

**BUDGET AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL**

6.00 P.M.

22ND JANUARY 2019

PRESENT:- Councillors Dave Brookes (Chairman), Peter Yates (Vice-Chairman), John Reynolds, Susan Sykes, David Whitaker and Peter Williamson

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillor Kevin Frea

Also in attendance: -

Councillor Anne Whitehead, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Revenues and Benefits, Performance Management and Community Wealth Building

Councillors Jon Barry, Eileen Blamire, Abbott Bryning, Darren Clifford, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Janice Hanson, Colin Hartley, Margaret Pattison and Ron Sands

Economic Stakeholder Representatives

Officers in attendance:-

Susan Parsonage	Chief Executive
Daniel Bates	Interim Financial Services Manager/Section 151 Officer
Mark Davies	Director for Communities and the Environment
Kieran Keane	Assistant Chief Executive
Jason Syers	Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration
Paul Thompson	Accountancy Manager
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer
Jenny Kay	Civic & Ceremonial Democratic Support Officer

15 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

16 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

17 BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK UPDATE 2019/20 TO 2023/24

Councillor Anne Whitehead, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Revenues and Benefits, Performance Management and Community Wealth Building, presented the City Council's Budget and Policy Framework Proposals for 2019/20.

A Cabinet report regarding the Budget and Policy Framework Update, considered at its meeting held on 15th January 2019, together with growth proposals had been submitted for the Panel's consideration. The report provided an update on the Council's budget strategy for 2019/20 and financial outlook up to 2023/24. Specifically, the report considered the budget and council tax proposals for 2019/20.

The Cabinet Member informed of the City Council's ambitions contained in the Council Plan for 2018-22, namely:

- Clean, Green and Safe Neighbourhoods
- Healthy and Happy Communities
- A Thriving and Prosperous Economy
- A Smart and Forward Thinking Council

The Panel was informed of the Medium Financial Strategy, including the net growth and savings proposals, use of reserves and of the savings still to be made until 2021/22 and budgeted funding assumptions.

The presentation provided an update on budget proposals from March 2018. Details regarding spending power 2013/14 to 2023/24 (December 2018) were provided.

Members were also advised of challenges facing the City Council and of budget proposal savings. It was proposed to increase Council Tax by 2.99% per year. The Panel was informed that annual savings targets of £2.4M for 2020/21, £2.9M for 2021/22 and £2.7M for 2022/23 were required.

The Cabinet Member advised on how the City Council could deliver services with lower funding levels, funding the future strategy, investment strategy development and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

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

The Panel asked a number of questions regarding:

Rationalisation of Organisational Development capacity, ASB team (part funded from the HRA) and issues relating to anti-social behaviour in Lancaster city centre particularly the Museum steps, HR – fixed term contract to provide support during reorganisation, subscriptions to the garden waste scheme, VFM for HR and ICT staff, details regarding Friends of Parks groups and weighting for areas of the district that have extra needs such as the rural areas, City Council assistance to communities making funding bids, commercial appetite savings and growth, local authority trading companies, issues with back streets, the lift facilities in Lancaster Town Hall, investigation of opportunities to meet the City Council's funding gap, Salt Ayre budget, the Council's Investment Strategy, income generation and the reserves budget.

The other Councillors present and stakeholders asked questions regarding:

Apprenticeships, the Queen Victoria monument, disabled access to Council buildings and the need for a second lift in Lancaster Town Hall, capital programme issues, solar power, provision of affordable housing, use of the HRA for an arm's length housing company,

provision of facilities and CCTV in Carnforth and the rural areas, impacts on the City Council's budget due to cutbacks by other organisations, rural areas precept and works undertaken on Morecambe Promenade especially sea defence works.

Resolved:

That the information contained with the presentation be noted.

18 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON BUDGET PROPOSALS

(Councillor Whitaker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to this item, as an employee of the County Council and left the meeting for this item).

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, 25th January 2019.

19 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, 25th January 2019.

20 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. A written update was provided at the meeting.

At this point the Panel considered the non-attendance of representatives of Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner to present their budget proposals. After considering this issue it was agreed: -

“That officers write to the Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner to express the Panel's concern that year after year no representatives have been made available in order to answer questions on their budget proposals.”

Resolved:

- (1) That the report and written update be noted.
- (2) That any questions from the Panel for the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner be submitted to Democratic Services by Friday, 25th January 2019.
- (3) That officers write to the Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner to express the Panel's concern that year after year no representatives have been made available in order to answer questions on their budget proposals.

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Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.51 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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