

**BUDGET AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL**

6.00 P.M.

21ST SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESENT:- Councillors Joan Jackson (Chair), Phillip Black, Tim Dant, Roger Dennison, Colin Hartley and Ross Hunter

Also Present: -

Councillors Gerry Blaikie, Dave Brookes, Tim Hamilton-Cox and Carey Matthews

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Sally Maddocks and Councillor Whitehead (Cabinet Member)

Officers in attendance:

Suzanne Lodge	Acting Director for Communities and the Environment
William Griffith	Head of Public Realm
Fiona Inston	Head of Public Protection
Paul Thompson	Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer)
Carolyne Walsh	Acting Head of Community Involvement and Leisure
Joanne Wilkinson	Head of Housing
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer

12 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor Phil Black, seconded by Councillor Tim Dant and unanimously agreed:-

“That Councillor Ross Hunter be appointed Vice-Chair of the Budget and Performance Panel for the Municipal Year.”

Resolved:

That Councillor Ross Hunter be appointed Vice-Chair of the Budget and Performance Panel for the Municipal Year.

13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th July 2022 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

15 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

16 BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL - FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION - COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

All Members of Council had been invited to attend the meeting for this item.

The Acting Director for Communities and the Environment provided a presentation on her Directorate. The services contained in the Directorate included Housing, Community Involvement and Leisure, Public Protection and Public Realm. The presentation covered the following main areas:

Priorities, Strategy and Outcomes.

Home Improvement Agency. Exemplar of Good Practice.

Services Delivered.

Strategic Fit.

Finances.

Performance.

Housing Options – Homelessness

Strategic Fit.

Finances.

Performance.

Community Involvement and Leisure.

Corporate Plan Priorities.

Salt Ayre – Centre Subsidy, Total Visits Q1, Customer Service Interaction Q1, Grants Delivered.

KPI's Quarter 1.

Sustainable district – role of Public Protection.

An inclusive and prosperous local economy – public protection.

Healthy and happier communities – public protection.

A cooperative, kind and responsible council – public protection.

Funding position.

Overview of Services – Public Realm.

Strategic Fit.

Financial Position.

Expenditure.

Income.

Each service advised of Challenges and Opportunities.

The presentation concluded with the Panel being informed of Communities and the Environment achievements.

Members then asked questions on the following subjects:-

- DFGs and whether there is a policy regarding major refurbishments.
- Government consultation with local authorities and consequences for council and rented housing for asylum seekers.
- Support and grants for families hosting Ukrainian families.

- Shortage of housing accommodation.
- Pressure on services and any changes since the pandemic.
- Air quality/pollution and areas of concern.
- Weed control.
- Pest control.
- Various budget queries.
- Implications of OBR.
- Income generation/services provided to the public.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Panel, thanked officers for their attendance, for the presentation and information provided.

17 PROVISIONAL REVENUE, CAPITAL AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2021/22

The Panel received a report from the Chief Finance Officer, which provided summary information regarding the provisional outturn for 2021/22, including treasury management. It also set out information regarding the carry forward of capital slippage and other matters for Members' consideration.

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

The Cabinet report had requested Cabinet to consider a number of revenue overspending, capital slippage and other budget adjustment matters. The framework for considering these was set out in the report.

Although the Council's financial position appears relatively healthy with a surplus against the revised budget and an overall increase in the level of reserves held, the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy suggested a structural budget gap in 2022/23 onwards of approximately £2.183M rising to £4.668M. Work had commenced to support opportunities to address the underlying structural deficit, by:

- - Increasing and diversifying income
- - Improving productivity and securing efficiencies via new ways of working (e.g. Outcomes Based Resourcing)
- - Developing alternative ways to achieve priority outcomes (e.g., partnership)

The Panel also discussed or asked questions regarding:

- Capital projects not going ahead and implications on borrowing.
- Loss of income.
- Government grants and funding.
- OBR and planning for future budgets.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet report and appendices dated 13th September 2022 be noted.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 8.03 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Stephen Metcalfe, Democratic Services - email sjmetcalfe@lancaster.gov.uk**