

Cabinet

Wednesday, 17 January 2021

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 17 January 2024. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

5 Nomination of Mayor-elect 2024/2025 and Deputy Mayor-elect 2024/2025

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. That Councillor Peter Mullineaux be nominated as Mayor-elect for 2024/2025.
2. That Councillor Paul Wharton Hardman be nominated as Deputy Mayor for 2024-2025 with a view to becoming Mayor in 2025-2026.

Reasons for decision:

To ensure that the Mayor is appointed by the Council for the next municipal year.

Other options considered and rejected:

Not applicable as legally we must appoint a Mayor to chair council meetings and undertake the required duties within the Council's constitution.

6 Draft 24/25 Budget Update

Resolved: (Unanimously)

Members agree the contents of the report to start the budget consultation process as follows:

1. A proposed 2.99% increase in council tax in 2024/25 with no proposed cuts to services.
2. A forecast balanced budget for 2024/25, based on a 2.99% increase in council tax as noted above and the use of £0.500m of reserves (although this reserve figure may be subject to change pending receipt of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement and the finalisation of Business Rates income);
3. A forecast budget shortfall for 2025/26 of £1.602m, to be addressed through the development and delivery of the council's savings programme; • To note the proposals in the report for investment in the Labour Administration's priority areas.

Reasons for decision:

The council wishes to set out its budget proposals and consult on them with residents.

Other options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered. This is the draft budget and alternative budgets may be considered as part of the final budget proposal.

7 Fees and Charges 2024-25

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. Cabinet note the current levels of budgeted fees and charges and issues specific to these.
2. That the changes to 'Other Licensing Fees and Housing' category of fees and charges as per point 21 and Appendix 3 are approved.
3. An increase in the cost of Council Tax and Business Rates Summons and Liability Orders of £9.50 are approved. This will reflect the actual costs of undertaking statutory recovery action, as recently identified in the review by the Shared Customer Services Team. It should be noted that charges are only levied following due process, in line with the Council's Fair Collection Charter, and all steps are undertaken to support our residents in paying their bills in advance of these being issued. Further details are provided in point 20.
4. Cabinet approve increases of 10% for 360L and 5% for 1100L bin collections in Trade Waste as per point 22.
5. That an increase in charges at the Conference Centre over the coming three years, to uplift other charges in line with this, and to expand the charge for refreshments to include all bookings made, but at a reduced price of £1 per attendee, as per point 23 and Appendix 4 are approved.
6. Cabinet approve a general increase of up to 6.7% in the fees for 2024/25 (limited to the services listed in Table 3 of Appendix 1). Given that the rate of CPI in September was 6.7%, and RPI was 8.9%, the recommended uplift is in line with inflation.
7. Cabinet note that fees and charges in respect of Worden Hall will be reviewed during the year as part of the commercial strategy review.
8. Cabinet approve the full list of fees and charges for upload onto the Council website.

Reasons for decision:

To ensure that fees and charges are set at appropriate levels and are publicly available.

Other options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered as we are required to review fees and charges every year.

8 Lancashire Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Enterprise Zone

Resolved: (Unanimously)

That Cabinet agree to proceed with the statutory consultation.

Reasons for decision:

Public consultation must be completed before further adoption process is possible.

Other options considered and rejected:

It is a legislative requirement to undertake public consultation, there are no alternative options to consider.

9 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved: (Unanimously)

That the press and public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

10 Leyland Town Deal - Project Update

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. To approve the proposed terms for the acquisition of 51-55a Hough Lane.
2. To approve the proposed terms for a long lease with Northern Trust to the land to the east of Balfour Court.
3. To approve the design changes to the overall scheme and end use delivered through the project.
4. To recommend the investigation of an alternative approach to providing temporary accommodation for the market traders currently operating in the Leyland indoor market.
5. Delegate the signing of the purchase contract for 51-55a to the Director of Governance.
6. Delegate the signing of the lease for Balfour Court to the Director of Governance.
7. Delegate the approval of the procurement strategy for construction packages to the Director of Governance.

8. Contract awards for each procurement will be delegated to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Strategy and Reform).
9. Cabinet notes the current budget position.

Reasons for decision:

To ensure that the overall delivery programme completion date of 31 March 2026 is achieved.

Other options considered and rejected:

An option of submitting this report to a later meeting of Cabinet would not be feasible as this would not align with the pressing programme associated with Leyland Town Deal and the funding criteria requirements.

11 Approval for the Contract Award Procedure for ICT Hardware, Software and Support Services

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. Cabinet approves the contract award procedure for a number of joint procurements with Chorley Council for software, hardware and support services.
2. Cabinet approves the hierarchy for the procurement route outlined in paragraph 16.
3. The evaluation criteria is approved.
4. The decision to award is delegated to the Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital)

Reasons for recommendations:

By jointly procuring these contracts it ensures alignment of software and hardware across both authorities supporting Shared Services.

Other options considered and rejected:

Each Council could procure software independently, but this would make it very difficult to align software or services in the future.