

MINUTES

Finance and Democracy Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 28 September 2022
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley (Chairman) Councillor Vince Settle (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Peter Collins, Sue Fazackerley, Ellie Gaunt, Linda Nulty, Liz Oades, David O'Rourke, Richard Redcliffe, Michael Sayward, John Singleton JP.
Officers Present:	Tracy Manning, Ian Curtis, Darren Bell, Gemma Broadley, Marie Percival, Edyta Paxton, Ross McKelvie, Lyndsey Lacey-Simone, Lynn Cordock.
Other Attendees:	Louise Jones - Head of Revenue and Benefits Shared Service. Rob Green - Head of Enterprise Zones.
Members of the Public:	One member of the public was in attendance.

Public Platform

There were no speakers on this occasion.

Procedural Items

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. There were no interests on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Finance and Democracy Committee meeting held on 15 August 2022 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

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

Councillor Michael Sayward substituted for Councillor Peter Anthony.

Councillor Sue Fazackerley substituted for Councillor Michael Withers.

Decision Items

4. Timetable for Developing Budget Proposals 2023/24

The Chairman, Councillor Karen Buckley introduced the report which set out a budget timetable that required Committee approval to comply with the budget and policy framework rules, statutory deadlines, and the facilitation of early billing for Council Tax.

Included as an appendix to the report was a copy of the draft budget timetable for 2023/24.

Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED to adopt the timetable as detailed in the appendix to the report for the purposes of the budget setting process for 2023/24.

5. Energy Rebate Discretionary Scheme

The Chairman invited Louise Jones, Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service to present the report. Members were advised that on 3rd February 2022, the Government announced a package of support for rising energy costs. This included a main scheme allocating £150 to most households in Council Tax Bands A to D together with a Discretionary Fund.

Further to the above, Ms Jones stated that Fylde Council had received an allocation of £181,350 and that it is for local authorities to determine how best to utilise the discretionary funds by 30th November 2022.

Members were reminded that on 23rd June 2022, the Finance and Democracy Committee agreed six proposals which were in the process of being allocated. Given these six schemes would not utilise all the funding available, the report outlined proposals for how the remaining funds should be allocated, which specifically included tenants in Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's) referred to as Category 1 and Category 2 within the report.

A briefing note to assist members understanding of the various support/financial assistance made available towards energy costs was circulated prior to the meeting.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman invited questions. Clarification was sought on several areas including: tenants not directly responsible for their own energy bills; impact on residential park homes and matters associated with administrative anomalies. Louise Jones addressed these points.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To accept the proposed recommendations for the distribution of the remaining funding based on the information contained in the main body of the report.
2. To authorise the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of Committee, to determine the appropriate use for the distribution of any residual funds.

6. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Members were invited to consider the Returning Officer's proposals arising from the review of polling districts and polling places within the Borough of Fylde. Details regarding this matter were set out in the report.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman expressed her sincere thanks and appreciation to the key officers involved in the piece of work and the associated input from the borough and parish council members.

Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED:

1. To authorise the Returning Officer recommendations included in the schedule attached to the report.
2. To authorise the Returning Officer to make amendments to polling districts and polling places, where required, prior to the next statutory review.

7. Fully Funded Revenue Budget Increase - Homes for Ukraine Scheme

The report detailed a request for a fully funded revenue budget increase of £155,000 in 2022/23 to deliver the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Details regarding this matter including the objectives of the programme were set out in the report.

Members commented on matters associated with matching families in need, ongoing allocation of monies; spend to date and support available for the next integration phase of finding suitable affordable accommodation for the Ukrainian refugees. These points were addressed in turn by Tracy Manning and Edyta Paxton as appropriate.

Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED:

1. To approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £155,000 in 2022/23 to deliver the Homes for Ukraine Scheme as detailed within the report.
2. That further updates on expenditure to date be reported to the Environment, Health and Housing Committee.

Information Items

The Chairman, Councillor Buckley introduced the following information items:

8. The Greater Lancashire Plan

The information report provided the Committee with an update on the work undertaken towards the development of a long term strategic Greater Lancashire Plan.

The Chairman provided an update on this matter in her capacity as a member of the Lancashire Leaders Group.

9. Update - Work of the St Annes Programme Board

The information report provided an update on the work undertaken by the St Annes Programme Board since its formation in June 2021.

10. Corporate Plan Action Update

The information report provided details of the latest progress against the corporate actions relevant to the Committee that were scheduled for completion at the time of the meeting.

11. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2022/23 Outturn Position as at 31st July 2022.

The information report set out details of expenditure on the Council's approved Capital Programme as at 31st July 2022 with specific reference to those schemes under the remit of the Committee.

12. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2022/23 - Position as at 31st July 2022.

The information report provided an update on the General Fund Revenue Budget of the Council as at 31st July 2022 with specific reference to those areas under the remit of the Committee.

13. Reports of the Various Outside Bodies.

The reports (where appropriate) from members appointed to the various Outside Bodies, within the remit of the committee were included as appendices to the covering report.

Decision Item

14. Exclusion of the Public - Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Progress Report

In accordance with the provisions of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, members were invited to consider passing the 'Exclusion of the Public' resolution. Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED to NOT exclude the public.

Information Item

15. Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Progress Report

Rob Green, Enterprise Zone Manager presented the information report which sought to update members on the achievements to date/key milestones regarding the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone. Details regarding this matter were set out in the report.

Following the presentation, the Chairman invited questions. These related to the following areas: delays on highway related matters, the timeline for completion of the eastern gateway, renewables, interest from businesses and matters associated with job losses/gains. These were addressed in turn by Mr Green.

The Chairman thanked Mr Green for his presentation and attendance at the meeting.

Decision Item

16. Exclusion of the Public - Revised Proposal for the Disposal of the Tourism and Leisure Building, Clifton Drive South, St Annes.

It was RESOLVED: That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Exempt Decision Item

17. Revised Proposal for the Disposal of the Tourism and Leisure Building, Clifton Drive South, St Annes.

Marie Percival, Estates and Assets Manager, presented the decision item report which sought to provide an update on the revised proposal for the disposal of the Tourism and Leisure Building, Clifton Drive South, St Annes. Details regarding this matter were set out in the report.

Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED to approve the revised arrangements for the purchase with RCA for the disposal of the long-term leasehold interest in the property known as the Tourism and Leisure building at 288-290 Clifton Drive South, St Annes as outlined in the report.

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