

CABINET

6.00 P.M.

7TH DECEMBER 2021

PRESENT:- Councillors Caroline Jackson (Chair), Kevin Frea (Vice-Chair), Dave Brookes, Gina Dowding, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Tricia Heath, Erica Lewis, Cary Matthews, Sandra Thornberry and Anne Whitehead

Officers in attendance:

Kieran Keane	Chief Executive
Mark Davies	Director for Communities and the Environment
Sarah Davies	Director of Corporate Services
Jason Syers	Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration
Luke Gorst	Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Paul Thompson	Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer)
Debbie Chambers	Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Minute 51)
Joanne Wilkinson	Head of Housing (Minute 50)
Kirstie Banks-Lyon	Resilience and Community Safety Officer (Minute 53)
Kate Smith	Regeneration Officer (Minute 52)
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer

45 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26 October 2021 were approved as a correct record.

46 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

The Chair advised that there were no items of urgent business.

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

48 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Members were advised that there had been no requests to speak at the meeting in accordance with Cabinet's agreed procedure.

The Chair advised the meeting of a revision to the order of the agenda with the exempt items being considered first so as not to unnecessarily detain the officers who were in attendance for those items.

49 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor Hamilton-Cox and seconded by Councillor Whitehead:-

"That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press

and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

Members then voted as follows:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

50 PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE LAND ADJACENT TO MAINWAY

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Matthews)

Cabinet received a report from the Director for Communities & the Environment that sought in principle support from Members for the acquisition of the redundant former Skerton High School subject to full due diligence and sought to negotiate terms of purchase with Lancashire County Council for subsequent approval. The acquisition of the school site would play an important component opportunity as to how best to deliver a comprehensive regeneration proposal for the Mainway estate for which a detailed option report is being finalised. Whilst the report was public the appendices were exempt.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

Option 1: Acquire the redundant Skerton High School site

Advantages:

Integrating the school site into the Mainway proposals, increases Housing numbers; improves housing mix; delivers community amenity; provides playing fields for wider community and sports group use; improves access to and from Mainway for pedestrian / cycle and vehicles – linking the riverside to Ryelands and beyond. Enhanced placemaking and creates a real opportunity to reverse the cycle of decline and make Skerton East a place to live with one of aspiration.

Acquiring the site establishes the control need to deliver this transformational opportunity rather than allowing the site to go to a third party who may not deliver anything on the site that meets the core priorities of the Council.

The Delivery of the school site and Mainway will be undertaken with strategic partners who will provide expertise and capacity and help mitigate the risks of development and debt exposure.

Disadvantages:

None known.

Risks:

There are restrictions on the title and potential issues with the buildings – such as voids

in the ground & asbestos etc. All of these are being fully investigated prior to acquisition. Abnormal costs associated with any such matters will be worked through with Lancashire County Council as part of the finalisation of terms of purchase. The school transfer will be conditional on Secretary of State's approval – which is not guaranteed.

Option 2: Do not acquire the School site

Advantages:

Not pursuing the acquisition will reduce the scale of the project.

Disadvantages:

Leaving the site as a redundant site, should Lancashire County Council not do anything with it, will impact on the ambitious and huge place making investment being proposed for Mainway.

Should Lancashire County Council decide to dispose of the site on the open market, Lancaster City Council is then open to a risk of who buys it, what they might seek to deliver on it and significantly reduce the social, environmental and community benefits having control over the site provides.

Risks:

Not having control of the school site directly undermines the potential investment in Mainway.

The officer preferred option is Option 1. This is the only option that gives the Council control over the wider site and allows the Council the opportunity to then influence the significant social, environmental and economic gains possible. It has the choice at that point to deliver development proposals directly or with chosen partners, who can meet the wider Council priorities and ensure any subsequent development maximise the opportunity this site provides for the community of East Skerton.

In accordance with the Chair's discretion regarding questions on reports (Cabinet Procedure Rule 17) Councillor Parr addressed the meeting and the portfolio holder responded to her questions.

Councillor Matthews proposed, seconded by Councillor Dowding:-

"That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet approves, in principle, the purchase of the redundant area of the former Skerton High School, that purchase being conditional on:
 - (a) Consent by the Secretary of State for the relevant school land transactions
 - (b) Satisfactory Legal title
 - (c) Satisfaction of physical due diligence to be undertaken on the land and buildings to be transferred.

(d) Clarity on how the ongoing educational facility (the Chadwick Centre) on the retained Lancashire County Council land will operate and that all safeguarding measures have been addressed.

(e) Terms of Purchase – yet to be agreed, although an anticipated purchase figure is detailed in the exempt Appendix .

- (2) That a detailed paper being brought back to Cabinet addressing all the above for consideration and approval in due course.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Director for Communities & the Environment

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with the Council Priorities:

- A Sustainable District –Climate Emergency: The design and master planning will seek to ensure that the properties are resilient to a changing climate and are fit for a zero-carbon future.
- An Inclusive and Prosperous Local Economy – through the creation of jobs and training and opportunities for local companies. The reduction of blight key location, and provision of affordable, suitable housing which enables access to employment and reduces poverty. Ensuring money is spent locally.
- Happy and Healthy Communities – proposals contribute to the well-being of tenants, tackle health inequalities and provide quality housing and green space.
- A Co-operative, Kind and Responsible Council – working in partnership and truly listening to tenant voices through consultation has supported the future designs of the estate.

The decision is also consistent with the Local Plan and contributes towards the provision of housing to meet a locally identified need and opportunities to increase the choice and supply of social housing as well as the Housing Strategy as it will link directly to the Homes Strategy for Lancaster district 2020- 2025.

51 MAYOR'S TRANSPORT AND OTHER CIVIC MATTERS

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Lewis)

Cabinet received a report from the Director of Corporate Services that sought decisions on the future provision of transport and staffing for the Mayor, including the possible sale of the Council's L50 numberplate. The report also provided an update for Cabinet on the competition bid for Lord Mayor status. The report was public with an exempt appendix.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

The options are not exhaustive. They illustrate three approaches that are feasible and may help with decision-making around the number plate, chauffeuring, security of chains and support for the Mayor at events.

<p>Option 1: To sell the number plate, buy a suitable electric car with the funds and create a new part time post of Chauffeur/Mayor's Attendant (funding to be covered</p>
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by the current budget for transport).

Advantages:

- This would bring the service back in house completely.
- Changing from a petrol car to an electric car fits with the Council's priorities.

Disadvantages:

- The number plate is a valuable asset which may have sentimental value to some Councillors and residents.
- The number plate may not raise enough money to buy a suitable vehicle.

Risks:

- The unsocial and unpredictable hours of a Mayor's Attendant may mean that the Council does not fill the post or there is a high turnover.
- The number plate may not sell (a reserve price would need to be put on the plate to stop its sale for an unacceptably low figure).

Option 2: Create a new part time Chauffeur/Mayor's Attendant post and use the existing electric pool cars to transport the Mayor.

Advantages:

- Brings the service back in house.
- Changing from a petrol car to an electric car fits with the Council's priorities.
- The L50 number plate can be kept, possibly on display in the Mayor's parlour

Disadvantages:

- Not an executive car, which the public are used to seeing

Risks:

- None identified.

Option 3: Go out to tender for a contractor who will provide a suitable electric car and driver who can carry out the Mayor's Attendant role as well as keep the chains secure.

Advantages:

- Saves time and money on jobs such as taxing/insuring/servicing/washing/cleaning the car. All will be done by contractor.
- No problems about cover when the Chauffeur/Attendant is on holiday or otherwise absent. The contractor will supply cover.
- The L50 number plate can be kept, possibly on display in the Mayor's parlour. • Executive car will be provided.

Disadvantages:

- Solution needs to be found for keeping the chains secure out of office hours.

Risks:

- There may not be any interest in tendering for the contract.

The officer preferred option from the three above is to try Option 3 in the first instance as the contract option has worked well in the past. It is not possible to predict how much interest there may be in the contract until it is advertised. The chains must be suitably secured, however and how this will be achieved is something that would need to be agreed confidentially with whoever is awarded the contract.

Councillor Lewis proposed, seconded by Councillor Hamilton-Cox:-

“That Cabinet agrees that the L50 numberplate should be sold, the proceeds of which would be ring-fenced for mayoral duties and agrees to go out to tender for a contractor to provide a suitable electric car and driver who can carry out the Mayor’s Attendant role as well as keep the chains secure.”

By way of an amendment, which was accepted as a friendly amendment by the proposer and seconder, Councillor Brookes proposed:

“to delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder and Head of Democratic Services matters consequent to this decision necessary to establish effective support for the Mayor.”

Councillors then voted on the recommendation, as amended together with recommendation (2) of the report:-

Resolved:

(8 Members (Councillors Dave Brookes, Kevin Frea, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Tricia Heath, Caroline Jackson, Erica Lewis, Cary Matthews & Anne Whitehead) voted in favour, and 2 Members (Councillors Gina Dowding & Sandra Thornberry) abstained.)

- (1) That Cabinet agrees that the L50 numberplate should be sold, the proceeds of which to be ring-fenced for mayoral duties.
- (2) That Cabinet agrees to go out to tender for a contractor to provide a suitable electric car and driver who can carry out the Mayor’s Attendant role as well as keep the chains secure; and
- (3) That Cabinet delegates to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder and Head of Democratic Services matters consequent to this decision necessary to establish effective support for the Mayor.
- (4) That the update on progress with the competition entry for Lord Mayor status be noted.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Executive
Director of Corporate Services

Reasons for making the decision:

A reserve price would be agreed prior to selling the L50 numberplate. The proceeds of

any sale would be ring-fenced for mayoral duties.

The decision to seek a contractor to provide an all-inclusive service is consistent with the Corporate Plan – Clean Green and Safe Neighbourhoods since the use of an electric car for Mayoral engagements will reduce the Council's impact on the environment. The decision will also reduce the burden on the Civic and Ceremonial Officer and Head of Democratic Services who are currently covering many Mayoral functions often in the evenings and weekends to ensure that the chains are kept secure at all times as there is an expectation for the Mayor to wear the chain of office when attending various events.

52 **LANCASTER HIGH STREETS HERITAGE ACTION ZONE - THE GRAND THEATRE AND PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS**

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Dowding)

Cabinet received a report from the Director for Economic Regeneration & Growth which sought approval to decisions affecting the Council's land and assets in and around the Grand Theatre, including a lease disposal to the Lancaster Footlights necessary to support delivery of the Grand foyer extension which, together with external improvements, was identified as a key project within the Lancaster High Streets Heritage Action Zone programme. The report was exempt from publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the exempt report.

Councillor Dowding proposed, seconded by Councillor Hamilton-Cox:-

"That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet authorise the leasehold disposal of land fronting St Leonard's Gate, Lancaster to the Lancaster Footlights for 125 years and authorise the Director for Economic Regeneration and Growth to negotiate and agree upon the form of lease and complete the same subject to communication with the Portfolio Holder.
- (2) That approval be given for the Director for Economic Regeneration and Growth to secure the relevant necessary building demolitions surrounding the Grand to enable a construction start by the Grand in summer 2022, using the budgets identified in this report and that the Capital Programme be updated accordingly.
- (3) That officers develop public realm design proposals for the wider area around the Grand Theatre, fitting to the Canal Quarter Spatial Regeneration Framework.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Director for Economic Regeneration & Growth

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with the Council Plan. The city's ambitions for the area are best articulated through the draft Canal Quarter Spatial Regeneration Framework (SRF) (Feb. 2021) for a vibrant, sustainable and active Canal Quarter served by areas of new public open space and where contemporary development and hidden heritage can combine. Core relevant principles of the SRF include:

- Connectivity and Movement: improving integrated movement, retaining what is distinctive about the existing street pattern, enabling legibility and influencing strategic connectivity and movement across the city
- Approach to Public Open Space – delivery of an area-wide active, safe and legible public realm and open space hierarchy and network enhancing and maximising the relationship between the city centre and the canal
- Embracing Heritage: respecting the rich built heritage of the Canal Quarter, which reflects its historical evolution and contributes so heavily to its positive identity and appeal.

As a significant land and building owner within this area, the council is well-placed to take a pro-active lead in delivering or enabling the ambitions set out within the above programmes. This enables delivery of development that is sympathetic to and involves putting heritage assets into good repair and beneficial use and that improves the setting of these and their relationship with the wider city centre and planned redevelopment sites. It further helps secure and enhance a significant and long- standing cultural asset. These aspects all contribute towards a high-quality mixed use and sustainable city centre.

The press and public were re-admitted to the meeting at this point.

53 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Caroline Jackson)

Cabinet received a report from the Director for Communities and the Environment which sought Cabinet approval for the introduction of a Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) in relation to various types of anti-social behaviour for a period of three years. The proposed PSPO would cover Lancaster City Centre, Morecambe, Lower Heysham, Happy Mount Park and Williamson Park.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

Option 1: Adopt the PSPO as proposed in the consultation, with no amendments

Advantages:

- Reflects the majority of representation made during the public consultation that the prohibitions outlined in the draft PSPO order are types of behaviour not acceptable within the proposed areas.
- The conditions are identical for the proposed areas which makes for more consistent and less confusing enforcement.

Disadvantages:

- Raises public expectation. The PSPO is only one of the tools that can be used by authorised officers. Lack of enforcement could lead to a reduction in confidence in the Local Authority and Lancashire Police.

Risks:

- Reputational. Not listening to the views of the public.

Option 2: Adopt the PSPO as proposed in the consultation, but not in all the proposed locations

Advantages:

- Not all areas received the same level of concern in the consultation
- Some members of the community could view the proposed restrictions in public parks as unnecessary
- Less areas to enforce

Disadvantages:

- Smaller communities feeling that their views have not been taken into consideration
- Potential displacement of the types of behaviour to other public spaces.

Risks:

- Reputational. Not listening to the views of the public

Option 3: Do not adopt the PSPO

Advantages:

- Minimal cost benefit of not paying for signage.

Disadvantages:

- Going against majority of consultees
- Continued complaints received from the public about not feeling safe in the public spaces of the district.
- Loss of confidence in the local authority and Lancashire Police

Risks:

- Reputational. Not listening or responding to the points raised in the consultation

Councillor Caroline Jackson proposed, seconded by Councillor Matthews:-

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.”

At this point the Chief Executive confirmed that he was minded to waive call-in on this item and had consulted with the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny in order that the decision could be implemented without delay.

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) are made to cover the designated areas as set out in the appendices appended to the report.
- (2) That it be noted that the Chief Executive had agreed to waive call-in on this item and had consulted with the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny prior to the meeting in order that the decision could be implemented without delay.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Executive
 Director for Communities & the Environment

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with the Council Plan :

- Healthy and Happy Communities - Keeping our district’s neighbourhoods, parks, beaches and open space clean, well maintained and safe.
- A Co-operative, Kind and Responsible Council - Listening to our communities and treating everyone with equal respect, being friendly, honest, and empathetic

The making of PSPOs to cover specific areas will be a helpful tool for the Police to help reduce anti-social behaviour.

54 PLAN 2030: PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Caroline Jackson)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive that provided an update on Cabinet’s strategic planning activity and Cabinet were requested to refer the ‘Core’ Plan 2030 content to Council for adoption as part of its Policy Framework. If adopted, the ‘Core’ Plan 2030 content would supersede the Priorities agreed by Council in January 2020. The high-level ‘Core’ Plan would form the heart of the Council’s Policy Framework, informing its strategic and financial decision-making. Further development activity would then be undertaken to develop a comprehensive Plan, which would be recommended to Council for adoption into the Policy Framework.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

	Option 1: Refer the ‘Core’ Plan 2030 to Council for adoption.	Option 2: Take no action.
Advantages	An up-to-date articulation of the Council’s priorities will have been considered by the Council, with opportunity for valuable comment and feedback. If adopted, subsequent strategic and financial	No specific advantages are identified for this option; if no action is taken, the Policy Framework would continue to be represented by the Priorities agreed in January 2020.

	decisions will be based on the most up-to-date ideas of Cabinet.	
Disadvantages	No specific disadvantages are identified for this option.	The update of January 2020 committed to further development of the priorities and plan; taking no action at this time, after a hiatus due to the pandemic, would inhibit the Council's ability to act on its latest perspectives and learning in partnership with others.
Risks	There is a slight risk that a further update of the Council's priorities could result in a lack of clarity between different versions and updates; to be mitigated by clear and widespread communication around the update.	The development and delivery of strategic priorities would be compromised by this option.

The recommended option is to proceed with referring the 'Core' Plan to Council (Option 1), and subsequently developing a comprehensive strategic plan.

Councillor Caroline Jackson proposed, seconded by Councillor Lewis:-

"That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the 'Core' Strategic Plan be referred to Council to consider adopting as the basis for its Policy Framework.
- (2) That subject to the adoption of the 'Core' Plan by Council, Cabinet agrees to pursue the development of a comprehensive Plan alongside local partners, stakeholders and communities.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Executive

Reasons for making the decision:

Cabinet has developed the Priorities, Strategy, Outcomes, and Principles, which collectively are described as the 'Core' Plan 2030 which is considered to be a key pillar for achieving the Council's strategic goals. Adopting the 'Core' Plan will provide a platform for further development of a comprehensive plan, including a substantial degree of engagement, consultation, and partnership.

55 DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Whitehead)**

Cabinet received a report from the Director of Corporate Services that provided an update on performance, projects, and resources during the first two quarters of 2021/22 (April – September 2021).

No options were provided as the report was for comment and noting.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the update on performance, projects and resources for Quarter 2 2021/22 be noted.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Director of Corporate Services

Reasons for making the decision:

Performance, project, and resource monitoring provides a link between the Council Plan and operational achievement, by providing regular updates on the impact of operational initiatives against strategic aims.

56 INVESTING IN THE FUTURE**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Whitehead)**

Cabinet received a report from the Director of Corporate Services that set out the Council's proposed Capital Investment Strategy for consideration by Budget & Performance Panel and ultimately the Council.

Capital investment, via the Council's reserves or borrowing, played a key role in strategic projects and initiatives for the success of the Lancaster district, as well as transforming and optimising the Council's services to its residents. The proposed Capital Investment Strategy contained at Appendix A to the report, set out the relevant context and a proposed framework to support the Council's approach to capital investment over the medium term. The strategy aligned capital investment to the Council's four overall priorities and proposed a consistent 'lifecycle' for the development and delivery of capital investment activities, including the transparent, accountable democratic decision process. The strategy also set out the proposed approach to risk management as well as the monitoring and evaluation of capital projects.

Cabinet was requested to refer the Strategy to the Budget and Performance Panel for their comments and would have the opportunity to consider any comments made by the Budget & Performance Panel prior to referring the draft strategy to Council for adoption.

Councillor Whitehead proposed, seconded by Councillor Lewis:-

"That the recommendation, as set out in the report, be approved."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the draft of the Capital Investment Strategy (Appendix A) to the report and the Terms of Reference for the Capital Assurance Group (Appendix B) to the report be sent to Budget & Performance Panel for review .
- (2) That an updated version, taking account of comments received, then be considered by Cabinet prior to being recommended for adoption by Full Council into the Budget & Policy Framework.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Director of Corporate Services

Reasons for making the decision:

Capital and Investment Strategies form part of the Budget Framework and their adoption is a function of Full Council. The decision enables the Budget & Performance Panel to comment on the strategy prior to referral to Council for adoption.

57 LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Whitehead)

Cabinet received a report from the Head of Shared Service to consider the existing Localised Council Tax Support (“LCTS”) Scheme and the options available, ahead of formal consideration and approval by Council for application in 2022/23. Cabinet’s views were sought as to whether to retain the existing Localised Council Tax Support Scheme for 2022/23 (Option 1) subject to future consequential minor amendments following changes in housing benefit rules; or whether to amend it to reduce entitlement. (Option 2).

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

The challenge for the Council is to adopt a scheme that fits with its ambitions and priorities and is considered fair, deliverable and affordable, given statutory obligations and competing pressures for resources. Council is presented with two basic options:

Option 1: Retain the existing Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme, subject to minor consequential amendments to match changes in Housing Benefit rules.

– The existing scheme is considered soundly structured and works well, and offers maximum support for low income families, who may otherwise find themselves in mounting debt.

– The current forecast assumes the continuation of the existing LCTS system and as such, maintaining current levels of support would normally have no impact on the Council’s financial forecast. However, costs have increased in recent years with increased take-up due to Covid-19, although 2021/22 has seen a slow but steady decline in the number of residents receiving LCTS, which should reduce costs if the

trend continues in the longer term.

– Retaining existing policy principles of keeping various positive entitlement provisions for LCTS in line with other key welfare benefits promotes equality.

Option 2: Make changes to the existing Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme to reduce benefit entitlement for working age claimants.

– Currently 10,779 residents claim LCTS in the Lancaster district, reducing over the years from a high of 12,202 in April 2014. As pensioners make up 35.5% (3,821) of claimants, it means any cut in the level of support provided falls on the remaining 64.5% (6,958) of working age people on low incomes, reducing in numbers from (7,253) in the previous year.

– A reduction in the levels of support provided could arguably provide claimants with further incentives to work, reducing their reliance on benefits, although the jobs market is particularly uncertain at this difficult time.

– This option will have greater adverse financial impact on working age households, but would help protect other Council services by requiring less savings to be made by them.

– If levels of support are reduced, the Council would be tasked with the difficulty of collecting this debt from the more vulnerable members of our society, increasing workloads and costs associated with council tax recovery.

– Additional costs associated with developing new scheme options, consultation exercise, legal changes to scheme etc.

The Council's existing LCTS scheme works well in terms of providing support, but at a cost, particularly for the County Council. To date the Council has attached a high priority to maintaining council tax support levels available to working age claimants (pensioners being unaffected by Council's decision). Adoption of a particular option should be informed by Council's views regarding the relative priority of LCTS, compared with other services and activities in support of future corporate priorities.

Councillor Whitehead proposed, seconded by Councillor Dowding:-

“That the recommendation, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet endorses Option 1, to retain the existing Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme for 2022/23, subject to minor consequential amendments to match changes in Housing Benefit rules and agrees that the options included at Appendix A to the report be presented to Full Council for their deliberation and approval.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Director of Corporate Services

Reasons for making the decision:

The Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme is developed in support of ambitions within the Council Plan regarding “Healthy and Happy Communities” to optimise access for those that need it most, together with welfare benefits and related support. The

ambition is to continue with a LCTS scheme for the Council, which supports the objective of simplicity, but protects the most vulnerable residents in the district. The Council must continue to ensure that it has due regard to equality in making its local scheme, including how it will minimise disadvantage.

58 MTFS UPDATE

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Finance Officer that provided an update on the Council's general budgetary position for current and future years. Given that at the time of writing, the Local Government Settlement had not been announced, and other budgetary work was not yet scheduled for completion, the report was an interim update only primarily for information. As the report was for consideration no alternative options were put forward although Cabinet could make supplementary recommendations regarding any matters.

It should be noted that this forecast was subject to change when more up to date information became available and did not reflect the ongoing work being done by Cabinet and Executive Management Team to develop savings and growth proposal, nor did it reflect the revenue impact of any revisions to the capital programme. It set a baseline position without any further interventions in the Budget setting process. The interventions and actions being planned included:

- A short term range of savings and growth (invest to save) actions aiming to significantly reduce the 22/23 budget gap, to be brought forward in the upcoming Budget and Policy Framework;
- A mid-term Outcomes-Based Resourcing project to realign our expenditure with core duties and priorities; and
- A comprehensive review of our employment base, debt financing, asset base and related policies and processes.

Councillor Whitehead proposed, seconded by Councillor Hamilton-Cox:

"That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved."

Councillors then voted.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the draft future years estimates as set out in the report as the latest information available be accepted as an interim position.
- (2) That the update be referred on to December Council for information.
- (3) That the Council Tax Base for 2022/23 as set out in paragraph 3.12 of the report be noted.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Finance Officer

Reasons for making the decision:

Performance, project, and resource monitoring provides a link between the Council Plan and operational achievement, by providing regular updates on the impact of operational initiatives against strategic aims.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Liz Bateson, Democratic Services - email ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk**

MINUTES PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER, 2021.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:
MONDAY 20 DECEMBER, 2021 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MINUTE 53 PUBLIC SPACE
PROTECTION ORDERS WHICH CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT AS
CALL-IN HAS BEEN WAIVED ON THAT ITEM.**