

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, 8 MARCH 2021

Present:

Councillor Cross (in the Chair)

Councillors

Baker	Collett	Kirkland	Smith
Benson	Cox	Matthews	Stansfield
Brookes	Critchley	Mitchell	Taylor
Burdess	Farrell	O'Hara	Walsh
Cain	Galley	Owen	L Williams
Mrs Callow JP	Hobson	Robertson BEM	T Williams
Campbell	Hugo	Roberts	Wilshaw
Clapham	Hunter	D Scott	Wing
D Coleman	Hutton	Mrs Scott	
G Coleman	Jackson	R Scott	

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships / Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to item 4 'Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24', the following declarations were made:

- Councillors Campbell, Hobson and Roberston declared personal interests as Council-appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Housing Company Ltd
- Councillors Brookes, Cross and Galley declared personal interests as Council-appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Entertainment Company Ltd
- Councillors Campbell, Farrell and Roberts declared personal interests as Council-appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Airport Operations Ltd
- Councillors Burdess, Galley and Matthews declared personal interests as Council-appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Transport Services Ltd
- Councillor Benson declared a personal interest as her husband was employed at Blackpool Transport Services Ltd.

Councillors Hutton, Kirkland and Stansfield declared prejudicial interests in Recommendation 1 of agenda item 8 'Council Tax 2021/22' as Council-appointed non-executive directors of Enveco (Blackpool Waste Services Limited).

Councillors Blackburn, Hugo and T Williams also declared personal interests in agenda item 8 'Council Tax 2021/22' as Council-appointed representatives of Lancashire Combined Fire Authority.

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2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2021

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 February 2021 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3 DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Council paid tribute to Mrs Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services who was due to retire at end March 2021 and thanked her for her service to the Council. Mrs Booth responded to the tribute and thanked councillors for their comments.

4 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2021/2022 TO 2023/2024

Members considered the recommendations from the Executive meeting of 8 February 2021 on the proposed capital strategy which incorporated the Property Investment Strategy for 2021/22. Members noted that the proposed Capital Strategy aligned with the priorities set out in the Council Plan and set out how capital expenditure and investment decisions were taken in line with service objectives and took account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability.

Motion: Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

'To approve the Capital Strategy 2021/2022 to 2023/2024 incorporating the Property Investment Strategy 2021/2022'.

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

5 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 TO 2023/24

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive from 8 February 2021 in relation to the Capital Programme for 2021/2022 to 2023/2024. In doing so, members noted that the programme ran concurrently with the General Fund Revenue Budget and projected forward indicative spending for three years at an estimated value of £135.8 million.

Motion: Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

- '1. To approve the Capital Programme for 2021/2022 as set out at Appendices A and B to the Executive report.
2. To adopt the Single Capital Pot approach as outlined in Section 4 of the Capital Programme report as circulated with the agenda for that meeting with a top slice of 12.5% to allow for investment in key priority areas and overspends that are not otherwise fundable.
3. To approve the Capital Prudential Indicators as identified in Appendix C to the Executive report.
4. To agree that Executive approval will continue to be required for all Prudential borrowing schemes (reference paragraph 3.1 of the Executive report)'.

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

6 MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY REVIEW

Members considered the recommendations from the Executive on proposals to vary the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy as a result of the review undertaken by Link Asset Services. It was reported that the assessment was in line with current guidance on capital debt liability.

Motion: Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

- '1. To approve the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy 2020/21 set out within Appendix 5b to the Executive report.
2. That in approving the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Council endorses the following amendments which had been included in the document:
 - i. The Council has accepted the principle that any capital receipts which it determines in future should be set aside in order to reduce the outstanding amount of capital debt liability may, if desired, be taken to represent a debt liability reduction that has been made in lieu of a corresponding amount of prudent provision that would otherwise have been made in a particular financial year. Any such setting aside of capital receipts will not, however, apply to those capital receipts which represent the repayment of loan principal amounts in respect of loans made in earlier financial years which have been treated as capital expenditure, but not subjected to an Minimum Revenue Provision charge.
 - ii. The policy changes reflected above will in future be represented as a new local Option for the ongoing determination of an amount of Minimum Revenue Provision which is considered each year to be prudent.
 - iii. In respect of new capital debt liability incurred after 1st April 2008, the Authority's Policy continues to adopt the principles outlined in Option 3 (asset life method) that are exemplified in the Minimum Revenue Provision Guidance, whereby the liability will be charged over a period that is reasonably commensurate with that over which the new capital expenditure is estimated to provide a benefit to the Authority.
 - iv. Any credit arrangements or expenditure treated as capital expenditure under Direction or Regulation will either have Minimum Revenue Provision determined under Option 3, or otherwise related to the estimated life of the underlying asset. For example, a loan granted to a third party towards "capital expenditure" will, where Minimum Revenue Provision is considered to be necessary, be related to the life of the asset towards which the financial assistance is being provided.
 - v. Whether any charges are appropriate for this type of activity after taking account of the different powers available to it.

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- vi. Minimum Revenue Provision will not be charged (voluntarily) on any Part II (Housing Revenue Account related) housing debt.
- vii. Minimum Revenue Provision will not be charged on loans made to wholly owned subsidiaries or other third parties where such loans are treated as capital expenditure in cases where there are satisfactory and supportable repayment obligations attached to those loans. Unlike other types of capital receipt, the capital receipts that will arise from these repayments will be set aside generally or specifically to reduce the outstanding amount of capital debt liability in respect of these loans. The anticipated receipts will be kept under review on an annual basis in order to ensure that the deferment of Minimum Revenue Provision remains prudent.
- viii. Following the identification of savings in respect of financial years 2004/05 – 2018/19, totalling £23.808m, (in respect of an increase of £34.743m to Adjustment A, and earlier year revenue contributions to capital of £13.054m, (adjusted for alternate Minimum Revenue Provision liability)), the Council will determine for any subsequent financial year the extent to which they propose to reduce the amount of Minimum Revenue Provision liability that would have arisen, but for these savings. Additionally, the Council will continue to apply the higher amount of Adjustment A indicated above to have been identified’.

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

7 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021/2022

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the proposed Treasury Management Strategy 2021/2022, which set out how the Council would manage its investments and cashflows over the forthcoming financial year and which incorporated an Investment Strategy.

Motion: Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

- ‘1. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/2022 including both the Borrowing and Investment Strategies set out in Annex C and Annex D to the Executive report.
- 2. To adopt the Treasury Management Policy Statement, the three key principles and four clauses taken from CIPFA’s Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (2017 Edition) and set out in Annex B to the Executive report.
- 3. To approve the revised Prudential Indicators and limits for 2020/2021 and the new Prudential Indicators and limits for 2021/ 2022 – 2023/ 2024 set out in Annex E to the Executive report.
- 4. To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2021/2022, which will ensure a prudent Minimum Revenue Provision charge in the annual statement of accounts. The policy is set out within Annex D to the report to the Executive’.

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

8 COUNCIL TAX 2021/ 2022

The Council considered the recommendations from the Executive at its meetings on 8 February and 25 February 2021 in relation to the draft General Fund Revenue Budget and setting of Council Tax for 2021/2022.

Members firstly considered the budget proposals in relation to Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco.

Motion 1: Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

‘To agree the savings of £350,000 through service improvements and efficiencies by the integration of Environmental and Cleansing services into Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco.’ (ref: Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 8 February 2021)’.

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, Brookes, Burdess, Cain, Campbell, Clapham, D Coleman, G Coleman, Collett, Cox, Critchley, Cross, Farrell, Hobson, Hugo, Hunter, Jackson, Matthews, Mitchell, O’Hara, Owen, Roberts, Robertson, D Scott, Mrs Scott, R Scott, Smith, Taylor, Walsh, L Williams, T Williams, Wilshaw, Wing - **Total 33.**

Against the motion: Councillors Baker, Mrs Callow, Galley – **Total 3.**

Abstentions: None.

Motion 1 carried: The motion was therefore carried.

Note: Having declared prejudicial interests, Councillors Hutton, Kirkland and Stansfield left the meeting during consideration of the above part of the item.

Motion 2: Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

‘The Council to agree the proposed the remaining recommendations 2b to 2j as outlined in Appendix 8(c), bringing together the recommendations from the Executive meetings on 8 February 2021 and 25 February 2021 into a summary document, set out in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011:

1. To agree a remaining level of budget savings of £19.95m (£20.3m minus the £350,000 already approved in a) (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 8 February 2021).

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2. To agree the level of net expenditure for the draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 of £149,062,000 (ref. paragraph 6.2 of the report to the Executive on 8 February 2021).
3. 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 8 February 2021).
4. That the target level of working balances remains at £6m (ref. paragraph 10.4 of the report to the Executive on 8 February 2021).
5. To adopt the formal Council Tax Resolutions set out at Appendix 8 (c) (Annex 1), in so doing agree a Council Tax Requirement of £62,618,000 and a Council Tax Base of 36,853.
6. To note the calculation of Aggregate Amounts as directed by Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as set out at Appendix 8 (c) (Annex 1 and 2).
7. To approve a level of Council Tax for the financial year 2021/22 of £1,699.13 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).
8. To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2021/22 is £226.45 (a £15.00 increase, equivalent to 7.09%) for a Band D Tax equivalent and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2021/22 is £72.27 for a Band D Tax equivalent (a 1.99% increase).
9. To confirm that the aggregate levels of Council Tax for Valuation Bands A to H will be as below:

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	1,006.55	1,174.31	1,342.07	1,509.83	1,845.35	2,180.87	2,516.38	3,019.66
ADULT SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT	126.20	147.23	168.27	189.30	231.37	273.43	315.50	378.60
BLACKPOOL TOTAL CTAX	1,132.75	1,321.54	1,510.34	1,699.13	2,076.72	2,454.30	2,831.88	3,398.26
POLICE	150.97	176.13	201.29	226.45	276.77	327.09	377.42	452.90
FIRE	48.18	56.21	64.24	72.27	88.33	104.39	120.45	144.54
COUNCIL TAX 2021/22	1,331.90	1,553.88	1,775.87	1,997.85	2,441.82	2,885.78	3,329.75	3,995.70

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:

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For the motion: Councillors Benson, Brookes, Burdess, Cain, Campbell, D Coleman, Collett, Critchley, Cross, Farrell, Hobson, Hugo, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Kirkland, Matthews, Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Smith, Taylor, L Williams - **Total 23.**

Against the motion: Councillors Baker, Mrs Callow, Clapham, G Coleman, Cox, Galley Roberts, Robertson, D Scott, Mrs Scott, R Scott, Stansfield, Walsh, T Williams, Wilshaw, Wing – **Total 16.**

Abstentions: None.

Motion 2 carried: The motion was therefore carried.

9 PAY POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW

Members considered the report on proposals to reconsider the Council's decision regarding the Pay Policy statement, as the Government had withdrawn Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payments Regulations 2020 and the supplementary HM Treasury Directions which had formed part of the original statement.

Motion: Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

- '1. To set aside the decision of the Council on 10 February 2021 relating to the Pay Policy Statement and approve the updated Pay Policy Statement, attached at Appendix 9(a).
2. To delegate to the Chief Executive the authority to reflect changes in legislation or decisions made from time to time by or on behalf of the authority and republish the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/2022'.

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

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 7.46 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
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