

# **MINUTES** Finance and Democracy Committee

Date:	Monday, 25 June 2018
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley (Chairman) Councillor Neil Harvey (Vice-Chairman)
	Councillors David Donaldson, Tony Ford JP, Angela Jacques, Kiran Mulholland, Linda Nulty, Richard Redcliffe, Vince Settle, Elaine Silverwood, Roger Small.
Other Councillors Present:	Councillor Fazackerley
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Manning, Paul O'Donoghue, Ian Curtis, Sharon Wadsworth. Louise Jones and Andrew Turin from Blackpool and Fylde Shared Revenues and Benefits Service.
Other Attendees:	One member of the public was 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 no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Finance and Democracy Committee meeting held on 5 June 2018 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. <u>Substitute Members</u>

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 22(c):

There were no substitutes on this occasion.

**Decision Items** 

4. <u>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) General Fund Revenue, Capital Programme & Treasury Management</u> Financial Outturn Position for 2017/18

Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer, presented the MTFS Outturn report for financial year 2017/18. He outlined the major variations between the latest approved budget and the actual outturn position drawing the committee's attention to the relevant appendices in the report. He advised on the impact these variations had on

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the Council's reserves and explained to the committee each of the recommendations set out in the report relating in turn to the Revenue, Capital, and Treasury Management outturn position.

In regards to the General Fund Revenue outturn position, Mr O'Donoghue explained that the position was summarised in Table 1 and on page 4 of the report. The Revenue Outturn was a favourable position of £697k when compared with the revised estimate for the year. Appendix B detailed the variances which comprised £322k and a further £375k was a favourable variance in budgeted financing. £137k of the underspend was recommended for slippage items as detailed in the report and £560k to be transferred to the Capital Investment Reserve to provide additional financing resources for future capital projects.

Mr O'Donoghue advised that the beneficial impact of the Council being part of the Lancashire Business Rate Pool for 2017/18 was approximately £600k which would otherwise have been paid over to the government by way of a levy.

He then turned to the Capital Outturn position, outlining the detail in Table 3 of the report which included a summary of the slippage requested, and Table 5 which explained the financing for the year.

Finally he explained the Treasury Management outturn position, with indicators all in line with the limits set at budget council. He concluded advising that it was a favourable outturn position.

The Committee RESOLVED to

- 1. Approve the General Fund Revenue Outturn position as summarised in table 1 of the report;
- 2. Approve the revenue slippage items as set out in Appendix C of the report;
- 3. Approve the transfers to earmarked reserves as set out in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 and as summarised in table 1 of the report;
- 4. Approve the Capital Outturn position, including financing, as set out in sections 6 to 9 of the report;
- 5. Approve the capital slippage items as set out in Appendix E of the report; and
- 6. Approve the Treasury Management Annual Report as set out in sections 10 to 12 and the actual Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix F of the report.

#### 5. Community Projects Fund

The Chairman, Councillor Karen Buckley, introduced a report regarding setting up a Working Group to consider the principle and criteria in more detail of the Community Projects Fund.

It was RESOLVED to appoint Councillors Buckley, Mulholland, Oades, Redcliffe, Singleton and Fazackerley to a working group to consider the principle and criteria of the Community Projects Fund and to make recommendations thereon to the Finance and Democracy Committee at its September meeting.

#### 6. Community Asset Nomination: The Victoria, Church Road, St Annes

Ian Curtis, Head of Governance, presented a community asset nomination in regards to The Victoria Public House, Church Road, St Annes. The Victoria was previously listed as an asset of community value following a nomination by the town council and a decision by the council's Cabinet in May 2013. That listing automatically lapsed earlier this year, in line with the legislation.

A nomination had been received, by St Annes Town Council, to have the property relisted. The report outlined the criteria for listing, effect of the listing, the application process and the various considerations to take into account.

It was RESOLVED to:

- 1. Agree that The Victoria Public House, St Annes is land of community value, in that in the opinion of the authority the actual use of the building furthers the social wellbeing and social interests of the local community; and
- 2. Accept the nomination to include The Victoria in the council's list of assets of community value.

# Minutes – Finance and Democracy Committee – 25 June 2018 Addition to the Capital Programme – Coastal Cleaning and the Provision of Beach Bins

Following a proposal considered by Operational Management Committee at its meeting on 25 June 2018, that considered the recommendations of the Coastal Cleaning and Beach Bins working group, the Finance and Democracy Committee were requested to approve an addition to the Revenue and Capital Programme.

The additional costs for staffing resources had been estimated based on 6 hours a day seven days a week in season (approx. 24 weeks), up to three empties per day or two plus ancillary work, and 18 hours a week out of season for the additional emptying of the bins about three times a week. This equated to approximately 1520 hours additional work per annum at an average of £12 per hour then on costs of 25% which equated almost to an additional post of 1629 hours per annum.

It was RESOLVED to:

- Approve an addition to the Capital Programme in 2018/19 in the sum of £25k (to be funded from the Capital Investment Reserve) to provide for the procurement of approximately 30 post mounted 50 litre bins and a 4 wheel drive utility vehicle to collect the bins which would be located on the seaward side of the beach and sand dunes between St Paul's Avenue Car Park and Starr Gate, with the exception of the amenity beach area; and
- 2. Approve an unfunded revenue budget increase in 2018/19 and subsequent years to provide for the required additional staffing costs for the operation in the sum of £25k per annum.

# 8. Fully Funded Addition to Capital Programme – Coastal Footpath Enhancements

Following a proposal considered by Planning Committee at its meeting on 13 June 2018, to utilise the receipt of £20,000 from a S106 agreement pertaining to the development of the DANBRO site (13/001) to enhance the coastal footpath, the Finance and Democracy Committee were requested to approve a fully-funded addition to the Capital Programme.

It was RESOLVED to approve an addition to the 2018/19 capital programme in the sum of £20,000 for a coastal footpath enhancement scheme, to be fully funded from the Section 106 contributions.

9. <u>Fully Funded Addition to Capital Programme – Public Transport Improvements Relating to Section 106</u> <u>Agreement for Land at Mill Farm Sports Village, Wesham (13/0655)</u>

Following a proposal considered by Operational Management Committee at its meeting on 22 May 2018, that addressed the matter of payment of a developer contribution (generated from the development at Mill Farm Sports Village, Wesham - 13/0655) of £150,000 to Lancashire County Council for enhanced local bus services, the Finance and Democracy Committee were requested to approve a fully-funded addition to the Capital Programme.

Members were supportive of the enhancement to the bus service and requested that any data from the annual review of the services by LCC was to be made available to the committee.

It was RESOLVED;

- To approve fully-funded additions to the Capital Programme in 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 in the total sum of £150,000 (£30,000 per year) in respect of payments to Lancashire County Council to provide for the enhancement of local bus services, to be met in full by a receipt of Section 106 monies (generated from the development at Mill Farm Sports Village, Wesham in relation to application 13/0655) in the same amounts; and
- 2. That conditional upon receiving the funding and receiving the approval as outlined above, the sum of £30,000 be paid each year to Lancashire County Council to provide for the enhancement of local bus services in relation to the development. Funding would only be transferred to Lancashire County Council for this purpose following its receipt from the developer by Fylde Council.

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The following information items were received by the committee.

#### 10. Universal Credit Full Service Rollout Update

The committee received information on the proposed timetable for the rollout of Universal Credit Full Service.

#### 11. Benefits Update – Council Tax Discretionary Awards

The committee received an update on the Council Tax Discretionary Awards.

#### 12. Update on Local Taxation

The committee received an update on local taxation including flowcharts of the recovery process for Business Rates and Council Tax.

#### 13. Year-End Performance 2017/18

The committee received information regarding the Year-End Performance targets for 2017/18. Louise Jones, Blackpool and Fylde Shared Service, advised members that she was hopeful that the processing times for new claims would be within target by the end of July.

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