

**XMINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 15th FEBRUARY 2024**

PRESENT –

Councillor A. Mahmood (Chair)

Councillors

*Z. Ali
M. Hanif
D. Lord
D. Whipp
T. Whipp*

Also in attendance:

*Councillor N. Ahmed
Councillor M. Aslam
Councillor D. Cockburn-Price
Councillor K. McGladdery
Councillor M. Stone
Councillor A. Sutcliffe*

Officers in attendance

<i>Rose Rouse</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>
<i>Philip Spurr</i>	<i>Director of Place</i>
<i>Damon Lawrenson</i>	<i>Director of Resources (Interim)</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Head of Legal and Democratic Services</i>
<i>Gemma-Louise Wells</i>	<i>Head of Finance</i>
<i>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Democratic Services Manager</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Ammer).



95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

96. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

97. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

98. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 – QUARTER 3

The Director of Resources (Interim) submitted a report on the Quarter 3 revenue and capital budget monitoring position for 2023/24.

It was acknowledged, that although there was a concern around the capital programme, the Council was in a good position with an underspend position of £385k at the end of Quarter 3. Underspend for the full year was set to be in the region of £547k, however this was subject to the actual spend within Quarter 4.

RESOLVED

That the Quarter 3 position on the Council's Revenue Budget and the Council's Capital Programme for 2023/24 be noted.

REASON

To inform the Executive of the Quarter 3 position.

**99. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST (2024/25 TO 2026/27)
WITH REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2024/25 ONWARDS**

The Director of Resources (Interim) submitted a report on the Medium Term Financial Forecast for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and proposed the general fund revenue and capital budgets, along with other related matters for 2024/25.

The report considered the revenue and capital budget position for 2024/25 and highlighted the existing revenue position. The report focused on the Council's financial strategy towards a programme of change that attempted to close the funding gap in the medium term and therefore minimising the reliance on the use of reserves.

Issues and concerns were raised around the non-implementation of the Fair Funding Review; proposed new charges and the items of expenditure forming the proposed capital programme for 2024/25 which included the new cemetery site and the food waste collection and new waste transfer station.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Medium-Term Forecast position for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and the savings required over the period of the forecast be noted with the gravest of concern regarding the financial cliff edge posed by new food waste collections and Lancashire County Council's requirements for a new waste transfer station.
- (2) That the General Fund Budget Requirement for 2024/25 be noted and considered further at the Special Budget Council meeting on 26th February 2024.
- (3) That the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25 be noted and considered further at the Special Budget Council meeting on 26th February 2024.

Special Budget Executive (15.02.2024)

- (4) That the proposed increase in Band D Council Tax for 2024/25 of £289.92, being an increase of £8.67 (2.99%) on the current level of Council Tax be noted and considered further at the Special Budget Council meeting on 26th February 2024.
- (5) That each Service be required to operate within its budget for 2024/25 once approved, and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.
- (6) That the proposed Capital Programme for 2024/25, as shown as Appendix F attached to the report, be noted and considered further at the Special Budget Council meeting on 26th February 2024.
- (7) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Resources, to determine the most appropriate method of financing the capital programme for 2024/25 to ensure the use of resources was optimised by the Council.
- (8) That Lancashire County Council be informed of the grave financial situation faced by Pendle Council and other East Lancashire Authorities as a consequence of them cancelling the current waste transfer arrangements at Regent Street, Colne and call for a member level meeting at the highest level in order to get the County Council to stop cost shunting onto Pendle Council and other East Lancashire Authorities.

REASON

To comply with statutory requirements to determine a balanced budget and council tax for the forthcoming financial year.

100. PERFORMANCE UPDATE REPORT 1st APRIL TO 31st DECEMBER 2023

The Director of Resources (Interim) submitted a report on performance monitoring information for the period 1st April to 31st December 2023.

An update was given on a number of KPI's including sickness and contact centre call abandonment. The Executive acknowledged the improvements made in relation to the KPI for major planning applications.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

REASON

To inform the Executive of performance

101. FORWARD PLAN

The Executive's draft Work Programme and Forward Plan of key decisions for the four-month period commencing 1st January 2024 was submitted for information.

Chair _____