

**BUDGET AND  
PERFORMANCE PANEL**

**6.00 P.M.**

**26TH JANUARY 2016**

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Dave Brookes (Chairman), Phillippa Williamson (Vice-Chairman), Claire Cozler, Andrew Gardiner, Janet Hall, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Colin Hartley and Anne Whitehead and Peter Williamson (substitute for Susan Sykes)

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillor Susan Sykes

Also in Attendance:-

County Councillor David Borrow

Deputy Leader Lancashire  
County Council

Councillor Richard Newman-Thompson

Cabinet Member for Finance and  
Revenues & Benefits

Councillors June Ashworth, Alan Biddulph, Eileen Blamire, Carla Brayshaw, Abbott Bryning, Darren Clifford, Nigel Goodrich, Mel Guilding, Janice Hanson, Caroline Jackson, Rebecca Novell, Margaret Pattison, Roger Sherlock, David Smith, Nick Wilkinson and Peter Yates

Economic Stakeholder Representatives  
Voice Your Views Panel Members

Officers in attendance:-

Nadine Muschamp

Chief Officer (Resources) and Section 151 Officer

Mark Davies

Chief Officer (Environment)

Andrew Clarke

Financial Services Manager

Stephen Metcalfe

Principal Democratic Support Officer, Democratic  
Services

Sarah Moorghen

Democratic Support Officer

**29 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 were signed as a correct record.

**30 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no items of urgent business.

**31 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Claire Cozler declared that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to her and she would not therefore vote on any recommendation, resolution or other decision which might affect budgetary and council tax calculations (Minute 34 refers).

**32 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON BUDGET PROPOSALS**

The Panel received a presentation from County Councillor David Borrow, Deputy Leader of Lancashire County Council, on the County Council's consultation on Budget Proposals. The Panel was advised that the proposals had been considered by the County Council's Cabinet at its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

The Panel was advised that the County Council was facing an unprecedented financial challenge. The Medium Term Financial Strategy, reported in November 2015, forecasted that the County Council would have a financial shortfall of £262m in 2020/21. This was the result of a combination of reduced resources from the government's extended programme of austerity at the same time as the County Council was facing significant increases in both the cost (for example, as a result of inflation and national living wage) and the level of demand for its services. The revised position following the financial settlement for 2016/17 was now for a financial shortfall of £200.5m in 2020/21. This revised gap was after the impact of the settlement, new financial pressures and the £64.8m of savings proposals agreed by the County Council's Cabinet in November 2015.

Members were advised that it had been necessary to look at each line of the budget and consider the safe minimums for statutory services. A conclusion had been drawn by the County Council that it would become difficult for the County Council to provide anything other than the statutory services and that this meant that non-statutory services including bus services, museums, street lighting, economic development and some strands of social care would no longer be funded by the government.

The Panel was advised that the situation was not unique to Lancashire and that a number of County Councils were facing similar financial pressures. Members were advised that representatives of the County Council had met with the Secretary of State and other MP's from the region to discuss the financial difficulties facing Lancashire and other local authorities.

The Panel was advised that the County Council was working hard to ensure that a legal budget could be set for 2016/17 but that this would be increasingly difficult moving into future budget years.

It was reported that there was a 12 week consultation running on the County Council's budget proposals.

Panel Members asked a number of questions relating to bus services, social care services and children's centres, devolution of highways to the City Council, waste collection, Oak Tree House, Unitary and Combined Authorities and private sector tendering.

Councillors asked questions regarding children's services, older people and services for the disabled, libraries, bus services community groups and disposal of valuable property assets.

Stakeholders asked a number of questions relating to vulnerable people and the impact of budget cuts on the voluntary sector, preventative care services and children's care services.

In response to questions regarding cuts to social care, County Councillor Borrow said he would provide the Panel with details of the Lanbusant Report which was a key report on

Adult Social Care and care beds. Also, in response to questions regarding the County Council disposing of assets to communities County Councillor Borrow advised that he would look into this in more detail and provide to the Panel details of any criteria and or documents that existed and could be circulated.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That the report be noted and that County Councillor David Borrow be thanked for his presentation and attendance at the meeting.

**33 LANCASHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER BUDGET PROPOSALS**

The Chairman advised the Panel that Mr Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, had submitted his apologies prior to the meeting.

The Chairman advised the Panel that, at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016, the Commissioner's budget proposals for 2016/17 had been considered by the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel. Copies of the report had been received after the publication of the agenda, with paper copies circulated at the meeting for Members' consideration.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That any questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire be submitted to Democratic Services by 12 noon on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

*The meeting adjourned at 7.40pm and reconvened at 7.50pm*

**34 BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSALS 2016 TO 20**

***(During the course of the following discussions, Councillor Novell declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as a Marsh Community Centre employee in accordance with Council procedure Rule 9 and left the meeting when this matter was considered as part of the Budget and Policy Framework Proposals. Councillor Ashworth declared a personal interest as a member of Morecambe Golf Club.)***

Councillor Richard Newman-Thompson, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance and Revenues & Benefits presented the City Council's Budget and Policy Framework Proposals Update 2016 to 2020.

The Panel was advised that the proposals had been considered at the meeting of Cabinet on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and were a combination of new or increased charges, savings and invest to save proposals.

Councillor Richard Newman-Thompson invited questions from the Panel, Councillors and Stakeholders.

The Panel asked a number of questions regarding charges for green waste, the future requirements for the disposal of food waste, staff ideas following the Peer review, capital borrowing, closure of Morecambe Town Hall, charges for Parish/Town Council Elections,

Salt Ayre Sports Centre redevelopment, community swimming pools, charges for the Splash Park in Happy Mount Park and how this would be collected/administered, budgeting methods and statutory minimum service provision levels, 3 weekly bin collections, PCSO's and bad debt provision. It was noted that further details would be provided to the Panel members on the proposals and individual costs for each Parish/Town Council being charged under the proposals for charging for elections.

Councillors asked a number of questions relating to event charges, the Meerkats at Williamson Park, Marsh Community Centre, Salt Ayre, and Morecambe Golf Club.

Stakeholders asked a number of questions in relation to Marsh Community Centre, Salt Ayre Sports Centre, costs for providing advice for event organisers, the Arts, Splash Park, cost neutral innovative solutions, the impact of proposals on vulnerable people and disused toilets.

***Resolved;***

- (1) That the report be noted and Councillor Richard Newman-Thompson be thanked for his presentation and attendance at the meeting.

**35 LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY BUDGET PROPOSALS**

The Chairman advised the Panel that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority had submitted its report for comment.

It was requested that the authority be asked whether it had considered a joint Control Centre for all three emergency services in accordance with Home Office proposals.

***Resolved:***

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner be submitted to Democratic Services by 12 noon on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

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Chairman

(The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
Sarah Moorghen, Democratic Services - telephone 01524 582132 or email  
smoorghen@lancaster.gov.uk**