

Lancashire County Council

Cabinet

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 26th September, 2016 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Jennifer Mein

Leader of the Council
(in the Chair)

Cabinet Members

County Councillor Azhar Ali

County Councillor David Borrow

County Councillor John Fillis

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone

County Councillor Tony Martin

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson

County Councillors Geoff Driver CBE, Albert Atkinson and Bill Winlow were also in attendance under the provisions of Standing Order No. 19(4).

1. **Apologies for Absence**

None

2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

There were no interests declared.

3. **Scrutiny Committee Request to Reconsider a Decision - Property Strategy**

Cabinet considered the request of the Scrutiny Committee made at its meeting on 22 September 2016 to reconsider the Cabinet decision of 8 September 2016 in relation to the Property Strategy.

Cabinet noted that the reasons provided by the Scrutiny Committee for the request to reconsider were that:

"Both the consultation and the Cabinet decision were based on incorrect financial information and the decision does not meet the Council's own priorities to support the needs of the residents of Lancashire, particularly the more deprived communities.

The Scrutiny Committee also sought assurances that the methodology was applied consistently and fairly across Lancashire"

Evidence was presented to the Cabinet from the S151 officer in relation to the accuracy of the financial information, and from the Head of Asset Management on the methodology. Copies of their evidence are attached to these minutes as appendices. In considering the evidence presented, Cabinet also noted the lengthy and detailed debates already held at the previous ESC, Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee meetings.

Cabinet noted that the briefing presented by the Director of Financial resources at Cabinet stated that the Conservative Group Budget amendment proposed at Full Council in 11th February 2016 would have been mainly funded through additional capital borrowing of £15.069m. Following a query on this figure, the Director of Financial resources confirmed that the actual additional level of capital borrowing proposed in the amendment was £17.519m. It was clarified that the £15.069m represented the net revenue impact of the cost of borrowing the £17.519m, taking into account an estimated 2 year revenue charge of £2.450m.

Following lengthy debate, and taking fully into account the information and evidence presented at the meetings of ESC, Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet:

Resolved: That the decision of the cabinet on 8 September 2016 in relation to the Property Strategy be confirmed.

4. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business

5. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 6 October, 2pm, County Hall, Preston

Jo Turton
Chief Executive

County Hall
Preston