

COUNCIL MEETING – 02 MARCH 2016

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on the evening of Wednesday 10 February 2016

On that occasion the Cabinet considered the matters set out below which need to be considered at the Budget Council meeting. The remaining matters will be considered at the Council meeting to be held on 30 March 2016. Decisions shown in boxed areas are subject to Council confirmation; the reports considered by the Cabinet were available to all members in advance of the Cabinet meeting.

1. Corporate Plan and Corporate Risk Management Programme for 2016 - 2019

Councillor Mrs M Smith the Leader of Council introduced this item which set out the Council's Corporate Plan and Corporate Risk Register for 2016/2017. She informed members that this Corporate Plan and Risk Register had been formulated following consultation with Scrutiny Committee and partners and had been aligned to the budget strategy.

It was decided that the Council be recommended to approved the Corporate Plan 2016/2019 (Appendix 1) and Corporate Risk Register 2016/2017 (Appendix 2).

2. Financial Strategy, Budget and Council Tax 2016/17

Councillor Mrs M Smith the Leader of Council thanked Councillor Bennett the Cabinet member for Finance & Resources and all cabinet members and officers involved in the preparation of this budget.

Councillor Bennett the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources introduced this report which provided background information that would need to be taken into consideration in determining the Council's forward financial strategy and, specifically, budget and council tax setting for 2016/17. The Financial Strategy recognised the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan and risks identified through the corporate risk assessment processes. The Financial Strategy recognised the continued and significant uncertainty surrounding core government grant funding.

Councillor Bennett referred to the previous night's Learning Hour which had provided the opportunity to explain the budget process in more detail and to the changing financial regime which would ultimately lead to the loss of all government grant funding. He also referred to the budget principles set out in the report and to the capital investment identified in the report which would be good for the future of the borough.

He thanked the MP for South Ribble Constituency for her support at central government level and his predecessors and the Chief Executive for the beneficial state of the Council's finances.

Councillor Mrs M Smith expressed her support for the excellent budget which was a budget for the future with an emphasis on City Deal which would play its part in the future of the Borough.

Councillor Foster referred to the beneficial impact of business rate retention on this budget and confirmed that they would be going through the budget proposals line by line but felt that the income raising proposals in the budget for car parks should be

withdrawn and car parking should first be subject to a borough wide review of all on street and off street parking. He also sought Cabinet's views on the parish precepts.

Councillor Ogilvie welcomed the positive budget, the Council tax freeze and the new investment but expressed his concern at the impact the car parking charges would have in his ward and sought assurances from Cabinet for contingency planning to deal with the inevitable problems that would arise.

Councillors Forrest, Nelson, Yates and two members of the public expressed their concern at the impact the car parking proposals would have on park users, the congestion and displacement on neighbouring roads on both Worden and Withy Grove.

The members of public present also expressed their concerns over the car parking proposals for Worden and Withy Grove.

Councillor Bennett declined to comment on the parish precepts as that was a matter for the parishes but asked members to look at the detailed proposals on car parking charges at Withy Grove and Worden which would provide for the varied needs of the park users such as dog walkers and after school users. However he confirmed that there was a need to look at such areas in the interest of balancing the budget. He informed members that he would like to see on street car parking enforcement returned to the Council and for the Council to take over all on street car parking from the county council.

At this point Councillor M Green declared an interest as a County Councillor.

In response to a question Councillor Moon confirmed she was aware of the potential impact of the car parking proposals for residents near Worden but was also aware of the need to increase income, not least to help Worden park towards being self-sufficient as recommended by Scrutiny. She also supported lobbying County Council for a joined up approach to on street and off street car parking.

Councillor P Smith commented that he thought Cllr Bennett had made it clear that detailed proposals on the car parking schemes would be forthcoming but there was a need to increase income to meet the forthcoming deficit.

Councillor Titherington questioned whether the policy on car parks should have been consulted on before the budget proposals for additional car park income.

Councillor Mrs Smith reiterated that this was a budget for the future.

It was decided that the Council be recommended to:-

Revenue Estimates

1. Consider for approval the council's revised estimates for 2015/16, the original estimate for 2016/17 and indicative original estimates for 2017/18 through to 2018/19, summarised at **Appendix A** to this report.
2. Consider **Appendix D** and the proposed budget efficiency targets designed to further improve efficiency/increase income and reduce the forecast budget deficit.
3. Endorse the assessment on the level of reserves for 2016/17.
4. The adjustment to General and Earmarked Reserves, whilst recognising that this figure may need to be revised when the Government announces the final Local

Government Finance Settlement figures for 2016/17 in advance of the Council meeting on 2nd March 2016.

5. Subject to any amendments proposed in considering recommendations 1 to 4 above, a Borough Council Net Expenditure requirement for 2016/17 (including parish/town council precepts) for approval at the Council meeting on 2nd March adequate to support the delivery of the MTFS.
6. The Chief Executive be authorised to deal with all staffing issues arising from the report within the agreed budget and in accordance with the council's human resources policies. This will be done in consultation with the Leader, and in her absence the Deputy Leader also being the Cabinet member with responsibility for Finance and Resources and, as appropriate, other relevant Cabinet Members.

Council Tax

7. Subject to consideration of recommendations 1 to 6 above, approve the Borough Council's Band D equivalent Council Tax for 2016/17, remaining at the same level as 2015/16 being £208.38.
8. Determine the reduction in Council Tax Support applicable to working age claimants with effect from 1st April 2016.

Capital Programme and Budget

9. Approve the Capital Programme as set out at **Appendix E** and its proposed funding

3. Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 to 2017/18

Councillor Bennett the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources introduced this item on the prudential indicators, and treasury strategy for the financial years to 2016/17 to 2017/18.

Councillor Ogilvie as Chair of Governance Committee reminded the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources that they had sought additional information on Treasury Management Strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources confirmed it would be available once the work had been completed.

It was decided that the Council be recommended to approve;-

1. The Treasury Management Policy Statement presented in Appendix A.
2. The Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) presented in Appendix B.
3. The Prudential Indicators for 2016/17 to 2018/19.
4. The Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Indicators for 2016/17.
5. The Annual Investment Strategy 2016/17 including Financial Institutions and Investment Criteria.
6. The Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement 2016/17.

4. My Neighbourhood Plans 2016/17

Councillor P Smith the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Leisure introduced proposals set out in this report which offered a series of improvements which

supported the evolution of My Neighbourhoods into 2016 and beyond.

He reminded members that My Neighbourhood, as the Council's approach to community involvement, was never designed to stand still. Refinements were made on a continual basis; every opportunity to lever in funds, add value and improve outcomes for communities was embraced and the proposals set out in the report offered a series of improvements which supported the evolution of My Neighbourhood into 2016 and beyond.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Leisure also informed Cabinet that the My Neighbourhood Plans had been revisited and worked through and it remained important that each plan carried a balance of projects, with one or more large scale / long term schemes, and a measured number of operational projects which could progress concurrently. Presently, each forum had a 'reserve' list of projects, awaiting inclusion on the plan. These varied between areas and would benefit from clarity around which projects had been adopted for action and which were ideas for consideration.

He thanked all members who had been involved in the process and the development of the My Neighbourhood plans.

Councillor Moon welcomed the extra emphasis on training and this was supported by Councillor Bennett who also expressed the importance of avoiding slippage and that the projects being adequately resourced.

Councillor Mullineaux welcomed the concept of a Responsible Member and the involvement of portfolio holders increasing the input of members away from officers.

Councillor Foster acknowledged that there were good things within this but there are other areas which he would be putting forward.

Councillor P Smith thanked members for their support in particular on the need for training and the introduction of responsible members and confirmed he would be pleased to receive any suggestions.

<p>It was decided that Council be recommended to note the change to the My Neighbourhood's approach and to approve the My Neighbourhood Plans</p>

5. Procurement Methodology and Authorisation of Expenditure for City Deal Capital Projects

Councillor P Smith the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Leisure introduced this report which sought approval for capital expenditure for a number of priority capital projects related to City Deal and as previously set out in the Capital Programme for 2015/16 and approved by Council on 4 March 2015 and 10th June 2015. The report also sought approval to carry out the requisite procurement exercises with regard to these proposed schemes. The schemes related to Bamber Bridge Regeneration, specifically for town centre improvement works including central 'square', station improvements, heritage trail and gateway features and to complete the Leyland Masterplan strategy, the final three landmark features.

He reminded members that it had been hoped that this would have started some time ago as a result it was necessary to move forward with this as quickly as possible hence the request for the waiver of the contract procedure rules.

Councillor Foster referred to his usual concern over granting waivers but in this instance was understanding of the need to move forward. He thanked Councillor Smith for pushing forward with it.

Cabinet members welcomed this report and thanked the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Leisure for his tenacity in pursuing this.

It was decided to recommend Council:

1. To grant authority (under Section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations - Contract Procedure Rules) to incur capital expenditure *on behalf of City Deal* of up to:

a) £300,000 for Bamber Bridge Regeneration – specifically for town centre improvement works including central ‘square’, station improvements, heritage trail and gateway features

b) £170,000 for Landmark features – to complete the Leyland Masterplan strategy, the final three landmark features.

2. To authorise the Director of Development, Enterprise & Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Leisure to finalise details, on the above schemes moving forward.

3. To grant authority for the necessary procurement exercises to be carried out in respect of the above schemes.

4. To authorise the Director of Development, Enterprise & Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Leisure, following completion of the procurement exercises, to award the contracts to the most economically advantageous tenders.

5. To enable this matter to proceed without a further report to Cabinet (as envisaged in recommendation 4 above) to grant a waiver of the relevant paragraph (26.4) of the Contract Procedure Rules for the reasons set out in this report.

6. Addressing Homelessness in South Ribble – Landlord Incentive Scheme

Councillor Moon the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support introduced this report which proposed a pilot scheme which sought to transform the service delivery of the Housing Options team in ways that would enable the team to work collaboratively with landlords with a view to securing long term accommodation for clients.

Councillor Moon explained the holistic approach addressing the individual as a person and not as an applicant for benefits and applicant for housing. The purpose of the pilot was to stop the cycle of dependency by providing incentives to landlords to provide accommodation to the homeless.

Cabinet members welcomed this initiative aimed at giving homeless people a chance.

Councillor Forrest thanked Councillor Moon and Director of Corporate Governance & Business Transformation for the full briefing and welcomed this pilot however he still had concerns for the future.

Councillor Bell congratulated Councillor Moon on proposing this pilot which addressed the needs of the homeless.

Councillor Moon thanked Cabinet and members for their support and reiterated that this was a pilot scheme which would be subject of full analysis.

It was decided that

1. Council be recommended to approve a Pilot study to operate across 2016/17 in order to assess and review its success measures.
2. To identify funding of £80,000 to support this additional Housing Options scheme.
3. The funding to be used flexibly to encourage and motivate private landlords to provide long-term tenancy arrangements for people in priority need and homeless and/or facing eviction.

7. Exclusion of Press and Public

It was decided that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following two items of business as it involved the discussion of information defined as exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) ' and, in which the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighed the public interest in disclosing it.

8. Land at Leyland

Councillor Bennett the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources introduced this report which concerned the disposal of land at St Andrews Way, Leyland which had previously been approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 18 March 2015. However, there had been some changes since that date which needed further approval before the proposed disposal could be progressed.

It was decided that for the reasons outlined in this report the land at St Andrews Way, Leyland be now disposed of to the Kier Construction Group on the amended terms set out in the report.

I hereby commend the report of the Cabinet to the Council.

COUNCILLOR MRS MARGARET SMITH

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL