



# MINUTES

## Planning Committee

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 19 January 2022
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Councillor Trevor Fiddler (Chairman) Councillor Richard Redcliffe (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Tim Armit, Noreen Griffiths, Gavin Harrison, Jayne Nixon, Ray Thomas, Viv Willder.
<b>Other Councillors Present:</b>	Councillor Karen Buckley.
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Mark Evans, Lyndsey Lacey-Simone.

### 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. No interests were declared on this occasion.

### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5 January 2022 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

### 3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 24:

Councillor Viv Willder for Councillor Stan Trudgill.

Councillor Noreen Griffiths for Councillor Linda Nulty.

### Decision Items

### 4. Budget Setting - Fees and Charges 2022/23

Mark Evans (Head of Planning) introduced the report. In doing so, he advised that each year, as part of the budget-setting process, the schedule of fees and charges for the coming year (for each of the services that the Council provides) are reviewed by budget-holders prior to the schedule being considered by the relevant Programme Committee and being approved at the March Budget Council meeting.

A full schedule of proposed fees and charges for all Council services for 2022/23 was made available via a link.

The schedule of fees and charges (as detailed in Appendix A of the report) for those services/activities within the remit of the Planning Committee were considered by members.

Members were invited to comment on the various fees and charges. Clarification was sought on the requirement to include such detail/itemisation within the schedule particularly when there were no changes to the draft fees

and charges. Matters associated with the planning application fees and postage was also raised. An undertaking to get back to members on the rationale behind the formatting/presentation of the information contained in the schedule was given at the meeting.

The Committee RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Council the proposed schedule of fees and charges applicable for 2022/23; and
2. To note that the final fees and charges for 2022/23 will be approved by the Budget Council in March 2022.

#### Information Items

The following information items were received by the Committee.

#### 5. Budget Setting - Revenue Budget 2022/23 - First Draft

The information report provided an update on the first draft of the revenue budget for 2022/23 (made available via a link). The Committee was advised that the budget had been prepared on a continuation basis and had been updated to reflect all Committee and Council decisions made to date, the outcome of the budget-rightsizing exercise and all virements.

#### 6. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2021/22 - Position as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

The information report provided an update on the General Fund Revenue Budget of the Council as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 with specific reference to those areas under the remit of the Committee.

#### 7. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2021/22 - Position as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

The information report provided an update on the approved Capital Programme of the Council as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 with specific reference to those schemes under the remit of the Committee.

Clarification was sought on the S106 developer contributions/costs and ownership 25 Victoria Road, St Annes Y-Pad Scheme. Mr Evans addressed this matter.

#### 8. Five Year Housing Land Supply Statement

The information report provided the Council's statement for 2021 (via a link) on the five-year housing land supply.

Mr Evans highlighted that the statement is not an "Annual Position Statement" as submitted to the Secretary of State for the previous two years, as the Council now had a recently adopted Local Plan.

The statement concluded that the Council has 6.64 years' supply of deliverable housing land (as detailed on page 22 of the report circulated).

Clarification was sought on the standard methodology used for the calculation of the housing land supply and the level of developer interest in the requirement; the impact of Covid/the shortage of raw materials on housing delivery and matters associated with the 'Duty to Cooperate'. Mr Evans addressed these points.

#### 9. Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS)

The information report provided an update on the Government's requirement for local authorities to produce an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) on an annual basis through the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations (2019).

It was reported that the Council did not publish an IFS in 2020. Therefore, two Infrastructure Funding Statements had been produced and published on the Council's website, with the first covering the 2019/20 period and the second covering the 2020/21 period. Further details were set out in the report.

Mr Evans drew members attention to the flow charts contained in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report (pages 44 and 59 respectively) whereby some of the text had inadvertently been missed in the last box during the formatting stage. The missing text was reported as the last line which should read "Monitoring is undertaken to ensure that this does not happen and all funds are collected and spent on the identified projects."

Questions were raised about education contributions/delivery in the borough and the calculation/assessment of school places and the process involved. In addition, clarification was sought on funds held against Section 106

agreements signed prior 2019. Mr Evans gave an undertaking to provide this information to members under separate cover.

#### 10. Empty Residential Homes Position Statement

The information report provided an update on long term empty residential property. In recent years, several changes had been made to the council tax scheme in relation to empty residential property and members had previously asked for regular updates to monitor the effect of those changes. The report advised members of the effects of the changes.

Clarification was sought on the terminology “long term empty”. In addition, it was commented that the input of the MP for Fylde be sought regarding the long-term empty shops/commercial buildings in town centres. Mr Evans advised that part of the role of the newly appointed affordable housing officer would be to produce an Empty Homes Strategy, that would seek to further reduce the number of empty properties.

#### 11. Education Liaison Meeting - Outside Body Update

In addition to the reports presented by the representatives appointed to this outside body, the information report provided an overview of the work undertaken by the Education Liaison Group during 2021. The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Redcliffe was invited to expand on the details contained in the report.

Comments were made about the sixth form education provision within the borough and the role of the county council in the distribution of funding for education purposes. Mr Evans addressed these points.

#### 12. Performance Report 2020/21

The information report combined details of the key performance outcomes which had not been reported to the committee (due to the pandemic) for the previous financial year end 2020/21 (1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021) and the first six months of the existing financial year end (1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021).

Performance was reported against the targets set and commentary was provided by performance exception. The Committee was advised that due to the ongoing challenges post-covid, target setting will be reviewed in detail at the start of the new financial year 2021/22.

In summary, Mr Evans indicated that the targets for PMs 39 and 40 would need to be amended in due course to reflect the updated Local Plan.

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