

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held on Thursday, 13 February 2020 at 10.00 am at Council Chamber, County Hall, Kendal

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs C Bowditch (Chair)

Mr J Airey	Mr LN Fisher	Mr FI Morgan
Mr T Allison	Mr D Gawne	Mrs M Rae
Mr MS Barbour	Mr HGG Graham	Mr GRPM Roberts
Mr AL Barry	Mrs BC Gray	Mrs S Sanderson
Mr J Bell	Mr KR Hamilton	Mr B Shirley
Mrs PA Bell	Mrs RC Hanson	Mr DE Southward
Mr B Berry	Dr S Haraldsen	Mrs V Tarbitt
Mr RW Betton	Mr M Hawkins	Mr P Thornton
Mr RK Bingham	Mr K Hitchen	Mrs C Tibble
Mr J Bland	Mr C Hogg	Mr CP Turner
Mr A Bowness	Mr JS Holliday	Mrs H Wall
Mr M Brereton	Mr N Hughes	Mr R Watson
Mrs A Burns	Mr MA Johnson	Mr WJ Wearing
Mrs HF Carrick	Mr A Kennon	Mr C Weber
Mr F Cassidy	Mr AWC Lamb	Mr D Whipp
Mr W Clark	Lord R Liddle	Mr CJ Whiteside
Mr SB Collins	Mr J Lister	Mr S Wielkopolski
Mr A Connell	Mr KA Little	Mrs EL Williamson
Mr GD Cook	Dr K Lockney	Mrs J Willis
Mr N Cotton	Mr T Lywood	Mr D Wilson
Mr P Dew	Mr AJ Markley (Vice-Chair)	Mr M Wilson
Ms C Driver	Mr NH Marriner	Mr AW Wonnacott
Ms D Earl	Ms C McCarron-Holmes	Mr MH Worth
Mr GM Ellis	Mr W McEwan	Mr SF Young
Mr D English	Mr A McGuckin	
Mrs S Evans	Mr P McSweeney	

88 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Miss H Fearon, Mr W Graham, Mrs E Mallinson, Mr J Mallinson, Mr S Stoddart, Mr T Wentworth Waites and Mr R Worthington.

89 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

Mrs B Gray arrived at the meeting at this point.

90 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be not excluded from any item of business on the agenda today.

91 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms Marianne Birkby attended to present a petition from Radiation Free Lakeland, which contained 472 signatures. The petition was urging Cumbria County Council to fully recognise that nuclear power was not the 'solution' and to include a 'No Nuclear' clause in its climate change planning, and asked the Council to include a no nuclear clause in its Climate Emergency planning.

Ms Birkby said new nuclear, including so called 'small modular reactors' would increase the heat on the planet, and that nuclear was a major part of the problem, and not part of the solution. The view of Radiation Free Lakeland was that the installation of small nuclear reactors in Cumbria would only make matter far worse, far faster. Ms Birkby then went on the outline the reasons for this.

Mr Birkby said people were watching with increased frustration and horror as climate emergency resolutions were adopted by councils, which left the door wide open to nuclear, and she urged Cumbria County Council to fully recognise that nuclear power was not the 'solution'.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development thanked Ms Birkby for her presentation and gave the following response:-

'The Council has made clear its commitment, through the Joint Public Health Strategy, to work in partnership to tackle climate change and to reach net zero carbon emissions. In September 2019 Cumbria County Councillors unanimously supported a motion "to become a 'carbon neutral' county and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change. We also called upon the Government to produce a clear plan of action, backed up by sufficient resources, to address this existential threat. It is clear that very significant changes will be required in Cumbria, and across the UK, to bring about net carbon zero. These changes will include all elements of how we live, work, travel, manage our land and how we meet our future energy needs.

Cumbria County Council along with District Councils, Cumbria LEP and the National Park are represented at a county-wide climate change group. The group in its early stages has jointly commissioned a baseline carbon audit for the county. The aim of this study is to provide a detailed analysis of the total carbon footprint of our county and to set out the types of interventions that will be necessary to reach a point of being net carbon zero.

The Government has choices and decisions to make about how we move towards a low-carbon economy and will need to decide whether nuclear will continue to have a role in the future UK energy mix. A clear national energy strategy is urgently required if we are, as a nation, to achieve net carbon zero. Such a strategy will need to review and make recommendations on the role that potential

new nuclear power may have to meeting our current and future energy requirements, at least until such a time that sufficient renewable energy sources and associated storage are in place.

The development of Small Modular Reactors is a relatively new concept. Although the exact detail of the size and scale of “Small Modular Reactors” will vary, it is likely that in the first instance they will be seen to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, where the decision is taken by the Secretary of State rather than by local planning authorities.

The Council will continue to collaborate with our six district authorities and our national park colleagues to become a carbon-neutral county.’

Mr Wielkopolski arrived at the meeting at this point.

92 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed with the following amendment:-

Page 8 Minute No 72 – Declarations of Interest – amend the declaration of Mr Roberts to read ‘as a recipient of the Cumbria Local Government Pension Scheme’.

93 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair announced the details of the engagements undertaken by herself and the Vice Chair had been circulated to all members.

The Chair began by informing members that last month she had received a tour of Skirsgill Highways Depot in Penrith, and had thoroughly enjoyed her visit. She had not realised the size of depot or how large an area of the county depended on it for keeping our highways safe and functioning. The Chair had met from across the site, learning about their individual roles and how these changed according to season.

Whilst there she had visited the sign shop and had learnt about the process from design to printing and cutting, and also got to see the salt shed and had been dwarfed by the sheer volume of grit stored and ready to be spread.

The Chairman also got to sit in one of the 33 gritters in the county fleet which was an enjoyable experience and gave her a greater appreciation for highways staff who worked in all weathers, conditions and at all times of day just to keep everyone safe and moving.

Yesterday, alongside the Mayor of Carlisle, the Chairman had switched on the City of Lights in Carlisle. An event which saw numerous buildings and local landmarks illuminated with coloured lights and projections; the centre-piece on this occasion being a stunning visual spectacle in Carlisle Cathedral.

The City of Lights was an exciting new project which if successful, would take place annually in towns across the county. It was a fantastic opportunity to raise the profile of areas whilst showcasing what it had to offer and celebrating its cultural heritage and history.

Finally, the Chair informed members about an exciting new initiative that had been launched this year by some incredible people.

The Prom Dress Appeal was a collaborative project between the council and other agencies, retailers and the community that offered a good selection of quality donated prom wear and accessories at no cost to the families.

Young people could be nominated through schools, support agencies and children's workforce across Cumbria. They would then be invited to an event to choose items for their prom.

The Chairman then took the opportunity to thank all of the Council teams for their commitment and hard work during Storm Ciara. The storm brought high winds, significant rainfall, high tides, snow, and also a damaged water main.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities made a statement about the coronavirus.

Coronaviruses were common across the world and typical symptoms included fever and a cough that may progress to severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Generally, these viruses could cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

This variant coronavirus caused flu like symptoms which were mild in most people, but like flu, could be fatal. So far 45,171 confirmed cases had been identified globally, with the vast majority of those still within China. There had been 1,115 deaths, and 4,831 recoveries.

Over 1,300 people in the UK had been tested for coronavirus, with only 8, so far, testing positive. However, this figure was likely to rise. The Cabinet Member reassured members that although a small number of people in Cumbria had been tested, none had been positive.

The Cabinet Member for Highway and Transport made an announcement about Storm Ciara. He took the opportunity to thank all of our teams for their commitment and hard work during the event. The storm not only brought high winds, significant rainfall, high tides, and then snow, and finally a damaged water main.

Unfortunately there was around 40 premises (households and businesses) that suffered from flooding as a Storm Ciara and thoughts go out to those affected.

Community Teams were offering support to these householder, and the Flood and Development Management team were investigating the sources of flooding.

The council's teams worked closely with partners to respond to the incident., and multiple council services responded during the storms.

As the storm abated, the weather changed and the damage to United Utilities water main was exposed, which then created a major incident for the council which the same services were then required to respond to again. Special mention must go to the County Council's highways service who battled through the night in a full winter snow storm to keep Shap summit accessible for UU tankers to water in the reservoir so that water supplies could be maintained.

Members joined the Cabinet Member in thanking the teams for all of their hard work over the last few days to support the communities of Cumbria.

The Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning made an announcement about new Special Schools and provision for SEN.

The demand for the provision for children with identified Special Educational Needs was continuing to grow, and this was a national trend. Unfortunately the funding for schools to cater for them appropriately was not. The Government had made an announcement recently about an additional £780 million for one year nationally. Cumbria County Council as very grateful for this, however, the allocated amount did not cover the amount Cumbria overspent on the money allocated to SEN.

The Cabinet Member then reminded everyone that Cumbria County Council had provided two new buildings for maintained special schools, one at Mayfield and the other at Sandside Lodge, where they now had have world class facilities. Mayfield and Sandside were both co-located with secondary schools , and numbers of pupils had increased at both locations.

Cumbria County Council had also supported the opening of two free schools : Cumbria Academy for Autism and the Studio School at Queen Elizabeth Kirkby Lonsdale which added greater capacity and range offered to children.

Finally, the Cabinet Member wanted to say thank you to all the mainstream schools that offered good provision to all children and where all of them made good progress despite many external pressures. The national data showed that Cumbrian mainstream schools had a higher percentage of pupils with SEN in them and the SEN children in these schools do better than in other authorities.

The Cabinet Member for Customers, Transformation and Fire and Rescue made an announcement about Fire Engine Gambia. At a previous Council meeting an announcement had been made about a decommissioned fire engine from Cumbria which had been donated to a local fire brigade in The Gambia. She provided members with an update as this fire engine had already helped save a life.

Local firefighters from Kotu recently used the fire engine to attend a road traffic accident, deploying the cutting equipment provided to release a woman trapped in a vehicle and save her life.

The old fire engine at Kotu had gone to another fire station which did not have a pump, so this had been doubly beneficial. The Cabinet Member for Customers, Transformation and Fire and Rescue also made an announcement about Windows 7.

Over the last 18 months, the ICT service had replaced equipment that ran on the windows 7 platform to equipment compatible with the latest Windows 10 version. The end of the programme was approaching and it had gone very well with minimal disruption to users during the transition.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Care made an announcement that all of Cumbria Care Residential homes were inspected regularly by the Care Quality Commission, and in December Inglewood received an unannounced inspection which had resulted in improving on its existing rating of 'outstanding'

The outcome was still outstanding overall but had now achieved outstanding in respect of three of the five main areas. This was an improvement on the existing position where two of the main areas were rated as outstanding.

The inspection team had commented positively about the ongoing work at Inglewood and particularly that it was a well-led service with a commitment to quality and that the staff team put the needs of people first.. They also commented that people were treated with the utmost dignity, respect and compassion and supported people to live independently.

The Cabinet Member asked members to join her in congratulating the staff at Inglewood for this excellent achievement.

Finally, the Chief Executive introduced the newly appointed Executive Director – People (Deputy Chief Executive), Mr John Readman to members, and they welcomed him to his first meeting.

94 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Leader of the Council presented the minutes from the Cabinet meeting held on 30 January 2020.

Mr Airey asked a question about Minute No 90 and 91 – SMB referral. Mr Airey had attended the Cabinet meeting and was disappointed that Mr Collins, the Local Member for Staveley had been denied the opportunity to speak at the meeting. He asked why this was not reflected in the minutes, and he also asked the Leader when the residents of Staveley would be informed of this decision.

The Leader responded to say that at the previous Cabinet meeting in December Mr Collins had attended under public participation, and he had also been the lead call in member when the decision was referred to Scrutiny Management Board.

He was therefore not allowed under the rules of the public participation scheme to speak again. He was in attendance at the January Cabinet meeting as a member of the public, as the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board had attended the meeting to present the findings from the call in meeting. Mr Collins had interjected as a member of the public, which was not allowed.

With reference to the second question the Leader said the Cabinet Member for Health and Care Services had made it clear that the County Council wanted to work with the community to understand their needs and wishes before any final decision on the site were taken.

In relation to Minute No 98 on Page 244 of the Cabinet minutes Dr Haraldsen said that whilst it was excellent that the County Council had once again received money from the Better care Fund/Improved Better Care Fund, he asked the Cabinet Member whether this funding would be used to help to bring down the figures for 'transfer of care'.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Care Services agreed to provide a written response.

95 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (2020-2025) AND DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME (2020-2025)

The Deputy Leader presented the Revenue Budget 2020/21 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2020-2025 and Draft Capital Programme 2020 – 2025 which advised that on 30 January 2020, Cabinet had agreed the budget proposal for recommendation to Council after consideration of the budget consultation process and that Council was asked to agree the recommendations as set out in Section 1 of the Report.

A copy of the Constitution Part 5F - Procedure for Budget Debate at Council was circulated to all members of the Council. It was clarified that proposed amendments to the budget are called "objections" in law and the Constitution referred to the same. However, the Chairman notified members that to keep things simple during the debate these would be referred to as 'amendments'.

The Deputy Leader said the budget proposal had been prepared against a backdrop of continued uncertainty with public finances. Over the period 2011-2020 the Council had agreed savings of £272.2m. This report sets out the requirement for 2020-2025 which amounted to a further £44.0m.

The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the Council Plan demonstrated how the Council would align resources and priorities to deliver for the people of Cumbria. However, the Deputy Leader reminded Council that the Spending Round announced in September by the Chancellor was a one year announcement for 2020/21 only, and that the 2019 Spending Review had been postponed until 2020.

In addition, the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Reform both due to be implemented in 2020/21 had also been postponed until 2021/22. It was expected that these changes to local government funding would change the level

of funding received by county councils with Cumbria's share of the new level of government funding unlikely to be known until at least the summer of 2020. The Deputy Leader said planning beyond 2021 was therefore, very challenging.

With the ever increasing pressures to support older people, adults and children with disabilities and vulnerable children and families the County Council continued to work to promote independence and support communities to flourish. Central to this was enabling people to have independent lives, supporting families to stay together safely and ensuring resources were targeted to the most vulnerable members of communities. The plan for 2020 onwards would be to increase the focus on early help to individuals and communities and alongside partners to support real change and resilience in communities.

The Budget Proposal set out in this report secured a balanced revenue budget for 2020/21. The proposal assumed:-

- Increase in General Council Tax of 1.99%;
- An additional Precept of 2% on Council Tax for Adult Social Care purposes;
- Increases in Fees and Charges as set out in the Fees and Charges Schedule (Appendix C);
- New savings from 1st April 2020 which will reduce the Revenue Budget by £5.646m;
- The Capital Programme is financed as set out in the report;
- Business Rates are confirmed by District Councils and are consistent with planning assumptions; and
- The Treasury Management Strategy is agreed as set out (Appendix D).

The Deputy Leader commented that the Government allowed those councils with Adult Social Care (ASC) responsibilities to introduce a 2% precept on Council Tax for the financial year 2016/17, which recognised the increasing cost pressures upon councils in relation to provision of adult social care. The Council implemented the 2% Adult Social Care precept for 2016/17, and this had continued in the intervening period.

The Spending Round 2019 assumed that councils would levy the precept in 2020/21. This proposal presented to Council included an ASC precept at 2%. Beyond 2021, in the absence of government announcements, no further ASC precept was assumed.

In considering the Revenue Budget for 2020/21 the formal consultation document was launched at the 14 November 2019 Cabinet and closed on the 6 January 2020.

Appendix B of the report set out the feedback from the consultation. Members' consideration of this feedback was required before agreeing the budget. The Deputy Leader asked members to ensure that they had appraised themselves of the outcome of consultation. Copies of the full consultation responses had been made available to Members through their Group offices.

The Deputy Leader pointed out that the consultation was not designed to be a statistically representative sample of public opinion in Cumbria but a gauge of the opinions of those people and organisations that had chosen to participate in the process. Overall 34% of respondents supported the 1.99% general Council Tax income increase.

The Council needed to continue to invest in infrastructure and assets to be able to deliver local services and support inclusive economic growth. The draft Capital Programme for 2020/21, excluding Accountable Bodies, was £90.894m. Included in the draft programme 2020/21 – 2024/25 was £38.415m of new schemes proposed in this report. Alongside other proposed amendments and re-profiling of already approved schemes the overall Capital Programme was proposed at £286.379m over the five years 2020/21 – 2024/25.

The draft Net Revenue Budget for 2020/21 was £408.225m. The Gross Budget for Cumbria County Council was £882.003m, which included the earmarked Dedicated Schools Grant to non-Academy Schools in Cumbria of £264.253m excluding the Schools Budget the forecast total expenditure on Council services in 2020/21 was £617.750m. This represented a continuing and significant investment in local public services.

An addendum had been issued to all members which gave an update on the recently published outcomes of consultation from the Department of Education (DfE), which clarified the ring-fenced status of the Dedicated Schools Grant, and in particular, deficits in relation to the high needs element of the grant.

The Deputy Leader reported that to date there had been no further announcements of grant notifications from Central Government. Final Council Tax estimates for 2020-21 had been received from all of the District Councils, and the budget had been revised to take account of this information, which had resulted in £0.112m additional income.

Final Business Rates estimates for 2020-21, had been received from some of the District Councils, but not all. Therefore the Budget had not been revised to take account of this information.

In determining the gross budget for the Council estimated income from specific grants and fees and charges were included. This supported expenditure on services. The recommended fees and charges increases for 2020/21 were set out in this report at Appendix C.

The Deputy Leader reminded members that schools expenditure was funded from a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The 2020/21 Schools' Funding Settlement was announced on 19 December 2019 which gave a provisional figure for DSG of £382.632m for Cumbria for 2020/21. Of this £264.253m was estimated to be for County Council maintained schools, with £118.380m estimated to fund academies directly, this compares to £251.248m for County Council schools and £105.141m for academies in 2019/20. The grant allocation would be updated in July 2020 to reflect the January 2020 early years census.

Funding of the capital maintenance of schools was part funded through revenue contributions to capital from the Dedicated Schools Grant. For 2020/21 this contribution was expected to be £0.500m with an additional £0.500m revenue contribution allocated from Property.

The Deputy Leader referred members to the approval of a Treasury Management Strategy, which was a statutory requirement for every Council. Councils were required to demonstrate that capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

The Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix D of the report met this requirement and was developed in accordance with the Prudential Code and the Treasury Management Code published by CIPFA. The development of the Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 was considered comprehensively by the Audit and Assurance Committee at its meeting on the 9th December 2019.

Appendix F of the report set out the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21. The purpose of the statement was to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees (excluding teaching staff working in local authority schools) by identifying.

The Deputy Leader commended the budget to Council.

The Leader seconded the report and reserved his right to speak.

The Leader of the Oppositions rose to say he did not support this budget. He felt the County Council needed to develop a much more robust invest to save initiative. He had raised concerns last year about the County Council's failure to deliver the Blue Light Hub Project, which had still not been delivered.

The Leader of the Opposition was disappointed to see that Cabinet had proposed that £4.5m, rising to £22m over the next 4 years, be set aside for the Brexit potential inflation pressures. The Leader of the Opposition felt this money could be better used, in a more positive way, to provide services for the residents of Cumbria.

He therefore proposed an amendment to the budget proposals, which was one amendment with three parts. These three parts related to transport, highways and children's services.

The proposals set out to support parish, town and community groups to enhance the highways service by employing lengthsman to work proactively on the ground, additional monies for local committees to support local transport solutions including much greener, cleaner ways to travel, and monies allocated to help recognise the contribution made by third sector organisations who can provide valuable support for families, reducing the need for intervention by social workers.

He had asked the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to outline the details of the amendments, and he commended the amendment to Council.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition rose to second the amendment, and detailed the proposal to members.

The Conservative Group was proposing a more proactive approach to addressing those council responsibilities that were the key priorities of the people that members represented. Transport and accessibility were key themes across Local Committee area plans, although the needs were very different in each area, reflecting the different senses of place.

Effective local transport systems were essential to help residents to access the employment, training and leisure opportunities available to enhance their quality of life and fulfil their ambitions, as well as accessing vital services such as healthcare. Transport solutions could also play an important role in reducing social isolation and maintaining social connections between communities. The Conservative proposal was to invest £1.2m via our Local Committees to give them the flexibility to develop a wider range of innovative, cost effective, demand led transport solutions to sit alongside the current community transport options and support and complement the possibilities opened up by the Government's recently announced additional £380,000 for Cumbria.

The second part of the Conservative proposed amendment, was related to highways. The current administration had already recognised the valuable role played by local communities in looking after their local environments by carrying out a diverse range of minor highways functions, but it was recognised at the time that any such work would need to be carried out under legally binding agreements for mutual protection.

The Conservatives wholeheartedly agree with this and recognised and valued the energy and enthusiasm of local communities and their appetite for carrying out local improvements in support of our highways teams. Now that the Working Together team was established, the amendment proposed to invest £600k via Local Committees to empower Town and Parish Councils and other constituted community groups to do exactly that, with the full backing of the council through the Working Together agreements.

The third element of the proposed amendment presented different and fresh approaches to managing demand within Children's Services. The council could not do this on its own, but there were a number of established, local, third sector organisations with the expertise and experience to deliver effective home based, wrap around support for families, importantly outside of, but alongside and in addition to the statutory services. The amendment proposed an investment of £500k in the development of a countywide accredited volunteer support service to help vulnerable families in exactly this way.

This amendment had been designed to ensure the council fulfilled its obligations to localism by working in partnership with its communities. It would enable the council to become outward looking in its problem solving, harnessing the strengths of already established resources to deliver common outcomes in a truly collaborative and integrated way. The Deputy Leader commended the amendments to Council.

The amendments were circulated and the meeting was adjourned for Groups to consider the proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 11.30am, and then broke for lunch at 12.30pm. The meeting reconvened at 13.10pm.

Mr H Graham did not return to the meeting after the lunch break.

The Monitoring Officer informed members that a query had been raised in respect of the amendment moved today and, in particular, whether it complied with the respective roles and responsibilities of Council and Cabinet.

Agreement between the three main political groups had been reached that the amendment as moved could stand. However, the Monitoring Officer clarified for members exactly what the amendment would mean. The amendment as moved would allocate extra resources to local committees and the people directorate budget. These amendments were set out in Appendix 1 of the amendment and dealt with the 'top line budgets'.

It would be for Cabinet to agree the allocations to individual local committees therefore please note that whilst Appendix 3 sets out the reasoning for the Conservatives proposal, if the amendment was successful, Cabinet would determine the specific allocations as part of their responsibilities for implementing the budget.

Mr Betton commented to say that two thirds of the public - 65% had responded with a strong message that they had clearly had enough of year on year rises in Council tax. He was against the proposal of a 2% levy for Adult Social Care. Last year he had submitted a motion to Council about this and his views on this had not changed. He would therefore be voting against the budget proposals.

Mr Lamb was supporting the amendment from the Conservative Group, especially the proposals for local community transport schemes, and the re-introduction of the lengthsman scheme, which he felt would empower local communities to look for innovative ways to deliver much needed front line services.

Mr Markley commented that the demise of the bus services for rural areas was a big issue for Cumbria, but it would be very difficult to establish a commercially driven and effective solution to this. The proposed budget amendment would empower local communities to look at innovative solutions to this, but it would also require funding from Government to allow this to happen.

Mr S Collins left the meeting at this point.

Mr Connell agreed that the issues for local transport schemes and ways of resolving the problems were required, but this needed to be done in a holistic way across the whole of Cumbria. He did not think that allocating funding for a single year only would address the issue.

Lord Liddle said councils were living through a period of uncertainty, and he felt that the introduction of a 5 year budget plan was good practice. There was also a

further period of uncertainty about Brexit and the effect this may have on the British economy. Lord Liddle felt the most significant element of Brexit would be the end of free movement in the labour market.

Mr Dew supported the amendment and he questioned why cabinet, on page 91 of the papers, was so against taking commercial activities as a way to raise additional funding.

Mr Ellis commented that although Cabinet had chosen to set aside £4.5m of money, for the Brexit potential inflation pressures, and the assumption of high levels of inflation, this was not supported by the Bank of England. He also felt the setting aside of money for pooled business rates and retained business rates was over cautious.

Mr Hughes said there was not enough detail in the amendment about the proposal for transport, and the additional funds for local committees. He did not feel giving the same amount of money to all local committees would be the answer, as the needs in each area were all different. Therefore, he would not support the proposed amendment.

Mr Little made reference to the proposals in the budget amendment to re-establish the lengthsman scheme. Recently, the Working Together Project team had been in contact with over 300 parish councils to talk to them about partnership working and the possibility of the parish and town councils undertaking simple work on behalf of the County Council. However, he reminded members that highways maintenance was not a parish council function.

Mr T Allison left the meeting at this point.

Mrs Burns rose in support of the substantive budget proposal. She reminded members that the parts of England with the highest levels of deprivation had suffered the biggest austerity cuts. There was an ever increasing number of children living in poverty in the UK, and in many of these places the parents were actually in employment, but could still not afford to live.

Mr Young exercised his right of reply, saying he welcomed the fact that the conservatives supported the budget, apart from the three elements on the amendment.

Mr Young did not feel the figure set aside to deal with the Brexit potential inflation pressures was an unreasonable amount. Although the withdrawal agreement had been signed Britain did not have an agreed deal, which could mean a rise in inflation. The basis of the substantive motion was prudent and careful budget management.

Mr Young commented that he did not think any of the suggested amendments in the proposed amendment were new ideas. The County Council had devolved an additional £3m to local committees this year, and the additional £500,000 in the proposed amendment would not address the issues with highways maintenance.

With reference to the transport proposal in the amendment Mr Young said the County Council would make use of additional funding allocated from Government. However, the proposal in the amendment for one year funding only would have little effect on the bus services in Cumbria. It would need to be longer term funding to make any real difference.

The Deputy Leader then exercised his right of reply.

He challenged Mr Betton about his lack of support for either budget proposal, which he felt to be unjust.

With reference to the question from Mr Dew about the possibility of the County Council branching into commercialism, he felt this was not without risk and had concerns that this could go drastically wrong.

Mr Thornton then challenged all opposition members to lobby their Government for additional funding for Cumbria.

The amendment was put to the vote and, as required by the regulations, a recorded vote was taken. Members voted as follows:

For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Mr J Airey	Mr A Barry		Mr T Allison
Mr M Barbour	Mr J Bell		Mr S Collins
Mr B Berry	Mrs P Bell		Miss H Fearon
Mr R Bingham	Mr R Betton		Mr H Graham
Mr J Bland	Mrs C Bowditch		Mr W Graham
Mr A Bowness	Mrs A Burns		Mrs E Mallinson
Mr M Brereton	Mr F Cassidy		Mr J Mallinson
Mrs H Carrick	Mr W Clark		Mr S Stoddart
Mr P Dew	Mr A Connell		Mr T Wentworth Waites
Mr G Ellis	Mr G Cook		Mr R Worthington
Mr D English	Mr N Cotton		
Mr L Fisher	Mrs C Driver		
Mr D Gawne	Ms D Earl		
Dr S Haraldsen	Mrs S Evans		
Mr K Hitchen	Mrs B Gray		
Mr M Johnson	Mr K Hamilton		
Mr A Kennon	Mrs R Hanson		
Mr A Lamb	Mr M Hawkins		
Mr J Lister	Mr C Hogg		
Mr A Markley	Mr J Holliday		
Mr N Marriner	Mr N Hughes		
Mr G Roberts	Lord R Liddle		
Mr B Shirley	Mr K Little		
Mrs V Tarbitt	Dr K Lockney		
Mr P Turner	Mr T Lywood		
Mr W Wearing	Mrs C McCarron-Holmes		
Mr D Whipp	Mr W McEwan		
Mr C Whiteside	Mr A McGuckin		

Mr S Wielkopolski	Mr P McSweeney		
Mr D Wilson	Mr F Morgan		
Mr A Wonnacott	Mrs M Rae		
	Mrs S Sanderson		
	Mr D Southard		
	Mr P Thornton		
	Mrs C Tibble		
	Mrs H Wall		
	Mr R Watson		
	Mr C Weber		
	Mrs E Williamson		
	Mrs J Willis		
	Mr M Wilson		
	Mr M Worth		
	Mr S Young		
Total - 31	Total - 43	Total - 0	Total - 10

With 31 in favour, 43 against, no abstentions and 10 absent, the Chairman declared the amendment **LOST**.

The meeting then adjourned at 3.20pm, and reconvened at 3.20pm.

Following the adjournment a vote was then undertaken on the Substantive Motion and as required, a recorded vote was undertaken with members voting as follows:

For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Mr A Barry	Mr J Airey		Mr T Allison
Mr J Bell	Mr M Barbour		Mr S Collins
Mrs P Bell	Mr B Berry		Miss H Fearon
Mrs C Bowditch	Mr R Betton		Mr H Graham
Mrs A Burns	Mr R Bingham		Mr W Graham
Mr F Cassidy	Mr J Bland		Mrs E Mallinson
Mr W Clark	Mr A Bowness		Mr J Mallinson
Mr A Connell	Mr M Brereton		Mr S Stoddart
Mr G Cook	Mrs H Carrick		Mr T Wentworth Waites
Mr N Cotton	Mr P Dew		Mr R Worthington
Mrs C Driver	Mr G Ellis		
Ms D Earl	Mr D English		
Mrs S Evans	Mr L Fisher		
Mrs B Gray	Mr D Gawne		
Mr K Hamilton	Dr S Haraldsen		
Mrs R Hanson	Mr K Hitchen		
Mr M Hawkins	Mr M Johnson		
Mr C Hogg	Mr A Kennon		
Mr J Holliday	Mr A Lamb		
Mr N Hughes	Mr J Lister		
Lord R Liddle	Mr A Markley		
Mr K Little	Mr N Marriner		
Dr K Lockney	Mr G Roberts		
Mr T Lywood	Mr B Shirley		

Mrs C McCarron- Holmes	Mrs V Tarbitt		
Mr W McEwan	Mr P Turner		
Mr A McGuckin	Mr WJ Wearing		
Mr P McSweeney	Mr D Whipp		
Mr F Morgan	Mr C Whiteside		
Mrs M Rae	Mr S Wielkopolski		
Mrs S Sanderson	Mr D Wilson		
Mr D Southard	Mr A Wonnacott		
Mr P Thornton			
Mrs C Tibble			
Mrs H Wall			
Mr R Watson			
Mr C Weber			
Mrs E Williamson			
Mrs J Willis			
Mr M Wilson			
Mr M Worth			
Mr S Young			
Total - 42	Total - 32	Total - 0	Total - 10

With 42 members voting in favour, 32 against and 10 absent, the Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**, and it was

RESOLVED that

- (1) Council agrees to a general increase of Council Tax by 1.99% for 2020/21. Council agrees to the additional increase to the precept for Adult Social Care of 2.00% for 2020/21; which would result in:-
- a) The net revenue budget requirement for 2020/21 of £408.225m.
 - b) The Council Tax Requirement for 2020/21 of £248.347m which results in the precepts on the Districts as set out below:-

Table 1 : Precepts	£
Allerdale	44,520,838
Barrow	28,423,459
Carlisle	49,654,101
Copeland	30,018,404
Eden	29,879,303
South Lakeland	65,851,066
Total	248,347,171

- c) The following levels of Council Tax for each property band as set out overleaf:-

Table 2a : Council Tax Levels	2019/20 £	2020/21£	Increase (pa)£
Band A (up to £40,000)	923.52	960.37	36.85
Band B (£40,001 to £52,000)	1,077.44	1,120.44	43.00
Band C (£52,001 to £68,000)	1,231.36	1,280.49	49.13

Band D (£68,001 to £88,000)	1,385.28	1,440.56	55.28
Band E (£88,001 to £120,000)	1,693.12	1,760.68	67.56
Band F (£120,001 to £160,000)	2,000.96	2,080.81	79.85
Band G (£160,001 to £320,000)	2,308.80	2,400.93	92.13
Band H (£320,001 and over)	2,770.56	2,881.12	110.56

Representing

Table 2b : Council Tax Levels	2019/20	2020/21		Total £
	Total £	Core Spending 1.99% Increase £	Adult Social Care Precept 2.00 % increase	
Band A (up to £40,000)	923.52	18.38	18.47	960.37
Band B (£40,001 to £52,000)	1,077.44	21.45	21.55	1,120.44
Band C (£52,001 to £68,000)	1,231.36	24.51	24.62	1,280.49
Band D (£68,001 to £88,000)	1,385.28	27.57	27.71	1,440.56
Band E (£88,001 to £120,000)	1,693.12	33.69	33.87	1,760.68
Band F (£120,001 to £160,000)	2,000.96	39.83	40.02	2,080.81
Band G (£160,001 to £320,000)	2,308.80	45.95	46.18	2,400.93
Band H (£320,001 and over)	2,770.56	55.14	55.42	2,881.12

- (3) Council agrees the budget proposals as set out in the report and detailed in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2020-2025 (Appendix A) resulting in the 2020/21 Revenue Budget which includes the following:-
- a) The Medium Term Financial Plan 2020-2025 (Appendix A).
 - b) The School's Budget for 2020/21 of £264.253m.
 - c) The use of reserves and levels of forecast reserves contained in the MTFP.
 - d) The fees and charges schedule for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix C.
 - e) The adoption and publication of the statutory Pay Policy Statement 2020/21 set out in Appendix F. This includes setting the minimum hourly rate at the UK Living Wage (as set by the Living Wage Foundation)
- (4) Council agrees the budget proposals as set out in the report and detailed in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2020-2025 (Appendix A) resulting in the Capital Budget which includes the following:-
- a) A virement of £0.952m within 2019/20 from Enterprise Schemes to the Co-located Emergency Response Centre – Ulverston as detailed in paragraph 7.17
 - b) The CCC Capital Budget for 2020/21 of £90.894m set within the rolling programme of £286.379m (2020 – 2025) as set out in Appendix A.
- (5) Council agrees the Capital Strategy as set out in Appendix G;
- (6) Council agrees the Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21 which is set out in Appendix D, specifically the:-

- a) Treasury Management Strategy (Section 2) (including the borrowing strategy is set out in Section 2.4).
 - b) Annual Investment Strategy Statement (Section 3).
 - c) Prudential Indicators (Section 4).
 - d) Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement (Section 5).
- (7) Council approves the transfer of net increases / decreases to Sources of Finance confirmed after the 4th February 2020 to the Council's Volatility Reserve.

96 SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT

The Chair of Scrutiny Management Board presented a report which updated Council on the work of Scrutiny and any issues and developments that have occurred since the last meeting of the County Council.

The Chair referenced the work of Scrutiny Management Board in relation to absence management, and reminded members that a Task and Finish Group's report had been presents to Cabinet on 30 January, and all of the five recommendations made by Scrutiny Members had been agreed.

The Chair then updated members on the SMB call in for The Abbey Care Home in Staveley.

RESOLVED, that the report be received and noted.

97 QUESTIONS

Members asked whether the Council was planning to submit a Statement of Intent for funding from the Supported Bus Services and what would it be spent on, should it prove successful.

The Cabinet Member responded to say the County Council was currently investigating this and details would be shared with members once firm proposals were known.

Mr Hughes welcome the additional funding for bus subsidies but he asked the Cabinet Member to ensure that local committees were consulted on how this additional money would be spent.

The Cabinet Member informed members that this was a bidding process for funding, and the County Council would be submitting a bid by the end of April.

Mr Betton asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport whether he would be carrying put an investigation, and undertaking a lessons learned exercise in relation to the events on Warwick Road on during Storm Ciara. Mr Betton had been one of the first on the scene, and he was disappointed in the response from all the authorities, which he felt was not quick enough.

The Cabinet Member assured the local member that a lessons learned exercise would be carried out and all relevant parties would be included in this.

Mr Turner asked the Leader when Special Planning arrangement (SPA2) was going to be signed and agreed by Cumbria County Council, which he understood to be the only party still to sign. This delay was holding up major contract work involving nuclear waste from other areas of the UK.

The Leader responded to say the member had been misinformed, as there was no SPA2 yet in existence. Cumbria County Council had been working for over 12 months with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) on this, but so far the SPA2 was still awaited. He reassured members that the County Council was ready to sign up to this once it had been produced.

Mr Whiteside asked the Cabinet Member for Children's Services if she shared the concern which had been expressed by women in Copeland about the public health implications for mothers and babies of the redundancy of the breastfeeding co-ordinator at Howgill Family Centre, and whether she considered that this and other redundancies by Family Action were consistent with the spirit of the assurance that staff at the Howgill centre would be TUPE'd over to Family Action.

The Cabinet Member replied to say that there would continue to be breastfeeding services in West Cumbria. Family Action had followed due process for all redundancies. These posts were not part of the contract that Family Action took on so for these posts due process was not required to be followed.

Mr Lamb had watched the a programme on Channel 4 recently about West Cumbria Mining and was disappointed that the Leader of the Council had chosen not to defend Cumbria County Council and its officers, who had been working on this project for over 2 years. By not commenting the Leader risked allowing the anti-nuclear pressure groups, who sought to hold West Cumbria back at every opportunity, to set the agenda on this issue.

The Leader responded to say he had never been approached by Channel 4 for to comment on this. If he had, the response would have been that this decision was now subject to judicial review, so it would be inappropriate for him to comment.

Dr Haraldsen asked the Cabinet Member for Economic Development to state that this administration wholeheartedly supported the siting, and manufacture, of small and advanced nuclear reactors in the west of the county. He also asked him to confirm whether the County Council would play a strong role in advocating for new nuclear in Cumbria.

The Cabinet Member replied by saying that he had been negotiating with NuGen for over 5 years about the siting of small and advanced nuclear reactors but these negotiations had stalled due to a number of factors, including changes to investment policies at NuGen. However, he confirmed should these negotiations reoccur the County Council would support the proposals.

Mr Roberts asked the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Services, that given the escalating concerns about the spread of Coronavirus and the fact that the Royal College of GPs believes it could be “several months” before an end to the epidemic, what resilience measures does this County Council had in place to protect the public. He asked whether the Cabinet Member for Public Health agreed that hand gel dispensers should be installed in council buildings across the county, for the safety of the members of the public and staff who used these buildings.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities agree to provide a written response.

Mr Lister asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to ensure that pressure was kept on Connect Roads, especially on the commitment to the BAPA at Heathfield Bridge. He also asked for a commitment from the County Council to ensure Dubmill Point remained part of the county infrastructure.

The Cabinet Member assured members that there was no intention to close Dubmill Point on a permanent basis, although the road would need to be closed during periods of extreme weather.

With reference to Heathfield Bridge the Cabinet Member shared the local member’s frustration. This road had been left unrepaired by the PFI contractor Connect Roads Ltd for far too long and he acknowledge the inconvenience this had caused to the travelling public. Council officers had been working hard to ensure that Connect Roads complied with their contractual obligations and repair this damaged bridge.

For reasons outside the control of the Council Connect Roads had been unacceptably delayed in agreeing with Network Rail the Basic Asset Protection Agreement needed to do the work. However, Connect had finally confirmed this had now been agreed. He would keep the local member updated of progress.

98 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

a Workington Harbour Management Committee

RESOLVED, that the draft minutes of the Working Harbour Management Committee held on 31 January 2020 be received and noted.

99 URGENCY PROVISIONS

The Leader presented a report which notified members of the circumstances in which an urgent decision had been taken in line with the Council’s Constitution since the last meeting of the Council.

Since the meeting of Council held on 9 January 2020, one decision had been made using the Council’s Urgency procedure, for an urgent decision taken by the Executive Director – People on 31 January 2020 for the Approval to Grant Short

Breaks for Children with Disabilities and Support for Families with Children and Young People on the Autism Spectrum 2020-21.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

100 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were no notices of motion on this occasion.

101 SPEECHES

Mr W Clark gave a speech on 20 lakes where £20 isn't plenty. This was in relation to public protests about plans to make changes to byelaws at a number of lakes in South Lakeland, which had been designated as areas of peace and quiet.

The meeting ended at 4.15 pm