

## PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held virtually via MS Teams Live, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 24 February 2021, when the following Members were present:

Malcolm Thomas (Mayor)

Tony Anderson

Richard Austen-Baker

Stephie Barber

Alan Biddulph

Dave Brookes

Keith Budden

Darren Clifford

Roger Dennison

Adrian Duggan

Kevin Frea

Jake Goodwin

June Greenwell

Tim Hamilton-Cox

Colin Hartley

Caroline Jackson

Mandy King

Sarah Knight

Cary Matthews

Jack O'Dwyer-Henry

Faye Penny

Robert Redfern

Oliver Robinson

Alistair Sinclair

Sandra Thornberry

David Whitaker

David Whitworth

Peter Yates

Joan Jackson (Deputy Mayor)

Paul Anderton

Mandy Bannon

Phillip Black

Victoria Boyd-Power

Abbott Bryning

Roger Cleet

Tim Dant

Gina Dowding

Merv Evans

Andrew Gardiner

Mike Greenall

Mel Guilding

Janice Hanson

Tricia Heath

Debbie Jenkins

Geoff Knight

Erica Lewis

Abi Mills

Jean Parr

Joyce Pritchard

John Reynolds

Stewart Scothern

Paul Stubbins

Katie Whearty

Anne Whitehead

Jason Wood

Joanna Young

**105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were presented.

It was noted that Councillor Carrington was on parental leave and that Councillor Wild was unable to access the meeting due to technical difficulties.

**106 MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Redfern, seconded by Councillor Greenall and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2021 be accepted as a correct record.

It was noted that the minutes would be signed by the Mayor when the minute book was available.

**107 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

When asked, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that Members would be able to take part and vote on the review of Councillors' Allowances Scheme (minute number 111 refers).

**108 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had no formal announcements to make. He informed Councillors that he intended to take Item 13, the review of the Councillors' Allowances Scheme, before Item 8, the Leader's Report, as members of the Independent Remuneration Panel were in attendance and the Chair would be presenting the Panel's report.

**109 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11**

The Mayor advised that no questions had been received from members of the public in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.

**110 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES**

The Mayor informed Members that no petitions or requests to address Council had been received from members of the public.

**111 COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME: REVIEW**

Mr Ryan Hyde, Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel, presented report which contained a number of recommendations following the Panel's annual review of the City Council's Councillors' Allowances Scheme. It was noted in the report that Council must have due regard to the report and recommendations of the Panel in agreeing a Councillors' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22.

Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor Black proposed that all of the Panel's recommendations, as set out in the report, be accepted in making a new scheme for 2021/22. It was noted that this had been a 'light touch' review and a full review would be carried out by the Panel before the next elections, which were scheduled for May 2023.

The Mayor and Councillors spoke in appreciation of the Panel and asked that their thanks be recorded for the time and effort Panel Members had given to carrying out the review.

There were no indications that any Councillor wished to speak or vote against the proposition, therefore the Mayor declared it clearly carried.

***Resolved:***

That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, set out below, be approved to take effect from 1 May 2021:

With regard to the Basic Allowance:

- (1) That the basic allowance be increased, year on year, in line with Employee Pay Awards, unless the IRP recommends otherwise. Should the IRP recommend otherwise, its recommendation will be put to Council at the appropriate time.

With regard to Special Responsibility Allowances:

- (2) That the figure of £4,370.70 per annum be recommended to Council as the appropriate allowance for the Licensing Committee Chair;
- (3) That £1,000pa be allocated for SRAs for the Council's Champions to be divided equally between serving Champions up to a cap of £250 each Champion per annum; and
- (4) That all SRAs be reassessed during the full review in 2022/23.

With regard to Travel Allowances:

- (5) That no change be made to the arrangements for travel outside the district and that Councillors be encouraged to use public transport wherever possible.
- (6) That the list of approved duties remain as it is currently, without the addition of Champion's duties.

## **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 BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK 2021/22 TO 2024/25**

The Mayor reminded Councillors that, since recommendations (1) and (2) in the report were budget decisions, Rule 19.7 of the Council Procedure Rules would apply. A recorded vote would have to be taken on those issues.

Councillor Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, presented Cabinet's final budget proposals to allow Council to complete its revenue budget setting for 2021/22.

Councillor Whitehead then proposed:

“That recommendations (1) to (4), as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillor Hamilton-Cox seconded the proposition.

A lengthy debate followed before the Mayor called for a recorded vote to be taken.

The votes were recorded as follows:

**For the proposition:** Councillors Anderson, Bannon, Biddulph, Black, Brookes, Bryning, Cleet, Clifford, Dowding, Evans, Frea, Goodwin, Greenwell, Hamilton-Cox, Hanson, Hartley, Jackson (Caroline), Jenkins, King, Lewis, Mills, O'Dwyer-Henry, Parr, Penny, Pritchard, Redfern, Reynolds, Robinson, Sinclair, Stubbins, Thornberry, Whearty, Whitaker, Whitehead, Wood and Young (36).

**Against the proposition:** Councillors Austen-Baker, Barber, Budden, Dennison, Duggan, Gardiner, Guilding, Heath, Jackson (Joan), Knight (Geoff), Knight (Sarah), Matthews, Scothern, Whitworth and Yates (15).

**Abstentions:** Councillors Boyd-Power, Dant, Greenall and Thomas (4).

*(Councillor Anderton was offline during the vote).*

**Resolved:**

- (1) That the General Fund Revenue Budget of £17.774M for 2021/22 be approved, resulting in a Council Tax Requirement of £9.833M, excluding parish precepts, and a Band D basic City Council tax rate of £236.95.
- (2) That the supporting General Fund Revenue Budget proposals be approved, as summarised at Appendices A and B of the report.
- (3) That the budget transfer (virements and carry forwards) limits be approved as set out in Appendix D of the report.
- (4) That Council notes the Section 151 Officer's advice regarding robustness of budget estimates, the adequacy of reserves and balances, specifically the advice that the minimum level of balances be increased to £3.5M (an increase of £1.0M), to provide for added uncertainty.

## 114 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET FRAMEWORK 2020 TO 2025

The Mayor reminded Councillors that budget decisions would be required in relation to recommendations (1) and (2) of the report. These would require a recorded vote, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7 and regulations.

Councillor Caroline Jackson presented Cabinet's final budget proposals in relation to the Housing Revenue Account to enable Council to complete its budget setting for 2021/22 and update its financial strategy to 2025.

Councillor Caroline Jackson responded to questions before proposing:

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

The proposition was seconded by Councillor Young. There was a short debate before the Mayor called for a recorded vote.

Votes were recorded as follows:

**For the proposition:** Councillors Anderson, Anderton, Bannon, Biddulph, Black, Boyd-Power, Brookes, Bryning, Cleet, Clifford, Dant, Dowding, Evans, Frea, Goodwin, Greenwell, Hamilton-Cox, Hanson, Hartley, Jackson (Caroline), Jenkins, King, Lewis, Matthews, Mills, O'Dwyer-Henry, Parr, Penny, Pritchard, Redfern, Reynolds, Robinson, Sinclair, Stubbins, Thornberry, Whearty, Whitaker, Whitehead, Wood and Young (40).

**Against the proposition:** Councillors Austen-Baker, Barber, Budden, Duggan, Gardiner, Guilding, Jackson (Joan), Scothern, Whitworth and Yates (10).

**Abstentions:** Councillors Dennison, Greenall, Heath, Knight (Geoff), Knight (Sarah) and Thomas (6).

**Resolved:**

- (1) That Cabinet's recommendation to approve the council housing rent levels for 2021/22, as set in accordance with statutory requirements, be noted.
- (2) That the Housing Revenue Account budgets and future years' projections be approved, as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- (3) That the revenue additional budget proposals, as set out at Appendix B of the report, be approved.
- (4) That the Council Housing Capital Programme be approved, as set out in Appendix C of the report.
- (5) That the minimum level of HRA unallocated balances be retained at £500,000 from 01 April 2021, and that the full Statement on Reserves and Balances, as set out at Appendix D of the report, be approved.
- (6) That Council notes the Section 151 Officer's advice regarding robustness of budget estimates, the adequacy of reserves and balances and the affordability of borrowing.

## 115 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2021/22-2024/25

Councillor Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, presented Cabinet's final budget proposals to enable the Council to approve a General Fund Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2024/25 and a Capital Strategy 2021/22.

Councillor Whitehead responded to questions from Councillors, before proposing:

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

Councillor Evans seconded the proposition.

A lengthy debate followed. At the conclusion of the debate a roll call vote was taken. With 36 voting for the proposition, 17 against and 3 abstentions, the motion was carried.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That the General Fund Capital Programme be approved, as set out at Appendix A of the report, subject to recommendation 2 below.

- (2) That the Portfolio Holder for Finance be given delegated authority to update the capital programme and associated documents to reflect the outcome of the current external funding bid.
- (3) That the Capital Strategy, at Appendix B of the report, be approved.

***(The Mayor called for an adjournment at this point, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10. The time was 8.15pm. The meeting re-convened at 8.25pm.)***

#### **116 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021/22**

The portfolio holder for Finance and Resources, Councillor Whitehead, presented a Cabinet report setting out the 2021/22 Treasury Management framework for Council's approval.

The recommendation, as set out in the report, were proposed by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Hamilton-Cox.

Debate followed. With 38 Councillors voting 'for', 14 'against' and 4 abstentions, the Mayor declared the proposition carried.

***Resolved:***

That the report be noted and that the Treasury Management Framework and associated Prudential Indicators, as set out in Appendices A to C of the report, be approved.

#### **117 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE**

Council considered a joint report of the Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer providing an update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020/21 to 2023/24. The report was for noting.

Councillor Whitehead presented the report, which was for noting.

***Resolved:***

That the report be noted.

#### **118 COUNCIL TAX 2021/2022**

The Mayor referred to the report of the Chief Finance Officer which had been circulated after the main agenda. The report was seeking Council's approval of the 2021/22 Council tax rates for the district.

Approval of the 2021/22 Council tax rates, as set out in the report, was moved by Councillor Whitehead, seconded by Councillor Hartley.

There was no debate and a recorded vote was taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

The votes were recorded as follows:

**For the proposition:** Councillors Anderson, Anderton, Austen-Baker, Bannon, Barber,

Biddulph, Black, Boyd-Power, Brookes, Bryning, Budden, Cleet, Clifford, Dant, Dennison, Dowding, Duggan, Evans, Frea, Goodwin, Greenall, Greenwell, Guilding, Hamilton-Cox, Hanson, Hartley, Heath, Jackson (Caroline), Jenkins, King, Knight (Geoff), Knight (Sarah), Lewis, Matthews, Mills, O'Dwyer-Henry, Parr, Penny, Pritchard, Redfern, Reynolds, Robinson, Scothern, Sinclair, Stubbins, Thomas, Thornberry, Whearty, Whitaker, Whitehead, Whitworth, Wood, Yates and Young (54).

**Against the proposition:** (0)

**Abstentions:** Councillors Gardiner and Jackson (Joan) (2).

**Resolved:**

- (1) That it be noted that, under delegated powers in accordance with section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003, the following amounts have been calculated for the year 2021/22, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended) made under section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the "Act"):
- (a) 41,500.00 being the amount of its council tax base for the whole district [item T in the formula in section 31B of the Act];
- (b) 17,061.88 being the amount of its council tax base for the non-parished part of the district; and
- (c)

<i><b>Parish</b></i>	<i><b>Tax Base</b></i>	<i><b>Parish</b></i>	<i><b>Tax Base</b></i>
Aldcliffe with Stodday	145.66	Nether Kellet	275.58
Arkholme-with-Cawood	170.56	Over Kellet	358.99
Bolton-le-Sands	1,679.65	Over Wyresdale	126.44
Borwick	87.73	Overton	352.82
Burrow-with-Burrow	103.68	Priest Hutton	95.10
Cantsfield	56.49	Quernmore	241.92
Carnforth	1,648.76	Roeburndale	21.27
Caton-with-Littledale	1,104.17	Scotforth	144.59
Claughton	55.29	Silverdale	822.49
Cockerham	276.21	Slyne-with-Hest	1,308.82
Ellel	1,047.58	Tatham	212.98
Gressingham	86.17	Thurnham	235.32
Halton-with-Aughton	1,060.06	Tunstall	63.73
Heaton-with-Oxcliffe	664.73	Warton	901.04
Hornby-with-Farleton	341.75	Wennington	62.11
Ireby and Leck	111.17	Whittington	159.59
Melling-with-Wrayton	150.21	Wray-with-Botton	213.01
Middleton	207.93	Yealand Conyers	107.317
Morecambe Town Council	9,585.55	Yealand Redmayne	151.66

being the amounts of its council tax base for each parish within the district.

- (2) That in accordance with section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, it be noted that there are no expenses to be treated as the City Council's special expenses.
- (3) That the following amounts be now calculated by the City Council for the year

2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act, as amended by the Localism Act 2011:

- (a) £120,026,645.04 being the aggregate of the amounts which the City Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish councils;
- (b) £109,378,368.00 being the aggregate of the amounts which the City Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;
- (c) £10,648,277.04 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the City Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year. [Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act];
- (d) £814,852.04 being the aggregate amount of all special items (parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
- (e) £9,833,425.00 being the council tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 (excluding parish precepts);
- (f) £256.58 being the amount at 3(c) above [Item R], all divided by the amount at 1(a) above [Item T], calculated by the City Council, in accordance with section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (including parish precepts);
- (g) £236.95 being the amount at 3(f) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(d) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the City Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its district to which no parish precept relates.

(h)

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Tax Rate £</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Tax Rate £</b>
Aldcliffe-with-Stodday	275.40	Nether Kellet	275.83
Arkholme-with-Cawood	257.21	Over Kellet	260.07
Bolton-le-Sands	257.56	Over Wyresdale	248.81
Borwick	248.35	Overton	266.51
Burrow-with-Burrow	251.42	Priest Hutton	268.50
Cantsfield	236.95	Quernmore	250.18
Carnforth	288.87	Roeburndale	236.95
Caton-with-Littledale	268.60	Scotforth	250.78
Claughton	236.95	Silverdale	303.28
Cockerham	269.53	Slyne-with-Hest	286.61
Ellel	265.39	Tatham	265.47
Gressingham	264.80	Thurnham	264.15
Halton-with-Aughton	275.82	Tunstall	323.25
Heaton-with-Oxcliffe	252.87	Warton	259.48
Hornby-with-Farleton	283.70	Wennington	301.35
Ireby and Leck	296.31	Whittington	263.23
Melling-with-Wrayton	319.03	Wray-with-Botton	280.38
Middleton	307.80	Yealand Conyers	263.97
Morecambe Town Council	266.39	Yealand Redmayne	276.18



being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(g) above the amounts of the parish precepts relating to dwellings in those parts of the district mentioned above, divided in each case by the relevant amount at 1(c) above, calculated by the City Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the district to which parish precepts relate.

## (i) VALUATION BANDS

Area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Non Parished Area	157.97	184.29	210.62	236.95	289.61	342.26	394.92	473.90
Aldcliffe-with-Stodday	183.60	214.20	244.80	275.40	336.60	397.80	459.00	550.80
Arkholme-with-Cawood	171.47	200.05	228.63	257.21	314.37	371.53	428.68	514.42
Bolton-le-Sands	171.71	200.32	228.94	257.56	314.80	372.03	429.27	515.12
Borwick	165.57	193.16	220.76	248.35	303.54	358.73	413.92	496.70
Burrow-with-Burrow	167.61	195.55	223.48	251.42	307.29	363.16	419.03	502.84
Cantsfield	157.97	184.29	210.62	236.95	289.61	342.26	394.92	473.90
Carnforth	192.58	224.68	256.77	288.87	353.06	417.26	481.45	577.74
Caton-with-Littledale	179.07	208.91	238.76	268.60	328.29	387.98	447.67	537.20
Claughton	157.97	184.29	210.62	236.95	289.61	342.26	394.92	473.90
Cockerham	179.69	209.63	239.58	269.53	329.43	389.32	449.22	539.06
Ellel	176.93	206.41	235.90	265.39	324.37	383.34	442.32	530.78
Gressingham	176.53	205.96	235.38	264.80	323.64	382.49	441.33	529.60
Halton-with-Aughton	183.88	214.53	245.17	275.82	337.11	398.41	459.70	551.64
Heaton-with-Oxcliffe	168.58	196.68	224.77	252.87	309.06	365.26	421.45	505.74
Hornby-with-Farleton	189.13	220.66	252.18	283.70	346.74	409.79	472.83	567.40
Ireby and Leck	197.54	230.46	263.39	296.31	362.16	428.00	493.85	592.62
Melling-with-Wrayton	212.69	248.13	283.58	319.03	389.93	460.82	531.72	638.06
Middleton	205.20	239.40	273.60	307.80	376.20	444.60	513.00	615.60
Morecambe T Council	177.59	207.19	236.79	266.39	325.59	384.79	443.98	532.78
Nether Kellet	183.89	214.53	245.18	275.83	337.13	398.42	459.72	551.66
Over Kellet	173.38	202.28	231.17	260.07	317.86	375.66	433.45	520.14
Over Wyresdale	165.87	193.52	221.16	248.81	304.10	359.39	414.68	497.62
Overton	177.67	207.29	236.90	266.51	325.73	384.96	444.18	533.02
Priest Hutton	179.00	208.83	238.67	268.50	328.17	387.83	447.50	537.00
Quernmore	166.79	194.58	222.38	250.18	305.78	361.37	416.97	500.36
Roeburndale	157.97	184.29	210.62	236.95	289.61	342.26	394.92	473.90
Scotforth	167.19	195.05	222.92	250.78	306.51	362.24	417.97	501.56
Silverdale	202.19	235.88	269.58	303.28	370.68	438.07	505.47	606.56
Slyne-with-Hest	191.07	222.92	254.76	286.61	350.30	413.99	477.68	573.22
Tatham	176.98	206.48	235.97	265.47	324.46	383.46	442.45	530.94
Thurnham	176.10	205.45	234.80	264.15	322.85	381.55	440.25	528.30
Tunstall	215.50	251.42	287.33	323.25	395.08	466.92	538.75	646.50
Warton	172.99	201.82	230.65	259.48	317.14	374.80	432.47	518.96
Wennington	200.90	234.38	267.87	301.35	368.32	435.28	502.25	602.70
Whittington	175.49	204.73	233.98	263.23	321.73	380.22	438.72	526.46
Wray-with-Botton	186.92	218.07	249.23	280.38	342.69	404.99	467.30	560.76
Yealand Conyers	175.98	205.31	234.64	263.97	322.63	381.29	439.95	527.94
Yealand Redmayne	184.12	214.81	245.49	276.18	337.55	398.93	460.30	552.36

being the amounts given by multiplying the relevant amounts at 3(g) or 3(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the City Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (4) That it be noted that for the year 2021/22 the Lancashire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Fire Authority have issued precepts to the City Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each category of the dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the following table.

<b>Valuation Band</b>	<b>Lancashire County Council</b>	<b>Police &amp; Crime Commissioner for Lancashire</b>	<b>Lancashire Fire Authority</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
A	970.79	150.97	48.18
B	1,132.59	176.13	56.21
C	1,294.39	201.29	64.24
D	1,456.19	226.45	72.27
E	1,779.79	276.77	88.33
F	2,103.39	327.09	104.39
G	2,426.98	377.42	120.45
H	2,912.38	452.90	144.54

- (5) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(i) and 4 above, the City Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Act, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of council tax for 2021/22 for each part of its area for each of the categories of dwellings.

#### **119 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES - LANCASHIRE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report to enable Council to make an appointment to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Joint Scrutiny Committee (LEPJSC). The report requested that Council decide the basis of the appointment and make an appointment at the meeting, if appropriate.

Councillor Lewis proposed that the appointment be by nominations and voting at Council. She nominated Councillor Brookes. Councillor Dowding seconded the nomination.

No further nominations were received and there were no indications that any Councillor wished to vote against the proposal.

The Mayor declared Councillor Brookes appointed to the LEPJSC.

#### **Resolved:**

- (1) That the basis of appointment to the LEPJSC be by nomination and voting at

Council; and

(2) That Councillor Brookes be appointed to the LEPJSC for 2021/22.

**120 EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS (Page 14)**

Council noted a report of the Director of Corporate Services, setting out recent changes to Cabinet.

The two changes reported were the resignation from Cabinet of Councillor Parr, the portfolio holder for Arts, Culture, Leisure and Wellbeing. Her portfolio had been taken by Councillor Hartley, newly appointed to Cabinet.

The addition of Food Poverty had been made to the areas of responsibility of Councillor Dowding, the portfolio holder for Sustainable Neighbourhoods.

The updated list of Cabinet responsibilities is attached to the minutes.

***Resolved:***

That the report be noted.

**121 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Mayor informed Councillors that there were no changes to report since the last Council meeting.

**122 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

The Mayor advised that one question had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.2 (b). This was a question from Councillor Reynolds to Councillor Brookes.

Councillor Reynolds asked:

*Graffiti and general damage to public property is costly to local councils, how much has this cost Lancaster City Council taxpayers in the last year?*

Councillor Brookes replied:

Removal of graffiti is carried out as part of the street cleansing operation. The net spend on street cleansing is approximately £1.4million / per year. Over the last 12 months we responded to 87 cases on Council assets . We would estimate this cost about £20,000, which equates to roughly 1.5% of the street cleansing budget.

By way of a supplementary question Councillor Reynolds asked :

*Do you have a message to people who see fit to damage and / or deface public property and what should people do if they witness such acts of vandalism?*

Councillor Brookes responded:

The cleansing team shouldn't have to clean away graffiti, clear up dog poo, or pick up litter except from the bins provided. Dealing with anti-social behaviours like these takes up valuable Council resources that we could be doing something much more constructive

with.

If people witness acts of vandalism they should of course report them to the Police and the City Council. Graffiti is an offence and can lead to spot fines or prosecution.

But on a wider level prevention is better than a cure. The recent spate of graffiti is likely linked to the current pandemic situation of schools and colleges being closed, and reduced employment opportunities for younger people.

It isn't an excuse for anti-social behaviour, but I think more generally graffiti is also symptomatic of the current lack of funding for youth services, which is largely a function of the County Council, and I believe was one of the earliest casualties of austerity.

## 123 MINUTES OF CABINET

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meetings held on 8 December 2020 and 19 January 2021.

***Resolved:***

That the minutes be noted.

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Mayor

(The meeting finished at 9.00 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these minutes,  
please contact Debbie Chambers, Democratic Services - email [dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk)**

**Cllr Dr Erica Lewis – Leader – Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships & Emergency Responses**

- Principal spokesperson, communications & press office
- Lead on establishment & achievement of council priorities & principles
- Community & stakeholder engagement & development
- Emergency response, community resilience & recovery
- Governance
- Human Resources
- Customer & Advice Services
- Soft Facilities Management

**Cllr Anne Whitehead – Finance & Resources**

- Strategic control of financial resources
- Treasury Management
- Procurement & Fair Trade
- Audit
- Financial Services
- Revenues & Benefits
- Democratic, civic & mayoral support
- Elections
- Legal services

**Cllr Colin Hartley – Arts, Culture, Leisure & Wellbeing**

- Arts, Culture, Festivals, Events & Museums
- Visitor Information Centres
- Sport & Leisure
- Community health & wellbeing
- Equalities & social justice initiatives including age; disability; race; religion or belief; sex, gender or gender identity.
- Community safety

**Cllr Caroline Jackson – Housing**

- Council Housing
- Homelessness
- Private sector housing
- Social Housing
- Caravan sites
- Traveller sites
- Refugee housing
- Household support & resilience

**Cllr Janice Hanson – Deputy Leader – Economic Regeneration & Planning**

- Economic regeneration
- Planning including local plan
- Conservation & urban design
- Development & building control
- Compulsory purchase
- Climate change resilience
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Transport policy & Parking

**Cllr Merv Evans – Economic Recovery & Resilience**

- Tourism & Marketing
- Hospitality
- Community wealth building
- Fair work charter - good jobs & fair pay

**Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox – Sustainable Economic Prosperity**

- Responsible & resilient businesses & industry
- Asset & property management
- Green jobs & skills
- Digital strategy & ICT
- Markets
- Hard facilities management

**Cllr Dave Brookes – Natural Environment**

- Waste & recycling
- Parks & green spaces
- Street cleansing
- Commons, reserves, open spaces
- Water including rivers, coast, & flooding
- Nature conservation
- Biodiversity

**Cllr Gina Dowding – Sustainable Neighbourhoods**

- Active transport & modal shift
- Environmental health & enforcement including air quality
- Allotments, food production & food waste
- Council owned community facilities
- Food poverty

**Cllr Kevin Frea – Climate Action**

- Community action
- Climate partnerships
- Renewable Energy Production & Energy Efficiency
- Rural communities & AONB

Reflecting new ways of working across the council, cabinet members will increasingly work in & across the SDG clusters (social, environmental, economic & governance) this should help manage inevitable cross-overs and provide back up in case of sickness or absence. All portfolio holders will work to meet the climate emergency, build community wealth, reduce inequalities & increase well-being, as well as to increase community engagement & power