



MINUTES

Finance and Democracy Committee

Date:	Monday, 17 February 2020
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley (Chairman) Councillor Vince Settle (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Peter Anthony, Peter Collins, Eleanor Gaunt, Brian Gill, Liz Oades, David O'Rourke, Richard Redcliffe, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Michael Withers.
Other Councillors Present:	Councillor Roger Lloyd
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Paul O'Donoghue, Sharon Wadsworth
Other Attendees:	Four members of the public were present

Public Platform

There were no speakers on this occasion.

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members. There were none on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Finance and Democracy Committee meeting held on 27 January 2020 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 23 (c):

Councillor Brian Gill for Councillor Linda Nulty

Decision Items

4. Medium Term Financial Strategy Update, including General Fund, Capital Programme and Treasury Management for 2019/20 to 2023/24

Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Update for 2019/20 to 2023/24.

Mr O'Donoghue introduced the report and highlighted that this was the penultimate stage in the budget setting process before the MTFS was considered for approval by Budget Council in March. He advised that the report included both revenue and capital budget proposals and draft fees and charges which had been considered by

programme committees during the year, along with the recommendations from the deliberations of the Budget Working Group. The report explained that the MTFS was designed to provide a strategic link between available financial resources and the Council's corporate policy priorities, and to ensure that the Council sets a budget which is robust and sustainable in order that it could deliver its strategic objectives.

The report detailed the estimated financial resources available to the Council and identified how they would be utilised to support the achievement of the Council's priorities. The report also identified the key financial risks facing the Council over the life of the forecast. The Council's Revenue Budget, Expenditure Forecast, Capital Programme, Treasury Management Strategy and Useable Reserves and Balances Policy were also set out in the report.

The Chairman, Councillor Buckley, proposed an additional recommendation (i) in relation to the capital bid for the Elswick Village Green scheme, as detailed in Appendix F of the report. Councillor Buckley explained that the original bid for the scheme was based on Elswick Parish Council securing funding from the Pocket Parks fund. This bid had since been unsuccessful, but the Parish Council were seeking alternative funding streams. The recommendation was to continue to support the capital bid of £25k to the Elswick Village Green scheme provided that Elswick Parish Council secured all other funds. The inclusion of the additional recommendation was duly seconded.

Following no further comments or questions it was RESOLVED to request Council to approve and adopt:-

- a) The revised estimates for 2019/20 and the revenue budget for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix E, which includes recommended transfers to the Capital Investment Reserve in 2019/20 and 2020/21 equivalent to the balance of the revenue surplus for those years, currently estimated at £0.832m in 2019/20 and £1.288m in 2020/21;
- b) The budget proposals and changes to Reserves and Balances as set out in Appendices F & H, to include approval that the Council will act as the accountable body for any of the new capital schemes (as indicated) in Appendix F;
- c) The Capital Strategy 2020-23, including Prudential Indicators and Limits, set out in Appendix G; which incorporates the Treasury Management Policy, the Capital Programme, the Treasury Management Strategy, the Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement;
- d) The updated Useable Reserves & Balances Policy as detailed in Appendix H;
- e) That the regeneration of St Annes town centre will be a priority commitment of the Council with the first call on the Funding Volatility Reserve to be in support of this initiative;
- f) An average Band D Council Tax of £210.71 for 2020/21 (excluding Town and Parish precepts), which is a 1.99% increase from the 2019/20 average Band D charge;
- g) The Special Expenses policy as set out in Appendix I; which includes that:
 - for the purposes of charging special expenses, both the special expense costs and the tax bases relating to the areas of Lytham and St Annes will each be aggregated and the Council Tax charge per property at each band level will be the same across the whole area; and
 - the annual special expense charge per property will be set for 2020/21 at the 2019/20 level plus 2.21%, that being £77.60 per band D property; and
 - the annual borough wide charge per property will be set for 2020/21 at the 2019/20 level plus 2.21%, that being £165.39 per band D property; and
 - the budget resource to be allocated to delivering concurrent services and chargeable as special expenses for 2020/21 will be set at a sum equivalent to the annual special expense area; and
- h) The schedule of fees and charges for 2020/21 as detailed in Appendix J.
- i) To support the capital bid in the sum of £25k for 2020/21 as the Fylde Council contribution to the Elswick Village Green scheme, as detailed in Appendix F, regardless to the source of other funding obtained by Elswick Parish Council.

5. Final Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025

Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive, introduced the report in relation to funding that had been allocated by Government to support all housing authorities in England, in acknowledgement of the transitional support required by local authorities in implementing and managing the new processes and systems required to meet data requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to:-

- 1) Approve fully-funded revenue budget increases in the total sum of £70,921 for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23 (£23,640 in each of the years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) be funded by the Flexible Homeless Grant in the sum of £53,766 and by the New Burdens Grant in the sum of £17,155; and
- 2) Approve a fully-funded revenue budget increase for 2020/21 in the sum of £2,000 for the Rapid Rehousing project, to be funded by the Personal Budgeting Support grant.

6. Lytham Institute

The Chairman, Councillor Buckley, notified members of the committee that a referral, in accordance with the Council's Constitution Part 3, Section 5 Referral and Recovery procedure, had been received to refer the item to Council. A separate request had also been made for a separate Council meeting. Both requests had been received in accordance with the Constitution rules and procedures and the separate Council meeting had been confirmed as Monday 9th March 2020. Councillor Buckley proposed from the chair that the Lytham Institute item stands referred to the Council meeting on the 9th March 2020. The recommendation was duly seconded.

It was therefore RESOLVED for the item to be referred to Council on the 9th March 2020.

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