

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HELD: Tuesday, 19 November 2024

Start: 7.00pm

Finish: 7.08pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: Y Gagen (Chairperson)
G Dowling (Vice-Chairperson)

Councillors: M Anderson J Howard
C Coughlin S Lawton
V Cummins M Parlour
T de Freitas I Rigby
N Hennessy D Whittington
P Hennessy

Also in attendance,
Councillor: N Pryce-Roberts (virtually)

Officers: Chris Twomey, Deputy Chief Executive
Alan Leicester, Director of Housing and Environment
Paul Charlson, Assistant Director Planning & Regulatory Services
Kay Lovelady, Chief Legal & Democratic Services Officer
Claire Kelly, Principal Solicitor (DMO)
Jill Ryan, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Officers (attending
virtually): James Pierce, Director of Finance and Resources
Kathy Sephton, Assistant Director Environmental Services
Alison Wood, Interim Corporate Finance Manager
Jacky Denning, Democratic Services Manager
Jonas Smith, Finance Manager, Corporate & Technical
Peter Quick, Principal Finance Business Partner
Nicola Hamilton, Senior Planning Officer S106/CIL
Rebecca Spicer, Repairs and Servicing Manager
Lisa Ratican, Business Engagement Officer
Catherine Kirwan, Procurement Manager

33 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor D Westley.

34 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of Councillors R Bailey and N Pryce Roberts and the appointments of Councillor J Howard and P Hennessy for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

35 URGENT BUSINESS IF ANY INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRPERSON

There were no items of urgent business.

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations were received:-

1. Councillors Howard and Whittington declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 8 in relation to GRA Capital Q2 2024/25 Monitoring Report in view of his membership of a Parish Council.
2. Councillor N Hennessy declared a non pecuniary interest in relation to item 7 'HRA Q2 – Revenue and Capital', and item 9 GRA Capital Q2 2024/2025 Monitoring Report as Members of Lancashire County Council, as did Councillors Coughlan and Gagen as an employee of Lancashire County Council.
3. Councillor Rigby declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 7 'HRA Q2 – Revenue and Capital' as he has 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.

37 MINUTES

AGREED: That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 24 September 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

38 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no items under this heading.

39 HRA Q2 - REVENUE AND CAPITAL

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources as contained on pages 19 to 28 of the Book of Reports. The report provided a summary of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Programme positions for the 2024/25 financial year based upon quarter 2 monitoring (Q2).

AGREED: That the HRA Q2 position for Revenue and Capital be noted.

40 GRA Q2 BUDGET MONITORING

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources as contained on pages 29 to 34 of the Book of Reports. The report provided a summary of the General Revenue Account (GRA) position for the 2024/25 financial year based upon Quarter 2 monitoring (Q2).

AGREED: That the GRA Q2 revenue position be noted.

41 GRA CAPITAL Q2 2024/25 MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources as contained on pages 35 to 44 of the Book of Reports. which noted the Revised General Revenue Account (GRA) Capital Programme for 2024/25 and provided an update on progress on the capital schemes.

AGREED: (A) That the revised Capital Programme including the budget adjustments contained within Appendix A of the report be noted.

(B) That the progress made against the Revised Capital Programme at Quarter 2 be noted.

42 TREASURY MANAGEMENT Q2 2024/25 MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources as contained on pages 45 to 52 of the Book of Reports. The report set out details of the Treasury Management Operations for the first six months of 2024/25 and to report on the Prudential Indicators where available.

AGREED: That the Treasury Management activity and Prudential Indicator performance for the first six months of 2024/25 be noted.

43 ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING TO BEACON COUNTRY PARK FOOTPATH UPGRADES

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director of Planning and Regulatory Services as contained on pages 53 to 72 of the Book of Reports the report sought authorisation to allocate Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding of £109,000 to spend on the delivery of footpath upgrades at Beacon Country Park.

AGREED: That the allocation of £109,000 of Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy funding to spend on the delivery of footpath upgrades at Beacon Country Park as detailed in the report be approved.

44 CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources as contained on pages 73 to 146 of the Book of Reports. The purpose of which advised on the new requirements of the Procurement Act 2023 and sought approval to implement the new Contract Procedure Rules.

AGREED: That the report and proposed new Contract Procedure Rules at Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

45 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT - ANNUAL SETTING OF THE POLICY

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Services Officer as contained on pages 147 to 174 of the Book of Reports the purpose of which was to inform Members on the Council's use of its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Power's Act (RIPA) and to present the RIPA Policy document for approval.

AGREED: That the Council's RIPA activity and the RIPA Policy attached at Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

46 DAMP STRATEGY 2025-2028

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Housing and Environment as contained on pages 175 to 192 of the Book of Reports. The report sought approval of the newly developed Damp and Mould Strategy and the Action Plan for 2025-2028.

AGREED: That the Damp and Mould Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2028 be approved.

47 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND ADJACENT PLANTATION ROAD RINGTAIL ROAD BURSCOUGH

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Housing and Environment as contained on pages 193 to 195 of the Book of Reports.

Councillor Parlour raised that there was an admin error in the title of report and that the report sought approval for the disposal of a freehold plot of land adjacent to Plantation Road and Ringtail Road, Burscough which was under the ownership of West Lancashire Borough Council.

AGREED: That the Director of Housing and Environment be authorised to take all necessary steps to dispose of the plot of land adjacent to Plantation Road and Ringtail Road, Burscough in accordance with the terms and conditions as set out in the report.

48 UK SHARED PROSPERITY AND RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND - UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director of Planning and Regulatory Services as set out on pages 197 to 214 of the Book of Reports the report provided an update on the delivery of the Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) investment programme.

AGREED: That the contents of the report be noted.

49 ITEMS FROM THE MEMBERS UPDATE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA AT THE REQUEST OF A MEMBER

There were no items under this heading.

50 **MEMBERS ITEMS/CCFA (COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION)**

There were no items under this heading.

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Chairperson