

PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 30 January 2019, when the following Members were present:-

Andrew Kay (Mayor)

June Ashworth

Amara Betts-Patel

Eileen Blamire

Dave Brookes

Abbott Bryning

Darren Clifford

Sheila Denwood

Charlie Edwards

Nigel Goodrich

Janet Hall

Janice Hanson

Brendan Hughes

Joan Jackson

Geoff Knight

Roger Mace

Abi Mills

Jean Parr

Robert Redfern

Peter Rivet

Sylvia Rogerson

Elizabeth Scott

Malcolm Thomas

David Whitaker

John Wild

Peter Williamson

Claire Cozler (Deputy Mayor)

Jon Barry

Alan Biddulph

Carla Brayshaw

Tracy Brown

Nathan Burns

Ian Clift

Rob Devey

Kevin Frea

Mel Guilding

Tim Hamilton-Cox

Colin Hartley

Caroline Jackson

Ronnie Kershaw

James Leyshon

Terrie Metcalfe

Jane Parkinson

Margaret Pattison

John Reynolds

Oliver Robinson

Ron Sands

Susan Sykes

Andrew Warriner

Anne Whitehead

Nicholas Wilkinson

Peter Yates

101 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stuart Bateson, Susie Charles, Andrew Gardiner, Helen Helme, Rebecca Novell and Phillippa Williamson.

102 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2018 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members advised of the following interests at this stage:

Councillor Scott reported that she would declare a personal, non-prejudicial interest should there be any reference to Lancaster Museum during discussions on budgetary matters, as an ex-officio appointee of Lancaster City Council Museum. (Minute Nos. 106 and 114 refer.)

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Cozler declared a Section 106 (Local Government Finance Act) interest, which would preclude her from taking part or voting on matters of the budget. (Minute No. 114 refers.)

Councillor Mace declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in relation to Lancaster Museum as a member of the Friends of the City Museum group. (Minute Nos. 106 and 114 refer.)

104 URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor reported that he had accepted one item of urgent business, a referral report from the Chief Executive Recruitment Committee, which required a decision to be made at this meeting. (Minute 109 refers.)

105 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Council that a petition was to be debated and there was also a motion on notice, both regarding Climate Change. As a number of members of the public had registered to speak about this topic, he would be re-ordering the agenda to take the petition, public speakers and motion on notice directly after the next item, which was questions from members of the public. He would then take the item of urgent business straight after the motion on notice.

106 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

The Mayor advised that two questions had been received from members of the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Ms Julia Krier and Ms Holly Blackwell. Copies of the questions had been circulated at the commencement of the meeting.

The Mayor invited the first questioner, Ms Julia Krier, to put her question to the Council, which was:

"Where in the City Museum is it proposed that the Visitor Information Centre be

relocated?"

A response was given by the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Tourism, Culture and Climate Change, Councillor Clifford. He thanked Ms Krier to attending to ask her question and said:

"The option to relocate the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in the City Museum is at an early stage and has not yet been consulted upon, developed or fully assessed so, at this time, no decision has been made on where the VIC would be located in the City Museum. However, to meet service user requirements and to encourage additional visitors to the museum, the VIC would need to be on the ground floor reasonably close to the main customer access point.

Bearing in mind space constraints and the aspiration to make museums more accessible to our communities and to visitors, officers are currently developing options for use of a range of other spaces in the city and the district to deliver a wider programme of museums exhibitions and activities."

Ms Krier asked a supplementary question:

"What will be the nature and timing of the consultation?"

Councillor Clifford explained that a report would go to Cabinet and this could possibly be to the new Cabinet after the elections on 2nd May 2019.

The Mayor thanked Ms Krier for asking her questions. He then invited Ms Holly Blackwell to put her question, which was to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Blamire:

"My name is Holly. I am one of the eight members of the Musicians' Coop Steering Group. This group is making sure we carry out the work that is needed to fulfil the decision of council to rescind the eviction order, to do necessary structural repairs and to have a lease in place by the end of July this year. We are happy to say that as a result of steering group work, all the conditions set by council were fulfilled in December so that after some unexpected difficulties before Christmas the first part of the council's decision has been carried out and the eviction order was rescinded.

So now we are focused on making the building structurally sound, safe and watertight. We know from our architect and surveyor of the amount of work necessary and we also know that in order to get the lease in place this work needs to be planned, prepared for, and completed, by June 2019 at the latest. The council motion stated that the Council is "accepting responsibility for the most significant urgent structural repairs needed to make the building safe".

We want a high quality job done to the standards you expect on a building that is your asset and we know, as Councillors, you want that done for the best possible price. As a community of musicians and supporters of the Coop we want to line up the estimates from contractors and we know that using our connections will ensure they are best value for high specifications. So my question is:

How and when is the money promised by Full Council for the "urgent structural repairs" going to be released to the Musicians' Coop in order for this work to be carried out?"

Councillor Blamire replied:

"Thank you for your question.

A capital bid to 'Undertake the most significant/urgent structural repairs at 1 Lodge Street' has been considered and accepted at an Informal Cabinet Meeting on 28 January 2019. This capital bid for £358k covers structural repairs as well as remedy of dry rot, damp and woodworm.

The scheme will be added to the Council's Capital Programme which will be considered by Cabinet at 12 February 2019 and by Full Budget Council on 27 February 2019.

The improvement works to the Musicians Coop building will be guided by the building condition surveys. Once finalised a consultant engineer will be commissioned to undertake the detailed design work with contractors subsequently procured in line with the Councils procurement processes under the supervision of Property Group. The representatives of the Musician's Co-op will be kept informed as the project develops."

Ms Blackwell asked, by way of a supplementary question, whether Councillor Blamire would personally be supporting the refurbishment of the building in the 2019/20 budget.

Councillor Blamire assured Ms Blackwell that, whilst she could not commit herself to any figure that was not in the budget, she did want to see the work done.

After thanking Ms Blackwell for attending to ask her question, the Mayor passed the Chair to the Deputy Mayor to chair the following items on Climate Change, because he was a signatory to the petition and had put his name forward to second the motion on notice.

**107 PETITION AND ADDRESS - THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF LANCASTER DISTRICT
DECLARE A 'CLIMATE EMERGENCY'**

(Deputy Mayor in the chair)

Ms Rosie Mills presented a petition and addressed Council in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Petition Scheme and Council Procedure Rule 13 as follows:

"We, the young people of Lancaster, are the generation which will feel the effects of global warming, yet there is little action to reduce these effects. As a generation, we have never lived in a time of stable climate conditions. We are seeing its devastating effects in many ways already: sea levels are rising, habitats are being destroyed and our future is uncertain. If the current global trend continues, it is very likely that the earth's temperature will rise by 2°C. The consequences will be disastrous. As a society, we need to involve the opinions of young people in the decision-making processes to tackle this climate emergency, to help protect our future.

We, the undersigned, live, work or study in the district and petition the Council to:

1. Declare a 'climate emergency'.
2. Conduct a consultation with young people of all ages, by young people of all ages, for what they want for a sustainable future in Lancaster district.
3. Include consultation ideas in council plans to make Lancaster district carbon neutral by 2030.
4. Create a young persons' climate panel to review and support council climate strategies.

A copy of Ms Mills' speech had been circulated to Members.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Ms Mills for her speech and for the petition. She informed

Council that the petition contained more than the 1500 signatures required by the Petition Scheme to trigger a debate.

Councillor Clifford, the relevant Cabinet Member, thanked Ms Mills for attending Council. He noted that this would be debated after all the public speakers had been heard, and the motion on notice had been proposed and seconded.

Six other members of the public who had registered to address Council presented speeches on the subject of Climate Change. Mr Andrew Jarvis, Ms Alison Cahn, Mr Alistair Sinclair, Mr Martin Paley, Mr Paul Young and Ms Millie Prosser each made an address to Councillors.

It was noted that a motion on notice had been submitted by Councillors Frea, Kay, Hamilton-Cox and Caroline Jackson, which also called upon the Council to declare a 'climate emergency'. In view of this, the Deputy Mayor indicated that she proposed to debate both the petition and the motion on notice together, as the next item of business.

Officers had submitted a briefing note on the issue to aid the debate.

108 MOTION ON NOTICE - CLIMATE CHANGE AND LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

The following motion, of which notice had been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15, was moved by Councillor Frea and seconded by Councillor Kay:-

"Full Council Notes:

Lancaster City Council has already committed to reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2050, but the recent IPCC Report shows it is imperative that this target is reached much sooner. Lancaster City Council can play its role. Business as usual is clearly no longer an option. We need local wisdom to increase our resilience and to prepare for the climate changes already in the system.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5°C report, published in October 2018, humanity has 12 years for "ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities" to deliver the "rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities" needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

It is vital that rural communities play their part in reducing carbon emissions.

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, new income streams, and localising wealth generation; as well as improved well-being for people locally and worldwide.

Our inspiration:

A number of City & District Councils, together with the Mayor of London, have passed motions declaring a 'Climate Emergency'.

We, the undersigned, therefore call on Lancaster City Council to

1) Declare a 'Climate Emergency';

- 2) Support the setting up of a Climate Change Advisory Board immediately, involving Councillors, residents, businesses, experts from the two Universities and other relevant parties. Over the following 6 months, the Board will revisit and update the 2010 Lancaster City Council Climate Change Strategy and help the Council develop a new carbon budget taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3) and set a target date of 2030, to:
- make the Council's activities net-zero carbon;
 - Consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
 - increase local resilience to climate impacts already in the system;
 - maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
 - support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the Lancaster District zero carbon within the same timescale.

We recognize the current financial constraints that the Council faces and expect that both the development and implementation of a carbon budget are likely to need a significant measure of additional external funding. Some of the potential actions may have a positive or neutral financial impact.

Actions that could be recommended include: increasing the energy efficiency of buildings; prioritizing these measures for council housing and private sector housing to address fuel poverty; building solar and other renewable energy generating and storage plant; requiring all new housing and commercial developments to be low carbon; replacing the vehicle fleet with electric and/or hydrogen powered vehicles; switching to 100% renewable energy; setting up a council run energy company (eg. Robin Hood Energy) and adapting the Council's purchasing policy.

- 3) Prepare a report on methods for conducting a consultation with young people and creating a young people's climate panel.
- 4) Task a director level officer with responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities;
- 5) Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible;
- 6) Work with partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources;
- 7) Require all officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council to contain Impact assessments on Climate Change that include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce emissions wherever possible;
- 8) Produce a report to the next Full Council on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have;
- 9) Amend the Council's Investment Strategy to give due weight to climate change targets in the portfolio of investments.
- 10) Report to full Council by the end of 2019 with a fully costed action plan to address this emergency."

An amendment to the motion, which was presented in the form of a revision to the whole motion, was moved by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Betts-Patel:-

“Full Council Notes:

Lancaster City Council has already committed to reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2050, but the recent IPCC Report shows it is imperative that this target is reached much sooner. Lancaster City Council can play its role in preventing and adapting to dangerous and extreme weather events.

Extreme weather events over the last few years have presented severe challenges to property, transport, agriculture and other services in the Lancaster & Morecambe area and have led to the deaths and displacement of thousands/millions of people worldwide. Many organisations have been working tirelessly for years to try to limit climate change, but action must happen faster. Business as usual is clearly no longer an option. We need local wisdom to increase our resilience and to prepare for the climate changes already in the system.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report, published in October 2018, humanity has 12 years for “ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities” to deliver the “rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities” needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events. It is vital that rural communities play their part in reducing carbon emissions, especially as there are potential benefits for land-use.

We recognise the current financial constraints that the council faces and expect both development and implementation of a carbon budget to need significant amounts of additional external funding. Some of the potential actions however may have a positive or neutral financial impact. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved well-being for people locally and worldwide.

A number of City & District Councils, together with the Mayor of London, have passed motions declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’.

We, the undersigned, therefore call on Lancaster City Council to:

- 1) Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’, which involves taking action outlined in the following clauses;
- 2) Support the setting up of a Climate Change Cabinet Liaison group immediately, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens and experts from the two Universities and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group will review the 2010 Lancaster City Council Climate Change Strategy and help the Council develop a new carbon budget taking into account both production and consumption of emissions;
 - Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible;
 - Draw upon the observations, insights and reports of the Citizens’ Assembly;
 - Review the Council’s Investment Strategy to give due weight to Climate Change targets in the Investment portfolio;
 - Report to Full Council prior to the next budget cycle with a fully costed action plan to address this emergency to feed into the 2020 budget;

- 3) Request that the Cabinet member with responsibility for Climate Change, working with the Climate Change Cabinet Liaison group, convenes a Citizens' Assembly in 2019 in order to help identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030;
- To consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
 - To increase local resilience to climate impacts already in the system;
 - To maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
 - To support and with all other relevant agencies towards making the Lancaster District Zero Carbon within the same timescale;
 - Other actions that could be recommended include (but are not restricted to): increasing the efficiency of buildings; prioritizing these measures for council housing and private sector housing to address fuel poverty; building solar and other renewable energy generating and storage plant; requiring all new housing and commercial developments to be low carbon; replacing the vehicle fleet with electric and/or hydrogen powered vehicles; switching to 100% fossil-fuel-free energy; setting up a council run energy company (i.e. Robin Hood Energy) and adapting the council's purchasing policy; commissioning consultations with the district's young citizens, who will be most affected by the effects of climate change;
- 4) Request that the Cabinet member with responsibility for climate change should take steps to proactively include young citizens in the process, being attentive of the fact that young citizens are frequently not on the electoral roll, due to being under 18, due to under-registration or due to living in Student/other temporary Accommodation;
- 5) Where necessary officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council to contain impact assessments on Climate Change that include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible;
- 6) Work with partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources;
- 7) Request a report from our pension funds and investment managers on the levels of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, to be delivered within 3 months;
- 8) In recognition of the seriousness of the financial constraints that the Council faces, and the expectation that both the development and implementation of many measures above are likely to be contingent on securing significant additional extra funding, we therefore call upon the District's local MPs to ensure that Central government provides the powers, resources and funding to make this possible, and should write to them to seek their commitments."

With the agreement of his seconder, Councillor Frea accepted this as a friendly amendment.

There was debate on the amended motion, during which Councillor Edwards proposed a further amendment, which was also accepted as a friendly amendment by Councillors Frea and Kay. This was to add (after point 6):

"This Council supports Lancashire's public health group on air quality in Lancashire the "Air Quality Champions Network" and requests that a City Councillor be put forward to attend meetings."

At the conclusion of the debate a vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

Resolved:-

Full Council Notes:

Lancaster City Council has already committed to reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2050, but the recent IPCC Report shows it is imperative that this target is reached much sooner. Lancaster City Council can play its role in preventing and adapting to dangerous and extreme weather events.

Extreme weather events over the last few years have presented severe challenges to property, transport, agriculture and other services in the Lancaster & Morecambe area and have led to the deaths and displacement of thousands/millions of people worldwide. Many organisations have been working tirelessly for years to try to limit climate change, but action must happen faster. Business as usual is clearly no longer an option. We need local wisdom to increase our resilience and to prepare for the climate changes already in the system.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report, published in October 2018, humanity has 12 years for “ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities” to deliver the “rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities” needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events. It is vital that rural communities play their part in reducing carbon emissions, especially as there are potential benefits for land-use.

We recognise the current financial constraints that the council faces and expect both development and implementation of a carbon budget to need significant amounts of additional external funding. Some of the potential actions however may have a positive or neutral financial impact. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved well-being for people locally and worldwide.

A number of City & District Councils, together with the Mayor of London, have passed motions declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’.

The City Council therefore:

Declares a ‘Climate Emergency’, which involves taking action outlined in the following clauses;

- 1) Supports the setting up of a Climate Change Cabinet Liaison group immediately, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens and experts from the two Universities and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group will review the 2010 Lancaster City Council Climate Change Strategy and help the Council develop a new carbon budget taking into account both production and consumption of emissions;
 - Calls on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible;
 - Draws upon the observations, insights and reports of the Citizens’ Assembly;
 - Reviews the Council’s Investment Strategy to give due weight to Climate Change targets in the Investment portfolio;

- Reports to Full Council prior to the next budget cycle with a fully costed action plan to address this emergency to feed into the 2020 budget;
- 2) Requests that the Cabinet member with responsibility for Climate Change, working with the Climate Change Cabinet Liaison group, convenes a Citizens' Assembly in 2019 in order to help identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030;
- To consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
 - To increase local resilience to climate impacts already in the system;
 - To maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
 - To support and with all other relevant agencies towards making the Lancaster District Zero Carbon within the same timescale;
 - Other actions that could be recommended include (but are not restricted to): increasing the efficiency of buildings; prioritizing these measures for council housing and private sector housing to address fuel poverty; building solar and other renewable energy generating and storage plant; requiring all new housing and commercial developments to be low carbon; replacing the vehicle fleet with electric and/or hydrogen powered vehicles; switching to 100% fossil-fuel-free energy; setting up a council run energy company (i.e. Robin Hood Energy) and adapting the council's purchasing policy; commissioning consultations with the district's young citizens, who will be most affected by the effects of climate change;
- 3) Requests that the Cabinet member with responsibility for climate change should take steps to proactively include young citizens in the process, being attentive of the fact that young citizens are frequently not on the electoral roll, due to being under 18, due to under-registration or due to living in Student/other temporary Accommodation;
- 4) Where necessary officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council contain impact assessments on Climate Change that include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible;
- 5) Works with partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources;
- 6) Supports Lancashire's public health group on air quality in Lancashire the "Air Quality Champions Network" and requests that a City Councillor be put forward to attend meetings.
- 7) Requests a report from our pension funds and investment managers on the levels of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, to be delivered within 3 months;
- 8) In recognition of the seriousness of the financial constraints that the Council faces, and the expectation that both the development and implementation of many measures above are likely to be contingent on securing significant additional extra funding, that the District's local MPs be called upon to ensure that Central government provides the powers, resources and funding to make this possible, and that Council writes to them to seek their commitments.

(Council adjourned at this point, having been in session for two hours, and reconvened at 8.10pm, with the Mayor back in the Chair.)

109 ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS - APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(The Assistant Chief Executive left the Chamber at this point)

The Mayor informed Council that he would take the item of urgent business next on the agenda.

Councillor Kershaw, as the Chairman of the ad hoc Chief Executive Recruitment Committee, presented a report setting out progress with the recruitment process and asking Council to make a decision regarding an interim Chief Executive appointment.

There were a few questions from Members which Councillor Kershaw responded to, before proposing:

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

Councillor Hamilton-Cox asked if he could propose an amendment to the decision of the ad hoc Committee regarding appointment of an external advisor. However, after checking the minutes of the December Council meeting, the Monitoring Officer informed Members that Council had delegated authority to the Committee to make such decisions regarding the recruitment process, so the amendment could not go forward.

There was a short debate before the Mayor called for a vote and the proposition was clearly carried.

Resolved:

That:

- (1) Council approves the offer of appointment to Mr Kieran Keane as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for a fixed term.
- (2) Agrees the term of appointment of Mr Keane is 25 March 2019 until 31 October 2019 which may be extended until the completion of the full recruitment process.
- (3) Agrees that the post of Chief Executive remains a full time permanent appointment.
- (4) Notes the progress and decisions made with the recruitment process as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report.

(The Assistant Chief Executive returned to the Chamber)

110 DEFERRED QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 (Pages 18 - 20)

(The Mayor took back the chair at this point)

The Mayor reminded Councillors that four questions had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rules in time for the December meeting. The questions had been deferred to this meeting and were as follows:

- (1) Councillor Mace to Councillor Blamire regarding a time recording system for senior officers to analyse costs.
- (2) Councillor Mace to Councillor Whitehead about Local Authority Trading Companies.
- (3) Councillor Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Hanson about the Council's Local Plan.

- (4) Councillor Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Whitehead about agency-sourced interim senior officers.

The questioners agreed to receive written answers, Councillor Hamilton-Cox agreeing to this on condition that he could ask a supplementary question if he wished. He was assured that he could.

Details of the questions and answers are appended to the minutes.

Councillor Edwards asked why his question, asked at a recent Council meeting, had not been answered. He had asked how much money the Council had spent on consultants. The Monitoring Officer agreed to assist Councillor Edwards with this, however the word 'consultant' was very broad and would need to be defined before information could be collated and supplied.

111 DEFERRED MINUTES OF CABINET

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meetings held on 6 November and 4 December 2018, which had been deferred from the December Council meeting. There were no questions arising from the minutes.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

112 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader presented her report updating Members on various issues since her last report to Council. She then responded to a number of questions from Councillors.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

113 DESIGNATION OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (SECTION 151 OFFICER) RESPONSIBILITY

Councillor Kershaw presented a report of the Personnel Committee to enable Council to designate an officer to be the Council's Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) with effect from 1 March 2019. He responded to questions from Councillors.

Councillor Kershaw, seconded by Councillor Blamire, proposed:

"That Paul Thompson, the Council's current Accountancy Manager, be designated as the Council's Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer) with effect from 1 March 2019, for the purposes of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972."

There was no debate and the proposition was clearly carried when put to the vote.

Resolved:

- (1) That Paul Thompson, the Council's current Accountancy Manager, be designated as the Council's Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer) with effect from 1 March 2019, for the purposes of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

The Mayor reminded Councillors that a recorded vote would be required on the following item to comply with regulations and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7 as these were 'budget decisions' within the terms of the regulations.

Councillor Whitehead, Cabinet Member with the portfolio for Finance, presented a report to update Council and gain its feedback on the latest position regarding the development of the budget and policy framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24 and, in that context, to seek approval of the level of council tax increase for 2019/20 and for Cabinet's proposed revenue budget for 2019/20.

Councillor Whitehead, the Director for Communities and the Environment, and the Section 151 Officer responded to numerous questions from Members, before proposing the recommendations, as set out in the report.

Councillor Clifford seconded the recommendation.

After debate on the proposals, a recorded vote was taken. Votes were recorded as follows:-

For the proposition:

Councillors Barry, Betts-Patel, Biddulph, Blamire, Brayshaw, Brookes, Brown, Bryning, Burns, Clifford, Clift, Denwood, Devey, Frea, Hall, Hamilton-Cox, Hanson, Hartley, Hughes, Caroline Jackson, Kay, Kershaw, Leyshon, Metcalfe, Mills, Parr, Pattison, Redfern, Reynolds, Rivet, Robinson, Sands, Scott, Warriner, Whitaker, Whitehead and Wilkinson. (37)

Against the proposition:

Councillors Edwards, Goodrich, Guilding, Joan Jackson, Knight, Mace, Parkinson, Rogerson, Sykes, Thomas, Wild, Peter Williamson and Yates. (13)

Abstention:

Councillor Ashworth. (1)

Resolved:

- (1) That Council approves a City Council tax increase of 2.99% for 2019/20, together with a year on year target of 2.99% for future years, subject to Government confirming local referendum thresholds.
- (2) That the proposed revenue budget for 2019/20 as set out in section 4 of the report, be noted.

115 PROPERTY INVESTMENT STRATEGY

(Due to an error in publication, a paper version of the draft Strategy had not been delivered by the courier service. An apology, explanation and an electronic version of the document had been emailed to all Councillors by Democratic Services on 24th January. A paper version had been circulated to all Councillors at the start of the meeting.)

Councillor Sykes noted that it was the first time Councillors had seen a paper copy of the draft Property Investment Strategy. In view of the significance of the issues set out in the report, she asked whether this could be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

It was noted that Council had determined that the February meeting be reserved for budget issues only. In view of this, the Mayor asked for special agreement for this report to be deferred and considered at the budget meeting, before the budget item itself. Members gave their consent.

Resolved:

That the Property Investment Strategy report be deferred to the Budget Council meeting on 27 February 2019.

116 PROPOSALS FOR THE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR INVESTMENT DECISIONS

The Proposals for Governance Arrangements for Investment Decisions report was intrinsically linked to the Property Investment Strategy which had just been deferred. In view of this, Councillors agreed to defer the Governance report to the Budget Council meeting on 27 February 2019.

Resolved:

That the Proposals for the Governance Arrangements for Investment Decisions report be deferred to the Budget Council meeting on 27 February 2019.

117 GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY 2019- 2022

Council considered a report submitted by the Director for Communities and the Environment seeking Council's approval for the Council's Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy for 2019/2022. The Statement of Policy was due to be updated in accordance with Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005.

The Director responded to questions from Councillors.

The recommendation, as set out in the report, was proposed by Councillor Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor Hartley.

There was no debate and the proposition was clearly carried when put to the vote.

Resolved:

That the draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy 2019/2022, appended to the report, be approved for publication in accordance with the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

118 APPOINTMENT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Council to consider the role of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer, in light of her departure from the Authority in March 2019.

Councillor Blamire, seconded by Councillor Barry, proposed:

- “(1) That the role of Returning Officer be detached from the post of Chief Executive.
- (2) That Mr Dan Bates, who will take up the post of Director of Corporate Services on 1 March 2019, also be appointed to the role of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for Lancaster City Council from the same date.”

There was no debate. The proposition was carried unanimously when put to the vote.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the role of Returning Officer be detached from the post of Chief Executive.
- (2) That Mr Dan Bates, who will take up the post of Director of Corporate Services on 1 March 2019, also be appointed to the role of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for Lancaster City Council from the same date.

119 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR ELECT

The Chief Executive advised that she had contacted Councillor David Whitaker, being the most senior Member of the City Council, who had indicated that he would be happy to accept the office of Mayor if offered by the Council.

It was then moved by Councillor Pattison and seconded by Councillor Thomas:

“That Councillor David Whitaker be invited to hold the office of Mayor of the City of Lancaster for the Municipal Year 2019/20, subject to his re-election in May 2019.”

A vote was taken on the motion which was clearly carried. Councillor Whitaker thanked his fellow Councillors for their support.

Resolved:-

That Councillor David Whitaker be invited to hold the office of Mayor of the City of Lancaster for the Municipal Year 2019/20, subject to his re-election in May 2019.

120 APPOINTMENT TO AN OUTSIDE BODY MORECAMBE FC COMMUNITY SPORTS CHARITY

Council considered a report submitted by the Chief Executive. The report noted that Council had been invited to nominate a Member for appointment to the role of trustee at Morecambe Football Club Community Sports Charity.

It was noted that the Charity worked alongside Morecambe FC to deliver a diverse range of activities throughout the district with other partners.

The Mayor asked for nominations. Councillor Pattison nominated Councillor Clifford. The nomination was seconded by Councillor Redfern.

There were no further nominations.

Resolved:

That Councillor Clifford be nominated by Council to Morecambe Football Club Community

Sports Charity to fill the vacancy for a Council trustee.

121 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

No changes were put forward.

122 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

The Mayor advised that two questions had been received by the Chief Executive from Councillor Hamilton-Cox in accordance with Council procedure rules.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox asked Councillor Whitehead:

“Can the cabinet member set out what action has been taken both within the city council, and in conjunction with the district's 'anchor institutions', to localise procurement contracts since the presentation by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) last summer?”

Councillor Whitehead informed Councillor Hamilton-Cox that a number of activities were underway.

The Council had now purchased Spendpro, a data analysis tool used by a number of other Councils to report on local spend. Staff were familiarising themselves with the software and it was expected that data would be provided for analysis in February.

A fixed term, part time Local Wealthbuilding post had been created to help to deliver against a number of activities including the local procurement project. The post was expected to be filled by March 2019.

Officers were in discussion with Preston City Council regarding its work with anchor institutions in its local area. This would help to inform the development of the Council's own local procurement policies.

A meeting was to take place in February with CLES to discuss how the Council could develop an approach to Local Wealthbuilding that would be most useful to Lancaster district and its economy.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox put a supplementary question, asking whether CLES had been in contact directly with anchor institutions in the district. Councillor Whitehead said there would be discussions with CLES about that in the near future.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox then asked Councillor Blamire:

“Given the key decision notice issued on Friday 25th January regarding a 4-year purchasing contract for electricity from nPower, can the Leader please itemise the procurement criteria according to which the supplier has been chosen?”

The Leader replied:

“The procurement process was undertaken in the same way as it was four years ago.

Procurement was undertaken on our behalf by the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) via an OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) compliant tender process. YPO undertook the tender on behalf of 114 organisations, mainly public sector which included a number of Lancashire districts and North Western Metropolitan Unitary Councils.

The exercise was conducted in compliance with OJEU and YPO's own procurement regulations. YPO provided to the Council a presentation on the results of the tender exercise which considered tenders from six organisations based upon price and quality considerations. The chosen supplier was assessed as providing the best tender in respect of these considerations."

Councillor Hamilton-Cox asked, by way of a supplementary question, whether the carbon intensity of the electricity being purchased had been a consideration?

Councillor Blamire said she would supply a written answer to that question.

123 MINUTES OF CABINET

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meetings held on 18 December 2018 and 15 January 2019. There were no questions.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Mayor

(The meeting finished at 10.00 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these minutes,
please contact Debbie Chambers, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582057 or email
dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk**

Council – 30th January 2019

ITEMS DEFERRED FROM THE DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM 9 – QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

1. Question from Councillor Roger Mace to Councillor Eileen Blamire

Does the Council operate a time recording system for senior officers, such that the time they spend on different projects or activities within their roles can be separately analysed and costs allocated accordingly?

ANSWER

No formal time recording system is in place, although certain services (for example, the Legal service) record time spent on chargeable work.

2. Question from Councillor Roger Mace to Councillor Anne Whitehead

With regard to the council's ongoing research into creating a local authority trading company into which certain council services might be transferred, it has become clear that the business case for such a development will depend substantially upon "financial engineering" within an unchanged financial environment.

Given the risk that future government action might arbitrarily change this financial environment, such that "financial engineering" by a Local Authority Trading Company can no longer generate a more viable outcome for the council than the present direct operation of the service, does the council intend to provide within its business case, a mechanism for reversing at the council's option, the process by which the service was transferred to the Local Authority Trading Company and away from direct operation by the city council?

ANSWER

Any Council business case which considers alternative service provision vehicles, such as LATCs, will assess the risks associated with changing methods of service delivery. As part of this process, exit strategies will be considered for all such projects.

Most Local Authority Trading Companies are wholly owned by the authority and the authority as owners of the company will be able to decide the future of any company.

3. Question from Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Janice Hanson

In view of:

i) the Local Examination planning inspector's highly critical recent correspondence to the city council which described his deep unhappiness at the extent of modifications to the Local Plan already proposed, and those yet to be proposed;

ii) and the substantial reduction in the population projections for the district published by the Office for National Statistics in the summer;

Can we agree that council should take up the option presented by the inspector to withdraw the Local Plan and resubmit it when a full and necessary set of modifications to make it sound and sensible have been properly incorporated?

ANSWER

In respect of (i) above, the Inspector did not specifically reference the extent of suggested modifications, rather he advised the Council that once submitted for Examination, the substance of a submitted plan can only be changed through the process of main modifications. It is for him to consider how modifications to the submitted Plan should be addressed and therefore, whether they are necessary for the soundness of the Plan and acceptable.

The Inspector must examine the soundness of the Plan as submitted. The Inspector reminded the Council that if it wished to revise a plan that had already been submitted to the Secretary of State then it would have to first withdraw the submitted one. However it remains the Council's position that the Local Plan was sound at submission and the Council was not and is not now proposing to submit a revised plan.

The Council, and the Inspector, were advised that the Council intended an informal consultation on draft suggested modifications as this could assist in exploring how account might be taken of inevitably changing circumstances and new information received since the Plan was formally published. The Plan has not and cannot be modified by the Council by such a process at this stage. It is entirely for the Inspector to decide if and how he wishes to explore modifications during the Examination. He may or may not wish to explore modifications and he may or may not wish to explore the draft suggestion modifications that were the subject of the informal consultation.

In respect of (ii), the release of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) population projections have been overtaken by the latest national consultation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

The consultation included the following statement from the Minister:

- That that ONS has confirmed that *"...lower household projections do not mean fewer homes need to be built. If more homes are planned for and delivered, more people will be able to own or rent their own home. This consultation (which ended on 7 December) therefore proposes changes to the standard method (of calculating local housing need) to ensure consistency with the objective of building more homes..."*

In other words Government are aiming to make changes to the methodology. The most short-term change being that they will specify that the 2014-based ONS data will provide the baseline for assessment of local housing need (not 2016). They also stated that the lower numbers expressed in the 2016 ONS projections would *"not qualify as an exceptional circumstance"* to warrant departing from the standard

methodology. Longer-term, Government aims to review the formula in time for the next ONS projections.

Therefore, in terms of the ongoing preparation for the Local Plan Hearing Sessions, whilst it had been anticipated that Hearing Sessions might start early in the New Year, dates had **not** been formally set. The Inspector's Programme Officer will give six weeks' notice of the commencement of the hearing sessions only once dates are established.

The Council is completing additional evidence work and arranging for a period of consultation on the additional evidence for the soundness of the plan. The Council is in communication with the Inspector about prospective hearing dates.

4. Question from Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Anne Whitehead

Given that the budgetary pressures on the city council have only intensified in recent weeks, will you now call on cabinet to respond to the overspending on employees and halt the employment of agency-sourced interim senior officers?

ANSWER

As you know, the recent senior team restructure signified the start of the process to review structures across the whole of the Council. Over the coming months, our new Directors will be considering how they structure their teams, removing duplication and bringing together teams where there are synergies. This should, in the longer term, lead to a more streamlined workforce, which will in turn help reduce the funding gap the council is facing. Similarly, work is underway to identify and implement initiatives to bring income to the council in the longer term.

The interim managers currently engaged by the Council have been retained whilst the Council considers future plans relating to structure, finances, major projects and challenges, and to provide professional advice and guidance to support decision making. These interim managers are playing vital roles in support of the Council. It is expected that once longer term operational plans are developed and agreed, the position relating to retaining interim managers will be decided.