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LANCASTER
CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday, 26 January 2022 -
6.00 p.m.
Morecambe Town Hall**

*The meeting will be live streamed using MS teams and a link to the meeting is [HERE](#)
Seating is very limited if you wish to attend in person. Should you wish to speak or ask a question at the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on 01524 582057, or email dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk before the strict deadline of **12pm noon on Friday 21st January 2022**. No requests to speak can be considered after that deadline.*

Kieran Keane,
Chief Executive,
Town Hall,
Dalton Square,
LANCASTER,
LA1 1PJ



LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

Sir/Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Lancaster City Council to be held in the Town Hall, Morecambe on Wednesday, 26 January 2022 commencing at 6.00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **MINUTES**

To receive as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 15 December 2021 (previously circulated).

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive declarations by Councillors of interests in respect of items on this Agenda.

Councillors are reminded that, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting).

Whilst not a legal requirement, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 and in the interests of clarity and transparency, Councillors should declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, at this point in the meeting.

In accordance with Part B Section 2 of the Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to declare the existence and nature of any other interests as defined in paragraphs 8(1) or 9(2) of the Code of Conduct.

4. **ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements which may be submitted by the Mayor or Chief Executive.

6. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11**

To receive questions in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rules 11.1 and 11.3 which require members of the public to give at least 3 days' notice in writing of questions to a Member of Cabinet or Committee Chairman.

7. PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES

To receive any petitions and/or addresses from members of the public which have been notified to the Chief Executive in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

8. LEADER'S REPORT (Pages 5 - 7)

To receive the Cabinet Leader's report on proceedings since the last meeting of Council.

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET, COMMITTEES OR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

9. UPDATE ON BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK (Pages 8 - 19)

Report of Cabinet.

This report was marked "to follow" and was published on 21 January 2022.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

10. MOTION ON NOTICE - ENERGY COSTS (Pages 20 - 21)

To consider a motion on notice submitted by Councillors Young and Penny.

OTHER BUSINESS

11. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (Pages 22 - 23)

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

12. LANCASHIRE COUNTY DEAL / OUR NEW DEAL FOR A GREATER LANCASHIRE (Pages 24 - 33)

A report of the Leader of the Council.

This report was marked "to follow" and was published on 21 January 2022.

13. CLIMATE EMERGENCY LOCAL PLAN REVIEW (Pages 34 - 41)

Report of the Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration.

This report was marked 'to follow' and was published on 20 January 2022.

14. EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION (Pages 42 - 44)

Report of the Leader.

15. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR ELECT

To appoint a Mayor Elect to be put forward for election by the City Council in May 2022, for the municipal year 2022/23.

16. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Group Administrators to report any changes to Committee Membership.

17. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

To receive questions in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rules 12.2

and 12.4 which require a Member to give at least 3 working days' notice, in writing, of the question to the Chief Executive.

18. **MINUTES OF CABINET** (Pages 45 - 60)

To receive the Minutes of Meeting of Cabinet held on 7 December 2021.



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Chief Executive

Town Hall,
Dalton Square,
LANCASTER,
LA1 1PJ

Published on 18 January 2022.

COUNCIL**Leader's Report****26 January 2022****Report of the Leader of the Council****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To present the Leader's report to Council.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To receive the report of the Leader of Council.

REPORT**1.0 Cabinet**

The minutes of the December Cabinet will be considered at this meeting.

2.0 Decisions required to be taken urgently

No urgent Cabinet decisions have been taken in this period.

3.0 Leader's Comments

This month's report is short for two reasons: the two weeks over the Christmas period during which everyone took a very well-earned break and the appearance of Omicron proving a very transmissible Covid strain has limited events particularly in the run up to Christmas. Special thanks from all of us to Mark and his teams, especially Environmental Health for the work done to protect residents, advance vaccination take up and support businesses.

3.1 Cabinet and the Budget

Cabinet members have been working with Officers since July to ensure that this year's budget, put together in the face of predicted deficit, would maintain services and advance our corporate plan. We have had two further meetings since the December Leader's comments, and I am pleased to say that the budget is now balanced and by the time of

the Full Council will have been presented to cabinet and hopefully referred on to Budget and Performance meeting for consultation with our residents. Ensuring residents are able to comment and ask questions is particularly difficult at present: officers are working hard to ensure they can be heard in the discussion.

3.2 County Deal

This is now a real possibility for the county as a whole. It has been briefed to leaders and via leaders to all members with additional member briefing on 20th January. It is the subject of a motion to council during this meeting. As part of the development of the “new deal” I have attended three District and County leaders’ meeting and an online launch to the Lancashire MPs over the last 5 weeks.

3.3 Chief Executive Recruitment and matters relating to staff

I have attended several meetings with Tile Hill our recruitment consultants. The work required of the group in order to go out to advertise the post is now complete and published. Members will also be glad to hear that we have recruited a new Head of HR and pleased that our interim HR lead will stay in post until the new appointee arrives.

Cllr Wood has commenced work with officers and with a cross party member group to establish a Fair Work Charter for Lancaster city council. Cabinet will receive a briefing on the progress of the Working Well project in the next four weeks.

3.4 Wider Community Matters

3.5 Community Safety

The Public Space Protection Order to cover Lancaster, Morecambe and other vulnerable areas was voted through cabinet and set in place just before Christmas to support the Police and BIDs in the management of crowds and street drinking in our town centres.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Andrew Snowden, launched his new strategy in a very well attended meeting in Preston and subsequently attended our Overview and Scrutiny annual Community Safety meeting. Andrew is undoubtedly both ambitious and enthusiastic to attain his aims of reducing anti-social behaviour, disrupting organised crime, reducing burglary and robbery, tackling rape and sexual assault through a special unit.

3.6 Platinum Jubilee

Plans for the civic events for the Jubilee including the lighting of beacons, are currently being organised, largely by the Priory and the Duchy/Castle but involving, at the moment, our mayor, our officers and town councils in Morecambe and Carnforth. At the beginning of December, we submitted a bid, against eleven other contenders, to gain the distinction of having a Lord Mayor for the district. We are currently awaiting the result.

3.7 Community Meetings and Events

At the beginning of December, we held a series of community meetings, including Communities Together and the Community Calls. Thought was given as to their functions, frequency and attendance. Subsequent meetings with officers have reviewed and re-

established their value as community engagement but reframed the Community calls as a Community Network. Other events were severely curtailed by Omicron concerns.

The best community event I went to was the introduction to the Tree Warden scheme, held at Father's House in Skerton: attendees received a beautiful book each on identifying trees, a short but informative and inspiring talk from Cllr Brookes and an outline of how they could protect the trees in their neighbourhood. I look forward to the next steps in being involved with the scheme.

Over the last ten weeks I have been involved in a highly professional course of online leadership training through the Local Government Association Leadership Academy. You will be pleased to hear that after six challenging online days and a fair quantity of homework, I gained my pass certificate at the end, in company of a number of other new leaders of all parties. The LGA runs a variety of programmes and days of training throughout the year for councillors at all stages and I do recommend you look at them – quite a few are free and they are often run by both current and past councillors. If you do not get LGA emails you can sign up for them at <https://www.local.gov.uk/>

4.0 Decisions

The following decisions considered by Cabinet on the 18th of January 2022:

1. Advancing The Climate Emergency Local Plan Review
2. Corporate Fees & Charges 2022/23
3. Budget & Policy Framework Policy Update
4. Eden North Car Parking - Agreement in Principle
5. Lancaster City Council Corporate Rebranding
6. Land Forming Part of Lancaster Leisure Park, off Wyresdale Road

No Officer Delegated Key Decision has been taken since the last Leader's report.

The following Individual Cabinet Member Decisions were taken since the last Leader's report:

ICMD14	Proposed Designation Of Lancaster Moor Conservation Area	Councillor Gina Dowding 070.1.2022 (Call-in waived)
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Background Papers

Cabinet agenda 18th January 2022

COUNCIL

Budget & Policy Framework Update 2022/23 – 2025/26 26 January 2022

Report of Cabinet

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Council and gain its feedback on the latest position regarding the development of the budget and policy framework for 2022/23 to 2025/26 and in that context, to seek approval to the level of Council Tax increase for 2022/23 and for Cabinet's proposed revenue budget for 2022/23.

This report is Public

RECOMMENDATION OF COUNCILLOR WHITEHEAD

- (1) That Council approves a City Council Tax increase of £5 to the Band D Council Tax (from £236.95 to £241.95) for 2022/23, together with a year on year target of the maximum allowable under the Government's local referendum thresholds for future years.
- (2) That Council considers the proposed revenue budget for 2022/23 as set out in this report.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Constitution, Cabinet has responsibility for developing corporate planning proposals and a balanced budget for Council's consideration.
- 1.2 This report seeks a final decision on Council Tax increases and feedback on Cabinet's proposed balanced revenue budget for 2022/23.
- 1.3 The Cabinet meeting on 07 December 2021 considered updated estimates in respect of Government funding and Council Tax and the corresponding impact on the revenue budget gap. Since that report, the Government has released the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. Cabinet agreed a proposed balanced revenue budget for recommendation to Council at its 18 January 2022 meeting.
- 1.4 All services have been working with the Chief Executive and Finance Team to ensure a balanced budget aligned with our priorities is achieved. Throughout the Autumn discussions have been held with all services to identify opportunities to address the structural deficit and align expenditure with priority outcomes based on the Funding the Future Strategy.

2.0 STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

2.1 The 2022/23 Budget has once again been set against the backdrop of significant change, which puts significant pressure on the ability to forecast. There is continued evidence of

- accelerated pace of change in funding regimes, formula and budget and accounting requirements of central government
- fewer system-wide reviews, and a much greater number of issue specific consultations, reviews and changes some of which are resulting in in-year changes, and even retrospective changes to previously agreed budgetary forecasting and funding distribution formula
- a wide range of single initiative funding opportunities emerging both as a result of the pandemic and more generally which need to be established within capacity including consideration of appropriate dispersal and income accounting, governance and delivery practices
- External factors such as the pandemic and EU Exit which fundamentally alter both the priorities for and use of Council resources and change the context under-pinning our income from council tax and business rates as well as fees and charges.
- The impact of COVID -19 on the wider economy and the rise in both pay and general inflation

3.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING UPDATE

3.1 The Council's net revenue expenditure is funded from the following sources:

- Settlement Funding Assessment which is divided into Revenue Support Grant and Localised Business Rates
- Council Tax
- New Homes Bonus

3.2 The Government released the provisional local government finance settlement on 16 December 2021. Similar to 2020 this is a one-year settlement following on from its Spending Review in November 2021, rather than a long-term review due to the ongoing economic uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.3 A summary of the provisional settlement for Lancaster City Council is provided in table one below.

Table One – Provisional Settlement allocations for Lancaster City Council

	Provisional Settlement £000	LCC Forecast £000	Difference £000
Settlement Funding Assessment			
Revenue Support Grant	212	0	212
Retained Rates	9,762	9,624	138
New Homes Bonus	547	556	-9
Lower Tier Services Grant	257	0	257
Services Grant	395	0	395
Reimbursement 1.25% NIC	0	144	-144
Total Government Funding	11,173	10,324	849

- 3.4 As table one shows, the provisional settlement allocates £0.849M more resources than anticipated and this slightly reduces the gap for the 2022/23 revenue budget. However, a number of additional pressures have been identified and reflected in the current budgeted position. These are discussed further in section 5.
- 3.5 The pattern of one year settlements and the lack of a longer term horizon makes financial planning particularly difficult; however, a number of funding assumptions have been made within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) reflecting the past two settlements. These are discussed in greater detail within section 7.

4.0 COUNCIL TAX

- 4.1 As part of the provisional finance settlement, the Government published its referendum criteria for Council Tax. District councils will be permitted to raise their Council Tax by 2% or £5, whichever is higher, without reference to a referendum. Table two below considers the following two options for Council Tax:

- Option one – an annual 2% or £5 increase in Council Tax (whichever is higher) – for Lancaster City Council, this will be £5 in 2022/23
- Option two – no increase in Council Tax

Table Two – Impact of council tax options: 2022/23 to 2025/26

Year	Taxbase (% Annual Increase)	Estimated Annual Movement	Option One Annual maximum increase in Council Tax			Option Two No annual increase in Council Tax		Additional Income from increase
			%	Band D	Increase	Income	Band D	Income
2022/23	42,060	1.34%	241.95	£5	10,176,417	236.95	9,966,117	210,300
2023/24	42,480	1.00%	246.95	£5	10,490,584	236.95	10,065,778	424,806
2024/25	42,905	1.00%	251.95	£5	10,810,017	236.95	10,166,436	643,581
2025/26	43,334	1.00%	256.99	2%	11,136,523	236.95	10,268,100	868,423

- 4.2 The budget proposals have assumed the maximum allowable increase in Council Tax. In 2022/23 this will raise an additional £210k. If there was no increase in Council Tax, income would increase by £133k due to additional properties. The table above also shows the difference, in terms of income, between the maximum allowable tax increase and no increase which, over four years, amounts to an additional £2.147M in income if option one is adopted.
- 4.3 Taxbase growth of 1.34% in 2022/23 is higher than originally forecast in the MTFS. The MTFS assumes an increase of £5 until a 2% increase is greater than £5.
- 4.4 **The recommendation arising from this report is that the Council on 26 January 2022 agree a £5 increase (option one) to the level of the 2022/23 Band D Council Tax for the Lancaster City Council element.** It is also recommended that option one is selected for the purposes of completing estimates in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

5.0 BUDGET PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The 7 December 2021 Cabinet report set out the challenges facing the Council in balancing its revenue budget for 2022/23 and beyond. Since that report several savings and growth proposals have been presented as well as in-year changes and ongoing changes to accounting, forecasting and grant activity which have caused a change in the budgetary position from that stated previously. Proposals for closing the budget gap are shown in table three below and are provided in more detail in **Appendix A**.

Table Three Cabinet's Draft Revenue Budget Proposals – 2022/23

	2022/23 £'000
Revenue Budget/Forecast as at 24 February 2021	21,110
Base Budget Changes	
Operational Changes	1,478
Additional Inflationary Pressure	67
Latest Budgetary Position	22,655
Outcomes Based Resourcing Proposals:	
Savings Proposals	(180)
Additional Resource Requirements	690
Income Generation Proposals	(840)
Revenue Impact of Capital Programme Review	(1,505)
Contribution to/(from) Collection Fund Reserves	400
Contribution to/(from) Unallocated Reserve	34
General Fund Revenue Budget	21,254
Core Funding:	
Revenue Support Grant	(212)
New Homes Bonus	(42)
Supplementary Government Grants	(652)
Prior Year Council Tax Surplus	(66)
Net Business Rates Income	(10,106)
Council Tax Requirement	10,176
Estimated Council Tax Income - (Increases based on £5 for 2022/23 then max	10,176
Resulting Base Budget (Surplus)/Deficit	0

- 5.2 The proposals set out in the table 3 above produce a balanced revenue budget for 2022/23, which forms part of the recommendations of this report.
- 5.3 Table 4 below reconciles the position reported to Council 15 December 2021 to the current balanced position.

Table 4 Reconciliation Council 15 December 2021 to Current Position

	2022/23
Resulting Base Budget (Surplus)/ Deficit as at 15 December 2021 (Council)	2,232
Impact of Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement as at 16 December 2021	(849)
Impact of Review of the Capital Programme (MRP & Interest)	(1,505)
Savings Proposals	(180)
Additional Resource Requirements	690
Additional Income Proposals	(840)
Operational Changes (Pension Top Up plus minor changes)	447
Inflationary Impact	(19)
Council Tax/Business Rates Adjustments	(10)
Contribution to Reserves	34
Resulting Base Budget (Surplus)/ Deficit as at 18 January 2022	0

Budget Principles and Assumptions

- 5.4 Within the revenue budget there are several principles and key assumptions underpinning the proposed revenue strategy. These are:
- i. Annually, a balanced revenue budget will be set with expenditure limited to the amount of available resources;
 - ii. No long-term use of balances to meet recurring baseline expenditure.
 - iii. Resources will be targeted to deliver Corporate ambitions and value for money. Any additional investment and spending decisions will be made to reflect Council priorities and strategic commitments.
- 5.5 Despite significant challenges the Council is aiming to deliver a balanced budget for 2022/23. Within the budget there remain opportunities to address the underlying structural deficit in line with its Funding the Future Strategy (FtF), by:
- Increasing and diversifying income
 - Improving productivity and securing efficiencies via new ways of working
 - Developing alternative ways to achieve priority outcomes (e.g. partnership)
- 5.6 Table 5 below, lists the major assumptions that have been made for the 2022/23 budget.

Table 5 Major Assumptions 2022/23

	2022/23
Council Tax base growth	1.34%
Council Tax inflation	£5
Business Rates Multiplier	Frozen
Inflation – Pay	2%
	515,100
Inflation – Premises Related	Various
	128,900
Inflation – Insurance	10%
	60,800
Inflation – General Index	3.3%
	216,400
Inflation – Fees & Charges	3.3%
	(401,400)

Operational Changes

- 5.7 Operational changes included in the base budget for 2022/23 currently amount to an increase in expenditure of £1.478M. The Council budgets for inflation across a number of areas such as gas, electricity, water, insurance, building costs etc as well as general

price inflation and seeks the appropriate indices from a number of sources. The impact of inflation increases expenditure by a further £0.067M. A summary of operational changes is given in the table 6 below:

Table 6 Operational Changes

Operational Changes	£M
Salaries	0.515
Additional cost pressures	0.430
Slipped expenditure	0.095
Other minor changes	0.038
Pension Fund Top Up	0.400
Sub Total	1.478
Impact of Inflation	0.067
Total	1.545

Pay & Prices Increases

- 5.8 A 2% pay award allowance has been included in 2022/23 and 2% across the remaining years. The assumption of 2% considers that employees on lower salaries are expected to receive an increase. It should be noted that pay awards in Local Government are covered by collective bargaining between employers and trade unions and are not subject to direct control from Central Government. However, it is reasonable to assume that Local Government will mirror what happens in the rest of the public sector.

- 5.9 Prices inflation has been included on selected non-pay items as set out in table 5

Pension Fund Top Up Payment

- 5.10 The pension fund is subject to a triennial actuarial valuation, the most recent of which was undertaken by Mercers LLP during 2019, on behalf of Lancashire County Council, the pension fund administrator. As a result of the triennial valuation Council elected to prepay its pension's deficit recovery and future service costs in April 2020 for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23. Due to an underestimation in pensionable pay the Council has been asked to consider making additional payments to the pension fund.

Additional Cost Pressures

- 5.11 Significant cost pressures have been highlighted through budget monitoring. Some key pressures are set out below and within **Appendix B**:

- HGV Drivers £0.087M
- Bank Charges £0.027M
- Investment Interest £0.055M
- Audit Fees £0.020M
- Vehicle Repair & Maintenance £0.084M

Savings and Income Generation Proposals

- 5.12 The budget savings or income growth identified in **Appendix B** for 2022/23 relate to several areas where actions are being undertaken by the Council. Some of the key areas are:

- Car Parking Tariff Review £0.495M
- Salt Ayre Income £0.209M

- 5.13 It should be noted that the potential income of £0.495M relating to the Council's car parking tariff review is subject to a separate report and agreement and at this time may be at risk.

Revenue Impact of Capital Programme Review

- 5.14 Cabinet and Executive Management Team have reviewed in detail the Council's existing capital programme and have repositioned and reprofiled a number of capital schemes in line with their revised Capital Investment Strategy (Investing in the Future) to lessen the revenue impact of capital projects through Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and interest cost savings.

6.0 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 6.1 Cabinet and Executive Management Team are currently finalising the proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23 and beyond in accordance with their Capital Investment Strategy (Investing in the Future). A draft version of this strategy was presented Budget and Performance Panel on 14 December 2021 for consideration and commentary as per the Council's constitutional requirements.
- 6.2 Details of the current proposed Capital Programme are provided at **Appendix C**. Members should note that schemes currently under development are subject to consideration of a full business case and approval in accordance with the governance processes outlined in the Capital Investment Strategy. The final Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2025/26 and supporting Capital Strategy to cover this period and beyond will be considered by Cabinet at its February meeting ahead of the Budget Council on 23 February 2022.
- 6.3 It is expected that a number of significant capital proposals will be put forward in line with the Capital Investment Strategy during the forthcoming year covering major upcoming corporate priority projects. These ambitious schemes, which cover economic development, regeneration, housing development and meeting the climate emergency will contribute to achieving the Council's ambitions and influence the longer term revenue budget position.

7.0 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

- 7.1 A revised Medium Term Financial Strategy will be considered in detail at Budget Council. The revision of the MTFS will be important and timely in order to provide sound financial planning processes to underpin the Council's ambitions. Key considerations of the MTFS include taking account of the impact of decisions made to balance the 2022/23 budget alongside forecasts for future funding.
- 7.2 There are a number of factors to be considered as part of the financial planning exercise and Members will be aware of the recent announcements regarding the decommissioning plans for the Heysham 1 and Heysham 2 nuclear reactors. This announcement will have a significant impact across the district as a whole but will inevitably have a significant impact on the Council's finances, as currently the rateable value of the reactors accounts for over 30% of the Council's total rateable value. The retained business rates scheme does have a safety net mechanism in place to ensure that a Council's income does not drop below more than a set percentage of its index linked spending baseline. Given the Council's exposure it is expected that it will inevitably fall into a safety net scenario and will need to rely on the Business Rates Retention Reserve to smooth operational shortfalls in the short term.
- 7.3 Medium Term financial forecasts have been updated as shown in Table 6 below. These estimates are best estimates and may be subject to change prior to presentation at Budget Council.

Table 6 Medium term Financial Forecasts

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Revenue Budget	21,254	21,943	23,479	24,766
Budget Gap (Incremental)	0	2,165	3,211	3,997
Budget Gap (Cumulative)	0	2,165	5,376	9,373
Percentage of Revenue Budget		9.87%	22.90%	37.85%

- 7.4 The forecast gaps are structural in nature, meaning that the Council's forecast spending exceeds the income it expects to receive. This represents a significant challenge for Executive Management Team and Cabinet over the short and medium term. Re-iterating the commentary in the 07 December 2021 Cabinet report, *"it is now imperative that a thorough and detailed review of our cost base is undertaken through application of Outcomes Based Resourcing (OBR), or other similar budget principles. This will have a particularly important part to play alongside the other pillars of the Funding the Future strategy in driving down budget gaps from 2023/24 and beyond and in realising financial sustainability."*
- 7.5 Members will be pleased to note that, at the time of writing this report, detailed proposals are being developed to enable phase 1 procurement of external advice, with the aim of securing suitable expertise by the end of the current financial year. Further updates on the progress of OBR procurement and the MTFS will be made to Budget Council 23 February 2022.
- 7.6 A full update on the Housing Revenue Account budget and financial outlook will be considered alongside the revenue budget including options to ensure that the service's 30-year business plan is viable and that its ongoing budget is balanced, whilst delivering value for money to tenants.
- 8.0 DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**
- 8.1 As in previous years, the usual high-level consultation with relevant stakeholders on the budget will be undertaken prior to Budget Council in February. More specific consultation may be required depending on the budget savings options being considered. Consultation on council housing matters will be undertaken through the District Wide Tenants' Forum.
- 9.0 OPTIONS AND OPTIONS ANALYSIS (INCLUDING RISK ASSESSMENT)**
- 9.1 Options are very much dependent on Council's views regarding spending priorities balanced against Council Tax levels.
- In respect of the proposed 2022/23 revenue budget (set out in section 5 of the report and Appendix A), the recommendation reflects the culmination of work completed to date, and so no alternative options are put forward.
 - In respect of Council Tax, the main options are set out at section 6 of the report.
 - In respect of the Capital Programme (section 6 of this report) and MTFS (section 7 of this report), Council is requested to give feedback and no final decisions are sought at this stage.
- 9.2 In terms of the actual budget position, Cabinet's recommendations produce a balanced revenue budget for 2022/23. The Cabinet proposals will be considered by Budget and Performance Panel on 26 January 2021 and any feedback from this event considered

prior to the agreement of a final budget proposal for Budget Council on 23 February 2022.

- 9.3 Depending on the nature of any alternative proposals put forward by Council, Officers may need additional time to assess them fully prior to detailed consideration by Members. This is to ensure that relevant considerations are taken into account, to support informed and lawful decision-making.

Appendices

- **Appendix A General Fund Revenue Budget Projections 2022/23 to 2025/26**
- **Appendix B Savings and Budget Proposals 2022-23 to 2025-26**
- **Appendix C Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2025/26**

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK The budget should represent, in financial terms, what the Council is seeking to achieve through its Policy Framework.	
CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability etc.) None directly arising in terms of the corporate nature of this report – any implications would be as a result of specific decisions on budget proposals affecting service delivery, etc.	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS Legal Services have been consulted, but at this stage there are no legal implications arising.	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS As set out in the report.	
SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS The Section 151 Officer has authored this report in his capacity as Chief Finance Officer	
MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.	
BACKGROUND PAPERS Cabinet reports on budget proposals 07 December 2021 and 18 January 2022	Contact Officer: Paul Thompson Telephone: 01524 582603 E-mail: pthompson@lancaster.gov.uk

General Fund Revenue Budget Projections 2022/23 to 2025/26

For Consideration by Council 26 January 2022

BUDGET PROJECTIONS		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Revenue Budget/Forecast as at 24 February 2021	21,110	23,550	24,400	24,400
	Base Budget Changes				
	Operational Changes	1,478	1,243	1,454	1,586
	Additional Inflationary Pressure	67	117	179	791
	Latest Budgetary Position	22,655	24,910	26,033	26,777
	Outcomes Based Resourcing Proposals:				
	Savings Proposals	(180)	(212)	(222)	(230)
	Additional Resource Requirements	690	842	803	806
	Income Generation Proposals	(840)	(1,112)	(1,068)	(1,074)
	Revenue Impact of Capital Programme Review	(1,505)	(1,742)	(1,751)	(1,297)
	Contribution to/(from) Collection Fund Reserves	400	(743)	(316)	(216)
	Contribution to/(from) Unallocated Reserve	34			
	General Fund Revenue Budget	21,254	21,943	23,479	24,766
	Core Funding:				
	Revenue Support Grant	(212)			
	New Homes Bonus	(42)	(42)	(42)	(42)
	Supplementary Government Grants	(652)	(652)	(652)	(652)
	Prior Year Council Tax Surplus	(66)			
	Net Business Rates Income	(10,106)	(8,593)	(8,764)	(8,940)
	Council Tax Requirement	10,176	12,656	14,021	15,132
	Estimated Council Tax Income - (Increases based on £5 for 2022/23 then max allowable)	10,176	10,491	10,810	11,135
	Resulting Base Budget (Surplus)/Deficit	0	2,165	3,211	3,997
	<i>Original MTFS Savings Requirement</i>	<i>2,183</i>	<i>4,223</i>	<i>4,668</i>	<i>N/A</i>
	<i>Change</i>	<i>(2,183)</i>	<i>(2,058)</i>	<i>(1,457)</i>	<i>N/A</i>

General Fund Unallocated Balance		£M
BALANCES	Balance as at 31 March 2021	(7.808)
	2021/22 In Year allocations	+2.267
	2021/22 Forecast (Under)/Overspend	+0.319
	Projected Balance as at 31 March 2022	(5.222)
	2022/23 Forecast Budgeted Contribution	(0.034)
	Projected Balance as at 31 March 2023	(5.256)
	Less Recommended Minimum Level of Balances	3.500
	Available Balances	(1.756)

Saving and Budget Proposals 2022/23 to 2025/26

SAVINGS PROPOSALS		Upfront	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
		Investment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Central Services					
	<u>Chief Executive</u>					
	Delete vacant Head of Policy & Strategy		71	74	77	80
	Communities & the Environment					
	<u>Public Protection</u>					
	Community Safety Partnership		16	16	17	17
	ASB Contribution to Police		12	12	12	12
	Domestic Abuse Contribution		4	4	4	4
	<u>Public Realm</u>					
	Marketgate (toilets)		21	21	21	21
	Corporate Services					
	<u>Democratic Services</u>					
	Staffing Changes (succession planning)		-	13	13	13
	<u>Legal Services</u>					
	Staffing Changes (succession planning)		15	30	30	30
	Economic Growth & Regeneration					
	<u>Economic Development</u>					
	Remove FHS staff costs		41	42	43	43
	<u>Planning & Place</u>					
	Additional Pre-Application Service Offers		-	-	5	10
Net Savings			180	212	222	230

INCOME GENERATION PROPOSALS		Upfront	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
		Investment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Communities & the Environment					
	<u>Customer Involvement & Leisure</u>					
	Salt Ayre Leisure Centre		209	484	483	482
	<u>Public Protection</u>					
	Street Trading Consent		-	20	20	20
	Pest Control/Unbugged		9	15	20	22
	<u>Public Realm</u>					
	Car Parking charging at new sites		20	20	20	20
	Car Parking Tariff Review		495	430	371	371
	Revisit delivery of Morecambe Concessions		10	30	30	30
	Williamson Park Events Income		70	75	80	80
	Economic Growth & Regeneration					
	<u>Economic Development</u>					
	Commercial ticketed events (estimated)		10	20	25	30
	<u>Planning & Place</u>					
	Building Control		5	6	7	7
	<u>Property, Investment & Regeneration</u>					
	Assembly Rooms Rent		12	12	12	12
Net Cost of Redirection			840	1,112	1,068	1,074

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS		Upfront	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
		Investment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Central Services					
	<u>Chief Executive</u>					
	Partnerships & Innovation Coordinator (shared costs)		(20)	(20)	(20)	(20)
	Executive Support Apprentice		(7)	(18)	(22)	(25)
	Communities & the Environment					
	<u>Housing Services</u>					
	LATCo Development Manager		(23)	(92)	(94)	(95)
	<u>Public Protection</u>					
	New EHO Post (Apprentice/Student)		(10)	(23)	(23)	(23)
	<u>Public Realm</u>					
	LESS Contribution (Food Futures)		(13)	(13)	(13)	(13)
	Recycling (Wheelie Bin Pilot in Heysham)		(25)	(25)	-	-
	Bin Sensor Technology	(62)	(36)	(36)	(36)	(36)
	District Wide Tree Survey/Strategy		(75)	-	-	-
	Open Spaces (ad-hoc Councillor requests)		-	(50)	(50)	(50)
	Additional Public Realm Capacity		(32)	(66)	(70)	(72)
	Williamson Park Business Development Officer		(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)
	Williamson Park Events		(30)	(30)	(30)	(30)
	Corporate Services					
	<u>Financial Services</u>					
	Internal Audit Manager (offset by Wyre savings)		-	(32)	(34)	(36)
	Project Accountant(s) to cover larger projects		(12)	(47)	(50)	(52)
	CIVICA Financials Contract		-	(15)	(15)	(15)
	<u>Human Resources & Organisational Development</u>					
	Programme Manager (position made permanent)		(58)	(59)	(60)	(62)
	Working Well		(25)	-	-	-
	Economic Growth & Regeneration					
	<u>Economic Development</u>					
	Museums staff Job Evaluation (following TUPE transfer)		(14)	(15)	(16)	(16)
	Critical maintenance and security for architectural site		(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)
	<u>Planning & Place</u>					
	Building Control (post-external contract)		(105)	(95)	(75)	(65)
	Voice-recognition software		(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)
	Integrated EDMS system		(45)	(45)	(45)	(45)
	Amenity Improvements Programme		(12)	(12)	-	-
	<u>Property, Investment & Regeneration</u>					
	Project due diligence (contribution to new reserve)		(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)
Net Cost of Growth			(690)	(842)	(803)	(806)

General Fund Capital Programme

Council 26 January 2022

Service / Scheme	2021/22			2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			5 YEAR TOTAL		
	Gross Budget	External Funding	Net Programme	Gross Budget	External Funding	Net Programme	Gross Budget	External Funding	Net Programme	Gross Budget	External Funding	Net Programme	Gross Budget	External Funding	Net Programme	Total Gross Programme	Total External Funding	Total Net Programme
	£	£	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Communities and Environment	2,503,000		2,503,000	2,012,000		2,012,000	194,000		194,000	2,253,000		2,253,000	1,423,000		1,423,000	8,385,000	0	8,385,000
Vehicle Renewals	0		0	180,000		180,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	180,000	0	180,000
Fleet Growth & changed fleet specifications	0		0	508,000		508,000	186,000		186,000	2,454,000		2,454,000	1,423,000		1,423,000	4,571,000	0	4,571,000
Electrification of Vehicles	400,000		400,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	400,000	0	400,000
2 x Electric Refuse Vehicles	58,000	(30,000)	28,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	58,000	(30,000)	28,000
Electronic Vehicle Charging Points - Phase 2	4,828,000	(4,828,000)	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	4,828,000	(4,828,000)	0
SALC optimised solar farm, air sourced heating pumps & glazing efficiency	33,000		33,000	30,000		30,000	30,000		30,000	0		0	0		0	93,000	0	93,000
One Million Trees	13,000		13,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	13,000	0	13,000
Happy Mount Park Pathway Replacements	56,000	(21,000)	35,000	37,000		37,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	93,000	(21,000)	72,000
Far Moor Playing Fields s106 Scheme	1,870,000	(1,870,000)	0	3,667,000	(3,667,000)	0	2,144,000	(2,144,000)	0	2,144,000	(2,144,000)	0	0		0	9,825,000	(9,825,000)	0
Disabled Facilities Grants	750,000		750,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	750,000	0	750,000
Next Steps Accommodation Programme	30,000		30,000	30,000		30,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	60,000	0	60,000
Half Moon Bay Car Park Extension	1,436,000		1,436,000	549,000		549,000	124,000		124,000	38,000		38,000	53,000		53,000	2,200,000	0	2,200,000
Salt Ayre Asset Management Plan	91,000		91,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	91,000	0	91,000
Customer Contact System	0		0	600,000		600,000	360,000		360,000	240,000		240,000	0		0	1,200,000	0	1,200,000
Mellishaw Park	33,000		33,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	33,000	0	33,000
Roof Mounted Solar Array - City Labs	36,000		36,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	36,000	0	36,000
Vehicle Maintenance Unit Brake Rollers																		
Economic Growth and Regeneration	910,000	(722,000)	188,000	725,000	(725,000)	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	1,635,000	(1,447,000)	188,000
Sea & River Defence Works	3,165,000		3,165,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	3,165,000	0	3,165,000
Morecambe Regeneration	174,000	(174,000)	0	2,356,000	(1,383,000)	973,000	777,000	(136,000)	641,000	0		0	0		0	3,307,000	(1,693,000)	1,614,000
Lancaster Heritage Action Zone	110,000		110,000	40,000		40,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	150,000	0	150,000
Canal Quarter Site Acquisition	0		0	84,000		84,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	84,000	0	84,000
Edward Street Coach House Area Improvement	0		0	0		0	0		0	306,000		306,000	306,000		306,000	612,000	0	612,000
Bailrigg Garden Village - Contribution	150,000		150,000	340,000		340,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	490,000	0	490,000
1 Lodge Street Urgent Structural Repairs	11,000	(11,000)	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	11,000	(11,000)	0
Coastal Revival Fund - Morecambe Co-Op Building	50,000		50,000	375,000		375,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	425,000	0	425,000
Morecambe Co-Op Building Renovation	0		0	21,000	(16,000)	5,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	21,000	(16,000)	5,000
Lancaster Square Routes	0		0	73,000		73,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	73,000	0	73,000
Lancaster District Empty Homes Partnership	70,000		70,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	70,000	0	70,000
S106 Highways Works	179,000		179,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	179,000	0	179,000
Lancaster City Museum Boiler	138,000		138,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	138,000	0	138,000
Palatine Recreation Ground Pavillion	2,000		2,000	63,000		63,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	65,000	0	65,000
Lawson's Bridge S106 Scheme	15,000		15,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	15,000	0	15,000
Engineers Electric Vehicle	0		0	24,000		24,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	24,000	0	24,000
Cable Street Christmas Lights																		
Corporate Services	105,000		105,000	370,000		370,000	160,000		160,000	150,000		150,000	130,000		130,000	915,000	0	915,000
ICT Systems, Infrastructure & Equipment	0		0	120,000		120,000	30,000		30,000	0		0	0		0	150,000	0	150,000
ICT Laptop Replacement & e-campus screens	40,000		40,000	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	40,000	0	40,000
ICT Telephony																		
Schemes Under Development	0		0	1,000,000		1,000,000	1,000,000		1,000,000	2,000,000		2,000,000	1,500,000		1,500,000	5,500,000	0	5,500,000
Canal Quarter	0		0	650,000		650,000	200,000		200,000	550,000		550,000	0		0	1,400,000	0	1,400,000
Bailrigg Garden Village - Project Development/Acquisitions			0			0			0			0			0			
GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME	17,256,000	(7,656,000)	9,600,000	13,854,000	(5,791,000)	8,063,000	5,205,000	(2,280,000)	2,925,000	10,135,000	(2,144,000)	7,991,000	4,835,000	0	4,835,000	51,285,000	(17,871,000)	33,414,000
Financing :																		
Capital Receipts			0			0			0			0			0			0
Direct Revenue Financing			300,000			0			0			0			0			300,000
Earmarked Reserves			(325,000)			(947,000)			(484,000)			(278,000)			0			(2,034,000)
Increase / (Reduction) in Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) (Underlying Change in Borrowing Need)			9,575,000			7,116,000			2,441,000			7,713,000			4,835,000			31,680,000

BRIEFING NOTE

MOTION ON NOTICE – ENERGY COSTS

This council recognises that households are facing increased energy costs due to the recent increase of the energy price cap and its imminent extension in April 2022.

With bills set to increase as much as 57%, we understand that many residents may find it extremely difficult to meet their energy costs. For those on the lowest incomes, this may lead to a choice between heating and eating.

To demonstrate what is already happening, on 12th January 2022, the Morecambe Bay Foodbank received two calls in a single morning from distressed residents who were unable to pay their bills, and were seeking help with emergency food as a result. Charities in our area including Citizens Advice, Eggcup, The Morecambe Bay Foodbank and the Morecambe Bay Credit Union are all seriously concerned about how vulnerable people will be able to manage their money in the coming months, especially due to the recent cut to Universal Credit and the impending end of the Household Support Grant in March 2022.

This Council calls on the government to take action to help those who are likely to suffer as a result of these price rises. Specifically this council will write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Levelling Up to ask, along with Citizens Advice, that

- An "Energy Support Grant" should be delivered through the benefits system to provide a much needed £300 (as recommended by the Resolution Foundation) to help with fuel costs, paid to all Universal Credit and Legacy Benefit and pension credit claimants in April 2022.
- The benefits increase due in April 2022 is based on the IFS (Institute of Fiscal Studies) recommendation of 6% rather than the planned rise of 3.1% to more accurately reflect the cost of living
- The Warm Homes Discount should be extended to channel money directly to those that need it most, enabling them to heat their homes in Winter 2022, when prices are due to soar further
- The cost of supplier failures should be spread over two or three years to reduce the cost and provide relief to consumers in the short term

PROPOSERS:

Proposed by Councillor J Young

Seconded by Councillor F Penny

OFFICER BRIEFING NOTE

Below is direct information that the Council has on this subject.

During the pandemic, the Community Hub has administered three grants to support residents with gas/electric: Emergency Assistance Grant, Winter Grants Scheme, and currently the Household Support Fund.

To date, £92, 773 has been allocated. Please see the breakdown below:

Household Support Fund – November 2021 – Present

£21,536 Gas

£23,951 Electricity

Winter Grants Scheme – April 2021

Gas and Electric: £8,605

Emergency Assistance grants – October – March 2021

Gas £18,290

Electricity £20,391

This year the Home Improvement Agency (HIA) has enhanced its services to include free energy advice and minor energy improvements to the homes of vulnerable residents. The HIA has also recently appointed a dedicated energy officer to assist residents who require disabled adaptations, to also improve the energy efficiency of their homes through government funding. Since April the HIA have provided energy advice to over 70 residents in the private and owner occupier sector and completed minor improvements to the homes of 22 vulnerable residents.

In addition, Council Housing Service also employ a dedicated Energy Support Officer supporting Council Housing tenants around home heating and energy use. To date the Energy Support Officer has supported 200 Council tenants with direct interventions / advice and helped 89 eligible tenants apply for the warm home grant.

The Council provides over 3800 homes in the District. This also provides a useful insight.

The Income Management Team continue to support our Council Housing residents around their finances more generally, including benefit applications or challenges, requesting backdates and referrals for debt advice. Between April – Sept 2021 the team assisted 56 of our residents to increase their annual income by £143,487.19. Last year the team assisted 204 of our residents to increase their annual income by £334,863.40.

A significant element of the housing capital programme is allocated to energy efficiency improvements.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS
The s151 Officer has been consulted and
MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS
The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and

COUNCIL

Councillors' Allowances Scheme: Review

26 January 2022

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report on the Annual Review of the Councillors' Allowances Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the basic allowance in the Councillors' Allowances Scheme 2021/22 be increased in line with the employee pay award (when agreed) and backdated to 1 April 2021.
- (2) That, save for the change detailed in (1) above, and any other pay award which may be granted for employees for 2022/23, the Councillors' Allowances Scheme should remain unchanged in 2022/23.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Local authorities are required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to provide them with recommendations on a scheme of allowances to be paid to members and others. The authority must have regard to the recommendations of its IRP before it makes or amends its members' allowance scheme.

2.0 The Review

- 2.1 The IRP has carried out its light touch review for 2022/23, as required at this point in the electoral cycle. A full review is only carried out in the year before the City Council's elections, which will be 2022/23.
- 2.2 A message was sent out to all Councillors via email on 27 October 2021, asking them to raise any issues of concern, or suggestions for change, for the Panel's attention. The deadline given was 19 November 2021 which would have allowed time for the Panel to convene to consider any matters raised. No issues were raised, and the Panel felt that there were no pressing issues which should be looked at, either.
- 2.3 It should be noted that a full review of the Scheme will be carried out in 2022/23 so that a new scheme can be approved by Council for application following the May 2023

elections. All special responsibility allowances will be reassessed during that full review. Members will be invited by the Panel to have their say in a series of meetings which will be set up in Autumn 2022.

3.0 Employee Pay Awards and Councillors' Basic Allowances

- 3.1 Council agreed with the IRP's recommendation in February 2021 "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."
- 3.2 At the time of writing this report, the employee pay award has not been finalised, however, the IRP is content that, when an award is agreed, the same percentage increase should be applied to Councillor's basic allowance. This is reflected in recommendation (1) above.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Members are requested to have regard to the report of the IRP when setting a scheme for Members' Allowances to come into effect in May 2022.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing) There are no direct implications as a result of this report.	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS The recommendations of the IRP, if approved, are likely to result in an increase to Councillors' basic allowance in line with the pay award for employees. This has been budgeted for.	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS Lancaster City Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) was established in accordance with Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.	
SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments.	
MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Contact Officer: Debbie Chambers Telephone: 01524 582057 E-mail: dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk

COUNCIL

Lancashire County Deal / Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire

Wednesday 26 January 2022

Report of the Leader of the Council

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Full Council with an update on work undertaken towards development of strengthened joint working, a long term strategic plan and a County Deal for the Lancashire area and to support progression of this work.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Full Council

1. Support the outline "Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire" at Appendix 1 as the initial draft basis for further discussion and development of a possible County Deal for the Lancashire area.
2. Agree the principles of governance as set out in Appendix 2 for any future deal.
3. Agree that the Leader of the Council continues to work with Lancashire Leaders in line with the principles agreed in recommendations 1 & 2 above, and note that any formal proposals will be considered by Cabinet and/or Full Council at the appropriate time.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The attached report is being considered by the Full Council of each of the fifteen local authorities in Lancashire, that is, the county council, two unitary authorities and each of the 12 district councils.
- 1.2 The intention is that this report sets out the general principles and high level priorities of a long term strategic plan and County Deal. As progress is made, more details about specific asks will be developed, and there will be opportunities for all of the partner authorities to contribute to and influence that, including identifying specific schemes and activities.
- 1.3 Full Council is asked to consider the report and the recommendations set out above.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Lancashire has a rich heritage, it is a diverse county which has opportunities for all and is home to globally leading firms and nationally significant assets. Its thriving

£34bn economy was growing rapidly prior to the pandemic with the 4th largest aerospace cluster in the world helping achieve significant productivity gains. With a population of 1.5m people, Lancashire's 54,000 businesses generate 749,000 jobs across a range of important and emerging sectors from manufacturing and hospitality to cyber, digital and low carbon. A place of amazing beauty, its natural assets support the economy and workforce as well as providing a thriving tourism destination for visitors and an opportunity to support net zero and cleaner energy ambitions.

- 2.2 Local government arrangements in Lancashire are complex with a county council, two unitary authorities and 12 district councils. However, over the last two years, the context of a global emergency response has created a platform to empower Leaders of all the 15 local authorities in Lancashire to strengthen relationships and partnerships with wider stakeholders. Whilst the pandemic has generated significant, bespoke impacts in Lancashire that have exacerbated longer-term underlying structural issues and inequalities, Leaders are using this foundation as a basis for recovery and to drive forward economic growth.
- 2.3 With a robust evidence base and utilising the strong local knowledge of elected representatives, Leaders are developing a vision and ambition for the future of Lancashire looking ahead to 2050 to recover, grow and decarbonise the economy, improving the place and the life opportunities of its people. Their plans to achieve this will not only realise opportunities for Lancashire and UK plc but in doing so, help address many of the structural deficits and level up across the county.
- 2.4 With the government's much-anticipated levelling up White Paper on the horizon, the time is right for Lancashire to move forward together with a collective voice to make the case for more powers and investment for all of Lancashire.
- 2.5 Leaders have identified that the work is now at a stage where it is important to secure the engagement and support of all members. This report is therefore being presented to all fifteen local authorities.
- 2.6 This report covers:
 - 1. **Lancashire 2050**, which sets out the headline themes which could be included in a long term strategic plan and ambition for Greater Lancashire.
 - 2. **Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire**, which sets out an initial scope and is a first phase of work that could begin to frame a set of devolution asks as part of a County Deal.
 - 3. **Governance**, which sets out information about the governance options to oversee the long-term plan and deliver the deal, and the principles agreed by Leaders for any governance arrangements.
- 2.7 It is important to note that the government's anticipated Levelling Up White Paper will influence to a large extent the shape and substance of a County Deal that Lancashire authorities will be able to pursue. The information, advice and proposals in this paper may therefore, need to change to reflect the white paper. This report and recommendations seek to position Lancashire so it is better placed to commence early County Deal discussions with Government.

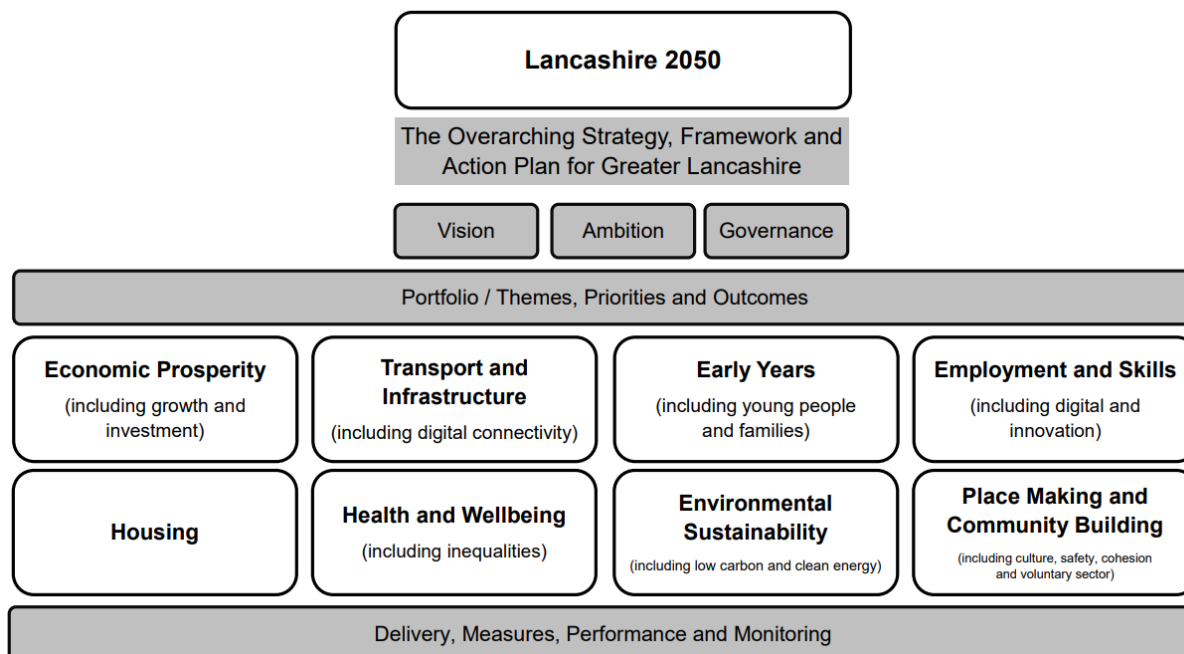
3.0 Developing a Lancashire Plan

- 3.1 Significant work has taken place across Lancashire to gather evidence that will shape an overarching vision, strategy and plan for the whole of 'Greater Lancashire'. This work has helped inform the scale of ambition and the development of robust key priorities within the scope of what Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire could look

like, together with the governance principles described in this report.

- 3.2 Once fully developed and adopted, in tandem with a devolution deal, Lancashire's overarching strategic plan will be forward looking and take a long term view, setting the vision and ambition over a 20-30 year period. Approaching this strategic framework in this way will ensure that the scope of Lancashire's devolution proposals addresses both the immediate priorities and longer term ambitions.
- 3.3 Hence, an overarching strategic plan that looks to Lancashire in 2050, would need to describe a broader ambition beyond the immediate priorities framed by the four themes set out within the scope for Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire [at Appendix 1]. Developing the strategy and priorities this way also ensures that policy areas overlap to tackle cross cutting opportunities such as skills, health and the environment, avoiding any unintentional policy silos. For example, tackling priorities that are currently included in the devolution scope around early years, housing quality, employment and skills, will also address some of the wider determinants of poor health as part of a longer term ambition for Lancashire, even though health priorities are yet to be agreed and fully set out working with our partners in the NHS through the Lancashire and South Cumbria integrated health and care system.
- 3.4 As a result, in addition to the four themes identified within Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire, additional policy areas within the Lancashire 2050 strategic plan could include themes such as health (including inequalities, improvement and wellbeing) and community building (including crime and public safety), see Diagram 1 below. Work to shape and consult on Lancashire 2050 will continue in tandem with work on Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire over the coming months and report through to Leaders and Councils and ultimately through any new governance arrangements adopted.

Diagram 1 Lancashire Plan Scope Illustration



4.0 Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire

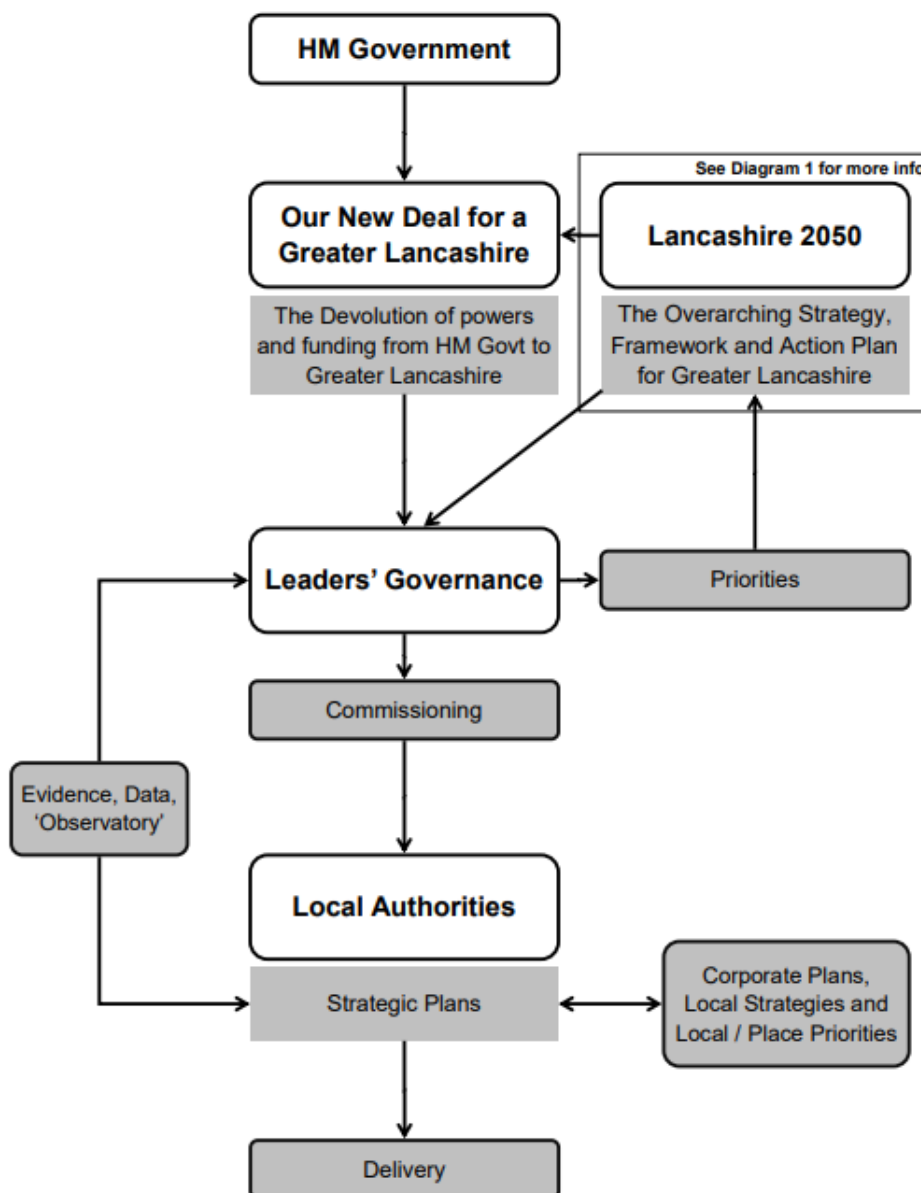
- 4.1 With a long term strategic plan in place, our ask of government through a county deal, would be for the devolved powers, flexibilities and funding to accelerate the delivery of

the immediate priorities set out in the plan, see Diagram 2 below. Based on the experience of other areas which have secured devolution deals, our ask could be in the order of say £5bn investment into the wider Lancashire area to address local needs and priorities as determined by and in Lancashire over the next 5-10 years. This would be across four core themes of:

- Economic growth and investment
- Transport, connectivity and infrastructure
- Early years, education, adult skills and employment
- Environment, climate change and housing quality

Further information on the proposals can be found at Appendix 1.

Diagram 2 Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire Illustration



5.0 Next Steps

- 5.1 In order for Lancashire to move forward with a strong collective voice, the engagement and support of all councils will be extremely important. This will give Leaders a mandate to collectively move forward on the issues set out in this report, and to engage with government to develop and deliver a great deal for Lancashire, for presentation back to each Council in Lancashire to consider and decide.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):

The content of this report does not have any impact in and of itself. Activity relating to any future County Deal or strategic plan will be assessed for impact in its own right.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have no comments to make at this stage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is envisaged that at this stage expenditure would be limited to provision of officer time to support working groups and other administrative tasks

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces

No direct resource implications at this stage.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments at this stage

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments at this stage

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Initial Scope
Appendix 2: Governance

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Ref:



Appendix 1

Initial Scope of Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire

Purpose

This document sets out an initial scope and is a first phase of work that could begin to frame a set of devolution asks as part of Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire – through which potential powers and responsibilities would be devolved to Lancashire from Government – in order to support delivery of Lancashire's overarching strategic plan (Lancashire 2050). The initial scope of the deal is focused on the key priorities agreed by Leaders, having considered the available evidence, on four key themes which require devolution from Government:

- economic growth and investment
- transport, connectivity, and infrastructure
- early years, education, adult skills, and employment; and
- environment, climate change and housing quality.

Within each theme, initial funding asks have been identified varying from single figures to suggested multi-year settlements over a range of time periods. **The total indicative value of the request of Government for these initial proposals is in the order of £5.6billion over a seven year period.**

Theme 1 - Economic Growth and Investment

Overview

The scale and importance of the Lancashire economy cannot be overstated, being the second largest in the North West behind only Greater Manchester. A thriving Lancashire remains one of the pre-requisites to a successful economy in the North of England. It is a location which can continue to build on existing clusters of excellence, whilst embracing the opportunity offered by new and emerging technologies and challenges such as cyber, low carbon and clean energy.

The focus of our work will be to ensure that proposals are aligned to supporting fast and sustainable economic recovery and onwards to long-term growth. It will focus on protecting existing employment and economic activity, whilst also driving up productivity, accelerating the commercialisation of low carbon technologies and seeking out new opportunities through stimulating innovation and developing collaborative partnerships. Climate action and mitigation will be key in relation to reducing energy emissions from housing and driving up technological skills. The future role of our towns will also be key and the part they play as places to live, work, study and innovate, consume, and visit. In doing so, this will help to reverse the major impacts of the pandemic on the Lancashire economy, its employers, its workforce and address the wider determinants of health across the communities in which they live.

Strategic objective:

To strengthen, grow and diversify our economy to extend the existing pockets of UK leading productivity across Lancashire as a whole and maximise the value of our people, land, and business assets. We will deliver growth through investment and manufacturing/innovation accelerators in town centres and local economies, unlocking strategic sites and focusing on jobs, skills, low carbon, health innovations, clean energy, and renewables, maximising our assets and strengths in manufacturing, cyber, digital, and the visitor economy.

The total annual indicative value of the request of Government for the Economic Development and Investment theme is in the order of £200million per annum.

Theme 2 - Transport, Connectivity and Infrastructure

Overview

Lancashire's economic geography is complex and spatially polycentric. Connectivity - both physical and digital - is unequally distributed and under-provided. This is holding back Lancashire's full potential and that of the North as a whole. There are compelling reasons to want to improve both East-West and digital connectivity in Lancashire to tackle some of the worst climate, health and socioeconomic outcomes; provide employers with a larger pool of workers to draw from, enabling the development of more highly specialised sectors, increasing productivity through agglomeration; and integrating Lancashire's divided economy into one.

Strategically positioned between the rural areas of Cumbria and Pennines and the major cities of Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool, Lancashire's best transport connectivity runs North-South, but most people live East-West in a central corridor stretching from Pendle and the Yorkshire borders to Blackpool and the coastal economies. Improving links East-West across the county allows residents to access the major North-South connections more easily maximising opportunities such as high speed rail (HS2). The focus for these links will include bus, renewables-powered electric heavy and light rail, and active travel (walking and cycling).

Lancashire is 80% rural and does not have one major settlement which everywhere looks towards. Rather it has groupings of small cities, large towns and freestanding medium-sized towns within urban areas. Those urban areas are better served by digital connectivity. Improved digital connectivity will support the people, businesses, rural and coastal economies and associated natural environment to achieve their significant economic potential, help level up health and wider inequalities and achieve demanding environmental ambitions.

Furthermore, aligning investment in transport and digital infrastructure and utilities with investment in major development and strategic priorities will unlock the economic potential of Lancashire. The high-speed digital cable into Blackpool; the Pennine Industrial District connected by the M65 Manufacturing Corridor; and strategic road and rail connections including cross borders to the major cities of Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool, will maximise potential across Lancashire and the north as a whole.

Strategic objective:

To level up transport infrastructure along the east-west growth corridor and connect people, business, jobs, education, and investment through improved transport supported by active travel, bus, cycling and walking and full fibre broadband unlocking major development and employment investment

The total annual indicative value of the request of Government for the Transport, Connectivity and Infrastructure theme is in the order of £150million per annum.

Theme 3 - Early Years, Education, Adult Skills and Employment Workstream

Overview

Skills investment is arguably one of the most important priorities for the country (and county) to level up – creating places attractive to higher productivity businesses and increasing social mobility and improving life chances, health outcomes and opportunity for all Lancashire's 1.5million residents.

Through skilling up the population, Lancashire aims to build a talent pipeline aligned with the needs of the economy, enhancing productivity, tackling climate change and, by connecting the workforce to good quality jobs, open up opportunities for career progression, higher wages and improved standards of living. This theme will cover an increased focus on preparing children in the early years of life (0-5) for school readiness as well as focusing on upskilling and improving outcomes for young people and adults (post 16) and those in their working

years. This will include working with businesses to improve skills utilisation, job quality, wages, and recruitment.

Most places in Lancashire have a very low skills base with 23% of residents with either no qualifications or NVQ1 qualifications and there is a major skills deficit at NVQ Level 4 when compared with the North West and UK averages.

Strategic objective:

To increase focus on preparing children in the early years of life (0-5) for school readiness and to 'level up' the skills of the working age population, by ensuring that Lancashire residents are able to effectively access high quality skills provision and compete for employment opportunities which enables them to secure a higher quality of life and maximise the existing and emerging strengths in Lancashire's economy including climate change, clean energy, cyber, digital and data.

The total annual indicative value of the request of Government for the Early Years, Education, Adult Skills and Employment theme is in the order of £260million per annum.

Theme 4 – Environment, Climate Change, and Housing Quality

Overview

Tackling climate change and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions is one of the biggest challenges facing our society and significant action is needed across Lancashire to achieve government targets set to reach net zero by 2050. Working together will improve the resilience of Lancashire to the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, on communities, businesses and the wider economy. There is a need for locally led, place-based approach to energy solutions such as decarbonising heating systems, improving energy efficiency and local renewable electricity generation to meet current and future growth needs. Much of Lancashire's housing stock falls severely below standards and is energy inefficient – domestic gas is the second biggest contributor to emissions in Lancashire, after transport. Beyond the environmental and health benefits of reducing emissions, there are significant economic opportunities locally and nationally in the transition to low carbon energy technologies with growth in new high-value industries and more productive, higher paid jobs.

Very poor housing quality is a prominent feature of many of Lancashire's urban centres with some areas having significant volumes of stock over 120 years old and others having very low volumes of houses built to more modern quality standards over the last 20 years. Poor quality and condition including cold, damp and energy inefficient housing, contributes to high CO2 emissions and fuel poverty. This poor-quality housing – typically older, private sector rented stock – plays a crucial role in driving some of the worst health outcomes in England and plays a key role in constraining efforts to regenerate the county's most deprived places. Existing powers are not effective in delivering strategic change and reversing cycles of decline. Intervention in these areas of chronic housing failure will create a platform for better social outcomes, supporting regeneration and economic growth. Benefits include the creation of new jobs, skills and training in construction as well as tackling climate change through installation of cooling and heating systems and mitigating future risks from increased flooding. Improving the quality of housing stock will help to provide residents with attractive, spacious, appropriately heated homes with affordable bills, which are better adapted for life long living. In turn, this will contribute to the strength of the workforce and health of the population as a whole. Devolution presents an opportunity to bring forward new powers and resource that can tackle the challenges and create more balanced, better-quality housing that can stabilise and transform lives in the areas of greatest opportunity in Lancashire.

Strategic Objective:

To level up green action and investment in Lancashire to achieve our pathway to net zero carbon emissions, protecting our natural environment and neighbourhoods, investing in carbon reduction measures and transforming housing quality. This will include a specific focus on developing a skilled workforce and business supply chain, delivering large programmes to drive improvements in the energy efficiency and quality of homes.

The total annual indicative value of the request of Government for the Environment, Climate Change, and Housing theme is in the order of £200million per annum.

Appendix 2

Governance

The governance structures for delivering the strategic plan priorities and accelerating that delivery through a County Deal would need to be designed with two aims in mind:

- to create the best arrangements to deliver the priorities within the strategic plan and the Deal itself
- to ensure decisions are made democratically and with all partners having an equal voice.

To this end, Leaders have agreed a set of core principles which should be applied in the establishment of any governance arrangements for joint working and delivering a County Deal. The principles set out below will form the basis of a negotiation with Government including the implications of any white paper:

- Lancashire authorities do not collectively support a Mayoral Combined Authority or local government reform
- Each authority would be represented on the decision making body by their Leader
- Each authority's current services, including statutory functions and discretionary services would not be included in any county deal arrangement without the express agreement of that authority
- The voting principle is one council, one vote, with a two thirds majority required for any proposal
- Each council will have a veto if any proposal is in their area, if their money is required or if they can reasonably demonstrate that it is reasonably likely to have a material impact on their area unless there are special circumstances to proceed (e.g. policy, legal, public safety reasons).
- Individual councils will have the right to leave the Deal and the decision making body arrangements
- It would initially be chaired by Lancashire County Council which will also act as the accountable body (under some governance models an Accountable Body may not be necessary)

Initial discussions with Leaders have started to consider a range of possible options for more formal joint working and to govern the delivery of a devolution framework and a county deal. A number of options are being explored, including joint committees, statutory boards, non-statutory boards, a local authority owned company and other informal working arrangements. This may also be largely dependent on the contents of the White Paper and any specifications it makes for the governance of County Deals.

Whatever the arrangements identified as best suited to the Lancashire area, each individual Local Authority's Full Council would need to give approval to its participation

As the governance arrangements are developed further, a number of important issues will need to be addressed, such as managing possible conflicts of interest, providing indemnities to members against liabilities, borrowing and funding arrangements and the detail of meeting processes. Each governance model option may require different solutions to these kinds of issues. A representative working group of officers including several Monitoring Officers has already begun work on these issues.

Resources

As progress is made, consideration will need to be given by Leaders and councils to support and resource options to manage and deliver any agreed plan and Deal. Local Authorities will need consider a fair way for each partner authority to contribute. It is also the intention to seek capacity funding from Government as part of the negotiation process for a new Deal.

COUNCIL

Advancing the Climate Emergency Local Plan Review

26 January 2022

Report of Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek a resolution from Council to formally publish the Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan for Lancaster District, obtain formal representations and then submit the document to the Government for the process of Independent Examination. This will ensure that the relevant regulations are followed and will enable all interested stakeholders to have their view on the soundness of the Plan and its preparation process is considered by an independent Planning Inspector.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Council resolves to formally publish the Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan; comprising a revised Strategic Policies & Land Allocations DPD and a revised Development Management DPD, accompanied by evidence, a Sustainability Appraisal, and a Habitats Regulation Assessment. Then, once formal representations have been received, submit the documents and representations to the Government in order that they can be the subject of an independent Examination by a government appointed Inspector. This will ensure that the relevant regulations for plan preparation are followed and will enable all stakeholders to make representations about the soundness of the plan and its preparation process.
- (2) To delegate to the Director of Economic Growth & Regeneration the authority to make minor changes to the DPDs that accompany this report prior to their formal publication and submission where that would improve the clarity, consistency, and appearance of the documents. Minor changes may include the insertion of additional illustrative material or non-consequential factual updates.
- (3) Upon submission enable the Service Manager – Planning and Housing Strategy to proceed with facilitating the independent Examination process including through; the appointment of a Programme Officer; engaging with the Planning Inspectorate and the appointed Inspector in correspondence; engaging specialist consultancy support where it would be advantageous to advancing the submitted plan; and, advancing consultation on proposed modifications at the Inspector's suggestion, where, in the event of issues of soundness being identified at Examination, the Inspector is minded to explore whether the

submitted documents are capable of being made sound through modification. The Service Manager – Planning and Housing Strategy will report to members on processes in relation to any such changes as soon as reasonably appropriate.

- (4) That Council acknowledges that the task of advancing the Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan through to adoption has resource implications that will evolve as challenges to the submitted plan emerge and evolve; the Director of Economic Growth & Regeneration will need both capacity and flexibility to ensure that resources are available and deployed, particularly in financial year 2021/22 to address challenges.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Council adopted a new Local Plan for the district on 29th July 2020. Upon adoption the Plan established the district's development needs, for example for housing and employment land, up to the early 2030s. The plan identifies land to meet these needs whilst protecting land and assets of environmental, economic, and social importance. Preparation of a Local Plan is a legal requirement of the Council (as local planning authority) and the application of its policies in the determination of planning proposals means that it has a significant influence on the location and characteristics of development in the district.
- 1.2 When resolving to adopt the Local Plan, the Council also approved an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) [the Local Plan timetable] which sets out the Council's intentions to proceed with an immediate review of the just-adopted Local Plan in the context of the Climate Emergency Declaration made by the Council in January 2019.
- 1.3 In September 2020, Cabinet Members endorsed the formal commencement of the Climate Emergency Review Local Plan (CELPR), setting out the proposed detailed timetable for preparation and regulatory processes.
- 1.4 On the 18 January 2022 Cabinet was asked to approve the recommendation of Cllr Dowding to endorse the content of the Climate Emergency Local Plan Review DPDs and the process of onward reporting to Council to seek a formal decision on a recommendation to publish and submit the revised document to government. Publication will enable formal representations to be received, and subsequently submitted to the government, along with the revised DPDs and supporting evidence. This will ensure that in accordance with the relevant regulations, the representations of the community and stakeholders about the soundness of the revised DPDs and the preparation process can be considered by a government appointed Inspector through an independent Examination.
- 1.5 Given the context of the Climate Emergency, the timescales for preparing the CELPR have been ambitious. The CELPR has been appropriately resourced by the City Council, including through the recruitment of a Climate Change Policy Officer and a Climate Change Policy Assistant. The review has been undertaken with a rapidity appropriate to the declaration of an Emergency.

2.0 Establishing the Scope of the CELPR

- 2.1 Consultation was held in late 2020 into the scope of the Review (the policies to be re-explored). This consultation process was held virtually due to the COVID19 pandemic restrictions. In the absence of in-person meetings or drop-in events the consultation

included video presentations prepared by offices of the Planning and Housing Strategy Team on themes including heritage and climate change, energy efficiency, blue and green infrastructure, sustainable transport, and water management.

- 2.2 Importantly, the Scoping stage confirmed the remit of the CELPR as a partial review of the Local Plan with the express objective of seeking better development outcomes for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. The scoping exercise was well-received by the local community and key stakeholders and provided a firm basis to explore making amendments to policy.
- 2.3 For clarity, the CELPR does not revisit the amount of development required to meet the needs of the community or economy, nor does it seek to re-visit specific land allocations made within the adopted Local Plan. These strategic matters were not easily established during the preparation of the adopted Local Plan over a preparation period totalling around eight years. In effect, the CELPR seeks achieve better development outcomes from the same quantum of development at the locations and opportunities identified in the recently adopted Local Plan.

3.0 Progressing the Review

Preparing a Draft CELPR

- 3.1 Once the scope of the partial review had been established, officers focused on the 32 policies which offered the potential to improve development outcomes. These policies were grouped together into themes and discussed within six topic papers relating to water management, blue and green infrastructure, heritage, transport, sustainable design and energy and a miscellaneous paper on other policy areas outside of the five key themes.
- 3.2 The papers addressed the outcomes of the scoping consultation of autumn 2020, explored alternative approaches to reviewing policies, provided an explanation of how policy changes could achieve better climate change outcomes and provided proposed revisions to the adopted policies.
- 3.3 The topic papers, along with the amended suite of draft CELPR policies were subject to consultation for an eight-week period between 23rd July and 17th September.
- 3.4 The consultation resulted in 544 comments being received from 44 separate submissions, The topic area where most comments were received was in relation to the Green and Blue Infrastructure strategy. Second to this were comments in relation to viability assessments, and then energy efficiency and sustainable design and construction matters.
- 3.5 A response was received from a developer consortium comprised of eight developers/housebuilders which raised queries relating to viability and concerns over whether the new proposed policy requirements within the CELPR would make development unviable. A response of this nature is not unexpected, as development viability can be a key issue for residential development. Council officers held a Development Industry Engagement Event as part of the consultation in the summer; invitations were sent to over 350 industry representatives.
- 3.6 A Viability Assessment was undertaken, by specialist consultants Three Dragons, prior to the formulation of the new policies. Three Dragons have also further assisted council officers in considering the responses to the issues that the consortium raised.
- 3.7 Officers are content that the viability assessment is robust, is based on realistic and

transparent assumptions, and, that issues about viability during consultation have been appropriately considered.

- 3.8 The Energy Efficiency policy proposed (Policy DM30a, b and c) represents a significant amendment to that contained within the current adopted Local Plan however, officers are content that in relation to the representations received on this policy, which was generally very positive from residents but less positive from the development industry, that the policy is robust.
- 3.9 The 544 representations received on the CELPR at Regulation 18 Stage have resulted in more than 140 changes to the publication version. However, only around 20% of these are material changes to the plan. The majority have been made for editorial purposes to improve clarity, such as updating references to national guidance including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 3.10 Of those material changes, again these are not significant, with most changes being made to further highlight Biodiversity Net Gain and nature recovery; improved clarity on the need to carefully consider the design of Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure in terms of mobility access and the impact upon the historic environment; and also improved reference to providing space for composting and the need for private gardens to be free from flood risk and to be well drained which will in turn assisting in helping to provide opportunities for food growing - one of the key People's Jury recommendations.
- 3.11 Officers advise that upon adoption the revised policies have the potential to realise development that could contribute to better tackling the Climate Emergency, including through:
- The objective of ensuring that all new housing approved in the district will be net zero carbon by 2028 using a method of construction called fabric first which means not relying on decarbonisation of the grid which is the Government's proposed approach.
 - Better consideration of flood risk and water management to respond more strongly to issues of surface water run-off and water efficiency.
 - Introducing a strategic focus on habitat and ecosystem connectivity and function, which will ensure greater protection and enhancement of the district's Green (land) and Blue (water) Infrastructure.
 - Increased emphasis on the key role that renewable energy generation, distribution and storage plays in climate mitigation within new development.
 - A greater focus on active travel networks and connectivity as well improved expectations on Electric Vehicle infrastructure provision.

4.0 Details of Consultation

- 4.1 The proposed CELPR has been subject to extensive consultation in various preparation stages, the scope of the partial review has been considered during late 2020 and a suite of draft policies have been the subject of consultation during the summer of 2021.
- 4.2 If the Council resolves to publish and submit the CELPR, officers will prepare the publication editions of the documents and make them available for a six-week period in which stakeholders and the wider community can make representations on the

soundness of the published CELPR.

- 4.3 The CELPR documents, the comments received upon publication, and the supporting evidence, would then be submitted to the government, potentially in April 2022. The government would then appoint an Inspector to consider; whether the Plan's preparation has complied with duty-to-cooperate requirements; whether it is compliant with legal requirements; and, whether the Plan is sound. To be sound, a Local Plan should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. The Inspector may hold local hearing sessions in which other parties are invited to assist him or her in considering these issues.
- 4.4 Following the Inspector's consideration of issues, the Inspector may then ask the Council to consult on proposed modifications. Following the Inspector's consideration of the responses to the proposed modifications the Inspector will send the Council a report which will conclude whether the plan has been properly prepared and is sound. Most often where an Inspector advises the Council that it may adopt its plan the version to be adopted will need to be modified to accommodate his or her binding recommendations. At this point the Council would make a decision on formally adopting its revised Local Plan.

5.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

	Option 1: Approve the recommendations and formally publish the CELPR, then obtain formal representations and submit the Development Plan Documents to the government for independent Examination whilst acknowledging the challenges, risks and costs associated with advancing the CELPR.	Option 2: Do not approve the recommendations and not formally publish the CELPR for representations.
Advantages	<p>The Publication and Submission of the CELPR as set out in the published Local Development Scheme is a critical stage in advancing the Council's ambitions in using formal planning policy to support objectives on addressing the Climate Emergency.</p> <p>The CELPR would be published at the time intended and in accordance with the published Local Development Scheme. A suite of time-sensitive evidence that has been carefully commissioned, assessed, and updated to support the submission of documents now.</p> <p>Upon the adoption of the CELPR the Council can start to apply planning policies which offer potentially better outcomes for addressing the Climate</p>	<p>Further time could be spent by officers on continuing to acquire further evidence and re-shape policies before a CELPR is presented to Council.</p>

	Emergency agenda and Net Zero Carbon agenda to development proposals.	
Disadvantages	None apparent.	<p>Delay to the CELPR processes will increase the time that passes until its potential formal adoption. It is only upon formal adoption that the revised policies will be components of the development plan that is used in the determination of development proposals. Delay in plan preparation would mean a delay in realising better outcomes from development on Climate Change mitigation, adaptation and resilience that would assist in helping to address the environmental concerns that motivated the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency.</p> <p>The time-sensitive evidence base that has been carefully prepared, assessed and updated to support the CELPR will quickly become out-of-date and is likely to need recommissioning.</p>
Risks	The independent Examination may find fault with the CELPR that could have benefited from further work.	<p>Delay exposes the Council to the disadvantages described above.</p> <p>The Council has been active in engaging stakeholders, developers, and the community and in publicising its intention to progress a CELPR. Deciding to not progress with the CELPR following the completion of the reviewed documentation would be difficult to explain.</p>

5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

5.1 Option 1. Officers recommend that the CELPR is formally published and submitted.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 The intended publication editions of both CELPR documents are now sufficiently advanced to be formally published and submitted. Officers are sufficiently satisfied that the challenges which have been raised at earlier stages have been either addressed through revisions to both DPDs or do not warrant sufficient justification for further amendments to be made. Whilst the publication version of the CELPR represents what the Council considers to be the finalised version of both DPDs, the publication process will provide opportunity for any parties who do not consider its content and direction to be either sound (i.e. not consistent with national planning policy) or legally compliant (i.e. has not met the legal requirements of plan making) to make formal representations

setting out their concerns. Those representations will be considered by the Planning Inspector through the independent Examination process.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):

There are no adverse health and safety, human rights or community safety implications arising from this proposal. The CELPR is a partial review which relates specifically to strengthening the Local Plan in the context of the City Councils Climate Emergency declared in January 2019. The DPDs contain revised / new policies which specifically relate to how the ambitions of the Climate Emergency can be assisted through the planning policy process via new development. It will seek to ensure that in both urban and rural locations that opportunities are maximised to achieve development proposals which both mitigate and are adaptive to the impacts of Climate Change.

The review of the Local Plan is accompanied by an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The process of preparing the Climate Emergency Local Plan Review is currently fully funded and resourced from within existing budgets. As it enters the public examination process the costs for additional evidence, examination support and specialist inputs are not predictable and dependent on the need to respond to the representations received.

Any future decisions or variations that result in further significant costs must be reported and approved as appropriate prior to their commencement.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces

Human Resources:

None directly arising from this report.

Information Services:

None directly arising from this report.

Property:

The Council does own land and assets where development plan policies will be applicable should development proposals be submitted, just as this would be the case on any land and assets owned by any party, however, there are no direct implications arising from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add. The Local Development Plan and Development Plan Documents form part of the Policy Framework of the Council, adoption of which must be by Full Council.

[Links to Background Papers, click here](#)

- Climate Emergency Review of the Strategic Policies and Land Allocations Development Plan Document [P_01.1]
- Climate Emergency Review of the Development Management (Policies) Development Plan Document [P_02.1]
- Sustainability Appraisal Report (SA) by AECOM [P_03]
- Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report (HRA) by AECOM [P_04]
- Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) [P_05]
- Rapid Health Impact Assessment (rHIA) [P_06]
- Regulation 18 Statement of Consultation Report [P_07]

Other Supporting Material:
Evidence Base documents

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Ref: CELPR 2022

COUNCIL

Executive Arrangements

26 January 2022

Report of the Leader

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report to Council on changes to the portfolio and responsibility areas of some Cabinet Members.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATION

(1) That the report be noted

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report is presented in accordance with Rule 4 (b) of the Cabinet Procedure Rules in Part 3, Section 2 of the Council's Constitution. This Rule requires the Leader to present a report to Council setting out any changes made to the Scheme of Delegation, which includes Cabinet Member portfolio responsibilities.

1.2 Small changes have been made to the detailed responsibility areas of some Cabinet Members. All the current detailed remits are appended to this report for information.

2.0 Conclusion

2.1 The report is submitted in accordance Cabinet Procedure Rules and is for noting.

Councillor Caroline Jackson

Leader

- Principal Spokesperson
- Lead on Establishment & Achievement of Council Priorities & Principles
- Human Resources
- Fair Work Charter - Good Jobs & Fair Pay
- Community Safety Partnership
- Community Engagement including Community Connectors
- Levelling Up

Councillor Dave Brookes

Environmental Services

- Waste and Recycling
- Parks and Green Spaces
- Commons, Reserves, Open Spaces
- Water including Rivers and Coast
- Nature Conservation
- Biodiversity
- Street Cleansing
- Environmental Health & Enforcement
- Allotments, Food Production and Food Waste

Councillor Gina Dowding

Planning and Place Making

- Active Transport & Modal Shift
- Planning including Local Plan
- Conservation & Urban Design
- Transport Policy and Parking – Air Quality
- Council-owned Community Facilities
- Development and Building Control
- Compulsory Purchase
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Emergency Response, Community Resilience and Recovery

Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox

Sustainable Economic Prosperity

- Sustainable Business and Innovation Support
- Asset and Property Management
- Green Jobs & Skills
- Digital Strategy
- Community Wealth Building - Local Supply Chains
- ICT

Councillor Tricia Heath

Economic Recovery

- Business Recovery
- Business Development in Morecambe

Councillor Kevin Frea – Deputy Leader

Climate Action

- Community Action
- Stakeholder Partnerships
- Energy
- Rural Communities & AONB
- Climate Change Resilience

Councillor Dr Erica Lewis

Corporate Services

- Facilities Management
- Legal Services
- Democratic Services (Democratic Support, Civic, Mayoral & Elections)
- Customer and Advice Services
- Governance
- Flood Prevention
- South Lancaster Growth/HIF

Councillor Cary Matthews

Housing

- Council Housing
- Homelessness
- Private Sector Housing
- Social Housing
- Caravan Sites
- Traveller Sites
- Refugee Housing
- Household Support and Resilience

Councillor Sandra Thornberry

Arts, Culture, Leisure and Wellbeing

- Arts, Culture, Festivals and Events
- Museums
- Visitor Information Centres
- Sport and Leisure
- Tourism and Marketing
- Community Health and Wellbeing
- Equalities & Social Justice Initiatives including age; disability; race; religion or belief; sex, gender or gender identity

Councillor Anne Whitehead

Finance and Resources

- Strategic Control of Financial Resources
- Treasury Management
- Procurement and Fair Trade
- Audit and Risk Register
- Financial Services
- Revenues & Benefits

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

<p>Advantages:</p>

<p>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.</p>

<p>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.</p>
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<p>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.</p>

<p>Disadvantages:</p>

<p>None known.</p>

<p>Risks:</p>

<p>There are restrictions on the title and potential issues with the buildings – such as voids</p>
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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:

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.**