



Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey  
Chief Executive

52 Derby Street  
Ormskirk  
West Lancashire  
L39 2DF

Wednesday, 16 October 2024

**TO: THE MAYOR AND ALL COUNCILLORS**

Dear Councillor,

Please find attached late information for the meeting of the **COUNCIL** being held this evening in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, 52 DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK L39 2DF, WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2024 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 Executive

**AGENDA**  
**(Open to the Public)**

- |            |  |              |
|------------|--|--------------|
| <b>3.</b>  | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>  | 675 -<br>676 |
|            | Draft declarations of interests.   |              |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.2</b> | 677 -<br>678 |
|            | Copy Of Question From Councillor Owens – Single Use Plastics                       |              |
| <b>15.</b> | <b>LEISURE UPDATE</b>  | 679 -<br>680 |
|            | Amendment  |              |
| <b>16.</b> | <b>SAVINGS OPTIONS AND MTFs UPDATE</b>   | 681 -        |

682

Amendment

17. **RESPONSE OF WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL TO CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK** 683 - 684

Amendment.

- 21b **Council Tax Exemptions for Students - Motion included by Councillor Adrian Owens on behalf of the Our West Lancashire Group** 685 - 686

Altered Motion

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

**MOBILE PHONES: These should be switched off or to 'silent' at all meetings.**

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

**Council  
16 October 2024**

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations were received:

1. Councillors Blundell, de Freitas, Eccles, Gordon, Howard, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Gaynar Owen, Patel, Webster, Whittington and Witter declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 8 'Update To The Community Infrastructure Levy (Cil) And Section 106 Governance And Expenditure Framework', Item 10 ' Council Annual Report 2023/24', Item 12 'Statutory Polling Review 2024 – Final Proposals', Item 20 ' Tawd Valley Developments Limited – Business Plan Update' in view of their membership of a Parish Council.
2. Councillors Aldridge, Bailey, Fillis, N Hennessy and D Westley declared a non pecuniary interest in relation to Item 8 'Update To The Community Infrastructure Levy (Cil) And Section 106 Governance And Expenditure Framework', Item 10 ' Council Annual Report 2023/24', Item 11 ' Complaints Annual Report - 2023-2024', Item 14 ' Food Waste Collections – Capital Transitional Grant Payment', Item 19 ' Skelmersdale Town Centre Draft Masterplan', Item 20 ' Tawd Valley Developments Limited – Business Plan Update' as Members of Lancashire County Council, as did Councillors Coughlan and Gagen as an employee of Lancashire County Council.
3. Councillors Eccles, Finch, Gordon, Howard, Gaynar Owen, David Westley, Marilyn Westley, Whittington and Witter declared a pecuniary interest in relation to Item 21 (a) 'Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Pensioners from Fuel Poverty – Motion' as a person affected by the decision and indicated that they would leave the room whilst the item was under consideration, as did Councillor Burnside as a 'connected person' is affected by the decision.



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

**Single Use Plastics – Question from Councillor A Owens**

**Question**

To ask the Council Leader to provide a detailed update on progress towards the removal of the procurement and use of single-use plastics across the council as agreed by Cabinet as part of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2030 on 10 November 2020.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead responsibility</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources/Conditional Upon</b>	<b>Milestone Progress</b>	<b>Overall Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<b>Funding/Income Generation Opportunities</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Single-Use Plastics	Environmental Strategy Officer	Procurement and Contracts Manager  Council-wide	Officer time	Remove the procurement and use of Single-use plastics across the Council	Achieve single-use plastic free status		December 2020



## **LEISURE UPDATE - Amendment to be moved by Councillor Robert Bailey**

That recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 of the report be replaced by a new 2.1 authorising the setting up of a Sub Committee of Full Council: Leisure Review Sub Committee Membership – 7 members – 4 Labour, 2 Conservative and 1 Owl

Functions:

- (1) To consider the future of the two existing leisure facilities at Nye Bevan Pool, Skelmersdale and Park Pool, Ormskirk and the possible options for replacing these facilities by taking into account the current operating costs, the Council's current and projected financial position together with the information and options detailed in the report of FMG Consulting.
  
- (2) To report recommendations to the December meeting of the Full Council.





## **SAVINGS OPTIONS AND MTFS UPDATE - Amendment to be moved by Councillor David Whittington**

That recommendations 2.1 to 2.3 of the report be approved subject to the inclusion of the following Sub Committee : Budget Sub Committee Membership – 7 members – 4 Labour, 2 Conservative and 1 Owl.

Functions:

- (1) To consider and review the potential savings and efficiency proposals identified by the action detailed in recommendation 2.3
- (2) To consider and review any new potential savings and efficiencies that can be identified
- (3) To report recommendations to the February meeting of the Full Council.



## **RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO NPPF – Amendment moved by Cllr David Westley**

That in addition to recommendation 2.1 being approved with the addition that the CEO write to our two Members of Parliament to provide each of them with a copy of the Council's response to the Consultation and seeking their support for our concerns to the proposed changes to the NPPF by making representation to the Minister of State for the DHLUC.



## Agenda Item 21 (b)

### Council Tax Exemptions – Altered Motion to be moved by Councillor Adrian Owens on behalf of the Our West Lancashire Group

Council notes that:

- **Many types of Student accommodation, which house students are** is currently exempt from council tax.
- As at October 2024, there are 622 properties registered within the Borough that attract an exemption from Council Tax in accordance with the Regulation relating to student households (Exemption Class N) and a further 336 properties registered within the Borough that attract an exemption from Council Tax in accordance with the Regulation relating to student halls of residence (Exemption Class M).
- If these properties were not exempt from Council Tax, if a full Council Tax charge was levied in all these cases (assuming no Council Tax Support entitlement or other Council Tax Discounts/ Exemptions were eligible), it is estimated that an additional £1.7M Council Tax liability may be generated of which the Borough Council's share of the additional liability income is estimated to be approximately £175K.
- ~~Student~~ All households generate a need for local authority-funded public services, e.g. street cleansing, waste management, and environmental health demands ~~in the same way as other households~~
- Prior to 2020, councils received funding to cover the cost of these services through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG), but since 2020 when the RSG was phased out, the income lost from council tax exemptions relating to student accommodation has effectively been borne by all other West Lancashire council tax payers.
- The Fair Funding Review of funding to councils promised by the previous Conservative Government in 2017 was never delivered and the core funding formulae for local councils have not been updated since 2013. This and the phasing out of RSG mean that councils with high student populations such as West Lancashire are not fairly funded from central Government under the current arrangements.

Council believes that:

- Students **and other council tax exempted or discounted residents** are a very welcome part of our community and our local economy. ~~but live in concentrated areas of the Borough in densely populated conditions.~~ This has a big impact on services in these parts of the Borough.
- Student households **and other exempted or discounted households** should continue to be exempt from council tax, as students are on low (and loaned) incomes **and other residents qualify accordingly.**

Council resolves that:

The Chief Executive write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer; Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government; the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Local Government Association; and the Members of Parliament serving West Lancashire Borough to request that a review of government funding of local councils takes place as part of the current national spending review and that a revised system of government funding of local councils should compensate the income lost to local councils through council tax exemptions for student households and halls of residence **and other such exemptions** and also re-introduce minimum 3-year funding settlements for local government to aid financial planning.

