



Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey
Chief Operating Officer

52 Derby Street
Ormskirk
West Lancashire
L39 2DF

Wednesday, 5 April 2023

TO: THE MAYOR & COUNCILLORS

Dear Councillor,

Please find attached late information for the meeting of the **COUNCIL** being held tonight in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, 52 DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK L39 2DF** on **WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 2023** at 7.30 PM.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JS', written over a faint circular stamp.

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey
Chief Operating Officer

AGENDA
(Open to the Public)

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| 3. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Draft list of Declarations. | 1173 -
1174 |
| 6. | TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.2
Question from Councillor Whittington & Response | 1175 -
1176 |
| 10. | CHANGE OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES
Motion from Councillor Whittington. | 1177 -
1178 |

**13b Ormskirk - Burscough linear park - Motion Included by
Councillors Mitchell, Thompson and Clandon**
Amendment from Councillor David Westley

1179 -
1180

We can provide this document, upon request, on audiotape, in large print, in Braille and in other languages.

For further information, please contact:-
Jacky Denning on 01695 585384
Or email jacky.denning@westlancs.gov.uk

COUNCIL 5 APRIL 2023

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations were received:

1. Councillors Gaynar Owen, Nixon, West and J Wilkie (Tenant of a Council flat/house) Coughlan and Gregson (Tenants of a Council garage) declared disclosable pecuniary interests in relation to item 12 'HRA – Damp and Mould Strategy' for the reasons indicated but were entitled to speak and vote by virtue of an exemption (nothing in these reports relates particularly to their respective interests arising from the tenancy or lease).
2. Councillors Aldridge, Gregson, Mee, Nixon, Rigby, Sutton and K Wilkie declared non-pecuniary interests in relation to item 12 'HRA – Damp and Mould Strategy' as they have a connected person who is a tenant of rented Council accommodation. Insofar as that interest becomes a pecuniary interest (as it would affect the financial position of their relative and a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard this as so significant that it is likely to prejudice their judgement of the public interest) they declared that interest but considered that they were entitled to speak and vote by virtue of an exemption as nothing in these reports relates particularly to the relevant tenancy or lease.
3. Councillors Coughlan, Cummins, Furey and Gagen declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to item 13a) 'Local Government Pay to Council: A Fully Funded, Proper Pay Rise for Council and School Workers Motion' as Local Government employees and indicated that they would leave the room whilst this item was under consideration.
4. The following Councillors declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 13a) 'Local Government Pay to Council: A Fully Funded, Proper Pay Rise for Council and School Workers Motion' as members of the following Unions:
 - UNISON: Councillor Johnson, Nixon and West
 - GMB: Councillors Furey, Pryce-Roberts and Jenny Wilkie
 - Unite: Councillors: Burnside, Coughlan, Cummins, Dowling, Fennell, Finch, Gaynar Owen and Gregson

**COUNCIL
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TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.2

HRA Future Borrowing - Question from Councillor David Whittington

- "1. At February Council we were advised that the HRA would not be making any specific provision to repay future borrowings associated with building new council houses. Could the leader please confirm that that is indeed Council policy.*
- 2. If the answer to point 1 is "yes" can the Leader please confirm when Council decided this policy*
- 3. If the answer to point 1. Is "no" can the Leader explain why she did not correct the statement at February Council and explain current Council policy on this matter"*

Response

The "Minimum Revenue Position Policy Statement" was approved as part of the wider Treasury Management Strategy in the February 2023 Council meeting. This made clear that WLBC is generally required to calculate a prudent provision which ensures that debt is repaid over a period that is broadly commensurate with the life of the capital expenditure it is funding, but that there is no such requirement on the HRA other than to ensure an annual charge is made for depreciation. The policy and the Treasury Management Strategy reflect WLBC capital programmes in the whole rather than individual schemes.

The proceeds of the HRA depreciation charge are paid into a reserve, which may then be used either to fund future capital expenditure or to repay debt. Such repayments will be made at appropriate points in the 30-year Business Plan and in the life cycles of assets. The key in regard to HRA new build is overall affordability within the HRA 30 year business plan, since new build housing is only a part. You will recall that Council approved a 30 year HRA capital programme in February of around £305m, excluding new build. Financing and debt repayment decisions therefore will look at the needs of the whole programme over the whole period. The result is that prudent and affordable provision will be made for the repayment of debt, but there is no specific annual charge directly to the HRA for this.

These accounting arrangements have been in place since the implementation of HRA Self-Financing in April 2012.

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CHANGE OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES

Motion to be moved by Councillor David Whittington

- A. That the draft terms of reference be considered and subject to any amendments, be used as a basis for stakeholder consultation.

- B. That from the Annual Meeting in 2023, the Chairman & Vice Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee & all Scrutiny Committees be appointed from Councillors who are not members of the same political group as the Leader of the Council.

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Ormskirk - Burscough linear park - Motion

Amendment to be moved by Councillor David Westley

Council notes that further progress has been made on the Ormskirk-Burscough linear park with the completion of the new High Grove Park housing estate.

Council considers that the linear park will ultimately provide a positive benefit encouraging walking and cycling in a safer environment while providing a wildlife corridor. However, Council expresses its disappointment that the section of the Ormskirk - Burscough linear park between Abbey Lane in Burscough and Ormskirk remains incomplete.

Council instructs Cabinet to bring a report to the July 2023 council meeting updating councillors on:

- (a) the Ormskirk – Burscough Linear Park**, both the whole project and, in particular at this stage of the project, the steps taken to complete the section between Ormskirk and Abbey Lane in Burscough.
- (b) the progress made so far on the Tarelton – Hesketh Bank Linear Park and an updated action plan to complete the whole project.**

