



# Minutes

## Finance and Democracy Committee

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, 22 June 2015
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Councillor Karen Buckley (Chairman) Councillor Roger Small (Vice-Chairman)  Councillors Tony Ford, Angela Jacques, Kiran Mulholland, Ed Nash, Barbara Nash, Linda Nulty, Liz Oades, Richard Redcliffe, Elaine Silverwood, Richard Taylor.
<b>Other Councillors Present:</b>	Councillors Fazackerley.
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Allan Oldfield, Paul O'Donoghue, Katharine McDonnell.
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	4 members of the public was present.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman welcomed all the members to the first meeting of the Finance and Democracy committee.

### Public Platform

No one wished to speak.

#### 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.

Councillor Ed Nash declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 – Appointment to Outside Bodies, as he had previously been the Council's representative on the North West of England and the Isle of Man Reserve Forces and Cadets Association.

#### 2. Substitute members

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

Councillor Barbara Nash for Councillor Vince Settle.

Councillor Edward Nash for Councillor David Donaldson.

### Decision Items

#### 3. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) – General Fund Revenue, Capital Programme and Treasury Management Outturn Position for 2014/15

Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer, presented the expected General Fund Revenue, Capital and Treasury Management Outturn position for financial year 2014/15. He outlined the major variations between the latest approved budget and the actual outturn expenditure drawing the

committee's attention to the relevant appendices to his report. He advised on the impact these variations had on the Council's reserves.

In response to questions Mr O'Donoghue advised that the loss of revenue from the boats on Fairhaven Lake had not been factored into 2015/16 budget as the issue with the contract only came to light as the budget was being finalised. He advised that the boat service was still operational, albeit on a reduced basis, and that the first quarter budget monitoring was soon to take place which would give a clearer position on the budget impact.

In regards to the procurement of boats for Fairhaven Lake, the Committee asked if an inquiry was underway and if the conclusions would be shared with members. Mr Oldfield, Chief Executive, advised that an investigation was ongoing and the conclusions would be shared with members, save for confidential information which would need to be withheld.

The committee raised questions regarding sandwinning. Mr O'Donoghue advised that the tonnage price had increased, and that the service was demand led. It was suggested that a report regarding sandwinning, specifically the contract, environmental and budgetary impact, be taken to the relevant committee.

Mr O'Donoghue also responded to questions regarding the Business Rates Collection Fund and the potential level of appeals and the Council's liability. He explained how the collection fund operated with payments to preceptors and collections from businesses within the borough. In regards to appeals he advised that the Valuation Office had provided a list of those businesses appealing and through the shared Revenue and Benefits team, the Council was utilising a specialist company to evaluate the appeals, the pertinent historical data and provide a forecast on the estimated value of successful appeals.

The committee RESOLVED to

1. Approve the General Fund Revenue Outturn Expenditure and slippage as set out in sections 2 to 5, and Appendix C (revenue budget slippage items) of the report;
  2. Approve the transfers to earmarked reserves as set out in paragraphs 2.5, 2.6 and 2.8 and as summarised in Table 1 of the report;
  3. Approve the Capital Outturn as set out in sections 6 to 9, the capital slippage detailed in Appendix E, and the proposed capital financing as set out in Table 5 of the report;
  4. 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; and
  5. Note the position with respect to the imminent settlement of historic land charges claims as detailed in section 2.12 of the report and to approve the release of the land charges reserve balance in a maximum sum of £128k to meet the Council's liabilities in this regard.
4. Appointment to Outside Bodies/Working Groups

Following a report to Council on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the programme committees were requested to make recommendations to appointments from within their respective memberships for those outside bodies relating to the remit of the committee. The report was introduced by Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive, and covered those appointments that related to the Finance and Democracy Committee.

It was RESOLVED to:

1. Nominate The Mayor to the Fylde Community Projects Fund, for consideration by council.

2. Nominate the Chairman of Finance and Democracy Committee (and Councillor Taylor as nominated substitute) as the Council's representative to North West Employers Organisation, for consideration by council.
3. Nominate Councillor Ed Nash to the North West of England and the Isle of Man Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, for consideration by the Council.
4. Note that the Three Tier Forum was under review by the County Council and not to appoint any representatives to the Forum until the conclusion of the review was known.
5. Appoint Councillors Fazackerley, Buckley, Little, Aitken, Eaves, Fiddler, Redcliffe, Small and Donaldson to the Budget Working Group; and
6. Appoint Councillors Fazackerley, Oades, Buckley, Fiddler and Jacques to the Accommodation Working Group.

(For resolution number 5 above, Councillor Oades and Councillor Nulty requested that their vote be recorded as *against* the resolution).

#### Information Items

##### 5. Year End Performance 2014/15

The report provided details of the key performance outcomes for the whole of the financial year 2014/15. Performance was reported against the targets set for the year.

In response to questions from committee regarding the Revenue and Benefits performance indicators, Mr O'Donoghue advised that although the Council had a shared Revenue and Benefits team, the Council did not have the same performance targets as Blackpool Council, and indeed were better than Blackpool's performance. He further advised that the targets were regularly reviewed, and that the Committee's comments to improve those targets further, would be fed back to the service.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the report.

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