects proposed.

Decision: To agree the contents of the report in order to start the Budget Consultation process and note the following proposed budget items, in particular:

- **Council Tax to be frozen in 2015/16.**
- **The proposed New Investments for 2015/16.**
- **New Growth Items funded from budget savings.**
- **The balanced budget position for 2015/16.**
- **The forecasted budget position to 2017/18.**

Reasons for recommendation(s)

To progress the Council's 2015/16 Budget Setting process to achieve an approved and balanced budget.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Setting the budget is a statutory responsibility.

15.EC.98 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Decision: To exclude the press and public for the following items of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

15.EC.99 Approval to invite quotations for architectural services for design options for an extra care scheme

The confidential report of the Chief was presented by the Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson.

The report set out the procurement process and allocated budget for the purchase of architectural design services for an Extra Care Scheme in Chorley, to be located on Fleet Street.

Decision:

- 1. To approve the procurement process and provide agreement for the tender to be advertised on the chest.**
- 2. To delegate the decision to appoint the successful bidder to the Executive Member for Resources.**

Reasons for recommendation(s)

There is currently no expertise within the Council to do the design work necessary to progress this project. This work is essential in order to develop design options which will inform the financial modelling and ultimately the final design and business case for the scheme.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None.

15.EC.100 Proposed Sale of Freehold Reversionary Interest at Ackhurst Road, Common Bank

The confidential report of the Chief was presented by the Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson.

Decision:

- 1. Authorisation granted to proceed with the disposal of the freehold reversionary interest.**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Executive Member for Resources to agree any minor amendments to the terms of the proposed sale to include but not be limited to the inclusion of a clawback provision in the terms of sale.**
- 3. Authorisation granted to the Head of Governance to complete the documentation.**

Reasons for recommendation(s)

- 1. The sale of the freehold reversion will provide the company with greater control and security when making financial decisions.**

2. The sale of the freehold reversion will obviate any future need to collect rental for this property but will also result in a capital receipt for the Council. As a result of the company being able to purchase the freehold this may result in further economic growth and create further job opportunities.
3. The sale of the freehold reversion will result in a capital receipt.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. A decision not to allow the company to purchase the freehold may result in them deciding to relocate to an alternative site resulting in approximately 110 job losses in Chorley Borough.
2. If the freehold reversion is not sold to the company, the Council would not benefit from a capital receipt and future economic growth and further employment opportunities in this location.

Chair

Date