

**BUDGET AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL**

6.00 P.M.

18TH JANUARY 2024

PRESENT:- Councillors Ross Hunter (Chair), Paul Tynan (Vice-Chair), Martin Bottoms, Keith Budden, Chris Hanna, Hamish Mills, Sue Penney and James Sommerville

Also in Attendance:-

Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox, Cabinet Member with particular responsibility for Finance and Resources

Officers in attendance:

Paul Thompson
Stephen Metcalfe

Chief Officer - Resources and Section 151 Officer
Principal Democratic Support Officer

17 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2023 were approved as a correct record.

18 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

The Chair advised that there were no items of urgent business.

19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were made at this point.

20 BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 AND CORPORATE FEES & CHARGES 2024/25

The Panel agreed to receive a PowerPoint presentation that combined the items regarding the Budget and Policy Framework General Fund Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Corporate Fees & Charges 2024/25 agenda items.

The presentation was provided by the Chief Officer Resources and questions were responded to by Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox, Cabinet Member with particular responsibility for Finance and Resources and the Chief Officer Resources.

The main areas discussed and questions raised were in relation to Council Tax information, the Green waste subsidy, the Waste Strategy, Business Rates relating to Heysham Power Stations, windfarms and the RLI, Salt Ayre Leisure Centre and benchmarking, car parking charges and bringing forward savings that had already been identified.

Members of the Panel requested Cabinet to consider the following:

- Green waste subsidy – Cabinet to re-consider the subsidy being provided for the service. This will encourage households to compost their garden waste.
- Salt Ayre Leisure Centre – Cabinet to consider benchmarking with other similar facilities to see what is achievable and ways to achieve excellence at reasonable cost.
- Council Tax information – Cabinet to consider ensuring that, for the meeting with the public, details of the Council Tax % increase and share for each organisation is provided. To show the excellent value provided by the City Council.
- Savings already identified – Ask Cabinet to consider bringing forward savings already identified, in line with the rules Cabinet has set itself, if possible.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet be requested to consider the issues raised at the meeting of the Panel.

21 WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered its Work Programme.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 31st January 2024, commencing at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Morecambe Town Hall. The meeting to provide for public consultation on the Budget and Policy Framework General Fund Revenue Budget 2024/25.

The meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 14th February 2024 to commence at 6.10pm and be held in Lancaster Town Hall. It was reported that the items for the agenda were:

- Treasury Management;
- Capital Strategy;
- Quarter 3, Delivering Our Priorities.

It was also reported that training on Treasury Management would be provided at the meeting. The Chair requested that Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to attend the Treasury Management training session via Microsoft Teams.

Resolved:-

That the oral update regarding the Work Programme be noted.

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Chair

(The meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Stephen Metcalfe, Democratic Support - email sjmetcalfe@lancaster.gov.uk**

