

Executive Cabinet

Thursday, 18 January 2024

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on Thursday, 18 January 2024. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

4 Draft 24/25 Budget Update

1. That Members agree the contents of this report in order to start the budget consultation process as follows:
 - A proposed 2.99% increase in council tax in 2024/25 with no proposed cuts to services;
 - A forecast balanced budget for 2024/25, based on a 2.99% increase in council tax as noted above and the use of £0.365m of reserves
 - A forecast budget shortfall for 2025/26 of £1.575m, to be addressed through the development and delivery of the council's savings programme;
 - To note the proposals in the report for investment in the Labour Administration's priority areas

5 Fees And Charges 2024-25

1. To note the current levels of budgeted fees and charges and the issues specific to these;
2. To approve an uplift in the Strawberry Fields service charge of £1 per square foot to better reflect the current costs incurred at the site, as detailed at point 29.
3. To approve an uplift in the rents of all Council owned housing (including Extra Care but excluding Cotswold House) of 7.7%. This is the approach agreed by Executive Cabinet in July 2022 of increasing these rents by CPI plus 1%, were CPI is based on the rate applicable at September each year. As service charges and utility charges are still broadly in line with the actual costs incurred, there is no proposal to increase these; these were reviewed last year.
4. To approve an increase in rent at Cotswold House of 3.07%, plus an increase in service charge of 7.52%, but with a reduction in the personal charge of 13.47% as detailed in point 28.
5. To approve an increase in the core charges for the Lancastrian by 6.7% as per point 33.
6. To approve the changes to the structure of community centre hire charges as per point 32 and Appendix 4. Report of Meeting Date Director

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7. To approve an increase of £12.80 per annum for the allotment plots that have water access and a 6.7% increase for the plots with no water access as per point 30.
8. To approve the changes to the structure of Other Licensing Fees, Housing and Pest Control as per point 34 and Appendix 3.
9. To approve a general increase of up to 6.7% in the fees for 2024/25, limited to the services listed in Table 3 of Appendix 1. Given that the rate of CPI in September was running at 6.7%, and RPI at 8.9%, the recommended uplift is in line with CPI.
10. To note that fees and charges in respect of Astley Hall will be reviewed during the year as part of the commercial strategy review.
11. To approve a change to the split of cost in relation to Council Tax and Business Rates Court Summons and Liability Orders as per point 35. The overall cost will remain the same.
12. To approve the full list of fees and charges for upload onto the Council website. Recommendations to Council
13. To recommend to Council an increase in garden waste collection charges of £5.00 as per point 31.

6 Payment Strategy

1. To approve the Payment Strategy to be implemented at Chorley Council.

7 Updated Holiday Activity And Food (HAF) Delivery Approach 2024-25

1. To approve the recruitment of a fixed-term HAF Coordinator within the Communities team to coordinate the programme. This post is subject to final grant funding being confirmed but will be funded from the 10% management fee within the grant.
2. To approve the approach to commissioning HAF delivery partners through a tiered grant fund approach.

8 Exclusion Of The Public And Press

Resolved: That the public and press be excluded.

9 Approval For The Contract Award Procedure For ICT Hardware, Software And Support Services

1. To approve the contract award procedure for a number of joint procurements with South Ribble Council outlined at Appendix One for software, hardware and support services.
2. To approve the hierarchy for the procurement route outlined in paragraph 16.
3. To approve the evaluation criteria of 80% cost and 20% quality.
4. That the decision to award is delegated to the Executive Member Resources at Chorley Council

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