

Report of Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require a decision by full Council appear as separate items on the agenda.
2. Please note that the report may not reflect the wording used in the minutes, as they have yet to be formally agreed.
3. All decisions taken by Cabinet on 17 January 2024 can be found on the published Decision Notice.

Meeting held on 17 January 2024

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

4. I presented a report that sought to nominate the Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect for 2024-2025. We nominated Councillor Peter Mullineaux as Mayor-elect for 2024/2025 and Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman as Deputy Mayor with a view to becoming Mayor in 2025-2026.

Draft 24/25 Budget Update

5. The Cabinet Member (Finance and Public Protection), Councillor Matthew Tomlinson presented a report that set out the draft budget position for the council for 2024/25 and the forecast for 2025/26, reflecting the information within the Provision Local Government Financial Settlement.
6. We were advised the figures in the report were subject to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement announcement which is due in early February 2024.
7. The report was based on a worst-case scenario and the previous Medium Term Financial Strategy was projecting a budget shortfall of £1.1million so savings had been identified to close the gap. Costs had risen in areas such as homelessness, utility costs and larger than expected pay rises for staff.
8. It was proposed that there would be an increase in council tax of 2.99% for the first time in four years.
9. We noted that there would be a struggle to balance the budget without use of reserves and there would be a drawdown of £500,000 from the reserves. However, these funds would come from a reserve specifically set up to protect the authority from inflationary costs.

Fees and Charges 2024-25

10. The Cabinet Member (Finance and Public Protection), Councillor Matthew Tomlinson presented a report that set out the current position around fees and charges with proposals for 2024/25. Increases would be implemented from 1 April 2024 or the most suitable date following.
11. We noted that fees and charges had been frozen in 2023/2024 but now had to be increased due to inflation pressures. We also noted that many fees and charges were fixed by central government and not under the Council's control. There would be no change to some fees such as car parking.

Lancashire Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Enterprise Zone

12. I presented a report that sought permission to proceed with public consultation on a draft Local Development Order (LDO).
13. The last LDO had been set in 2014 by South Ribble Borough Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council. As the LDO had now expired the authority we are required to start a statutory consultation prior to renewing the order. Following consultation there would be a decision taken to full Council on whether the LDO should be renewed.

Leyland Town Deal – Project Update

14. I gave an update to members on the progress of the Leyland Town Deal and presented a report that also sought specific approvals for a number of related issues, including a revised land and property acquisition strategy.

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

15. The Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital), Councillor Ian Watkinson presented a report that informed members of the proposed shared procurement for ICT hardware, software, support and to seek arrangement to the sharing of costs and assessment criteria.

I would like to recommend that Council note the report.

Councillor Paul Foster
Leader of the Council