

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held on Thursday, 10 February 2022 at 10.00 am at Carlisle Racecourse, Carlisle.

PRESENT:

Councillor Mr AJ Markley (Chairman)

Mr MS Barbour	Miss D Garton	Mrs S Sanderson
Mr AL Barry	Mr D Gawne	Mr B Shirley
Mr J Bell	Mrs BC Gray	Mr DE Southward
Mrs PA Bell	Mr KR Hamilton	Mr S Stoddart
Mr RW Betton	Mr M Hawkins	Mr P Thornton
Mr RK Bingham	Mr C Hogg	Mrs C Tibble
Mr J Bland	Mr N Hughes	Mr CP Turner
Mrs C Bowditch	Mr MA Johnson	Mrs H Wall
Mr A Bowness	Mr A Kennon	Mr R Watson
Mr M Brereton	Mr AWC Lamb	Mr WJ Wearing
Mrs A Burns	Lord R Liddle	Mr C Weber
Mrs HF Carrick	Mr J Lister	Mr D Whipp
Mr F Cassidy	Mr KA Little	Mr T Wentworth Waites
Mr W Clark	Dr K Lockney	Mr CJ Whiteside
Mr SB Collins	Mrs EA Mallinson	Mr S Wielkopolski
Mr A Connell (Vice-Chair)	Mr J Mallinson	Mrs EL Williamson
Mr GD Cook	Mr NH Marriner	Mrs J Willis
Mr N Cotton	Ms C McCarron-Holmes	Mr D Wilson
Mr P Dew	Mr W McEwan	Mr M Wilson
Mr R Dobson	Mr A McGuckin	Mr AW Wonnacott
Ms D Earl	Mr P McSweeney	Mr MH Worth
Mr GM Ellis	Mr M Mitchelson	Mr R Worthington
Mr D English	Mr FI Morgan	Mr SF Young
Mrs S Evans	Mrs M Rae	
Ms J Filmore	Mr GRPM Roberts	

There were 73 members present at the start of the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr T Allison, Ms C Bell, Mr B Berry, Ms C Driver, Miss HJ Fearon, Mr HGG Graham, Dr S Haraldsen, Mr K Hitchen and Mr T Lywood.

66 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Allison, Mrs C Bell, Mr Berry, Ms Driver, Miss Fearon, Mr Graham, Dr Haraldsen, Mr Hitchen, and Mr Lywood.

67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Whiteside declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item No 17 – Digital Infrastructure – Gainshare, as he is an employee of Openreach. He did not take part in any discussion during this item.

Mr Hogg declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 20 – Notices of Motion as he is an advocate for Fair Game.

Mr Shirley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 20 – Notices of Motion, as he is the Chairman of Barrow and District Junior Football League, a Team Manager at Dalton United and a Welfare Officer at Askam United FC.

Mrs Tibble declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 20 – Notices of Motion as she is a minor shareholder at Workington AFC. She did not take part in the discussion.

68 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Mrs H Wall arrived at the meeting at this point.

RESOLVED, that the public and press be not excluded for any items on the agenda today.

69 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no valid requests received to ask a question, make a statement or bring a petition to this meeting.

70 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2021 be agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

71 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman began the meeting with the news of the sad passing of County Councillor Val Tarbitt. Mrs Tarbitt, was the County Councillor for the Longtown Division and she died suddenly on 28 January, having been taken ill at a community event in her division.

The Chairman, and the Leader of the Conservative Group, followed by the leaders of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups expressed their condolences to Mrs Tarbitt's family and spoke about her character, her contribution to the County Council, and her constituents and of their sadness at her death.

The Chairman then spoke about the recent passing of a number of former County Councillors, including Mrs E Barraclough, Mr T McSorley, Mr W Smith. He also took the opportunity to thank everyone for their kind words and support to him since the passing of his much loved wife Denise in November.

Members joined the Chairman in a moment of quiet reflection for his wife and the other members mentioned.

The Chairman then announced the names of those that had received honours in this year's New Years Honours List, including Mrs Sajdah Perveen Ghafoor, for services to cultural awareness and integration in Cumbria; Mrs Margaret Emma Bravo, for services to education; Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Timothy Brian Jackson Coombe, for services to the community in Brampton; Ms Jo Lappin – Chief Executive of Cumbria LEP for services to the economy in Cumbria; Mr Neil John Fleming, for services to the community in Ulverston during Covid-19; Mr Jonathan Gibson, for services to cricket coaching and youth development; Mr John Craig Wall, for charitable services in Cumbria; and Mr Andrew Duncan Slattery, lately Assistant Chief Constable, Cumbria Constabulary

Last month on 27 January the County Council marked national Holocaust Memorial Day. This was a time for everyone to pause to remember the millions of people who had been murdered or whose lives had been changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

On Saturday 4 December, in the Chairman's absence, the Vice-Chair hosted the County Council's Christmas get-together for the children it looked after and their foster families in Carlisle. It was a fantastic event which was well-attended and enjoyed by all. The event in Barrow was delayed due to additional Covid restrictions but would take place later this year.

Lastly, the Chairman reminded members an online charity auction launched last week in aid of his two chosen charities, NWS Community First Responders and the RNLI. Local businesses had been very generous with their donations and he thanked them all.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Care Services then made an announcement about the unprecedented pressures in Adult Social Care, and took the opportunity to bring members up to date with the current situation.

There were 2 pieces of good news to report. Firstly, it appeared the county was through the worst of the latest wave of covid infections and the impact on council services of staff illness and self-isolation was lessening. This was allowing Cumbria County Council to reopen some services, including day services and supported living, that had been temporarily suspended.

As the impact of covid reduced, the Council was seeing more and more social care providers willing and confident to accept new referrals, helping reduce the number of people with unmet needs.

In November last year in a bid to support the struggling social care sector throughout winter the Council introduced a £7m Market Sustainability Fund. To date, £4.5m of that fund had been allocated with grants being made to 128 social care providers with a further 14 applications being reviewed this week. This grant enabled providers to recruit and retain staff over the winter period by making bonus payments and temporary wage increases, along with other staff initiatives.

The social care recruitment marketing campaign, Proud to Care Cumbria, was having a positive impact and assisting both Cumbria Care and independent sector providers to recruit new staff.

Council staff had reacted positively to the request at the start of the year to step-in to provide emergency support for Cumbria Care services and around 50 additional staff members had helped out with routine tasks in care homes, allowing care staff to focus on service users' needs.

Despite these encouraging developments the sector was still in severe difficulty, and the Council needed a long-term funding settlement that recognised the critical value of social care and would allow the sector to recover, plan, develop and meet the growing demand from an aging population.

72 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

(A) Cabinet Minutes - 18 November

There were no questions to the Leader.

RESOLVED, that the Cabinet Minutes for 18 November 2021 be noted.

(B) Cabinet Minutes - 16 December

On Minute No 174 – Statements by the Leader and Cabinet Members Mr Hughes asked, with reference to the Community Rail Partnership, whether the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport agreed with his disappointment at the lack of funding through the Integrated Rail Plan, and that the plan had missed a great opportunity for Cumbria in failing to support both current routes and new ones.

The Cabinet Member responded to say that through TfN all stakeholders would continue to push for investment in rail.

On Minute No 176 - 2021/22 Qt 2 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report Mr Clark said he welcomed the £100,000 in the budget set aside towards purchasing a new Ferry on Lake Windermere. He asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to give an update on where the County Council was with the purchase of the new Ferry. He also asked for assurances that the Members on the Windermere Ferry Advisory Committee would have an input in the process.

The Cabinet Member responded to say he was really pleased with the question from Mr Clark. The purchase of a new ferry takes a period of time, however he assured

members that this was progressing well. The first of three stages in building a new vessel had been completed, and the power required and the preliminary design of the drive system and the on shore infrastructure required to ensure the new ferry was fit for the next 40 years had also been completed. The detailed design was now being developed ready for consultation with the ferry advisory group, users of the ferry and the local community.

Within the capital budget £6million had been programmed for the procurement of a green electric car ferry, which not only would secure this vital local and tourist asset, but clearly demonstrate Cumbria County Council's continued commitment to carbon reduction for the future.

On Minute No 178 – Chronology of Fire Service Governance Mr Lamb asked the Cabinet Member for Customers, Transformation and Fire Service whether the County Council would be making a response to the Fire Service governance business case consultation.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that this would be a decision for Cabinet to take and a report would be prepared shortly on this. The Chair of the Communities and Place Scrutiny Advisory Board (C&PSAB) said this would also be an agenda item at a future meeting of the SAB.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 16 December 2021 be noted.

(C) Cabinet Minutes - 27 January 2022

On Minute No 190 (a) – Scrutiny Review of Fluoridation of Water Supplies Mr Betton asked whether Cumbria County Council was considering the concerns raised by the Fluoride Free Cumbria Group.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities assured the member that Cabinet was listening to the Group. She confirmed that since Cabinet she had received a number of emails from them and she would be preparing a response to this shortly.

On Minute No 189 – Referral from Copeland Local Committee Mid Copeland and South Copeland Community Partnerships Mr D Wilson asked the Leader about the need for representation from Cumbria County Council on the GDF working group, given it would be dispersing £1m in Allerdale and Copeland. He did not agree with the statement made by the Leader about the loss of jobs at Sellafield. Mr Wilson felt that the hosting of a GDF would create around 1000 jobs over the length of the construction.

The Leader responded to say the Sellafield site was a storage facility for the majority of the UK's waste. The policy proposed by the Government was that this waste would be moved from Sellafield to a GDF, and once moved it would be sealed there for over 100,000 years. This would mean that the jobs at Sellafield would no longer be required. He agreed short term there would be employment opportunities during the construction stage but this would not be sustainable in the

long term. The consequences of pursuing this would result in job losses in West Cumbria.

He was aware that Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership was lobbying to attract small to medium size reactors at Sellafield and also a nuclear fusion project.

Also on Minute No 189 Mr Turner asked the Leader whether financial and legal risks of lack of representation on GDF working group had been assessed, and if so, by whom.

The Leader said the fact that Cumbria County Council was not participating in the working groups would not mean that they would be unable to operate. The £1m of funding promised by the Government to encourage communities to accept the GDF was not dependent on Cumbria County Council being a member of the working group. He did not feel there was any risk involved in the County Council not joining the group.

Also on Minute No 189 Mr Lamb asked the Leader if he had sent a letter of apology to the chairman of the GDF working group, regarding his comments about the chairman being vexatious.

The Leader responded to say that this was not part of the referral to Cabinet, so was not considered at the meeting.

On Minute No 188 – Public Participation Mr Lister asked the Leader how much more time he thought the Council should spend discussing fluoridation.

The Leader responded to say that this was a serious issue which the County Council does take seriously. Cabinet would continue to listen to the members of Fluoride Free Cumbria, along with others. He informed members that legislation was pending which would transfer the responsibility for water fluoridation to the Secretary of State, but until then it was the County Council's responsibility. Cabinet understood many people felt passionately about this issue and were entitled to have a democratic right to express this. Although it was often difficult to reconcile these views, Cabinet would continue to listen to those who wished to express a view on this subject.

Also on Minute No 188 Mrs Mallinson asked the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Services when the CATFISH Study would be published and had the Council taken the recent counsel opinion letter into account. She also asked if there would be a public consultation when the report was published.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Services informed members that the CATFISH Study was an independent study which the County Council had no influence over.

Mrs Mallinson then asked a supplementary question about why the Fluoride Free Cumbria Group were unable to speak under Public Participation at the meeting today.

The Chief Legal Officer confirmed that they were unable to speak today under one of the exclusions in the Public Participation Scheme in the Constitution, which was if the subject matter of the question, statement or petition was substantially the same as the subject matter of a question, statement or petition submitted within the last 12 months.

On Minute No 191 – Scrutiny Review – Local Government Reform Mr Dew asked whether the Leader would take the opportunity to commend to the Shadow Authorities the Local Committee structure.

The Leader said he would be happy to commend the local committee structure to the two new unitary authorities, but he does not think it is his place to do so. The structure of the two new authorities would be for them to decide. He hoped the two new councils would accept the experience of the Cumbria County members with locality working and adopt the same structure.

On Minute No 199 – Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Mrs Mallinson applauded the county council for joining the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme. She asked how many families from Afghanistan the county was likely to receive and what was the breakdown of allocation to different councils.

The Leader assured members that Cumbria County Council was working closely with all district councils on the scheme. He was not aware of the exact figures for the number of refugees/families that had been resettled in Cumbria, but agreed to provide a written response.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 27 January 2022 be noted.

The meeting adjourned at 11.10 and reconvened at 11.25am.

73 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022-27 AND DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022-27

The Deputy Leader presented a report, which would be the last budget report to be agreed by Cumbria County Council, the budget, once set, would run until the end of the Council at midnight on 31 March 2023.

The Deputy Leader reminded members that in 1974 the budget for Cumbria County Council was £51m but of this £31m was for education leaving just £20m for the rest of the Council services. The Social Services budget was £3.7m and £5m was spent on the Council's highways. The amount raised then by domestic rates was £25m.

The current budget figures looked very different with an equivalent spend on Social Care being £48m and Highways £65m. However, it was not easy to make comparisons due to the complex nature of the various funding streams but the Deputy Leader felt the aspect that stood out was the huge increase in the costs of Adult Social Care and Children's Services along with the transfer of much of the education budget to Academy Schools.

The Council tax precept this year was £266m, just over 10 times the amount raised in 1974.

The council services would all continue to operate in the same way on 1 April 2023 as they had on 31 March, which is why members were being asked to consider a five year Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) even though Cumbria County Council would legally cease to exist in 14 months time.

The new Councils of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness would have the ability to use this MTFP when the members constructed their first budgets.

The Deputy Leader then took members through the legacy Cumbria County Council would be leaving to the new authorities, including:-

- a strong financial legacy with a balanced budget,
- adequate reserves and
- an achievable savings programme.

He paid tribute to the two Section 151 Officers he had worked with in his time as Deputy Leader, and to their Finance Teams too.

The Council had never run out of money, the accounts were always in on time and the Council made the most of every pound raised.

The pandemic had thrown up more challenges than ever seen before, but Council services had continued to be provided and the vulnerable in our communities were still being looked after. Amongst all of these challenges, teams of staff across the Council were now working to ensure that Local Government Reorganisation in the county progressed at pace to ensure the two new Councils would be safe and legal in less than 14 months.

All members supported this and gave a round of applause.

The Deputy Leader was disappointed that funding from central government again only provided a one-year settlement. Additional funding had been received in recognition of the ongoing demand and financial pressures around children's and adults social care, inflationary pressures on both pay and non-pay costs and specific funding for additional responsibilities and burdens.

However, the County Council expected to receive notification that county and unitary councils across England were set to receive 40% less funding for highways than two years ago. A reduction of £480m which equated to the filling of 11.5 million potholes!

As part of the budget proposals included within this report the Council was proposing a £2m Environment Fund to support improvements for enhanced verge maintenance, tree maintenance and replacement, and footpath maintenance. It was proposed that £1.2m be delegated to Local Committees and members were encouraged to work with their Districts, Parishes and Town Councils to make best use of the money, including identifying match funding where possible. The COVID-

19 pandemic had brought into sharp focus the benefits to individuals and community wellbeing from the local environment.

In November 2021 the County Council consulted on a General Council Tax rise of 1.99%. Almost two thirds of survey respondents were against this increase in council tax. So, having taken account of the increases in inflation, energy bills and national insurance contributions which were hitting individuals and families alike, the Council was now proposing a zero percent council tax.

The Spending Review 2020 assumed that councils with Adult Social Care services would levy the precept in 2021/22 at 3%, although this could be deferred in part or full until 2022/23. The County Council deferred 1% and this was included in the budget consultation in November last year.

As part of the financial settlement received in December 2021 it was confirmed that an additional 1% increase could be levied and so the Deputy Leader said he was proposing that the Council included this additional increase making 2% in total.

Adult social care was one of the biggest budget challenges and the governments calculations assumed that the Council would make this levy. Therefore, the budget proposal this year was to levy the 2% Adult Social Care precept and zero percent general Council Tax making the total increase 2%

The Deputy Leader then took members through the Capital Programme, and said the Programme was bold and ambitious with a rolling programme of just over £439m from 2022 to 2027. 80% or £313m of that was grant funding which the Council had been able to secure without using council tax revenues. He highlighted the following:-

- The Windermere Ferry had reached the end of its serviceable life and would be replaced with a new fully electric Ferry.
- Carlisle Railway Station Improvements would help attract businesses and visitors to the area and would become an 'Integrated High-Speed European Station' and HS2 stop.
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans were being developed for each of the main towns in Cumbria (Barrow, Carlisle, Penrith, Kendal, Whitehaven and Workington).

The Deputy Leader said that given the uncertainty facing us last year the Council had increased the General Fund Balance from £15m to £25m and the proposal was that it remained at £25m to reflect the risks presented by the uncertainties around inflation and energy costs.

He then moved the recommendations in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.11 of the report, and this was seconded by the Leader of the Council, who then reserved his right to speak.

The Leader of the Conservative Group spoke to oppose some of the proposals contained within the administration's budget, which she felt would maximise the amount of cash that could be extracted from residents in Cumbria.

She reminded members that the County Council had, for the last three years ignored the majority of public responses to the budget consultation which were against any increase in council tax, and this time had not only increased the council tax by the maximum amount possible but then transferred £10m into the council's financial reserves.

The Leader of the Conservative Group wholeheartedly supported the proposed freeze in general Council Tax for 2022/23 through what would undoubtedly be another extremely challenging year ahead.

She referred to the current Local Government Reform in Cumbria, and reminded Council that unitary government was not something that had been inflicted on Cumbria, it was something members had actively pursued. This county asked for, and had been given the chance, to show that it was capable of establishing a system of local government in Cumbria that would truly deliver for the residents, and it was essential that it succeeded.

She supported the proposed freeze in council tax, and also the proposed allocation of a one-off sum of money to Local Committees to be invested in environmental activities. However, it was essential that any projects or activities that were supported by this funding stream were deliverable by the end of the year. She had concerns that there was a real risk that these initiatives would not be fully delivered before vesting day.

The Leader of the Opposition therefore proposed an objection to today's budget. A key priority for the residents of Cumbria was highways, or more specifically potholes on local highways. Every day between 120 – 150 defects were reported to the Council.

The objection was to redistribute the administration's proposed allocation of £2m for the Environment Fund to provide £1m to the Local Committees for accelerated pothole repairs, £600k to the Local Committees for environmental improvements and the remaining £400k to be held centrally for additional capacity, to ensure the environmental projects could be delivered at pace.

The meeting then adjourned in order to give the political groups time to consider the objection.

Adjourned at 12.05 and reconvened after lunch at 1pm.

The Leader of the Council said all political groups had now had the opportunity to consider the objection. He said the Environment Fund was important to the administration and thought the fund created last year had been very successful. However, the administration understood the comments and concerns about the delivery of projects by the end of the current financial year.

The state of the roads in Cumbria was of great concern to all members and there was never enough money to repair all the defects. However, the Leader informed Council that as part of the settlement from Government, which was notified after the budget papers were published, an additional £1.3m had been received.

This had not yet been allocated, and in Paragraph 1.11 there was a recommendation that any net increases or decreases to sources of finance after the 27 January be transferred into the Volatility Fund. However, the Leader said that in response to the objection that the administration was prepared to split £1.2m of this funding equally across Local Committees to provide additional capacity to clear some of the backlog of pothole repairs across the County. The Leader of the opposition accepted this proposal and withdrew the objection.

A revised recommendation at 1.11 was proposed that stated – Council approve £1.2m to be allocated equally to Local Committees for pothole repairs and the remaining £0.1m of additional funding from the Final Local Government Finance Settlement be transferred to the Volatility Reserve.

The Chair then opened the meeting to debate. Upon conclusion of a lengthy debate the Deputy Leader then summed up and moved the amended recommendation. This was seconded by the Leader and then, as in line with regulations a recorded vote took place.

For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Mr MS Barbour			Mr T Allison
Mr AL Barry			Mrs CM Bell
Mr J Bell			Mr B Berry
Mrs P Bell			Mr P Dew
Mr R Betton			Ms C Driver
Mr R Bingham			Miss HJ Fearon
Mr J Bland			Mr HGG Graham
Mrs C Bowditch			Dr S Haraldsen
Mr A Bowness			Mr K Hitchen
Mr M Brereton			Mr T Lywood
Mrs A Burns			Mr N Marriner
Mrs H Carrick			
Mr F Cassidy			
Mr W Clark			
Mr SB Collins			
Mr A Connell			
Mr GD Cook			
Mr N Cotton			
Mr R Dobson			
Ms D Earl			
Mr G Ellis			
Mr D English			
Mrs S Evans			
Ms J Filmore			
Miss D Garton			
Mr D Gawne			
Mrs B Gray			
Mr K Hamilton			
Mr M Hawkins			
Mr C Hogg			

Mr N Hughes			
Mr M Johnson			
Mr A Kennon			
Mr AWC Lamb			
Lord R Liddle			
Mr J Lister			
Mr KA Little			
Dr K Lockney			
Mrs E Mallinson			
Mr J Mallinson			
Mr A Markley			
Mrs C McCarron- Holmes			
Mr W McEwan			
Mr A McGuckin			
Mr P McSweeney			
Mr M Mitchelson			
Mr FI Morgan			
Mrs M Rae			
Mrs S Sanderson			
Mr B Shirley			
Mr D Southward			
Mr S Stoddart			
Mr P Thornton			
Mrs C Tibble			
Mr P Turner			
Ms H Wall			
Mr R Watson			
Mr W Wearing			
Mr C Weber			
Mr T Wentworth Waites			
Mr D Whipp			
Mr C Whiteside			
Mr S Wielkopolski			
Mrs E Williamson			
Mrs J Willis			
Mr D Wilson			
Mr M Wilson			
Mr A Wonnacott			
Mr M Worth			
Mr R Worthington			
Mr S Young			
TOTAL - 72	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 11

RESOLVED, that

- (1) Council agrees to no increase in Council Tax for 2022/23.
- (2) Council agrees to the precept for Adult Social Care of 2% for 2022/23.

(3) Council notes that having approved both the no increase in general Council Tax and the Adult Social Care precept of 2.00% this would result in:-

- a) The draft Net Revenue Budget Requirement for 2022/23 of £441.261m.
- b) The Council Tax Requirement for 2022/23 of £265.817m which results in the precepts on the Districts as set out in Table 1:-

Table 1: Precepts

	£
Allerdale	47,416,621
Barrow	30,406,054
Carlisle	53,731,876
Copeland	31,859,946
Eden	31,831,922
South Lakeland	70,570,940
Total	265,817,359

The following levels of Council Tax for each property band as set out in Table 2a and 2b:-

Table 2a: Council Tax Levels

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Increase (pa) £
<i>Band A (up to £40,000)</i>	998.69	1,018.66	19.97
<i>Band B (£40,001 to £52,000)</i>	1,165.15	1,188.45	23.30
<i>Band C (£52,001 to £68,000)</i>	1,331.59	1,358.22	26.63
<i>Band D (£68,001 to £88,000)</i>	1,498.04	1,528.00	29.96
<i>Band E (£88,001 to £120,000)</i>	1,830.93	1,867.55	36.62
<i>Band F (£120,001 to £160,000)</i>	2,163.84	2,207.11	43.27
<i>Band G (£160,001 to £320,000)</i>	2,496.73	2,546.66	49.93
<i>Band H (£320,001 and over)</i>	2,996.08	3,056.00	59.92

Representing

Table 2b: Council Tax Levels

	2021/22	2022/23		
	Total £	Core Spending 0% Increase £	Adult Social Care Precept 2.00 % increase £	Total £
<i>Band A (up to £40,000)</i>	998.69	0.00	19.97	1,018.66
<i>Band B (£40,001 to £52,000)</i>	1,165.15	0.00	23.30	1,188.45
<i>Band C (£52,001 to £68,000)</i>	1,331.59	0.00	26.63	1,358.22
<i>Band D (£68,001 to £88,000)</i>	1,498.04	0.00	29.96	1,528.00
<i>Band E (£88,001 to £120,000)</i>	1,830.93	0.00	36.62	1,867.55
<i>Band F (£120,001 to £160,000)</i>	2,163.84	0.00	43.27	2,207.11
<i>Band G (£160,001 to £320,000)</i>	2,496.73	0.00	49.93	2,546.66
<i>Band H (£320,001 and over)</i>	2,996.08	0.00	59.92	3,056.00

- (4) Council agrees the budget proposals as set out in the report and detailed in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-2027 (Appendix A) resulting in the 2022/23 revenue budget which includes the following:-
- a) The Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-2027 (Appendix A).
 - b) The School's Budget for 2022/23 of £282.230m.
 - c) The use of reserves and levels of forecast reserves contained in the MTFP (Appendix A).
 - d) The fees and charges schedule for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix C.
 - e) The adoption and publication of the statutory Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 set out in Appendix F. This includes setting the minimum hourly rate at the UK Living Wage (as set by the Living Wage Foundation).
- (5) Council agrees Cabinet's recommendations to Council from 23 September 2021 (Q1 revenue and capital budget monitoring report) and 16 December 2021 (Q2 revenue and budget monitoring report) to amend the Capital Programme 2021-2026 as follows:-

- a) The addition of new schemes as set out in paragraph 150 and 151.
 - b) The approval of re-profiled expenditure as set out in paragraph 152.
- (6) Council agrees that if already approved schemes have slippage or accelerated spend at the end of the 2021/22 financial year the value of that slippage or accelerated spend will be automatically carried forward to 2022/23 as set out in paragraph 7.18.
- (7) Council agrees the CCC Capital Budget for 2022/23 of £193.463m, set within the rolling programme of £439.976m (2022-2027) as set out in Appendix A.
- (8) Council agrees the Capital Strategy as set out in Appendix G.
- (9) Council agrees the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 as set out in Appendix D, specifically the:-
- a) Treasury Management Strategy (Section 2) (including the borrowing strategy as 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).
- (10) Council approves the transfer of an additional £4.730m contribution to the LGR Implementation Reserve as set out in para 2.15 taking the total contribution to the LGR reserve to £9.460m.
- (11) Council approves the transfer of net increases/decreases to Sources of Finance announced after the 27 January 2022 to the Council's Volatility Reserve;
- (12) Council approve £1.2m to be allocated equally to Local Committees for pothole repairs and the remaining £0.1m of additional funding from the Final Local Government Finance Settlement be transferred to the Volatility Reserve.

74 EXTENSION OF COUNCIL PLAN 2018-22

Members considered a report from the Leader of the Council, which informed them that on 27 January 2022 Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council that the Council Plan 2018–2022 be extended until 31 March 2023 and remain included in the Council's Policy Framework until 31 March 2023.

Cumbria County Council agreed the current Council Plan 2018–2022 in February 2018. The Council Plan 2018–2022 set out the underpinning principles, ways of working and high-level outcomes the Council aims to achieve.

There had been some significant changes in policy context since February 2018, including the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on communities and services, the UK's exit from the European Union, and national policy reform in relation to issues

such as levelling up, social care funding reform, health and care reform, environmental reform and climate change.

However, the Council Plan 2018-2022 outcomes of People in Cumbria are healthy and safe, Places in Cumbria are well-connected and thriving, and The economy in Cumbria is growing and benefits everyone remained robust, ambitious and relevant.

The extension of the current Council Plan until 31 March 2023 supported by a focused one-year Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2022/23 would provide a robust framework for Council activity and decision-making during the whole of 2022/23, enable effective performance management throughout the year, ensure clarity and transparency of the Council's achievements at the point of its closure, support an effective transition to new councils and provide an effective foundation for future local government policy and priority-setting in Cumbria.

The extension of the Council Plan 2018-2022 would also provide a framework for a review of the Council's current strategic policy in the context of Local Government Reorganisation.

RESOLVED, that the Council Plan 2018–2022, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be extended until 31 March 2023 and remain included in the Council's Policy Framework until 31 March 2023.

75 APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF PAID SERVICES)

a Acting Up Arrangements - Chief Executive

Members had before them a report from the Leader of the Council/Chair of the Chief Officers Committee which recommended to Council that the vacancy of the role of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) be appointed to following recommendations by the Chief Officers Committee.

The permanent Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service), Katherine Fairclough left Cumbria County Council on 30 June 2021. The Executive Director, People Services (Deputy Chief Executive) exercised the duties of the role of Chief Executive pending the arrival of the fixed term replacement on 2 August 2021. The postholder subsequently left the organisation with effect from 30 November 2021.

As a temporary measure the Executive Director, People Services (Deputy Chief Executive) had been carrying out the functions of the Chief Executive since 1 December. The Deputy Chief Executive had the delegated authority under Part 3 of the Constitution to exercise the powers of the Chief Executive during any vacancy. This arrangement was expected to end on 31 December 2021.

The role of Head of Paid service was, under the Council's Constitution, carried out by the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive role was currently being exercised by the Deputy Chief Executive who was also the Executive Director, People Services. The role was being carried out in addition to these ongoing duties which included the statutory duties as the Director of Adults and Children's services, in addition to providing a combined leadership role for the LGR Programme.

Full Council was required to approve a candidate recommended by the Chief Officers' Committee following assurance that there were no objections from members of the Executive. This was also the case for any temporary acting up arrangements. No objections had been received from the Executive.

At its meeting on 5 January 2022, the Chief Officer's Committee considered a range of options and agreed to proceed with the recruitment of an external Chief Executive to the role on a fixed term basis and agreed the terms and conditions of the role to recommend to Council.

Consideration was also given to the arrangements to be put in place pending recruitment to the role. The Chief Officer Committee agreed to recommend to Council for approval formalising the internal Chief Executive 'acting up' arrangements which would provide for a temporary arrangement whereby the Executive Director, People Services (Deputy Chief Executive) would act formally as Chief Executive in the absence of an immediate appointment.

RESOLVED, that Council approves the **RECOMMENDATION** from the Chief Officers' Committee that the Executive Director, People Services (Deputy Chief Executive), who has been carrying out the functions of the Chief Executive be formally appointed as Acting Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) with retrospective effect from 1 January 2022 on the terms and conditions proposed by Chief Officer Committee pending the filling of the vacancy.

b Appointment of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service

The Leader of the Council presented a report which asked Council, subject to receiving a recommendation from Chief Officers' Committee to appoint to the position of the Council's Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, on a temporary basis, the date of commencement to be confirmed until 31 March 2023 on the terms and conditions agreed.

This report asked Council to approve the recommendation from the Chief Officers' Committee on 9 February 2022 following a robust selection process.

The Chief Officers' Committee, under the Council's constitution, discharges on behalf of the authority the function of recommending to the Council the appointment of the officer designated as the authority's Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and approving the terms and conditions of the appointment.

During the course of 2021, the permanent Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) left on 30 June. The Executive Director, People Services (Deputy Chief Executive) exercised the duties of the role of Chief Executive pending the arrival of the fixed term replacement on 2 August 2021. She subsequently left the organisation with effect from 30 November 2021.

As a temporary measure the Executive Director, People Services (Deputy Chief Executive) carried out the functions of the Chief Executive on a temporary basis

since 1 December. The Deputy Chief Executive had the delegated authority under Part 3 of the Constitution to exercise the powers of the Chief Executive during any vacancy. This arrangement was expected to end on 31 December 2021.

At its meeting on 5 January 2022, Chief Officers' Committee considered the options available to the County Council in relation to the appointment of a new Chief Executive and agreed to advertise the post.

Following the external advertisement of the post of temporary Chief Executive a total of 5 applications were received. 2 applications met the essential criteria and were progressed through a robust assessment and selection process on 7 and 8 February 2022. Along with a final interview with members from the Chief Officer Committee who made up the interview panel.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) Council agrees the recommendation from the Chief Officers' committee to appoint Mr John Metcalfe to the role of the Council's Chief Executive/ Head of Paid Service be approved;
- (2) That the post is appointed to on the terms and conditions agreed by the Chief Officers' committee.

76 JOINT COMMITTEES

The Leader of the Council presented a report which informed members that on 27 January 2022 Cabinet considered a report on Joint Committees, which asked it to make a recommendation to Council to agree to the establishment of Cumberland Joint Committee and Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee, within 14 days of the Structural Change Order (SCO) coming into force.

The report also asked Council to agree the nominations for the Joint Committees and to delegate the Non-Executive functions within the Terms of Reference to the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee and the Cumberland Joint Committee when established, within fourteen days of the SCO coming into force.

The Secretary of State had made a decision to implement the proposal for two new unitary authorities in Cumbria on an East-West geography, and was seeking Parliamentary approval for the necessary secondary legislation (the SCO) to implement the two Unitary Council proposal.

All Councils had received details of the SCO which was laid before Parliament on 24 January 2022 and which, subject to receiving Parliamentary approval, was likely to come into force in March.

Under the draft SCO the County Council and the 3 District Councils in the new unitary area of Westmorland and Furness were required, within 14 days of the coming into force of the Order, to establish a joint committee for the purposes of preparing for and facilitating the efficient and timely transfer to the new Westmorland and Furness Council of the functions, property and liabilities which relate to the Westmorland and Furness Area.

The County Council and 3 District Councils in the new unitary area of Cumberland had an identical requirement to establish a joint committee for the Cumberland area.

Under the SCO, these joint committees would be dissolved on the day following that on which the shadow authority for the relevant area held its first meeting.

Suggested terms of reference for the two new joint committees were attached at Appendix 1 of the report. These terms of reference were based on the responsibilities of the joint committees as set out in the draft SCO.

The SCO provided that the membership of each of the joint committees would be 12 being made up of 3 persons nominated by the County Council and 3 persons nominated by each of the District Councils. It also provided that in the case of the County Council the nominees for the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee should be from divisions within the area covered by the committee and the nominees for the Cumberland Joint Committee should be from divisions within the area covered by that committee.

As the functions to be carried out by the joint committee would include the discharge of both non-executive and executive functions the nominees to each committee should include at least one member of the Executive. As the committees would each only have responsibilities in respect of part of the area of the county council the political balance requirements do not apply to appointments to the committee.

Although the SCO required the establishment of the two joint committees it does not actually set up the joint committees, that would require the relevant councils to appoint those committees and delegate the relevant functions to the committees under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000 which dealt with the establishment of joint committees and the delegation of powers to joint committees.

As the functions to be carried out by the joint committee would include the discharge of both non-executive and executive functions full Council was responsible for appointment of the joint committees and approving the nomination of members to sit on the joint committees. Cabinet would be responsible for delegating the executive functions to the joint committees.

Although the SCO was not yet in force it was recommended that the steps necessary to establish the joint committees were undertaken now in order to ensure that the joint committees were ready to be stood up following the SCO coming into force and the 14 day requirement in the SCO could be satisfied.

If Council does not agree to the establishment of the two joint committees now, the County Council would not be able to comply with its obligations under the SCO. If the County Council does not participate in the joint committees the 3 district councils in each area would still establish the joint committees and the County Council would not be represented on them.

Mr Lamb proposed an amendment to the nominations proposed. He suggested that nominations should be agreed on a politically proportionate basis.

The Leader of the Council said the Joint Committees would be hybrid, in that they would have both executive and non executive powers. These arrangements had to be agreed by Cabinet, and therefore any changes to the nominations would have to go back to Cabinet for approval.

The Leader also commented that he was concerned that the membership of the Joint Committees was not fairly weighted. Most of the services to be disaggregated during this process were County Council services, but the County Council only had three seats, compared to the districts which would have nine.

The amendment was seconded by Mr Ellis and was then put to a vote. With 23 votes for, 33 against and 1 abstention the amendment fell.

A vote then took place on the recommendations in the report, including the nominations and with 34 for, 9 against and 12 abstentions this was agreed.

RESOLVED that

- (1) Council agrees to the establishment of the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee and the Cumberland Joint Committee within 14 days of the SCO coming into force;
- (2) Council nominates Cllrs Patricia Bell, Anne Burns and Peter Thornton to sit on the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee and Cllrs Keith Little, Celia Tibble and Stewart Young to sit on the Cumberland Joint Committee;
- (3) Council delegates the Non-Executive functions within the Terms of Reference to the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee and the Cumberland Joint Committee when established, within fourteen days of the SCO coming into force.

The meeting adjourned at 15.10 and reconvened at 15.25.

77 LOCAL AUDIT & ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Deputy Leader presented a report which asked Council to approve the recommendation to accept the invitation from Public Sector Auditor Appointments Ltd (PSAA) to opt into a sector-led appointment of the External Auditor for the Council and the Local Government Pension Scheme accounts from 31 December 2022 for the audit of the 2023/24 Accounts onwards.

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 brought to a close the Audit Commission and the arrangements for the appointment of external auditors and the setting of audit fees for all local government and NHS bodies in England.

As part of the arrangements, the Secretary of State specified the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) as an appointing person for principal local government and

police bodies for audits from 2018/19, under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015.

The PSAA was responsible for appointing auditors and setting scales of fees for relevant principal authorities that had chosen to opt into its national sector led scheme, overseeing issues of auditor independence and monitoring compliance by the auditor with the contracts entered into with the audit firms. This appointment would come to an end for the audit of accounts in 2022/23, with a new appointment being needed for the financial year 2023/24.

Grant Thornton UK LLP was appointed as the External Auditor for the Council and the Pension Fund from 2018/19 until 2022/23. Auditor appointments must be made by 31 December in the year before the financial year that the audit related to. For Cumbria County Council and the Cumbria Local Government Pension Fund, this meant a new auditor must be appointed by 31 December 2022.

RESOLVED, that Council approves the recommendation to accept the invitation from Public Sector Auditor Appointments Ltd (PSAA) to opt into a sector-led appointment of the External Auditor for the Council and the Local Government Pension Scheme accounts from 31 December 2022 for the audit of the 2023/24 Accounts onwards.

78 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

Council considered a report from the Leader of the Council which reminded members that all Councils were required annually to make a scheme for the payment of basic and other specified allowances to elected members. This report sought approval for a scheme for the financial year 2022-2023.

Before making a scheme the Council must have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Council noted that the Constitution would be updated as necessary by the Monitoring Officer to reflect the Members Allowances Scheme made by the Council.

The County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) had met with the Leaders of the 3 main political groups to discuss the role of all members including those with special responsibilities; and the impact of the Covid pandemic and the possible impact of local government reorganisation on those roles.

Following those meetings the panel has prepared a report which was set out in Appendix 1 of this Report. The Council must have regard to the recommendations of its Independent Remuneration Panel. The Leader then moved the recommendation, which was seconded by the Deputy Leader.

An amendment to the recommendation was proposed by Mr Lamb and seconded by Mr Whiteside that the Council make a scheme in the same terms as the scheme approved by Council on 5 November 2020, which would, in effect be a freeze on allowances.

The Leader and other members were concerned that if the Council chose to ignore the recommendations of the IRP the members of the Panel would become disillusioned with carrying out the reviews, only to have the recommendations ignored, as was done last year, when the Council vote to freeze allowances.

This was then put to a vote, and with 17 votes for 33 votes against and 1 abstention the amendment fell. A vote was then taken on the substantive recommendation – with 34 votes for, 16 against and 1 abstention it was

RESOLVED, that the Council agree to make a scheme for members' allowances for the year beginning 1 April 2022, as follows:-

- Basic Allowance - to increase in line with the percentage increase to the local government workforce pay (pay point 1) for the year 2021/22, which is to be agreed by National Employers and National Joint Council (NJC).
- Special Responsibility Allowances - to increase in line with the percentage increase to the local government workforce pay (pay point 1) for the year 2021/22, which is to be agreed by National Employers and National Joint Council (NJC).
- Dependent Carers Allowance - move to national living wage at April 2022 with the cap on Dependent Carers Allowances to increase in proportion to the increase in national living wage to £2,171.75.
- Travel and Subsistence Allowances - no change.
- Co-optee Allowances - no change.

The Leader thanked the members of the IRP for all the work they had carried out over the past few years on this.

79 CUMBRIA TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (CTIP)

Members considered a report from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, which informed them that Cabinet had endorsed the Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan for consideration by Full Council.

Subject to approval by County Council, the Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan would replace the Local Transport Plan included in the Cumbria County Council Policy Framework. (Constitution – Part 2A, 3).

The Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan (CTIP) had been jointly prepared by Cumbria County Council and the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, and the purpose was to set the strategic transport policy framework for the period 2022-2037 and would form the Local Transport Plan for Cumbria.

The CTIP sought to present a clear vision, supported by economic assessment and thematic interventions underpinned by three strategic objectives:-

- Clean and Healthy
- Connected Cumbria
- Community Cumbria

Members noted that between 12 September and 25 October 2021, public consultation was undertaken on the draft CTIP and supporting Strategic Environmental Assessment. During this period 173 comments were received and this had supported the finalisation of the plan.

RESOLVED, that Council approves the Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan attached at Appendix 1 of the report, to replace the Local Transport Plan included in the Cumbria County Council Policy Framework. (Constitution – Part 2A, 3).

80 DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE - GAINSHARE

Mr Whiteside declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item No 17 – Digital Infrastructure – Gainshare, as he is an employee of Openreach. He did not take part in any discussion during this item.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property presented a report which informed members that the Connecting Cumbria contracts contained a 'gainshare' provision that allowed for funding to be returned to the Council if take up of services exceeded the level forecast. Take-up across these contracts was now almost 80% and the Council had received £3.8m of gainshare for reinvestment.

Given the importance of digital infrastructure to the communities in Cumbria, approval was sought to commit £3.8m of gainshare funding for further investment into digital infrastructure projects. These projects would include the creation of a Cumbria Gigabit Broadband Voucher Top Up scheme to further support communities trying to develop their own community digital projects and would help improve connectivity for the hardest to reach areas of the county.

In 2011/2012 the Council and BT entered into a Deployed Services contract to deliver Phase 1 of the Connecting Cumbria superfast programme (Contract 1), and in June 2015 the Council and BT entered into a further Deployed Services contract to deliver Phase 2 of the Connecting Cumbria programme (Contract 2).

Levels of take up of services on infrastructure deployed under Contract 1 had significantly exceeded the levels of take up forecast by BT. In recognition of this, an early Contract 1 gainshare funding allocation of £2.5m was agreed between the Council and BT in 2015 to be utilised for further deployment through Contract 2. This, combined with other funding management, allowed the Contract 2 deployment target to increase to 11,155 premises and this target was achieved in November 2020.

Further payments were expected in future years including those related to the closure of Contract 2. The funding for future years was not yet known. This paper therefore related to the use of the Gainshare payment received this financial year.

Digital connectivity was recognised nationally as an enabler for economic growth and inclusive growth, given the benefits it could bring to business productivity and community inclusion. The Covid-19 pandemic had shown that digital connectivity was critical to societal resilience and business continuity in times of crisis. From getting the latest information and health guidance, home working, education and learning, online access to food and supplies, staying connected to family and others and to maintain supply chains – we all now depended on the ability to connect remotely across distance. The importance of digital infrastructure was therefore increasing, as it becomes more critical to the lives of residents and the operation of businesses.

Under the terms of the grant agreement between the Council and BDUK, as varied by Grant Variation Letter agreed by the Executive Director – Economy & Infrastructure in February 2021, it had been agreed that £4.272m of the £8.091m gainshare would be returned to BDUK. This funding would be invested by BDUK in Cumbria as part of their £5bn commitment under the UK Government Project Gigabit scheme. It was recommended that the Council utilise the remaining £3.819m of Gainshare in delivery of the Council's Digital Infrastructure Strategy.

Members noted that further Gainshare funding, from both Contract 1 and Contract 2, was anticipated to continue to accrue until after 2026, and that at this stage it was not possible to accurately forecast the quantum of overall Gainshare beyond the current return to the Council of £3.819m.

Members agreed the funding was welcomed but asked that officers worked closely with rural members to assist smaller providers in the rural areas of Cumbria. It was vital that rural communities were able to get connected.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) Council approves the use of Gainshare funding received from the Connecting Cumbria (Contract 1) programme to support delivery of the Council's Digital Infrastructure Strategy in accordance with the proposals set out in the Project Change Request Form submitted to DLUHC on 21 September 2021;
- (2) Council delegates authority to the Executive Director in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holder, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to invest Gainshare funding in line with the Digital Infrastructure Strategy and the Project Change Request Form to include:
 - A "top up" to the UK Government Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme funding.
 - A Digital Village Hub scheme to support the development of community network projects in deeply rural areas.
 - 5G research and development projects.

- Connecting Cumbria programme management costs

81 SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT

The Chair of Scrutiny Management Board presented a report which updated members on the work of Scrutiny and any issues and developments that had occurred since the last update.

The current Scrutiny Work Programme, which Members were asked to note, was under ongoing review and regularly updated to reflect new and emerging issues.

The Chair of Scrutiny Management Board took members through matters which had been considered by the Scrutiny Boards since the last meeting of Council, and also detailed the recent Task and Finish reviews undertaken.

RESOLVED, that Members note the work programme presented and note recent activity undertaken by Scrutiny set out in the report.

82 QUESTIONS

Mr Whiteside asked the Leader whether, regardless of the outcome of the JR process, he could give assurance that when outcome of JR was complete, the legal advice that the council received would be published.

The Leader responded to say that he was unable to give any assurances, and that he would need to seek legal advice on whether this could be released.

Mr M Wilson asked the Leader of the Council whether he felt the confirmation of the 2.81% allocation of the public health grant was unjust. Cumbria received the 18th lowest allocation in the country but had a large number of public health concerns.

The Leader responded to say that yes he did agree with Mr Wilson, and the current formula used to allocate this funding was fundamentally flawed and needed to be reviewed.

Lord Liddle asked the Leader of the Council whether he was surprised by the news that Michael Gove - Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had stated that if the two new unitaries in Cumbria did not agree to establish a combined authority with an elected mayor for both, he would impose this upon them.

The Leader replied to say he was astonished when he heard this, and he felt that if one unitary agreed to an elected mayor and the other did not that he would use statutory powers to ensure this happened.

Mr Johnson said at the last council meeting there were discussions around whether Cumbria would continue to exist as a ceremonial county, following LGR. The Leader of the Council said it would not. Mr Johnson had disagreed at the time, and he asked whether the Leader would put it on record that he was wrong.

The Leader reminded members that at the last Council he never doubted that Cumbria would remain as a ceremonial county, what he said was that he was surprised that this had not been included in the draft Statutory Change Order. However, an addendum to the SCO had since been compiled which addressed this.

Mr Hughes asked the Chair of Scrutiny Management Board whether he agreed that the Cabinet and Scrutiny process was in need of a healthy review, and whether he would be lobbying the Secretary of State on behalf of his own political group.

The Chair of SMB responded to say he was happy to do that but he hoped that the Liberal Democrat Group would do the same.

Mr Morgan asked the Deputy Leader what type of increase small businesses may expect when using the County Council's preferred provider.

The Deputy Leader said the latest forecast was that electricity prices were expected to rise by 50%. The County Council did not yet have an estimate on the possible increase in gas prices.

Mr Johnson asked the Leader of the Council whether he agreed that comments he made in the local press recently about potential savings in the new unitary authorities from LRG were misleading.

The Leader replied to say that he was aware of the estimate of savings contained in one of the bids from Allerdale and Copeland but he had yet to see any evidence to back up these figures. There was no evidence provided in support of these figures. If services were to be split two ways they that would mean staff would be needed to support both services.

Mr Johnson responded to say the business cases were produced with estimate figures, and that all members would be working hard to get the best services for residents.

83 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(A) Cumbria Pensions Committee

RESOLVED, that the draft minutes of the Cumbria Pensions Committee held on 10 December 2021 be noted.

(B) Audit and Assurance Committee

RESOLVED, that the draft minutes of the Audit and Assurance Committee held on 7 December 2021 be noted.

84 URGENCY PROVISIONS

The Leader of the Council presented a report, which notified members of any urgent decisions taken in the period since the last County Council meeting.

Four relevant decisions had been taken since the last meeting and the details of those decisions were set out at Appendix 1. In all cases, the decisions were treated as urgent decisions as the requirements to advertise for at least 28 days prior to a key decision being taken could not be complied with.

RESOLVED, that the report be received and noted.

85 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Mr Hogg declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item, as he is an advocate for Fair Game.

Mr Shirley declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item, as he is the Chairman of Barrow and District Junior Football League, a Team Manager at Dalton United and a Welfare Officer at Askam United FC.

Mrs Tibble declared a pecuniary interest in this item, as she is a minor shareholder at Workington AFC. She did not take part in the discussion.

Mr Shirley moved that the County Council acknowledge that if change in football was ever to be delivered then Tracey Crouch MP's excellent fan-led review of Football Governance (Published 25 November 2021) would need to be implemented in full, so that the recommended changes became a reality.

This motion asked Council to

- (i) Acknowledge the efforts that this Council has made to promote an active lifestyle, and to support Cumbria based clubs at all levels, from all sporting codes as a force for good in Cumbrian communities;
- (ii) Recognise the value of football in Cumbrian communities, and the important role it plays in many people's lives;
- (iii) Support the principles and objectives of 'Fair Game' which are a band of football clubs, and supporters who are striving to change our national game for good. To support the principles of 'Fair Game' which are Sustainability, Fairness, and Success in the wider interests of football.

Mr Shirley said that in order for this Motion and Fair Game to be a success support from all levels needed to be called upon. This included government intervention, therefore the Motion asked the County Council to write to Cumbria's MP's who had not yet supported Fair Game, calling on them to support these principles too.

The motion was seconded by Mr W Clark.

There was unanimous support from all members of the County Council for this motion and the motion was **AGREED**.

After debate it was ruled by the Chairman that the Motion from Dr S Haraldsen would fall as the proposer was not present and therefore unable to present the motion.

86 SPEECHES

There were no speeches made on this occasion.

The meeting ended at 5.10 pm