

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - 28 FEBRUARY 2014

Present:

Councillor Collett (in the Chair)

Councillors

Blackburn	Elmes	Jackson	Ryan
Brown	Evans	Lee	Smith
Cain	Galley	Matthews	Stansfield
Callow	Green	H Mitchell	Taylor
Mrs Callow JP	Mrs Greenhalgh	M Mitchell	Mrs Taylor JP
Clapham	Mrs Haynes	O'Hara	Williams
G Coleman	Mrs Henderson MBE	Owen	
Cross	Hunter	Riding	
Mrs Delves	Hutton	Rowson	

In attendance:

N Jack, Chief Executive
C McKeogh - Deputy Chief Executive - Human Resources, Communication and Engagement
J Blackledge, Assistant Chief Executive - Leisure and Operational Services
A Cavill, Assistant Chief Executive - Regeneration, Tourism and Culture
D Curtis, Assistant Chief Executive - Adult Services
J Donnellon, Assistant Chief Executive - Built Environment
S Harrison, Assistant Chief Executive - Children's Services
A Rajpura, Assistant Chief Executive - Public Health
S Thompson, Assistant Chief Executive - Treasurer Services
M Towers, Head of Democratic Services / Monitoring Officer
L Hurst, Assistant Head of Democratic Services
Y Burnett, Democratic Services Project Officer
S Shaw, Head of Corporate Development, Engagement and Communications
J Bollington, Media Manager

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Campbell who was on official Council business.

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1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Hutton, M Mitchell and Stansfield declared personal interests in agenda item 5 'Proposed Rent Review 2014/15' as Council appointed Directors of Blackpool Coastal Housing Ltd. Councillor Galley declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 'Council Tax 2014/15' as a Council appointed Director of Blackpool Transport Services Ltd and in relation to concessionary fares.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2014

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council held on 22 January 2014, be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/2015, 2015/2016 AND 2016/2017

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the Capital Programme for 2014/15. In doing so, members noted that the programme ran concurrently with the 2014/15 revenue budget, with schemes usually extending over a number of years, and therefore the programme projected forward indicative spending for a period of three years. Members also noted that the capital expenditure would be spent in areas that contributed to meeting the Council's priorities and that monthly monitoring of the budget would be undertaken by the Council's Executive with effect from month three.

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

'1. To approve the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 10 February 2014 namely:

i) To approve the capital programme for 2014/ 2015 as set out at Appendices A and B in the report to the Executive.

ii) To agree to continue with the Single Capital Pot approach as outlined in Section 4 of the report to the Executive and to approve a top-slice of 12.5%, to allow for investment in key priority areas and overspends that are not otherwise fundable.

iii) To agree to create a capital contingency of £532,000 for the purposes outlined in the report to the Executive.

2. To note the decisions of the Executive from its meeting on 10 February 2014 namely:

i) To note that individual Executive approvals will continue to be required for all Prudential Borrowing schemes.

ii) To note the Capital Prudential Indicators as identified in Appendix C of the report to the Executive.

iii) To note the risks as set out in Appendix D of the report to the Executive.'

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Motion carried: The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried.

4. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2014/2015

Members considered the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the proposed Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15 which set out treasury management activities for the forthcoming year.

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

'To approve the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 10 February 2014, namely:

1. To adopt all the elements of the Treasury Management Strategy 2014/2015 as set out in Annex B to the report to the Executive.
2. To approve the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2014/ 2015 - 2016/ 2017 as set out in Annex C to the report to the Executive.
3. To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2014/ 2015 within Annex D to the report to the Executive.
4. To approve the Policy for allocating borrowing costs to the Housing Revenue Account for 2014/2015 and future years which are set out in Annex E to the report to the Executive.'

Motion carried: The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried.

5. PROPOSED RENT REVIEW 2014/2015

Members considered the recommendations of the Executive regarding the Housing Revenue Account budget and the levels of rents and service charges for Council housing dwellings to be applied for 2014/2015.

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

'To approve the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 10 February 2014, namely:

1. To approve the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2014/2015.
2. To agree that a rent increase of 2.82% is implemented in 2014/ 2015. This rate of increase will ensure delivery of the Queens Park redevelopment and approved conversion and de-conversion schemes, whilst also enabling borrowing to remain within permitted limits and acknowledging the other financial pressures on Council tenants given the current wider economic climate and ongoing welfare reforms.

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3. To agree that in line with the decision of the Council to maintain a minimum level of Housing Revenue Account balances of £1m, that Housing Revenue Account balances continue to be protected in order to ensure that prudent balances are held.
4. To agree that 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 the report to the Executive) are charged as outlined.
5. To agree that the Leaseholder Management Charge is amended in line with the cost of managing the service.'

Motion carried: The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried.

6. COUNCIL TAX 2014/2015

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive at its meeting on 10 February and 24 February 2014 in relation to the draft General Fund Revenue Budget for 2014/15 and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16, following consultation with the trade unions, non-domestic ratepayers and the Council's Scrutiny Committee and Finance and Audit Committee and following the announcement of the Council's 2014/15 Settlement Funding Assessment. Members noted the precepts set by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority.

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

'The Council to agree the proposed recommendations outlined in Appendix 6(c) of the Council report, bringing together the recommendations from the Executive meetings on 10 February 2014 and 24 February 2014 into a summary document, set out in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, namely:

1. To agree the level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/2015 of £141,058,000 (ref. Paragraph 4.2 of the report to the Executive on 24 February).
2. To agree a level of budget savings of £15.8m (ref. paragraph 7.1 and 7.3 of the report and Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 10 February).
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 10 February).
4. To agree that £294,000 is provided in the Budget to support the voluntary sector transition to commissioning-based funding (ref. paragraph 9.1 and 9.2 of the report to the Executive on 10 February).
5. To agree that the target level of working balances remains at £6m (ref. paragraph 11.4 of the report to the Executive on 10 February).

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6. To note the comments of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and the meetings of the Finance and Audit Committee with the Trade Unions and the non-domestic Ratepayers, as reported to the Executive and the responses given.
7. To adopt the formal Council Tax Resolutions set out at Appendix 6(c) to the Council report, in so doing agree a Council Tax Requirement of £45,350,750 and a Council Tax Base of 34,725.
8. 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) to the Council report.
9. To approve an unchanged level of Council Tax for the financial year 2014/2015 of £1,306.00 at valuation band D equivalent (excluding the precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority).
10. To note that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2014/15 is £63.65 for a Band D Tax equivalent and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2014/2015 is £155.96 for a Band D Tax equivalent.
11. 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	870.67	1,015.78	1,160.89	1,306.00	1,596.22	1,886.44	2,176.67	2,612.00
POLICE	103.97	121.30	138.63	155.96	190.62	225.28	259.93	311.92
FIRE	42.43	49.51	56.58	63.65	77.79	91.94	106.08	127.30
COUNCIL TAX 2014/15	1,017.07	1,186.59	1,356.10	1,525.61	1,864.63	2,203.66	2,542.68	3,051.22

Recorded vote: The Council noted that legislation was now in place that required a recorded vote on the Council's budget. The voting was as follows:

For the motion: Councillors Blackburn, Brown, Cain, G Coleman, Collett, Cross, Elmes, Green, Mrs Haynes, Hunter, Hutton, Jackson, Matthews, M Mitchell, O'Hara, Owen, Riding, Mrs Rowson, Ryan, Smith, Taylor, and Mrs Taylor. **Total 22.**

Against the motion: Councillors Callow, Mrs Callow, Clapham, Mrs Delves, Evans, Galley, Mrs Henderson, Lee, H Mitchell, Stansfield, Williams. **Total 11.**

Abstentions: None.

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Motion carried: The motion was therefore carried.

Note: Councillor Mrs Greenhalgh left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 12.00 pm)

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