

Meeting of the Full Council 17 December 2015

Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 November 2015

The agenda and minutes of the meeting may be viewed on the County Council's website at the following link:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=122&MId=5226&Ver=4>

Public Sector Equality Duty

Cabinet noted a report outlining the implications for the council and councillors arising from the requirement to pay due regard to the equality duties set out contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, usually referred to as the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Lancashire County Council Corporate Strategy

See item under Part A of the agenda

Property Strategy

Cabinet received a report setting out the methodology to enable the council to achieve a sustainable long term reduction in its property portfolio, in line with the Corporate Strategy. It was reported that it was intended that around half of the 220 properties under consideration in the ownership of the County Council would be retained for future use.

Cabinet resolved that:

- i. the proposed strategy for the reduction of the County Council's corporate operational property and methodology for the delivery of public facing services from a series of multi-functional 'Neighbourhood Centres' be approved
- ii. the evaluation of identified datasets and subsequent consultation on the recommendations for the final selection of premises to become Neighbourhood Centres be approved.
- iii. approval be given for contact to be made with relevant public sector partners, including the voluntary sector, to explore opportunities for co-location and sharing of service delivery.
- iv. approval be given for the estimated cost of works required to premises to deliver the Property Strategy (Neighbourhood Centres) to be added to the Capital Programme, and that detailed phasing of the required expenditure be provided in subsequent reports.

Proposals for Transforming Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help Services for Children, Young People and Families in Lancashire

Cabinet received a report on the implementation of the proposals to create a transformed and integrated wellbeing, prevention and early help service across Lancashire, aligning existing core offers for Children's Centres, Young People's Provision, Prevention and Early Help and Lancashire's response to the national Troubled Families Unit programme.

Cabinet resolved that the implementation of the service offer proposals within the Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help Services be approved, subject to consultation.

The County Council's Budget Position

Cabinet received the "Money Matters" financial report, covering the current financial position, the financial outlook and medium term financial strategy (MTFS), as well as proposals to address the funding gap facing the council

Cabinet resolved that:

- i. the forecast overspend of £19.666m on the revenue budget in 2015/16 and ongoing pressure of £37.161m be noted
- ii. the revised funding gap of £262.0m covering the period 2016/17 to 2020/21 as set out in the revised financial outlook forecast for the Council be noted.
- iii. the budget adjustments for 2016/17 and 2017/18, and following years' increases, included in the MTFS reflecting the phased financial impact of the national living wage be approved.
- iv. the adjustment of previously approved savings targets to reflect the £52.8m of undeliverable savings identified within the MTFS and that the 2016/17 budget be prepared on that basis be approved.
- v. the principle of reserves supporting the revenue budget in 2016/17 and 2017/18 be approved.
- vi. the principle of replacing revenue support to the capital programme with capital borrowing be approved.
- vii. the attached budget proposals set out in Appendices 'D' and 'E' be approved, officers be authorised to proceed with their implementation subject to consultation where appropriate, and that the 2016/17 budget be prepared based upon these revenue decisions be agreed, with the outcome of any consultations being reported to Full Council.
- viii. a financial strategy that sets a spending target for service expenditure levels to move in line with the lower quartile of the most appropriate comparator group of local authorities for individual services be approved
- ix. key stakeholders and partners be formally advised of the outcome of the budget decisions.
- x. This decision be designated as urgent in accordance with Standing Order 34(3) as any delay in its implementation could adversely affect the efficient execution of the County Council's responsibilities