

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

## Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### **PRESENT**

#### **COUNCILLOR:**

Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE  
Councillor Mustafa Desai  
Councillor Julie Gunn  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Councillor Phil Riley  
Councillor Damian Talbot  
Councillor Quesir Mahmood

#### **PORTFOLIO:**

Leader of the Council  
Adult Services and Prevention  
Children, Young People and Education  
Environmental Services  
Growth and Development  
Public Health and Wellbeing  
Digital and Customer Services

#### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

Councillor John Slater

#### **NON PORTFOLIO**

Leader of the Conservative Group

#### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Muhammed Bapu

Deputy Youth MP

	Item	Action
1	<b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b>  The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Vicky McGurk, the Youth MP Zara Hyaat and Deputy Youth MP Zainab Dassu.	
2	<b><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></b>  The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 were agreed as a correct record.	<b>Agreed</b>
3	<b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b>  There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.	
4	<b><u>Equality Implications</u></b>  The Chair asked Members to confirm that they had considered and understood any Equality Impact Assessments associated with reports on the agenda ahead of making any decisions.	<b>Confirmed</b>
5	<b><u>Public Forum</u></b>  No questions had been submitted by members of the public.	
6	<b><u>Questions by Non-Executive Members</u></b>  In accordance with Part 4 of the Executive Board Procedure Rules for questions/statements by Non-Executive Members, the following questions/statements had been received, details of which are set out below:-	

	Item	Action
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Name of Non-Executive Member asking the Question	Subject Area	Executive Member and Portfolio
Councillor Jacquie Slater	Summer Fest car parking	Councillor Damian Talbot, Public Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Neil Slater	Local Plan Consultation – radioactive waste West Pennine Ward	Councillor Phil Riley, Growth & Development

Councillor Talbot responded to the question and supplementary question from Councillor Slater, giving details of the arrangements in place, including car parking, park and ride and taxi arrangements.

Councillor Phil Riley gave a detailed response to the question from Councillor Neil Slater, and supplementary arising, outlining the results of a preliminary risk assessment and also that the old mineshaft where there had been historic disposal of radioactive wastes was actually in Hyndburn and over 1km away from the proposed development site.

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### **Youth MPs Update**

The Deputy Youth MPs verbally reported on recent events and activities including :

- Promoting of the importance of vaccination and continuous lateral flow testing, especially for young people returning to educational settings.
- The Youth Elections process would begin on 24<sup>th</sup> January and if re-elected as Youth MP, Muhammed would be focussing on tackling Food Poverty and also focussing on Mental Health of young people.
- Finalising the Young Inspectors Framework and planning the associated residential, which it was hoped would take place in February, with training following in March.

Executive Board Members reflected on the excellent work of the Youth MPs and Youth Forum.

### **Executive Member Reports.**

**Noted**

	Item	Action
	<p><b><u>Leader's Update</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Khan gave a verbal Covid update, referring in particular to the new drive-in testing facility at Ewood Park, which would be on site up to the 22<sup>nd</sup> January.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
<b>8.1</b>	<p><b><u>Local Plan Reg 19 Public Consultation</u></b></p> <p>Members received a report and associated appendices, and were reminded that planning regulations introduced in 2017 required local authorities to review Local Plans at least every five years from the date of their adoption. In response to the new regulations, an assessment of the two adopted local plan documents was undertaken. The Council approved a new Local Development Scheme (LDS) in February 2018 confirming its intention to develop a single new Local Plan.</p> <p>The Council was preparing a new Local Plan for the Borough to cover the period 2021-2037. It would replace the existing two-part Local Plan made up of the Core Strategy (adopted 2011) and Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (adopted 2015). A number of key consultations on the new Local Plan had already taken place.</p> <p>The Council had now prepared its final pre-submission Regulation 19<sup>1</sup> 'Publication' version of the new Local Plan ready for public consultation. Consultation on the 'Publication' version was the final opportunity for people and organisations to comment before submission of the Plan to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for independent Examination in Public.</p> <p>The Council would now undertake a statutory public consultation for a period of six weeks.</p> <p>The Government had urged Councils to continue at pace and have in place an 'up to date' Plan by the end of 2023 or risk intervention. The Council's Local Development Scheme anticipated the new Plan to be adopted by summer 2023.</p> <p>Councillor John Slater advised that he was voting against the recommendations in the report and felt that the consultation period should be postponed for another 6-12 months due to the situation relating to Covid-19.</p> <p>Councillor Phil Riley advised that the Government expected Councils to consult in accordance with set timescales and ultimately if no Local Plan was in place it would mean Government intervention and a lack of control for the Council, so he was not in favour of postponing the consultation.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p>	

	Item	Action
	<p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree that the Regulation 19 'Publication' Local Plan, and its evidence base (including the Climate Impacts Framework) should be approved for consultation; and</li> <li>2. Delegate to the Strategic Director for Place (in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development) any editorial amendments to the Consultation Documents prior to their final publication for consultation.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
8.2	<p><b><u>Development of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/23 (including details of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2022/23)</u></b></p> <p>A report was submitted which provided an update on the development of the Council's budget for 2022/23. In particular, an update was provided on the outcome of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and what this meant for the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> - That the Executive Board:</p> <p>It is recommended that Executive Board:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) note the outcome of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23 as set out in the report;</li> <li>b) note the response to the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23 as set out at Appendix A;</li> <li>c) note that further work is required to determine the estimate of Business Rates Retained for 2022/23 which will reflect the Council's local knowledge/circumstances and that this work has begun following the release of guidance from Government on this matter;</li> <li>d) acknowledge that the estimates of Council Tax income presented in the report are subject to decision by Finance Council on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and are, therefore, indicative at this stage;</li> <li>e) note the updated Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/25 and this will be further updated once decisions on the Council's budget are taken at Finance Council on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
8.3	<p><b><u>Business Rates Covid-19 Discretionary Relief Charges for 2021/22 and 2022/23</u></b></p> <p>Members received a report which advised that since 2019/20 the government has provided significant support via targeted discounts and reliefs to the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality sectors. The budget in October 2021 provided further details of the new measures for 2021/22 and 2022/23.</p> <p>Included in the new measures was a new COVID 19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) for businesses not entitled to previous covid reliefs but who had been adversely affected by the pandemic. For those eligible, this relief would seek to reduce the business rate bills for the 2021/22 financial year.</p>	

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	<p>In addition, the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure discount had been replaced with a discretionary relief for the 2022/23 financial year at the reduced rate of 50%.</p> <p>A further new relief has also been announced that would extend the current transitional relief scheme and the supporting small business scheme for one year to the end of the current revaluation cycle.</p> <p>To ensure that the changes could be implemented quickly, the Government was not changing the legislation governing reliefs, instead the council has been asked to formulate policies from the issued guidance and use its discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended) to grant the reliefs.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED-</b> That the Executive Board:</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ approves the COVID 19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) policy for 2021/22;</li> <li>▪ notes and approves the amendments to the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure relief scheme for businesses for the 2022/23 financial year, and;</li> <li>▪ approves the Extension of Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business Relief policy.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Signed at a meeting of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Board on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>