

Minutes

At a meeting of the Full Council held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Preston, on Friday, 23rd February, 2024

Present:

County Councillor Alan Cullens BEM (Chairman)

County Councillors

T Aldridge	J Gibson	E Pope
A Ali OBE	G Gooch	J Potter
U Arif	M Green	J Purcell
T Ashton	H Hartley	P Rigby
N Aziz	C Haythornthwaite	S Rigby
S Barnes	N Hennessy	A Riggott
L Beavers	S Hind	M Salter
J Berry	A Hindle	A Schofield
P Britcliffe	S Holgate	S Serridge
M Brown	D Howarth	J Shedwick
P Buckley	T Hurn	J R Singleton JP
J Burrows	M Iqbal MBE	S Smith
A Cheetham	S Jones	K Snape
S Clarke	H Khan	A Sutcliffe
A Clempson	N Khan	R Swarbrick
M Clifford	E Lewis	M Tomlinson
L Collinge	M Maxwell-Scott	C Towneley
J Couperthwaite	J Mein	S Turner
L Cox	G Mirfin	A Vincent
S Cunliffe	S C Morris	D Westley
M Dad BEM JP	D O'Toole	S Whittam
G Dowding	J Oakes	P Williamson
C Edwards	J Parr	R Woollam
J Fillis	L Pate	B Yates
A Gardiner	M Pattison	

1. Apologies and Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Frank De Molfetta, Mike Goulthorp, Andrea Kay, Jayne Rear, and Alan Whittaker.

County Councillors Sobia Malik and Yousuf Motala joined the meeting virtually.



Announcements

Deaths

The Chairman reported the recent deaths of former County Councillor John Cavanagh, who sadly passed away on 25 January 2024, former County Councillor Nikki Penney, who sadly passed away on 4 February 2024, and former County Councillor Harry Counce, who sadly passed away on 29 January 2024.

The Council observed a one-minute silence.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

County Councillor Lian Pate declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 - 2024/25 Budget Report, as her partner was an employee of the county council.

3. 2024/25 Budget Report

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson, Leader of the County Council, moved the recommendations of the Cabinet regarding:

- The revenue budget 2024/25;
- The council tax and precept 2024/25;
- The policy savings;
- The capital programme 2024/25;
- The capital strategy; and
- The exceptions to the agreed uplift policy for fees and charges.

Together with the recommendations of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee from its meeting on 29 January 2024 regarding:

- The Treasury Management Strategy, the Investment Strategy, and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2024/25.

And with the recommendations of the Employment Committee from its meeting on 25 January 2024 regarding:

- The Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 (The Localism Act 2011).

The motion was seconded by County Councillor Alan Vincent, Cabinet Member for Resources, HR and Property (Deputy Leader).

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson then made his Budget speech and moved an Amendment to the Budget proposals, on behalf of the Labour Group, which was seconded by County Councillor Noordad Aziz.

A copy of the Amendment was circulated to all Members and is set out at Annex 1 to these minutes.



Following a period of debate, a recorded vote on the Amendment was taken in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order B45(7). The names of those Members who voted for or against the Amendment, and those who abstained, are set out below.

For (32)

Aldridge	Brown	Gibson	Khan, N	Potter
Ali	Clifford	Hennessy	Lewis	Serridge
Arif	Collinge	Hindle	Mein	Snape
Aziz	Cunliffe	Holgate	Oakes	Tomlinson
Barnes	Dad	Howarth	Parr	
Beavers	Dowding	Iqbal	Pate	
Berry	Fillis	Khan, H	Pattison	

Against (42)

Ashton	Edwards	Mirfin	Singleton	Woollam
Britcliffe	Gardiner	Morris	Smith	Yates
Buckley	Gooch	O'Toole	Sutcliffe	
Burrows	Green	Pope	Swarbrick	
Cheetham	Hartley	Rigby, P	Towneley	
Clarke	Haythornthwaite	Rigby, S	Turner	
Clempson	Hind	Riggott	Vincent	
Cox	Hurn	Salter	Westley	
Couperthwaite	Jones	Schofield	Whittam	
Cullens	Maxwell-Scott	Shedwick	Williamson	

Abstain (0)

The Labour Group's Amendment was therefore LOST.

After an Adjournment, County Councillor John Potter then made his Budget speech and moved an Amendment to the Budget proposals on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, which was seconded by County Councillor David Howarth.

A copy of the Amendment was circulated to all Members and is set out at Annex 2 to these minutes.

Following a period of debate, a recorded vote on the Amendment was taken in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order B45(7). The names of Members who voted for or against the Amendment, and those who abstained, are set out below.

For (31)

Aldridge	Brown	Gibson	Khan, N	Potter
Ali	Clifford	Hennessy	Lewis	Snape



Arif	Collinge	Hindle	Mein	Tomlinson
Aziz	Cunliffe	Holgate	Oakes	
Barnes	Dad	Howarth	Parr	
Beavers	Dowding	Iqbal	Pattison	
Berry	Fillis	Khan, H	Serridge	

Against (41)

Ashton	Edwards	Morris	Smith	Yates
Britcliffe	Gardiner	O'Toole	Sutcliffe	
Buckley	Gooch	Pope	Swarbrick	
Burrows	Green	Rigby, P	Towneley	
Cheetham	Hartley	Rigby, S	Turner	
Clarke	Haythornthwaite	Riggott	Vincent	
Clempson	Hind	Salter	Westley	
Cox	Jones	Schofield	Whittam	
Couperthwaite	Maxwell-Scott	Shedwick	Williamson	
Cullens	Mirfin	Singleton	Woollam	

Abstain (0)

The Liberal Democrat Group's Amendment was therefore LOST.

County Councillor Scott Cunliffe then made his Budget speech and moved an Amendment to the Budget proposals on behalf of the Green Group, which was seconded by County Councillor Gina Dowding.

A copy of the Amendment was circulated to all Members and is set out at Annex 3 to these minutes.

Following a period of debate, it was proposed by County Councillor John Potter that the question be now put in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 44(1). Having been seconded and upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED. A recorded vote was then taken on the Amendment in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order B45(7). The names of Members who voted for or against the Amendment, and those who abstained, are set out below.

For (31)

Aldridge	Brown	Hennessy	Lewis	Serridge
Ali	Clifford	Hindle	Mein	Snape
Arif	Cunliffe	Holgate	Oakes	Tomlinson
Aziz	Dad	Howarth	Parr	
Barnes	Dowding	Iqbal	Pate	
Beavers	Fillis	Khan, H	Pattison	
Berry	Gibson	Khan, N	Potter	



Against (40)

Ashton	Cullens	Jones	Riggott	Towneley
Buckley	Edwards	Maxwell-Scott	Salter	Turner
Burrows	Gardiner	Mirfin	Schofield	Vincent
Cheetham	Gooch	Morris	Shedwick	Westley
Clarke	Green	O'Toole	Singleton	Whittam
Clempson	Hartley	Pope	Smith	Williamson
Cox	Haythornthwaite	Rigby, P	Sutcliffe	Woollam
Couperthwaite	Hind	Rigby, S	Swarbrick	Yates

Abstain (0)

The Green Group's Amendment was therefore LOST.

As no further Amendments were moved, the Chairman put the Motion on the county council's Budget, and asked Full Council to approve the recommendations of the Cabinet on:

- The revenue budget 2024/25;
- The council tax and precept 2024/25;
- The policy savings;
- The capital programme 2024/25;
- The capital strategy; and
- The exceptions to the agreed uplift policy for fees and charges.

Together with the recommendations of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee from its meeting on 29 January 2024 regarding:

- The Treasury Management Strategy, the Investment Strategy, and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2024/25.

And with the recommendations of the Employment Committee from its meeting on 25 January 2024 regarding:

- The Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 (The Localism Act 2011).

Following a period of debate, it was proposed by County Councillor Gina Dowding that the question be now put in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 44(1). Having been seconded and upon being put to the vote, the motion was LOST, and the debate continued. A recorded vote was then taken, in accordance with Standing Order B45(7), and the names of Members who voted for or against the Motion, and those who abstained, are set out below.

For (40)

Ashton	Cullens	Jones	Riggott	Towneley
Buckley	Edwards	Maxwell-	Salter	Turner



		Scott		
Burrows	Gardiner	Mirfin	Schofield	Vincent
Cheetham	Gooch	Morris	Shedwick	Westley
Clarke	Green	O'Toole	Singleton	Whittam
Clempson	Hartley	Pope	Smith	Williamson
Cox	Haythornthwaite	Rigby, P	Sutcliffe	Woollam
Couperthwaite	Hind	Rigby, S	Swarbrick	Yates

Against (29)

Aldridge	Cunliffe	Holgate	Oakes	Tomlinson
Ali	Dad	Howarth	Parr	
Aziz	Dowding	Iqbal	Pate	
Barnes	Fillis	Khan, H	Pattison	
Berry	Gibson	Khan, N	Potter	
Brown	Hennessy	Lewis	Serridge	
Clifford	Hindle	Mein	Snape	

Abstain (0)

The Motion was CARRIED and it was:

Resolved: -

That the Cabinet recommendations in respect of:

- The revenue budget 2024/25;
- The council tax and precept 2024/25;
- The policy savings;
- The capital programme 2024/25;
- The capital strategy; and
- The exceptions to the agreed uplift policy for fees and charges.

Together with the recommendations of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee from its meeting on 29 January 2024 regarding:

- The Treasury Management Strategy, the Investment Strategy, and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2024/25.

And with the recommendations of the Employment Committee from its meeting on 25 January 2024 regarding:

- The Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 (The Localism Act 2011).

As set out in the report, now presented, be approved.



4. Annexes '1' to '3'

Annex 1

BUDGET COUNCIL: 23 FEBRUARY 2024 AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE LABOUR GROUP TO THE 2024/25 BUDGET

(1) Proposed amendments to the revenue budget

	2024/25 £m
Remove saving proposal GET007 – Pay and Display income (Investment included in 2024/25 budget and saving from 2025/26 onwards)	-0.975
Remove saving proposal GET008 – Young Persons Travel	0.155
Remove saving proposal GET009 – Discretionary Concessionary Travel (saving commences in 2025/26)	0.000
Increase saving proposal RES002 – Facilities Management – operational changes (increasing to £0.394m on 2025/26)	-0.145
Total cost of proposed amendments	-0.965

The additions to the revenue budget form a contribution to the transitional reserve in 2024/25, with the recurrent impact (a cost of £0.397m) reflected from 2025/26 in the medium-term financial strategy.

(2) Proposed additions to the capital programme

	2024/25 £m
Accelerate the movement to additional in house provision for the care of looked after children	5.000
Develop fund to support district councils looking to develop assisted housing for older people	20.000
"One off" fund to address most urgent highways repairs	10.000
Total	35.000

The additions to the capital programme are all to be funded from the transitional reserve.

View of the Executive Director of Resources (S151)

The proposals have been validated as being deliverable financially in 2024/25.



In validating the proposals, I have been mindful that:

- The proposed amendments to the revenue budget in 2024/25 of £0.965m, if agreed, would result in the removal of the £0.856m revenue funding gap and a small contribution of £0.109m being made to the transitional reserve. The recurrent impact of the proposals from 2025/26 is an additional cost of £0.397m and would be built into the medium-term financial strategy, resulting in a gap in 2025/26 of £10.885m and in 2026/27 a gap of £3.748m.
- The funding to support the capital programme can be met from the transitional reserve, as a one-off contribution of £35m.

The transitional reserve is currently forecast to be £165.198m at 31st March 2024. The transitional reserve is sufficient to support the structural deficit for 2024/25 – 2026/27 with a revised forecast level of £123.002m at 31st March 2027.

In the intervening period the council will need to take steps to address the structural deficit to ensure it can maintain a sustainable financial position.



Annex 2

BUDGET COUNCIL: 23 FEBRUARY 2024

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP TO THE 2024/25 BUDGET

Proposed amendments to the revenue budget

	£m
Youth worker provision - 6 additional permanent youth workers and a 7th senior youth worker	0.297
Parking enforcement - 12 street enforcement officers (1 in every district)	0.357
Tree Planting (£2,500 per division)	0.210
Total cost of proposed amendments:	0.864

The additions to the revenue budget to be funded from the Transitional Reserve.

Proposed amendments to the capital programme

	£m
Reduce the intervention level by half for works to be undertaken on potholes from 40mm to 20mm 4.500*	
Total cost of proposed amendments:	4.500

**Recurrent adjustment*

The additions to the capital programme are all to be funded from the transitional reserve.

View of the Executive Director of Resources (S151)

The proposals have been validated as being deliverable financially in 2024/25.

In validating the proposals, I have been mindful that:

- The additions to the revenue budget in 2024/25 of £0.864m, can be funded from the Transitional Reserve.
- The funding in 2024/25 for the capital programme of £4.500m, can be funded from the Transitional Reserve.



- The recurrent costs of £5.364m would need to be built into the medium term financial strategy from 2025/26, resulting in a revised budget deficit of £15.852m in 2025/26 and £8.715m in 2026/27.

The transitional reserve is currently forecast to be £165.198m at 31st March 2024 and reduce to £157.831m by 31 March 2027. The impact of this amendment would be to reduce the transitional reserve to £141.739m at 31st March 2027. The transitional reserve is sufficient to support the structural deficit for the next 3 financial years.

In the intervening period the council will need to take steps to address the structural deficit to ensure it can maintain a sustainable financial position.



Annex 3

BUDGET COUNCIL: 23 FEBRUARY 2024

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE GREEN GROUP TO THE 2024/25 BUDGET

(1) Proposed amendments to the revenue budget

	£m
Increased budget for on-site feasibility studies for renewables (solar PV, wind etc.) on Lancashire County Council land including landfill sites.	0.040
Total cost of proposed amendments:	0.040

The additions to the revenue budget to be funded from the Transitional Reserve.

Note:

Additional budget to carry out on-site feasibility studies for renewables (including PV and wind) on LCC owned land across the county. On-site studies will build on desk-top feasibility studies that have already been undertaken. On-site studies on LCC land sites would be carried out in partnership with Asset, Estates and Scientific Services and should include some, if not all of the 23 land-fill sites across the County that are currently under structural review.

View of the Executive Director of Resources (S151)

The proposals have been validated as being deliverable financially in 2024/25.

In validating the proposals, I have been mindful that:

- This is non-recurrent additional cost to the revenue budget in 2024/25 of £0.040m, can be funded from the Transitional Reserve.

The transitional reserve is currently forecast to be £165.198m at 31st March 2024. The transitional reserve is sufficient to support the structural deficit for the next 3 financial years with a revised forecast level of £157.791m at 31st March 2027 (following the inclusion of this proposal).

In the intervening period the council will need to take steps to address the structural deficit to ensure it can maintain a sustainable financial position.

Angie Ridgwell
Chief Executive

County Hall
Preston



