

**COUNCIL FORUM MEETING**  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**PRESENT** –*The Mayor Councillor S. Mulla (in the Chair), Councillors Akhtar, Bateson, Browne, Connor, Cottam, Daley, Davies., Desai, Evans, Foster D., Foster K., Gee, Groves, Hardman, Harling D, Hirst., Hollern, Hollings, Humphrys, Hussain F., Hussain I., Hussain S., Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat H., Khonat S., Lee, Mahmood, McFall, Nuttall, O’Keeffe, Patel, Pearson D., Pearson J., Rehman, Rigby C., Rigby J., Riley, Sidat, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John, Slater Julie, Smith J., Solkar, Surve, Talbot, Tapp, Taylor, Thayne, Whalley and Wright.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**73. Notice Convening Meeting**

The Chief Executive read out the notice convening the meeting.

**74 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Smith D., Entwistle, Oldfield, Liddle, Brookfield, Maxfield, Walsh and Shorrock.

**75 Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were received.

**76 Mayoral Communications**

The Mayor updated Members on recent events and activities since the last meeting including: Charity Balls, Cathedral events and visits from schools and organisations.

Much work had gone into fundraising for the Mayor’s Charity and the Mayor’s Ball was hailed as a resounding success. A Quiz Night for the Mayor’s Charity had also been held.

The Mayor made reference to the Councillors who would be retiring from the Council, namely Councillors, Jim Hirst, Chris Thayne, Florence Oldfield and Shahabuddin Solkar and thanks were made to all four Councillors by Group Leaders and Councillors Hirst, Thayne and Solkar made speeches in response.

The Mayor expressed his sincere thanks to all involved in making the visit of the Queen on Maundy Thursday such a resounding success and read out some letters from the many that had been received praising the event.

Finally, the Mayor thanked Members for their support for him in his Chairing of meetings of the Council during the past year.

**77. Questions from Members of the Public received under Procedure Rule 10**

Council were advised that no questions had been submitted by Members of the Public under Procedure Rule 10.

**78. Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12**

Council were advised that two Motions had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12.

**Motion 1**

*In view of a third secondary school failing an inspection, will the Labour group admit that its failure to invest in school improvements and the officers required that they have let down the schools, parents BUT most importantly the pupils at such a crucial time in their lives.*

Proposed by D Gee  
Seconded by M Lee

Following debate on the Motion, there then followed a Vote.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Motion be lost.

**Motion 2**

*After talking about Upgrading rail connections to Manchester and Pennine Reach (or East Lancs rapid transport), through the entire 13 years of the previous Labour Government, this Council should applaud the commitment and capital investment of over £50 million and write to the Secretary of State for Transport and thank him for having confidence in East Lancs Authorities to make best judgment with the funding provided.*

*This Government has looked to target investment on infrastructure to create jobs as this is the main way to improve the life options for residents.*

Proposed by Colin Rigby  
Seconded by John Pearson

Councillor Phil Riley moved an amendment to the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Maureen Bateson, as follows:

Delete all words after “Manchester” and add the following:

“this Council congratulates all concerned for securing the investment in Pennine Reach and for working, on a cross-party basis, towards achieving the contractual sign-off with Network Rail and other parties for the doubling of some areas of the track between Bolton and Blackburn; it looks forward initially to a reliable and regular half-hourly interval service from Clitheroe to Manchester and to improved rolling stock. In the medium term, it calls for studies to be conducted now on the possible electrification of the Bolton to Clitheroe line, once capacity for electrification becomes available from elsewhere in the North West”.

Following debate on the amendment and clarity being received on the exact wording being proposed, the Council Forum Moved to a Vote on the amended Motion, which was carried.

The amended motion now read as follows:

“After talking about upgrading rail connections to Manchester, this Council congratulates all concerned for securing the investment in Pennine Reach and for working, on a cross-party basis, towards achieving the contractual sign-off with Network Rail and other parties for the doubling of some areas of the track between Bolton and Blackburn; it looks forward initially to a reliable and regular half-hourly interval service from Clitheroe to Manchester and to improved rolling stock. In the medium term, it calls for studies to be conducted now on the possible electrification of the Bolton to Clitheroe line, once capacity for electrification becomes available from elsewhere in the North West”.

There then followed a Vote on the Substantial Motion which was carried.

#### **RESOLVED –**

That the Motion be carried as amended.

#### **79. The Mayoralty 2014/15**

A report was submitted which contained recommendations relating to the Office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2014/15.

Members were advised that the existing rotation agreement ended in 2014/15 and were reminded that Labour Mayors would be office in 2015/16 and 2016/17 as agreed at the Council Forum Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013, (Minute No. 94 refers). A report on the appointment of the Mayor was submitted to Council Forum annually, and in the event that the proportionality of the Council changed going forward in a way that would affect the nomination of Mayor for a particular year, a report on this matter would be submitted for Council’s consideration.

For 2014/15, it was the turn of the Conservative Group to nominate the Mayor, who in line with usual practice would usually be the serving Deputy

Mayor, which in this case was Councillor Alan Cottam. It was the Labour Group's turn to nominate the Deputy Mayor for 2014/15.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) That in line with the usual practice of the Deputy Mayor in current year serving as Mayor the following year, Councillor Alan Cottam be nominated to serve as Mayor in 2014/15; and
- (2) That the Labour Group be invited to nominate the Deputy Mayor for 2014/15.

**80. Policy and Corporate Resources Committee**

The Vice Chair of the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee presented an update report on the work of the Committee.

**RESOLVED –**

That the report of the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

**81. Reports of Executive Member with Portfolios**

Council Forum received and considered reports of the Leader and Executive Member with Portfolios. These were considered as follows:

The Leader, Executive Members for Health and Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services, Regeneration, Resources and Schools and Education.

In moving her report, the Leader made particular reference to the hundreds of volunteers and businesses that helped make the Queen's recent visit such a huge success.

Several Executive Members provided updated information on their portfolio updates and teams were thanked for their recent work, including the Adoptions Team and Shared Neighbourhoods Team and additionally the contributions of the retiring Councillors were acknowledged.

Reference was also made to the recent retirement of two of the Council's School Improvement Officers and the Executive Member for Schools and Education advised that in terms of School Admissions, 89% of children were offered their first preference school, with 98% being offered either their first, second or third preference.

**RESOLVED –**



That the reports from the Leader and Executive Members for Health and Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services, Regeneration, Resources and Schools and Education be noted.

**82. To Consider any questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11**

The Chief Executive advised that no questions from Members had been received under Procedure Rule 11.

Signed at a meeting of the council  
on the        day of  
(being) the next ensuing meeting of the Council) by

MAYOR

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