

**CABINET**

**HELD: Tuesday, 21 November 2023**

Start: 7.00 pm

Finish: 7.12 pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:

Portfolio

Councillor Yvonne Gagen	Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Legal & Democratic
Councillor Gareth Dowling	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning & Community Safety
Councillor Carl Coughlan	Portfolio Holder for Leisure; and Youth Champion
Councillor Vickie Cummins	Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Anne Mary Fennell	Portfolio Holder for Communities; and Dementia Champion
Councillor Neil Furey	Portfolio Holder for Street Scene
Councillor Rob Molloy	Portfolio Holder for Finance

In attendance:

Councillors (Virtually)

Nicola Pryce-Roberts (Portfolio Holder for Housing)  
David Westley (Leader of the Conservative Group)

Officers:

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey, Chief Operating Officer  
Chris Twomey, Corporate Director of Housing, Transformation & Resources  
Kay Lovelady, Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
Jacky Denning, Democratic Services Manager

Officers (attending virtually):

James Pierce, Head of Finance, Procurement and Commercial Services Section 151 Officer  
Kathryn Sephton, Head of Environmental Services  
Paul Charlson, Head of Planning & Regulatory Services  
Stephen Bissette, Clean & Green Operations Manager  
Nicola Hamilton, CIL/S106 and Research Officer  
David Jones, Technical Services Manager  
Tom McGowan, Principal Planning & Implementation Officer  
Rebecca Spicer, Repairs & Servicing Manager

Officers:

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey, Chief Operating Officer  
Chris Twomey, Corporate Director of Housing, Transformation & Resources  
Kay Lovelady, Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
Jacky Denning, Democratic Services Manager

**122 APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Adam Yates.

An apology was also received from Councillor Nicola Pryce-Roberts, for attending the meeting remotely, due to work commitments.

**123 SPECIAL URGENCY (RULE 16 ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES)/URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of special urgency.

**124 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There were no items under this heading.

**125 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. Councillor Coughlan (Tenant of a Council garage) declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to item 6(f) 'Q2 HRA Revenue & Capital Monitoring Report 2023/24' for the reasons indicated (nothing in these reports relates particularly to his interests arising from the tenancy).
2. Councillors Carl Coughlan, Vicki Cummins and Yvonne Gagen declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items relating to Lancashire County Council (LCC) as employees of Lancashire County Council and did not enter into detailed discussions, which affected LCC.

**126 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 September 2023 be received as a correct record and signed by the Leader, subject to the removal of the formal amendment recorded under Minute 116 'WLBC Safeguarding Policy 2023 and Reporting Procedure'. Cabinet agreed that the change of the abuse description from 'domestic violence' to 'domestic abuse', would be considered under the delegation arrangements.

**127 MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS**

Consideration was given to the reports relating to the following matters requiring decisions and contained on pages 1 to 382 of the Book of Reports.

**128 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) FUNDING PROGRAMME 2024 - 2026**

Councillor G Dowling introduced the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing & Resources, which detailed the results of the consultation

on the draft CIL Funding Programme for 2023 and proposed final recommendations for the CIL Funding Programme in 2023.

The minute of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been circulated prior to the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the report before it and the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED: A. That the consultation feedback report, provided at Appendix 2 to the report, be noted.

B. That CIL monies be allocated to the delivery of the following 9 projects of £100,000 or less in 2023/24:

- Holmeswood Play Area Fence Replacement, Rufford and Holmeswood Parish Council - £3,000
- Holmeswood MUGA (Phase 2), Rufford and Holmeswood Parish Council - £13,000
- Replacement Bus Shelters in Rufford and Holmeswood, Rufford and Holmeswood Parish Council - £9,900
- Rufford Park Play Area, Rufford and Holmeswood Parish Council - £4,500
- Aughton Surgery, Aughton - To increase capacity to deliver GP and primary care NHS provision, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) - £50,000
- Hall Green Surgery, Skelmersdale - To increase capacity to deliver GP and primary care NHS provision, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) - £25,000
- Hants Lane Clinic, Ormskirk – To increase capacity for the provision of GP and primary care services, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) - £50,000
- Fairy Glen Green Infrastructure Improvements, WLBC - £55,000
- Environmental site enhancements at Kiln Lane and Tongbarn playing fields, Skelmersdale, WLBC - £62,700

C. That CIL monies be allocated to the delivery of the following 3 projects over £100,000 in 2023/24:

- Halsall-Scarisbrick Canal Towpath Improvements, Canal and River Trust - £175,095.14
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Community Grant Scheme Match Funding, WLBC - £344,410.50
- Beacon Country Park Play Area Improvements, WLBC - £346,500

- D. That Ormskirk Neighbourhood CIL monies be allocated to the delivery of the 5 following projects in 2023/24:
- Whittle Drive Changing Facilities, WLBC - £40,000
  - West End Park Improvements, WLBC - £80,000
  - Halsall Lane Park Improvements, WLBC - £16,500
  - Green Lane Rugby Pitch Improvements, Ormskirk Rugby Club - £9,261.97
  - Whittle Drive Pitch Improvements, Ormskirk West End Football Club - £6,100

129 **USE OF S106 MONIES ON THE HALSALL-SCARISBRICK CANAL TOWPATH IMPROVEMENTS**

Councillor Dowling introduced the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing & Resources, which sought authorisation to allocate Section 106 (S106) monies received from planning permission 2013/0994/FUL for development of land at 114 Summerwood Lane, Halsall, to The Canal and River Trust (CRT) to assist in the delivery of improvements to a section of the Halsall-Scarisbrick Canal Towpath Improvements.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the report before it and the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED: That the allocation and spending of £15,000 of S106 funding from planning permission 2013/0994/FUL to assist in the delivery of the Halsall-Scarisbrick Canal Towpath Improvements Project be approved.

130 **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF 4 NEW HOUSING POLICIES**

Councillor Pryce-Roberts introduced the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing & Resources, which sought approval of 4 new housing policies:

- Decorations Allowance Policy
- Disrepair Policy
- Tenant Alterations Policy
- Repairs Policy

The Minute of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) had been circulated prior to the meeting.

As Councillor Pryce-Roberts was in attendance remotely, the Leader moved the recommendations in the report, which were seconded.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the report before it and the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED: That the following policies, attached as appendices to the report, be approved:

- A. Decorations Allowance Policy
- B. Disrepair Policy
- C. Tenant Alterations Policy
- D. Repairs Policy

131 **Q2 GRA REVENUE & MTFS UPDATE**

Councillor R Molloy introduced the report of the Head of Finance, Procurement & Commercial Services, which provided a summary of the General Revenue Account (GRA) position for the 2023/24 financial year at quarter 2.

The Minute of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been circulated prior to the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, the Cabinet considered the report before it and the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED: That the 2023/24 GRA position be noted and endorsed.

132 **Q2 GRA CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT**

Councillor R Molloy introduced the report of the Head of Finance, Procurement & Commercial Services, which sought agreement of a Revised General Revenue Account (GRA) Capital Programme for 2023/24 and provided an update on the progress of capital schemes.

The Minute of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been circulated prior to the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the report before it and the recommendations contained therein.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the revised Capital Programme, including budget adjustments and re-profiling contained within Appendix A and B to the report, be approved.
  - B. That progress against the Revised Capital Programme at the mid-year point be noted.

**133 Q2 HRA REVENUE & CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT**

Councillor R Molloy introduced the report of the Head of Finance, Procurement & Commercial Services, which provided a summary of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing capital programme positions for the 2023/24 financial year.

The Minutes of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) had been circulated prior to the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the report before it and the recommendations contained therein.

**RESOLVED:** That the 2023/24 HRA and Housing capital programme positions be noted and endorsed.

**134 Q2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

Councillor R Molloy introduced the report of the Head of Finance, Procurement & Commercial Services, which detailed the Treasury Management operations for the first half of 2023/24 and the Prudential Indicators, where available.

The Minute of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee was circulated prior to the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the report before it and the recommendations contained therein.

**RESOLVED:** A. That the Treasury Management activity and Prudential Indicator performance for the first quarter of 2023/24, be noted.

B. That the changes to the Prudential Indicators highlighted in section 9.3 of the report be noted and endorsed for approval by Council on 13 December 2023.

**135 TREE POLICY**

Councillor N Furey introduced the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing & Resources, which sought approval of the proposed Tree Policy.

The Minute of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been circulated prior to the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the report before it and the recommendations contained therein.

**RESOLVED:** A. That the Minute of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny

Committee, set out in Appendix 4 to the report, be noted.

- B. That the Tree Policy attached as Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- C. That delegated authority be given to the Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder to make amendments to the Tree Policy during the lifetime of the document.
- D. That the Tree Policy be reviewed and updated with new national legislation, including Biodiversity Net Gain, updates to the Climate Change Act 2008 or local policy, such as the update to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan that is published.

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## MEADOW AREAS

Councillor Furey introduced the report of the Corporate Director Transformation, Housing & Resources, which sought approval of the introduction of Meadow Areas into the borough, to improve biodiversity, pollinators, and invertebrates and to meet the commitments of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

The report detailed the shortlisted open spaces that are currently subject to regular grass cutting and that will be reduced to create Meadow Areas during the grass growing season, which will benefit the natural environment and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

The Minute of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee was circulated prior to the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the report before it and the recommendations contained therein.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the areas recommended for the potential creation of Meadow Areas be endorsed as identified in Appendix 1 to the report.
  - B. That a 4-week public consultation be undertaken, in relation to creating the Meadow Areas detailed in Appendix 1, within the open spaces in West Lancashire.
  - C. That the Minute of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee, set out in Appendix 7 of the report, be noted.
  - D. That delegated authority be given to the Head of Environmental Services, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, to commence work on those proposed Meadow Areas that receive a 50%+ positive feedback following consultation, to enable the

creation of Meadow Areas.

- E. That should the Council receive 50%+ positive feedback from the consultation, the Meadow Areas be created at the start of the grass growing season.
- F. That the information signage to be installed at each public open spaces site accessed by members of the public and will provide information on Meadow Areas and the benefits of natural meadows, set out in Appendix 5 to the report, be approved.
- G. That Meadow Areas be reviewed and amended to reflect new national legislation, including Biodiversity Net Gain, updates to the Climate Change Act 2008 or local policy, such as the update to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan that is published.

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**Leader**