

Minutes of	Council
Meeting date	Wednesday, 27 March 2024
Committee members present:	Councillors Chris Lomax (Mayor), Peter Mullineaux (Deputy Mayor), Will Adams, Jacky Alty, Deborah Ashton, Hilary Bedford, Jane Bell, Julie Buttery, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Colin Coulton, Matthew Farnworth, Paul Foster, Peter Gabbott, Jasmine Gleave, James Gleeson, Mary Green, Michael Green, Harry Hancock, Jo Hindle-Taylor, David Howarth, Lou Jackson, Will King, James Lillis, Keith Martin, Nicky Peet, Pete Pillinger, Lesley Pritchard, John Rainsbury, 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
Committee members attended virtually (non-voting):	Councillors Matt Campbell, James Flannery and Mathew Forshaw
Officers present:	Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance) and Coral Astbury (Democratic and Member Services Officer)
Public:	0

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

103 Announcements

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Jo Hindle-Taylor on her recent sky dive raising money for St Catherines Hospice.

The Mayor announced that the current Head of Legal Services, Dave Whelan was due to retire in April and thanked him for his years of service.

104 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Damian Bretherton, James Flannery, Mathew Forshaw, Clare Hunter, George Rear and Matt Campbell.

Councillors Matt Campbell, James Flannery and Mathew Forshaw attended via Microsoft Teams.

105 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Michael Green declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in items 5, 10 and 11.

106 Minutes of the last meeting

Councillor John Rainsbury indicated that he had attended the last meeting virtually and this was not reflected in the minutes.

Councillor Angela Turner indicated that her question to the Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Economic Development) had not been included in the minutes. The Mayor advised that Democratic Services would look into this matter.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the last meeting are agreed as a correct record for signing by the Chair.

107 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor gave an update on his recent duties, including the opening of Leyland St Mary's school library, judging at South Ribble Primary Schools Dance Competitions and Tesco Leyland gold disc day.

108 Urgent Decisions

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, outlined the report and explained that three decisions had been taken since the last Council meeting.

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

Resolved:

Report was noted.

109 Cabinet

Members received a general report of the Cabinet held on 13 March.

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

Resolved:

Report was noted.

110 Scrutiny Committee

Members received a general report of the Corporate, Performance and Budget Scrutiny Committee (CPBS) held on 11 March.

Members were encouraged to complete and return the questionnaire circulated by the Cultural Strategy Scrutiny Task Group.

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

Resolved:

Report was noted.

111 Changes to Committee Membership

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, presented a report that sought approval for the proposed changes to committee membership and outside bodies.

Councillor Foster explained that some changes were necessary due to recent changes to Cabinet and outlined some slight amendments to the report:

- Councillor Deborah Ashton would replace Councillor Colin Sharples on Governance Committee and be appointed as Vice-Chair.
- The substitute member for Planning Committee would be Councillor Keith Martin instead of Councillor Chris Lomax.

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

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. That Councillor Deborah Ashton replace Councillor Colin Sharples on Governance Committee.
2. That Councillor Wesley Roberts be appointed as Chair of Governance Committee and Councillor Deborah Ashton be appointed as Vice-Chair.
3. That Councillor Colin Sharples is removed as a substitute on Planning Committee and replaced with Councillor Keith Martin.
4. That Councillor James Flannery is removed from the Leyland Town Deal Board and replaced with Councillor Ian Watkinson.
5. That Councillor James Flannery is removed from Central Lancashire Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee and replaced with Councillor Ian Watkinson.
6. Councillor Mathew Forshaw to remain on Licensing and Public Safety Committee as an independent member.
7. That Councillor Damian Bretherton replace Councillor Mathew Forshaw as substitute on the Corporate, Performance and Budget Scrutiny Committee.

8. That Councillor Matthew Farnworth replace Councillor Colin Sharples as Chair of the My Neighbourhood Community Hub – Leyland.

112 Amendment to Standing Orders: Questions to Council

Members referred this item to the Governance Committee for consideration under Standing Order 14.2.

The item will be presented to a future meeting of Council after consideration by Governance Committee.

113 Bikeability Contract Approval

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, presented a report that provided an update on the outcome of tender submission between Lancashire County Council (LCC) and South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) to deliver Bikeability from 1 April 2024.

Councillor Foster advised that the authority had secured funding from LCC to continue the existing scheme.

Members welcomed the grant funding and acknowledged the benefits of the programme for children.

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

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. That Council accepts the funding from Lancashire County Council to deliver Bikeability. Noting the funding is provided for a four year period and funding is for the duration of the contract.
2. That a revenue budget be established to administer the funding which has been allocated to South Ribble.
3. That delegation be granted to the Director of Communities and Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing) to enter into contract arrangements and to agree, accept and implement the final delivery plan with Lancashire County Council.

114 Parks and Open Spaces Capital programme

The Cabinet Member (Finance, Assets and Public Protection), Councillor Matthew Tomlinson presented a report that sought approval for a list of schemes that would develop a future Parks and Open Spaces Capital Programme for the next three years.

Councillor Tomlinson advised that the list was not exhaustive, and projects already agreed in the budget would continue. Drainage of football pitches had also been included within the list of projects and the programme would show continued investment into green spaces, parks and playgrounds.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member (Finance, Assets and Public Protection), Councillor Matthew Tomlinson and seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster and subsequently,

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. That Council approve the list of projects identified in the report.
2. That Council approves the creation of budgets for projects identified in the report. The budgets will be funded through a combination of Section 106 monies, existing capital programme budgets and some one off UKSPF grant funding linked to Economic Development.
3. That Council approves the re-allocation of budgets as identified in the report.

115 Statement of Community Involvement

The Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Economic Development), Councillor Ian Watkinson introduced a report that presented a revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in relation to consultation procedures to be undertaken by the Council for planning policy and development functions, for approval.

Councillor Watkinson explained the SCI would set out how South Ribble would consult and notify stakeholders about development in their areas. It was a requirement to publish the SCI every five years and a public consultation of six weeks had been completed, with 27 responses received.

Members thanked Officers for their work and commented on the inclusion of the consultation comments, along with responses, in the report.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Economic Development) Councillor Ian Watkinson and seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster and subsequently,

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. That Council agrees the Statement of Community Involvement 2024 be formally adopted, replacing earlier versions of the document.

116 Update to Local Development Scheme

The Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Economic Development), Councillor Ian Watkinson introduced a report that presented the contents of the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS).

Councillor Watkinson advised that it was a requirement to publish the outline timetable for the local plan creation and review. The current LDS was out of date and in order to meet planning policy the updated LDS needed to be adopted.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Economic Development) Councillor Ian Watkinson and seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster and subsequently,

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. That the updated Local Development Scheme be published on the Central Lancashire Local Plan website and associated Central Lancashire Authority websites.

117 Questions to the Leader of the Council

A written question was received in advance from Councillor Emma Stevens which requested a misogyny working group to be established. In response, the Leader gave his support and explained a notice of motion had previously been agreed by the Council on misogyny and a letter sent to the Home Office.

The Leader undertook to ask the Cabinet Member (Community Wealth Building, Social Justice, Equality & Diversity), Councillor Jacky Alty, to bring forward a report to a meeting of Cabinet with detailed proposals, terms of reference, work programme and potential outputs for the working group. With a view to establishing the working group at Cabinet.

Councillor King asked the Leader about a recent newspaper article stating that business owners faced uncertainty over the futures of Longton and Penwortham Live. The Leader explained that the article was incorrect, and the events were going ahead.

Councillor King asked the Leader if there were plans to hold Bamber Bridge Live and Penwortham Live on the same day as Longton Live. The Leader advised he had not been involved in any discussions about a Bamber Bridge live and the events were not organised by South Ribble, it was a Creative Network event.

Councillor Roberts advised that British Youth Council was closing its doors after 75 years and asked the Leader if he could re-commit to the Youth Council of South Ribble. The Leader agreed and confirmed the authority was committed to the youth council and had currently received representations to increase the age range eligible to participate.

Councillor Howarth asked if the misogyny working group could also take into consideration that men could also be carers. The Leader responded, saying he hoped there would be some male Councillors involved with the working group.

Councillor Adams asked the Leader if he would meet with residents to listen to concerns about the traffic on Leyland Road and the A582 and to help build a unified council position to challenge LCC and the Government's decision to not dual the A582. The Leader agreed to meet with residents.

Councillor Walton referred to the traffic concerns outlined by Councillor Adams and asked if the residents of Farington East and West and Longton could be included in the residents meeting. The Leader advised he would speak to officers and Councillor Adams to discuss the idea of setting up a public debate to discuss the issue of the A582 for the residents of Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall, Farington East & West and

Longton. There may also be a possibility of the two My Neighbourhood Community Hub collaborating and creating a public meeting, with planning officers and experts on hand to answer queries.

Councillor Walton referred to the previous minutes and explained that Councillors Bretherton and Campbell had not received the agreed letter on flooding and drainage at Bamber Bridge. The Leader advised that they would receive a response from the Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing), Councillor Clare Hunter.

Councillor M Smith expressed concern that there had been a possibility that Longton Live would be cancelled and asked if it would be keeping the name, "Longton Live" and continuing past 2024. The Leader responded and explained the decision had not been taken by Cabinet, all the venues and events were organised by Creative Network. The Leader reassured Council that Penwortham Live and Longton Live would carry on.

Councillor Michael Green asked if the Leader could give the Council's views on the A582 and Western Distributor to LCC. The Leader explained that he did not feel comfortable with the question being asked by a member of Cabinet at LCC and explained that he highlights the A582 delivery as critical at every meeting of the City Deal Executive.

Councillor Alty asked if the Leader would write to LCC about the poor condition of roads, in particular potholes cause not just vehicle damage but damage to health. The Leader undertook to write to LCC about the condition of the roads.

118 Questions to Cabinet Members

Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Economic Development)

Councillor Michael Green referred to the siting of hot takeaways near schools and young children and asked for a progress update on any changes to policy which may alleviate the issue. Councillor Watkinson undertook to write to Councillor Green with the requested information.

119 Exclusion of Press and Public

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

Resolved: (Unanimously)

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

120 Civic Centre - Accommodation Review

The Cabinet Member (Finance, Assets and Public Protection) introduced a confidential report that set out proposals for Civic Centre accommodation in line with

changes and opportunities that have arisen with the success of hybrid working over recent years.

Councillor Karen Walton on behalf of the Conservative Group, seconded by Councillor Phil Smith proposed an amendment to the report:

“To replace recommendation 7 of the recommendations to Council with the following;

7. To approve the creation of a Cross Part Working Group to examine the proposals for the creation of a fixed permanent Council Chamber and future improvements to the working spaces at the Civic Centre.”

Councillors Walton, Adams, M Tomlinson, Pillinger, Howarth, Foster and P Smith participated in the debate on the amendment.

Councillor M Tomlinson indicated he was not willing to accept the amendment.

A vote was taken on the amendment, and it was subsequently,

Resolved: (For: 15, Against: 27)

For: Councillors Gleave, Mary Green, Michael Green, Hancock, Howarth, King, Lillis, Mullineaux, Rainsbury, Shaw, M Smith, P Smith, Turner, Walton and Watson.

Against: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bell, Bylinski Gelder, Farnworth, Foster, Gabbott, Gleeson, Hindle-Taylor, Jackson, Lomax, Martin, Peet, Pillinger, Pritchard, Roberts, Sharples, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Unsworth, Watkinson, Wharton Hardman and Williams.

The debate resumed on the substantive motion and Councillors Foster, C Tomlinson and Martin participated in the debate.

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member (Finance, Assets and Public Protection), Councillor Matthew Tomlinson and seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster and subsequently,

Resolved: (For: 32, Against: 10)

1. That a fixed permanent Council Chamber and improvements to working spaces at the Civic Centre be approved.
2. That the creation of a capital budget in addition to the utilisation of funds from the Corporate Buildings capital programme be approved.
3. That the procurement strategy for the associated works be approved.

For: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bell, Bylinski Gelder, Farnworth, Foster, Gabbott, Gleeson, Hancock, Hindle-Taylor, Howarth, Jackson, Lillis, Lomax, Martin, Peet, Pillinger, Pritchard, Roberts, Sharples, Shaw, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Turner, Unsworth, Watkinson, Wharton Hardman and Williams.

Against: Councillors Gleave, Mary Green, Michael Green, King, Mullineaux, Rainsbury, M Smith, P Smith, Walton and Watson.

121 City Deal - Update

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster presented a report that updated members on the negotiations in relation to the City Deal agreement.

Councillor Foster expressed concern that Councillor Michael Green remained in the meeting given that he is a Cabinet Member at LCC. Councillor Green explained that he had sought advice from the Monitoring Officer and was advised he could remain in the meeting providing he kept an open mind, but he was willing to leave the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer provided that Councillor Green could remain in the meeting as he has no disclosable pecuniary interest. Councillor Green would need to ensure that he had no bias or pre-determination but this would be for the individual member to assess, it would be for Councillor Green to make a decision.

Councillor Green stated that he was happy to leave the meeting and left, although he advised he had no DPI and an open mind.

Councillors Foster, Shaw and M Smith participated in the debate.

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

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. That Council authorise, subject to the approval of the proposed terms by the City Deal Executive Board, the Director of Governance to progress the development of a new City Deal Agreement based upon the proposed terms in the report.
2. That Council authorise the Director of Governance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to agree minor, non-material changes to the proposal where such changes have been recommended by the City Deal Executive Board.

Chair

Date