



Kim Webber B.Sc. M.Sc.
Chief Executive
52 Derby Street
Ormskirk
West Lancashire
L39 2DF

Tuesday, 2 April 2019

TO: THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to a meeting of the **COUNCIL** to be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, 52 DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK L39 2DF** on **WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2019** at **7.30 PM** at which your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kim Webber', written over a horizontal line.

Kim Webber
Chief Executive

AGENDA
(Open to the Public)

PAGE(S)

1. **PRAYERS**
2. **APOLOGIES**
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
If a member requires advice on Declarations of Interest, he/she is advised to contact the Borough Solicitor in advance of the meeting. (For the assistance of members a checklist for use in considering their position on any particular item is included at the end of this agenda sheet.) 985 - 986

4. **MINUTES**
To receive as a correct record, the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, 27 February 2019. 987 - 1006
5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
6. **TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.2**
7. **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**
To receive the minutes of the following meetings, to confirm, if appropriate, such of the minutes as require confirmation and to pass such resolutions as the Council may deem necessary:
- a) Planning Committee - Thursday, 21 February 2019 1007 - 1010
- b) Standards Committee - Tuesday, 19 March 2019 1011 - 1014
- c) Planning Committee - Thursday, 21 March 2019 1015 - 1016
8. **COUNCIL PLAN 2019/20 - 2020/21**
To consider the report of the Chief Executive. 1017 - 1048
9. **CASH INVESTMENTS - POTENTIAL RISKS AND REWARDS**
To consider the report of the Borough Treasurer. 1049 - 1054
10. **COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN APPOINTMENTS**
To consider the report of the Borough Solicitor. 1055 - 1056
11. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**
It is recommended that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 & 3 (Individual & Financial/Business Affairs) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and as, in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
- PART 2 - NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
12. **PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR THE COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF BANKS LEISURE CENTRE**
To consider the report of the Director of Leisure and Environment. 1057 - 1076
13. **PURCHASE OF LAND IN ORMSKIRK**
To consider the report of the Director of Development and Regeneration. 1077 - 1084

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

FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE: Please see attached sheet.

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

**FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE FOR:
COUNCIL MEETINGS WHERE OFFICERS ARE PRESENT
(52 DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK)**

PERSON IN CHARGE: Most Senior Officer Present
ZONE WARDEN: Member Services Officer / Lawyer
DOOR WARDEN(S) Usher / Caretaker

IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE

1. Operate the nearest **FIRE CALL POINT** by breaking the glass.
2. Attack the fire with the extinguishers provided only if you have been trained and it is safe to do so. **Do not** take risks.

ON HEARING THE FIRE ALARM

1. Leave the building via the **NEAREST SAFE EXIT**. **Do not stop** to collect personal belongings.
2. Proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** on the car park and report your presence to the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.
3. **Do NOT** return to the premises until authorised to do so by the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.

NOTES:

Officers are required to direct all visitors regarding these procedures i.e. exit routes and place of assembly.

The only persons not required to report to the Assembly Point are the Door Wardens.

CHECKLIST FOR PERSON IN CHARGE

1. Advise other interested parties present that you are the person in charge in the event of an evacuation.
2. Make yourself familiar with the location of the fire escape routes and inform any interested parties of the escape routes.
3. Make yourself familiar with the location of the assembly point and inform any interested parties of that location.
4. Make yourself familiar with the location of the fire alarm and detection control panel.
5. Ensure that the zone warden and door wardens are aware of their roles and responsibilities.
6. Arrange for a register of attendance to be completed (if considered appropriate / practicable).

IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, OR THE FIRE ALARM BEING SOUNDED

1. Ensure that the room in which the meeting is being held is cleared of all persons.
2. Evacuate via the nearest safe Fire Exit and proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** in the car park.
3. Delegate a person at the **ASSEMBLY POINT** who will proceed to **HOME CARE LINK** in order to ensure that a back-up call is made to the **FIRE BRIGADE**.
4. Delegate another person to ensure that **DOOR WARDENS** have been posted outside the relevant Fire Exit Doors.

5. Ensure that the **ZONE WARDEN** has reported to you on the results of his checks, **i.e.** that the rooms in use have been cleared of all persons.
6. If an Attendance Register has been taken, take a **ROLL CALL**.
7. Report the results of these checks to the Fire and Rescue Service on arrival and inform them of the location of the **FIRE ALARM CONTROL PANEL**.
8. Authorise return to the building only when it is cleared to do so by the **FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE OFFICER IN CHARGE**. Inform the **DOOR WARDENS** to allow re-entry to the building.

NOTE:

The Fire Alarm system will automatically call the Fire Brigade. The purpose of the 999 back-up call is to meet a requirement of the Fire Precautions Act to supplement the automatic call.

CHECKLIST FOR ZONE WARDEN

1. Carry out a physical check of the rooms being used for the meeting, including adjacent toilets, kitchen.
2. Ensure that **ALL PERSONS**, both officers and members of the public are made aware of the **FIRE ALERT**.
3. Ensure that **ALL PERSONS** evacuate **IMMEDIATELY**, in accordance with the **FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**.
4. Proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** and report to the **PERSON IN CHARGE** that the rooms within your control have been cleared.
5. Assist the **PERSON IN CHARGE** to discharge their duties.

It is desirable that the **ZONE WARDEN** should be an **OFFICER** who is normally based in this building and is familiar with the layout of the rooms to be checked.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOOR WARDENS

1. Stand outside the **FIRE EXIT DOOR(S)**
2. Keep the **FIRE EXIT DOOR SHUT**.
3. Ensure that **NO PERSON**, whether staff or public enters the building until **YOU** are told by the **PERSON IN CHARGE** that it is safe to do so.
4. If anyone attempts to enter the premises, report this to the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.
5. Do not leave the door **UNATTENDED**.

Agenda Item 3

MEMBERS INTERESTS 2012

A Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter considered at a meeting must disclose the interest to the meeting at which they are present, except where it has been entered on the Register.

A Member with a non pecuniary or pecuniary interest in any business of the Council must disclose the existence and nature of that interest at commencement of consideration or when the interest becomes apparent.

Where sensitive information relating to an interest is not registered in the register, you must indicate that you have an interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information.

Please tick relevant boxes

Notes

	General		
1.	I have a disclosable pecuniary interest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You cannot speak or vote and must withdraw unless you have also ticked 5 below</i>
2.	I have a non-pecuniary interest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
3.	I have a pecuniary interest because it affects my financial position or the financial position of a connected person or, a body described in 10.1(1)(i) and (ii) and the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest or it relates to the determining of any approval consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to me or a connected person or, a body described in 10.1(1)(i) and (ii) and the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You cannot speak or vote and must withdraw unless you have also ticked 5 or 6 below</i> <i>You cannot speak or vote and must withdraw unless you have also ticked 5 or 6 below</i>
4.	I have a disclosable pecuniary interest (Dispensation 20/09/16) or a pecuniary interest but it relates to the functions of my Council in respect of: (i) Housing where I am a tenant of the Council, and those functions do not relate particularly to my tenancy or lease. (ii) school meals, or school transport and travelling expenses where I am a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, and it does not relate particularly to the school which the child attends. (iii) Statutory sick pay where I am in receipt or entitled to receipt of such pay. (iv) An allowance, payment or indemnity given to Members (v) Any ceremonial honour given to Members (vi) Setting Council tax or a precept under the LGFA 1992	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i> <i>You may speak and vote</i> <i>You may speak and vote</i> <i>You may speak and vote</i> <i>You may speak and vote</i> <i>You may speak and vote</i>
5.	A Standards Committee dispensation applies (relevant lines in the budget – Dispensation 20/09/16 – 19/09/20)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>See the terms of the dispensation</i>
6.	I have a pecuniary interest in the business but I can attend to make representations, answer questions or give evidence as the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak but must leave the room once you have finished and cannot vote</i>

'disclosable pecuniary interest' (DPI) means an interest of a description specified below which is your interest, your spouse's or civil partner's or the interest of somebody who you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners and you are aware that that other person has the interest.

Interest

Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation

Sponsorship

Prescribed description

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by M in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of M.

	This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to M's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to M's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

"body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest" means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director, or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest; "director" includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;

"land" excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income; "M" means a member of a relevant authority;

"member" includes a co-opted member; "relevant authority" means the authority of which M is a member;

"relevant period" means the period of 12 months ending with the day on which M gives notice to the Monitoring Officer of a DPI;

"relevant person" means M or M's spouse or civil partner, a person with whom M is living as husband or wife or a person with whom M is living as if they were civil partners;

"securities" means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

'non pecuniary interest' means interests falling within the following descriptions:

- 10.1(1)(i) Any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your authority;
- (ii) Any body (a) exercising functions of a public nature; (b) directed to charitable purposes; or (c) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union), of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;
- (iii) Any easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
- 10.2(2) A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a connected person to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision.

'a connected person' means

- (a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association, or
- (b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
- (c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
- (d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph 10.1(1)(i) or (ii).

'body exercising functions of a public nature' means

Regional and local development agencies, other government agencies, other Councils, public health bodies, council-owned companies exercising public functions, arms length management organisations carrying out housing functions on behalf of your authority, school governing bodies.

A Member with a personal interest who has made an executive decision in relation to that matter must ensure any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of that interest.

NB Section 21(13) of the LGA 2000 overrides any Code provisions to oblige an executive member to attend an overview and scrutiny meeting to answer questions.

Agenda Item 4

COUNCIL

HELD: Wednesday, 27 February 2019

Start: 7.30 pm

Finish: 11.32 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: N Delaney (Mayor)
G Owen (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: T Aldridge I Ashcroft
Mrs P Baybutt Mrs M Blake
T Blane J Bullock
J Cairns C Cooper
R Cooper P Cotterill
V Cummins S Currie
I Davis C Dereli
T Devine G Dowling
Mrs C Evans D Evans
S Evans N Furey
J Gordon N Hennessy
G Hodson J Hodson
K Lockie F McKenna
C Marshall Mrs J Marshall
J Mee M Mills
I Moran M Nixon
D O'Toole A Owens
J Forshaw E Pope
A Pritchard N Pryce-Roberts
E Savage Mrs D Stephenson
D West Mrs M Westley
D Whittington K Wilkie
J Witter K Wright
A Yates

Officers: Kim Webber, Chief Executive
Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey, Director of Housing and Inclusion
John Harrison, Director of Development and Regeneration
Heidi McDougall, Director of Leisure & Environment
Marc Taylor, Borough Treasurer
Terry Broderick, Borough Solicitor
Jacky Denning, Member & Executive Services Manager
Peter Quick, Group Accountant

75 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain for the evening, Deacon Des, led Members and officers in prayer.

76 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Yvonne Gagen, Phill Hudson, James Kay and David Westley.

77 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations were received:

1. All Members present declared a pecuniary interest in item 9 ‘Members’ Allowances Scheme 2019/20 and Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel and in relation to item 12 ‘Determination of Council Tax 2019/20’, but were entitled to speak and vote by virtue of an exemption.

2.
 - a) Councillors Ashcroft, Mrs Blake, Blane, Dereli, Gordon, Lockie, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Moran, Owen, Pope and Whittington declared a pecuniary interest in relation to relevant lines in the budget in respect of item 11 ‘Budget Requirement 2019/20’ and item 13 ‘Medium Term Capital Programme 2019-20’ in relation to Parish Council matters in view of their membership of a Parish Council and indicated they would not participate in any detailed discussions which affected the finances of those bodies specifically.*

 - b) Councillors Aldridge, Hennessy, O’Toole and Pope declared a pecuniary interest in relation to relevant lines in the budget in respect of item 11 ‘Budget Requirement 2019/20’ and item 13 ‘Medium Term Capital Programme 2019-20’, as Members of Lancashire County Council (LCC) as did Councillors Cummins and Gagen as employees of LCC, and indicated that they would not participate in any detailed discussions which affected LCC.*

 - c) Councillor Hennessy declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to relevant lines in the budget in respect of item 11 ‘Budget Requirement 2019/20’ and item 13 ‘Medium Term Capital Programme 2019-20’ in respect of her appointment to West Lancashire Community Leisure.*

 - d) The following Councillors, appointed by the Council to the bodies listed, declared a pecuniary interest in relation to relevant lines in the budget in respect of item 11 ‘Budget Requirement 2019/20’ regarding the ‘Grant to Voluntary Organisations’*.

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Voluntary Body</u>
• Moran	Citizens Advice Bureau Lancashire
• G Hodson	West Lancs CVS
Cotterill	
Nixon	
Pryce Roberts	
• Aldridge	Homestart Central Lancashire
Mrs Stephenson	

 - e) Councillor Whittington declared a pecuniary interest in relation item 11 ‘Budget Requirement 2019/20’ in respect of the ‘Community Grants’ as his wife is a trustee of Citizens Advice Bureau Lancashire and this body had been recommended to receive funding for 2019/20.*

- f) Councillor Mee declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to item 11 'Budget Requirement 2019/20' in respect of 'Community Grants' as a member of the Dial A Ride Board and a volunteer driver and indicated he would not participate in any detailed discussions which affected his employer or employment..*

* By virtue of a dispensation granted by the Standards Committee all Councillors who have disclosable pecuniary or pecuniary interests in relation to relevant lines in the budget may participate and vote in the budget debates but not engage in detailed discussions about matters which affect those interests.

3. Councillors Ashcroft, Mrs Blake, Blane, Dereli, Gordon, Lockie, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Moran, Owen, Pope and Whittington declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 12 'Determination of Council Tax 2019/20' in view of their membership of a Parish Council.
4. Councillors Aldridge, Hennessy, O'Toole and Pope declared a non pecuniary interest in relation to item 12 'Determination of Council Tax 2019/20', item 20(b) 'Fracking Motion', item 20(c) 'Flooding Motion' and item 20(d) 'Roads Motion', as Members of Lancashire County Council, as did Councillors Cummins and Gagen as an employee of Lancashire County Council.
5. Councillors Delaney, Devine, Forshaw, Owen, Nixon and West (Tenant of a Council flat/house) Aldridge (Tenant of a Council garage) declared disclosable pecuniary interests in relation to item 13 'Medium Term Capital Programme and item 14 'Housing Account – Revenue and Capital Programme' 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).
6. Councillors Aldridge, Blane, C Cooper, R Cooper, Mee and Wright declared non-pecuniary interests in relation to item 13 'Medium Term Capital Programme and item 14 'Housing Account – Revenue and Capital Programme' 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.
7. Councillors Pope and Moran declared a non pecuniary interest in item 8 'Pay Policy Statement 2019/20' as members of the Lancashire County Council Pension Fund Committee.
8. Councillors Hennessy and O'Toole declared a non pecuniary interest in relation to item 12 'Determination of Council Tax 2019/20' as a Member of

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Authority and Councillor Wilkie as an employee.

9. Councillor Wright declared a non pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 12 'Determination of Council Tax 2019/20' as a member appointed to the Police and Crime Panel.
10. Councillor Hennessy declared a non pecuniary interest in relation to item 20(c) 'Flooding Motion as a member of the Flood Risk Management and Preparedness Task and Finish group at Lancashire County Council.

78 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12 December 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

79 **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Mayor announced the following Charity events:

- The Mayor's Charity Ball - 15 March at Lancashire Manor
- Scouts Bingo – 8 March at St. Annes
- An 80's Night – 27 April at St. Annes

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

The following question was received:

Review of the West Lancashire Local Plan - Question raised by Councillor A Owens on behalf of Our West Lancashire Group

"In relation to the current review of the West Lancashire Local Plan would the Leader:

- a) *Confirm that the preparation of the local plan continues to cover the time period up to 2050?*
- b) *Quantify the "significant reduction in housing numbers, and a reduced impact on the green belt" as announced last week?"*

Members were advised that a copy of the response to the question would be included on the Council's website.

81 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the undermentioned meetings of the Committees shown.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the undermentioned meetings and any recommendations contained in them, be approved:

- A. Licensing & Gambling Committee held on Tuesday 4 December

2018

- B. Licensing & Appeals Committee held on Tuesday 4 December 2018 and 12 February 2019
- C. Planning Committee held on Thursday 10 January 2019
- D. Audit and Governance Committee held on Tuesday 29 January 2019

82 **PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 745 to 768 of the Book of Reports, which sought approval of the Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20 detailing the Authority's policy on workforce remuneration, as required by the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED: That the Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20 attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved, published on the Council's website and included in the Constitution.

83 **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019/20 AND APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor, as contained on pages 769 to 774 of the Book of Reports, which sought approval of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 and detailed the Membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

A Motion to approve the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 of the report was moved and seconded.

An Amendment was moved and seconded as follows:

- "2.1 *That it be noted that the IRP has not recommended any changes to the Members Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 and consequently a report from the IRP has not been submitted for consideration.*
- 2.2 *That the Borough Solicitor update the Members Allowance Scheme, effective from 1 April 2019, incorporating a Basic Allowance of £3,924.20 (the Lancashire average) with the current multipliers used in the calculation for SRA payments remaining unchanged, such scheme to be incorporated into the Constitution and subsequently published.*
- 2.3 *That the Membership of the IRP for 2019/20 and the respective terms of office be noted and endorsed as follows:
Mrs G Stanley (Chairman) 1 May 2021
Mr J Boardman 1 May 2020
Mr I Thompson 1 May 2022"*

At the request of a Member, voting on the Amendment was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors Davis and Owens (TWO)

AGAINST: Councillors Aldridge, Ashcroft, Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blane, Bullock, Cairns, C Cooper, R Cooper, Cotterill, Cummins, Currie, Delaney, Dereli, Devine, Mrs C Evans, D Evans, S Evans, Forshaw, Furey, Gordon, Hennessy, G Hodson, J Hodson, Lockie, McKenna, C Marshall, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mills, Moran, Nixon, O'Toole, Owen, Pope, Pritchard, Pryce-Roberts, Savage, Mrs Stephenson, West, Mrs Westley, Whittington, Wilkie, Witter, Wright and Yates (FORTY SIX)

ABSTENTIONS: Councillor Dowling (ONE)

The Amendment was LOST.

A vote was taken on the Motion, which was CARRIED.

- RESOLVED:**
- A. That it be noted that the IRP has not recommended any changes to the Members Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 and consequently a report from the IRP has not been submitted for consideration.
 - B. That it be noted that the Basic Allowance of £4,842 has been fixed for a 4 year period until 31 March 2020, the Council being able to ask the IRP to consider an increase in any year and to give specific reasons for the request.
 - C. That the Borough Solicitor update the Members Allowance Scheme, effective from 1 April 2019, incorporating a Basic Allowance of £4,842 (no increase) and provision for SRA payments (no change), such scheme to be incorporated into the Constitution and subsequently published.
 - D. That the Membership of the IRP for 2019/20 and the respective terms of office be noted and endorsed as follows:
 - Mrs G Stanley (Chairman) 1 May 2021
 - Mr J Boardman 1 May 2020
 - Mr I Thompson 1 May 2022

SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13.4

RESOLVED: That Council Procedure rule 13.4 be suspended to enable the Portfolio Holder / Shadow Portfolio Holder / Spokesperson for OWL to present their budget statements, in respect of agenda items 11 (Budget Requirement 2019/20) and 14 (Housing Account – Revenue and Capital Programme).

85 BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2019/20

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 775 to 796 of the Book of Reports, which set out information in order for the Council to set its budget for the next financial year, including the General Revenue Account (GRA) Reserves Policy and the Draft GRA Estimates.

Councillor Yates, Portfolio Holder for Finance, moved a Motion that provided details of the Labour Budget Proposals (as circulated at the meeting and contained in the Book of Reports), which was seconded.

Councillor Whittington, Shadow Portfolio Holder for Finance, moved an Amendment (as circulated at the meeting and contained in the Book of Reports), which was seconded.

The meeting was adjourned whilst Members considered the Labour Budget Proposals and the Amendment from the Conservative Group.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting on the Amendment was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors Ashcroft, Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blane, Cairns, Currie, Mrs C Evans, Gordon, C Marshall, Mrs Marshall, Mee, O'Toole, Pope, Mrs Stephenson, Mrs Westley, Whittington and Witter (SEVENTEEN)

AGAINST: Councillors Aldridge, Bullock, C Cooper, R Cooper, Cotterill, Cummins, Delaney, Dereli, Devine, Dowling, D Evans, S Evans, Forshaw, Furey, Hennessy, G Hodson, J Hodson, Lockie, McKenna, Mills, Moran, Nixon, Owen, Pritchard, Pryce-Roberts, Savage, West, Wilkie, Wright and Yates. (THIRTY)

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors Davis and Owens (TWO)

The Amendment was LOST.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting on the Motion was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors Aldridge, Bullock, C Cooper, R Cooper, Cotterill, Cummins, Delaney, Dereli, Devine, Dowling, D Evans, S Evans, Forshaw, Furey, Hennessy, G Hodson, J Hodson, Lockie, McKenna, Mills, Moran, Nixon, Owen, Pritchard, Pryce-Roberts, Savage, West, Wilkie, Wright and Yates. (THIRTY)

AGAINST: Councillors Ashcroft, Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blane, Cairns, Currie, Davis, Mrs C Evans, Gordon, C Marshall, Mrs Marshall,

Mee, O'Toole, Owens, Pope, Mrs Stephenson, Mrs Westley, Whittington and Witter (NINETEEN)

ABSTENTIONS: (NONE)

The Motion was CARRIED.

RESOLVED: A. That the General Revenue Account Estimates for 2019/20 set out in Appendix B of the Council report be approved, subject to the changes set out in the Labour Budget Proposals circulated at the meeting and contained in the Book of Reports.

B. That the GRA reserves policy set out in Appendix A to the Council report be approved.

C. That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive and Heads of Service to take all necessary action to implement the changes resulting from the budget proposals.

86 **DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX 2019/20**

Consideration was given to the revised report of the Director of Housing and Inclusion, as circulated at the meeting and contained in the Book of Reports, which set out the proposed Council Tax rate for each property band for the whole of the Borough Council's area, including the Council Tax rate as set by the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority, and the local Parish Council in parished areas, in order to confirm the statutory resolutions that are required in order to set the Council Tax for 2019/2020.

Councillor Yates moved a Motion to approve the recommendations in the revised report, which was seconded.

In accordance with Council Procedure rule 16.5, voting on the Motion was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Aldridge, Ashcroft, Mr Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blane, Bullock, Cairns, C Cooper, R Cooper, Cotterill, Cummins, Currie, I Davis, Delaney, Dereli, Devine, Dowling, Mrs C Evans, D Evans, S Evans, Forshaw, Furey, Gordon, Hennessy, G Hodson, J Hodson, Lockie, McKenna, C Marshall, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mills, Moran, Nixon, O'Toole, Owen, Owens, Pope, Pritchard, Pryce-Roberts, Savage, Mrs Stephenson, West, Mrs Westley, Whittington, Wilkie, Witter, Wright and Yates (FORTY NINE)

AGAINST: (NONE)

ABSTENTIONS: (NONE)

The Motion was CARRIED.

- RESOLVED: A. That it be noted that on the 14 January 2019, the Borough Treasurer declared the Council Tax Base amounts set out in Appendix A to the revised report, for the financial year 2019/20 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.
- B. That the Budget for the Council's own purposes for 2019/20 (excluding parish precepts) be set at £12,854,800 in accordance with the earlier Budget Requirement report.
- C. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the financial year 2019/2020 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):
- a) £91,202,862 being the aggregate of the amounts, which the Council estimates for the items, set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - b) £83,420,867 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - c) £7,781,995 being the amount by which the aggregate at C(a) above exceeds the aggregate at C(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
 - d) £220.73 being the amount at C(c) above divided by 35,256.32 (the Tax Base) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31(B) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for 2019/2020.
 - e) £611,212 being the aggregate amount of all special items (i.e. Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - f) £203.39 being the amount at C(d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at C(e) above by 35,256.32 (the Tax Base), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for 2019/2020 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
 - g) Part of the Council's area:

	£. p
Aughton	219.68
Bickerstaffe	234.27

Bispham	203.39
Burscough	240.22
Dalton	223.04
Downholland	242.72
Great Altcar	217.44
Halsall	224.87
Hesketh with Becconsall	244.63
Hilldale	258.14
Lathom	221.00
Lathom South	235.61
Newburgh	233.41
North Meols	238.30
Parbold	237.29
Rufford	243.48
Scarisbrick	219.00
Simonswood	223.87
Tarleton	234.82
Up Holland	225.07
Wrightington	219.30

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at C(f) above the amounts of the special item relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the relevant Tax Base for those areas, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of the Council Tax for 2019/2020 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a special item (i.e. Parish Precepts) relate.

- h) Part of the Council's area for each valuation band, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at C(f) and C(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands (See Schedule 1 circulated at the meeting).
- D. That it be noted that for the year 2019/20 Lancashire County Council has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p
897.73	1,047.35	1,196.97	1,346.59	1,645.83	1,945.07	2,244.32	2,693.18

- E. That it be noted that for the year 2019/2020 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Act for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p
134.30	156.68	179.07	201.45	246.22	290.98	335.75	402.90

- F. That it be noted that for the year 2019/2020 the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Act for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p
46.32	54.04	61.76	69.48	84.92	100.36	115.80	138.96

- G. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at C(h), D, E and F, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Act, hereby sets the amounts shown in Schedule 2 circulated at the meeting, as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2019/2020 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

87

DRAFT MEDIUM TERM CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019-20

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 807 to 814 of the Book of Reports, which advised on the Council's Medium Term Capital Programme.

Councillor Yates, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Transformation, moved a Motion, which set out the Labour Capital Programme proposals, as circulated at the meeting and contained within the Book of Reports, which was seconded.

An Amendment from the Conservative Group, as circulated at the meeting and

contained within the Book of Reports, was moved and seconded.

A vote was taken on the Amendment, which was LOST.

An Amendment from the Our West Lancashire Group, was moved and seconded.

A vote was taken on the Amendment, which was LOST.

A vote was taken on the Motion, which was CARRIED.

RESOLVED: A. That the following budget items be approved, based on the Capital Programme proposals presented:

<u>New Proposals</u>	£000
Egress secure email and file transfer IT system	21
Windows 10 upgrades - equipment and software	100
Fire safety works to Council corporate buildings	267
Purchase of pressure washer and water bowser	5
Purchase of wood chipper	3
Demountable skip body refurbishment	25
Replacement vehicle wash	21
Updated weighbridge software	10
Expand in-cab system in remaining refuse and recycling vehicles	20
Waste collection projects (see notes)	55
Leisure facilities essential works	70
<u>Funding requirement</u>	597

This funding requirement can be met
from available capital receipts

(Notes

The waste collection projects will include the provision of free bins where appropriate to certain types of properties including those currently in receipt of a weekly sack collection, those on rural farm rounds, and those properties with second grey bins.

The other schemes in Appendix 2 to the capital programme report not included above will be deferred for consideration at the Council meeting in July 2019.)

- B. That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive and Heads of Service to take all necessary action to implement the agreed Capital Programme.

88 HOUSING ACCOUNT - REVENUE AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Director Housing and Inclusion and the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 815 to 830 of the Book of Reports, which advised on the rent and service charges to be applied; and detailed the Public Sector Housing Capital Investment Programme and Housing Revenue Estimates for 2019/20.

Councillor Forshaw, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Landlord Services, moved a Motion, as circulated at the meeting and contained in the Book of Reports, which set out Labour proposals in relation to the Draft Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2019/20 and Public Sector Housing Capital Investment Programme 2019/20, which was seconded.

A vote was taken on the Motion, which was CARRIED.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the Rent and Service charges set within delegated authority, as detailed in Section 4 and 5 of the report be noted and endorsed.
 - B. That the comments of the Tenants and Residents, as set out in Appendix E to the report be noted.
 - C. That the Housing Revenue Account Budget and Capital Investment Plan, set out in Appendices A and B to the report be approved, subject to the changes set out in the Labour proposals circulated at the meeting and contained in the Book of Reports.
 - D. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Housing & Inclusion, in consultation with the Housing and Landlord Services Portfolio Holder, to utilise one for one capital receipt funding together with HRA borrowing to acquire new properties, subject to there being a satisfactory business case.
 - E. That the Housing Revenue Account Reserves Policy set out in

Appendix C to the report be approved.

- F. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Housing and Inclusion to take all necessary action to implement the decisions of Council.

89 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK INCORPORATING CAPITAL FINANCING AND CAPITAL STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 831 to 860 of the Book of Reports, which detailed the framework for capital financing and treasury management operations for the next financial year.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the projected position in respect of the Prudential Indicators, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, for 2018-19 be noted.
 - B. That the Prudential Indicators for the next three years be agreed, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.
 - C. That the minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be approved for the next financial year.
 - D. That the Capital Strategy as set out in Appendix 4 to the report, be approved for the next financial year.

90 **MAYOR ELECT 2019/20**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor, as contained on pages 861 to 862 of the Book of Reports, which sought nominations for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2019/20.

Nominations for Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect for the Municipal Year 2019/20 were not submitted.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

91 **TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2019/20**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor, as contained on pages 863 to 866 of the Book of Reports, which sought approval of the timetable of meetings for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That the timetable for the meetings for the 2019/20 Municipal Year, attached as an Appendix to the report, be approved.

92 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the

following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act and as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

93 **FORMING A DEVELOPMENT COMPANY**

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Director of Housing and Inclusion and the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 867 to 948 of the Book of Reports, which provided members with a progress update since the decisions of Extraordinary Cabinet and Council on 17 October 2018 and sought approval to proceed with forming a Development Company, with the appointment of the Board of Directors and for the Company to become operational; and to approve the Development Company's Business Plan for implementation, together with its funding arrangements.

A Motion to approve the recommendation at paragraph 4 of the report was moved and seconded.

An Amendment to the Motion was moved and seconded.

A vote was taken on the Amendment, which was LOST.

A vote was taken on the Motion, which was CARRIED.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the creation of the Development Company, named Tawd Valley Developments Limited be approved.
 - B. That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Landlord Services and Portfolio Holder for Resources and Transformation be authorised to determine all matters, as the shareholder for the Development Company, on behalf of the Council.
 - C. That the appointment of the Director of Housing and Inclusion and the Borough Treasurer as Directors of the Development Company be approved.
 - D. That the governance and financial arrangements required for the Development Company to operate with the Council as sole shareholder, as set out in this report at section 4 and section 8 be approved.
 - E. That the Director of Housing and Inclusion, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Landlord Services and Portfolio Holder for Resources and Transformation, be authorised to take all necessary steps to enable the Development Company to be set up including

making arrangements for the appointment of the two independent directors to the Development Company Board.

- F. That the Development Company's annual Business Plan set out at Appendix 1 to the report attached at Appendix A, be approved.
- G. That the financial and resource implications at section 8 of the report be noted and approved.
- H. That authority be given to sell the Council owned land referred to in the Business Plan to the Development Company at market value, including the ability to licence the occupation of this land subject to the obtaining of all necessary licences, permissions and consents and the making of any arrangements to appropriate any suitable Housing Revenue Account (HRA) land for General Revenue Account use.
- I. That the Council be authorised to purchase or procure the affordable housing units on behalf of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as set out in paragraphs 8.5 and 8.6 of the report attached at Appendix A.
- J. That the Borough Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Transformation, be authorised to manage the loan arrangements set out in accordance with paragraph 8.2 of the report attached at Appendix A.
- K. That the Chief Executive be authorised to amend the job descriptions of the Director of Housing and Inclusion and the Borough Treasurer to reflect their role as Directors of the Development Company.
- L. That the 2008 Indemnity arrangements at Appendix 6 be noted and approved.

94 **MOTIONS**

The following Motions were considered at the request of the Members indicated:

95 **FAIRTRADE - MOTION INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA BY COUNCILLOR C DERELI, ON BEHALF OF THE LABOUR GROUP**

The following Motion was moved and seconded:

"In declaring itself a supporter of the Fairtrade movement, recognising the value of the Fairtrade scheme to producers in developing countries who would otherwise not receive a living wage for their work, and recognising that these Fairtrade farmers are often working as cooperatives (an approach we would want to support in pursuit of our anti-slavery commitment) this Council resolves to:

- *reaffirms its support in principle for Fairtrade*
- *follow the examples such as Edge Hill University, and serve Fairtrade teas and coffees*
- *encourage the use of Fairtrade products wherever it can*
- *encourage/support the formation of a West Lancashire Steering Group to promote Fairtrade access across the Borough with a view to becoming a Fairtrade Borough, following the example of Burscough as a Fairtrade Town."*

An Amendment to the Motion was moved and seconded.

A vote was taken on the Amendment, which was LOST.

A vote was taken on the Motion, which was CARRIED.

RESOLVED: That this Council:

- A. Reaffirms its support in principle for Fairtrade.
- B. Will follow the examples such as Edge Hill University, and serve Fairtrade teas and coffees.
- C. Will encourage the use of Fairtrade products wherever it can.
- D. Will encourage/support the formation of a West Lancashire Steering Group to promote Fairtrade access across the Borough with a view to becoming a Fairtrade Borough, following the example of Burscough as a Fairtrade Town.

96

FRACKING - MOTION INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA BY COUNCILLOR I MORAN, ON BEHALF OF THE LABOUR GROUP

The following Motion was moved and seconded:

"This Council resolves that:

While being totally opposed to shale gas extraction (Fracking) and the damage it threatens to our health, safety, environment and countryside, the Leader and Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, asking them to reaffirm their position that there will be no weakening of the existing traffic light system, as proposed by Cuadrilla, to allow fracking to continue where it causes seismic activity in excess of 0.5 magnitude."

At the request of a Member, voting on the Motion was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors Aldridge, C Cooper, R Cooper, Cotterill, Cummins, Delaney, Dereli, Devine, Dowling, D Evans, S Evans, Forshaw, Furey, Hennessy, G Hodson, J Hodson, Lockie, Mills, Moran, Nixon, Owen, Pritchard, Pryce-Roberts, Savage, West, Wilkie, Wright and Yates (TWENTY EIGHT)

AGAINST: (NONE)

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors Ashcroft, Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blane, Currie, Davis, Mrs C Evans, C Marshall, Mrs Marshall, Mee, O'Toole, Owens, Pope, Mrs Westley, Whittington and Witter (SIXTEEN)

RESOLVED: That while being totally opposed to shale gas extraction (Fracking) and the damage it threatens to our health, safety, environment and countryside, the Leader and Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, asking them to reaffirm their position that there will be no weakening of the existing traffic light system, as proposed by Cuadrilla, to allow fracking to continue where it causes seismic activity in excess of 0.5 magnitude.

(Note: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9, a Motion to continue the meeting past 11.00pm until 11.30pm or until business was concluded (if earlier), was moved, seconded and agreed by the meeting.)

97 **FLOODING - MOTION INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA BY COUNCILLOR N HENNESSY, ON BEHALF OF THE LABOUR GROUP**

The following Motion was moved and seconded:

"Council notes:

The publication of the Hurlston Brook Flood Risk Study, and its recommendation.

Council believes:

Appropriate action must be taken to protect residents devastated by flooding previously and at risk again, and also residents who are now at risk of flooding.

Council resolves:

That the Leader and Chief Executive write to the Leader and Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council (as the Local Lead Flood Authority) and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to request the consideration of some element of large scale investment to protect our residents from further flooding in West Lancashire, and invest to enable the implementation of the recommendations of the Jacobs Flood Report. Further, LCC and DEFRA should lead a multi-agency partnership response with the private sector to access any financial opportunities that may be available to fund the protection of residents' homes and local businesses."

An Amendment to the Motion was moved and seconded, as contained within the Book of Reports.

A vote was taken on the Amendment, which was LOST.

A vote was taken on the Motion, which was CARRIED.

RESOLVED: A. That the publication of the Hurlston Brook Flood Risk Study, and

its recommendation be noted.

- B. That the Leader and Chief Executive write to the Leader and Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council (as the Local Lead Flood Authority) and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to request the consideration of some element of large scale investment to protect our residents from further flooding in West Lancashire, and invest to enable the implementation of the recommendations of the Jacobs Flood Report and that LCC and DEFRA should lead a multi-agency partnership response with the private sector to access any financial opportunities that may be available to fund the protection of residents' homes and local businesses.

98 ROADS - MOTION INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA BY COUNCILLOR G DOWLING, ON BEHALF OF THE LABOUR GROUP

The meeting finished at 11.32pm, and it was agreed that this item would not be considered.

.....
THE MAYOR

Agenda Item 7a

PLANNING COMMITTEE

HELD: Thursday, 21 February 2019

Start: 7.00 p.m.

Finish: 8.37 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillor: M Mills (Chairman)
D Evans (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: I Ashcroft
Mrs P Baybutt
T Devine
G Hodson
J Hodson
D O'Toole

G Owen
E Pope
A Pritchard
Mrs J Witter
A Yates

Officers: John Harrison Director of Development & Regeneration
Cath Thomas, Head of Development Management
Rebecca Chadwick, Assistant Solicitor
Eileen Woollacott, Planning Appeals Officer
Jill Ryan, Member Services/Civic Officer
Alex Ball, Graduate Planning Officer

In attendance: Councillor Moran (Leader of the Council/Up Holland Ward)
Councillor Mrs Blake (Parbold Ward)
Councillor Gordon (Rufford Ward)

96 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received.

97 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of Councillor Mrs M Westley and the appointment of Councillor Mrs J Witter for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

98 URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

99 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

100 DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no Declarations of Party Whip.

101 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 10 January 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

102 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report on planning applications (all prefixed 2018 unless otherwise stated) as contained on pages 1345 to 1423 of the Book of Reports and on pages 1425 to 1429 of the Late Information Report.

(Notes:

1. In accordance with Regulatory Procedure Rule 7(b) Councillor Moran spoke in connection with planning application 1148/FUL relating to 26 Miners View, Up Holland, Skelmersdale, WN8 0AZ.
2. In accordance with the procedure for public speaking on planning applications on this Committee:-
 - 1 objector and the Applicant's Agent spoke in connection with application no. 0923/FUL relating to Douglas Dale, 23 Bradshaw Lane, Parbold, WN8 7NQ
 - 1 objector and the Applicant spoke in connection with application no. 1148/FUL relating to 26 Miners View, Up Holland, Skelmersdale, WN8 0AZ.
 - Councillor Mrs Blake left after consideration of planning application 0923/FUL relating to Douglas Dale, 23 Bradshaw Lane, Parbold.
 - Councillor Gordon left after consideration of planning application 0259/FUL relating to Land to the West of Oasis Close, Rufford).
 - Councillor Moran left after consideration of planning application 1148/FUL relating to 26 Miners View, Up Holland, Skelmersdale.

103 **2018/0869/FUL - LAND TO THE SOUTH OF BLACK-A-MOOR LANE, DOWNHOLLAND, LANCASHIRE**

RESOLVED: That planning application 0869/FUL relating to Land to the South of Black-a-Moor Lane, Downholland be approved, subject to the conditions as set out on pages 1351 to 1352 of the Report.

104 **2018/0923/FUL - DOUGLAS DALE, 23 BRADSHAW LANE, PARBOLD, WIGAN, LANCASHIRE WN8 7NQ**

RESOLVED: That planning application 0923/FUL relating to Douglas Dale, 23 Bradshaw Lane Parbold be approved, subject to the conditions as set out on pages 1360 to 1361 of the Report.

105 2018/0259/FUL - LAND TO THE WEST OF OASIS CLOSE, RUFFORD, LANCASHIRE L40 1SA

RESOLVED: That in respect of planning application 0259/FUL relating to Land to the West of Oasis Close, Rufford:-

1. The decision to grant planning permission be delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee subject to the applicant entering into a planning obligation under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to secure:-

The terms and conditions of the affordable housing units
An Education Contribution
Maintenance of on-site open space

2. That any planning permission granted by the Director of Development and Regeneration pursuant to 1 above be subject to the conditions as set out on pages 1371 to 1377 of the Report.

106 2018/1261/OUT - LAND ADJOINING BESCAR LANE STATION, SCARISBRICK, LANCASHIRE

RESOLVED: That planning application 1261/OUT Land adjoining Bescar Lane Station, Bescar Lane, Scarisbrick be refused for the reason as stated on page 1384 of the Report.

107 2018/1062/FUL - 37 BURSCOUGH STREET, ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE L39 2EG

RESOLVED: That planning application 1062/FUL relating to 37 Burscough Street, Ormskirk by approved subject to the conditions as set out on pages 1390 to 1391 of the Report.

108 2018/0686/FUL - LAND TO THE REAR OF 29 THE GRAVEL, MERE BROW, TARLETON, LANCASHIRE

RESOLVED: That planning application 0686/FUL relating to Land to the rear of 29 The Gravel, Mere Brow be approved subject to the conditions as set out on pages 1400 to 1403 of the Report.

109 2018/1063/FUL - BRIAR DENE NURSERY SCHOOL, 2 FULWOOD AVENUE, TARLETON, PRESTON, LANCASHIRE PR4 6RP

RESOLVED: Planning application 1063/FUL relating to Briar Dene Nursery School, 2 Fulwood Avenue, Tarleton had been withdrawn by the Applicant.

110 2018/1148/FUL - 26 MINERS VIEW, UP HOLLAND, SKELMERSDALE, LANCASHIRE WN8 0AZ

RESOLVED: That planning application 1063/FUL relating to 26 Miners View, Up Holland be approved subject to the conditions as set out on pages 1417 to 1418 of the Report with the amendment to Condition 3 and an Additional Condition as set out below:-

Amended Condition 3

The use hereby permitted shall only take place between the hours of 0900 and 1900 Tuesday to Friday, 0900 and 1300 Saturdays and shall not take place at any time on Mondays, Sundays or Public/Bank Holidays.

Additional Condition 5

This permission is valid for a limited period only expiring on 21 February 2020 by which date the use hereby authorised shall be discontinued unless a further permission for this use has been granted by the Local Planning Authority.

Additional Reason Condition 5

To assess the effect of the development upon the amenities of the neighbouring area and to enable any future applications to be decided on this assessment, thereby ensuring compliance with the provisions of Policy GN3 in the adopted West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027 Development Plan Document.

111 2018/0628/COU - CAR PARK, CANAL BANK, APPLEY BRIDGE, LANCASHIRE

RESOLVED: That planning application 0628/COU relating to the Car Park, Canal Bank, Appley Bridge be approved subject to the conditions as set out on pages 1422 to 1423 of the Report.

.....
- CHAIRMAN -

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: Tuesday, 19 March 2019

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 6.55pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: I Moran (Chairman)

Councillors: D Westley I Davis
N Hennessy J Witter

Officers: Terry Broderick, Borough Solicitor
Matthew Jones, Deputy Borough Solicitor
Sue Griffiths, Principal Member Services Officer

11 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Wright, Mr S Ibbs (Independent Person) and Mr S Garvey (Reserve Independent Person).

12 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no changes to membership of the Committee.

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

15 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no items under this Heading.

16 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 18 September 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

At this point the leader referred to a previous resolution of the Committee in regard to Parish Council representation on the Standards Committee and indicated that he was mindful to propose the appointment of such representation at the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2019. Members of the Standards Committee indicated their support for this action.

17 COMPLAINTS STATISTICS

The Committee considered the complaints statistics for 2018/19 as set down at pages 43 – 48 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED That the Standards Complaints Statistics, attached at Appendix 1 to the report be noted

18 WHISTLEBLOWING CODE

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Borough Solicitor and Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 43 – 48 of the Book of Reports, updating the Council's Whistleblowing Code attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Borough Solicitor advised that as there had been no changes to law and good practice, there were no significant changes to the Code, and that the report would be referred to the Audit and Governance Committee and Council for consideration.

RESOLVED A. That the updated Whistleblowing Code, as set out in Appendix 1 be endorsed, subject to the following revisions:-

- paragraph 6.1 – amend list of examples to read
'unlawful discrimination against people with protected characteristics'
- paragraph 9 – include reference to and contact point for External Auditor.

B. That it be noted that the Whistleblowing Code will be considered further by the Audit and Governance Committee and Council.

19 NATIONAL REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor as contained on pages 61 to 174 of the Book of Reports which advised upon the outcome of the national review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life on local government ethical standards.

RESOLVED A. That the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life be noted.

B. That the Borough Solicitor report to the next meeting of the Standards Committee with any necessary recommendations to ensure that the Council continues to exemplify best practice with regard to local ethical standards.

20 PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor which advised upon the updated 'Planning Code of Good Practice' that had been adopted by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 18 October 2018.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

21 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the Committee's Work Programme as contained on page 193 of the Book of Reports.

It was noted that in relation to minute no. 19 above, a further report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED A. That the Work Programme be noted.

B. That an item "National Review of Local Government Ethical Standards" be included on the Work Programme for the next meeting.

.....
Chairman

Agenda Item 7c

PLANNING COMMITTEE

HELD: Thursday, 21 March 2019

Start: 19.00PM

Finish: 19.06PM

PRESENT:

Councillor: D. Evans (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: I Ashcroft V Cummins
T Devine S Evans
I Moran D O'Toole
G Owen A Pritchard
D Westley Mrs M Westley
J Witter A Yates

Officers: Ian Gill - Assistant Director of Development & Regeneration
Cath Thomas – Head of Development Management
Matthew Jones – Deputy Borough Solicitor
Rob Hitchcock – Principal Planning Officer
Jill Ryan – Member Services/Civic Officer

In attendance: Councillor G Dowling (Knowsley Ward)

112 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received.

113 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of Councillors Mrs P Baybutt, R Cooper and E Pope and the appointments of Councillor Mrs J Witter, I Moran and D Westley for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

114 URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

116 DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no Declarations of Party Whip.

117 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 21 February 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

118 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report on planning applications (all prefixed 2019 unless otherwise stated) as contained on pages 1445 to 1461 of the Book of Reports and on page 1463 of the Late Information Report.

119 2019/0106FUL - SOUTHVIEW LODGE CARE HOME

RESOLVED: That planning application 0106/FUL relating to Southview Lodge Care Home, 92 Station Road, Hesketh Banks be approved subject to the conditions as set out on page 1448 to 1449 of the Report.

120 2018/0721/FUL - GIBBONS BARN, PLEX LANE, HALSALL, ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE, L39 7JZ

RESOLVED: That planning application 2018/0721/FUL relating to Gibbons Barn, Plex Lane, Halsall be refused for the reasons as stated on page 1456 of the Report.

121 2019/0101/FUL - LAND REAR OF NORTH MOOR COTTAGE, NORTH MOOR LANE, HALSALL

RESOLVED: That planning application 0101/FUL relating to Land rear of North Moor Cottage, North Moor Lane, Halsall had been withdrawn by the Applicant.

.....
- CHAIRMAN -



CABINET: 12 MARCH 2019

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
28 MARCH 2019**

COUNCIL: 10 APRIL 2019

Report of: Chief Executive

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I Moran

Contact for further information: Ms K Webber (Extn. 5005)
(E-mail: Kim.Webber@westlancs.gov.uk;
Alison.Grimes@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: COUNCIL PLAN 2019/20 – 2020/21

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for the “Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21” (Appendix A).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

2.1 That the “Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21” attached as Appendix A to this report be approved and referred to Council for adoption.

2.2 That authority is given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to make any final amendments to the document, prior to publication.

2.3 That call-in is not appropriate for this item, as the report is being submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 March 2019.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION TO EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

3.1 That the “Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21” attached at Appendix A to the report be considered and that agreed comments be referred to Council on 10 April 2019 for consideration.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

4.1 That the “Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21” attached at Appendix A to the report be adopted.

5.0 BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The Council Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21 was agreed at Council in April 2018. An annual refresh is attached at Appendix A and sets out the Council's vision, values and priorities, together with key strategy actions and measures for 2019/20 - 2020/21. The Plan enables the Council to communicate its direction with the public, stakeholders and staff, and supports transparency and accountability. Having a clear statement of corporate priorities also assists effective planning and prioritisation of work within services, informs the development of staff work programmes and annual development appraisals, and is recognised good practice.
- 5.2 The Council Plan 2019/20 - 2020/21 will have a further annual refresh to ensure it reflects progress and remains up to date and relevant during its lifetime. Progress will be monitored with six-month reports provided through Members Updates against a detailed delivery plan, and a full Annual Report to Council.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The vision, values, priorities and key projects set out in Appendix A should contribute to the sustainability of services and the borough as a whole.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21 appended to this report will ensure the Council is able to continue to pursue its objectives, within the resources available. An agreed Council Plan will assist in shaping budget decisions and enable clear priorities to be set for services.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The difficult financial position facing Councils, together with changing legislative requirements and the regional agenda, means that having a clear statement of Council priorities is particularly important. By having well-defined priorities, attention and resources can be effectively focussed on achieving the Council's core objectives.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report.

Appendices

Appendix A: Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21 (version dated 18.02.19)

Appendix B: Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix C: Minute of Cabinet (Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Council only)

Appendix D: Minute of Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Council only)



DRAFT

**Council Plan
2019/20 – 2020/21**

Version 18.02.19

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Foreword

by the Leader of the Council

In order to achieve our ambitions for our economy, environment, health and wellbeing, the Council's key priorities to 2020/2021 are to focus on:

- delivering tangible and visible improvements in the Borough
- engaging and empowering our local communities
- actively promoting the Borough as a great place to live, work, visit and invest.

Our projects ensure these priorities will result in meaningful change for the borough. I have been delighted with the excellent progress in the first year of the plan and since no project is the result of just one team, everyone across the organisation should be proud of what has been achieved.

Looking to 2019/2020, proposals for a new multi-purpose development on the site of Ormskirk's current bus station and car park site are progressing. The mixed use scheme will see the development of a new bus station alongside a commercial leisure/cultural offer, and new student accommodation. We will continue to work with our partners Lancashire County Council and Downing Developments on this important project which will contribute to the regeneration of this part of Ormskirk town centre.

The formation of the Tawd Valley Developments Ltd development company is an exciting opportunity for the Council and a pivotal moment for us as an organisation as it is the first time the Council has

established such a venture. 2019/2020 will see this company moving from shadow to full operation. We hope to see Tawd Valley Developments Ltd become a worthwhile and in time profitable venture for the Council and the borough.

We will also continue to work with our partners St. Modwen and Homes England on the hugely important Skelmersdale town centre project, which will be of significant benefit to the residents of Skelmersdale. A £19m funding deal has allowed the first phase to be given the green light. This has been a long time coming, needing belief and perseverance from all involved, but we can finally look forward to building work starting in 2019.

A further stimulus for our growth plans has come with the appointment of Mark Whitworth, Chief Executive of Peel Ports and Chair of West Lancashire College, as the new Chair of Skelmersdale Place Board. As a partner on the Place Board, I look forward to the Council working with Mark in raising the business profile of the town this year.

Away from a business focus, the Tawd Valley Park scheme has really begun to take shape this year with a variety of improvements carried out and plenty more planned. This scheme is a success story of working with partners and the local community to meet their aspirations.

Improving this green space adds to supporting our ambitions for health and wellbeing. We have also officially launched our Health and Wellbeing Strategy and are continuing to make good headway with the substantial work around delivering new and improved leisure and wellbeing facilities across the Borough.

A project that won't initially result in changes on the ground but is attracting an understandable amount of attention is our Local Plan review. Due to the timespan of the emerging plan (to 2050), the numbers involved are necessarily larger than West Lancs is perhaps used to considering in previous plans. We have done this to emphasise the Council's long term ambition for economic growth and to meet our future market and affordable housing needs. A long term strategy also positions the Council in a better place to secure funding from Government and other public sector bodies to meet the Borough's infrastructure and community needs. We will be consulting and listening to views on the proposals in the plan during the year.

A greater engagement with partners and the community and a commercial outlook runs throughout the plans for our services. The drivers of balancing budgets and value for money are the foundations to our Sustainable Organisation Review work, decisions on which will be taken during the year, with consultation as appropriate. The pace and nature of change is an ongoing adjustment for Councillors, officers, and as importantly, for residents, businesses and other stakeholders. We will assist with this through clear communications of our intent and of decisions taken.

I am proud to lead a Council with committed staff whose talents have allowed us to confidently put together an exciting and ambitious programme for the forthcoming year. We will continue to develop services for the whole of our Borough and ensure that we make a difference for all – our businesses, our places and our people.

Councillor Ian Moran
Leader of West Lancashire Borough Council

Introduction

from the Chief Executive

This document provides a clear statement of the vision, values and priorities of the Council over the next few years. By focusing on clear priorities and the key projects that will help to deliver these, good progress has been made in the first year of the three-year plan. This refreshed plan will take us into its second year.

The intention once again is to focus on the delivery of a series of specific initiatives alongside day-to-day service delivery including the Sustainable Organisation Review Project, a cross-cutting review touching on every aspect of the Council's operation, to ensure sustainability of services going forward.

The environment in which local government operates continues to undergo significant change and a traditional model of operation no longer fully reflects the expectation of our residents, businesses and other stakeholders, or the funding available for public service delivery. During the past year the Council began work on our Sustainable Organisation Review Project (SORP), which will:

- deliver a sustainable operating model and strategy for delivery for the Council
- address the estimated £2m GRA gap in funding by savings or income generation
- enable the Council to be 'self-financing' to meet Government's requirements by 2020/21
- provide a consistent and quality based customer experience with effective, efficient and accessible services

- be in the best possible position to deliver the area's ambitions.

The importance of SORP in enabling the continued delivery of Council services cannot be underestimated. It is also an opportunity to be creative and re-imagine the way services are provided, using technology to the best advantage for all. Consultants RedQuadrant were appointed in November 2018 following a competitive tender exercise to assist with this review, which staff, as our key resource, have also been instrumental in shaping.

The conclusions of the review will be reported to Council in the summer and we will then be consulting on change that impacts on service users and staff, and will listen to this, before applying a new operating model.

Notwithstanding the financial challenges facing all councils, West Lancashire Borough Council continues to be in a strong position. We have plans in place for financial sustainability and service delivery, an engaged and motivated workforce proud of working for the Borough, and focused on priorities, projects and service delivery. The most recent external audit of the organisation provided a positive review of the Council's arrangements, underlining the ability of the organisation to consider and adapt to new ways of working whilst maintaining high standards. Our annual staff survey shows that staff are motivated and committed to delivering this plan. My aspiration is that we now continue to build on this record, looking for further ways to improve services, and communicate, including through the use of technology, social and traditional media.

I look forward to working with Councillors, staff and partner organisations to deliver the Council's vision and priorities over the next year.

Kim Webber
Chief Executive

Financial Position

*[**Text from the Borough Treasurer to follow after Local Government Finance Settlement is analysed. (est mid March)**]*

Organisational Overview

West Lancashire is served by a Borough Council, County Council, 20 Parish Councils and one Parish Meeting. There are 54 elected Members for 25 wards. As a Borough Council, working in partnership with these organisations as well as the police, fire service, NHS, businesses, schools, colleges, university and other stakeholders is vital for delivering lasting improvements for the benefit of the borough. Council policy is determined by Councillors, with advice from officers. The Cabinet is the Executive Councillor body for the Council. The Cabinet and senior management structures and responsibilities are provided overleaf.

The Borough Council provides services for around 113,800 people or 49,540 households (including approximately 5,890 council homes) as well as businesses and organisations. Services are delivered by around 435 full time equivalent staff (not including employees managed through our secondment agreement with Lancashire County Council/BT Lancashire Services).

The organisation's success depends on our staff. Our staff are the face of the Council, representing the whole organisation. We are committed to ensuring that staffing levels are appropriate for delivering services and that the workforce is equipped to meet our commitments to the community and wider stakeholders, whilst fulfilling their own potential.

We are using the feedback from our staff survey to continue to build a great place for Council staff to work. As a result of the survey, we are creating a culture where our values can flourish and as part of this have introduced values agreements for staff and have developed staff and management behaviours framework through staff focus groups. This

framework will help staff contribute and shape the culture of the Council and improve working practices such as inter-team working. The frameworks will be launched in March 2019. Also as a result of staff feedback, we will be introducing a staff award scheme based on categories suggested by staff that recognise, reward and motivate staff.

We have also been promoting our health and wellbeing initiatives for staff, such as the Health and Wellbeing e-learning module and health checks.

Sustainable Organisation Review

We are fundamentally reviewing how all our services are delivered as well as the design of the organisation through the Sustainable Organisation Review Project (SORP). This work will help us improve how efficiently we function as an organisation including ensuring value for money and focusing our financial and staff resources on service provision and outcomes that support our priorities. A modernised Council will be better able to meet anticipated future needs of our communities and provide financial sustainability beyond 2020/21. In November 2018, we began work with Red Quadrant on the project, and this work will deliver proposals for a new Target Operating Model for approval by Council and consultation as required in July 2019. To complete a full review of how the Council operates, following SORP, the Council's size, numbers of councillors and ward boundaries will also be reviewed.

Members of the Cabinet with Portfolios



Leader of the Council: Councillor Ian Moran

Chairman of the Cabinet; community leadership; partnership working including One West Lancs; major policy issues not specified within other portfolios; matters of urgency; liaison for management issues. Liaison for: LGA; DCN; other Lancashire & neighbouring authorities; Parish Councils; town twinning; Lancashire & Liverpool LEPs; Marketing Lancashire. Economic Regeneration: town centre developments; external funding & inward investment; borough marketing; business grants & training advice; corporate & commercial property portfolio; asset management; valuation advice; rating appeals. Legal & democratic services: corporate procurement; Freedom of Information. Transformation: service design; customer relations; consultation & community engagement; press/media; corporate planning & performance; ICT and revenues & benefits services, including LCC/BTLS contract.



Portfolio Holder for Health and Community Safety

Councillor Kevin Wright

Commercial Safety: health promotion, health & safety and food safety. Public Protection and Licensing: licensing for taxis, public entertainment/alcohol, charities etc; pest control and animal welfare. Environmental Protection: environmental monitoring & sampling; public health; pollution control; nuisance complaints; foul drainage & private sewers; flytipping; dog control; unsanitary premises; disposal of the dead. Private Sector Housing: renovation & disabled facilities grants; home energy efficiency; Home Care Link; homelessness; unfit homes. Community safety, emergency planning/business continuity. Social cohesion.



Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Human Resources

Councillor Yvonne Gagen

Properties held and the services delivered for sports development, swimming pools, sports centres, arts development, the Chapel Gallery, playgrounds and community centres. Leisure Trust Partnership. Countryside service; golf course, formal parks, open spaces, rights of way, environmental improvements. Outdoor recreation; facilities and services in partnership to develop local communities. Children's services. Human Resources; equalities.



Portfolio Holder for Planning

Councillor John Hodson

Planning policy; Local Development Framework; development control, building control & enforcement; conservation of built & natural environment; arboricultural & landscape services. Council-owned unadopted footways, highways & grit bins; liaison with utility companies/Highway Authority for highway works & transport issues; off-street public car parking & enforcement; Ormskirk market & bus station; land drainage & coastal engineering; 'green' & sustainability issues.



Portfolio Holder for Communities and Older People

Councillor Claire Cooper

Voluntary sector grants. Well Skelmersdale. Community aspects of asylum seekers and refugees. Older people's issues; encouraging and supporting active, independent and healthy lives; raising the profile of and needs of older people; involving older people in the development of relevant council policies and service design; promoting positive images of older people as citizens; liaison with older peoples' networks and organisations.



Portfolio Holder for Street Scene

Councillor Kevin Wilkie

Transport: fleet/ garage/depot facilities; street cleansing; grounds maintenance; stores. Waste disposal & recycling duties as a waste collection authority; waste management, including through partnership; domestic & trade refuse; green waste & recyclables collection; farm round.



Portfolio Holder for Finance

Councillor Adam Yates

Accounting services; general capital and revenue estimates and budgeting; performance against budget; annual statement of accounts; treasury management; internal audit; risk management & insurance; data quality; value for money.



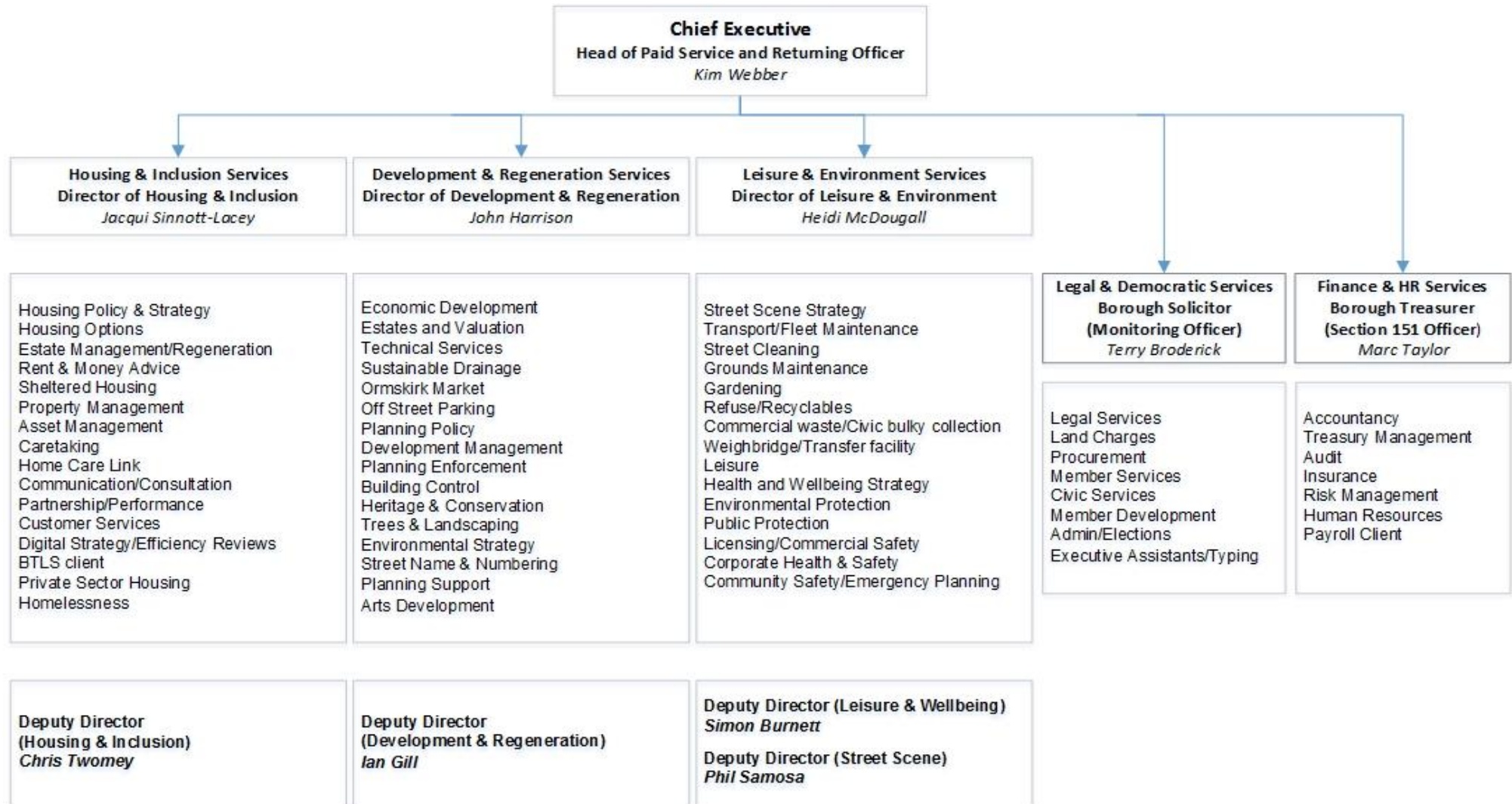
Portfolio Holder for Housing and Landlord Services

Councillor Jenny Forshaw

Public sector housing: repairs & maintenance; housing allocations; tenancy management; rent & money advice; sheltered housing; tenant empowerment/participation. Housing strategy; housing advice service; Supporting People Initiative. Links with social services, health providers and regulatory bodies. Housing finance including self-financing business plan.

Jan 2018

Senior Officer Management Structure



Council Plan 2019/20 - 2020/21

Our Vision

To be a Council which is ambitious for West Lancashire – our Economy, Environment and for Health and Wellbeing

We are ambitious for our economy, and for inclusive growth in West Lancashire, retaining and growing good quality jobs, increasing skills levels and encouraging business and wealth generation. This is matched by our ambitions for a good quality, clean, built and physical environment, and for ensuring the conditions are in place for people in West Lancashire to live healthy and fulfilling lives. These ambitions are reflected in the priorities and key projects that have been identified.

Our Values

Collaborative – working in partnership to benefit West Lancashire, being open and involving in the way decisions are made, and adopting a co-ordinated 'one Council' approach

Empowering – valuing and developing communities and employees to take responsibility for solutions, and to make the most of our local assets

Enterprising – being innovative and creative, delivering lasting improvements and ongoing efficiencies to bring the Council to a sustainable position

Equality – promoting equality and seeking to reduce inequality

Focussed – being strategic and prioritising the things that make the biggest difference to our communities

Proud – of West Lancashire as a place to live, work, visit and invest

Priorities and Key Projects

Deliver tangible and visible improvements in the Borough, by:

- ❖ Completing the current review of the Local Plan
- ❖ Developing new and improving leisure facilities as health and leisure hubs
- ❖ Delivering retail, housing and public realm improvements with a focus on Skelmersdale Town Centre
- ❖ Establishing a Development Company
- ❖ Creating the Moor Street Gateway
- ❖ Implementing the Route Optimisation Round Review and associated projects
- ❖ Implementing the new Clean & Green Service structure and deliver of the new service standards

Engage and empower our local communities, by:

- ❖ Delivering the Master Plan for Tawd Valley park, subject to resources
- ❖ Seeking the asset transfer of existing leisure facilities in North Meols
- ❖ Delivering digital inclusion initiatives
- ❖ Implementing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy including involvement with the Integrated Community Partnership

Actively promote the Borough as a great place to live, work, visit and invest, by:

- ❖ Promoting the Council's role and West Lancashire's achievements including through digital communications
- ❖ Engaging businesses and communities to enhance and promote Ormskirk and the wider West Lancashire visitor economy
- ❖ Engaging with Liverpool City Region, Lancashire authorities and key decision makers
- ❖ Enhancing and promoting Skelmersdale and the wider West Lancashire business economy

Our Priorities & Key Projects

Working to achieve the priorities to deliver the vision provides a clear strategic direction for the organisation. Our priorities are:

- deliver tangible and visible improvements in the Borough
- engage and empower our local communities
- actively promote the Borough as a great place to live, work, visit and invest.

Our plan allows us to prioritise work and therefore co-ordinate financial and staffing requirements. An annual refresh of a three year plan ensures that the plan remains in line with current thinking and the environment in which we operate. Service delivery throughout the Council supports our priorities with particular projects identified as contributing significantly. These projects are outlined below and their progress, including the key measures and targets, will be monitored and reported on during the year.

Deliver Tangible and Visible Improvements in the Borough

We will:

- ensure new homes, jobs and services are located in the most sustainable places
- provide a wide range of opportunities for promoting health and wellbeing in the community
- work to reduce the build and operational costs of our leisure provision
- regenerate the town centre in Skelmersdale
- deliver financial returns from activity in the development market
- provide quality, value for money homes across a range of tenures
- develop the commercial, leisure and cultural offer in Ormskirk
- improve the cost-effectiveness of refuse and recycling service
- enhance the local environmental quality through the Clean and Green service.

Completing the review of the Local Plan

The review of the current Local Plan 2012-2027 is well underway to ensure that land use plans for the Borough remain in line with evolving national planning policy and local needs. The Local Plan contains the vision and strategy for development in West Lancashire. It not only makes sure that the new homes, jobs and services required by communities are located in the most sustainable places, but also provides the framework for delivering the necessary infrastructure

facilities and other development to make this possible. The review processes and timescales are outlined within the Local Development Scheme. Taking around four years, the full review will involve extensive consultation and culminate in a new Local Plan. Having now completed the public consultation on the Preferred Options document, the review will now progress to the Publication stage (Summer 2019) and Submission of the new Local Plan for Examination by a Planning Inspector (Autumn 2019). Once the new Local Plan is submitted, it is anticipated that the Examination will take approximately a year, meaning that, if it is found sound, the Council would be able to adopt the Local Plan at the end of 2020 / start of 2021. In 2019/20 we will see:

- Local Plan Publication Document considered by Cabinet
- Publication / Pre-Submission Consultation
- Submission of Local Plan considered by Council
- Submission to Planning Inspectorate
- Monitoring the existing Local Plan through the Annual Monitoring Report.

Developing new leisure facilities as health and leisure hubs

Significant physical improvements to the borough can be achieved through replacement leisure facilities in Skelmersdale and Ormskirk. Our leisure facilities are the biggest assets we have for supporting and encouraging people of all ages to live active lives and enjoy healthy lifestyles. Collaborating with the West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) around options for incorporating health services into the facilities will, in the longer term, provide a wider range of opportunities for further promoting health and wellbeing in

the community and also help to reduce build and operational costs. Work in 2019/20 will see:

- appointment of consultancy team
- confirmation of Memorandum of Understanding with West Lancashire CCG
- site surveys
- community consultation on progression to next phase of design and procurement.

Delivering retail, housing and public realm improvements with a focus on Skelmersdale town centre

Our main scheme in Skelmersdale will secure regeneration in the form of new commercial, leisure and residential development alongside existing property and environmental enhancements across a large area of land within and surrounding the town centre. The project is being implemented in partnership with Homes England and St Modwen. We have already worked with our partners and housing developers to secure development of over 200 houses on three large residential sites adjacent to the town centre.

In 2019/20 we aim to:

- start on site with construction of Phase 1 of the approved retail and leisure scheme, and associated public realm works
- explore all options to ensure the highest levels of occupancy in the Phase 1 scheme by the end of practical completion
- see substantial housing completions on the three town centre housing sites

- start discussions and develop our ideas for future phases of town centre development
- develop plans for new leisure and wellbeing facilities to replace Nye Bevan and Park Pool.

Establishing a Development Company

Tawd Valley Developments Ltd is the new Development Company, wholly-owned by West Lancashire Borough Council. The company has been created in order to enter the development market in West Lancashire, to acquire and develop sites and deliver new homes for the residents of the borough, whilst making financial returns for the Council. The company is due to commence formal trading in 2019/20 and is in the process of establishing the governance and operational arrangements.

The initial business plan is based on the proposed acquisition of a number of initial sites from West Lancashire Borough Council and a delivery of a mixture of market-for-sale properties and affordable homes. This plan is anticipated to be delivered over a five year period from winter 2019.

Key aims over the first five years of operation have been identified to:

- provide quality, value for money, homes across a range of tenures for the people of West Lancashire
- deliver new homes through effective procurement of suppliers and contractors
- deliver financial returns which are able to be reinvested into further schemes
- deliver financial returns for the Council as shareholder to the company.

Creating the Moor Street Gateway

Proposals for a new multi-purpose development on the site of Ormskirk's current bus station and car park site is progressing. The mixed use scheme will see the development of a new bus station alongside a commercial leisure/cultural offer, and new student accommodation. The redevelopment emphasises the importance of the site as a gateway into the town and subject to successful negotiation and relevant approvals, the proposal will contribute to the regeneration of Ormskirk town centre. Lancashire County Council has committed some funding to upgrade the bus station element of any scheme. We will also be working with Network Rail to improve the pedestrian link between the bus and train station.

In 2019/20 we will see:

- the completion of a new footpath and cycleway between the bus and train stations
- a planning application considered for the project
- a start on site for the Moor Street Gateway project.

Implementing the Route Optimisation Round Review and associated projects

A review will ensure that balanced rounds are delivered in the most economical way and provide a more reliable service for residents. The number of households will be arranged more effectively into rounds that can be completed within a standard working day. The review will also take account of the standard approach to the use of wheeled bins across the Borough and the provision of recycling at all households. In addition, where possible it will include capacity for future housing growth to be delivered through the Local Plan. A standard fortnightly service will be delivered across all households and issues such as additional grey bins, weekly sack collections and collections from rural properties will all be reviewed along with the necessity for assisted collections and additional containers for large families. In 2019/20 we will see:

- improved reliability of the service
- standardised service across the borough
- improved recycling provision across the borough.

Implementing the new Clean & Green Service structure and deliver new service standards

Following the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing services review, assisted by the Association for Public Service Excellence, a new structure is to be implemented. Key personnel will be recruited to drive forward the new ambition for the service. This will involve the formation of multi-skilled neighbourhood teams delivering a set of agreed service standards aimed at improving the local environmental

quality. Work records will be digitised and schedules produced using the new asset management system. Performance against the service standards will be reported on a regular basis to Council and reviewed at the end of the year. In 2019/20 we will see:

- implementation of the new Clean and Green structure
- monitoring of new performance standards
- implementation of asset management system and digitisation of service records.

Other work streams also support this priority, including the longer term plan with LCC on their **West Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan**. The plan is supporting improvements to transport infrastructure such as around the Skelmersdale rail station location and the Ormskirk town centre movement strategy. Specifically, a preferred location for a new rail station in Skelmersdale has been selected in co-operation with LCC, Merseytravel and Network Rail, and work continues on the feasibility and costs of the **Skelmersdale Rail Link**. In Ormskirk, alongside the town centre movement strategy, the Council continue to explore proposals with LCC for an **Edge Hill Cycle Link**, and will be bringing forward the first section of this in 2019 with the shared-use cycle and footpath between rail and bus stations.

Engage and empower our local communities

We will:

- develop our parks and countryside sites for wider health and wellbeing, economic and social value
- promote volunteer engagement in our parks and countryside sites
- identify a cost-effective delivery model to facilitate the continued operation of Banks Leisure Centre
- support the uptake of basic online skills and access to the internet
- increase awareness of digital Council services
- target our resources to most effectively support improvements in health and/or reduce health inequalities in the borough.

Delivering the Master Plan for Tawd Valley park

The local community continues to play an integral part in planning and implementing the significant environmental and recreational enhancements to the Tawd Valley park. Such an extensive scheme also involves essential collaboration between a number of partners: Groundwork, the Environment Agency, Lancashire County Council, the River Douglas Catchment Partnership, SHARES and West Lancs CVS. During 2018 projects included footpath works, the creation of a community orchard, and improvements to the fishing pond. Structural surveys were undertaken on all bridges to allow path links to be

planned. A new project website www.tawd.net promotes the scheme and its links to the local community. In 2019/20 we will:

- implement infrastructure works in the park's Northern Zone, including footpath and cycle path development
- procure additional improvement works in Northern Zone including access and signing works, mountain bike/BMX track, and picnic area
- work alongside St Modwen to develop the Town Centre Zone of the park, including new play facilities and enhanced landscaping
- support LCC in the construction of the park cycleway
- support the Friends of the Tawd group in their development and assist with volunteer projects and activities
- work with the SHARES group, West Lancashire College and local schools to develop a programme of educational projects.

Seeking the asset transfer of existing leisure facilities in North Meols

We are working with key partners (Department of Health, West Lancs Community Leisure, North Meols Parish Council and the West Lancashire Sports Partnership) to identify a cost-effective delivery model which will facilitate the continued operation of Banks Leisure Centre. Partners have been informed that transfer or closure are the only options moving forward as this will enable the Council to achieve the broader objectives of our Leisure Strategy. In 2019/20 we will:

- review proposals and business plans for community transfer with key partners

- reduce the Leisure Management Contract fee, if the transfer takes place.

Delivering digital inclusion initiatives

Our work around digital development of services continues to expand to meet both efficiency and public expectations. We are also encouraging the use of digital technology with those members of community who are less confident in this area. This is with the aim of increasing the basic online skills necessary for life and work, access to the internet and therefore the uptake of West Lancashire Borough Council's digital services. Initiatives include working with partner agencies and attending local events to promote digital training opportunities and showcase the Council's on line services which will help promote self-service and further strengthen our customer service. In 2019/20 we will:

- engage with residents to understand their digital aspirations
- further encourage residents to take up digital training opportunities
- continue to support direct uptake of online Universal Credit claims
- promote the Council's online services.

Implementing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy including involvement with the Integrated Community Partnership

The strategy facilitates the ownership and sharing of expertise, interest, and skills, to help determine how best to make consistent improvements to the quality of life for West Lancashire residents. Implementation will allow us to progress the aims and objectives

through practical action in the community, support internal and external initiatives to improve health and wellbeing in the Borough, and try to improve health inequalities. We will also be establishing a mechanism through the development of an Integrated Community Partnership (ICP) to work alongside key partners to align health and care services in the Borough. The ICP establishment will allow us to work with the Clinical Commissioning Group and GP Federation to focus on the needs of our community and develop a person-centred health and social care. Actions in 2109/20 will see:

- seeking to extend existing successful health improvement projects
- improving internal mechanisms to improve health in corporate activities
- providing health improvement training for residents and Council employees
- developing an Integrated Community Partnership.

Other work streams supporting this priority. Implementing the **Homelessness Strategy** to extend the range of housing advice services to meet current and future challenges, enhancing the housing offer to all homeless applicants in the Borough and improve health and wellbeing. We are an established partner in **More Positive Together**, a Lancashire-wide European Structural and Investment Fund project providing various support pathways for people who are most affected by multiple and complex barriers to their employability, through a tailored programme including 1-1 mentoring, employment advice, and access to volunteering and work experience. We will support the progression of the **Burscough Neighbourhood Plan** as submitted by Burscough Parish Council in line with national legislation. Should all stages be completed successfully, this would result in the first neighbourhood plan for the borough. The plan would then be used to

determine planning applications in the Burscough parish area alongside the West Lancashire Local Plan and other local and national planning policies.

Actively promote the Borough as a great place to live, work, visit and invest

We will:

- ensure core messages are effectively delivered and received by all sections of the community and staff
- promote satisfaction with the area as a place to live
- encourage satisfaction with the way the Council runs things
- expand understanding of how the Council provides value for money
- maintain West Lancashire's profile and ambitions within the wider regional agenda
- promote West Lancashire as a place to operate an organisation or business in
- extend the influence of the Skelmersdale Place Board and Ambassadors network in promoting opportunities for business development
- foster West Lancashire's profile as a visitor destination.

Promoting the Council's role and West Lancashire's achievements

Progressing the digital communications plan will help us meet the current trends and changing needs of how customers seek and receive information, building on existing channels of media and public relations. We will continue to work with partners and diverse stakeholder groups to effectively communicate our responsibilities, services, key policies and programmes in line with our priorities to promote a positive image of the borough and its achievements. 2019/20 will see us:

- promote online services on the Council Facebook page
- create a dedicated Housing and Inclusion Facebook page and Twitter account to promote online services and the My Tenant App
- develop quarterly tenant and resident e-newsletters with links to online forms
- undertake resident and tenant consultation for the look and feel of a new Council website
- build in a process of capturing Social Media views into a corporate wide Comments, Compliments and Complaints reporting system.

Engaging with Liverpool City Region, Lancashire authorities and key decision makers

Although we are a Lancashire authority, West Lancashire's geographical position means we benefit from our active engagement with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. Within Lancashire, the 'shadow' Combined Authority has been in operation since July 2016. It has a focus on economy, skills and transport matters. One democratically accountable body will avoid duplication and provide

more efficient services; create a stronger basis for bidding for funding; make best use of Council and Government money; and speed up decision-making on a pan-Lancashire basis. Despite some Lancashire Council's doubts over the existing proposals, West Lancashire remains involved in the process and is working with Lancashire Authorities to take this project forward. In 2019/20 we will:

- play an active role as an Associate Member of Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
- further engage with the Lancashire Theme Groups, and play an active role in the economic development, environment & climate change, and housing theme groups
- participate in the development of a Local Industrial Strategy for Lancashire
- maintain membership of Growth Lancashire
- influence key decision makers in relation to our growth and infrastructure ambitions.

Enhancing and promoting Skelmersdale and the wider West Lancashire business economy

In Skelmersdale, key public and private sector leaders including from businesses, the Council, Edge Hill University and West Lancashire College continue to promote Skelmersdale through the Skelmersdale Place Board and Ambassadors network. The Board are looking to grow the Ambassadors network, establishing new relationships, providing information on opportunities and encouraging inward investment. In 2019/20 we will:

- continue to promote Skelmersdale as a great place to do business

- increase the number of paid Skelmersdale Ambassador members
- encourage partnership working with Place Board, Ambassadors and external partner organisations.

Engaging businesses and communities to enhance and promote Ormskirk and the wider West Lancashire visitor economy

We are working to assist our commercial centres in overcoming the challenges currently faced by high streets across the UK. Through the Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy and the borough's Economic Development Strategy a number of interventions support this objective ensuring the economic and social viability of the Ormskirk and wider West Lancashire visitor economy. Delivery of these adopted strategies and key initiatives will focus on:

- branding, marketing and promotion of Ormskirk and the wider West Lancashire visitor economy
- enhancing building and the public realm
- providing an enriched, relevant Ormskirk market offer
- facilitating year round events to animate town centres and enhance the visitor experience
- exploring the sale of branded products that promote the area.

There are a variety of other work streams that also support this priority. The biennial **West Lancashire Design Awards** will be held during 2019. The awards show how good design and well-designed buildings and places can greatly improve our local environment and can be used as a focus for economic and environmental regeneration.

We will continue to work through the **Private Sector Housing Strategy** to provide residents of West Lancashire decent homes which are safe, secure, warm, and in good repair. Our volunteer **Tenant Scrutiny Group** will be reviewing various housing services to recommend improvements to our housing service.

Monitoring Progress

The plan projects are resourced and managed through budget and service action planning. They are monitored directly by the relevant service areas and through budget reports, service action plans, the corporate risk register and individual project reports to committees and working groups as appropriate. In addition, progress on the projects are reported to Members half-yearly and as an annual report. A set of performance indicators spanning various service areas are also reported quarterly to Members to help the authority understand how well it is performing.

Our priorities and resulting projects are informed by working closely with partners and through various consultation and stakeholder engagement activities. We recognise that people who provide and use our services come from diverse backgrounds and have different experiences and needs. We develop, commission and deliver services in a way that will help overcome discrimination and disadvantage.

We aim to keep the public well informed about all our services, how we run things and how we are working to achieve value for money. As well as specific consultation for particular projects, we have a continuous customer engagement programme for housing services and an annual citizen and stakeholder survey. The annual survey is used to gather views to better understand the usage and opinions of Council services, gauge community safety perceptions, and receive views on the Council as a whole. Public opinion was directly sought to inform significant projects including the Tawd Valley Park Project and the Local Plan Review Preferred Options for the emerging West Lancashire Local Plan.

If you require any further information, or copies of this document in an alternative format, please contact:

Partnership & Performance, West Lancashire Borough Council,
Elson House, 49-51 Westgate, Sandy Lane Centre,
Skelmersdale, WN8 8LP
transformation@westlancs.gov.uk
01695 577177

Equality Impact Assessment Form



Directorate: Housing & Inclusion	Service: Partnership & Performance
Completed by: Alison Grimes	Date: 14 January 2019
Subject Title: Council Plan 2019/20-2020/21	
1. DESCRIPTION	
Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised:	Yes
Is a service being designed, redesigned or cutback:	No
Is a commissioning plan or contract specification being developed:	No
Is a budget being set or funding allocated:	No
Is a programme or project being planned:	No
Are recommendations being presented to senior managers and/or Councillors:	Yes
Does the activity contribute to meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty (Eliminating unlawful discrimination/harassment, advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations):	Yes
<p>Details of the matter under consideration: The assessment is for the Council Plan 2019/20 - 2020/21. The Council Plan reflects the Council's vision, values and priorities.</p> <p>The Council Plan is the overarching strategy for the Council and sets the vision and priorities for the Council, summarising the main actions/projects to achieve this. The Plan sets well-defined priorities to be used during service planning and when shaping future budget decisions. The plan includes projects (actions) which may themselves involve service design, redesign or cutback, or contract specification development, or require budget considerations. The plan has been reviewed and refreshed for year two.</p> <p><i>If you answered Yes to any of the above go straight to Section 3</i> <i>If you answered No to all the above please complete Section 2</i></p>	
2. RELEVANCE	
Does the work being carried out impact on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):	Yes
If Yes , provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders): <i>If you answered Yes go to Section 3</i>	Delivery of the vision and priorities is through a variety of actions. Specifying priorities assists with managing resources. Outcomes and outputs will impact on a variety of customers, service users, communities, Councillors and employees depending on the action.
If you answered No to both Sections 1 and 2 provide details of why there is no impact on these three groups: <i>You do not need to complete the rest of this form.</i>	

3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION	
Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e. who is/are the stakeholder(s)?	Given the wide range of actions included in the Plan, there is unlikely to be a disproportionate effect on any single group with protected characteristics, or on any stakeholder group across the whole of the plan. The plan directly or indirectly impacts on all Council services and therefore all who work for the Council, those who use Council services or engage with the Council. Any actions that may impact upon equality groups should be subject to an individual EIA by the relevant service.
If the work being carried out relates to a universal service, who needs or uses it most? (Is there any particular group affected more than others)?	As above. The current wide-range of actions included in the whole plan across many service areas means that there is unlikely to be a 'most relevant' protected characteristics affected, or any particular group affected more than others. This may change with content in the lifetime of the plan.
Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out? Age Gender Disability Race and Culture Sexual Orientation Religion or Belief Gender Reassignment Marriage and Civil Partnership Pregnancy and Maternity	No No No No No No No No No
4. DATA ANALYSIS	
In relation to the work being carried out, and the service/function in question, who is actually or currently using the service and why?	The plan applies borough-wide and beyond. Given the wide range of actions included, the work detailed in the plan will therefore likely impact on a variety of stakeholders in different ways.
What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage/the stakeholders?	By having a clear statement of priorities through the Plan, attention and resources can be effectively focussed on achieving the Council's core objectives. The overall impact should be positive since the priorities of the plan aim for a positive impact on the borough. Negative impact will be mitigated through individual EIAs conducted by the relevant service.
What are people's views about the services? Are some customers more satisfied than others, and if so what are the reasons? Can these be affected by the proposals?	Council priorities are informed by the Citizen/Stakeholder Survey which gathers views on a range of issues including the Council's budget. The survey results can assist the Council in making plans to deliver services and make efficiency improvements.

	<p>The most recent survey results are from the survey conducted in March 2018. Results from the Citizen/Stakeholder Survey provide information about satisfaction with certain Council services. Results are not broken down into protected characteristics. The reason for levels of satisfaction is not explored.</p> <p>Views on services are gathered through informal and formal contacts/consultation throughout the year to provide a wide range of views to service managers about Council services. These will inform planning of services/changes alongside the financial constraints the Council works within.</p>
What sources of data including consultation results have you used to analyse the impact of the work being carried out on users/stakeholders with protected characteristics?	As above. Individual projects that may impact upon equality groups should be the subject of EIAs themselves by the relevant service with involvement/consultation as appropriate.
If any further data/consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify:	As above.
5. IMPACT OF DECISIONS	
In what way will the changes impact on people with particular protected characteristics (either positively or negatively or in terms of disproportionate impact)?	Outlining the Council's priorities should provide reassurance that resources are being carefully managed. There is unlikely to be a disproportionate effect on any single group with protected characteristics, or on any stakeholder group. The plan can be provided in alternative formats on request. Impacts of changes resulting from individual actions will be dealt with by the relevant service.
6. CONSIDERING THE IMPACT	
If there is a negative impact what action can be taken to mitigate it? (If it is not possible or desirable to take actions to reduce the impact, explain why this is the case (e.g. legislative or financial drivers etc.).	Any initiatives within the plan that may impact upon equality groups should be subject to an individual EIA conducted by the relevant service.
What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?	No actions.
7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING	
When will this assessment be reviewed and who will review it?	The assessment will be reviewed as part of the Council Plan annual refresh process. This will include review by the senior management team.

MINUTE OF CABINET – 12 MARCH 2019

90 **COUNCIL PLAN 2019/20 - 2020/21**

The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Executive which sought approval of the “Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21”.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details as set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED A. That the “Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21” attached as Appendix A to this report be approved and referred to Council for adoption.
- B. That authority is given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to make any final amendments to the document, prior to publication.
- C. That call-in is not appropriate for this item, as the report is being submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 March 2019.

MINUTE OF EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 28 MARCH 2019

62 **COUNCIL PLAN 2019/20 - 2020/21**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive contained on pages 989 to 1016 of the Book of Reports, which sought approval of the Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21.

The Committee was advised that amendments may be required following the decision of Cabinet in relation to the Local Plan.

RESOLVED: That the “Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21”, attached at Appendix A to the report, be noted.



AGENDA ITEM:

Council: 10th April 2019

Report of: Borough Treasurer

Contact for further information: Mr M. Kostrzewski (Ext.5374)
(E-mail: mike.kost@westlancs.gov.uk)
Jonas Smith (Ext 5093)
(E-mail: jonas.smith@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: CASH INVESTMENTS – POTENTIAL RISKS AND REWARDS

Wards affected: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To outline investment alternatives for cash holdings and to detail the associated risks.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the report be noted and that potential options for cash investments be included in the Sustainable Organisation Review that will be reported to the Council meeting in July 2019.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators Monitoring report 2018-19 was submitted to Council in October 2018. At this meeting it was resolved:

'That a report be presented to Council, no later than April 2019, setting out the potential risks and rewards of accepting less security when investing the Council's cash holdings.'

3.2 It is standard practice that three Treasury Management reports are submitted to Council each financial year:

- A Treasury Management Framework report incorporating Capital Finance submitted to February Council;
- A Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator outturn performance report submitted to July Council;

- A Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator monitoring report submitted to October Council.
- 3.3 The Treasury Management report that is submitted to February Council contains a number of strategy statements and documents including:
- A Treasury Management Strategy incorporating both investments and borrowing;
 - A Minimum Revenue Provision Policy;
 - A Capital Strategy.
- 3.4 Each strategy document is compiled in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. In addition Link Asset Services have been engaged to act as treasury advisors to support the Council's treasury management activities.
- 3.5 A key cash investment strategy principle that is currently followed is that monies are invested in the money markets based on security, liquidity and yield in that order. This is a low risk approach to cash investments which provides security for taxpayers money but means that investment returns are relatively low, typically around the base interest rate. It is worth noting that as a result of this approach, in contrast to many other local authorities, the Council had no investments in Icelandic banks when they collapsed during the financial crisis of 2008.
- 3.6 A key borrowing strategy principle that has been used in recent times is to utilise Council cash balances rather than external borrowing to fund asset investments. This approach makes sense at the current time because the rate of return on our cash investments is lower than the cost of external borrowing, and consequently this provides a more attractive financing route.

4.0 POLICY IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

CASH INVESTMENT STRATEGY

- 4.1 It is anticipated that the Council will have on average in the region of £20m in cash to invest over the course of the 2019-20 financial year and the budgeted investment return from this is some £0.174m. The investment policy means that cash investments are only made in the highest credit rated financial institutions that are British based or in other local authorities. Performance in this area is measured against the 3 month LIBID interest rate.

ASSET INVESTMENT / BORROWING STRATEGY

- 4.2 The Council has made significant asset investments in recent years as follows:
- | | |
|--|-------|
| - Solar Panels | £1.9m |
| - Greenwood Business Centre | £1.7m |
| - Wheatsheaf Walk | £3.0m |
| - Development of the Westec house site | £3.1m |

- 4.3 These schemes have primarily been financed by borrowing with some additional funding coming from Council reserves. For each of those schemes no external borrowing was undertaken to finance them, and internal borrowing through using cash balances has been put in place instead. The schemes that have been completed are all currently generating positive financial returns with lower than expected borrowing costs. Future performance on these schemes will however depend on a range of factors including changing economic conditions. The development of the Westec house site is currently in progress but is expected to deliver a significant capital return.
- 4.4 Careful consideration will need to be given going forward to the best approach for financing the Skelmersdale Town Centre regeneration scheme, replacement leisure facilities, and the recently approved Development Company.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

- 5.1 There are a range of alternative investment opportunities that are available including:
- Increasing the maximum level of counterparty investment, which is currently limited to £5m.
 - Investing cash sums for longer periods
 - Investing in foreign banks / assets
 - Property funds
 - Money market funds
 - Equity funds
- 5.2 The Council is currently achieving an average rate of return on its cash investments of 0.633%. However within the investment portfolio, the maximum that is being achieved is a rate of 1.1% with the Bank of Scotland. If the maximum counterparty limit of £5m was increased that would enable more money to be invested with the Bank of Scotland at a higher rate. This would however carry a higher counterparty risk because a greater proportion of Council investments would be held with a single institution that could potentially default. However, it would still be with a British bank that is highly credit rated and has a low historic risk of defaulting.
- 5.3 Currently there are financial institutions that offer rates of some 1% for a 3 month period. When looking at a greater investment period, say up to 1 year then the increase in rates that are on offer only marginally increase, c1–1.2%. Investing funds for longer periods carries an increased risk though that the counterparty may encounter financial difficulties that were not anticipated when the investment was made.
- 5.4 Considering the rates offered by foreign banks, the differential on offer appears relatively small in most cases at this time within reasonable risk parameters. However, this could be an area that is kept under review to see whether this option may be worth considering in the future. It would however require investment in the treasury management function to ensure there is sufficient expertise to manage these investments effectively.

- 5.5 The Council could choose to invest in property funds organised through external fund managers. Property funds tend to be longer term in nature but can offer higher rates of return, typical levels being 3% to 4%. The risk associated is that monies may be tied up for longer periods and that returns can fluctuate with the economic conditions of the UK property sector. The risk mitigation factors include, the fact that these funds are run by organisations with a strong track record in this market and therefore have high levels of expertise, and the pooling nature of the funds.
- 5.6 In a similar vein the Council could use a similar organisation to invest in money market funds (MMFs). The funds are generally considered more secure than property funds and can vary in duration and hence returns. However average returns are typically on a par with many call accounts offered by banks, so when management fees are factored in, they may not be a particularly attractive investment vehicle.
- 5.7 When considering investment strategies it is also important to consider the future cash flow position of the Council. The Skelmersdale Town Centre redevelopment and Development Company initiatives will have a significant capital financing requirement, and this could be partially met from internal borrowing from cash balances. The difference in interest rates between externally borrowing and internal borrowing from cash balances can be in the order of 2%, and so could be an attractive option.

6.0 SUMMARY AND WAY FORWARD

- 6.1 The current investment and borrowing strategy that the Council employs has provided security of investment, financial returns and reduced borrowing costs. It has facilitated some ambitious capital schemes that have improved the commercial industrial offer available to the private sector, bought the Council a stake in Ormskirk Town Centre, and contributed to a range of other policy objectives.
- 6.2 As Members will be aware the Council is currently undertaking a Sustainable Organisation Review and the outcomes of this are set to be reported to Council in July 2019. It is anticipated that this Review will contain a number of potential options in relation to investments for the consideration of Members. It should be noted that any proposed changes would have to be considered in light of the regulations and guidance that cover these activities.

7.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 By having a robust approval and monitoring process, the cash investment strategies that are in place have provided a solid financial basis for providing returns, and facilitating capital schemes that have provided a rate of return, contributed to policy objectives and reduced borrowing costs.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The Council is signed up to the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and Prudential Indicators are reviewed on a regular basis. This helps to minimise the risks associated with financing decisions.
 - 8.2 It is possible to earn a higher rate of return than is currently being achieved through investing in alternative approaches. Typically though these new approaches will have a higher risk associated with them and Members will need to consider their appetite for risk in making future investment decisions.
-
-

Background Documents

Treasury Management in the Public Services, Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes 2017 Edition.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and/or stakeholders. Therefore, no Equality impact assessment is required.

Appendices

None



COUNCIL: 10 April 2019

Report of: Borough Solicitor

Contact for further information: Mrs J Denning (Extn. 5384)
(E-mail: jacky.denning@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To appoint the Chairman of Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Chairman of Planning Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That a Councillor who is a Member of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee, be appointed Chairman of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

2.2 That a Councillor who is a Member of the Planning Committee, be appointed Chairman of the Planning Committee for the remainder of the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

3.1 Council Procedure Rule 1.1(x) provides that the Annual Meeting will appoint Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees for the ensuing Municipal Year.

3.2 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 16 May 2018, Councillor Bullock was appointed Chairman of Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Mills was appointed Chairman of Planning Committee. These positions have now become vacant. The role of the Chairman includes duties outside of the Chairmanship of meetings, e.g. in exercising certain delegated approvals.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Chairman of Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives a Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,421 per year and the Chairman of Planning Committee receives a Special Responsibility Allowance of £4,842 per year, in accordance with the Scheme of Members Allowances for 2018/19. Payment of such allowances will be made to the appointed Councillors on a pro rata basis.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 This report meets the requirements set out in the Council's Constitution.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

None.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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