

**BUDGET AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL**

6.10 P.M.

6TH OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT:- Councillors Adrian De La Mare (Chair), Phillip Black, Tim Dant, Roger Dennison, Joan Jackson, Oliver Robinson and Joanna Young

Also Present:

Councillor Anne Whitehead, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance and Resources

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Debbie Jenkins

Officers in attendance:

Paul Thompson	Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer)
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer
Alec Reid	Democratic Support Officer

8 ONE-MINUTE SILENCE FOR COUNCILLOR SCOTHERN

The Panel noted with sadness the death of Councillor S. Scothern. Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Panel stood for one minute's silence.

9 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor De La Mare, seconded by Councillor Dennison and unanimously agreed:-

"That Councillor Tim Dant be appointed Vice-Chair of the Budget and Performance Panel for the Municipal Year."

Resolved:-

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

10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th July 2021 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

The Chair advised there were no items of Urgent Business.

12 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Young declared an interest as she is employed by Citizens Advice North Lancashire, an organisation which receives funding from the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 6.15pm to allow all Panel Members to receive a presentation regarding Social Value with Commissioning and Procurement. The meeting re-convened at 6.40pm.

13 PROVISIONAL REVENUE, CAPITAL AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2020/21

The Panel received a report from the Chief Finance Officer, which provided an update on the Provisional Revenue, Capital, and Treasury Management Outturn for 2020-21. Councillor Anne Whitehead, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance and Resources, discussed Outturn, Capital Investment Strategy and reflected on how the Council currently measured performance. The Cabinet Member spoke of the pressure of the COVID-19 pandemic on budgets and the grants received from Central Government. She thanked officers for their work to support vulnerable groups in the district during the pandemic.

The Panel also discussed or asked questions regarding:

- budget revisions and their necessity
- revenue costs of capital investment
- structural deficits
- interest rates and returned investment of income.
- historic borrowing and changes in interest rates
- current state of the Council's reserves

The Chair asked for future reports to have a report overview or executive summary in order for the Panel to refer to figures regarding income and expenditure and the impact of the Council's structural deficit.

Resolved:

That Budget and Performance Panel note the Cabinet Report dated 14 September 2021 and attached appendices.

14 DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES

Members were asked to consider a report from the Director of Corporate Services, which included an update on performance, projects, and resources during the first quarter of 2021/22.

Members expressed concern that the Director of Corporate Services, or her representative, was not present at the meeting to answer questions on the report and appendices. In view of this Members were reluctant to discuss the report or ask questions.

It was suggested that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel meet once the Panel's agenda was published to consider whether there were any queries or questions on the reports and that these be submitted to the Cabinet Member and relevant officer(s) so that

responses be provided for the meeting. That other members of the Panel be invited to submit their queries to the Chair so that these could also be submitted.

Resolved:

That the Chair extends an invitation to the Director of Corporate Services to attend the next meeting of the Panel to present the *Delivering Our Priorities* report and appendices. If the Director is unable to attend, then her representative be requested to attend the meeting.

15 WORK PROGRAMME REPORT

The Panel was asked to consider any further items for inclusion on its Work Programme.

The Chair asked Members to inform him if there were any issues or actions they would like to be covered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The S151 Officer confirmed that the Treasury Management Year Review would be drafted in October and presented to Cabinet before being reviewed by the Panel. It was noted that there may need to be an additional meeting in January 2022.

Members asked for the time of Panel meetings held at Morecambe Town Hall to be moved from 6.10 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and that when future meetings of the Panel return to Lancaster Town Hall the commencement time would return to 6.10 p.m. It was noted that this would need to be reported to Council Business Committee for consideration.

Resolved:

- (1) The Panel notes the Work Programme and Appendix A to the report.
- (2) That officers consult with the Chair of the Panel regarding holding an additional meeting in January 2022.
- (3) That Council Business Committee be requested to amend the commencement time of Panel meetings held at Morecambe Town Hall to be moved from 6.10 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and that when future meetings of the Panel return to Lancaster Town Hall the commencement time returns to 6.10 p.m.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Alec Reid, Democratic Services - email areid@lancaster.gov.uk**