

PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 27 July 2022, when the following Members were present:-

Joyce Pritchard (Mayor)

Fabiha Askari

Mandy Bannon

Gerry Blaikie

Victoria Boyd-Power

Abbott Bryning

Tim Dant

Gina Dowding

Kevin Frea

Jake Goodwin

June Greenwell

Tim Hamilton-Cox

Tricia Heath

Joan Jackson

Geoff Knight

Jack Lenox

Cary Matthews

Jean Parr

Faye Penny

Alistair Sinclair

Malcolm Thomas

Katie Whearty

Anne Whitehead

Jason Wood

Joanna Young

Ross Hunter (Deputy Mayor)

Richard Austen-Baker

Phillip Black

Alan Biddulph

Dave Brookes

Keith Budden

Roger Dennison

Jason Firth

Andrew Gardiner

Mike Greenall

Mel Guilding

Colin Hartley

Caroline Jackson

Mandy King

Sarah Knight

Sally Maddocks

Stuart Morris

Margaret Pattison

Robert Redfern

Luke Taylor

Sandra Thornberry

David Whitaker

John Wild

Peter Yates

COUNCILLOR MARGARET PATTISON

Before starting the meeting, the Mayor welcomed Councillor Margaret Pattison back to the City Council. Councillor Pattison was elected to Harbour Ward at the by-election held on 21 July 2022 having previously been a member for Heysham North Ward from 2011-2019.

33 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Anderson, Paul Anderton, Roger Cleet, Merv Evans, Debbie Jenkins, Erica Lewis and Oliver Robinson.

34 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2022 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members advised of the following interests at this stage:

In relation to Item 11, the motion on Local Government Pay (minute number 44 refers):

Councillor Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in view of his membership of both Unison and Unite and his work for Unison. He also declared that his wife was a member of Unison, Unite and the GMB.

Councillor Pattison declared an "other interest", as required by the Councillor Code of Conduct in view of her membership of Unison. She also declared that she was a member of Lancashire County Council and Morecambe Town Council, should that be necessary.

Councillor Black declared an "other interest", as required by the Councillor Code of Conduct in view of his membership of Unite.

Councillor Whitaker declared an "other interest", as required by the Councillor Code of Conduct in view of his membership of Unison and also a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) due to his work as a Care Assistant with Lancashire County Council.

Councillor Parr declared an "other interest", as required by the Councillor Code of Conduct in view of her membership of Unison.

Councillors Redfern, Frea, Penny, Knight (Sarah) and Whitehead each declared an "other interest", as required by the Councillor Code of Conduct in view of their membership of Unite.

Councillor Dennison declared an "other interest", as required by the Councillor Code of Conduct in view of his lifetime membership of Unison.

In relation to Item 10, the motion on Warm Places Provision (minute number 43 refers):

Councillors Young and Bannon each declared an "other interest", as required by the Councillor Code of Conduct in view of their work for the Citizens Advice Bureaux.

36 ANNOUNCEMENT - FORMER COUNCILLOR JERRY SUTTON

The Mayor reported the sad death of former Councillor Jerry Sutton, who was Councillor for Castle Ward 1985-99. Jerry died at home in Manchester on 4th July aged 71.

Mr Sutton's funeral was held in Manchester on 21 July 2022.

Members stood in a minute's silence in his memory.

37 ANNOUNCEMENT - YOUTH GAMES 2022

The Mayor informed Council of her recent trip to Almere, Netherlands, to watch the Youth Games, held from 18-21 July, where a team from Lancaster had taken part.

The Mayor reported that the Games were a great success that she would be hosting a reception in Lancaster Town Hall for all those who took part to represent Lancaster district.

Next year, it would be Lancaster's turn to act as host for the 2023 Youth Games.

38 ANNOUNCEMENT - MORECAMBE PRIDE

The Mayor announced that Saturday 30 July 2022 would be Morecambe Pride Festival and Parade and urged all Councillors to attend to show their support.

39 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11 (Pages 17 - 18)

The Mayor advised that one question had been received from a member of the public to the Leader of the Council, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11. She invited Dr Charlotte Houltram to put her question..

Details of the question and the response from the Leader are attached at Appendix A to the Minutes.

The Mayor thanked Dr Houltram for submitting her question and attending the meeting.

40 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES

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

41 LEADER'S REPORT

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

Members attempting to ask questions of the Leader which were unrelated to her report were reminded by the Mayor that questions must be directly related to the matters in the report.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

42 EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader submitted a report for noting, setting out changes to Cabinet Portfolios.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

43 'WARM PLACES' PROVISION

Councillor Maddocks had submitted the following motion having given the required notice to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15:-

“This Council notes:

1. The cost-of-living crisis is hitting thousands of Lancaster district's households and is expected to get worse as the energy cap is increased dramatically in October.
2. The impact of domestic fuel - and food - price rises will adversely affect the health and well- being of many of the district's residents.
3. Local authorities have a duty to promote and protect the health and well-being of the public, and to prevent avoidable harm.
4. Martin Lewis, the MoneySavingExpert founder, has warned this month that the latest forecasts take the typical annual energy bill to more than one third of the state pension.

Those estimates point to an expected rise of more than 50% compared to current bills, which are already dramatically elevated compared to 12 months ago. Those now paying £100 a month can expect a rise to £165 in October, while those whose monthly bill is now around £200 will be paying £330; and that he describes the effect as a 'cataclysmic issue' for the government.

5. Martin Lewis has posted on Twitter: “Can't believe I'm writing this, but I wonder if this winter we'll need 'warm banks' the equivalent of 'food banks' where people who can't afford heating are invited to spend their days at no cost with heating (eg libraries, public buildings)?”

Lancaster City Council therefore:

- (1) Instructs the Chief Executive:
 - (a) to develop a deliverable plan which ensures that every community in the district has access free of charge to a 'warm and welcome' public building where people can keep warm and comfortable this coming autumn and winter during day-times (as a minimum);
 - (b) to work with Lancashire County Council and other partner organisations to identify locations and public and community buildings for this purpose;
 - (c) where possible to ensure such 'warm and welcome' public spaces should offer additional support and information to aid individuals to access other services to alleviate hardship.
- (2) Resolves that funding be made available from the Household Support Fund (2 and/or 3, to be determined) and the council's hardship reserve to enable this service

to be in place by autumn 2022.

- (3) Notwithstanding (2), given the pressing demands on these limited funds, asks the chief executive to write to HM Treasury and to the chair of the LGA to seek funding for this purpose.”

Councillors Penny and Dant had indicated in advance that they would be willing to second the motion and an officer briefing note had been supplied to accompany the motion on the agenda.

However, Councillor Maddocks asked permission of Council, as set out in Council Procedure Rule 17.7, to alter the wording of her motion to replace all the text after points 1-5 with the following:

“Lancaster City Council resolves:

- (1) To support Lancashire County Council’s work to develop a deliverable plan as agreed at its Council meeting on 14 July 2022 and bring it back to an appropriate Cabinet meeting.
- (2) To request that the Community Connector Team work to establish what, if any, plans the VCSFE have to offer venues for residents to attend
- (3) To provide for members a list of opening times and locations of publicly accessible locally-based County Council buildings and VCSFE provision that are free of charge and offer a warm and welcome place where people can keep warm and comfortable this coming autumn and winter.
- (4) Consider relevant funding streams including the Household Support Fund 3.

Councillor Penny seconded Councillor Maddocks’ request to Council to alter the wording of her motion.

A vote was taken and with 19 for the request, 25 against and one abstention, the request to alter the wording of the motion was not granted.

Councillor Maddocks therefore proposed the motion she had submitted on notice, seconded by Councillor Dant. She then responded to questions from Councillors.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Whitehead, as follows:

“1. To add to ‘This Council notes’ section

Lancashire County Council passed a related motion at its Council meeting on 14 July 2022, in which

Lancashire County Council resolved to:

- a) Provide for members a list of opening times and locations of publicly accessible County Council buildings that are free of charge and offer a warm and welcome place where people can keep warm and comfortable this coming autumn and winter.
- b) To ask district councils to identify other locally-based VCFSE (voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise) provision that offers similar support and for that list to be shared with members.
- c) To ensure such 'warm and welcome' public spaces should offer additional support and

advice services to support individuals and families to access other services to alleviate food and fuel poverty.

- d) To place this resolution before the Lancashire Leaders and Health and Wellbeing Board meetings later this month, and work with districts to develop a deliverable plan as soon as possible and report on progress to September Cabinet with a view to reporting final arrangements to the October Cabinet with, where possible, all sources of funding for the scheme being identified at that meeting.
 - e) And further, to ask Scrutiny Management Board to form a cross-party task and finish group with immediate effect to identify and adopt best practice, and work in delivering warm hubs and welcoming space schemes and report the same to Cabinet.
2. Delete all three sections for action by Lancaster City Council and replace with

Lancaster City Council resolves

- (1) To support Lancashire County Council's work to develop a deliverable plan as agreed at its Council meeting on 14 July 2022.
- (2) To request that the Community Connector team work to establish what, if any, plans the VCSFE have to offer venues for residents to attend.
- (3) To provide for members a list of opening times and locations of publicly accessible locally-based County Council buildings and VCFSE provision that are free of charge and offer a warm and welcome place where people can keep warm and comfortable this coming autumn and winter."

Councillor Maddocks did not wish to accept this as a friendly amendment. Councillor Parr therefore seconded Councillor Whitehead's amendment which was debated for some time.

At the conclusion of debate on the amendment a vote was taken and the amendment was passed with 30 Councillors voting 'for', 14 'against' and two abstentions.

The amendment then became the substantive motion and further debate took place before a vote was taken, which was clearly carried with 33 Members voting for the motion, none against and 14 abstentions.

Resolved:-

This Council notes:

1. The cost-of-living crisis is hitting thousands of Lancaster district's households and is expected to get worse as the energy cap is increased dramatically in October.
2. The impact of domestic fuel - and food - price rises will adversely affect the health and well-being of many of the district's residents.
3. Local authorities have a duty to promote and protect the health and well-being of the public, and to prevent avoidable harm.
4. Martin Lewis, the MoneySavingExpert founder, has warned this month that the latest forecasts take the typical annual energy bill to more than one third of the state pension.

Those estimates point to an expected rise of more than 50% compared to current bills, which are already dramatically elevated compared to 12 months ago. Those now paying £100 a month can expect a rise to £165 in October, while those whose monthly bill is now around £200 will be paying £330; and that he describes the

effect as a 'cataclysmic issue' for the government.

5. Martin Lewis has posted on Twitter: "Can't believe I'm writing this, but I wonder if this winter we'll need 'warm banks' the equivalent of 'food banks' where people who can't afford heating are invited to spend their days at no cost with heating (eg libraries, public buildings)?"
6. Lancashire County Council passed a related motion at its Council meeting on 14 July 2022, in which

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- a) Provide for members a list of opening times and locations of publicly accessible County Council buildings that are free of charge and offer a warm and welcome place where people can keep warm and comfortable this coming autumn and winter.
- b) To ask district councils to identify other locally-based VCFSE (voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise) provision that offers similar support and for that list to be shared with members.
- c) To ensure such 'warm and welcome' public spaces should offer additional support and advice services to support individuals and families to access other services to alleviate food and fuel poverty.
- d) To place this resolution before the Lancashire Leaders and Health and Wellbeing Board meetings later this month, and work with districts to develop a deliverable plan as soon as possible and report on progress to September Cabinet with a view to reporting final arrangements to the October Cabinet with, where possible, all sources of funding for the scheme being identified at that meeting.
- e) And further, to ask Scrutiny Management Board to form a cross-party task and finish group with immediate effect to identify and adopt best practice, and work in delivering warm hubs and welcoming space schemes and report the same to Cabinet.

Lancaster City Council resolves

- (1) To support Lancashire County Council's work to develop a deliverable plan as agreed at its Council meeting on 14 July 2022.
- (2) To request that the Community Connector team work to establish what, if any, plans the VCSFE have to offer venues for residents to attend.
- (3) To provide for members a list of opening times and locations of publicly accessible locally-based County Council buildings and VCFSE provision that are free of charge and offer a warm and welcome place where people can keep warm and comfortable this coming autumn and winter.

44 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY

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

“This council notes:

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. UNISON research found that councils in England had to fill a combined funding gap of £3 billion when setting budgets for 2022/23.

Over the last two years, councils have led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we emerge from the pandemic, local authorities and schools need far more support from Westminster.

Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 9% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.

There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions’ 2022 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

This council resolves to:

- (1) Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of £2,000 or the current RPI rate, whichever is the greater (along with the various conditions claims proposed)

- (2) Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim
- (3) Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government
- (4) Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign
- (5) Encourage all local government workers to join a union.”

An officer briefing note had accompanied the motion on the agenda.

Introducing the motion, Councillor Wood pointed out that he had circulated some additional information to Councillors as a result of a very recent pay offer by the employer side. An offer of £1,925 across all grades had been made by employers. Councillor Wood had been supplied with some very rough figures from Finance Officers based on the current staffing levels which showed that such an increase would require approximately £1.75m, which was around £1.2m more than had been estimated in the budget for pay increases in 2022/23.

Councillor Wood responded to Councillors' questions on the motion before debate commenced.

At the conclusion of the debate a vote was taken and the motion was clearly carried with 31 Councillors voting 'for'; 8 voting 'against' and 6 abstentions.

Resolved:

This council notes:

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. UNISON research found that councils in England had to fill a combined funding gap of £3 billion when setting budgets for 2022/23.

Over the last two years, councils have led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we emerge from the pandemic, local authorities and schools need far more support from Westminster.

Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 9% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job

insecurity. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.

There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2022 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

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Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

This council resolves to:

- (1) Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of £2,000 or the current RPI rate, whichever is the greater (along with the various conditions claims proposed)
- (2) Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim
- (3) Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government
- (4) Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign
- (5) Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

At the conclusion of this item, with the time at 8pm, the Mayor called for a ten-minute adjournment in line with Council Procedure Rule 10. Council reconvened at 8.10pm.

45 PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

At the start of this item, the Head of Democratic Services apologised for an error on the briefing note where Councillor Black's name had been omitted from the list of proposers.

Councillor Lenox proposed the following motion having given the required notice to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15:-

"Council notes that:

- First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men.
- In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Meanwhile, internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal, freer and greener.
- PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and those seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.
- MPs better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.
- PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.
- PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. So why not Westminster?

Council therefore resolves to instruct the CEO to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general elections.”

Councillor Black seconded the motion before Councillor Lenox responded to questions from Members.

A briefing note explaining the two voting systems had been included with the agenda papers.

Council debated the motion for some time before going to the vote. The motion was clearly carried.

Resolved:-

Council notes that:

- First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men.
- In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Meanwhile, internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal, freer and greener.
- PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and those seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.
- MPs better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.
- PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.
- PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. So why not Westminster?

Council therefore resolves to instruct the CEO to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for

general elections.

46 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Council considered a report to advise Council of the receipt of a valid petition requesting the merging of Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne Parish Council into The Yealands Parish Council, and to seek the Council's views on taking the Community Governance Review forward. The Mayor clarified that the word 'Committee' in the recommendations about establishing a body should actually have said 'Working Group'.

The report was introduced by Councillor Wood, the portfolio holder for Corporate Services.

Members asked a number of questions, which Councillor Wood responded to. It was noted that the cost of amendment of the Council tax system was estimated in the financial implications as £10,000. Since those implications had been drafted a quote had been received and this was for a lower figure of £6,500.

Councillor Wood seconded by Councillor Whitehead, proposed:

- "(1) To allocate the work to develop terms of reference, determine consultation plans and agree a timetable for a Community Governance Review (CGR) for the proposed merger of Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne Parish Councils into The Yealands Parish Council to Council Business Committee; and
- (2) That the Council Business Committee consult with Councillors throughout the process and that all parties be involved in the preparation of final proposals to be submitted to Council in January 2023."

There was a short debate.

A vote was then taken on the proposition, which was clearly carried.

Resolved:

- (1) To allocate the work to develop terms of reference, determine consultation plans and agree a timetable for a Community Governance Review (CGR) for the proposed merger of Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne Parish Councils into The Yealands Parish Council to Council Business Committee; and
- (2) That the Council Business Committee consult with Councillors throughout the process and that all parties be involved in the preparation of final proposals to be submitted to Council in January 2023.

47 DESIGNATION OF VETERANS' CHAMPION

Councillor Wood, as portfolio holder for Corporate Services introduced a report asking Council to consider changing the title of "Veterans' Champion" to "Armed Forces Champion" in view of the wider remit of the role being undertaken.

Members asked a number of questions, which Councillor Wood responded to. He agreed to talk to Councillor Guilding, the Disabilities Champion, regarding her question about putting her role on an equal footing with the Armed Forces Champion. She raised this with regard to the Sunflower Lanyard accreditation.

Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor Geoff Knight, proposed:

“(1) That the name of the Veterans’ Champion be changed to the ‘Armed Forces Champion’ as this better reflects the work that is done by the current postholder.”

There was no debate.

A vote was then taken on the proposition, which was clearly carried.

Resolved:

(1) That the name of the Veterans’ Champion be changed to the ‘Armed Forces Champion’ as this better reflects the work that is done by the current postholder.

48 ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

The Head of Democratic Services had submitted a report to advise Council of the calculations relating to the allocation of seats in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 following changes to the political composition of the Council.

There were no questions raised on the report.

Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor Dant, proposed that the recommendation, as set out in the report, be approved.

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

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Part 4 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990, the City Council approves the calculations and allocation of seats set out in the report, including all the adjustments set out in the table in paragraph 2.3 of the report.

49 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (Pages 19 - 22)

The Head of Democratic Services thanked group leaders and administrators for their assistance before the meeting to complete a table with the revised committee memberships following the recalculation (minute number 48 refers). She agreed to circulate the complete list after the meeting and to attach it to the minutes.

50 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS

It was necessary to appoint a Chair to the Budget and Performance Panel.

Councillor Dant nominated Councillor Hunter, seconded by Councillor Hamilton-Cox.

Councillor Black nominated Councillor Joan Jackson, seconded by Councillor Hunter who indicated that he did not wish to be Chair of the Panel. In view of this, Councillor Dant and his seconder withdrew their nomination of Councillor Hunter.

There were no further nominations therefore the Mayor declared Councillor Joan Jackson appointed.

Resolved:

That Councillor Joan Jackson be appointed Chair of the Budget and Performance Panel for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.

51 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

A question on notice had been submitted by Councillor Whitaker to Councillor Hamilton-Cox regarding the upstairs of the former Co-op building on Regent Road in Morecambe.

Councillor Whitaker asked:

The upstairs of the Co-op building on Regent Road does remain a major concern and needs to be urgently dealt with. It reflects badly on ourselves when we fail to do anything with it. It does have a lot of potential use for the community or business opportunities.

What is being done about this building and what realistic options are there for the future use of this building?

Councillor Hamilton-Cox replied:

In July 2020, Cabinet approved £425k to help renovate the Co-op building in a decision which agreed to work with the Exchange, as it was then known, to bring the building back into use, where the Exchange would apply for funding to effect substantial internal refurbishment and take a long lease on the building.

Two years later, the Council is continuing to work with the Good Things Collective, as it is now known, in making funding bids. The situation round funding is, as everybody is aware, challenging and highly competitive and subject to rigorous bidding criteria. This is compounded by current inflationary pressures and supply chain issues that will add to increased costs.

The designs for the internal refurbishment have been updated to try and mitigate this. The quantity surveyor involved has updated costs based on the revised plans and projected the estimates forward to quarter 3-4 of this financial year. The £425k allocated in the capital programme to the Co-op building is being used by the Good Things Collective as an inducement to attract external funding. It helps demonstrate to potential external funders the Council's commitment to the project.

However, there will come a point at which the external appearance – you could argue that's now - or the integrity of the roof will mean that the Council can no longer continue to hold out. Councillor Whitaker will remember that the property was acquired because it was a large vacant poor condition building that had a negative impact on the local area.

The intention remains to secure a positive outcome for this building but the challenges and constraints are considerable. In the absence of an external community partner funding opportunities available are severely diminished. The cost would largely fall to the Council and we would still need to find a viable use. Previous work has shown that all options for the building require gap funding as the cost of any refurbishment is greater than the resulting value, in either sales or rental terms.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Whitaker asked whether Councillor Hamilton-Cox agreed that it needed to be a priority?

Councillor Hamilton-Cox did accept Councillor Whitaker's premise and told him he would welcome his involvement looking at options going forward. He invited Councillor Whitaker

to attend a review meeting in September with the lead Council Officer.

It was noted that Councillor Dant had withdrawn his question to Councillor Dowding and that Councillor Cleet, who had submitted questions for Councillor Hamilton-Cox, had given apologies for the meeting. It had been agreed with Councillor Cleet that the answers to his questions would be circulated to all Councillors via email after the meeting.

52 MINUTES OF CABINET

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2022. There were no questions.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

53 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Council considered the minutes of the following committees: -

- (a) Budget & Performance Panel, 17th March 2022
- (b) Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 8th June 2022
- (c) Licensing Committee, 9th June 2022
- (d) Planning Regulatory Committee, 20th June 2022

One question was raised for the Chair of the Licensing Committee, which he responded to.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Mayor

(The meeting finished at 9.18 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these minutes,
please contact Debbie Chambers, Democratic Services - email dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk**

Question from Dr Charlotte Houltram to the Leader of the Council

Lancaster prides itself on being one of the more forward thinking cities in the UK, putting climate considerations at the heart of governance. However, this awareness needs to include every aspect of council activities, including the provision of food. Other councils, for example Oxfordshire, Cambridge City and Lewisham Borough, have committed to serve only plant based food at their events and I would like to see Lancaster do the same. This will help normalise plant based eating, which according to an Oxford University study is the single most effective thing an individual can do to reduce their environmental impact.

We are currently in a cost of living crisis. Meat and dairy products are almost always the most expensive part of a meal- whole food plant based meals are consistently considerably cheaper and healthier too. By doing the right thing for the planet, and promoting eating for good health, the Council can also save money; especially if the produce is sourced locally and seasonally, helping to work towards a circular economy.

We can and must move towards climate-friendly eating and I believe councils can lead the way with this. There have been substantial evidence based recommendations calling for a move away from meat and dairy including those embedded in The National Food Strategy led by Henry Dimbleby last year. I would like to see our council being part of the solution by committing to cease purchasing animal products to bring its food policy into line with its other climate awareness strategies.

"Given the Climate Emergency and Lancaster City Council's stated aim to reduce their carbon footprint, would the Council consider committing to serving only plant based fare at all its meetings and events, as several other Councils have done?"

The Leader thanked Dr Houltram for her question and replied:

"Thank you for bringing forward the issue as a contribution to our ongoing debate, which you can hear *(there were unsolicited comments from a few Councillors towards the rear of the room during the question and answer)* about the work we do for climate action under the circumstances we are in. In a week when both prime ministerial candidates have pledged to support fracking, it's clear that those who are prepared to respond to the huge challenge that climate change is bringing us, need to stick together.

So, you ask me, would the Council consider committing to serving only plant based food at all its meetings and events? I think the simple answer to that one is yes, *(further interruption from the back of the room)* because as a Council, we are not a Council that closes its mind, we are not a Council that is unwilling to discuss and think about big issues. I know that, even for those of you at the back who have made that noise, you're not unwilling to think and we have been asked to consider.

I would say that we work together, we have as one of our key themes that we are willing to work in cooperation with residents, businesses, other agencies, and as Leader of the Council, I can say that five group leaders within our shared administration will consider that. And alongside that, I talk regularly to our other leaders and therefore, I don't think they are going to cut me off, they will consider it. Where we go from there will emerge as a consensus as to what we do next, because that's how we do things here. We will take this forward with our residents, with the businesses, with our stakeholders because we have a regular pattern of community conversations; this is an ideal community conversation. We have a 'keep connected' website, this is an ideal item that could go on that website. Many things go on that website including thinking about public service protection orders and those kinds of things, so

we can consider it. And then we have, possibly, a more formal avenue of Overview and Scrutiny; that is about consensus, where will we place this, and I can't say which one we will do but I can tell you we will consider. We must, as you say, put climate considerations at the heart of governance.

We had a people's jury which reported in 2020 and it recommended that we promote plant based foods and put in place measures to reduce meat consumption. We already support the Lancaster District Food Justice Partnership and its theme of eating seasonally with more plants and high welfare local animal products.

So we are already building a coalition of the willing; that's what climate change has to be about. If we send people into a reaction where they say 'no' or do the opposite of the best thing we can do to reduce our carbon footprint, we have achieved nothing.

I am sure that, given the inspiration of your question, we are going to move on.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Over all the 78 Committee places, groups should have the following seats: Labour 22 Green and Independent 19, Conservative 12, MBI 8, Independent 7, Lib Dem 5, BIs 5

Figures shown on each table with the Group's names are for the places that groups would have on that committee if it was calculated separately and individually. Groups must have regard to these figures whenever adjustments are required, so that these proportions are reflected as far as possible.

Planning Regulatory Committee

Labour 4	Green and Independent 4	Conservative 2	MBI 2	Independent Group 1	BI Group 1	Lib Dem 1
Sandra Thornberry	Dave Brookes	Keith Budden	Roger Dennison	Roger Cleet	Vicki Boyd-Power	June Greenwell
Mandy King	Tim Dant	Malcolm Thomas				
Robert Redfern	Jack Lenox	Mel Guilding				
Abbott Bryning	Kevin Frea					
Substitutes						
Colin Hartley	Tim Hamilton-Cox	Peter Yates	Geoff Knight	Debbie Jenkins	Jake Goodwin	Joyce Pritchard
Alan Biddulph	Mandy Bannon					

Licensing Committee (10) NO SUBSTITUTES PERMITTED

Labour 3	Green and Independent 2	Conservative 1	MBI 1	Independent Group 1	BI Group 1	Lib Dem 1
Colin Hartley	Tim Hamilton-Cox	Andrew Gardiner	Mike Greenall	Roger Cleet	Jake Goodwin	Gerry Blaikie
Fabiha Askari	Sally Maddocks					
Jason Wood						

Audit Committee

Labour 2	Green and Independent 2	Conservative 1	MBI 1	Independent Group 1	BI Group 0	Lib Dem 0
Abbott Bryning	Paul Stubbins	Peter Yates	Geoff Knight	Darren Clifford		
Oliver Robinson	Tim Dant					
Substitutes						
David Whitaker	Joanna Young	John Wild	Jason Firth	Roger Cleet		
Jason Wood						

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Appeals Committee

Labour 2	Green and Independent 2	Conservative 1	MBI 1	Independent Group 1	BI Group 0	Lib Dem 0
Phillip Black	Tim Dant	Andrew Gardiner				Joyce Pritchard
Erica Lewis	Gina Dowding	John Wild				
Substitutes						
Mandy King	Caroline Jackson					Gerry Blaikie
Jason Wood						

Council Business Committee

Labour 2	Green and Independent 2	Conservative 1	MBI 1	Independent Group 1	BI Group 0	Lib Dem 0
Erica Lewis	Paul Stubbins	Joan Jackson	Geoff Knight	Darren Clifford		
David Whitaker	Tim Dant					
Substitutes						
Anne Whitehead	Abi Mills		Roger Dennison	Roger Cleet		
Jason Wood	Joanna Young					

Personnel Committee

Labour 2	Green and Independent 2	Conservative 1	MBI 1	Independent Group 1	BI Group 0	Lib Dem 0
Fabiha Askari	Caroline Jackson	Mel Guilding	Roger Dennison	Debbie Jenkins	Paul Anderton	
Jason Wood						
Substitutes						
Erica Lewis	Joanna Young		Geoff Knight	Roger Cleet	Cary Matthews	
Oliver Robinson						

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Standards Committee

Labour 2	Green and Independent 2	Conservative 1	MBI 1	Independent Group 1	BI Group 0	Lib Dem 0
Phillip Black	Joanna Young	Malcolm Thomas	Roger Dennison	Debbie Jenkins		
Mandy King	Alistair Sinclair					
Substitutes						
Erica Lewis	Dave Brookes	Mel Guilding	Tricia Heath	Roger Cleet		
Anne Whitehead	Abi Mills					

Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Labour 2	Green and Independent 2	Conservative 1	MBI 1	Independent Group 1	BI Group 1	Lib Dem 1
Alan Biddulph	Abi Mills	Richard Austen-Baker	Roger Dennison	Darren Clifford	Paul Anderton	Joyce Pritchard
Mandy King	Jack Lenox					
Substitutes						
Colin Hartley	Tim Dant		Geoff Knight	Debbie Jenkins		Gerry Blaikie
David Whitaker						

Budget and Performance Panel

Labour 2	Green and Independent 2	Conservative 1	MBI 1	Independent Group 1	BI Group 1	Lib Dem 1
Phillip Black	Tim Dant	Joan Jackson	Roger Dennison		Vicki Boyd-Power	Ross Hunter
Colin Hartley	Sally Maddocks					
Margaret Pattison						
Substitutes						
Erica Lewis	Joanna Young		Geoff Knight			
David Whitaker	Mandy Bannon					

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

POLITICALLY BALANCED, BUT NOT A FORMAL COMMITTEE, NOT INCLUDED IN THE CALCULATION, NOT SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENTS

NINE MEMBERS Committee System Working Group

Labour 2	Green and Independent 2	Conservative 1	MBI 1	Independent Group 1	BI Group 1	Lib Dem 1
Erica Lewis	Tim Dant	Richard Austen-Baker	Tricia Heath	Merv Evans	Cary Matthews	Joyce Pritchard
Oliver Robinson	Tim Hamilton-Cox					
Substitutes						
Jason Wood	Dave Brookes		Geoff Knight	Roger Cleet		