

Lancashire County Council

Executive Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th January, 2016 at 2.00 pm in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Bill Winlow (Chair)

County Councillors

A Atkinson	C Dereli
A Barnes	G Driver
Mrs S Charles	M Green
D Clifford	S Holgate
B Dawson	D O'Toole
G Dowding	N Penney

County Councillor C Dereli replaced County Councillor J Oakes at this meeting.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2016

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4. Reports for decision by Cabinet

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

a. Money Matters - The Financial Strategy for 2016/17 to 2020/21

The Deputy Leader of the Council introduced a report which set out the impact of the Autumn Statement and the Finance Settlement for 2016/17; provided an update of the forecast outturn position for 2015/16 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2016/17 to 2020/21; and the position with regard to reserves.

Attention was drawn to the reduction of £303.3m in central government support over the period 2016/17 to 2019/20, noting that the settlement announced

immediately before Christmas had presented the Council with an even greater reduction in financial resources than previously anticipated.

Damon Lawrenson, interim Director of Financial Resources, set out the detail contained in the report. The work to reduce the predicted overspend in the current financial year was welcomed, but it was emphasised that the financial position of the council was such that, whilst a legal balanced budget could be set for 2016/17, there were a number of significant risks in the councils financial position that meant that it was not currently possible to say with confidence that a legal balanced budget could be set for 2017/18. It was made clear that the position in 2017/18 was heavily dependent on the timely delivery of the budget proposals announced by Cabinet, and that any delay would require the greater use of reserves, threatening the position for later years.

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that the recommendations set out in the report be noted, to which the following amendment was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**:

"That the Committee requests the Cabinet not to proceed with the proposed cuts to the flood risk budget, subsidised bus routes budget, libraries, museums, the Knott End Ferry and transport to day centres." Upon being put to the vote the amendment was lost and the original motion was then put to the vote. The original motion was carried and it was:

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

b. Responses to Consultation

Mike Walker, Information, Intelligence, Quality and Performance Manager, attended to present the responses to the consultation on the Cabinet's proposed budget options. It was reported that the individual responses would be made available to all members of the Council.

It was confirmed that the responses, along with responses from any further individual budget decisions and proposals would be used to review and update existing equality analyses as appropriate.

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

5. Urgent Business

None.

6. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 2 February 2016 at 2pm at the County Hall, Preston.

7. 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.

8. 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. Award of Highways Repair and Maintenance Works based on Dayworks

(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 on the proposed award of contracts for the provision of Highways, Repairs and Maintenance works.

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

b. Recommendation of Contract Award for Reablement Services

(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 on the proposed award of contracts for a Reablement Service in Lancashire.

Resolved: That the recommendation set out in the report to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community 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

