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9 January 2018

**TO: COUNCILLORS I MORAN, Y GAGEN, C COOPER, J FORSHAW, J HODSON,  
K WILKIE, K WRIGHT AND A YATES**

Dear Councillor,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**AGENDA ITEM**

6a	Funding of Voluntary Bodies & Other Organisations Cabinet Working Group	1151 - 1154
	- Public Speaking Requests	
6c	Draft Housing Allocations and Pet Policy	1155 -
	- Minute of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) held on 3 January 2018	1156
6e	Draft Revenue Budget 2018-2019	1157 -
	- Additional information	1158



PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE MATTER YOU WISH TO RAISE

Agenda Item Number 6 a.....

Title Funding of Voluntary Bodies.....

Details

Why has the scoring of all grant applications not been published in a transparent manner.....

Why when requested has individual scoring of an application and feedback on the application not been provided.....

How was individual amounts of funding allocated .....

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Name Elaine Rimmer..... Dated .....4.1.2018.....

*Completed forms to be submitted by 10.00am on the Friday of the week preceding the meeting to:-*

*Member Services, West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2DF or  
Email: [member.services@westlanacs.gov.uk](mailto:member.services@westlanacs.gov.uk)*

*If you require any assistance regarding your attendance at a meeting (including access) or if you have any queries regarding your submission please contact Member Services on 01695 585065*

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Name Sionna Glover.....Dated .....4.1.2018.....

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## **MINUTE OF LANDLORD SERVICES COMMITTEE (CABINET WORKING GROUP) 3 JANUARY 2018**

### **CONSULTATION ON RELEVANT DRAFT CABINET REPORTS**

#### **19 DRAFT HOUSING ALLOCATIONS AND PET POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Housing and Inclusion that proposed a draft Housing Allocations Policy and a draft Pet Policy for Council tenants.

The Housing Operations Manager attended the meeting and provided an overview of the report, clarification on the issues raised, referring to details as set down in the report and responded to questions.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in relation to the:

- Under 18 year old homeless residents (in particular 16-18 year olds)
- Impact of the proposed revisions to the local connection criteria
- Impact of the proposed reduction in the age limit for sheltered accommodation
- Confirmation that the introduction of the pet policy applied to existing and future tenants
- Impact of pets in communal areas

The Working Group noted that there were mixed views on the introduction of a pet policy.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.





## **CABINET 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018**

### **AGENDA ITEM 6(e) DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2018-19**

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

##### **Introduction**

The draft Local Government Finance Settlement for 2018-19 was published on the afternoon of the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Unfortunately the details of this Settlement were too late to be included in the budget report for Cabinet which had to be finalized on the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> December. This note now provides additional information on the details contained in the Settlement.

##### **Background**

The Government has been progressively reducing the funding provided to local authorities in recent years, and it is expected that this period of austerity will continue until 2020. The Medium Term Financial Forecast (which was produced in March 2017) had estimated that there would be a reduction in grant funding of £1.120m in 2018-19. This position was based on an estimated reduction in Revenue Support Grant of £0.435m, a fall in New Homes Bonus grant of £0.650m, and a further £0.035m being taken out of our Housing Benefit administration grant. The Forecast also assumed a rise in the Council tax level of £5 at Band D, which was equivalent to a 2.6% increase. These assumptions were built into the calculation of the budget gap that has been reported to Members during the course of the year.

##### **Key Settlement Results**

The main features of the Settlement for 2018-19 were as follows:

- The Settlement confirmed the reduction of £0.435m in Revenue Support Grant funding as expected
- Details of Housing Benefit administration grant funding will not be published until January
- New Homes Bonus grant funding will be £1.172m next year, which is a £0.551m reduction compared to the current year's grant of £1.723m. This main reason for this reduction is that the government have changed the formula used to calculate the grant. The reduction was £99,000 less than the expected as a result of a greater number of new homes being built than forecast
- The rules on council tax increases were altered to allow district councils to increase their tax levels by the greater of 3% (rather than the previous 2%) or £5 at the Band D level. The Financial Forecast had assumed an increase of £5 at Band D, equivalent to a 2.6% rise. Consequently this change gives the potential to increase the tax level by a further 0.4% (3% - 2.6%) which would generate an additional £26,000 in 2018-19. If this approach of a 3% increase was adopted over the next 3 years it would generate an additional £96,000 by 2020-21

### **Impact on Budget Gap**

Paragraph 4.3 of the report identifies a budget gap of £1.116m for 2018-19 before taking into account the Settlement. As a result of the better than expected position on New Homes Bonus funding this gap has reduced to £1.017m. This position does not take into account the potential for a higher level of council tax increase.