



# Minutes

## FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, 23 January 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Councillor Karen Buckley (Chairman) Councillor Roger Small (Vice-Chairman)  Councillors Sue Fazackerley, Karen Henshaw JP, Angela Jacques, Kiran Mulholland, Linda Nulty, Richard Redcliffe, Vince Settle, Elaine Silverwood.
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Allan Oldfield, Paul Walker, Paul O'Donoghue and Katharine McDonnell.
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	One member of the public

### 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 no declarations of interest.

#### 2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Finance and Democracy Committee meeting held on 15 November 2016 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

#### 3. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 24(c):

Councillor Sue Fazackerley for Councillor Richard Taylor

Councillor Karen Henshaw for Councillor Tony Ford

### Decision Items

#### 4. Accommodation Project – Phase 7 works

Paul Walker, Director of Development Services, presented information on the remaining work with phase 7 of the Town Hall/Chaseley refurbishment proposals and the outcome of a detailed costing exercise based on phase 7 (b) of the scheme. He advised that the report sought the approval of members to deliver phase 7 (b) works, to be met from the council's agreed capital programme for 2016/17 and to request approval to the letting of a contract to undertake the works.

Mr Walker advised that work was currently taking place in the basement and on the ground floor to create a Council Chamber these were Phase 6 works, and further works were taking place on the first floor, which was Phase 7a. A sourcing exercise was currently being undertaken for furniture for the new Council Chamber, options of both fixed and flexible seating were being explored. Options would be taken to a future meeting of the Accommodation Working Group.

Mr Walker responded to a number of questions from committee regarding value for money, quality of work, letting of contracts and the new heating system. He advised that the quality of the work was high and officers were satisfied with the contractor's work. He further advised that the tendering had been undertaken at Phase 3 but had been advertised that there would be further work. With the procurement route taken further contracts could be let using the overhead and profit rates established during Phase 3. The Chairman commented that the committee had approved the continuance of the contract into the further phases on that basis. Mr Walker concluded by reassuring committee members that the new heating system would be more controllable than the current system.

It was RESOLVED:

1. To approve the commencement of the proposed works in relation to the Accommodation Project in the sum of £211,702 for Phase 7 (b), including design and supervision fees; and
2. To approve the letting of the contract for the proposed works to F Parkinson Ltd Blackpool in the sum of £196,000.

5. Affordable Warmth Scheme

Paul Walker, Director of Development Services, presented details of a two year allocation of £28,210 per year by Lancashire County Council to Fylde Borough Council for the delivery of an affordable warmth scheme during 2016/17 and 2017/18. He explained that the committee's approval was required for the fully funded addition to the budget.

In responding to questions Mr Walker advised that public notification of the scheme would be placed on the council's website. He also advised that the administration of the scheme would be delivered within available resources.

It was RESOLVED:

1. To note that Environment, Health and Housing Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 considered the proposal and approved the delivery of the affordable warmth scheme as described in this report;
2. To approve a fully-funded addition to the capital programme in the sum of £28,210 in 2016/17 and £28,210 in 2017/18 in relation to the initiative, fully funded by a grant from Lancashire County Council in the same sum; and
3. To authorise the scheme expenditure as detailed in the report.

6. Financial Forecast Update (Position as at January 2017)

Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer, provided the committee with an update of the financial forecast for the five years 2016/17 to 2020/21, as at January 2017. Mr O'Donoghue advised that the update report had last been before committee in November 2016 and ordinarily it would not come back to committee before budget council, however there had been significant changes since the last update as a result of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

The most significant change, for Fylde, was the change in the calculation methodology in regards to the New Homes Bonus scheme. With effect from the next financial year there would be a revised scheme. From 2017/18 this would change from a 6 year scheme currently, to a 5 year scheme and then to a 4 year scheme from 2018/19 onwards. Mr O'Donoghue advised that the Government had

implemented a baseline level of expected housing growth for each council area equivalent to 0.4% of the tax base. New Homes Bonus would not be payable until housing growth had achieved 0.4% increase in the baseline. For Fylde 0.4% would equate to 146 houses, so the bonus would only be payable from house number 147 onwards. Mr O'Donoghue referred members to Table 1 in the report and advised that the revised figures had been reflected in the updated forecast.

Mr O'Donoghue concluded by advising that there had been a number of other changes to the forecast since the last report, due to decisions by Council. These included the introduction of a year round green waste subscription service, revision to car park charges, and grants to town and parish councils.

In response to questions from committee, Mr O'Donoghue advised that for any authority not exceeding 0.4% growth in any given year, no New Homes Bonus would be payable. He further advised that the Government were keeping the scheme under review and it may change in the future.

Mr O'Donoghue explained that the average figure for new homes in Fylde was 300 per annum at Band D equivalent. He explained that the figure fluctuated year on year but the estimates were based on a 5 year average.

It was RESOLVED to note the implications on the updated financial forecast, and to also note that the update report would be presented to the Council meeting on 6 February 2017.

#### 7. Budget Setting – Fees and Charges 2017/18

Mr O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed schedule of fees and charges for those services within the remit of the Finance and Democracy Committee. He advised that the recovery of court costs for council tax and business rates were set at a level to recover the council's costs only.

It was RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Council a proposed schedule of fees and charges applicable for 2017/18; and
2. To note that the final fees and charges for 2017/18 will be approved by the Budget Council in March 2017.

#### Information Items

The Committee received the following information items:

#### 8. Budget Setting – Revenue Budget 2017/18 – First Draft

The Committee were advised that the first draft of the Revenue Budget for 2017/18 was now available for members to view. Committee members were encouraged to contact the Chief Financial Officer, Senior Officers or budget holders with any specific questions, comments or observations.

#### 9. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2016/17 – Position as at 30 November 2016

The Committee were provided with an up to date position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 30 November 2016.

#### 10. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2016/17 – Position as at 30 November 2016

The Committee were provided with an up to date position of the Capital Programme as at 30 November 2016.

11. Mid-Year Performance 2016/17

Details of the key performance outcomes for the first two quarters were provided to the Committee.

12. Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020 Progress Update

Progress to date against corporate plan actions scheduled for completion between April 2016 and October 2016 were reported to the Committee.

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