



# MINUTES

## Council

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, 4 March 2024
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	<p>Mayor Councillor Cheryl Little Deputy Mayor Councillor Peter Anthony</p> <p>Councillors Frank Andrews, Liz Bickerstaffe, Julie Brickles, Damian Buckley, Karen Buckley, Peter Collins, Chris Dixon, Martin Evans, Kelly Farrington, Sue Fazackerley MBE, Joanne Gardner, Ellie Gaunt, Gail Goodman JP, Noreen Griffiths, Gavin Harrison, Paul Hayhurst, Karen Henshaw JP, Paul Hodgson, John Kirkham, Jordan Ledger, Matthew Lee, Michelle Morris, Jayne Nixon, Sandra Pitman, Richard Redcliffe, Andrew Redfearn, Vince Settle, William Taylor, Tommy Threlfall, Viv Willder, Michael Withers.</p>
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Allan Oldfield, Ian Curtis, Paul O’Donoghue, Paul Harrison, Colin Dockery, Katharine McDonnell, Kassie Navarasi and Sharon Wadsworth.
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	Councillor Mark Bamforth (via remote access) <sup>1</sup> Three members of the public

Prayers were led by Lay Preacher, Ms Elizabeth O’Connor.

### 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.

Councillors Griffiths and Threlfall declared a personal interest. The nature of the interest was that they were members of the Rawstrone Committee for Freckleton Community Centre, the roof of the which was subject of a capital bid to be considered as part of the budget proposals.

### 2. Budget Procedure Rules

The Mayor reminded members that the procedure rules for budget council differed to those of ordinary meetings. As such she referred them to the procedure rules contained within their agenda papers

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Council meetings held on 12 February 2024, as correct records for signature by the Mayor.

### 4. Mayor’s Announcements

The Mayor announced that the Mayor’s Ball, to be held on 23 March 2004, had sold out.

<sup>1</sup> Council procedure rule 2 allows a councillor to participate in a meeting remotely in certain circumstances. A remotely participating councillor is not deemed to be present at the meeting and may not move, second or vote on any matter.

5. Chief Executive's Communications

There were no communications on this occasion.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public on this occasion.

7. Questions from Members of the Council

There were no questions from members of the council on this occasion.

Decision Items

8. Medium Term Financial Strategy Update, Including General Fund, Capital Programme and Treasury Management for 2023/24 to 2027/28

Councillor Karen Buckley presented the budget proposals and in doing so thanked the Finance team and all budget holders for maintaining the council's healthy financial position.

She advised that the medium term financial strategy report described the council's finances as robust. This was to be welcomed as other councils not faring as well, with seven out of ten councils surveyed by the Local Government Association reported to be using their reserves to balance their budgets. Under current funding arrangements Fylde was projected to need to draw on reserves in two years time. Councillor Buckley cautioned that this would be subject to the detail of annual financial settlements from the government. Fylde had exercised prudence and caution since 2008, which was correct to protect services for residents.

Councillor Buckley reported that all upper and lower tier councils across Lancashire were due to set maximum council tax rises this coming year, representing the difficult financial climate facing all councils. She advised that it was proposed to increase the average council tax by 2.99% or £6.54 on a band D property.

Turning to the proposed car parking fees, Councillor Buckley advised members of a correction to the agenda, where the proposed fees for 1-2 hours parking in St Annes Square and on Wood Street had been incorrectly stated when presented to Executive Committee and Internal Affairs Scrutiny Committee as £2.50 and should have read £2.60.

Councillor Buckley advised there were no proposals to add to the revenue budget. In terms of the capital expenditure, it was recognised there were a number of sizeable schemes already underway or yet to be delivered and for that reason this year there were a small number of additional relatively modest schemes. The schemes were to add fencing at Fairhaven Lake, footpaths improvements at Ashton Gardens, to install a new heating system at the depot, and a contribution towards the replacement of the community centre roof at Freckleton.

She concluded by thanking consultation respondents and the Internal Affairs Scrutiny Committee for their consideration and support for the budget proposals.

Councillor Gaunt seconded the proposals and agreed with Councillor Buckley that the council was taking proactive steps to protect its revenue budget. She drew members attention to the process for determining the budget through the consideration of pertinent factors such as uncertainty around the local government finance settlement, pay and price inflation pressures, and investment income and borrowing needs. She cautioned that material sources of income that supported the revenue budget which included the local government finance settlement, New Homes Bonus and the business rates retention scheme may only remain in place until March 2025. It was therefore important members were aware of the significant risk to the council's finances.

Councillor Gaunt confirmed that the outturn position was a forecast surplus of £425k for 23/24 and a forecast surplus of £375k for 24/25 with sizable forecast deficits for subsequent years.

Councillor Gaunt turned to the proposed capital schemes and reminded members of several other capital schemes currently in progress. She highlighted the risks which centred around the complexity of the work, price inflation consideration and a potential need for future external borrowing.

## Minutes – Council – 4 March 2024

In regards to reserves balances, Councillor Gaunt asked members to note the forecast balance on the Capital Investment Reserve, on 31 March 2025, would be £2.602m. The Funding Volatility Reserve was expected to be £4.145m on 31 March 2025. She explained the reserve was there to cushion the impact of future funding reductions and support economic development. Councillor Gaunt advised that the General Fund Reserve, which supported the day-to-day revenue working of the council, was expected to have a balance as at 31 March 2024 £4.751m. She further advised that the Chief Financial Officer was recommending a raise in the minimum level of the General Fund reserve to £1m to maintain a stable financial environment.

In concluding, Councillor Gaunt asked that her thanks to the Finance team for their work in preparing the budget, and to the Leadership Board for their collaboration on the budget, be recorded.

Councillors Threlfall, Redcliffe, Nixon, Dixon, Evans and Morris spoke in support of the proposals.

Councillors Dixon, Evans and K Buckley thanked officers across the council for their prudent use of council resources and their delivery of services for the residents, with a special thanks to those officers who worked to identify and secured grant funding.

The vote was recorded in accordance with legislative requirements:

For (31) Councillors Andrews, Anthony, Bickerstaffe, D Buckley, K Buckley, Dixon, Evans, Farrington, Fazackerley, Gardner, Gaunt, Goodman, Griffiths, Harrison, Hayhurst, Henshaw, Hodgson, Kirkham, Little, Ledger, Lee, Morris, Nixon, Pitman, Redcliffe, Redfearn, Settle, Taylor, Threlfall, Willder, Withers.

Abstain (1) P Collins

(Councillor Brickles arrived following the vote)

It was therefore RESOLVED;

1. To note the recommendations of the Executive Committee meeting of 19th February 2024 and the Internal Affairs Scrutiny Committee meeting of 20th February 2024, and approved as follows:
  - (a) The revised estimates for 2023/24 and the revenue budget for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix E, which includes recommended transfers to the Capital Investment Reserve in 2023/24 and 2024/25 equivalent to the balance of the revenue surplus for those years, currently estimated at £0.595m in 2023/24 and £0.375m in 2024/25;
  - (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 2024-28, 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) An average Band D Council Tax of £225.43 for 2024/25 (excluding Town and Parish precepts), which is a 2.99% increase from the 2023/24 average Band D charge;
  - (f) 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 2024/25 with a 3.06% increase on the 2023/24 level, that being £83.39 per band D property; and

Minutes – Council – 4 March 2024

- the annual borough wide charge per property will be set for 2024/25 with a 3.06% increase on the 2023/24 level, that being £177.75 per band D property; and
  - the budget resource to be allocated to delivering concurrent services and chargeable as special expenses for 2024/25 will be set at a sum equivalent to the annual special expense charge per property (band D equivalent) multiplied by the tax base for the special expense area; and
- (g) The schedule of fees and charges for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix J (Members should note that the draft schedule of fees and charges presented to the February 2024 Executive Committee and Internal Affairs Scrutiny Committee meetings has been updated in respect of the proposed fee for 1-2 hours parking on St Anne’s Square and St Anne’s Wood St car parks which were incorrectly stated as £2.50 and have been updated to £2.60); and

**Council Tax Resolution**

(h) The Council is recommended to approve the Council Tax Resolution as follows:

**Council Tax Resolution**

**The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:**

2. It be noted that the Section 151 Officer, under delegated authority, has on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 calculated:

- (a) the Council Tax Base 2024/25 for the whole Council area as 32,208 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
- (b) a Council Tax Base, for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish/Neighbourhood precept relates, as indicated below:

<b>Non-Parished Areas:</b>	<b>Number of Band D Equivalent Properties</b>
- Lytham	7,747
<b>Parished Areas:</b>	
- Bryning-with-Warton	1,852
- Elswick	488
- Freckleton	2,043
- Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton	201
- Kirkham	2,472
- Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck	259
- Medlar-with-Wesham	1,446
- Newton-with-Clifton	1,238
- Ribby-with Wrea	1,041
- Singleton	458
- Staining	894
- St. Annes	10,670
- Treales, Roseacre & Wharles	242
- Weeton-with-Preese	291
- Westby-with-Plumpton	866
<b>All Areas:</b>	<b>32,208</b>

3. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish precepts) is £7,260,649.

4. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-

- a. **£49,757,945** Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- b. **£41,108,925** Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- c. **£8,649,020** Being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- d. **£268.54** Being the amount at 4(c) above (Item R) all divided by Item T (Para 2(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- e. **£2,924,164** Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Special Expenses and Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act and as shown below:

	<b>Parish Amount</b> £	<b>Special Expenses</b> £
Bryning-with-Warton	160,494	
Elswick	38,280	
Freckleton	110,544	
Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton	11,249	
Kirkham	258,277	
Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck	20,000	
Medlar-with-Wesham	71,563	
Newton-with-Clifton	81,250	
Ribby-with Wrea	70,413	
Singleton	24,356	
Staining	87,505	
St.Annes	395,118	889,771
Treales, Roseacre & Wharles	13,985	
Weeton-with-Preese	27,471	
Westby-with-Plumpton	17,866	
Unparished Areas - Lytham		646,022
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,388,371</b>	<b>1,535,793</b>

- f. **£177.75** Being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by the amount at Item T (Para 2(a) above) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relate.

**g.** Part of the Council’s area:

	<b>£</b>
Bryning-with-Warton	264.41
Elswick	256.19
Freckleton	231.86
Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton	233.72
Kirkham	282.23
Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck	254.97
Medlar-with-Wesham	227.24
Newton-with-Clifton	243.38
Ribby-with-Wrea	245.39
Singleton	230.93
Staining	275.63
St.Annes	298.17
Treales, Roseacre & Wharles	235.54
Weeton-with-Preese	272.15
Westby-with-Plumpton	198.38
Unparished Areas - Lytham	261.14

Being the amounts given by adding to the amount of 4(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area 4(e) above divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

**h.** The amounts set out in the table below being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

**Valuation Bands**

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Bryning-with-Warton	176.27	205.65	235.03	264.41	323.17	381.93	440.68	528.82
Elswick	170.79	199.26	227.72	256.19	313.12	370.05	426.98	512.38
Freckleton	154.57	180.34	206.10	231.86	283.38	334.91	386.43	463.72
Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton	155.81	181.78	207.75	233.72	285.66	337.60	389.53	467.44
Kirkham	188.15	219.51	250.87	282.23	344.95	407.67	470.38	564.46
Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck	169.98	198.31	226.64	254.97	311.63	368.29	424.95	509.94
Medlar-with-Wesham	151.49	176.74	201.99	227.24	277.74	328.24	378.73	454.48
Newton-with-Clifton	162.25	189.30	216.34	243.38	297.46	351.55	405.63	486.76
Ribby-with Wrea	163.59	190.86	218.12	245.39	299.92	354.45	408.98	490.78
Singleton	153.95	179.61	205.27	230.93	282.25	333.57	384.88	461.86
Staining	183.75	214.38	245.00	275.63	336.88	398.13	459.38	551.26
St Annes including special expenses	198.78	231.91	265.04	298.17	364.43	430.69	496.95	596.34
Treales, Roseacre & Wharles	157.03	183.20	209.37	235.54	287.88	340.22	392.57	471.08
Weeton-with-Preese	181.43	211.67	241.91	272.15	332.63	393.11	453.58	544.30
Westby-with-Plumpton	132.25	154.30	176.34	198.38	242.46	286.55	330.63	396.76
Lytham	174.09	203.11	232.12	261.14	319.17	377.20	435.23	522.28

4.1 To note that the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Combined Fire Authority have issued precepts for 2024/25 to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council’s area as indicated in the tables below.

**Lancashire County Council**

Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
1,102.19	1,285.89	1,469.59	1,653.29	2,020.69	2,388.09	2,755.48	3,306.58

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire**

Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
175.60	204.87	234.13	263.40	321.93	380.47	439.00	526.80

**Lancashire Combined Fire Authority**

Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
56.49	65.90	75.32	84.73	103.56	122.39	141.22	169.46

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.



Total Council Tax for each part of the Council’s Area:

**Valuation Bands**

<b>Council Tax Schedule</b>	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Fylde Borough Council	118.50	138.25	158.00	177.75	217.25	256.75	296.25	355.50
Lancashire County Council	1,102.19	1,285.89	1,469.59	1,653.29	2,020.69	2,388.09	2,755.48	3,306.58
Lancashire Police & Crime Commissioner	175.60	204.87	234.13	263.40	321.93	380.47	439.00	526.80
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	56.49	65.90	75.32	84.73	103.56	122.39	141.22	169.46
<b>Sub - Total</b>	<b>1,452.78</b>	<b>1,694.91</b>	<b>1,937.04</b>	<b>2,179.17</b>	<b>2,663.43</b>	<b>3,147.70</b>	<b>3,631.95</b>	<b>4,358.34</b>
<b>Parish/Town Councils &amp; Special Expenses</b>								
Bryning-with-Warton	1,510.55	1,762.31	2,014.07	2,265.83	2,769.35	3,272.88	3,776.38	4,531.66
Elswick	1,505.07	1,755.92	2,006.76	2,257.61	2,759.30	3,261.00	3,762.68	4,515.22
Freckleton	1,488.85	1,737.00	1,985.14	2,233.28	2,729.56	3,225.86	3,722.13	4,466.56
Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton	1,490.09	1,738.44	1,986.79	2,235.14	2,731.84	3,228.55	3,725.23	4,470.28
Kirkham	1,522.43	1,776.17	2,029.91	2,283.65	2,791.13	3,298.62	3,806.08	4,567.30
Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck	1,504.26	1,754.97	2,005.68	2,256.39	2,757.81	3,259.24	3,760.65	4,512.78
Medlar-with-Wesham	1,485.77	1,733.40	1,981.03	2,228.66	2,723.92	3,219.19	3,714.43	4,457.32
Newton-with-Clifton	1,496.53	1,745.96	1,995.38	2,244.80	2,743.64	3,242.50	3,741.33	4,489.60
Ribby-with Wrea	1,497.87	1,747.52	1,997.16	2,246.81	2,746.10	3,245.40	3,744.68	4,493.62
Singleton	1,488.23	1,736.27	1,984.31	2,232.35	2,728.43	3,224.52	3,720.58	4,464.70
Staining	1,518.03	1,771.04	2,024.04	2,277.05	2,783.06	3,289.08	3,795.08	4,554.10
St Annes including special expenses	1,533.06	1,788.57	2,044.08	2,299.59	2,810.61	3,321.64	3,832.65	4,599.18
Treales, Roseacre & Wharles	1,491.31	1,739.86	1,988.41	2,236.96	2,734.06	3,231.17	3,728.27	4,473.92
Weeton-with-Preese	1,515.71	1,768.33	2,020.95	2,273.57	2,778.81	3,284.06	3,789.28	4,547.14
Westby-with-Plumpton	1,466.53	1,710.96	1,955.38	2,199.80	2,688.64	3,177.50	3,666.33	4,399.60
Lytham	1,508.37	1,759.77	2,011.16	2,262.56	2,765.35	3,268.15	3,770.93	4,525.12

6. In accordance with Section 52ZB and the principles determined by the Secretary of State under section 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council determines that the basic amount of Council Tax for the financial year 2024/25 is **not** excessive.

As the billing authority, the Council has **not** been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is excessive and consequently the billing authority is **not** required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

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