

<b>Minutes of</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Wednesday, 19 July 2023</b>
<b>Committee members present:</b>	Councillors Chris Lomax (Mayor), Peter Mullineaux (Deputy Mayor), Will Adams, Deborah Ashton, Hilary Bedford, Jane Bell, Damian Bretherton, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Matt Campbell, Colin Coulton, Matthew Farnworth, James Flannery, Mathew Forshaw, Paul Foster, Peter Gabbott, Jasmine Gleave, James Gleeson, Mary Green, Michael Green, Harry Hancock, Jo Hindle-Taylor, David Howarth, Clare Hunter, Lou Jackson, Will King, James Lillis, Keith Martin, Nicky Peet, Pete Pillinger, Lesley Pritchard, John Rainsbury, George Rear, Wesley Roberts, Colin Sharples, David Shaw, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Emma Stevens, Elaine Stringfellow, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Angela Turner, Karen Walton, Ian Watkinson, Connor Watson, Kath Unsworth, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Haydn Williams
<b>Officers present:</b>	Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance), Asim Khan (Director of Customer and Digital), Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities), Darren Cranshaw (Head of Democratic Services), Hollie Walmsley (Head of Human Resources) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)
<b>Public:</b>	4

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

## **6 Minute's silence**

The Mayor invited Members to observe a minute's silence in memory of former councillor, Sue Prynne and Councillor David Shaw's wife, Dorothea.

Councillors Paul Foster, David Howarth, Keith Martin, Matthew Tomlinson, Karen Walton and David Shaw paid tribute and sent their condolences to the families.

## **7 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Jacky Alty and Julie Buttery.

## **8 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of any interests were received.

## 9 Minutes of the last meeting

### **Resolved: (unanimously)**

That the minutes of the Council meetings held on Wednesday, 17 and Wednesday, 24 May 2023 be approved as a correct record.

## 10 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor gave an update on his recent duties, including 'Music in the Park' at Worden Park, leading the procession for Leyland Festival and the Lostock Hall Carnival and, today, celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HMT Empire Windrush arriving.

## 11 Cabinet

Members received a general report of the Cabinet meetings held on 21 June and 5 July.

A question was asked by a member of the public, relating to the methodology in distributing CIL monies. It was noted that the hubs could request additional funding for schemes, the complexity around the City Deal, but that it could be possible in the future to review this.

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and subsequently

**Resolved (unanimously)** that the report be noted.

## 12 Governance Committee

Members received a general report of the Governance Committee meeting held on 23 May.

It was proposed by the Chair of the Governance Committee, Councillor Colin Sharples, seconded by the Vice Chair of the Governance Committee, Councillor Wes Roberts and subsequently

**Resolved (unanimously)** that the report be noted.

## 13 Scrutiny Committees

Members received a general report of the Corporate, Performance and Budget Scrutiny Committee held on 12 June.

It was proposed by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Will Adams, seconded by Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Michael Green and subsequently

**Resolved (unanimously)** that the report be noted.

## 14 Climate Emergency, Air Quality, and Biodiversity Action Plan Updates & Annual Greenhouse Gas Report

The Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood and Waste Services), Councillor Deborah Ashton, presented the report of the Director of Communities.

The report provided an update on the actions and progress around the Climate Emergency and Air Quality and Biodiversity work streams and on the Council's and borough's carbon footprint.

Members debating the report, including the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Councillor David Howarth, Peter Mullineaux, Keith Martin, the Leader of the Opposition, Karen Walton, Matthew Farnworth, Damian Bretherton, Paul Wharton-Hardman, Matthew Tomlinson, Ange Turner, Pete Pillinger and Michael Green.

Queries included the progress on Howick Links and the Penwortham Loop in support of Active Travel, the letter to the Secretary of State regarding the funding at recommendation 3, the ambition to be carbon neutral 2030, support for climate related comments on future planning applications,

An amendment was proposed by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Phil Smith, and seconded by Councillor Michael Green

3. Council approves that the portfolio holder for Neighbourhood and Waste writes to the Secretary of State to clarify the government position with regards to the climate and nature pledge funding.

For: Damian Bretherton, Matt Campbell, Colin Coulton, Mathew Forshaw, Jasmine Gleave, Mary Green, Michael Green, Harry Hancock, David Howarth, James Lillis, Will King, Peter Mullineaux (Deputy Mayor), John Rainsbury, George Rear, David Shaw, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Angela Turner, Karen Walton and Connor Watson.

Against: Will Adams, Deborah Ashton, Hilary Bedford, Jane Bell, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Matthew Farnworth, James Flannery, Paul Foster, Peter Gabbott, James Gleeson, Jo Hindle-Taylor, Clare Hunter, Lou Jackson, Keith Martin, Nicky Peet, Pete Pillinger, Lesley Pritchard, Wesley Roberts, Colin Sharples, Emma Stevens, Elaine Stringfellow, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Ian Watkinson, Kath Unsworth, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Haydn Williams.

The Mayor declared that the Amended Motion was lost by 27 votes to 20, with no abstentions.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood and Waste Services), Councillor Deborah Ashton, seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster and subsequently

### **Resolved (by majority 33:0:15)**

1. To note the progress that has been achieved towards the Councils net-zero goal and completion of the Air Quality and Climate Emergency Action Plans, and the Biodiversity Strategy and Interim Action plan.
2. That members note the current carbon footprint of both the Council and the borough.

3. Council approves that the portfolio holder for Neighbourhood and Waste writes to the Secretary of State to express the Council's concerns about the plans to drop the £11.6bn climate and nature pledge funding.

For: Will Adams, Deborah Ashton, Hilary Bedford, Jane Bell, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Matthew Farnworth, James Flannery, Paul Foster, Peter Gabbott, James Gleeson, Harry Hancock, Jo Hindle-Taylor, David Howarth, Clare Hunter, Lou Jackson, James Lillis, Chris Lomax (Mayor), Keith Martin, Nicky Peet, Pete Pillinger, Lesley Pritchard, Wesley Roberts, Colin Sharples, David Shaw, Emma Stevens, Elaine Stringfellow, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Angela Turner, Ian Watkinson, Kath Unsworth, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Haydn Williams.

Abstention: Damian Bretherton, Matt Campbell, Colin Coulton, Mathew Forshaw, Jasmine Gleave, Mary Green, Michael Green, Will King, Peter Mullineaux (Deputy Mayor), John Rainsbury, George Rear, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Karen Walton and Connor Watson.

## **15 Adoption of the Biodiversity Action Plan**

The Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood and Waste Services), Councillor Deborah Ashton, presented the report of the Director of Communities.

The report requested approval and adoption of the draft Biodiversity Action Plan for South Ribble.

Members considered the report and the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Councillor David Howarth, Damian Bretherton and Will King contributed to the debate.

The current use of weed control was queried, and that 79 residents participated in the online public consultation. Further use of bee bricks was suggested, the desire to enhance coastal pathways and to tackle waste.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood and Waste Services), Councillor Deborah Ashton, seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster and subsequently

### **Resolved (unanimously)**

That the report be noted, and the Biodiversity Action Plan be adopted.

## **16 Household Support Fund Round 4**

The Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing), Councillor Clare Hunter, presented the report of the Director of Communities.

The report confirmed South Ribble's allocation of Household Support Fund (HSF) Round 4 and proposed the processes and authority to accept and deliver the grant.

Members supported the proposals, including Councillor Jane Bell and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Karen Walton.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing), Councillor Clare Hunter, seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster and subsequently

**Resolved (unanimously)**

1. To accept the grant allocation of £680,000 and create a 2023/24 revenue budget accordingly.
2. To proceed to develop a delivery plan which reflects specific criteria set out in the government guidance published to allocate and administer the grant.
3. That decisions on the delivery plan be delegated to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing.

**17 Refugee and Asylum Seeker Grant Funding**

The Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing), Councillor Clare Hunter, presented the report of the Director of Communities.

The report provided a breakdown of the grant funding that the council had received and was set to receive to support refugees and asylum seekers, and made proposals on decision-making around these.

Members supported the proposals, including Councillor Matthew Farnworth, Jane Bell and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Karen Walton.

During the debate members acknowledged the challenges faced by, and facing refugees and asylum seekers, including housing and homelessness. It was suggested that the council look into options to connect faith leaders from the Preston area with refugees and asylum seekers within South Ribble to assist with travel and isolation issues. This would be taken forward following the meeting.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing), Councillor Clare Hunter, seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster and subsequently

**Resolved (unanimously)**

1. To receive the funding allocations for each of the below schemes:
  - Homes for Ukraine Scheme
  - Asylum Seeker Dispersal Scheme
  - UK Resettlement Scheme
  - Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy
  - Homelessness Prevention Grant
2. To create budgets allocated to:
  - Homes for Ukraine sponsor 'thank you' payments
  - Asylum seeker support and community integration
  - Refugee support and community integration
  - Homelessness prevention
3. To delegate authority to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure, and Wellbeing for decision making relating to these budgets

## **18 New Budget for Tardy Gate Play area and Skate Park**

The Cabinet Member (Finance and Public Protection), Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, presented the report of the Chief Executive.

The report requested approval for the addition of a new budget in the Council's approved capital programme for the refurbishment of Tardy Gate Play Area, including the ball court skate area.

Members debated the proposals, including Councillors Keith Martin, Peter Gabbott, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Karen Walton, Damian Bretherton, Paul Wharton-Hardman, John Rainsbury

Members noted the importance of facilities for young people, particularly skate parks, and the success of other such facilities in the borough. The need for consultation was highlighted and concerns regarding the potential for anti-social behaviour were also noted.

The issue of New Longton Park was raised by Councillor Margaret Smith. Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder noted the council was 'listening' and there were hopes this would become a focus for the community, including Farington Parish Council.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member (Finance and Public Protection), Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and subsequently

### **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. To approve the inclusion of a new budget in the Council's capital programme of £275,000 for the refurbishment of Tardy Gate Play Area, including the ball court and skate area.
2. In order to fund this, that Council approve the virement of £275,000 from existing Neighbourhood Improvement Fund capital scheme budget to a new budget for the Tardy Gate Play Area project in Lostock Hall.

## **19 Enhancement of Community Hub Structures**

Councillor Michael Green raised a point of order relating to Standing Orders 23. Previous Decisions and Motions.

At this point the meeting was adjourned, to enable the Mayor requested a short adjournment to take Legal advice, and later reconvened.

The Monitoring Officer, Chris Moister, advised that the proposal before members related to amendments to the Community Hub boundaries, and as a result of this, appointing new chairs. The decision at the Annual Meeting was to appoint chairs only and the decision was operative. Therefore, the proposals under consideration were not 'a motion or amendment to rescind a decision made at a meeting of the Council in the last 6 months'.

The Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing), Councillor Clare Hunter, presented the report of the Director of Communities.

The report proposed enhancement to the boundaries of the Community Hubs and recommended the appointment of the new Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council's Community Hubs.

Members debated the proposals, with Councillors Paul Wharton-Hardman, Margaret Smith, Colin Sharples, Michael Green, the Leader of the Opposition, Karen Walton and Peter Mullineaux contributing to the debate.

Two typographical errors were noted within the recommendations and these would be corrected as part of the minutes.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing), Councillor Clare Hunter, seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster and subsequently

### **Resolved (unanimously)**

- To approve the proposed amendments to the Community Hub boundaries as  
**Western Parishes:** Hoole, Longton and Hutton West, New Longton and Hutton East  
**Penwortham:** Broad Oak, Charnock, Howick and Priory, Middleforth  
**Central Villages:** Farington East, Farington West and Lostock Hall  
**Leyland:** Broadfield, Buckshaw and Worden, Earnshaw Bridge, Leyland Central, Moss Side, Seven Stars, St Ambrose  
**Bamber Bridge, Walton-Le-Dale and Eastern:** Bamber Bridge East, Bamber Bridge West, Coupe Green and Gregson Lane, Samlesbury and Walton, Walton-le-Dale East, Walton-le-Dale West
- To approve the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs until the First Business Meeting of the Council in May 2024.

Community Hub Area	Chair	Vice Chair
Western Parishes	Councillor Margaret Smith	Councillor Will King
Penwortham	Councillor Will Adams	Councillor David Howarth
Central Villages	Councillor Paul Wharton - Hardman	Councillor Lesley Pritchard
Leyland	Councillor Colin Sharples	Councillor Jane Bell
Bamber Bridge, Walton-Le-Dale and Eastern	Councillor James Gleeson	Councillor Emma Stevens

## **20 South Ribble Equality Objectives 2023/2027**

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder, presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery.

The report set out the Council's Equality Objectives for 2023-27 and sought approval for them.

Members supported the proposals, including Councillors Wes Roberts and Paul Wharton-Hardman.

The need to engage with young people and to go further than the required legal duty was noted.

It was proposed by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder, seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster and subsequently

**Resolved (unanimously)**

To approve the Equality Objectives for 2023-2027.

**21 South Ribble UKSPF Programme**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery.

The report provided members with an overview of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) framework for South Ribble Borough Council.

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and subsequently

**Resolved (unanimously)**

1. To approve the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Delivery Framework for South Ribble in order to progress delivery of the fund and to begin commissioning of the programmes within it.
2. To accept £3,367,878 of the UKSPF from the UK Government.
3. To delegate authority to the Section 151 officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council to take the necessary decisions and actions required to accept the allocation of funds, as well as to implement and administer the scheme and with relevant Cabinet Members on all related plans in accordance with the requirements and priorities of the UKSPF prospectus and fund.

**22 Questions to the Leader of the Council**

A question was submitted in advance by Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman relating to the proposed closure of staffed ticked offices in the north of England.

Councillor Foster thanked Councillor Wharton-Hardman for the advance notice of the question, and expressed his own concerns regarding the proposals and their impact on customers. He undertook to write and respond to the consultation and also to MP Katherine Fletcher regarding the matter.

A member of the public queried the commitment of the Council to the twinning arrangements Kreis Schleswig-Flensburg. The Leader confirmed this commitment and noted that proposals to celebrate the 50year anniversary next year would be brought forward in due course.



## 23 Questions to Cabinet Members

### **Questions for the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Property, Assets, Commercial Services and Major Developments) - Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder**

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Karen Walton, raised an issue with the pay and display ticket machine on Tardy Gate. It was noted that, following consultation, there were different views on what the charges should be. It was suggested that the current system be trialled for six months and then reviewed and that a meeting could be arranged to discuss this further.

### **Questions for the Cabinet Member (Finance and Public Protection) - Councillor Matthew Tomlinson**

Councillor Damian Bretherton queried the long term debt position of the council, noting the figures quoted in the treasury management strategy and queried what the money would be spent on.

Councillor Tomlinson explained the money would be invested in the community, via the Jubilee Gardens extra care facility. This investment would result in an asset for the council moving forwards. Investment from Homes England would also be received for Jubilee Gardens.

### **Questions for the Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood and Waste Services) - Councillor Deborah Ashton**

The Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Councillor David Howarth, queried the size of the brown bins, noting there was not currently an option for a small bin.

Councillor Ashton noted this would be considered as part of the review of the waste and recycling strategy.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Karen Walton, queried if the electric vehicle charging point at Hope Terrace car park, Lostock Hall, were in use.

Councillor Ashton undertook to find out and clarify following the meeting.

### **Questions for the Cabinet Member (Customer Services and Digital) - Councillor Ian Watkinson**

There were no questions.

### **Questions for the Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Economic Development) - Councillor James Flannery**

Councillor Ange Turner requested an update on the Penwortham Masterplan.

Councillor Flannery explained rising costs had caused delays, but it was hoped that work would start early next year.

Councillor Caleb Tomlinson noted the position on the Pickerings Farm application being delayed by the Secretary of State until September.

Councillor Flannery agreed it was disappointing that the decision had been delayed.

A question was raised by Councillor Keith Martin relating to licensing of the Longton Live event and also regarding scrap metal dealers. It was suggested this be directed to Councillor Matthew Tomlinson in writing as these issues fell within that portfolio.

**Questions for the Cabinet Member (Wealth Building, Social Justice, Equality and Diversity) - Councillor Jacky Alty**

As Councillor Alty had sent apologies it was requested that any questions for that portfolio area be asked in written form following the meeting.

**Questions for the Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing - Councillor Clare Hunter)**

There were no questions.

**24 Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster proposed, the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder seconded, and it was

**Resolved (unanimously)**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act.

The Mayor gave the Leader of the Council permission to make a short statement relating to a proposed item on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

**25 South Ribble Family Wellbeing Centre**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, presented the report of the Director of Communities.

Members debated the proposals, including Councillors Damian Bretherton, Will Adams, James Flannery, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, the Leader of the Opposition, Karen Walton, Matthew Tomlinson and Peter Gabbott contributed to the debate.

Members considered the need for adequate insulation, heating, lighting etc. This would be reviewed. The important work done by Finleys Families CIC was acknowledged, particularly in the light of the cost of living crisis.

Queries were raised relating to value for money, required renovations, flooding and parking issues. The social value of the project was stressed and due diligence had been taken on all relevant issues.

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and subsequently

**Resolved (unanimously)**

1. To approve a new capital budget of £300,000 to develop the South Ribble Family Wellbeing Centre.
2. To approve the purchase and refurbishment the building currently known as Greens Dance Centre to create South Ribble Family Wellbeing Centre.
3. The Director of Governance be granted authority to finalise the terms of the purchase of the property known as Greens Dance Centre.
4. The Director of Governance be granted authority to finalise the terms of the proposed lease.
5. To agree to provide Finleys Families CIC with a 24-month lease with free rent and utilities and option to extend with agreement from the portfolio holder.
6. To approve a reallocation of the existing revenue budget of £48k to provide for capital scheme funding and for 24 months for running costs of the centre.

**26 Jubilee Gardens Project Update (Budget & Procurement Strategy)**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, presented the report of the Chief Executive.

Members debated the proposals, including Councillors James Flannery, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Karen Walton, Will Adams, Michael Green and Matthew Tomlinson.

Members noted the social value benefits of the facility, the significant savings for NHS partners and the benefits for people who will move into the facility. Funding would also be received from Homes England.

Queries were raised regarding the procurement strategy, and it was noted that a specialist framework had been used.

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and subsequently

**Resolved (by majority)**

1. To approve an overall capital budget of £20,500,000; the increase of £1,764,136 against a previously approved budget of £18,735,864 to allow for the delivery of a 75-bed extra care facility.
2. To approve the procurement strategy to appoint the main contractor to deliver the capital scheme.
3. To delegate the signing of the construction contract to the Director of Governance.
4. To delegate the decision to approve and enter into any statutory legal undertakings i.e S278 agreements to the Director of Governance to aid project delivery.

Mayor

Date