

## Cabinet Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Wednesday, 14 February 2024 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-Le-Fylde.

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**Cabinet members present:**

Councillors Vincent, Berry, McKay, Bowen, Bridge and Le Marinel

**Other councillors present:**

Councillor Duffy

**Officers present:**

Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive

Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment

Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities

Clare James, Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer

Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager (Temporary)

Three members of the public attended the meeting.

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**CAB.33    Declarations of interest**

None.

**CAB.34    Confirmation of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 10 January 2024 were **confirmed** as a correct record by those who were in attendance.

**CAB.35    Public questions**

None.

**CAB.36    Proposal to develop a Wyre and Fylde Building Control Shared Service**

The Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Communities submitted a report seeking the commencement of work on developing a shared building control service between Wyre Borough Council and Fylde Borough Council.

Councillor Le Marinel, Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio

Holder introduced his report.

#### Decision

Cabinet **agreed** to commence work on developing the shared service proposals as outlined in this report and delegate the Corporate Director Communities to undertake the work with Fylde Borough Council to achieve this.

#### **CAB.37 Update on the future operation of the Council's theatres - Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre**

The Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder, Resources Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Communities submitted a report to provide Cabinet with an update on the progress that has been made to secure a brighter, sustainable future for the council's theatres, namely Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre (TLT). The report also provided an update on the outcome of the Fleetwood seafront public consultation that was undertaken in late 2023.

The Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder introduced the report and discussed its key points. Councillor McKay expressed her support for the recommendations.

Councillor Vincent responded to questions from Councillor Duffy. These covered the following issues:

- The call-in process for future decisions following the formal tender process.
- The responsibility for the maintenance of the Marine Hall following a building survey report.
- The next steps if the council was unable to secure a suitable commercial operator for the Marine Hall.

In response to the last question, Councillor Vincent expressed that there were no plans for the council to close the facility if the tender process was unable to find a bidder.

Councillor Vincent welcomed the progress made towards ensuring a better service in the future. He supported the recommendations outlined in the report.

#### Decisions

The Cabinet **agreed**:

- To note the outcome of the public consultation.
- To appoint a theatres consultant to support the Corporate Director Communities to implement the short-term recommendations as set out at 5.5, at a cost of £30,000 to be funded from the Value for Money Reserve.

- To support the preferred option as set out at 5.8 and that approval is given to proceed with a tender process to secure a commercial operator for the management of the Marine Hall for a minimum of five years. The outcome of the tender process to be the subject of a further report.
- That, in consultation with the Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder and the Resources Portfolio Holder, to authorise the Corporate Director Communities to enter into a lease for Thornton Little Theatre.

**CAB.38 Treasury Management Policy Statement and Practices, Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Capital Strategy 2024/25**

The Resources Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Resources submitted a report to set out the policies and objectives of the council in respect of Treasury Management activities, to explain how the council seeks to achieve the objectives and manage and control the activities for 2024/25 which includes the Capital Strategy.

Councillor McKay, the Resources Portfolio Holder, introduced her report.

Decisions

The Cabinet **agreed**:

- To recommend to Council that the Treasury Management Policy Statement 2024/25 be approved and formally adopted. (Appendix 1).
- To approve the revised Treasury Management Practices 2024/25 (Appendix 2).
- To recommend to Council that the Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25 (Appendix 3) be approved.
- To recommend to Council that the MRP Policy Statement 2024/25 (Appendix 4) be approved and formally adopted.
- To recommend to Council that the Capital Strategy 2024/25 (Appendix 5) be approved.

**CAB.39 Revenue Budget, Council Tax and Capital Estimates**

The Resources Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Resources submitted a report seeking confirmation of the Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Revised Capital Budget 2023/24 and Capital Programme 2024/25 onwards.

Councillor McKay, the Resources Portfolio Holder, introduced the report.

## Decisions

### Cabinet **agreed**:

1. That the following be approved and recommended to Council for their approval:
  - a) For the purpose of proposing an indicative Council Tax for 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 taking into account the Medium Term Financial Plan at Appendix 2 which reflects an increase of 2.99% for 2024/25 and ongoing.
  - b) The Revised Revenue Budget for the year 2023/24 resulting in a draw down from General Balances totalling £5,950 and the Revenue Budget for 2024/25 resulting in a draw down from General Balances totalling £695,000.
  - c) Members' continuing commitment to the approach being taken regarding the efficiency savings, detailed within the council's 'Annual Efficiency Statement' at Appendix 1.
  - d) The use of all other Reserves and Balances as indicated in Appendices 4 and 5.
  - e) In accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code for Finance, those indicators included at Appendix 7.
  - f) The Revised Capital Budget for 2023/24 and the Capital Programme for 2024/25 onwards in Appendix 8.
2. That it be noted that, in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation agreed by Council at their meeting on 24 February 2005:
  - a) The amount of 39,138.48 has been calculated as the 2024/25 Council Tax Base for the whole area [(Item T in the formula in Section 3 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]
  - b) A Council Tax Base, for dwellings in those parts of its area to which the Parish precept relates, has been calculated as indicated in Appendix 6.
3. That the following be approved and recommended to Council for their approval:

The Council Tax requirement for the council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish precepts) is £8,857,429.

4. That the following be approved and recommended to Council for their approval:

That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-

<b>a) £88,351,610</b>	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the council
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	estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act, taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
<b>b) £78,490,780</b>	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
<b>c) £9,863,830</b>	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3.4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3.4(b) above, calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
<b>d) £252.02</b>	Being the amount at 3.4(c) above (Item R) all divided by Item T (3.2(a) above), calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
<b>e) £1,003,401</b>	Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act and as detailed in Appendix 6.
<b>f) £226.31</b>	Being the amount at 3.4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3.4(e) above by Item T (3.2(a) above), calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

5. That it be noted that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 considered excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 135 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 6.14 pm.

**Date of Publication:** 16 February 2024.

#### **Options considered but rejected**

Any alternative options that were considered but rejected, in addition to the reasons for the recommendations that were made, are included in the full reports.

#### **When will these decisions be implemented?**

All decisions will be put into effect five working days from the date of publication, unless a decision is "called-in" by any four members of the council within that period.