

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2022

Present:

Councillor Burdess (in the Chair)

Councillors

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

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships / Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Jenni Cook, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to agenda item 7, Council Tax 2022/23 the following declarations of interest were made:

- Councillors Cain, Critchley and Walsh declared prejudicial interests as Council-appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Operating Company Ltd
- Councillors Hutton, Kirkland and Stansfield declared prejudicial interests as Council-appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Waste Services Limited (Enveco)
- Councillors Burdess, Galley and Matthews declared personal interests as Council-appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Transport Services Limited
- Councillors Hugo, Jackson and T Williams declared personal interests as Council-appointed representatives on Lancashire Combined Fire Authority
- Councillor Benson declared a personal interest as her spouse was employed by Blackpool Transport Services Limited
- Councillor O'Hara declared a personal interest as his son was employed by Blackpool Transport Services Limited.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS HELD ON 8 AND 9 FEBRUARY 2022

Resolved: That the minutes of the informal Council meeting held on 8 February 2022 and the minutes of the formal Council meeting held on 9 February 2022 be signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2022

3 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23 TO 2024/25

The Council considered the recommendations from the Executive meeting of 7 February 2022 in relation to the proposed capital strategy which incorporated the Property Investment Strategy for 2022/23. Members noted that the proposed Capital Strategy aligned with the priorities set out in the Council Plan and Treasury Management Strategy.

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

‘To approve the Capital Strategy 2022/2023 to 2024/2025 incorporating the Property Investment Strategy 2022/2023’.

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

4 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2024/25

Members considered the recommendations of the Executive from 7 February 2022 regarding the Capital Programme for 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. It was 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 £263.5 million.

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

1. To approve the Capital Programme for 2022/2023 as set out in the report and in Appendices 4a and 4b to the Executive report.
2. To agree that Executive approval will continue to be required for all Prudential borrowing schemes (reference paragraph 6.10 of the report).
3. To approve the Single Capital Pot approach as outlined with a top slice of 12.5% to allow for investment in key priority areas and overspends that are not otherwise fundable (reference paragraph 6.14 of the report).
4. To agree the Capital Prudential Indicators as identified in Appendix 4c to the Executive report’.

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

5 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022/23

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the proposed Treasury Management Strategy 2022/2023, which set out how the Council would manage its investments and cashflows over the forthcoming financial year.

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

1. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/2023 including both the Borrowing and Investment Strategies set out in Appendix 5c and Appendix 5d to the Executive report.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2022

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 (2021 Edition) set out in Appendix 5b to the Executive report.
3. To approve the revised Prudential Indicators and limits for 2022/2023 and the new Prudential Indicators and limits for 2022/2023 – 2024/2025 set out in Appendix 5e to the Executive report.
4. To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2022/2023, which will ensure a prudent Minimum Revenue Provision charge in the annual statement of accounts. The policy is set out in Appendix 5f to the Executive report'.

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

6 COUNCIL PLAN

A report on the Council Plan was considered by members, along with the recommendations from the Executive on 24 February 2022 for its approval, following updates made in relation to the order of Council priorities, work to address the climate emergency and details of the Council's pandemic response and approach to recovery.

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

'To approve the updated Council Plan as attached at Appendix 3a to the Executive report, with immediate effect until 31 December 2024'.

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

7 COUNCIL TAX 2022/23

The Council considered the recommendations from the Executive from the meetings on 7 February and 24 February 2022 in relation to the draft General Fund Revenue Budget and setting of Council Tax for 2022/2023.

Members firstly considered the budget proposals in relation to Blackpool Operating Company Limited.

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

'To agree a budget saving of £900,000 based on a dividend from Blackpool Operating Company Limited (ref. Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 7 February 2022)'.

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, Campbell, Clapham, D Coleman, G Coleman, Collett, Cox, Farrell, Galley, Hobson, Hugo, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Kirkland, Matthews, B Mitchell, M Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Roberts, Robertson, D Scott, Mrs Scott, R Scott, Sloman, Smith, Stansfield, Taylor, L Williams, T Williams, Wilshaw - **Total 34.**

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2022

Against the motion: Councillor Baker – **Total 1.**

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

Motion 1 carried: The motion was therefore carried.

Note: Having declared prejudicial interests, Councillors Cain, Critchley and Walsh left the meeting during consideration of the above part of the item.

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

‘To agree a budget saving of £250,000, as part of the identified total non-recurrent savings of £6.04m to replenish working balances, based on savings as a result of consolidation following the establishment of Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco (ref. Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 7 February 2022)’.

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 Baker, Benson, Brookes, Burdess, Cain, Mrs Callow, Campbell, Clapham, D Coleman, G Coleman, Collett, Cox, Critchley, Farrell, Galley, Hobson, Hugo, Hunter, Jackson, Matthews, B Mitchell, M Mitchell, O’Hara, Owen, Roberts, Robertson, D Scott, Mrs Scott, R Scott, Sloman, Smith, Taylor, Walsh, L Williams, T Williams, Wilshaw - **Total 36.**

Against the motion: None

Abstentions: None

Motion 2 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 3: Councillor L Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

‘The Council to agree the proposed the remaining recommendations 2c to 2k as outlined in Appendix 7(a) (and reproduced below), bringing together the recommendations from the Executive meetings on 7 February 2022 and 24 February 2022 into a summary document, set out in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011:

1. To agree a level of budget savings of £7.7m (£8.6m minus £900,000 already approved in 2a) (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.4 and Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 7 February 2022).
2. To agree the level of net expenditure for the draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/23 of £160,276,000 (ref. paragraph 6.2 of the report to the Executive on 7 February 2022).

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2022

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 7 February 2022).
4. That the target level of working balances remains at £6m (ref. paragraph 10.4 of the report to the Executive on 7 February 2022).
5. To adopt the formal Council Tax Resolutions set out at Appendix 7(a) (Annex 1), in so doing agree a Council Tax Requirement of £64,992,000 and a Council Tax Base of 37,140.
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 7(a) (Annex 1 and 2).
7. To approve a level of Council Tax for the financial year 2022/23 of £1,749.92 at valuation Band D equivalent (a 2.99% increase including the 1% 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 2022/23 is £236.45 (a £10.00 increase, equivalent to 4.42%) for a Band D Tax equivalent and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2022/23 is £77.27 (a £5.00 increase, equivalent to 6.92%) for a Band D Tax equivalent.
9. To confirm that should recommendation 2h) above be approved, 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	1,029.09	1,200.59	1,372.12	1,543.63	1,886.67	2,229.69	2,572.72	3,087.26
ADULT SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT	137.53	160.45	183.37	206.29	252.13	297.97	343.82	412.58
BLACKPOOL TOTAL CTAX	1,166.62	1,361.04	1,555.49	1,749.92	2,138.80	2,527.66	2,916.54	3,499.84
POLICE	157.63	183.91	210.18	236.45	288.99	341.54	394.08	472.90
FIRE	51.51	60.10	68.68	77.27	94.44	111.61	128.78	154.54
COUNCIL TAX 2022/23	1,375.76	1,605.05	1,834.35	2,063.64	2,522.23	2,980.81	3,439.40	4,127.28

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, Campbell, Collett, Critchley, Farrell, Hobson, Hugo, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Kirkland, Matthews, M Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Smith, Taylor, L Williams - **Total 20.**

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2022

Against the motion: Councillors Baker, Mrs Callow, Clapham, D Coleman, G Coleman, Cox, Galley, B Mitchell, Roberts, Robertson, D Scott, Mrs Scott, R Scott, Sloman, Stansfield, Walsh, T Williams, Wilshaw – **Total 18.**

Abstentions: Councillor Cain - **Total 1.**

Motion 3 carried: The motion was therefore carried.

8 APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Members considered a report on proposals for the appointment of the Council's auditor as the current contract expired in March 2023.

The report outlined the options which included appointment on a stand-alone basis, collaboration on a local joint procurement arrangement or opting in to sector-led body.

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

'To opt-in to the Local Government Association (LGA)-endorsed sector-led body appointed by the Secretary of State, namely Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA), by the due deadline of 11 March 2022 for them to undertake the Council's local auditor procurement and appointment process'.

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

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 7.50 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance
Tel: 01253 477127
E-mail: lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk