

Lancashire County Council

Executive Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 6th September, 2016 at 2.00 pm in Council Chamber, County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Bill Winlow (Chair)

County Councillors

A Atkinson	S Holgate
A Barnes	J Oakes
Mrs S Charles	D O'Toole
D Clifford	S Perkins
B Dawson	N Penney
M Green	V Taylor

1. Apologies

None received

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests

County Councillor Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 4c as a Cabinet Member at Wyre Borough Council. County Councillor Alyson Barnes declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 4c as the Leader of Rossendale Borough Council. County Councillor Oakes declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 4c as a Cabinet Member at Rossendale Borough Council. County Councillor Clifford declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 4c as a Cabinet Member at Lancaster City Council.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2016

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2016 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Reports for decision by Cabinet

The Committee considered the following decisions due to be taken by the Cabinet.

a. Money Matters - 2016/17 Financial Position and Medium Term Financial Strategy

The committee received a report providing the financial position as at 30th June 2016, the latest position in respect of the County Council's reserves and the

County Council's updated financial outlook (Medium Term Financial Strategy) for period 2017/18 to 2020/21.

It was reported that there was currently forecast a small overspend, but that it was anticipated that this would be brought back to within budget by the end of the year. In relation to the medium term strategy and the reserves position, it was reported that the funding gap has reduced to £147.944m, the reduction on the previously reported position being principally due to the new assumption, not previously made, of a Council Tax increase (including the Social Care precept) of 3.99% per year. It was emphasised that, by 31st March 2018, the County Council is expected to have reserves available of £21.772m, with the total current reserve essentially already committed or required to meet the budget shortfall in 16/17 and 17/18.

In the debate which followed, County Councillor Alan Schofield spoke in accordance with Standing Order 19(1)

Resolved: That the recommendations set out in the report to Cabinet be noted, and that no additional comments or suggested alternative recommendations be made

b. Supporting People and the Prevention and Early Help Fund

The committee received a report on the outcomes of the consultation on the proposed savings to the Supporting People budget, and the work of the Prevention and Early Help Cabinet Member Working Group and its recommendations in relation to the allocation of the Prevention and Early Help Fund.

In the ensuing debate, County Councillor Alan Schofield spoke in accordance with Standing Order 19(1)

Resolved: That the recommendations set out in the report to Cabinet be noted, and that no additional comments or suggested alternative recommendations be made

A short adjournment was taken following the above item

c. The Property Strategy - Responses to Consultation

County Councillor Alyson Barnes declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as a trustee of the Crawshawbooth Community Association. County Councillor Jackie Oakes declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of Whitewell Bottom Community Association.

The committee considered a report on the outcomes of the consultation in relation to the proposals agreed on 12 May 2016 regarding the Council's Property Strategy.

It was noted that, following the consultation, the proposal in respect of 28 properties had been changed from the initial proposals, and a summary was circulated to committee members for ease of reference.

The committee received a detailed overview of the proposals and the approach taken from officers, as set out in the detailed report.

In debating the report, the following County Councillors spoke in accordance with Standing Order 19(1): County Councillor Andrea Kay, County Councillor Paul Rigby, County Councillor Alan Schofield, County Councillor Keith Sedgewick, County Councillor Margaret Brindle, and County Councillor Chris Henig.

A number of comments were made during the debate in relation to individual properties in a number of areas, and in relation to the process that would now be followed, especially in relation to the management of Expressions of Interest received and the transfer of properties where appropriate. It was noted that no decisions had yet been taken in relation to any next steps, pending the outcome of the Cabinet Decision at the forthcoming meeting. It was confirmed that a further update would be provided to Cabinet based on the issues raised in the debate.

During the debate, it was moved and seconded that ESC request Cabinet defer their decision to enable the creation of district level cross-party working groups to consider the proposals and make recommendations to Cabinet. On being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

It was further moved and seconded that ESC request Cabinet look at keeping a number of the facilities proposed for closure open. On being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

The Committee, following the debate, allowed a further opportunity for comments on a district by district basis.

Resolved: That the recommendations set out in the report to Cabinet be noted, and that no additional comments or suggested alternative recommendations be made

5. Forthcoming Individual Cabinet Member Key Decisions

The Committee considered the following reports on Key Decisions due to be taken by individual Cabinet Members as indicated.

a. Resident Parking Schemes in Lancashire

The committee noted that this item had been withdrawn.

b. Water and Environment Management Framework

The committee received a report setting out a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services approve the use of the Environment Agency's Water and Environment Management (WEM) Framework Agreement to procure specialist consultancy and construction works for flood risk projects.

Resolved: That the recommendation set out in the report to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services be noted, and that no additional comments or suggested alternative recommendations be made.

6. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

7. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would be held on Tuesday 4 October 2016 at 2.00 p.m. at County Hall, Preston.

8. Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved: - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 and that in all circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

9. Forthcoming Individual Cabinet Member Key Decisions

The Committee considered the following reports on Key Decisions due to be taken by individual Cabinet Members as indicated.

a. Approval to award Framework Agreement for the provision of Community Short Breaks, Lancashire

(Not for Publication – Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information)

The Committee considered a report to go to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools on the outcome of a procurement exercise in relation to the provision of Community Short Breaks.

Resolved: - That the recommendation set out in the report to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools be noted and that no additional comments or suggested alternative recommendations be made.

b. **Global Renewables Lancashire Operations Limited – Creation of Capital Project for Company Transformation Asset Preservation Activity**

(Not for publication – exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.)

The Committee considered a report to the Deputy Leader of the County Council and the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services on the creation of a Capital Project for Company Transformation Asset Preservation Activity in relation to Global Renewables Lancashire Operations Ltd.

Resolved: - That the recommendations set out in the report to the Deputy Leader of the County Council and the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services be noted and that no additional comments or suggested alternative recommendations be made.

I Young
Director of Governance, Finance
and Public Services

County Hall
Preston