

Meeting of the Full Council 25 February 2016

Report of the Cabinet meetings held on 21 January 2016 and 4 February 2016

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

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=122>

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

Cabinet received 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.

Cabinet resolved that:

- (i) the current forecast overspend of £9.591m on the revenue budget in 2015/16 and ongoing pressure of £35.766m be noted.
- (ii) the revised funding gap of £200.5m covering the period 2016/17 to 2020/21 as set out in the revised financial outlook forecast for the Council be noted.
- (iii) the additional budget adjustments for 2016/17, and following years' increases, included in the revised MTFs following the financial settlement be approved.
- (iv) recommendations be made to Full Council on 11 February 2016 the Band D Council Tax for 2016/17 reflecting a 3.99% increase including 2% to be used for social care as per the new flexibilities.
- (v) the contents of the County Council's Reserves position at 30 November 2015 be noted.
- (vi) all the proposed changes to the existing use of reserves, linked to creating the Transitional Reserve be approved.
- (vii) in line with the Council's financial strategy agreed at the 26 November Cabinet, the establishment of the Council's Transitional Reserve (£107.599m or £117.190m should the County Council deliver a balanced revenue position in 2015/16) be approved.
- (viii) the use of capital allocations within the 2015/16 capital programme for projects which are now complete or considered not needed as part of the 2016/17 programme funding be noted and approved.
- (ix) the specific capital programme as presented within the body of the report be approved.

(x) the increase in prudential borrowing identified within the Capital Programme report which is required as a result of utilising revenue and other reserves, previously earmarked for supporting the Capital Programme, to assist in the overall reshaping of the County Council be approved.

(xi) the advice of the Interim Director of Financial Resources in relation to the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves be noted.

Responses to Consultation

Cabinet received a report on the responses to the consultation on the Cabinet's proposed budget options.

Cabinet resolved that the responses to the consultation, as reported, be noted.

The Annual Audit Letter for Lancashire County Council – Year Ended 31 March 2016

Cabinet received a report setting out the External Auditor's Annual Audit Letter for Lancashire County Council for the year ended 31 March 2015.

Cabinet resolved that the key messages set out in the Annual Audit Letter for Lancashire County Council for the year ended 31 March 2015 be noted.

Treasury Management Policy and Strategy

This item was dealt with as a Part A item at Full Council on 11 February 2016

Property Strategy Consultation Process

Cabinet received a report setting out details of the proposed timescale for completion of a property review.

Cabinet resolved that the process and timescale for consultation on the identification of properties to be retained for use as Neighbourhood Centres through implementation of the Property Strategy as set out be approved.

Lancashire County Library Service consultation – stage one

Cabinet received a report setting out details of the responses received following the first stage of the Library Service consultation, considering service design, need and use.

Cabinet resolved that the report be noted.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Annual Report to Cabinet

Cabinet received a report setting out details of the requirement for Cabinet to review, on an annual basis, the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and set the policy.

Cabinet resolved that the updated corporate policy as presented be approved with immediate effect.