

**BUDGET AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL**

6.00 P.M.

23RD JANUARY 2018

PRESENT:- Councillors Susan Sykes (Chairman), Tim Hamilton-Cox (Vice-Chairman), Tracy Brown, Nathan Burns, Kevin Frea, John Reynolds and Peter Williamson

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillor Jean Parr

Also in attendance:-

Councillor Anne Whitehead, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Revenues and Benefits and Skills

Councillors June Ashworth, Eileen Blamire, Darren Clifford, Brendan Hughes, James Leyshon, Roger Mace and Margaret Pattison

Economic Stakeholder Representatives

Officers in attendance:-

Susan Parsonage	Chief Executive
Nadine Muschamp	Chief Officer (Resources) and Section 151 Officer
Mark Davies	Chief Officer (Environment)
Suzanne Lodge	Chief Officer (Health and Housing)
Andrew Dobson	Chief Officer (Regeneration and Planning)
Andrew Clarke	Financial Services Manager
Anne Marie Harrison	Economic Development Manager
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer
Tessa Mott	Democratic Support Officer

36 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2017 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

37 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

38 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

39 BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSALS 2018 TO 2022

Councillor Anne Whitehead, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Revenues and Benefits and Skills, presented the City Council's Budget and Policy Framework Proposals for 2018/22.

Council Budget papers that were to be considered on 31st January 2018 were circulated at the meeting for the Panel's consideration.

The Panel was informed that due to continued cutbacks in funding for Local Authorities by Central Government, the City Council had to respond accordingly through methods such as: evaluation of service efficiencies; service reductions; income generation and invest to save processes. Updates were provided regarding savings and growth proposals from March 2016 and 2017 including: Green Waste Collection; Salt Ayre Leisure Centre; CCTV; Community Pools; Economic Growth Reserve and Street Cleaning.

It was outlined that in the revised budget for 2017/18 there was a minor overspend of £222k which was 1.4% of the original net revenue budget. Annual savings targets of £1M for 2019/20 and £2.4M for 2020/21 were also discussed with an emphasis on protecting services as much as possible.

The Cabinet Member also explained that there had been a strategic review of the Council's priorities and the budget proposals were delivered under the following four key themes:

- A thriving and prosperous economy
- Clean and safe neighbourhoods
- Healthy and happy communities
- Ambitious and forward-thinking Council

On conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member for the presentation and invited questions from the Panel, Councillors and Stakeholders present.

The Panel asked a number of questions regarding: shared services; modernisation of the Council; service efficiencies; income generation; service reductions; budget proposals for urban centres; economic opportunities for smaller urban areas; revenue income and expenditure in relation to proposed savings; business cases; community wealth building; general fund/section 106 reserves and highways/cycle paths.

There was also a question raised from a stakeholder concerning the communication between Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council with regards to economic regeneration and tourism.

On conclusion of the presentation the Chairman, on behalf of the Panel, thanked the Cabinet Members, Councillors, Stakeholders and Officers for their attendance.

Resolved:

- (1) That the information contained with the presentation be noted.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Revenues and Benefits and Skills be thanked for the presentation to the Panel.

- (3) That the Cabinet Members, Councillors, Stakeholders and Officers be thanked for their attendance.

40 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON BUDGET PROPOSALS

The Chairman advised the Panel that Lancashire County Council had sent apologies for the meeting and submitted a report for comments.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That any questions from the Panel for Lancashire County Council be submitted to Democratic Services by Friday 26th January 2018.

41 LANCASHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER BUDGET PROPOSALS

The Chairman advised the Panel that the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner had sent apologies for the meeting and submitted a report and written update (previously circulated) for comments.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That any questions from the Panel for the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner be submitted to Democratic Services by Friday 26th January 2018.

42 LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY BUDGET PROPOSALS

The Chairman advised the Panel that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority had sent apologies for the meeting and submitted a report for comments.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That any questions from the Panel for the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority be submitted to Democratic Services by Friday 26th January 2018.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.47 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Tessa Mott, Democratic Services - telephone 01524 582074 or email tmott@lancaster.gov.uk**