

MINUTES

Finance and Democracy Committee

Date:	Thursday, 29 July 2021
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Vince Settle (Acting Chairman) Councillors Peter Anthony, Peter Collins, Ellie Gaunt, Gavin Harrison, Linda Nulty, David O'Rourke, Richard Redcliffe, Elaine Silverwood, Roger Small, Viv Willder.
Other Councillors Present:	None
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Paul O'Donoghue and Hannah Kirk
Other Attendees:	None

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.

Councillor Silverwood declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6, Kirkham Heritage Action Zone - Fully Funded Capital Budget Increase. As a business owner on Kirkham High Street, her business would benefit from the grant. Councillor Silverwood therefore left the room for the duration of the item.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Finance and Democracy Committee meeting held on 28 June 2021 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

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

Councillor Roger Small substituted for Councillor Karen Buckley;
Councillor Gavin Harrison substituted for Councillor John Singleton;
Councillor Viv Willder substituted for Councillor Michael Withers.

Decision Items

4. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) - General Fund Revenue, Capital Programme & Treasury Management Outturn Position for 2020/21

Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer, introduced a report that set out for Members the General Fund Revenue, Capital, and Treasury Management Outturn position for the financial year 2020/21, the major variations between

Minutes – Finance and Democracy Committee – 29 July 2021

the latest approved budget and the actual outturn expenditure, a summary of the impact on the Council's reserves and a summary of the Council's Treasury Management operations for the financial year.

Mr O'Donoghue highlighted the key elements of the outturn position as set out in detail within the report and further reported that considerable business support grants had been delivered throughout the financial year, which had been a significant undertaking across the council.

Councillor Silverwood requested that her appreciation for the phenomenal effort by officers during the Covid-19 pandemic be put on record, which was further endorsed by Councillor Redcliffe and other members of the committee.

It was RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the General Fund Revenue Outturn position as summarised in table 1 of the report;
2. Approve the revenue slippage items and the transfer to general fund balances as set out in paragraph 2.5 and Appendix C of the report;
3. Approve the transfers to earmarked reserves as set out in section 2 and as summarised in table 1 of the report;
4. Approve the Capital Outturn position, including financing, as set out in sections 7 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. Additional Restrictions Grant - Fully Funded Revenue Budget Increase

Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive, introduced a report which provided details of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) funding that has been administered by the Council on behalf of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to date with the recommendation to add a fully funded ARG award of £583,161 to the 2021/22 revenue budget.

Members requested further details on the selection of the two ongoing schemes, ARG Events Support Grant and ARG Vacant Premises Grant. Mr Oldfield confirmed that both schemes were set within the framework of the BEIS published guidance, with the ARG Vacant Premises Grant being a common option nationwide and the ARG Events Support Grant being viewed as supporting a priority business sector for Fylde's economy.

It was RESOLVED to:

1. Approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £583,161 in 2021/22 funded from BEIS to administer in accordance with the ARG guidance delivering support to local businesses until March 2022; and
2. Note the significant support provided to local businesses and the economic recovery from COVID through the administration of the ARG fund.

6. Kirkham Heritage Action Zone - Fully Funded Capital Budget Increase

Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive, introduced a report that set out the details of the Cultural Programme Support Funding which was awarded to the council in addition to the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HS HAZ) award.

The funding was via a separate grant of £80,000 which was awarded by Historic England to establish a Cultural Programme, which would need to be added to the capital programme as a funded budget increase.

The matter was considered by the Planning Committee on 23 June 2021 as part of a wider report relating to the HS HAZ programme.

It was RESOLVED:

1. To approve a fully funded capital budget increase of £80,000 to this scheme phased as detailed (£35,000 2021/22; £35,000 2022/23 and £10,000 2023/24) fully funded from a further grant award from Historic England of £80,000; and
2. To note that a previous report has been provided to the Planning Committee on 23 June 2021 to authorise the £35,000 drawdown of expenditure for 2021/22 subject to this fully funded budget increase request.

Minutes – Finance and Democracy Committee – 29 July 2021
(Councillor Silverwood left the room for the duration of the item)

7. The Island Regeneration – Fully Funded Revenue Budget Increase

A report was presented to the Planning Committee to set out the details of the Lancashire Economic Recovery Grant Fund that had been awarded to Fylde Council in June 2021 for the establishment of The Island Regeneration Programme.

In total, £108,000 has been awarded by Lancashire County Council based on a contribution by Fylde Council of £12,000, which is 10% of the overall £120,000 estimated commission cost. Lancashire County Council have confirmed that they will consider further match funding to support project delivery and acquisition once the Masterplan and Delivery Strategy is completed.

It was RESOLVED to approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £120,000 for 2021/2022, of which £108,000 is funded from the Lancashire Economic Recovery Grant from Lancashire County Council and a further £12,000 is funded from the funding volatility reserve for the commissioning of the Island Regeneration Programme Masterplan.

Fylde Council copyright [2021]

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.