COUNCIL

Thursday, 25th February, 2021

This was a virtual meeting held using MS Teams and streamed live on You Tube

Present: Councillor June Harrison (Mayor), Councillors Judith Addison, Josh Allen, Mohammad Ayub, Noordad Aziz, Jean Battle MBE, Sara Britcliffe MP, Stephen Button, Andrew Clegg, Loraine Cox, Paul Cox, Munsif Dad BEM JP, Stewart Eaves, Diane Fielding, Melissa Fisher, Glen Harrison, Marlene Haworth, Eamonn Higgins, Terry Hurn, Abdul Khan, Chris Knight, Patrick McGinley, Michael Miller, Jenny Molineux, Tim O’Kane, Dave Parkins, Bernadette Parkinson, Miles Parkinson OBE, Joyce Plummer, Kath Pratt, Jeff Scales, Paddy Short and Kate Walsh

The Mayor welcomed everybody to the fourth virtual meeting of the Council.

The Executive Director Legal and Democratic Services carried out a roll call of those present. All councillors introduced themselves and identified the ward that they served. (Attendance is recorded above).

145 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence submitted, as all Members were present.

146 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 6 (Prudential Indicators Monitoring and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy), 7 (Medium Term Financial Strategy) and 8 (General Revenue Budget, Council Tax Levels and Capital Programme) in view of his position as a member of the Board of Hyndburn Leisure Trust.

Councillor Josh Allen declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Part (b) of Agenda Item 8 (Capital Programme), in view of his employment connections with both the Town Hall and Market Hall in Accrington.

Councillor Allen also took the opportunity to thank Members for their condolences expressed following the passing of his mother, Lisa, just before Christmas.

There were no dispensations notified.

147 Announcements

The Mayor announced that since the last Council meeting, infection rates and hospital admissions, thankfully, had started to fall and the Prime Minister had announced his roadmap to a gradual relaxation of lockdown restrictions.
In the meantime, she urged residents, when they received an invitation to take up the vaccine, to play their part, both for their own health and for the safety of others.

The Mayor confirmed that she had already received her first dose of vaccine. She reiterated that there was nothing to fear, but that if residents were unsure then they should speak to their GP.

1) **Sad News**

The Mayor extended her sincere condolences to Councillor Marlene Haworth on the loss, earlier this week, of her son, Dale.

It was acknowledged that Councillor Haworth had very bravely decided to attend tonight’s meeting, at this most difficult time. The Mayor offered up the thoughts and prayers of the whole Council at this very sad time.

2) **Donation to the Mayor’s Charity**

The Mayor thanked the family of (former councillor) Lisa Allen for their kind donation to the Mayor’s Charity following Lisa’s passing on Christmas Eve. The gift would go to help numerous residents in need, as the Mayor’s charity this year supported the Hyndburn Hub.

3) **Thank You to Key Workers**

The Mayor again offered her thanks to Council staff, volunteers, NHS, social care and other key workers, who had laboured so hard to keep the wheels turning throughout the pandemic and who would continue to do so as the Borough started to get back onto its feet.

Special thanks was added in respect of all those who were helping to roll out the vaccines that were society’s route to recovery.

4) **Accrington Pals Memorial Service**

The Mayor remarked that the Accrington Pals Memorial Service had taken place at 3.00pm last Sunday 21 February, at St John the Evangelist Church, Accrington. A socially distanced event had been held to commemorate the valedictory service held on the same date in 1915, just before the Pals had gone away to train for war.

This year, the Mayor and Mayoress had chosen to pay their respects by watching the service on-line, to allow for smaller numbers to attend in a COVID secure manner.

5) **Condolences**

Councillor Miles Parkinson OBE, the Leader of the Council, added his personal condolences and those of his wife, Councillor Bernadette Parkinson, to Councillor Haworth on the loss of her son. He noted that this had been a difficult 12 months for her, as this had not been the first family bereavement in her family and had also seen the loss of the Conservative Group Leader, Councillor Tony Dobson. Throughout this period Councillor Haworth had continued to work constructively with the Leader on areas of mutual interest concerning the Borough.

6) **Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria**

The Leader of the Council reported that the Council was currently being consulted about local government reorganisation in Cumbria. Hyndburn did not intend to submit a formal
response, believing that it was a matter for the people of Cumbria themselves to determine their own future.

7) **Freedom of Information Request**

The Leader of the Council reported that the Council had received a Freedom of Information request from Mr Graham Jones, which in the light of Mr Jones’ declared intention to stand as a parliamentary candidate, was considered to be of such significance as to warrant a reply in the public domain at this Council meeting. The request for information related to monies paid from Council accounts to Labour councillors and former Labour councillors and queried whether considerable sums had been paid to those councillors and former councillors. Three tranches of funding were queried, namely for the holiday period last December, sometime earlier in 2020 and for this December’s holiday period, totalling some £21k. The request asked for a list of the sums paid, dates and details of the amounts to individual recipients covering the period 2015 - 2020.

The Leader indicated that, in 2011, the Council had implemented a system of publishing all expenditure over £250 on-line. Any amount over £250 during the period 2015 - 2020 had been, or would be published in accordance with that system. The Council had brought in the publication system earlier than the Government’s regulatory requirements dating from 2014 and Hyndburn included all figures above £250, rather than the required minimum figure of £500. Accordingly, Hyndburn was an early adopter and went further than the Government’s requirements.

All Councillors’ expenses claims were made via the formal Members Allowances Scheme and were published annually. In addition, the Council had implemented a loan scheme to help councillors with the purchase of essential IT equipment, which ultimately saved the Council a substantial amount of money.

Accordingly, for the period 2015 - 2020 all councillors’ allowance claims and all expenditure above £250 had been, or would be published.

8) **Bereavement**

Councillor Sara Britcliffe MP offered her condolences to the family and friends of Rachael McClure, following her recent death. Rachael was well known within the community and for her work at Garland’s Florists in Oswaldtwistle.

148 **Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th January 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Councillor Noordad Aziz referred to the Skipton to Colne Rail Link motion which had been passed unanimously at the last Council meeting. He expressed disappointment that, subsequently, some councillors had derided the idea on social media, as not being Hyndburn related. However, good transport links did affect the Borough by encouraging inward mobility and investment.

The Government had recently announced up to £794M investment in rail infrastructure projects, but around £760M had been earmarked for the Oxford to Cambridge Link (East West Rail), leaving only £34M for the Northumberland Line and nothing for the North West. In addition, Transport for the North (TfN) was due to have its budget cut by around 40%. This did not seem to fit in with the Government’s ‘Levelling Up’ agenda.
Resolved - That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th January 2021 be approved as a correct record.

149 Prudential Indicators Monitoring and Treasury Management Strategy Update

Councillor Joyce Plummer, Portfolio Holder Resources, provided a report to update the Council on activities around Prudential Indicators Monitoring and the Treasury Management Strategy since the start of the financial year. The report had already been provided to the Council’s Corporate Management Team and approved by the Cabinet on 13th January 2021.

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities required the Council to set Prudential Indicators annually for the forthcoming three years to demonstrate that the Council’s capital investment plans were affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Council had adopted its current prudential indicators at its meeting in February 2020.

The Prudential Code required the Council, having agreed at least a minimum number of mandatory prudential indicators (including limits and statements), to monitor them - in a locally determined format and frequency. This half-year report to Cabinet complemented a more regular review by the Deputy Chief Executive.

The indicators were purely for internal use and were not designed to be used as comparators between authorities. If it should be necessary to revise any of the indicators during the year, the Deputy Chief Executive would report and advise the Council further.

‘Treasury Management’ related to the borrowing and cash activities of the authority, and the effective management of any associated risks. On 27th February 2020 in the same report referred to above, the Council had also set out and then approved its current Treasury Management Strategy. This was in accordance with the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy) Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Public Services, the Council having previously adopted, via Cabinet, the then revised code of practice. Associated treasury management prudential indicators had been included in the February 2020 report.

The current report included details of the prudential indicators used and further commentary on the treasury position and predictions around interest rates.

Resolved - That Council notes the update report on Prudential Indicators Monitoring and the Treasury Management Strategy.

150 Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management & Investment Strategy 2021/22 - 2023/24

Councillor Joyce Plummer, Portfolio Holder for Resources, provided a report setting out the Council’s policy and objectives with respect to treasury management, to explain how it would achieve its objectives and manage its activities; and to agree an investment strategy for 2021/22. The report had already been considered and its recommendations approved by the Cabinet on 10th February 2021.

Treasury management was defined as:-

- The management of the Council’s investment and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions;
The effective control of the risks associated with these activities, and;

The pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

The Council was required to operate a balanced budget which meant that cash raised during the year would meet cash expenditure. Part of treasury management was to ensure the cash flow was properly planned, with cash available when needed. Surplus monies were invested in line with the Council’s low risk preferences.

The second function of treasury management was funding the Council’s capital plans. The plans gave a guide to the future borrowing need of the Council. The management of this longer term cash flow might involve arranging long or short term loans or using longer term cash flow surpluses. Occasionally outstanding debt might be restructured to reduce Council risk or meet cost objectives.

The report had been prepared in line with the Treasury Management Code and Guidance (2017) written by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA). In the case of local authorities in England and Wales, the Code was significant under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003. This required local authorities 'to have regard (a) to such guidance as the Secretary of State may issue, and (b) to such other guidance as the Secretary of State may by regulations specify’. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 in paragraph 24 required local authorities to have regard to this guidance. Acceptance of this report fulfilled those obligations.

The report included detailed information on the following matters:-

- The Prudential Code and Prudential Indicators;
- Capital expenditure and the capital financing requirement;
- Minimum Revenue Position (MRP);
- Affordability prudent indicators;
- Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 - 2023/24;
- External debt overall limits;
- External v internal borrowing;
- Limits on activity;
- Debt rescheduling;
- Investment Strategy;
- Treasury Management Practices (TMP);
- Policy on the use of external service providers; and
- Treasury Management Strategy in-year and year-end reporting.

Resolved - That the Council agrees the recommendations of Cabinet to:-

(1) adopt the Prudential Indicators and limits detailed in the report;

(2) approve the Treasury Management Strategy, and associated indicators, as set out in section 8 of the report;

(3) approve the Investment Strategy as set out in section 13 of the report;
approve that the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the year 2021/22 – Appendix 1;

approve the Treasury Management Policy Statement 2021/22 – Appendix 2;

approve the Treasury Management Practices Statement 2021/22 – Appendix 3; and

approve the Capital Strategy 2021/22 – Appendix 4.

Medium Term Financial Strategy - 2021/22 to 2023/24

Councillor Joyce Plummer, Portfolio Holder for Resources, provided a report setting out the 3-year projections of income and spending for the Council ahead of formulating its 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Budgets. The report had already been considered and approved by the Cabinet on 10th February 2021.

The Cabinet had considered an update on its medium term financial outlook ahead of making recommendations on the setting of the Budget for 2021/22 and determining the level of Council Tax for the new financial year. This report ensured that those decisions were taken with a view to the overall position of the Council going forward and were not limited to a narrow one year perspective.

The substantive report included the following summary:-

The Council’s activities and finances had been dominated this year by the impact of COVID-19 and it was expected that COVID-19 and its consequences would continue to have a major impact on the Council’s finances for at least the next financial year as a minimum, with the potential for the effects to continue much longer.

In response to the great uncertainty the Council faced, it would operate a roll forward Budget for 2021/22 based on the 2020/21 Budget. This provided Service Managers a fixed reference point from which to continue to respond to the crisis and allowed a degree of stability for one year while the authority recovered from the most significant challenge it had ever faced. To achieve a balanced Budget during the year the Council would need to generate £116,000 of internal savings during the year. As with previous years, the Government was encouraging Councils to increase Council Tax by up to a maximum of 2%. It was proposed that the Council follow this direction. Overall expenditure would be contained at 2020/21 levels of £11,227,000.

Over the next two years, the Council would face significant financial challenges as it overcame the consequences of COVID-19 and addressed the impact of proposed Government funding reforms and increased pressures on its spending. As the extent of the Government financial reforms was unclear at this time and was unlikely to emerge until December 2021, this produced great uncertainty and potentially significant variance around the forecasts contained in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). From what had been indicated previously, the most likely outcome was the loss of all the Council’s current Revenue Support Grant (RSG) either immediately or over a couple of years and a reduction in the amount of Business Grant income the authority was allowed to retain, though this might be offset by growth in the local economy.
The extent of the reductions in funding was largely dependent on global and UK economic performance and due to the wide degree of potential outcomes that currently existed, it was not possible to make rigorous predictions. A range of possible occurrences had been considered from those in which the Council did well financially (Optimistic Scenario - Appendix 3) and those in which the Council would experience deep reductions in its revenue and escalating costs in its expenditure, placing the Council under severe financial strain (Pessimistic Scenario - Appendix 2).

COVID-19 had added a significant additional challenge to the Council's medium term financial position which had already been under considerable pressure from the Government’s proposals to remove RSG and redistribute other funding by altering the mechanism for dividing the amount available via a different pattern of allocations. In these circumstances it was prudent for the Council to look to increase its Reserves and revenue streams such as Council Tax and Business Rates whenever it could and to avoid committing to any new revenue expenditure while continuing to concentrate on its work to reduce internal costs. However, dealing with COVID-19 was likely to cause at least an initial reduction in Council Tax and Business Rates income and the need to use Reserves to finance unexpected additional costs and the loss of income.

Detailed information was provided in the report on the following matters:

- Objectives;
- Elements of the MTFS;
- Service Planning to support overall strategy;
- Integrated resource planning with services;
- Background information;
- Financial analysis 2021/22 to 2023/24 (resources; Government grant; business rates; Council Tax; expected loss of income; and changes in costs)
- Growth;
- Reserves;
- Other assumptions;
- Equality Impact Assessment;
- Scenarios;
- Robustness of forecast; and
- Overall net position.

Resolved - That Council notes the report and the accompanying Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as approved by the Cabinet.

Councillor Josh Allen, having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the following matter left the meeting and did not take part in the debate or vote.

152 General Revenue Budget, Council Tax Levels and Capital Programme 2021/22

The Mayor introduced this item and sought the approval of Council to the Budget Procedure to be followed at the meeting, which involved changes to the usual Council Procedure Rules and Remote Meetings Procedure Rules. There were no comments raised on the proposed order of debate and, accordingly, this was adopted.

The Leader of the Council provided a brief introduction to the proposed Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax Levels for 2020/21. Proposals for the 2020/21 General
Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme had been put forward at Cabinet on the 10th February 2020 and had been recommended to Council for approval. The proposals had also been submitted to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18th February 2021 and a number of questions and ideas had been raised.

The following reports were provided:-

a) General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22

The report included proposals as presented to and approved by the Cabinet on 10th February 2021. The recommendations agreed by Cabinet were as follows:-

“(1) That Cabinet proposes to Council an increase in Council Tax for 2021/22 of £5.01 per year for a Band D property. This is equivalent to less than 10 pence per week. As most households in Hyndburn are Band A rather than Band D properties, the vast majority of households will only see a rise of less than 7p per week. This is only the fifth increase in Council Tax by Hyndburn Council in 12 years.

(2) The Budget for 2021/22 will therefore be £11,227,000, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2.

(3) That Cabinet recommends approval of the savings approach outlined for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 3, to ensure the Council has a balanced budget.

(4) That Cabinet notes the significant improvement made in relation to budget monitoring and cost reduction within the Authority over the past 17 years and confirms its commitment to continuing this approach in the year ahead.

(5) That Cabinet recommends during the financial year 2021/22, the Deputy Chief Executive be delegated responsibility to amend the Budget (following consultation with the Leader of the Council) for technical reasons, such as the restructuring of cost centres, the re-apportionment and re-allocation of overheads etc., provided such amendments have an overall neutral impact on the Budget.

(6) That Cabinet recommends during the financial year 2021/22, the Deputy Chief Executive be delegated responsibility to amend the Budget (following consultation with the Leader of the Council) should the estimate of Business Rates not be sufficiently accurate, by drawing on reserves if needed or paying over additional contributions to reserves.

(7) That to aid future financial management planning any surpluses generated during 2021/22 are set aside to help the Council reduce its cost base over the next three years, to support its long term capital programme or to strengthen its overall reserve position.

(8) That Cabinet recommends that the Lower Tier Service Grant and Council Tax Grant are used to help balance the Council’s Budget and that the COVID-19 2021/22 Grant is ringfenced to meet the additional costs of the operation of Hyndburn Hub, track and trace work and enforcement work related to COVID-19, to help offset the continued loss of income to the Council as a result of COVID-19, to help meet all other additional costs incurred as a result of COVID-19 such as PPE and provide additional assistance to Hyndburn Leisure while they recover from the financial impact of lost activity resulting from the pandemic.
(9) That Cabinet recommends that the New Homes Bonus and any additional funds from Government that are not ring-fenced funding as well as any other surplus funds can be used if required to support capital expenditure as determined by the Deputy Chief Executive in the overall financing of capital expenditure or be transferred to Reserves."

b) General Fund Capital Programme 2021/22

The report included proposals as presented to and approved by the Cabinet on 10th February 2021. The recommendations agreed by Cabinet were as follows:-

“The Cabinet recommends to Council:-

(1) A Capital Programme for 2021/22 of £2,314,511 as set out in Appendix 1.

(2) That the programme is funded by new anticipated direct external grants of £995,897 and £1,318,618 of new investment from the Council’s resources. External grant funding must be secured before any internal funds are committed to projects that rely on external funding to proceed.

(3) That delegated authority is given to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources to flex the programme in accordance with the available funding, provided this does not require any additional borrowing.

(4) That the individual projects within the Capital Programme require the written authorisation of the Deputy Chief Executive following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources before commencing and incurring expenditure and that Service Managers provide the Deputy Chief Executive, with written details of estimated costs of schemes with full justification of the need and benefits from undertaking the capital investments before approval is provided and that approval to commence is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

(5) That Projects are timed to minimise the need for borrowing and the Deputy Chief Executive be requested to seek project start dates after September 2021 whenever this is practical.

(6) That in-year underspends are not made available to fund new projects during the year.”

c) Comments and Recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny

The following recommendations of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18th February 2021, were provided:-

“That Council notes the following resolutions of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

(1) That the Committee notes the content of the reports relating to: Performance Indicators, Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2021/22 – 2023/24, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 – 2023/24, General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 and General Fund Capital Budget 2021/22;
(2) That the Committee thanks the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Leader of the Opposition for their participation in the Scrutiny meeting and debate;

(3) That the Deputy Chief Executive, and all other officers involved, be commended for their work in producing the budget.

(4) That having reviewed and debated the budget submitted, the Committee supports the content of the revenue and capital budget reports as outlined.”

The Chair of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Paddy Short, indicated that, at the annual Budget Overview and Scrutiny meeting, the Committee had reviewed the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals submitted by the Leader of the Council. No alternative budgets had been proposed.

The budget proposals submitted had been reviewed and discussed in depth by the Committee, and the above recommendations were submitted to Council:

The Leader responded by thanking the Committee and its Chair for the important role that they played in adding critical challenge to the Budget process. Their scrutiny provided an essential part of the process by ensuring transparency and openness. He was happy to endorse the recommendations of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A MOTION was proposed by Councillor Miles Parkinson and seconded by Councillor Joyce Plummer, as follows:-

“1. That Council agree the acceptance and adoption of the Cabinet’s recommendations on the Revenue and Capital Budgets and Prudential Indicators & Treasury Management Report for 2021/22 to 2023/24 made at the Cabinet meeting on 10th February 2021 (a copy of the reports and recommendations have been supplied with the Agenda for today’s meeting),

2. That Council Tax for Hyndburn Borough Council is increased by £5.01 to £255.53 for the year for a Band D property. This is equivalent to a 10p per week increase for a Band D property but most households in Hyndburn will see an annual increase of £3.34 as they live in Band A properties. The weekly increase here will be 7p.

3. That the Council commits to continuing to strengthen its Reserves during the year and requires the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive to take appropriate action to protect the Council’s overall financial position and further strengthen its Reserves during the forthcoming year.

4. That the Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive to take such action as he considers necessary to implement the measures contained in this budget.

5. That it be noted that on 13th January 2021 the Council at its Cabinet calculated:

the Council Tax Base 2021/22 for the whole Council area as 20,239 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)) and,

for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as 304.
6. That Council agrees that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purpose for 2021/22 (excluding Parish precepts) is £5,171,671.

7. That Council agrees that the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

   a) £53,083,925 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council 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) £47,900,011 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

   c) £5,183,914 being the amount by which the aggregate at 7(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 7(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 31A(4) of the Act).

   d) £256.14 being the amount at 7(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (5 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

   e) £12,242 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B).

   f) £255.53 being the amount at 7(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 7(e) above by Item T (5 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.

8. That Council note that the County Council, the Lancashire Police & Crime Commissioner and the Lancashire Combined Fire & Rescue Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

9. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

   **Band D Council Tax Rates for Each Preceptor**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020/21</th>
<th>2021/22</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyndburn Borough Council</td>
<td>250.52</td>
<td>255.53</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire County Council</td>
<td>1,400.32</td>
<td>1,456.19</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire Police &amp; Crime</td>
<td>211.45</td>
<td>226.45</td>
<td>7.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire Combined Fire</td>
<td>70.86</td>
<td>72.27</td>
<td>1.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Total</td>
<td>1,933.15</td>
<td>2,010.44</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altham Parish Council</td>
<td>40.27</td>
<td>40.27</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,973.42</td>
<td>2,050.71</td>
<td>3.92%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

10. That the Council note the basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 is not considered excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52 ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

11. That the Deputy Chief Executive, is given delegated authority to amend the budget (following consultation with the Leader of the Council) for technical reasons or to comply with legal requirements, such as the restructuring of cost centres, the re-apportionment and re-allocation of overheads etc., so long as these changes have an overall neutral impact on the budget.

12. That any continuing balances on Revenue or Capital previously earmarked for Area Councils continues to be set aside for use by these or their successor bodies.

13. That the Chief Executive is given delegated authority to use any unallocated surplus generated in 2020/21 should this occur to fund any future shortfall in income or additional expenditure, to support “Invest to Save” projects that will help reduce the Council’s long term costs (including additional payments to the Pension Fund as outlined below), or support specific capital projects, or finance other commitments that he deems to be in the best long term interest of the Council or to transfer funds to Reserves as required and to allocate funds between Reserves should an overspend occur in 2020/21 to maintain the General Fund Reserve at that appropriate level as advised by the Deputy Chief Executive.

14. That the Chief Executive is given delegated authority following consultation with the Leader to make a payment or payments to the Lancashire Pension Authority to help reduce the extent of the Council’s pension liabilities that have amassed from previous years, if this is calculated to be an appropriate use of Council Funds (The liability stood at £31.9m as at the 31st March 2020).

15. That the Council approve a Budget adjustment for the financial year 2020/21 to allow an additional grant of up to £900,000 to be made to Hyndburn Leisure and allow for a similar grant of up to £500,000 to be made for 2021/22 financial year. The grant to be paid on production of the necessary supporting financial information from Hyndburn Leisure and the Deputy Chief Executive validates the request as necessary.
to maintain the financial stability of Hyndburn Leisure and the additional funding requested is linked to the impact of COVID 19 and its on-going consequences on Hyndburn Leisure. (The intention is only to pay what is required by Hyndburn Leisure up to the maximum amount authorised and not the full amount unless it is required.) The amount paid to be funded from a mixture of in-year savings if any are generated, additional government grant received, and the use of reserves where necessary.

The Leader spoke on the Motion as follows:-

The previous Budget for 2020/21 had been set before COVID-19. So many families had been adversely affected, including Members of the Council present tonight. The thoughts and condolences of the Council were with all those people missing loved ones.

The Council wished to thank voluntary groups, the NHS and other frontline workers caring for the community, as well as Hyndburn Borough Council staff. In particular, Council staff had been required to carry out Infection Control, continue to provide Waste Services, operate its Call Centre, deliver Finance, Revenues and Benefits Services and set up the Hyndburn Hub. Some £37M had been provided in Business Support Grants. In April last year, the Council had been recognised nationally for its speed of delivery of the Business Support Grants. Additional Government funding of £1.5M had been received by the Council, including around £120k Emergency Assistance Grant and £490k from the Community Champions Fund.

There was likely to be an overspend on the 2020/21 Budget, which would be the first time in 18 years. The anticipated overspend had already fallen from £919k at the start of the Budget process, to around £392k now, and further savings would continue to be made going forward. Expenditure on COVID-19 was the only reason for the overspend. But for that, the 2020/21 Budget would have been underspent. The level of overspend could fall further due to applications made for grants for Hyndburn Leisure Trust, which had suffered large losses due to COVID-19. If this grant was forthcoming it would lower the amount set aside to meet those losses. However, any shortfall could be met due to strong financial management over the preceding years.

The outlook was challenging, as the uncertainty around COVID-19 in 2020/21 would dominate 2021/22. The future was hard to predict, including the impact of the Government’s Fair Funding Review. A loss of £1.5M Revenue Support Grant (RSG) was possible and the arrangements for Business Rate Retention were also changing. The changes would create particular challenges in 2022/23 with £2M savings required. However, in 2023/24 only a small level of savings would be needed. Thereafter, the Council ought to be largely self-sufficient.

Accordingly, revenue growth was needed and the best case scenario envisaged stable Council Tax and Business Rates income. However, if the income streams flat-lined (the worst case scenario) savings pressures of up to £3M in 2022/23 and £1.25M in the following year could be required. The best case scenario envisaged Council Tax growth and some RSG provided by the Government, or other grants, leading to a surplus. The range between the pessimistic and optimistic scenarios was £5.4M. Forecasts would become more reliable with the progression of time and the Government’s financial settlement announcement expected in December 2021 would help to provide further certainty.

The Council’s Revenue Budget for 2021/22 would be set at the same level as present, at £11.27M. This was against a background of Council Tax revenue falling and more residents accessing Council Tax Support Allowance, but which would be offset by a one-off grant from the Government and a 2% Council Tax increase. Notwithstanding the above,
the proposed increase would amount to only £5.01 per week for a Band D property and with most properties being in Band A, this would be £3.34 annually, or less than 7p per week. Business Rates income was likely to be around the same as last year. The RSG had not ended this year, as previously expected, so an additional £1.5M remained available which would also help.

The Government had also promised funding for lost income due to COVID-19 with an initial grant of £592k for 2021/22. This sum had seemed sufficient when announced in December 2020, but with the resurgence of the virus, this was now in doubt. Decisions on how the additional money would be allocated would be taken in March/April 2021, but this was likely to be earmarked for the Hyndburn Hub, Track and Trace, enforcement and Hyndburn Leisure’s recovery.

2021/22, was looking to be a tough year. The Government might not meet all of the additional costs and it was still possible that the Budget might be overspent, but there was a degree of confidence that the Council could manage.

Against this backdrop there would be a programme of major delivery areas in 2021/22 which would provide a major boost for Hyndburn, including the following:-

- Local Plan – the Council’s vision to drive growth and prosperity through sustainable employment, housing development and population growth;
- 4,320 new homes planned – around 260 per year over the lifespan of the Plan;
- M65 Junction 6 – Final phase of employment development at Frontier Park (including logistics and manufacturing sites and a hotel, banqueting and conference centre);
- M65 Junction 8 – Huncoat Garden Village Masterplan (2,000 homes over 10-15 years, close to the countryside and motorway/rail access);
- Accrington Town Centre – New Town Centre Plan, including population growth, restoration of heritage buildings, links to industrial heritage and arts, public realm, independent shopping and transport access;
- Improvements to road and rail connections to Yorkshire and a Strategic Rail Freight Terminal at the former Huncoat Power Station sidings;
- Access to the Levelling Up Fund and other national funding, comprising:-
  - £4Bn for economic recovery and local infrastructure;
  - £7.1Bn through the National Homebuilding Fund for housing growth;
  - £220M through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for skills, transport and employment;
- A list of various schemes totalling £1.095M via Lancashire Business Recovery Fund and £600k matched funding from the Council, comprising:-
  - Altham Business Park Masterplan;
  - Altham Business Park Canal Accessibility Scheme
  - Whitebirk Business Area and Canal Accessibility Scheme
  - Accrington Town Centre Parking Initiative;
  - Accrington Town Centre Gateway Initiative;
  - Huncoat Garden Village Junction Improvements
  - Huncoat Railway Station Parking Scheme;
- £150k earmarked for engagement with stakeholders about business recovery;
- Consideration of the creation of a single point of contact Economic Development Unit
- Borough-wide place-based recovery strategy for the town centre of £150k to utilise external expert support. The creation of a High Street Task Force, starting in
Accrington, but rolling out to Oswaldtwistle, Great Harwood and Rishton, as the Borough’s main shopping high streets;

- Transformative investment into Hyndburn Leisure Trust around being Healthy in Hyndburn comprising £10M upgrades, refurbishments and new provisions and a consultation around the repurposing of Mercer Hall;

- Implementation of the £2M decarbonisation scheme agreed recently under emergency powers to meet the deadline. This included a focus on Hyndburn Leisure Trust, including a capital grant of £850k to replace a boiler with air-flow energy pumps and additional contributions in 2022/23 taking the total investment to £1M.

- Further investment in the Leisure Trust, notwithstanding the above grant, with the overall programme comprising 3 Phases over 36 months;
  - Phase 1 – Community Hub development at Clayton-le-Moors Civic Hall, carbon reduction at Hyndburn Leisure Centre, application to Sport England for Strategic Facilities Funding, community engagement around Mercer Hall;
  - Phase 2 – New Clayton-le-Moors Leisure Centre build commences, Community Hub development at Bank Mill House, Leisure development at Hyndburn Academy, Mercer Hall vision agreed and application made for funding;
  - Phase 3 – New Clayton-le-Moors Leisure Facilities open in 2023, Hyndburn Leisure Centre refurbishment and Community Hub development at Oswaldtwistle West End;

- Ambition to be carbon neutral with replacement of small vehicles with electric models and planting of trees and new woodland areas.

The Capital Budget for 2021/22 would also deliver £2.3M of projects, from existing resources or external support, including:-

- £1M Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) projects, to enable vulnerable residents to stay in their own homes;
- A new core Customer Services System, with wider e-services;
- Maintenance work on the fabric of the Town Hall and Market Hall, Accrington;
- Leisure buildings improvement;
- Various other accommodation projects; and
- Numerous smaller scale projects.

The Budget aimed to be transformational with a new dawn envisaged. Hyndburn would deliver its ambition on levelling-up, provided the Government played its part and honoured its pledges to level-up areas like East Lancashire.

The Chief Executive explained that Amendments would now be proposed in in the following order:-

- Revenue Budget Amendment; and
- Capital Budget Amendment.

Councillor Marlene Haworth thanked Members for their messages of sympathy and support at this difficult personal time.

Councillor Haworth then provided an introduction to an Opposition Motion on the Revenue Budget 2021/22.

The following **AMENDMENT** was moved and seconded:-
“(a) This Council acknowledges the great work that the Conservative Government has given the people of Hyndburn throughout the coronavirus Pandemic. By supporting in excess of 13,000 peoples wages in Hyndburn through the Job retention scheme and also helping 3000 Self-employed through the SEISS scheme, this has provided much needed stability and reassurance to many residents that could have potentially lost their jobs as a result of the restrictions that needed to be put into place to save lives and to protect the NHS.

The residents of Hyndburn have undergone some of the most challenging times in living memory, and the staff of this Council have done a phenomenal job in providing administrative and practical support to our partner organisations such as the NHS, the Hyndburn Hub, LCC, Public Health England and the Government.

This Council would like to thank each and every staff member of this authority for their hard work and commitment.

This Council also acknowledges that we are far from being in the all clear and understand that the financial challenges of the residents of Hyndburn will continue into 2021/2022.

Instead of making the 10% savings across this Council that have put us in the top 7 of councils that give value for Money according to the Tax Payers Alliance. Let’s make Hyndburn Council the No 1 Council in the country that is value for money and, the number 1 Council in the country that supports its residents in their times of need.

Therefore this Council resolves: To find an additional 1% saving this year across the Council.

This 1% saving will equate to £103,000 and will allow this Council to freeze the council tax this year, allowing for the residents of Hyndburn more time to recover from the financial difficulties that they currently find themselves in.

(b) Secondly, This Council understands that for the people of Hyndburn to get back on their feet they will need jobs and economic growth. There are hundreds of people in this borough that would benefit greatly from Business Start-up advice,

Therefore the Council resolves: To invest £100,000 from the revenue reserves, to establish an economic development and business support resource within the Council.

In doing this the Council recognises the need to put this funding on a sustainable footing for future years and further resolves to do so during the course of this year. The resource would offer advice, guidance and support to Residents of Hyndburn, so that they can start-up their own business, or to support small businesses to restructure, to ensure that they have viable futures. This we believe will reduce unemployment in the borough and also generate future tax incomes in the coming years.

(c) Finally madam mayor nobody in in this chamber can deny that the last 12 months have taken their toll on the mental health of many residents in the borough, long periods of isolation and lack of social activities has seen an increase in people and children suffering with serious mental health related problems. We are all too familiar with the news stories circulating where people have attempted to take their own lives. In fact, this Council has debated these issues many times, but sadly the COVID 19
pandemic has escalated the problems tenfold and average waiting times for such groups as Minds Matter have increased to something like 9 months before they get help. The Conservative group is deeply concerned that no provision has been made in this budget to support these people.

**Therefore this Council resolves:** To support residents and local charities that provide mental health services, by creating a one off grant scheme of £100,000 to help increase provision for Counselling Services, this to be taken from the revenue reserves.

A lengthy debate ensued, following which the **AMENDMENT** was put to the **VOTE**.

**For the Motion**

Councillors Judith Addison, Sara Britcliffe MP, Marlene Haworth, Terry Hurn, Michael Miller and Kath Pratt

**Against the Motion**

Councillors June Harrison (Mayor), Mohammad Ayub, Noordad Aziz, Jean Battle MBE, Stephen Button, Andrew Clegg, Loraine Cox, Paul Cox, Munsif Dad BEM JP, Stewart Eaves, Diane Fielding, Melissa Fisher, Glen Harrison, Eamonn Higgins, Abdul Khan, Chris Knight, Jenny Molineux, Tim O’Kane, Dave Parkins, Bernadette Parkinson, Miles Parkinson OBE, Joyce Plummer, Jeff Scales, Paddy Short and Kate Walsh

**Abstentions**

Patrick McGinley

The **AMENDMENT** was therefore **LOST**.

Councillor Marlene Haworth provided an introduction to an Opposition Motion on the Capital Budget 2021/22 as follows:-

The following **AMENDMENT** was moved and seconded:-

“(a) Hyndburn Borough Council has for many years spent significant amounts of its Capital Grant on maintaining and improving the Council’s own assets. This has come at the expense of many of the outer towns, where external funding has been relied on to fund the majority of their Improvements.

The Council has also for many years attempted to and has on occasion been successful in disposing of its assets to help make savings on the revenue budget and also to promote house building across the borough.

Lyndon Playing Fields in Great Harwood was disposed of, generating in excess of £2.3 million for the Council. A commitment was made by the leading group that the Majority of this money would be reinvested into Great Harwood.

**Therefore this Council resolves:** To support the Leisure Trust with £1,000,000 taken from the sale of Lyndon Playing fields to be invested into Mercer Hall Baths, to Remedy the ongoing issues with the pool and also to provide disabled access so that those with mobility issues in the area can the enjoy health benefits that low impact exercise provides; also to be guided by the residents wishes following the consultation. This will need to be initially taken
from Council's Capital Reserves, being replaced when the receipts of the land sale have been received.

(b) For Several Years this Council has used a substantial proportion of its capital budget to invest in the area of Blackburn Road and the Town Hall. This comes again at the expense of the other townships in the Borough.

This year, sees the majority of the Capital budget, provided by Conservative Controlled LCC for disabled adaptation Grants totaling £965,897.00, with HBC putting in only £322,717.00, once again predominantly being spent on maintaining and improving Council Assets, with little being spent on the outer townships of Rishton and Clayton le Moors.

**Therefore this Council resolves:** To reduce the budgets of the Town Hall to £103,430, the Market Hall to £101,484 and the Scaitcliffe House reception redesign to £50,000. This results in a total of £150,000 being found in the budget to be reinvested into 2 new projects to rejuvenate the town centres of Rishton and Clayton le Moors. These projects will be uplifted to £200,000 by utilizing £50,000 from Capital Reserves, prior to looking for external funding to enlarge these projects.
## Conservative Group Capital Budget

### Capital Programme 2021/22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>External Funding</th>
<th>Net Cost</th>
<th>Amended Budget Figures</th>
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<tr>
<td>Disabled Facilities Grants</td>
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<td>£965,897.00</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT Upgrade Replacement of Microsoft Dynamics</td>
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<td>Accrington Town Hall - External Improvements Additional Funding</td>
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<tr>
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<td>HLC Mechanical and Electrical Plant Replacement Programme</td>
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<td>Scalcliffe House Reception Redesign</td>
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<td>Accrington Cemetery Welfare &amp; Depot Facilities</td>
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<td>Haworth Art Gallery Lighting &amp; Wedding Venue</td>
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<td>£0.00</td>
<td>£40,000.00</td>
<td>£40,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowerfold Park Building Asset Rationalisation</td>
<td>£35,000.00</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
<td>£35,000.00</td>
<td>£35,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyndon Park Highway Improvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercer Hall Forecourt Refurbishment</td>
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<td>Tech Refresh</td>
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<td>£20,000.00</td>
<td>£20,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A lengthy debate ensued, following which the **AMENDMENT** was put to the **VOTE**

**For the Motion**

Councillors Judith Addison, Sara Britcliffe MP, Marlene Haworth, Terry Hurn, Patrick McGinley, Michael Miller and Kath Pratt

**Against the Motion**

Councillors June Harrison (Mayor), Mohammad Ayub, Noordad Aziz, Jean Battle MBE, Stephen Button, Andrew Clegg, Loraine Cox, Paul Cox, Munsif Dad BEM JP, Stewart Eaves, Diane Fielding, Melissa Fisher, Glen Harrison, Eamonn Higgins, Abdul Khan, Chris Knight, Jenny Molineux, Tim O’Kane, Dave Parkins, Bernadette Parkinson, Miles Parkinson OBE, Joyce Plummer, Jeff Scales, Paddy Short and Kate Walsh

**Abstentions**

None

The **AMENDMENT** was therefore **LOST**.

A debate then took place on the **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION**,

The Leader summed up by referring to the following matters:-
During the debate, reference had been made to the respite facility being provided by Lancashire County Council in Great Harwood, which had been partially funded by Disabled Facilities Grant monies contributed by Hyndburn Borough Council. This facility was greatly needed, as the previous provision was no longer suitable. Some criticism had been levelled when the initial decision had been taken, because Hyndburn had put forward funding but Ribble Valley Borough Council had not made a similar commitment. Nevertheless, this Council’s support for the facility was considered to be necessary and appropriate;

The current year had proved the most difficult in living memory since the end of World War 2. There had been implications from the pandemic on services over the last 12 months and these would continue into the future;

The proposed Budget addressed all of the major issues for the Borough, including employment, housing, leisure, high streets and the Green Agenda;

The Council was moving forward and the planned developments would be transformational; and

The Council was committed to working with the Government to deliver change, but in order to be successful, the Government must not let Hyndburn down.

The MOTION was then put to the VOTE.

For the Motion

Councillors June Harrison (Mayor), Mohammad Ayub, Noordad Aziz, Jean Battle MBE, Stephen Button, Andrew Clegg, Loraine Cox, Paul Cox, Munsif Dad BEM JP, Stewart Eaves, Diane Fielding, Melissa Fisher, Glen Harrison, Eamonn Higgins, Abdul Khan, Chris Knight, Patrick McGinley, Jenny Molineux, Tim O’Kane, Dave Parkins, Bernadette Parkinson, Miles Parkinson OBE, Joyce Plummer, Jeff Scales, Paddy Short and Kate Walsh

Against the Motion

Councillors Judith Addison, Sara Britcliffe MP, Marlene Haworth, Terry Hurn, Michael Miller and Kath Pratt

Abstentions

None

Accordingly, the MOTION was CARRIED and it was:-:

Resolved

1. That Council agree the acceptance and adoption of the Cabinet’s recommendations on the Revenue and Capital Budgets and Prudential Indicators & Treasury Management Report for 2021/22 to 2023/24 made at the Cabinet meeting on 10th February 2021 (a copy of the reports and recommendations have been supplied with the Agenda for today’s meeting),

2. That Council Tax for Hyndburn Borough Council is increased by £5.01 to £255.53 for the year for a Band D property. This is equivalent to a 10p per week increase for a Band D property but most households in Hyndburn will see an annual increase
of £3.34 as they live in Band A properties. The weekly increase here will be 7p.

3. That the Council commits to continuing to strengthen its Reserves during the year and requires the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive to take appropriate action to protect the Council’s overall financial position and further strengthen its Reserves during the forthcoming year.

4. That the Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive to take such action as he considers necessary to implement the measures contained in this budget.

5. That it be noted that on 13th January 2021 the Council at its Cabinet calculated:

   the Council Tax Base 2021/22 for the whole Council area as 20,239 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)) and,

for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as 304.

6. That Council agrees that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purpose for 2021/22 (excluding Parish precepts) is £5,171,671.

7. That Council agrees that the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

   a) £53,083,925 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council 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) £47,900,011 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

   c) £5,183,914 being the amount by which the aggregate at 7(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 7(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 31A(4) of the Act).

   d) £256.14 being the amount at 7(c) above (Item
R), all divided by Item T (5 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

e) £12,242 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B).

f) £255.53 being the amount at 7(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 7(e) above by Item T (5 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.

8. That Council note that the County Council, the Lancashire Police & Crime Commissioner and the Lancashire Combined Fire & Rescue Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

9. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Band D Council Tax Rates for Each Preceptor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020/21</th>
<th>2021/22</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyndburn Borough Council</td>
<td>250.52</td>
<td>255.53</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire County Council</td>
<td>1,400.32</td>
<td>1,456.19</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</td>
<td>211.45</td>
<td>226.45</td>
<td>7.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire Combined Fire Authority</td>
<td>70.86</td>
<td>72.27</td>
<td>1.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sub total</td>
<td>1,933.15</td>
<td>2,010.44</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altham Parish Council</td>
<td>40.27</td>
<td>40.27</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>1,973.42</td>
<td>2,050.71</td>
<td>3.92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. That the Council note the basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 is not considered excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52 ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

11. That the Deputy Chief Executive, is given delegated authority to amend the budget (following consultation with the Leader of the Council) for technical reasons or to comply with legal requirements, such as the restructuring of cost centres, the re-apportionment and re-allocation of overheads etc., so long as these changes have an overall neutral impact on the budget.

12. That any continuing balances on Revenue or Capital previously earmarked for Area Councils continues to be set aside for use by these or their successor bodies.

13. That the Chief Executive is given delegated authority to use any unallocated surplus generated in 2020/21 should this occur to fund any future shortfall in income or additional expenditure, to support “Invest to Save” projects that will help reduce the Council’s long term costs (including additional payments to the Pension Fund as outlined below), or support specific capital projects, or finance other commitments that he deems to be in the best long term interest of the Council or to transfer funds to Reserves as required and to allocate funds between Reserves should an overspend occur in 2020/21 to maintain the General Fund Reserve at that
appropriate level as advised by the Deputy Chief Executive.

14. That the Chief Executive is given delegated authority following consultation with the Leader to make a payment or payments to the Lancashire Pension Authority to help reduce the extent of the Council’s pension liabilities that have amassed from previous years, if this is calculated to be an appropriate use of Council Funds (The liability stood at £31.9m as at the 31st March 2020).

15. That the Council approve a Budget adjustment for the financial year 2020/21 to allow an additional grant of up to £900,000 to be made to Hyndburn Leisure and allow for a similar grant of up to £500,000 to be made for 2021/22 financial year. The grant to be paid on production of the necessary supporting financial information from Hyndburn Leisure and the Deputy Chief Executive validates the request as necessary to maintain the financial stability of Hyndburn Leisure and the additional funding requested is linked to the impact of COVID 19 and its on-going consequences on Hyndburn Leisure. (The intention is only to pay what is required by Hyndburn Leisure up to the maximum amount authorised and not the full amount unless it is required.) The amount paid to be funded from a mixture of in-year savings if any are generated, additional government grant received, and the use of reserves where necessary.

The Mayor thanked all for their attendance (virtually) and reminded Members that the next meeting would be in exactly four weeks time on 25th March 2021. She predicted that by that stage the country’s journey to some sort of normality would have begun.

Signed:………………………………………………..

Date: ......................................................................

Chair of the meeting
at which the minutes were confirmed