

Executive Cabinet

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

GENERAL REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2016

Transformation Strategy

2. I presented the report of the Chief Executive that set out the Transformation Strategy that was developed following the Council's consideration of the future governance models overview report and supporting evidence in November. The Strategy sets out the challenges that will face public services in the coming years, key areas to be considered in delivering the change required and key actions to be implemented over the next year.
3. We granted approval of the overview action plan to be developed alongside the implementation of a new management structure for the organisation that would be overseen by an all-party working group. Key themes identified within the strategy aimed to set out the key elements that would need to be addressed throughout its implementation

Draft Budget and summary budget position over the medium term

4. The Executive Member (Resources) presented the report of the Chief Executive. Our proposal to freeze Council Tax in 2016/17 will mean that this would be the fourth consecutive year that the administration has achieved a balanced budget position without increasing Council Tax.
5. The recent Local Government Finance settlement included provisional core grant allocations for the forthcoming four years, from 2016/17 to 2019/20. The announcement continued the programme of Central Government core grant reductions across all four years adding to the previous cuts. The Revenue Support Grant will also reduce to zero over this time.
6. It was noted that due to the successful implementation of the MTFs, budget efficiency savings totalling £0.14m had been applied to the budget to achieve the balanced budget position for 2016/17, achieved mainly by the Council entering into a Business Rates Retention Pooling agreement within Lancashire, effective from 1 April 2016.
7. In addition contributing to the New Investment Packages for 2016/17, totalling £2.845m for both Revenue and Capital projects, the New Homes Bonus also provided an opportunity for the Council to invest in three other additional areas to protect public services within the borough and increase financial resilience given the revolutionary funding changes.

8. A budget of £0.500m will be available for the next two years to assist in the transactional period public services currently provides for and funded by Lancashire County Council and a £0.500m provision per annum to increase General Balances to mitigate against the financial risk of a core grant income shift to 100% local taxation sources. £0.603m will still be available to invest in projects that will provide income streams for the Council.
9. Funding has been achieved by not building all the New Homes Bonus income received since 2013/14 into the base budget. An approach taken to enable the council flexibility and resilience in order to address the volatile and variable nature of future core funding which continues to be under review by Central Government. The latest round of projects would bring the total new investment on the Councils corporate priorities to £12.008m since 2013/14.
10. We noted the proposed budget items for 2016/17, the forecasted budget position for 2017/18 and granted approval of the Budget consultation process. Consultation on the proposed budget focused on obtaining feedback on the key investment areas to help prioritise activity. It also highlighted the impact of reduction in Council funds and asked residents to give the Council their views on the budget. Responses were invited from residents, partners. Parish groups and other stakeholders using a variety of methods including a short survey. The results would be analysed and published for consideration as part of the budget finalisation.

Stray Dogs, Kennelling Arrangements and Charges

11. I presented the report of the Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community to advise Members of the current and proposed arrangements for dealing with stray dogs and sought approval of a revision in service provision and charges.
12. I explained that the Council has a longstanding stray pick up dog service that includes the use of an external kennel contractor to retain dogs for the statutory seven day period whilst the owner is traced or comes forward to claim their dog. The current kennel contract ends in March 2016, providing us with an opportunity to review our arrangements.
13. We granted approval for the Council's stray dog pick up service be provided through an external contractor should out of hours neighbourhood officer cover be unavailable and that this service element is included in the forthcoming procurement of a kennel provider.
14. We also granted approval to implement a discretionary waiver in exceptional circumstances on a case by case basis, determined by the Director following written representation to the Council by the dog owner and granted approval for an increase in the kennel release charge from £32.50 to £80 for owners who wish to recover their

dogs from the Council. Daily kennelling costs will be met by the dog owner on release and recovery of the dog at the daily kennelling fee agreed between the Council and the kennel provider.

Proposed acquisition of former Stagecoach Depot, Eaves Lane, Chorley

15. The Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive was presented by the Executive Member for Resources and we granted approval for the purchase of the Stagecoach Depot, Eaves Lane, Chorley and authority for the Head of Governance and Property Services to complete the acquisition.
16. The acquisition of the building will provide the Council with a facility that can be used as it currently stands as a Council depot which will assist the Council in its future town centre strategy requirements.

Council Tax Local Discounts and Exemption Scheme 2016/17

17. The Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson presented the confidential report of the Director of Customer and Advice Services and we granted approval for changes to the Local Discount and Exemption Scheme for Council Tax in 2016. The change to the Council Tax empty premium is one of several measures that will help to support an effective Empty Property Policy for the Council.

GENERAL REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2016

Final Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Single Front Office

18. We accepted the report presented by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor John Walker. We noted that the review had identified a set of recommendations that Members felt would enhance and support current arrangements and future initiatives as the concept of the Single Front Office is embedded into the Council's delivery of its services. The Executive Cabinet will consider the report in detail and respond at a future meeting.

Chorley Skills Framework and Action Plan

29. I presented a report of the Chief Executive that set out the Chorley Skills Framework and Action Plan, developed following its identification as a key priority within the refreshed 2014 Economic Development Strategy.
30. I explained that the Choose Chorley for Business Focus Group was established as a means of the Council engaging with top businesses in Chorley to help realise their growth ambitions. A key action was to commission a skills gap analysis for Chorley as securing a skilled workforce was identified as a significant barrier to business growth

in Chorley. The Chorley Skills Framework and Action Plan would help to drive the skills agenda forward so we granted its approval.

Public Service Reform Partnership Update

31. I presented the report of the Chief Executive to provide an update on the Chorley Public Service Reform Partnership. The Partnership brings together partner organisations from all sectors to deliver the Strategy which had been formally approved in June 2015, following a review of partnership working and in response to the recommendations from the Commission on the Future of Public Services in Chorley.
32. The report set out the key elements of the strategy and work programme and included activity and progress made to date. We noted the update on funding that had been secured through the Transformation Challenge Award that will be used to accelerate delivery towards improved health and wellbeing outcomes and service efficiencies.

Chorley Council Performance Monitoring Quarter Three 2015/16

33. The Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson presented a report of the Chief Executive that set out performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the third quarter of 2015/16, 1 October to 31 December 2015.
34. We noted that overall performance of 2014/15 key projects was good, with 89% of the projects on track or complete. Only two projects have been rated as amber, 'Develop and agree plans for the delivery of Friday Street Health Centre', for issues relating to funding and 'Delivery of an improved CCTV provision', for unforeseen delays. However, we noted that the Council had now secured a contract for the improved CCTV system.

Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2015/16: Report 3 (End of December 2015)

35. The Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson presented a report of the Chief Executive that set out the provisional and capital outturn figures for the Council as compared against the budgets and efficiency saving targets set for the financial year 2015/16. The projected revenue outturn currently shows a forecast underspend of £401k against budget in 2015/16, after the deduction of the use of in-year savings previously approved at Executive Cabinet.
36. Performance of Market Walk remained strong with the latest projections showing a forecast outturn of £1.123m, the surplus being driven by lower than budgeted financing costs, and the Council's savings target of £150k in 2015/16 from managing the establishment had been achieved.
37. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy proposed that working balances would reach £3.0m over its three year lifespan to 2017/18 due to the financial risks faced by

the Council. A budgeted contribution to the General Balances of £350k was contained within the new investment package for 2015/16 and forecast indicated that the General Fund will be £2.741m by the end of the financial year.

38. We noted the full forecast position for the 2015/16 revenue budget and capital investment programme and forecast position on the Council's reserve.
39. We granted approval for the virement of £30,000 from the budget position for Business Start-up loans to finance the forecast take-up of Business Investment for Growth (BIG) grants and proposed additions, deletions and re-phrasing of the Capital Programme to better reflect delivery in 2015/16.

Community action Plans – Update

40. The Executive Member (Community), Councillor Beverley Murray presented the report of the Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community updating Members on progress made on the four community action plans and sought approval for the budget allocated to each of the projects identified in the Plans.
41. The Council had previously agreed to commence and develop a community action plan programme to augment the existing neighbourhood working service and had agreed the four pilot areas of Chorley East Ward, Astley Village, Clayton Brook and a themed Rural Areas.
42. We noted the detail of the rationale used and progress made for each community action plan area and the individual approach to delivery so that the different methods undertaken could also be reviewed as part of the pilot process.
43. We noted the progress made in the development of the Community action Plans and granted approval of the budget allocation against each project.

Selectmove – Piloting proposed amendments to the Allocations Policy

44. The Executive Member (Customer and Advice Services), Councillor Graham Dunn presented the report of the Director of Customer and Advice Services informing members of a number of proposed changes to the operation of the Select Move Allocation Policy that had been received from the main Registered Providers (RPs) within the Select Move Partnership operating in the Chorley area.
45. The report also sought formal approval of the Council's consultation response relating to the policy amendments that were being piloted. We noted that the Select Move steering group had conducted a mini review of the Select Move Common allocation Policy in order to achieve a number of aims set out in the report that were around improving performance on Lettings, Inward Migration and High demand properties.

46. The policy changes would not affect the Council's ability to deliver its statutory obligations regarding the prevention of homelessness and providing that the Council were satisfied that the success factors had been met would seek formal approval of the changes to be made permanent by Executive Cabinet in six-month's time.
47. We granted approval of the Council's consultation response relating to proposed amendments to the Select Move Allocation Scheme.

Neighbourhood Preferred Projects 2016/17

48. I presented the report of the Chief Executive that updated on the delivery of the 24 preferred projects in 2015/16 and sought approval for the new 24 preferred projects to be delivered in 2016/17. We noted the details of all the proposed projects and granted their approval along with delegated authority for the Executive Member (Community) to approve finalised details and costs for each priority as they emerged from within the overall budget allocation for all eight areas of the borough.
49. We recognised that there was a diverse range of preferred projects and that some would require further consultation to fully understand and determine community needs. Funding of their delivery would be through existing budgets, business as usual resources, leveraging in partner resources and approaching Parish Councils to release a proportion of their precept.

Energy Efficiency Update

50. The Executive Member (Customer and Advice Services) presented the report of the Director of Customer and Advice Services updating in the Council's involvement with various activities relating to energy Efficiency and continued efforts to combat fuel poverty.
51. We noted that the Council has a long standing commitment to combating Fuel Poverty, reflected in the Corporate Strategy. The Council's various Energy Efficiency initiatives therefor aim to deliver Affordable Warmth for customers and reduce the incidence of Fuel Poverty in the borough.
52. It was explained that CHiL has yet to deliver for Chorley residents, thought mainly to be because of issues relating to its promotion and complex processes. Measures had now been taken to address this and the scheme was now being advertised on the Council's website.
53. The Council are exploring the possibility of working in partnership with GB on a variety of energy initiatives with the main aim of achieving financial savings for Chorley residents. GB Energy is a Lancashire company that offers a wide range of energy related services including competitive rates of Energy supply and the facilitation of

Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funded measures for customers experiencing Fuel Poverty.

Bus Services

54. I presented the report of the Chief executive to inform the Cabinet and seek approval of a commitment made by myself in respect of funding allocated to mitigate the impact of Lancashire County Council (LCC) budget reductions to support bus services in the borough.
55. In the Council's recent budget £500k had been set aside to support such initiatives and was intended as short term financing to allow time to find other sustainable solutions. Decisions already taken by the County Council meant that from 3 April a number of bus services will be cut or reduced.
56. I explained the reasons for looking to continue the 24a and 109a bus services and we granted approval of the financing agreement based upon a 70/30% split of costs agreed by both Councils.

Land at Southport Road

57. The Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive and approval was granted for the sale of council owned land at Southport Road, Chorley. We noted the marketing exercise that had been undertaken and were content that the recommendation demonstrated that best value had been obtained for this site.

Senior Management Review

58. I presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive which responded to feedback received following recent consultation on the proposed restructure of senior management in the organisation and outlined any amendments made in light of comments received.
59. We granted approval of all the recommendations in the report that included the implementation of the new management structure for the Council that was presented to Full Council on 19 January.

Cotswold Supported Housing

60. The Executive Member (Customer and Advice Services), Councillor Graham Dunn presented the confidential report of the Director of Customer and Advice Services outlining the proposed next steps for the refurbishment of Cotswold supported Housing following the outcome of the bid to the Homes and Communities Agency for Homeless Change Grant Funding. The report also sought delegated authority for the award of the contract.

61. It was noted that the quality of the accommodation will be the same for all 25 flats and the facilities available for life skills, education and training on site will be much improved. We granted approval of the recommendations in the report and delegated authority to the Executive Member (Resources) to award the contract of works to the successful bidder.

Recommendation

62. To note the report

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BRADLEY
EXECUTIVE LEADER

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