

## Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 28 August 2012, starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor I Sayers (Chairman)

### Councillors:

P Ainsworth	R Moores
J E Alcock	R Newmark
R Bennett	E M H Ranson
I Brown	L Rimmer
S Brunskill	M Robinson
P Dowson	J Rogerson
R J Elms	C Ross
J B Hill	G Scott
T Hill	R E Sherras
B Hilton	D T Smith
K Hind	R Swarbrick
J Holgate	D Taylor
S Hore	M Thomas
K Horkin	R J Thompson
A M Knox	N C Walsh
S Knox	J White
G Mirfin	A Yearling

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Resources, Head of HR, Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

### 266 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend A Froud, opened the meeting with prayers.

### 267 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Bibby, S Carefoot, R Hargreaves and S Hirst.

### 268 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 269 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

### 270 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 July 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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## MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on events he had attended since the last meeting which included a visit to the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Headquarters where he had seen the latest in developments and techniques in fire safety and fire control. He confirmed that there would be a presentation from the Fire Service at the next meeting of Parish Council Liaison Committee. He had also visited St Vincent's Housing Company to see the new energy efficiency and sustainability measures that had been put in place.

The Mayor was pleased to have supported Chipping in its efforts to achieve success in the Britain in Bloom Competition.

The Mayor reported that the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress had attended the launch of the Pendle Witch 400 Exhibition at the Platform Gallery.

Finally the Mayor had been delighted to present plaques to an array of people from across the borough at the Ribble Valley Sports Excellence Awards, and to have made a presentation to the borough's two Olympians – Jon Schofield and Samantha Murray and hosted a reception for them in the Council Chamber.

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## CORE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive asking Members to approve the Ribble Valley Core Strategy and its submission to the Secretary of State for formal examination.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor M Ranson, proposed that the Council adopt the Core Strategy as set out in the Appendix to the report. He reminded Members that the Core Strategy was a framework within which all development, and specifically housing development in the Ribble Valley, would be governed until 2028.

He reported that the Council had been through an extensive statutory public consultation exercise that had included public meetings and drop-in days. In addition there had been special meetings to discuss the findings of the Nathaniel Litchfield Report, the Hyder Sustainability Report and the Strategic Housing Land Assessment (SHLA). The Council had received many replies from interested parties on the draft Core Strategy proposals. The Leader thanked the Head of Regeneration and Housing – Colin Hirst and his colleagues, for all their hard work in producing the Strategy.

The Leader then went on to highlight the key points within the Strategy.

Finally, the Leader outlined the formal proposal in detail.

Members then debated issues raised in the report.

RESOLVED: That the resolutions of Planning and Development Committee on 16 August 2012 in respect of the Core Strategy be confirmed and the Strategy now be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

## 273 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader began by reflecting on the Olympic success of two Ribble Valley residents, Jon Schofield and Samantha Murray. Both of them had benefited from the Council's Sports and Arts Excellence Grant Scheme over a number of years. He was very proud that both medallists had led the recent Torchlight procession. The Leader reminded Members that the Sports and Arts Excellence Grants were still available and were an essential part of the Council's contribution to sporting excellence.

The Leader went on to express his own and the Council's thanks to the Clitheroe Town Council and all the people who had worked hard to make the Torchlight Procession such a huge success.

He also expressed his delight at the success of the Ribble Valley Food Festival in August. He reminded Members that the purpose of the festival was to promote Lancashire produce, its producers, its restaurants and its retail opportunities and he was mindful that the borough needed to showcase its assets to the country and further develop its tourist offering. He praised the efforts put in by staff to make the event so successful and expressed particular thanks to Chris Hughes, Syd Chamley, Tom Pridmore, Phil Dodd and all the other members of staff who had worked so hard and so effectively to ensure that the event ran smoothly.

Next the Leader referred to matters relating to localisation of Council Tax Benefit. He reminded Members that Council Tax Benefit was currently a nationally operated scheme that was fully funded by the Department of Work and Pensions at no cost to the Council, but from the 1 April 2013 the process for administration of Council Tax benefit would change requiring each Council to develop its own local support schemes to replace Council Tax benefit. The Leader acknowledged that the change was a serious issue for the Council but confirmed that a new Council Tax Support Scheme had been developed and would be sent out for public consultation. He stressed that no final decision had been made on the new scheme, but he hoped that people would respond positively to the proposals in the public consultation which would commence on 1 September and end on 31 October 2012.

## 274 LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Shadow Leader, Councillor A Knox, began by thanking officers who had been involved with the Torchlight Procession and the Food Festival. He then went on to ask three questions of the Leader.

Firstly the Shadow Leader asked how much the Council had spent on consultants and agency staff in each of the past 3 years. The Leader of the Council, Councillor M Ranson, thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed that the Council had spent £15,091.50 on consultants in 2009/10,

£24,369 in 2010/11 and £95,325.59 in 2011/12. The amount spent on agency staff had been £16,769 in 2009/10, £11,376 in 2010/11 and £9,976 in 2011/12. The Leader pointed out that consultancy fees included external legal expenses.

Next Councillor Knox asked if the Leader could confirm how the incidences of fly tipping in the first 3 months of this year compared with the same period in the two previous years.

The Leader confirmed that the number of incidents of fly tipping reported for April to June this year was 230, compared with 115 in 2010 and 112 for the same period in 2011.

Finally, Councillor Knox asked what action the Council was taking to improve rail services on the Ribble Valley line.

The Leader confirmed that whilst the Council was not the relevant Transport Planning Authority for the authority, it had for several years been a partner with the Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnership (CLCRP), which was part of a wider Government National Community Rail initiative. The CLCRP worked to an agreed action and through a Project Officer. The Council contributed a sum of money annually to a wider pot that was spent addressing the various aims of the plan. This work had generated improvements to the physical appearance of local stations, including the Clitheroe Interchange and improvements to some local timetables and services including late night services with Manchester.

It had also been involved in working with some local schools to help encourage future patronage and had negotiated with other transport providers to improve joint ticketing and marketing of the line. The Leader reminded Members that the current Districtwide Local Plan and the developing Core Strategy included policies that aimed to protect potential rail station sites at Chatburn and Gisburn from inappropriate development.

## 275 COMMITTEE MINUTES

### (i) Planning and Development Committee – 19 July 2012

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

### (ii) Community Committee – 24 July 2012

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

### (iii) Health and Housing Committee – 2 August 2012

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

### (iv) Policy and Finance Committee – 7 August 2012

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(v) Planning and Development Committee – 16 August 2012

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).