



MINUTES

Executive Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 4 July 2023
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley (Chairman) Councillor Richard Redcliffe (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Peter Collins, Chris Dixon, Kelly Farrington, Ellie Gaunt, Karen Henshaw JP, Matthew Lee, Michelle Morris, Ed Nash, Jayne Nixon, Tommy Threlfall
Other Councillors Present:	None
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Ian Curtis, Gemma Broadley, Charlie Richards, Andrew Loynd, Sharon Wadsworth and Katharine McDonnell
Other Attendees:	Nine members of the public were also in attendance.

Public Platform

Mr Mahon, Chairman of STAIR Group, spoke in support of the St Annes Square Masterplan item. He stressed that the signage and lighting elements of the project were of particular importance to retailers in St Annes.

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. No interests were declared on this occasion.

2. Substitute Members

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

Councillor Kelly Farrington substituted for Councillor Tim Armit.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 25 May 2023 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

Decision Items

4. St Annes Event Square Project

The Chairman, Councillor Karen Buckley, introduced the plans for the development and improvement of St Annes Square. She advised building on wide engagement and consultation, a masterplan had been approved by the Planning Committee in July 2022.

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Charlie Richards, Head of Regeneration Projects, advised that this would be the first project to be taken forward from the St Annes Masterplan. He explained, as the Chairman had mentioned, that a Levelling Up funding bid to government had been unsuccessful. However, the Council remained committed to the delivery of Masterplan and had worked with businesses, public and partners, to establish the priorities for the next steps considering the unsuccessful Levelling Up Fund application.

Initial feedback from the stakeholders consulted was that an events space to increase the footfall into the Square would be welcomed, as well as addressing the concerns around lighting, signage and anti-social behaviour.

Charlie Richards advised that the committee's decision would allow the project to move forward to the detailed design stage, with further consultations with businesses and the public planned as the project moved forward.

He further advised that further funding of £300k, from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, had been secured to deliver an events programme for St Annes. He stated that a consultation would be conducted regarding this programme, to ensure the events programme would be of the right mix and frequency and would inform the detailed proposals for the Events Square. The programme will be delivered by Fylde Council teams together with external support.

He concluded by advising that a further report would need to be considered at a future meeting of the Executive Committee to authorise the award of the main contract works, with a more detailed design and details of the funding requirements.

Members of the committee welcomed the proposed project but stressed the importance of engagement with the public, businesses and local groups, especially when undertaking large projects.

In response to comments, the Chairman advised that the feedback from the Town Centre Working Group had been clear, that the Square was to be prioritised, with businesses keen to keep footfall in the Square. The Event Square would provide a flexible, dedicated facility for hosting events on St Annes Road West, which would complement the other significant events hosted in locations outside the Square.

The Executive Committee RESOLVED to:

1. Consider and recommend to Council, approval of a fully funded addition to the Council's Capital Programme for the total sum of £1,500,000 (£1,000,000 in 2023/24 and £500,00 in 2024/25) to the St Annes Event Square Project, of which £857,000 in 2023/2024 shall be provided from the Council's Capital Investment Reserve, £160,000 funding from UK Shared Prosperity Programme (UKSPF) in 2023/2024, £250,000 in 2024/2025 is to be met from external funding provided by Lancashire County Council and capital virements of £233,000 in 2023/24 as detailed at point 2 below;
2. Consider and approve capital virements totaling £233,000 from the existing Capital Programme in 2023/2024, consisting of £123,000 from St Annes Regeneration Schemes and £110,000 from the St Annes Road West – Square to Pier Link and Gateway, to the St Annes Event Square Project;
3. Authorise the proposed expenditure of £160,000 in respect of the scheme as detailed within this report and approve the award of a contract for multi-disciplinary professional design services to BDP Ltd;
4. To note the expenditure of £89,530.50 for Project and Cost Management Services as detailed within this report and note the award of a contract to Gosling Consulting Ltd via the Rise Framework under delegated powers given in the Council's Financial Procedure Rules in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive; and
5. To note that a further report will be issued to the Committee in respect of the main contractor appointment to deliver the works and the authorisation of the capital works expenditure.

5. Fully Funded Budget Increase – UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The Chairman, Councillor Karen Buckley, introduced the report regarding a substantial award of funding to the council of £2.6m from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. She advised it was prescribed how the funding was to spent, within three main areas of communities and place; supporting local business; and people and skills.

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Proposals for funding were generated by a partnership board comprising representative from the public, private, education and third sectors. These proposals had to be signed off by government before the funds could be allocated to a specific project.

The report provided the latest update on the UKSPF programme and recommended an in-year increase to the Council's Capital Programme for 2023/24 of £267,500 and an in-year increase to the revenue base budget for 2023/24 of £374,076, and a budget increase to the Capital Programme for 2024/25 of £714,214 and a budget increase to the revenue base budget for 2024/25 of £966,714, all of which are fully funded via the UKSPF allocation.

The Executive Committee RESOLVED to recommend to Council, approval of a fully funded addition to the Council's Capital Programme in 2023/24 in the sum of £267,500 and in 2024/25 in the sum of £714,214 and an addition to the revenue base budget in 2023/24 in the sum of £374,076 and in 2024/25 in the sum of £966,714, fully funded additions to the 'UK Shared Prosperity Funding' scheme, to be met from external funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities based on the latest indicative figures provided as at 5th December 2022.

6. Fully Funded Budget Increase - Warton

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Richard Redcliffe, introduced a report detailing a public realm improvement scheme in Warton. He explained that the Committee were requested to agree to allocate Section 106 contributions, in the sum of £75,000, for public realm improvements at Warton Village Centre which included the provision of a children's play area. This was dependent upon the approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase for 2023/24 in the sum of £75,000, fully funded by the S106 developer contribution.

Councillor Redcliffe outlined a number of key points, advising that the recommended project was fully in line with the planning agreement relating to application 12/0550 GEC Marconi. The funding allocation had to be agreed and approved by 7 July 2023. The final version of the design plan had been agreed by Bryning with Warton Parish Council.

Members of the committee expressed concerns regarding the time taken to allocate 106 monies to this particular project, given the tight deadline for commitment of spend. Charlie Richards, Head of Service advised it was due to resourcing issues, personnel and management changes, and the number of new large-scale projects delivered over the last few years, all during the pandemic. He clarified that the council was working towards removing the risk of losing s106 monies by having schemes ready to start.

The Executive Committee RESOLVED to:

1. To approve a fully funded revenue budget increase for 2023/24 in the sum of £75,000 fully funded from the Section 106 developer contributions relating to the development; and
2. Subject to the approval of 1 above, to authorise expenditure in the sum of £75,000 and award the letting of the contract for Warton Village Masterplan Phase 1.

7. Fully Funded Revenue Budget Increase – Upgrading of Signalised Junction of Squires Gate Lane and Lytham Road

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Richard Redcliffe, introduced a report requesting the release of Section 106 developer funds, originally paid to Fylde Borough Council as a result of planning application 16/0317 (Westgate House) for the 'upgrading of signalised junction of Squires Gate Lane and Lytham Road', and for application 18/0316 (Blackpool and Fylde College) for the 'improvement of two existing bus stops on Squires Gate Lane' and 'the upgrading of existing traffic signals at the junction of the site access with Squires Gate Lane, to include the introduction of pedestrian request facilities'.

The Vice Chairman advised that the requirement to upgrade the bus stops was no longer required, as this work had been completed utilising other funding streams, so all contributions made were available to be used on the required traffic signal upgrade.

The monies would be paid to Blackpool Council, as the Highway Authority for the junction, who would carry out the proposed works.

The Executive Committee RESOLVED to

1. approve a fully funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £115,000 in 2023/24 to be met by Section 106 monies held by the Council, towards the upgrading of the signalised junction of Squires Gate Lane and Lytham Road; and
2. That conditional upon receiving approval as above, that the sum of £115,000 be paid to Blackpool Council, towards the upgrading of the signalised junction of Squires Gate Lane and Lytham Road.

8. Release of Section 106 Monies – Wrea Green

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Richard Redcliffe, introduced the report which proposed a public realm improvement scheme at Wrea Green, proposed by Ribby with Wrea Parish Council. The scheme would include spending a Section 106 contribution for pedestrian improvements in the village.

The Committee were requested to agree to allocate planning contributions of £26,705 and £10,000 (£36,705) to Ribby with Wrea Parish Council for public realm and highways pedestrian crossing improvements. The sum of £26,705 was a public realm contribution paid under a unilateral planning obligation relating to the housing development at North View Farm (application 13/0507), Wrea Green 14/. The sum of £10,000 was a highways contribution paid under a section 106 agreement relating to the housing development off Willow Drive (application 14/0302), Wrea Green.

If agreed the monies would be paid to Ribby with Wrea Parish Council who would be leading on the design and implementation of the scheme. Any project costs above £36,705 would be met by Ribby with Wrea Parish Council. Fylde Council would also be signing an indemnity agreement, so Fylde would not be required to return the money to the developer should the scheme not be delivered.

The Executive Committee RESOLVED to

1. approve a fully funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £36,705 in 2023/24 to be met by Section 106 developer contributions held by the Council relating to development in the village of Wrea Green; and
2. That conditional upon receiving approval as above, the Executive Committee is requested to authorise the payment of £36,705 to Ribby with Wrea Parish Council in 2023/24 to carry out improvements at Wrea Green on condition that the Parish Council be required to enter into an agreement with Fylde Council, prior to release of funds, and to provide details of how the funds have been used before the only section 106 agreement expiry date of 10th March 2030.

9. Changing Places Update

Lead Member for Customer and Operational Services introduced the report. She provided an overview of what a Changing Place toilet was, and how these spaces made a immeasurable difference to lives of disabled residents and visitors.

The report provided an update to members on progress to date, identified higher than estimated costs for the construction of the facility at Kirkham Community Centre, and requested an additional £40,000 in-year capital funding from the Council's Capital Investment Reserve and requested the drawdown of £127,300 and authorisation to proceed with the construction of two Changing Places Toilets – one at Fairhaven Lake and one at Kirkham Community Centre.

Members of the committee expressed their support for the initiative.

In response to a question from the committee, Andrew Loynd, Technical Support Manager, advised that

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Changing Places toilets need to be registered on the Changing Places website, additionally there would be signage to the toilets where required.

The Executive Committee RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the change of location of one Changing Places Toilet from Lowther Gardens to Fairhaven Lake.
2. Approve a fully funded budget increase to the existing capital programme for Changing Places Toilets 2023/24 in the sum of £40,000 to be met from the Council's Capital Investment Reserve.
3. Approve the drawdown of £127,300 to construct two Changing Places Toilets.

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