



# MINUTES

## Finance and Democracy Committee

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, 28 September 2020
<b>Venue:</b>	Via remote access
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Councillor Karen Buckley (Chairman) Councillor Vince Settle (Vice-Chairman)  Councillors Peter Collins, Ellie Gaunt, Linda Nulty, Liz Oades, David O'Rourke, Richard Redcliffe, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton JP, Roger Small, Michael Withers.
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Manning, Paul O'Donoghue, Ian Curtis, Katharine McDonnell
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	Councillors Gill, Lee, Lloyd, Green and Bamforth were also present

### 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. There were no declarations on this occasion.

#### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Finance and Democracy Committee meeting held on 28 July 2020 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 for Councillor Peter Anthony

### Decision Items

#### 4. Timetable for Developing Budget Proposals 2021/22

Councillor Karen Buckley, Chairman introduced the report prepared by Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer, regarding the setting of a budget timetable for 2021/22. The report advised that any approved timetable would need to comply with the budget and policy framework rules, statutory deadlines, and if possible, which facilitated early billing for Council Tax.

Appendix A of the report comprised a draft budget timetable for 2021/22 for consideration, and the report explained that the timetable may need further consideration if there were any significant changes, for example if the timetables of precepting authorities changed.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the timetable as shown at Appendix A for the budget setting process for 2021/22.

## 5. Community Governance Review

Ian Curtis, Head of Governance, introduced a report regarding a proposed community governance review. He advised that legislation allowed the council to review the pattern of community governance in its area. A review could recommend the establishment or abolition of parish councils, re-align boundaries between them and change the number of parish councillors.

Proposals for the reorganisation of local government in Lancashire, were currently under discussion and if progressed would be based on a small number of unitary authorities. Mr Curtis advised that the possibility of a move to unitary government at the principal council level made it an appropriate time to revisit the pattern of community governance in Fylde.

The committee was asked to recommend to the council whether to undertake a community governance review and agree the basis of the terms of reference and an indicative timetable for any review.

If a review was to be undertaken the intention was for any changes to take effect in time for the 2023 election.

The committee discussed the matter and several arguments were made in favour of a full review. It was argued that focus should be given to those areas currently unparished and where there had been significant housing development since the last community governance review.

In response to questions Mr Curtis advised that whilst it was guidance to review every 10-15 years, it was not a legal requirement to undertake a review.

It was RESOLVED to

1. Recommend that the council undertakes a community governance review.
2. Recommend that the terms of reference of the review comprise a review of community governance in the whole of the council's district with a focus on the unparished areas of Lytham and Ansdell and areas of high development.
3. Adopt the indicative review timetable as laid out in paragraph 14 of the report.

## 6. Boundary Commission Review – Cross Party Working Group

Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive, introduced a report outlining the requirement for a cross party working group to be established from the committee to develop a submission for the Boundary Review on the proposed council size. Mr Oldfield advised that submission from the council, drafted with cross party agreement, was in line with best practice.

It was RESOLVED to appoint Councillors Buckley, Small, Singleton and Green from the leading group, and two councillors from the opposition group would be notified to the Chairman in due course, to form a cross party working group responsible for producing a council size submission, with the support of senior officers, for the boundary review at Fylde to be put before Full Council on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

(Subsequently notified as Councillor Oades and Councillor Nulty)

## 7. Appointment to Outside Bodies/Working Groups

The Chairman introduced the review of membership to Outside Bodies and Working Groups. She proposed that the membership should carry forward for most, except for the Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse Enterprise Zone Project Board, where she nominated the Deputy Leader, Councillor Roger Small, to replace her. In addition, she recommended the addition of the South Fylde Rail User Group to the list of Outside Bodies, and Councillor Vince Settle as the Council's representative.

It was RESOLVED to

1. recommend to Full Council that the South Fylde Rail Users Group is added to the approved list of Outside Bodies for Fylde Council.
2. to recommend to Full Council to approve Councillor Vince Settle as the representative on the South Fylde Rail Users Group, if it is accepted on the Outside Bodies list.

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3. to recommend to full Council that the Deputy Leader, Councillor Roger Small, replace Councillor Karen Buckley as the representative on the Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse Enterprise Zone Project Board, and
4. confirm the membership of the working groups that relate to the terms of reference of the committee, as set out below.

<b>Outside body / partnerships</b>	<b>Current representation</b>
Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse Enterprise Zone Project Board	Deputy Leader - Councillor Roger Small
Fylde Community Project Fund	The Mayor
North West Employers Organisation	Chairman of Finance and Democracy (plus a named substitute) – Councillor Karen Buckley and Vince Settle
North West of England & the Isle of Man Reserve Forces & Cadets Association	Councillor Ed Nash
South Fylde Rail Users Group	Councillor Vince Settle

<b>Working groups</b>	<b>Current representation</b>
Budget Working Group	Chairman & Vice Chair of Finance & Democracy, Chairmen of Tourism & Leisure, Operational Management, Environment, Health & Housing and Planning plus two Finance & Democracy members – Richard Redcliffe and John Singleton and Councillor Sue Fazackerley.
Boundary Commission Review Working Group	Councillors Buckley, Oades, Nulty, Small, Singleton and Green.

8. Town Centre Working Group Update and Proposals to Support the Regeneration of St Annes Town Centre

The Chairman introduced the report and the recommendations of the Planning Committee from its meeting on 16 September 2020 relating to the Town Centres Working Group and proposals to support the regeneration of St Annes Town Centre.

The report recommended that the Finance & Democracy Committee approve a revenue funded budget increase for 2020/21 in the sum of £150,000, to be funded from the Funding Volatility Reserve, to provide for the commissioning of a vision/strategy for St Annes Town Centre, such vision to include a town centre health check and be informed by the survey results and working group proposals for St Annes.

Councillor Redcliffe, as Vice Chairman of Planning, advised that a town centre health check was often a pre-requisite to attract Future High Street Funding. Whilst the future of that funding stream was unknown, a health check was still useful to help with matters such as providing future strategic planning for the town centre, transport links, changes to the retail offer, future footfall and employment rates.

It was RESOLVED

1. to approve a revenue funded budget increase for 2020/21 in the sum of £150,000, to be funded from the Funding Volatility Reserve, to provide for the commissioning of a vision/strategy for St Annes Town Centre, such vision to include a town centre health check and be informed by the survey results and working group proposals for St Annes, and
2. The Town Centre Working Group be consulted regarding the commissioning of this work.

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. Community Projects Fund

The Committee received information regarding the Community Projects Fund 2019/20.

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