

Report of Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require Council decisions appear as separate items on the agenda.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2019

South Ribble Council Branding

2. We presented a report of the Interim Chief Executive that outlined the options for new or updated South Ribble Borough Council branding. The vision for the Council is to be modern and accessible for all, so is considered appropriate for any new branding to reflect this.
3. Consultation on the current branding and option on how it could be improved will be sought from residents via a new Citizen's survey. Members concerns were noted and promises made that if the results of the survey indicated an agreement to change, it would be a light touch approach as any change would be both timely and costly. The final proposals will be considered by Scrutiny Committee before coming back to Cabinet for a decision. We approved the recommendations in the report.

South Ribble Borough Council Website Refresh

4. Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets), presented a report of the Director of Customer and Digital outlining options for a refresh of the South Ribble Borough Council website. The report outlined the proposal to refresh the website by way of replacing the current Content Management System (CMS) by re-designing, with self-service and accessibility as its focus.
5. As Chorley Council are also embarking on a similar project and with both scopes being similar, a joint procurement approach seemed viable. Councillor Margaret Smith, Leader of the Opposition, objected to the waiving of the Contract Procedure Rules, However, with support from the Interim Monitoring Officer, it was explained that we were satisfied that exceptional circumstances had been demonstrated in this case.
6. Both Members and members of the public supported the proposals and the Interim Chief Executive agreed to circulate the list of companies to all Members when the award had been made. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Worden Hall Update

7. Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets), presented a report of the Assistant Director of Property and Housing that updated on the outcome of the consultation exercise with residents on three viable options for investment into Worden Hall. The consultation exercise had witnessed very high levels of interest and engagement and the report outlined the next steps.
8. Councillor Alan Ogilvie questioned as to why the offer from the Leyland Masonic Properties was not included as one of the options that was consulted upon. The Cabinet Member explained that the Council had acted on the advice received by the professional consultants that had been commissioned by the previous administration on the viability of the Hall and that option had not been recommended.

9. Worden Hall is considered to be a public asset that will stay in the ownership of the Council for the benefit of the community. Assurances were given that if any financial issues arose, they would be brought before Scrutiny Committee for consideration before coming back to Cabinet for decision. We approved the recommendations in the report.

110,000 Trees a Global Legacy

10. Councillor Susan Jones, Cabinet Member (Environment) presented a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development that detailed the environmental benefits of planting 110,000 trees, one tree for each of our residents, and provided detail on how this would be achieved. All trees will be planted between November and March and Members were provided with a four year planting programme that outlined where and how many trees would be planted.
11. The Cabinet Member also provided assurances that the upkeep of the trees would form part of the Council's ongoing maintenance programme with the cost being met from existing revenue budgets, to be reviewed regularly. We approved the recommendations in the report.

Central Lancashire Local Plan Issues and Options

12. Councillor Bill Evans, Cabinet Member (Planning, Regeneration and City Deal), presented a report of the Director of Planning and Property that presented the Central Lancashire Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Paper, November 2019 for approval. The report also provided details of the consultation methods and programme. The paper had been endorsed by the Central Lancashire Joint Advisory Committee and was a final version.
13. The Cabinet Member explained that residents who did not have digital access would be able to take part in the consultation by attending one of the organised drop-in sessions and that all the neighbourhood areas would be consulted upon.
14. In response to a query from Councillor Phil Smith, the Interim Chief Executive explained that this was just the first stage of the process and that a lot more consultation with Members would take place ahead of the completion of the Local Plan. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Apprentice Factory Development Plan Update

15. Councillor Bill Evans, Cabinet Member (Planning, Regeneration and City Deal), presented a report of the Director of Planning and Property that provided Members with an updated position and future proposals for the Apprentice Factory project and how this assists with implementation of Employment and Skills Plans coming forward through the planning process.
16. The Cabinet Member congratulated the work of the team, as the authority are the highest performing Council in Lancashire. It was also important to acknowledge that phase two of the project was around targeting those hard to reach people as there is

currently a gap in provision. Assurances were provided that all apprentices gain professional qualifications through the process and that the Council works hard with a number of organisations to ensure a job is available upon completion of the programme.

Standard Financial Statement

17. Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Cabinet Member (Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building), presented a report of the Director of Customer and Digital that informed of the current information from the debt service sector on the Standard Financial Statement (SFS) and the proposed use of SFS practices for Council Tax collection.
18. An additional recommendation was proposed for a review of the Council Tax Protocol which was appended to the report and Members were advised that, with consent, they can identify people that are in a vulnerable position, who would benefit from the service. We approved the recommendations within the report.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2019

Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring Report

19. We presented a report of the Interim Chief Executive that updated on Quarter 2 performance against those programmes, projects and key performance indicators contained within the Corporate Plan. At the request of the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel, further information had been provided on homelessness in the Borough and what the Council is doing to alleviate it. The Panel had made a number of recommendations to the Cabinet, which we accepted in full.

Holiday Hunger Scheme

20. Councillor Mick Titherington, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health, Wellbeing and Leisure), presented a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development that provided an evaluation of a pilot project that had been delivered over the six week summer holiday period, in the Broadfield area. The report also sought to extend the project to other areas of the Borough.
21. The project contributed to the development of a sustainable approach to reducing holiday hunger in South Ribble, when children do not have access to free school meals and feedback was extremely positive. In future greater emphasis will be placed into ensuring that similar projects are aligned to make better use of resources. We approved the recommendations in the report.

Leyland Music Festival

22. Councillor Mick Titherington, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health, Wellbeing and Leisure), presented a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development that updated on progress made in the planning of a Borough music event. The report also sought approval of a £75,000 spend to secure performers and infrastructure.

23. The music festival will take place on the eve of the Leyland Festival, taking place on 19-21 June 2020, and market the two events as one, namely the Big Weekend. The Cabinet Member gave assurance that due regard would be given to all aspects of safety and car parking options, so that disruptions to residents would be kept to a minimum. We approved the recommendations in the report.

Youth Support Scheme

24. Councillor Mick Titherington, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health, Wellbeing and Leisure), presented a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development that set out a programme of proposed activity to support targeted groups of young people in South Ribble. The report proposed how programmes of activity would be set up and costed for an initial period of two years and is part of a wider initiative to support vulnerable groups using physical, social and wellbeing activity as a catalyst. The new approach is support by the local police, who have recently remodelled their Neighbourhood Policing Teams. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Approval of the Council Tax Support Scheme to be adopted for 2020/21

25. Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Cabinet Member (Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building), presented a report of the Director of Customer and Digital that provided an update on the outcome of the consultation exercise carried out with preceptors and residents in relation to proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS). The consultation will inform the proposal for introducing an amended scheme for 2020/21, along with a rationale. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Review of Investment Property Strategy

26. Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets), presented a report of the Assistant Director of Property and Housing that updated on a suggested approach for undertaking a strategic review on the investment property portfolio. The Council own around 700 assets across the Borough and the review would evaluate which assets should be retained or disposed of, for the benefit of residents. We approved the recommendation in the report.

Options Appraisal and Business Case for the McKenzie Arms, Bamber Bridge

27. Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets), presented a report of the Assistant Director of Property and Housing that updated on a development appraisal for the McKenzie Arms site for housing. The Business Case was confidentially appended to the report. An Audit on the process for the procurement of the site had been undertaken by Lancashire County Council, the results of which will be published in the New Year.
28. The new housing development would provide 15 dwellings, designed to a high environmental and energy efficiency standards and we agreed to develop to the exemplar Passivhaus scheme design, subject to obtaining planning permission by the Council. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Budget Monitoring 2019/20 – Month 6 (Sept)

29. Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets), presented a report of the Interim Section 151 Officer that provided an update on the Council's overall financial position as at the end of September 2019, Quarter 2 of the 2019/20 financial year. The Cabinet Member reported that the revenue outturn forecast for 2019/20 is a net saving of £515,000 which represents a variation of 3.5% of the total net budget requirement. A breakdown of how this had been achieved was provided in the report. We approved all the recommendations within the report and in response to a Member query agreed to circulate the current Investment Strategy to all Councillors.

Procurement of Fuel Contract

30. Councillor Susan Jones, Cabinet Member (Environment), presented a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development that sought approval of the use of the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation Framework for the tender of the contract for fuel oil procurement. The report also sought delegated authority for the awarding of the contract and we approved the recommendations in the report.

Preston and South Ribble Flood Defence Scheme

31. Councillor Susan Jones, Cabinet Member (Environment), presented a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development that provided information on the Preston and South Ribble Flood Management Scheme. The existing flood defences were now reaching the ends of their design life and are required to be either repaired, raised or replaced. The Environment Agency have secured all the funding necessary for the scheme but the Council have been asked to look at funding some additional enhancements for the scheme, that will include a range of works to pathways, woodland and open spaces. We approved the recommendations in the report.

Central Lancashire Memorandum of Understanding on Housing Provision and Distribution

32. Councillor Bill Evans, Cabinet Member (Planning, Regeneration and City Deal) presented a report of the Director of Planning and Property that gave an update on housing numbers in relation to the Central Lancashire Local Plan. The report also sought approval to agree a Memorandum of Understanding on the approach across Central Lancashire.
33. The new Local Plan for Central Lancashire is only at an early stage with Issues and Options being consulted upon from the beginning of November 2019. It will take at least another two years for the new Plan to be adopted, therefore it is imperative to establish an interim position on housing numbers across the Central Lancashire area.
34. The Director of Planning and Property explained that prior to the meeting, the Council had received a letter from PWA Planning who had taken legal advice on the approach being taken and found it to be unlawful. It was however stressed that a decision would not be taken at the Cabinet meeting as it was a decision for full Council and the recommendation which we approved was amended to reflect this.

Vehicle Procurement

35. Councillor Mathew Tomlinson, Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets) presented a confidential report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development that sought approval to commit capital expenditure and accept the most economically advantageous tenders for the procurement of the vehicles. We approved the recommendations in the report.

Review of Management Accountancy

36. Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets) presented a confidential report of the Director of Policy and Governance (Chorley Council), that briefed Members on the outcome of the review of, and amendments to, the existing shared services arrangements for finance between South Ribble and Chorley Borough Councils. We approved the recommendations in the report.

Review of Financial Systems and Exchequer Services

37. Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets) presented a confidential report of the Director of Policy and Governance (Chorley Council) that briefed members on a review of, and amendments to, the existing shared services arrangements for finance between South Ribble and Chorley Borough Councils. We approved the recommendations in the report.

Recommendation

38. To note the report.

COUNCILLOR PAUL FOSTER
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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