

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024

ITEM 4 – GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, COUNCIL TAX AND DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT FOR 2024/25 ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

1. **Proposed budget savings in relation to Housing Company recharges and review of company overheads for Blackpool Housing Company Limited / Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited (Page 125 of the agenda)**

From prior communication we are aware that the following Councillors will likely declare prejudicial interests at the start of the meeting, as Council appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Housing Company Ltd / Blackpool Coastal Housing Ltd. They will need to leave the room before the Council Tax item (item 4) commences:

- Councillors N Brookes, Hobson and Sloman

- 1.1 The **Leader of the Council** to move the part of the budget relating to savings from Blackpool Housing Company and Blackpool Coastal Housing as follows: (Appendix 4b).

‘To agree a budget saving of £422,000 based on recharges and a review of company overheads for Blackpool Coastal Housing Ltd and Blackpool Housing Company Ltd (ref. Appendix 4b)’.

- 1.2 The motion to be seconded.
- 1.3 Other speakers on this item.
- 1.4 Councillor Williams right of reply.
- 1.5 Council to vote on this motion – **a recorded vote is required***.

(Councillors N Brookes, Hobson and Sloman to return to the meeting when this part of the item has been agreed)

2. Proposed budget savings in relation to Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Operating Company Limited, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited and Blackpool Waste Services Limited (Page 125 of the agenda)

From prior communication we are aware that the following Councillors will likely declare prejudicial interests at the start of the meeting, as Council appointed non-executive directors of the above companies. They will need to leave the room before this item is considered:

- Councillors Bamborough, Boughton and B Mitchell
- Councillors M Smith and C Mitchell
- Councillors Farrell and Walsh
- Councillors Hoyle, Jones and Wilshaw

2.1 The Leader of the Council to move the part of the budget relating to savings in relation to Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Operating Company Limited, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited and Blackpool Waste Services Limited (Appendix 4b).

To agree a level of budget savings of £1.578 million made up by:

- £427,000 for new rent at the Tram Depot from Blackpool Transport Services Ltd
- £500,000 from improved performance from the Sandcastle Waterpark (Blackpool Operating Company Limited) and Winter Gardens (Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited)
- £500,000 from an Enveco dividend (Blackpool Waste Services Limited) and
- £151,000 from a Sandcastle Waterpark rent increase (Blackpool Operating Company Limited)
(ref. Appendix 4b).'

2.2 The motion to be seconded.

2.3 Other speakers on this item.

2.4 Councillor Williams right of reply.

2.5 Council to vote on this motion – **a recorded vote is required***.

(Councillors Bamborough, Boughton, B Mitchell, M Smith, C Mitchell, Farrell, Walsh, Hoyle, Jones and Wilshaw to return to the meeting when this part of the item has been agreed)

3. Remainder of Budget savings and setting of Council Tax

3.1 The Leader of the Council to move:

“The Council to agree the proposed the remaining recommendations numbered 2.1 to 2.13 as outlined in Agenda Item 4 and updated in this Order of Proceedings to reflect decisions taken at 1.1 and 2.1 above and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire precept and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2024/25.

Recommendations:

- 2.1 To note the recommendations from the Executive at its meeting on 5 February 2024 and updated information as reported to Council.
- 2.2 To note the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire precept for the financial year 2024/25 for a Band D Tax equivalent and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2024/25 for a Band D Tax equivalent.
- 2.3 To agree a level of budget savings of £14.3m (£16.3m less the £2m already approved) (ref. paragraphs 10.1 and Appendix 4b) incorporating a Council Tax increase of 4.99% made up of 2.99% plus 2% Adult Social Care precept.
- 2.4 To agree the level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2024/2025 of £194,762,000 (ref. paragraph 9.2 and Appendix 4a).
- 2.5 To note that on 31 January 2024, the National Non-Domestic Rate Return 1 for 2024/25 was formally approved by the Leader of the Council and this has been reflected in Appendix 4a for the financial year 2024/25 and the updated Appendix 4g* (Annexes 1 and 2).
- 2.6 To agree that the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure any staffing savings are achieved (ref. paragraph 11.1).
- 2.7 To agree the proposed use of the Dedicated Schools Grant Budget for 2024/25 (ref. paragraph 7.8 and Appendix 4c).
- 2.8 To agree the allocation of schools funding for 2024/25 (ref. paragraph 7.8 and Appendix 4c).
- 2.9 To agree that a target level of working balances of **£8m** by 31 March 2025 and that due regard is given to the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves in the budget proposals for 2024/2025 (ref. section 13).
- 2.10 To adopt the formal Council Tax Resolutions set out in the updated Appendix 4g* (Annex 1), in so doing agree a Council Tax Requirement of £74,755,000 and a Council Tax Base of 38,756 properties.
- 2.11 To note the calculation of Aggregate Amounts as directed by Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as set out in the updated Appendix 4g* (Annexes 1 and 2).
- 2.12 To approve a level of Council Tax for the financial year 2024/25 of £1,928.87 at valuation Band D equivalent (a 4.99% increase including the 2% Adult Social Care Precept but excluding the precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority).

- 2.13 To confirm that should recommendation 2.10 above be approved, the aggregate levels of Council Tax for Valuation Bands A to H will be as set out in the updated Appendix 4g*.

*An updated version of Appendix 4g is attached to this Order of Proceedings to include the precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority which have been confirmed since the agenda was published.

- 3.2 #The Leader of the Council to continue with budget speech.
4. The Leader's motion to be seconded.
5. #Councillor Galley to be invited to reply to the budget speech as Leader of the Principal Opposition.
6. Any other speakers.
7. Reply by the Leader as mover of the motion.
8. Vote on motion (recorded)*

#Note 1:

Under procedural standing order 15.4 'Content and timing of speeches' and by convention the Leader's budget speech at 3.2 and the reply by the Leader of the Principal Opposition at 5 are not time limited.

***Note 2:**

There is a requirement under the Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 to take recorded votes when voting on any motion/ amendment relating to the setting of the Council Tax by the full Council.

Note 3:

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 makes it a criminal offence for a councillor in Council Tax arrears (with at least two months unpaid bills) to vote at a meeting of the Council, a committee or at the Council's Executive where financial matters relating to Council Tax are being considered. It is also an offence if any such councillor present, who is aware of the arrears, fails to disclose that they are in arrears of Council Tax of at least two months.

Note 4:

Declarations of personal interests are also expected from:

- Appointed representatives of Lancashire Combined Fire Authority for Agenda Item 4 – General Fund Revenue budget, Council Tax and Dedicated Schools Grant for 2024/25
- Council appointed non-executive directors on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd in relation to the proposed concessionary fares saving as at Appendix 4b of Agenda Item 4 – (General Fund Revenue budget, Council Tax and Dedicated Schools Grant for 2024/25). This proposed saving is in respect of the Council's revenue budget but Blackpool Transport Services Limited is an associated party.