



EXECUTIVE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

2nd December 2014 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillors Mark Townsend (in the Chair), Bea Foster, John Harbour, Tony Harrison and Shah Hussain.

OFFICERS

Steve Rumbelow	-	Chief Executive
Mick Cartledge	-	Director of Community Services
Helen Seechurn	-	Director of Resources
Tom Forshaw	-	Head of Chief Executive's Office
Eric Dickinson	-	Democracy Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Betsy Stringer

50. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Howard Baker.

51. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th October 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

52. Minutes of Individual Decisions

The Minutes of the following individual decisions made since the last meeting were noted;
Minute 9 - Brand Post, RAPP
Minute 10 -Accountancy Division Staffing

53. Declarations of Interest

The Monitoring Officer had granted dispensations from interests under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to the following Councillors to enable them to participate in any discussions and vote;
Councillors Townsend, Foster, Harbour, Harrison and Hussain.

54. Scrutiny Welfare Reform Working Group

Purpose Councillor Betsy Stringer, on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee, presented recommendations to the Executive for consideration as part of the Council's consultation process when determining a Council Tax Support scheme for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Reason for Decision To formalise the outcomes of the review undertaken by the Scrutiny Welfare Reform working group.

Decision That the Executive take account of the findings of the Welfare Reform Scrutiny Committee sub group in conjunction with formal consultation responses when determining a Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

55. Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership

Purpose To approve the Council's approach to strategic and tactical community safety work.

Reason for Decision To ensure that the Council continues to meet its statutory responsibilities in responding to local community safety challenges and priorities.

To reflect ongoing discussions with neighbouring authorities and other Community Safety Partnership (CSP) statutorily responsible authorities to consider an application to the Police and Crime Commissioner to make a Combination Agreement (as ascribed within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998), based on the Pennine Lancashire footprint.

Decision

- (1) That the inclusion of Burnley within the new strategic Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership be approved, subject to the final model being agreed by District Authorities; and
- (2) That the retention of local delivery and operational activities at the district level through the Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) and Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferencing (ASBRAC) groups be approved.

56. Local Plan Timetable

Purpose To request that Members approve an update to the Local Plan timetable to reflect changes in the timescale and the need to update the Statement of Community Involvement.

Reason To ensure that the Council complies with the requirement of the Planning

for and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to have in place an up to date Local
Decision Development Scheme.

Decision That the revised Local Development Scheme and timetable as set out in
Appendix 1 be approved.

57. Regenerate Pennine Lancashire

Purpose To approve changes to the Constitution of Regenerate Pennine
Lancashire.

Reason To provide a more efficient and effective governance arrangement for
for Regenerate Pennine Lancashire.
Decision

Decision That the changes to the Constitution of Regenerate Pennine Lancashire
set out in this report be approved, and that the Chief Executive be
authorised to agree any future changes to the Constitution after
consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic
Development.

58. Council Tax Support Scheme and Council Tax Exemptions

Purpose To present the findings of the Council Tax Support Scheme and Council
Tax Technical Changes consultation and options for moving forward to
enable the Executive to determine a final Council Tax Support scheme
and amended Council Tax charges for empty properties for 2015/16.

Reason **(a) Council Tax Support Scheme**
for
Decision

1. By means testing Council Tax Support, the particular needs and
vulnerabilities of households e.g. the disabled, carers and families
with children will continue to be taken into account through the
existing system of premiums, allowances and income disregards.
This ensures that claimants can have higher levels of weekly
income to support their particular family needs and still be entitled
to Council Tax Support.
2. By applying a 12.5% cut in the first year and 17.5 % cut in the
second year, the Council is managing the need to make savings in
a staged way which manages the transition for claimants and gives
clarity in the medium term about what will need to be paid. This
avoids a sharp increase from 8.5% to 20% similar to that applied by
neighbouring authorities in 2014/15.
3. By applying a percentage cut across all claimant groups of working
age, the Council seeks to ensure a fair and affordable Council Tax
for all, while supporting and encouraging the principle that working
age households in the borough should pay something towards their
Council Tax.
4. Retaining the Exceptional Hardship Scheme provides financial

support to those suffering extreme hardship as a result of the cuts in Council Tax Support.

(b) Technical Changes

1. The change to empty and unoccupied property charges under 6 months encourages property owners to bring properties back into use quickly and creates an incentive to do this by offering a further month at 100% discount.
2. Applying a 25% discount to empty properties undergoing major structural repair continues to create an incentive for property owners to bring properties back into use. It also takes into account negative feedback from landlords about the proposal to remove the discount completely while retaining the opportunity to bring in some additional income from Council Tax in relation to these properties.

Decision

(a) Council Tax Support Scheme

That Full Council be recommended to approve Option 1 and adopt a Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/16 and 2016/17 that:

1. Continues to calculate support using the existing means tested approach;
2. Reduces the final award by 12.5% in the first year and 17.5% in the second year;
3. Supports vulnerable groups;
4. Continues to provide support through its Exceptional Hardship Scheme to protect those in severe financial hardship; and
5. Incentivises work

(b) Technical Changes

That Full Council be recommended to approve Options A and D and adopt technical changes to Council Tax charges for empty properties from 2015/16 that:

1. Applies a 100% discount for two months followed by 0% discount for four months for empty and unoccupied properties under six months; and
2. Applies a 25% discount for 12 months for properties that are empty and undergoing major structural repair;

59. Revenue Budget 2015/16 – Latest Position And Savings Proposals

Purpose To update the Executive on the latest position regarding balancing the Council's 2015/16 revenue budget.

To outline proposed savings for recommendation to Full Council.

An amended Appendix 2 was circulated to Members at the meeting.

Reason for Decision To progress the preparation of the Council's revenue budget and the setting of the Council Tax for 2015/2016.

Decision That Full Council be recommended the following:

- a) That the latest projected 2015/16 budget deficit figure of £305k, as shown in Appendix 1, be approved; and
- (b) That proposed savings totalling £1.512 million and the proposed use of earmarked reserves of £500k to assist in balancing the 2015/16 revenue budget, as shown in the amended Appendix 2, be approved.

60. Fees and Charges 2015/16

Purpose To inform the Executive of the Council's proposed fees and charges from 1st January 2015.

Reason for Decision To set the Council's fees and charges from 1st January 2015 and assist in finalising the 2015/16 budget process.

The recommendations in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report were unnecessary as they are already provided for in Part 3 (Executive) of the Scheme of Delegation.

Decision That Full Council be recommended the following;

- (1) That the proposed tariff of fees & charges from 1st January 2015 as shown in Appendix A attached be approved; and
- (2) That the Head of Finance & Property Management be authorised in consultation with the relevant Head of Service to determine any new charges or changes to existing charges relating to the preparation and approval of the 2015/16 revenue budget.

61. Revenue Monitoring 2014/15 – Cycle 2

Purpose To report the forecast outturn position for the year as at 31st March 2015 based upon actual spending and income to 30th September 2014.

Reason for Decision To give consideration to the level of revenue spending and income in 2014/15 as part of the effective governance of the Council and to ensure that appropriate management action is taken to ensure a balanced financial position.

Decision (1) That the projected revenue budget forecast underspend of £31k be noted(as shown in the overview table in paragraph 6);

- (2) That Full Council be recommended the following:
- (a) That the latest revised budget of £15,701k as shown in Appendix 1 be approved; and
 - (b) That the net transfers to earmarked reserves in the quarter of £806k as shown in Appendix 4 be approved.

62. Capital Monitoring 2014/15 – Cycle 2

- Purpose** To provide Members with an update on capital expenditure and resources position along with highlighting any variances.
- Reason for Decision** To effectively manage the 2014/15 capital programme.
- Decision**
- (1) That Full Council be recommended to approve the revised capital budget for 2014/15 totalling £14,454,525, as shown in Appendix 1;
 - (2) That Full Council be recommended to approve the proposed financing of the revised capital budget totalling £14,454,525 as shown in Appendix 2;
 - (3) That Full Council be recommended to approve the provisional funding of the proposed pedestrianisation scheme from general capital receipts totalling £1.45 million in 2015/16 and 2016/17 be amended so as to be met from prudential borrowing of £1.35 million and general capital receipts of £100k; and
 - (4) That the latest estimated year end position be noted on capital receipts and contributions showing an assumed balance of £2,225,075 at 31st March 2015, as shown in Appendix 3.

63. Executive Member Portfolios Amended 2014/15

- Purpose** To note amendments made by the Leader in October 2014 to the Executive's portfolios.
- Reason for Decision** As required by the strong leader model of governance, the Leader must report to the Executive amendments made by the Leader to the Executive's portfolios.
- Decision** That amendments made in October 2014 by the Leader to the Executive's portfolios be noted.

64. Thanks to the Chief Executive

Councillor Mark Townsend on behalf of the Executive expressed thanks to the Chief Executive, Steve Rumbelow, for the 8 years of service he had given to the Council and the Borough and stated that he had left his mark and provided the Council with a positive direction of travel. He stated that his leaving would be Burnley's loss and Rochdale's gain and wished him the best for the future.

65. Exclusion of the Public

- Purpose** To consider when it may be relevant to exclude the public from the meeting, and clarify the order of the agenda.
- Reason for Decision** Minute Numbers 66 and 67 contain exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- Decision** That the public be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on the items relating to Minutes 65 and 66 since in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, if the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972.

66. Land at Grey Street & Ardwick Street

- Purpose** To approve the grant of a 25 year lease of land for parking at Grey Street/Ardwick Street, Daneshouse, Burnley to the Trustees of the adjoining Mosques.
- Reason for Decision** The letting of the site for parking use would meet the aspirations of the two Mosques concerned for additional community parking helping to alleviate traffic congestion, reduce parking difficulties and improve road safety at busy times. It will also help to promote closer working between the two communities they represent.
- The removal of the site from the Council's ground maintenance programme will enable scarce resources to be directed elsewhere.
- Decision** (1) That the Head of Finance and Property Management be authorised to agree detailed terms for a 25 year lease of land for parking subject to detailed planning/building regulation approval; and
- (2) That the Senior Solicitor in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources, be authorised to take all necessary actions in order to conclude a suitable agreement for the joint development and use of the land by the two Mosques.

67. Workforce Planning

- Purpose** To seek approval to delete a number of posts in the Council's establishment, in order to achieve savings in the Revenue Budget for 2015/16.
- Reason for Decision** To ensure that the Council is placed in the best position to manage the anticipated reduction in core funding that will take place in the next financial year.
- Decision**
- a) That the deletion of 11 posts (9.4 fte) as shown in Appendix 1 be approved;
 - b) That it be noted that 4 notices have been issued to take effect before March 2015, as reported in Appendix 2, approved under delegated authority of the Member for Resources & Performance Management, to contribute towards the saving target for 2015/16;
 - c) That it be noted that other service unit and team restructures have been undertaken and implemented during 2014/15, as shown in Appendix 3, approved either by the Executive or under delegated authority of the Member for Resources & Performance Management, to contribute towards the saving target for 2015/16;
 - d) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and Performance Management to amend the list for those posts dependent on external funding for which confirmation is awaited;
 - e) That the Head of People and Development be authorised to issue redundancy notices to staff occupying posts approved for deletion;
 - f) That it be noted that, as a consequence of these decisions, total revenue savings of £543,000, as identified in this report, will be confirmed in the Revenue Budget for 2015/16 report to Full Council; and
 - g) That it be noted that the cost of redundancy and pension strain is likely to be in the order of £230k to be funded from a forecast in year underspending in 2014/15, with any shortfall being managed through the Transformation Reserve.