

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2017

Present:

Councillor Mrs Rowson (in the Chair)

Councillors

Benson	Collett	Jackson	Scott
Blackburn	Cox	Kirkland	Smith
Cain	Critchley	Matthews	Stansfield
Callow	Cross	Maycock	I Taylor
Mrs Callow JP	Elmes	Mitchell	L Taylor
Campbell	Galley	O'Hara	L Williams
Clapham	Mrs Henderson MBE	Owen	T Williams
D Coleman	Hobson	Robertson BEM	Mrs Wright
G Coleman	Hunter	Roberts	
I Coleman	Hutton	Ryan	

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Alan Cavill, Director of Place

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Karen Smith, Director of Adult Services

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships/Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Sally Shaw, Head of Corporate Delivery Unit

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Hutton, Critchley, Stansfield and L Taylor as Directors of Blackpool Coastal Housing Company Limited declared personal interests in agenda item 5 (Proposed Rent Review 2017/ 2018) and prejudicial interests in agenda item 6(1) (Council Tax 2017/ 2018) and left the room prior to consideration of that part of the item relating to the proposed income from Blackpool Coastal Housing Company Limited.

Councillors Mrs Wright, Elmes and Galley as Directors of Blackpool Transport Services Limited declared prejudicial interests in agenda item 6(1) (Council Tax 2017/ 2018) in respect of the proposed savings relating to the bus route subsidy and left the room prior to consideration of the item. Councillor Benson also declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the item and Councillors D Coleman, G Coleman and O'Hara declared prejudicial interests as a member of their families were employed by Blackpool Transport Services Limited. Accordingly, those councillors also left the room during discussion on that part of the item.

Councillors G Coleman, Jackson, Galley, L Williams and Cox declared personal interests in agenda item 6(2) (Council Tax 2017/ 2018) as Directors of Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited.

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2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2017

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 January 2017 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 TO 2019/20

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the Capital Programme for 2017/ 2018 and noted that the programme ran concurrently with the 2017/ 2018 revenue budget.

It was reported that the schemes usually extended over a number of years and for that reason, the programme projected forward indicative spending for three years.

Members also noted that the 2018/ 2019 and 2019/ 2020 programmes had been drawn up based upon individual allocations and current proposals and would be reviewed as part of the budget processes for those years.

Motion: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Campbell seconded):

- '1. To approve the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting held on 6 February 2017, namely:
 - 1.1. To approve the Capital Programme for 2017/ 2018 as set out at Appendices A and B in the report to the Executive, including the in- year contingency of £600,000.
 - 1.2. To agree to adopt the Single Capital Pot approach, as outlined in Section 4 of the report to the Executive (reference paragraph 4.2) and to approve a top slice of 12.5%, to allow for investment in key priority areas and overspends that are not otherwise fundable.
2. To note the following decisions of the Executive in relation to the Capital Programme from its meeting on 6 February 2017, namely:
 - 2.1. To agree that individual Executive approvals will continue to be required for all Prudential borrowing schemes (reference paragraph 3.1 of the report to the Executive).
 - 2.2. To agree the Capital Prudential Indicators as identified in Appendix C of the report to the Executive.'

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

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4 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017/18

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the proposed Treasury Management Strategy 2017/2018, which set out treasury management activities for the year and incorporated an Investment Strategy.

Motion: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Campbell seconded):

‘To approve the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting held on 6 February 2017, namely:

1. To adopt all the Elements of the Treasury Management Strategy 2017/2018 and to approve the Prudential Indicators and limits for 2017/2018 to 2019/2020 as set in Annex B to the report to the Executive.
2. To approve the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2017/2018 to 2019/2020 as set out in Annex C to the report to the Executive.
3. To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2017/2018, which will ensure a more prudent Minimum Revenue Provision charge in the annual statement of accounts as set out in Annex D to the report to the Executive.’

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

5 PROPOSED RENT REVIEW 2017/18

Members considered the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 6 February 2017, regarding the levels of rents and service charges for Housing Revenue Account dwellings to be applied to the 2017/2018 financial year, as well as new charges for Housing Revenue Account Services and related Non-Housing Revenue Account properties.

Motion: Councillor Mrs Wright proposed (and Councillor Campbell seconded):

‘To approve the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting held on 6 February 2017, namely:

1. To agree that a rent reduction of a minimum of 1% is implemented for all Housing Revenue Account properties in 2017/2018.
2. To agree that the level of Housing Revenue Account balances remain protected at £1 million, as previously agreed.
3. To agree that the de-pooled services (as detailed in Appendix C to the report to the Executive) and that other service charges (as detailed in Appendices D and E to that report) are charged as outlined.’

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

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6 COUNCIL TAX 2017/18

Members received the report on the recommendations from the Executive at its meetings on 6 February and 20 February 2017 in relation to the draft General Fund Revenue Budget for 2017/2018. The report highlighted that consultation had taken place with representatives from the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee trade unions and business ratepayers on 10 February along with a range of targeted focus groups and partners throughout the autumn.

Members firstly considered the proposed budget saving of £500,000 in relation to income from Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited and £63,000 in relation to reduced bus route subsidies.

Motion 1: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Campbell seconded):

‘To approve the income of £500,000 from Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited as set out in recommendation 2b, Appendix 6(c) and the savings as a result of the reduced bus route subsidies in the sum of £63,000 as set out in recommendation 2b, Appendix 6(c) of the report to the Executive on 20 February 2017.’

Recorded vote: The Council noted that under the Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, there was a requirement for a recorded vote on setting the Council tax and budget. The voting was as follows:

For the motion: Councillors Blackburn, Cain, Campbell, I Coleman, Collett, Cross, Hobson, Hunter, Jackson, Kirkland, Matthews, Mitchell, Owen, Ryan, Smith, I Taylor, L Williams - **Total 17.**

Against the motion: Councillors Mrs Callow, Callow, Clapham, Cox, Mrs Henderson, Maycock, Roberts, Robertson, Scott, T Williams – **Total 10.**

Abstentions: Councillor Mrs Rowson – **Total 1.**

Motion 1 carried: The motion was therefore carried.

Note: Having declared relevant interests Councillors Benson, D Coleman, G Coleman, Critchley, Elmes, Galley, Hutton, O’Hara, Stansfield, L Taylor and Mrs Wright left the meeting during consideration of the above part of the item.

Motion 2: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor Campbell seconded):

‘To approve the following proposed remaining recommendations, bringing together the recommendations from the Executive meetings on 6 February 2017 and 20 February 2017 into a summary document, set out in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

1. To agree the level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2017/2018 of £120,248,000 (ref. Paragraph 6.2 of the report to the Executive on 6 February 2017).

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2. To approve a level of budget savings of £18.7m (reference paragraph 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 6 February 2017), with the exception of the following:
 - 2.1. Remove the saving of £250,000 identified at line B4.2, which proposed the introduction of a charge for concessionary fares on the tramway.
 - 2.2. Remove the saving of £26,000 contained within line B5.3 in relation to ending community based stroke service funding.
 - 2.3. Increase the saving at line B5.8 (Residual target to be allocated to services) by £276,000.
3. To agree that the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure all staffing savings are achieved (ref. paragraph 8.1 of the report to the Executive on 6 February 2017).
4. Subject to 3. above, to rescind the decision of Council on 8 July 2015, which established the principle of appointing Political Assistants within the framework of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, thereby disestablishing the posts allocated to the Labour and Conservative groups, which contributes to the savings outlined in line B5.8 (Residual target to services).
5. To agree that the Business Loans Fund is increased from £10m to £100m with immediate effect (ref. paragraph 8.3 of the report to the Executive on 6 February 2017).
6. To agree that the target level of working balances remains at £6m (ref. paragraph 10.4 of the report to the Executive on 6 February 2017).
7. To recommend a detailed review of earmarked reserves takes place at Provisional Outturn 2016/ 2017 to reprioritise and un earmark funds to replenish working balances to their target level in 2017/ 2018 (ref. paragraph 10.4 of the report to the Executive on 6 February 2017).
8. To note the comments of the meeting of the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee with the Trade Unions and Business Ratepayers, as reported to the Executive on 22 February 2016 and the responses given.
9. To note the report of the Budget Scrutiny Panel and the responses of the Executive (ref Appendix 3 of the report to the Executive 6 February 2017).
10. To adopt the formal Council Tax Resolutions set out at Appendix 6 (c) (Annex 1), in so doing agree a Council Tax Requirement of £50,845,100 and a Council Tax Base of 35,662.

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11. To note the calculation of Aggregate Amounts as directed by Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as set out at Appendix 6 (c) (Annex1 and 2).
12. To approve a level of Council Tax for the financial year 2017/2018 of £1,425.75 at valuation Band D equivalent (a 4.99% increase including the 3% Adult Social Care Precept, but excluding the precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority).
13. To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2017/2018 is £165.45 (a 1.99% increase) for a Band D Tax equivalent and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2017/2018 is £65.50 for a Band D Tax equivalent (no increase).
14. To confirm that the aggregate levels of Council Tax for Valuation Bands A to H will be as follows:'

VALUATION BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
BLACKPOOL	905.93	1,056.92	1,207.90	1,358.89	1,660.86	1,962.84	2,264.82	2,717.78
ADULT SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT	44.57	52.00	59.43	66.86	81.72	96.58	111.43	133.72
BLACKPOOL TOTAL CTAX	950.50	1,108.92	1,267.33	1,425.75	1,742.58	2,059.42	2,376.25	2,851.50
POLICE	110.30	128.68	147.07	165.45	202.22	238.98	275.75	330.90
FIRE	43.67	50.94	58.22	65.50	80.06	94.61	109.17	131.00
COUNCIL TAX 2017/18	1,104.47	1,288.54	1,472.62	1,656.70	2,024.86	2,393.01	2,761.17	3,313.40

Recorded vote: The Council noted that under the Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, there was a requirement for a recorded vote on setting the Council tax and budget. The voting was as follows:

For the motion: Councillors Benson, Blackburn, Cain, Campbell, D Coleman, G Coleman, I Coleman, Collett, Critchley, Cross, Elmes, Hobson, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Kirkland, Matthews, Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Ryan, Smith, I Taylor, L Taylor, Williams, Mrs Wright - **Total 26.**

Against the motion: Councillors Mrs Callow, Callow, Clapham, Cox, Galley, Mrs Henderson, Maycock, Roberts, Robertson, Scott, Stansfield, T Williams – **Total 12.**

Abstentions: Councillor Mrs Rowson – **Total 1.**

Motion 2 carried: The motion was therefore carried.

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Mayor

(The meeting ended at 6.53 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
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