



MINUTES

Finance and Democracy Committee

Date:	Monday, 28 January 2019
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley (Chairman) Councillor Neil Harvey (Vice-Chairman) Councillors David Donaldson, Karen Henshaw JP, Angela Jacques, Liz Oades, Richard Redcliffe, Vince Settle, Elaine Silverwood, Roger Small.
Other Councillors Present:	Councillor Sue Fazackerley MBE
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Paul O'Donoghue, Sharon Wadsworth. Graeme Ruse and Louise Jones, Blackpool and Fylde Shared Revenues and Benefits Service.
Other Attendees:	One member of the public was present.

Public Platform

There were no speakers under public platform 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.

Councillors Karen Buckley and Elaine Silverwood declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 5 – Council Tax and Business Rates Discretionary Policy – 2019/20 update. Both left the room during the discussion and voting on the item.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Finance and Democracy Committee meeting held on 26 November 2018 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

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

Councillor Karen Henshaw for Councillor Tony Ford.

Decision Items

4. Financial Forecast Update 2018/19 to 2022/23 (Position as at January 2019)

Minutes – Finance and Democracy Committee – 28 January 2019

Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer, presented the latest financial forecast that had been updated to reflect the impact of the provisional 2019/20 Local Government Finance Settlement that had been announced on 13th December 2018.

Mr. O'Donoghue confirmed that the bid by Lancashire councils, to be selected as one of the '75% Business Rate Retention Pilot' schemes for 2019/20, had been successful and that the forecast had been updated accordingly.

Mr. O'Donoghue highlighted that there was still uncertainty over future funding for Local Government beyond 2019/20 as a result of the ongoing Fair Funding Review, the outcome of which would not be known until the 2020/21 settlement was announced in December 2020. Therefore the assumptions set out in this forecast were the latest best estimates and would be updated as and when further information was made available.

Following a brief discussion it was RESOLVED to note the implications of the updated financial forecast, and to also note that the updated report would be presented to the Council meeting on 11 February 2019.

5. Council Tax and Business Rates Discretionary Discount Policy – 2019/20 Update

(Having earlier declared an interest in Item 5, Councillors Buckley and Silverwood left the room. Councillor Neil Harvey assumed the Chair)

Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Council's updated Council Tax and Business Rates Discretionary Discount Policy. Mr. O'Donoghue explained that like all local authorities, Fylde Council had a scheme of discounts and exemptions for Council Tax and Business Rates, as directed by central government. The policy had been updated to incorporate further Business Rate reliefs that central government had introduced.

Graeme Ruse, Blackpool and Fylde Shared Revenues and Benefits Service, responded to questions regarding how the new reliefs would be publicized and the hardship relief for Fylde.

Following a brief discussion, it was RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Council Tax and Business Rates Discretionary Discount Policy - 2019/20 update.

(Councillors Buckley and Silverwood returned to the room on conclusion of the item, and Councillor Buckley reassumed the Chair).

6. Budget Setting – Fees and Charges 2019/20

Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive, introduced a report which provided details of the proposed fees and charges for 2019/20 for activities within the remit of the Finance and Democracy Committee.

He advised that some of the fees and charges were set through statute at a prescribed level, other services where the Council had a statutory responsibility only eligible costs could be recovered through the level of fees, and there were also discretionary fees and charges where the Council was providing non-statutory services.

Following questions the committee RESOLVED to:

1. To recommend to Council a proposed schedule of fees and charges applicable for 2019/20; and
2. To note that the final fees and charges for 2019/20 will be approved by the Budget Council in March 2019.

7. Staining Playing Fields Development Project

Mr. Oldfield introduced a report of a community project the Supporters of Staining Open Space (SOSOS) have been working in partnership with Fylde and LCC officers since 2015 to "regenerate Chain Lane Playing Fields to provide a community facility that is accessible and suitable for use by all ages and abilities".

The project had followed the ten stage process of the community parks improvement programme and was considered by the Tourism and Leisure Committee at the meeting of 10th January 2019.

It was RESOLVED:

Minutes – Finance and Democracy Committee – 28 January 2019

1. To approve that the Council may act as the accountable body for the Staining Playing Fields Development Project in the total sum of £280,842; and
2. To approve a fully-funded increase in the sum of £230,842 in respect of the Staining Playing Fields Development scheme within the approved Capital Programme (£101,512 in 2018/19 and £129,330 in 2019/20) to be met from the various external grants and Section 106 contributions as detailed in the report, noting that the approved Capital Programme for 2018/19 currently included funding in respect of this scheme in the sum of £50,000.

Information Items

8. Budget Setting – Revenue Budget 2019/20 - First Draft

The Committee were advised that the first draft of the Revenue Budget for 2019/20, specifically in relation to the service areas under the remit of the committee, was now available to view. Members were encouraged to contact the Chief Financial Officer, Senior Officers or budget holders if they had questions or required clarification.

9. Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2018/19 – Position as at 30th November 2018

The committee received the Revenue Budget Monitoring report as at 30th November 2018.

10. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2018/19 - Position as at 30th November 2018

The committee received the Capital Programme Monitoring report as at 30th November 2018, with particular regard to those projects within the remit of the committee.

11. Mid-Year Performance 2018/19

The committee received the mid-year performance report for areas within the remit of committee.

Fylde Council copyright [2019]

You may re-use this document/publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium. You must re-use it accurately and not in a misleading context.

The material must be acknowledged as Fylde Council copyright and you must give the title of the source document/publication.

Where we have identified any third party copyright material you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This document/publication was also available on our website at www.fylde.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to the Town Hall, St Annes Road West, St Annes FY8 1LW, or to listening@fylde.gov.uk.