

Minutes of Council

Meeting date Tuesday, 21 November 2023

Committee Members present: Councillor Tommy Gray (Mayor), Councillor Gordon France (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Tommy Gray, Gordon France, Sarah Ainsworth, Aaron Beaver, Julia Berry, Alistair Bradley, Michelle Brown, Mark Clifford, Alan Cullens, Karen Derbyshire, Margaret France, Danny Gee, Christine Heydon, Alex Hilton, Terry Howarth, Hasina Khan, Samir Khan, Zara Khan, Michelle Le Marinel, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Samantha Martin, June Molyneaux, Alistair Morwood, Dedrah Moss, Beverley Murray, Alan Platt, Debra Platt, Aidy Riggott, Jean Sherwood, Chris Snow, Craig Southern, Arjun Singh, Kim Snape, Ryan Towers, Jenny Whiffen, Neville Whitham, Alan Whittaker, Joan Williamson and Peter Wilson

Committee Members present virtually (non-voting): Councillors Matthew Lynch and Pauline McGovern

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Kim Rennie (Interim Deputy Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance/Monitoring Officer), Asim Khan (Director of Customer and Digital), Darren Cranshaw (Head of Democratic Services), Polly Patel (Performance and Partnerships Manager) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

56 Declarations of Any Interests

Councillor Alan Platt declared a personal interest in item 7. Review of Members' Allowances Scheme 2023 as Chair of the Governance Committee.

Councillor Aidy Riggott declared a personal interest in item 10. Woodlands Site due to his Cabinet position at Lancashire County Council.

57 Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 19 September 2023 of Council

Resolved (unanimously) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 September 2023 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

58 Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor updated members on fundraising activities and charity events, including a White Ribbon UK event and a forthcoming Christmas Tea Dance.

The Leader congratulated the Mayor on the recent completion of the Santa dash in aid of Derian House.

59 Public Questions

There were no public questions for consideration.

60 Corporate Strategy Refresh 23/24

The Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson presented the report of the Chief Executive which sought approval for the refresh of the Corporate Strategy 2023/2024.

Over the past 12 months the council had continued to deliver improved outcomes for the borough and residents, communities and businesses. This included opening a second extra care scheme at Tatton Gardens, a new community centre, GP surgery and café.

Other achievements included the completion of Strawberry Meadows Business Park and the launch of a household energy support scheme. Projects had also been undertaken towards climate change objectives and safe and healthy communities, including the launch of a health and wellbeing programme. Additionally, family support to enable the best start in life, plus jobs skills to ensure meaningful employment.

For the Corporate Strategy 2023, the vision, priorities and long term-outcomes remained the same to ensure that the long-term impacts of strategic activity and investment were maintained. The strategy continued to progress on action to address the economic impact of unprecedented inflation rates and high cost of living including support for businesses and activity to increase jobs and skills.

The strategy responded to the needs of communities, moving health and wellbeing initiatives into their next phase of delivery and doing more for neighbourhoods right across the borough. Housing and homelessness prevention remained key themes for the strategy with specific council action to ensure that everyone was able to live in good quality, energy efficient and suitable homes.

The four priorities continue to be:

- Housing where residents can live well
- A green and sustainable borough
- An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas
- Healthy, safe and engaged communities

The performance measures had also been reviewed and updated. Indicators had been amended and targets updated to reflect performance over the past months as well as to better align to future priorities.

The key projects that would be delivered under each priority, to support the Council to meet its commitments were:

Housing where residents can live well

- Refresh the Prevention of Homelessness Strategy
- Develop and deliver a plan to improve housing standards across the borough
- Deliver the Home Energy Support Scheme
- Refresh the Housing Strategy
- Deliver the Local Plan

A green and sustainable borough

- Continue to deliver improvements to Chorley's bus shelter network
- Increase the number of parks with a Green Flag Status
- Deliver the Business Energy Support Scheme to boost businesses across the Borough
- Deliver a Rural Business Support and Grant Scheme
- Maintain and improve council buildings
- Develop and deliver a plan to improve Chorley bus station
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An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas

- Develop a destination management plan for the borough
- Deliver a Jobs and Skills Programme to upskill residents across the borough
- Refresh of the Economic Development Strategy to promote growth across the borough

Healthy, safe and engaged communities

- Launch an Enhanced Social Prescribing service focussed on supporting family and early years
- Deliver the Cost of Living Action Plan
- Deliver a Health and Wellbeing Programme to support the needs of residents across the borough
- Delivery of a Borough anti-social behaviour action plan
- Refresh and deliver the Transformation Programme

It had been announced the previous day that, following a bid submitted in June 2022, the council had been successful in securing £20m from the Government's Levelling Up fund for the regeneration of Chorley Town Centre.

Councillor Hasina Khan spoke in support of the proposal, particularly relating to the proposals relating to social prescribing and the work already undertaken at Tatton.

It was noted that the target relating the number of affordable homes delivered would be changed from 111 annually to 75 to ensure this remained realistic. Councillor Wilson agreed to keep this under review.

Members discussed the delivery the Local Plan and noted the challenges surrounding this, although all partners wished to achieve the target date for completion to avoid the need to restart the process.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens, noted his support for the Government's Levelling Up fund and UKSPF support for rural businesses.

It was noted that not all trees planted survived, but it was hoped a good percentage would, as they were planted in partnership with organisations such as United Utilities and the Forestry Commission.

The percentage of customers dissatisfied with the service they have received from the Council target of less than 17% was queried, but the Deputy Leader advised he was comfortable with this target.

Some good work had been undertaken relating to empty properties in the Borough, and the desire to keep these properties in circulation was reiterated.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley seconded and it was **Resolved (by majority 35:0:5) That the Corporate Strategy 2023/2024 be approved.**

61 Committee appointments

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens, proposed and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Platt seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. To note the Shadow Cabinet positions as follows:

Finance and Chief Executive	Councillor Alan Cullens
Policy and Governance	Councillor Alan Platt
Customer and Digital	Councillor Aidy Riggott
Planning and Development	Councillor Craige Southern
Communities	Councillor Debra Platt

2. To appoint Councillor Alan Platt as a member of the Development & Assets WG in place of Councillor Aidy Riggott.

62 Review of Members' Allowances Scheme 2023

Councillor Alan Platt declared a personal interest as the Chair of the Governance Committee.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the report of the Director of Governance.

The members of the Independent Remuneration Panel were appointed by the Council at the last meeting and had met to consider the points as requested.

The Executive Leader and Leader of the Opposition thanked the Panel for their work.

Following a query from the Leader of the Opposition the Executive Leader agreed that the Deputy Portfolio Holders produce an annual report, in conjunction with their Executive Member, moving forwards.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (40:0:1)**

1. **To add a new role within the Members Allowances Scheme ‘Deputy Portfolio Holder’ with a payment of £1,619.96.**
2. **To increase the payment for the Vice Chair of Governance from £56.70 (½ day) when they chair the meeting due to the absence of the Chair to a flat rate of £1,619.96 per annum.**
3. **To increase the payment for the Chair of Governance from £1,942.74 to £3,288.65.**
4. **To add an option to the annual uprate mechanism in the event of a lump sum payment to staff of the middle percentage of the salary scales, from the lowest – to the highest. The scales used would be the Shared Services pay scales, from the lowest scale up to the Chief Executive. The median percentage increase for 2022-23 and 2023-24 is 5.95% and 5.62% respectively.**
5. **To pay these new allowances with effect from the Annual Meeting in May 2023.**
6. **To authorise any consequential changes to the Constitution.**

63 Healthy Weight Collaboration

The Executive Member (Early Intervention), Councillor Bev Murray presented the report of the Director of Communities which provided details of the proposed collaboration agreement with LCC to delivery Healthy Weight Services in Chorley.

Addressing unhealthy weight and supporting people to sustain weight loss was complex, with multiple causes, and had significant implications beyond health. A flexible service was needed that adapted to meet need and promote sustainability whilst contributing to a whole systems approach to tackling obesity, working closely and in partnership with stakeholders to improve outcomes for all.

Members noted the health benefits of maintaining a healthy weight and supported the five year funding for the initiative.

The Executive Member (Early Intervention), Councillor Bev Murray proposed and the Executive Member (Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships), Councillor Margaret France seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. **To receive the funding amount (£72,793 per year / 5 years - £363,965 / 8 years - £582,344 40,000 and create an expenditure budget to administer the funding.**
2. **To proceed to further develop and implement the proposed delivery plan.**

64 Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act.**

65 Woodlands Site

Councillor Aidy Riggott declared a personal interest in this item, given his Cabinet position at Lancashire County Council.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley presented the confidential report of the Deputy Chief Executive. The reasons for the decision and aspirations were presented. Members noted the proposed timescales and risks relating to the decision.

Members noted the all member briefing with officers the previous week on this topic.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens, raised several queries, including the amount of borrowing, and received advice from the Monitoring Officer in relation to the legal position.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded, and it was **Resolved (35:4:1)**
To approve the recommendations set out in the tabled resolution.

Chair

Date