

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Thursday 11th January 2024

PRESENT

COUNCILLOR:

Councillor Phil Riley
Councillor Julie Gunn
Councillor Mahfooz Hussain
Councillor Damian Talbot
Councillor Quesir Mahmood
Councillor Jackie Floyd
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Vicky McGurk

PORTFOLIO:

Leader of the Council
Children, Young People & Education
Digital & Customer Services
Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing
Growth & Development
Adult Social Care
Environment & Operations
Finance & Governance

EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Councillor John Slater

NON PORTFOLIO

Leader of the Conservative Group

	Item	Action
1	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> The Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Riley, welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from the Youth Forum representatives.	
2	<u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u> The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 th December 2023 were agreed as a correct record.	Agreed
3	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> No Declarations of Interest were received.	
4	<u>Equality Implications</u> 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.	Confirmed
5	<u>Public Forum</u> No questions from members of the public had been received.	
6	<u>Questions by Non-Executive Members</u> No questions from Non-Executive Members had been received.	
7	<u>Youth MPs Update</u> There were no Youth Forum representatives present.	

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8	<p><u>Leader's Update</u></p> <p>Councillor Phil Riley verbally updated the Executive Board on the latest position relating to Devolution in Lancashire, with consultation continuing until the end of January. To date around 1000 responses had been received, and it was anticipated that a report would be submitted to all three Councils in March, with the draft Constitution being submitted around June 2024.</p>	Noted
8.1	<p><u>Schools Capital Programme</u></p> <p>A report was submitted requesting consideration and approval of the capital programme for Schools and Education for the 2023-2024 academic year as detailed within the report.</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <p>1: Approves the attached list of projects as detailed in Appendix 2 for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Schools and Education capital programme funded from School Condition Allocation and Devolved Formula Capital.</p> <p>2: Approves the variations to the 2022/2023 capital programme for schemes across both Audley Infants and Audley Junior Schools and Meadowhead Infants and Junior Schools.</p> <p>3: Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Children's & Education in consultation with the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education to undertake the procurement for the works in accordance with the Contracts & Procurement Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution.</p> <p>4: Subject to (5) below, approves expenditure to be incurred on individual projects, in line with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.</p> <p>5: Agrees that projects proposed to be funded from s106 Agreements will not commence until funding under those agreements has been received by the Council.</p> <p>6: Notes that reports will be provided for the Executive Member detailing any variations/amendments to programmes of work and seeking necessary approvals where these are required to ensure compliance with financial instructions and the Constitution.</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p>

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8.2	<p><u>Sexual Health Strategy 2023-28</u></p> <p>Members received a report which advised that the new sexual health strategy aimed to promote accessible and equitable sexual health services for all individuals in Blackburn with Darwen regardless of race, ethnicity, sexuality or socioeconomic status.</p> <p>The aim was for Blackburn with Darwen to be a place where sexual health and safe healthy relationships could be openly discussed and embraced, creating an environment that encouraged prevention and promoted a culture of care and respect. To achieve this vision, the Council was dedicated to expanding access to testing and treatment services and would reach out further to engage with vulnerable and diverse communities, ensuring that testing services were easily accessible, culturally sensitive, and non-judgmental.</p> <p>Ahead of moving the recommendations in the report, Councillor Damian Talbot moved a minor amendment to the title of the Strategy, to reflect the change of year, namely Sexual Health Strategy 2024- 28.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to the sexual health priorities and objectives contained within this strategy. • Approves the sexual health strategy. 	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>
8.3	<p><u>Purchase of Land and Buildings at Holden Fold for ‘Specialist Affordable Housing Provision’ Purchase of land and buildings at Holden Fold, Darwen</u></p> <p>A report was submitted which outlined the Council’s plan to acquire an industrial site known as ‘Beehive Mill’ on Moor Lane in Darwen with a plan of the site attached at Appendix A. The Beehive Mill site was adjacent to a planned new large housing site at Holden Fold acquired by Countryside Homes, which has secured planning approval for 477 family homes of mixed size and tenure.</p> <p>The purpose of the Council acquisition was to plan and develop much needed specialist housing to complement the adjacent Holden Fold site and provide the Council with quality affordable specialist accommodation with nomination rights managed by a Registered Provider.</p> <p>Following the proposed acquisition by the Council, the site would be immediately leased to Countryside Homes for use as a site compound for 4 years with an option to extend the lease by 1 additional year. As part of the proposed lease obligations,</p>	

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	<p>Countryside Homes would demolish the existing buildings and clear the site ready for future development. The obligation was for Countryside Homes to have completed this activity prior to the expiry of the lease and would therefore in effect hand back a cleared site to the Council ready for development. Following the expiry of the lease, the site would be developed by the Council for specialist housing, details of the scheme and development details would be provided in a future report to the Executive Board.</p> <p>Councillor John Slater voted against the recommendations in the report.</p> <p>RESOLVED-</p> <p>That the Executive Board:</p> <p>1.1 Notes the proposal for the Council to acquire the ‘Beehive Mill’ site, with full vacant possession, with the intention to develop the site for specialist affordable housing.</p> <p>1.2 Grants approval for the purchase of the site for the agreed price outlined in the part 2 report.</p> <p>1.3 Grants approval to use existing funds from the Section 106 Affordable Homes budget to purchase the site. Note the Council has adequate funds to support affordable housing provision.</p> <p>1.4 Authorises the Growth Programme Director to finalise and complete the Heads of Terms for the purchase of the site.</p> <p>1.5 Notes Countryside Homes interest to acquire a strip of land within the site as indicated on the plan attached at Appendix A (land shaded blue) with the purpose to facilitate the construction of two dwellings within their proposed development, subject to planning.</p> <p>1.6 Grants approval for the Council to deal with Countryside Homes as Special Purchaser and agree terms for the disposal of the strip of land at the agreed price outlined in the part 2 report. The capital receipt is to be repaid to the Section 106 Affordable Homes budget.</p> <p>1.7 Authorises the Growth Programme Director in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development to finalise and complete the disposal terms of the strip of land to Countryside Homes.</p> <p>1.8 Authorises the Growth Programme Director in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development to finalise and complete terms to lease the site (Appendix A land edged red) to Countryside Homes for use as a temporary site compound for 4 years (plus 1 year option to extend) with a lease obligation to demolish the buildings and clear the site in lieu of an annual lease payment for the site.</p> <p>1.9 Authorises the Deputy Director of Legal and Governance to complete the necessary legal formalities in the purchase of the site, disposal of the strip of land and granting of the lease.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>

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8.4	<p data-bbox="336 136 1281 241"><u>Development of the General Fund Revenue Budget (including details of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2024/25)</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 282 1246 461">A report was submitted, the purpose of which was to provide an update on the development of the Council's budget for 2024/25. An update was also 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 data-bbox="336 501 1262 573">Councillor John Slater voted against the recommendations in the report.</p> <p data-bbox="336 647 539 680">RESOLVED -</p> <p data-bbox="336 721 930 754">It is recommended that Executive Board:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="376 795 1206 866">a) note the outcome of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/25 as set out in the report; <li data-bbox="376 907 1254 978">b) note the response to the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/25 as set out at Appendix A; <li data-bbox="376 1050 1302 1229">c) note that further work is required to determine the estimate of Business Rates Retained for 2024/25 which will reflect the Council's local knowledge/circumstances and that work has begun following the release of guidance from Government on this matter; <li data-bbox="376 1301 1227 1447">d) acknowledge that the estimates of Council Tax income presented in the report are subject to decision by Finance Council on 26th February 2024 and are, therefore, indicative at this stage; <li data-bbox="376 1518 1273 1624">e) note the updated Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/26 and this will be further updated once decisions on the Council's budget are taken at Finance Council on 26th February 2024. <p data-bbox="336 1771 1227 1843">AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</p>	<p data-bbox="1353 795 1449 828">Noted</p> <p data-bbox="1353 907 1449 940">Noted</p> <p data-bbox="1353 1050 1449 1084">Noted</p> <p data-bbox="1353 1308 1449 1341">Noted</p> <p data-bbox="1353 1491 1449 1525">Noted</p>

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11.1	<p data-bbox="336 136 1289 241"><u>Purchase of Land and Buildings at Holden Fold for ‘Specialist Affordable Housing Provision’ Purchase of land and buildings at Holden Fold. Darwen</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 282 1281 427">Further to the report submitted at Agenda Item 8.3 additional information was submitted for consideration by the Executive Board which was considered commercially sensitive and therefore exempt from publication. The resolutions at 8.3 were unchanged.</p> <p data-bbox="336 468 1262 537">Councillor John Slater voted against the recommendations in the report.</p> <p data-bbox="579 685 1050 721">Signed at a meeting of the Board</p> <p data-bbox="663 759 963 795">on 8th February 2024</p> <p data-bbox="517 904 1110 940">(being the ensuing meeting on the Board)</p> <p data-bbox="403 978 1225 1014">Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed</p>	<p data-bbox="1337 282 1489 318">Approved</p>