

Annual Council
Thursday, 18 May 2017
18:00
Council Chamber, Blackburn Town Hall,

AGENDA

PART I: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PUBLIC

- 1 Chief Executive to read the notice convening the meeting**
- 2 Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain**
- 3. Apologies for absence**
- 4. The Election of the Mayor for 2017/18**
- 5. The Election of the Deputy Mayor for 2017/18**
- 6 Tribute to the newly elected Mayor**
- 7 Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor Councillor Hussain Akhtar**

- Please note at this point there will be a short adjournment to allow guests to leave the meeting if they wish.*
- 8 Minutes**
To receive and confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Council Forum held on 20th April 2017.
MINUTES Council Forum 20th April 2017 **3 - 10**
- 9 Declarations of Interest**
A form is attached.
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM **11 - 12**
- 10 Council Appointments for 2017/2018**
a) Report of the Chief Executive.

b) The Leader will table a list of Executive and Assistant Executive Members for information.
Council appointments for 2017-18 **13 - 14**
- 11 Appointments to Various Bodies, Groups and**

	Panels for 2017/18	
	Report of the Chief Executive	
	Outside Bodies Report 2017-18	15 - 18
12	Constitution Update	
	Report of the Chief Executive.	
	Constitution Update	19 - 20
13	Electoral Review 2016-17 Warding Proposal	
	Report of the Chief Executive.	
	Electoral Review 2016-17 Warding Proposal	21 - 26
14	Revised Year Planner 2017-18	
	To note the revised Year Planner 2017-2018.	
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PART 2: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

Date Published: Wednesday, 10 May 2017
Harry Catherall, Chief Executive

COUNCIL FORUM
Thursday 20th April 2017

PRESENT – *The Mayor Councillor Akhtar H., (in the Chair), Councillors; Akhtar P; Ali; Bateson; Brookfield; Casey; Connor; Daley; Davies; Entwistle; Fazal; Foster D; Foster K; Gee; Groves; Gunn; Hardman; Harling; Humphrys; Hussain F; Hussain I; Jan-Virmani; Johnson; Kay; Khan M; Khan Z; Khonat; Lee; Liddle; Mahmood A; Mahmood Q; Marrow; McFall; McGurk; Mulla; Murray; Nuttall; Oates; Rigby C; Rigby J; Shorrocks; Sidat; Slater Ja; Slater Jo; Slater Ju; Slater N; Smith D, Smith J; Surve; Talbot; Tapp; Vali; Whittle and Wright.*

RESOLUTIONS

72 Notice Convening Meeting

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

73 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mustafa Desai, Pete Hollings, Shaukat Hussain, Trevor Maxfield, Abdul Patel, John Pearson, Phil Riley, and Brian Taylor.

74 Minutes of the Finance Council Meeting held on 27th February 2017

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Finance Council meeting held on the 27th February 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

75 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ron Whittle declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 (Treasury Management Update- Pension Contributions) – BwD representative on the Lancashire County Pension Fund Committee.

76 Mayoral Communications

The Mayor thanked all Organisations, Groups, Councillors and staff for all their support during his Mayoral year, and thanks were also passed to his chosen charities.

77 Council Forum

The Chief Executive advised that three questions had been received from Members of the Public under Procedure Rule 10 as follows:

Question from Mr Farrell to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood and Prevention, Arshid Mahmood:

My properties are my pension, so where will my pension come from (as a result of Selective Licensing effect on landlords)?

Councillor Mahmood provided a response to the question and supplementary question arising, advising Mr Farrell he was required to hold a licence for his property however the cost of the licence could be submitted as a cost against the tax he would pay on the income he received from the rent for the property. There were numerous costs associated with owning and renting out a property which would change over time and with changes in legislation, but the scheme was intended to benefit both landlords and tenants. Councillor Mahmood offered to meet Mr Farrell to discuss the matter further.

Question from Sabir Esa to Councillor Damian Talbot:

My question is about the recent by-election in the Higher Croft Ward. I would like a clear concise explanation of the errors which allowed an illegal candidate to be selected as the Labour Party candidate, especially as the same person stood in the previous May election for Labour in the Livesey with Pleasington Ward, thereby contravening the rules of the Electoral Commission on two occasions. I seek an assurance that Cllr. Talbot and the officers of the Labour Party will in future abide by the legal requirements for the selection of candidates, and when they are made aware of the cost of running this illegal by-election, would repay this sum of money to the Borough of Blackburn with Darwen, which was clearly caused by their incompetence.

The Leader of the Council, Mohammed Khan answered this question and supplementary question arising and advised that the cost of the by-election was approximately £8,800, and further to advice received from the Electoral Commission, the costs of this would be met by the Council. There would be no significant further costs relating to holding the by-election again as it would now be held on the same day as the General Election on 8th June. Councillor Khan outlined the process for selecting and verifying candidates, and advised that until it came to light, there was an innocent belief that the candidate was eligible, and he once again apologised for this genuine mistake further to the recent apology reported in the local press. Cllr Khan also confirmed that Councillor Talbot was not the agent for the candidate.

Question from Kieran Richards to Councillor John Slater:

The Council's policy on refuse collection is to implement alternate weekly collections and on green waste is to charge for collection. In a recent leaflet issued by your party a commitment is made that you will look to reintroduce weekly collections and free green waste collection. How does the Conservative leader propose to fund these commitments?

Councillor Slater provided a response to this question and supplementary question advising that his party would honour their manifesto pledge and reintroduce weekly refuse collections and scrap the 'garden tax', referring to increases in fly tipping since the introduction of the green waste collection charges. Councillor Slater advised that to fund these changes, the Executive Board would be reduced, the post of Deputy Chief Executive would be deleted and that some of the additional costs could be funded by borrowing amongst other changes.

78 The Motions Submitted under Procedure Rule 12

The Chief Executive announced that one Notice of Motion had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12 as follows:

'This Council calls on the Government to abandon its 'National Funding Formula' proposals, and to make a commitment to maintaining schools' funding so as to ensure both sustainability and the quality of our children's education.

On average every primary school pupil in England stands to lose approximately £400 in funding and every secondary school pupil stands to lose approximately £550 per pupil. Many schools in Blackburn with Darwen will lose considerably more than these averages. Children across our borough will lose out as a result of these proposals and this Council condemns the short-sighted failure to recognise the importance to the economy of investing in our next generation'.

Mover: Cllr Dave Harling

Seconder: Cllr Damian Talbot

During debate Council Forum agreed that a Recorded Vote would be held. Councillor Maureen Bateson moved a minor amendment on the first line of Motion by adding 'any future' ahead of 'Government' and deletion of 'the'. This amendment was accepted by the Mover and Seconder and Council Forum and now became the Substantive Motion and now read as follows:

'This Council calls on any future Government to abandon its 'National Funding Formula' proposals, and to make a commitment to maintaining schools' funding so as to ensure both sustainability and the quality of our children's education.

On average every primary school pupil in England stands to lose approximately £400 in funding and every secondary school pupil stands to lose approximately £550 per pupil. Many schools in Blackburn with Darwen will lose considerably more than these averages. Children across our borough will lose out as a result of these proposals and this Council condemns the short-sighted failure to recognise the importance to the economy of investing in our next generation'.

A Recorded Vote was then held with Councillors voting as follows:

For

The Mayor Councillor Akhtar H., Akhtar P; (in the Chair), Councillors; Ali; Bateson; Brookfield; Casey; Connor; Daley; Davies; Entwistle; Fazal; Foster D; Foster K; Gee; Groves; Gunn, Hardman; Harling; Humphrys; Hussain F; Hussain I; Jan-Virmani; Johnson; Kay; Khan M; Khan Z; Khonat; Lee; Liddle; Mahmood A; Mahmood Q; Marrow; McFall; McGurk; Mulla; Murray; Nuttall; Oates; Rigby C; Rigby J; Shorrocks; Sidat; Slater Ja; Slater Jo; Slater Ju; Slater N; Smith D, Smith J; Surve; Talbot; Tapp; Vali; Whittle and Wright.

Against

None

Abstention

None

RESOLVED – That the Motion be carried.

79 The Mayoralty 2017/18

A report was submitted containing recommendations relating to the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in 2017/18.

It was reported that Annual Council formally appointed Members of the Council to the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming Municipal year. The Member appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor was normally appointed to the office of Mayor in the following year.

A report on the appointment of the Mayor was submitted to Council Forum each year, 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 - in 2018 there would be all –out Elections, so the position would need to be reviewed then.

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 Colin Rigby. It was also recommended that Council Forum agree the nomination of Deputy Mayor for 2017/18.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That in line with the usual practice of the Deputy Mayor in the current year serving as Mayor the following year, Councillor Colin Rigby OBE be nominated to serve as Mayor in 2017/18; and
- 2) That Councillor Pat McFall be nominated to serve as Deputy Mayor for 2017/18.

80 Treasury Management Update re: Payment of Employer Pension Contributions to the Lancashire Local Government Pension Fund

A report was submitted which provided an update on the option taken, following triennial valuation of the Local Government Pension Scheme, to pay the annual deficit contributions for the next 3 years, as one upfront payment; in doing so the Lancashire Pension Fund would provide a discount for the early payment.

RESOLVED- That the payment of the annual deficit contribution due for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 in advance in April 2017 be noted.

81 Policy and Corporate Resources Committee

In submitting the report of the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee, Councillor Jim Shorrocks advised that the Annual Scrutiny Review on 8th May had been postponed and would now be held at the first meeting of the Committee in the new Municipal Year, and all Councillors were welcome to attend.

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

82 Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios

Council Forum received and considered reports and updates from the Leader and Executive Member with portfolios. They were considered as follows:

Leader, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods and Prevention, Resources, Schools and Education, Regeneration and Health and Adult Social Care.

RESOLVED – That the reports of the Leader and Executive Members for the following portfolios: Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods and Prevention, Resources, Schools and Education, Regeneration and Health and Adult Social Care be noted.

62 Questions Received from Members under Procedure Rule 11

The Chief Executive reported that two questions had been received under Procedure Rule 11 as follows:

For the Executive Member for Environment, Councillor Jim Smith from Councillor David Foster:

What decision making powers has the Executive Member delegated to his Assistant Executive Members?

Councillor Jim Smith advised in response to this question and associated supplementary question that his Assistant Executive Members had input into decisions, but that the final decisions were taken by himself. In terms of the Olive Lane Park decision referred to by Councillor Foster, he took account of the 'decisions' on this matter by his Assistant Executive Members and signed off the final decision.

For the Executive Member for Environment, Councillor Jim Smith from Councillor Roy Davies:

How much money has been spent by the Council on Olive Lane Park Darwen?

Councillor Jim Smith advised in response to this question and associated supplementary question that Olive Lane park was one of over 140 parks and open space sites maintained by the Council. The budget for parks and open spaces was not split down to individual sites, it was apportioned across all 140 sites. As Olive Lane park was not an individually costed site, it was not possible to provide any information from the Environment Portfolio on costs spent within the park. The total budget available for parks and open spaces for 2017/18 was £1,132,000. Councillor Smith confirmed that there were no plans to close the site and that ways of developing the park were being considered.

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

MAYOR

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN
ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

Members attending a Council, Committee, Board or other meeting with a personal interest in a matter on the Agenda must disclose the existence and nature of the interest and, if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Interest under paragraph 16.1 of the Code of Conduct, should leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.

Members declaring an interest(s) should complete this form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer at the commencement of the meeting and declare such an interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.

MEETING: **ANNUAL COUNCIL**

DATE: **18TH MAY 2017**

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

DESCRIPTION (BRIEF):

NATURE OF INTEREST:

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/OTHER (delete as appropriate)

SIGNED :

PRINT NAME:

(Paragraphs 8 to 17 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Council refer)



REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TO:	ANNUAL COUNCIL
ON:	18th May 2017

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2017/18

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To make Council appointments for 2017/18.

2. ANNUAL COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

At the Annual Meeting of the Council each year, Council notes the appointment of various Members as well as appointing Chairs and Vice Chairs to Committees.

The Council is requested to:

1. Note the Leader's appointment of the Executive Board Members;
2. Note the Shadow Portfolio Members; and
3. Appoint Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members to the following Committees:
 - Policy and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Overview & Scrutiny Committee
 - Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee
 - Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - Planning & Highways Committee
 - Licensing Committee
 - Audit and Governance Committee
 - Standards Committee
 - Call-in Committee
 - Charitable Funds Committee

The Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee include within their membership, two Diocesan and three parent-governor co-opted members who have voting rights and are separately appointed by their respective Bodies.

The Licensing Committee has established Sub-Committees consisting of three members of the Committee to deal with licensing applications. A rota of Members is drawn up with the Chair or Vice Chair leading each Sub-Committee meeting.

The Call-in Committee is chaired by the Vice Chair of Policy and Corporate Resources and is made up of eight other Members, appointed by Political Group Leaders according to the proportionality of the Council at the time.

3 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Members of the Executive Board cannot serve on any Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Political parties make nominations to the Committees listed in 2 above. Places are allocated in line with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (ss.15-17) as regards proportionality. Political Group nominations will be circulated prior to the meeting of Annual Council.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Council notes the appointment of the Executive Board Members;
- 2) That Council notes the Shadow Portfolio Members;
- 3) That appointments be made to the positions detailed in Paragraph 2, subsection 3; and
- 4) That Council note the provisions relating to political balance, referred to in Paragraph 3.

(Note: That in the event the Group nominations are not available before the Annual Meeting the decisions on appointment of Members to Committees can be delegated to the Group Leaders to agree the appointments).

Harry Catherall
Chief Executive
10th May 2017

Background Papers:
Contact Officers:

Council Constitution
Phil Llewellyn (tel:585369)/
Asad Laher (tel:5495)



REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TO:	ANNUAL COUNCIL
ON:	18th May 2017

APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BODIES, GROUPS AND PANELS 2017/18

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To request the Council to consider the appointment of representatives to serve on various Bodies, Groups and Panels.

2. BACKGROUND

The Council Constitution provides the Council with authority to appoint representatives to Outside Bodies. The Council is asked to consider nominations to the Outside Bodies, and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Partnership Bodies.

3. APPOINTMENTS

Outside Bodies

At the Annual Council Meeting on 21st June 2001 the following was approved in relation to Outside Body appointments (Minute 13 refers):-

This Council believes that when considering appointments to Outside Bodies it should seek to reflect the political composition of the Council as closely as possible.

It therefore resolves that, with the exclusion of those nominations made by reference to political office (that is Leader of the Council, Leaders of the Political Groups, Executive Board Members, Chairs of Committees or their nominees) or to the Mayor and Deputy, appointments be made on the following basis:-

- 1. When there is only one representative it is from the controlling Group.*
- 2. Where there is more than one representative the places are allocated in the same proportion as the political composition of the Council.*
- 3. That discussions take place between representatives of all political Groups at the start of the Council Year to agree the allocation of seats in accordance with (1) and (2).*

4. When seats become vacant during the Council Year, the political party allocated the seat in (3) has the right to nominate a replacement.

As there is a by-election on the 8th June for the Higher Croft Ward, the proportionality calculations will be applied to the Outside Bodies list after that date and after the annual process outlined in Paragraph 4.1. When the Outside Bodies list has been agreed it will be submitted to the next available Council meeting.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Partnership Bodies

Members of the Council serve on various partnership bodies. Appointments to these may be determined by the constitution of the body concerned, or have been made previously by the Executive or an appropriate Committee of the Council.

If the political Group nominations are available they will be circulated before the Annual Meeting.

Appeals and other bodies

The Council is asked to establish a panel of fifteen members to form an Appeals Panel to consider, in accordance with the Constitution and any statutory provisions:

- Discretionary Grant, School and Post School Transport Appeals
- Social Services Review Panel
- Any other Appeals as appropriate

If the Political Group nominations are available they will be circulated before the Annual Meeting.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 That in the first instance, (as is usual practice) each of the organisations listed on the outside bodies, and partnership bodies list is contacted to establish;

That their Terms Of Reference / Articles Of Association have not changed and still require Council Representation in the same capacity, for the same tenure, and what added value will be mutually brought by such engagement. Subject to which;

4.2 That following the process outlined in Section 3 above, nominations will be confirmed as the Council's representatives to serve until the end of the current Municipal Year; or if a longer period of office is shown, until that date; unless during the Municipal Year the Leader amends the appointments to take account of changed requirements.

4.3 That fifteen Members be appointed to serve on the panel of Members to deal with appeals.

(Note: As is usual practice, the decisions on representation can be delegated to the Group Leaders to agree the appointments. The nominations to the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority will need to be agreed so that appointments can be affected by the Clerk to the Authority as soon as possible).

Harry Catherall
Chief Executive
10th May 2017

Background Papers:
Contact :

Outside Bodies File
Phil Llewellyn (Tel 585369)
Asad Laher (Tel 585495)



REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF HR, LEGAL & CORPORATE SERVICES
TO:	ANNUAL COUNCIL
ON:	18th MAY 2017

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTION UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Council that the Constitution Article 14 and Part 3 Section 16 has been updated.
- 1.2 To advise the proposed updated Constitution remains publicly available on the Council's website with the Agenda for this meeting and is available in full printed form in the Group rooms.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To approve:

The amendments made to Article 14 and Part 3 Section 16.

3. CONSTITUTION UPDATE

The Constitution is a key document setting out the governance framework of the Council. From time to time the constitution needs to be updated to reflect changes in legislation, resolutions passed by Council, portfolio changes made by the Leader, and changes made to the Council management structure and delegations. The Constitution was last updated in December 2016.

Members will note that there have been changes to the Chief Officer structure of the Council approved through the Chief Officers Employment Committee and as appropriate via the partnership agreement with Capita which required amendments to Part 3, Section 16 Officer Scheme of Delegation. Those changes are now reflected in the revised Constitution.

During the latest review of the Constitution it was also identified that a section on the Common Seal of the Council should be included in Article 14 and this is now an addition as 14.05.

5. CONSTITUTION POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Constitutions set out the governance framework for local authorities, which provide the foundations for any local authority that aspires to be effective, progressive and successful.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Local Government Act 2000 requires local authorities to prepare, keep up-to-date and publicise their constitution.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The constitution update reflects changes in legislation. It also reflects various resolutions passed at Council, which would have been subject to an equality assessment, if any.

10. CONSULTATIONS

Council Chief Officers and Members

Contact Officer: David Fairclough, Director for HR Legal & Corporate Services
(01254 585642)

Date: 9 May 2017

Background Papers: None



REPORT TO:	COUNCIL FORUM
FROM:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
ON:	THURSDAY, 18TH MAY 2017

REPORT	TITLE:	Electoral	Review	2016-17
		Warding proposal revisions.		

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To suggest revisions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) draft Warding arrangements for Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, which are out to consultation until 19th June 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall the Local Government Boundary Commission have agreed with most of the suggestions made by the Council in its formal submission in January. However, whilst the Council supports the majority of the proposals, there are some areas where further changes are suggested as outlined below. It is recommended that Council:

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE COMMISSION

1. Central

We support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft recommendations but would like the Commission to consider a name change to Blackburn Central.

2. Ewood/Blackburn South boundary.

The boundary commission have referred to the fact that the Heights Free School is situated off Heys Lane and should therefore be in Ewood ward as this is the residential area nearest to it. This fails to recognise that The Heights Free School provides alternative education for young people at risk of not reaching their potential and does not specifically serve local residents.

It would appear that the Heights Free School and Eden School have been considered as schools supporting the Ewood Ward – We would ask the Commission take into account that both schools are specialist schools that support the whole of the borough not just the Ewood Ward. Heys Lane is the natural Boundary between these wards, with significant future planning activity coming forward as we speak.

3. Ewood / Mill Hill and Moorgate / Livesey with Pleasington

Ewood/Livesey with Pleasington boundary: The draft recommendations place both sides of Gib Lane into Ewood (at present both sides are in Meadowhead). We would ask that the Commission take into account that a new housing development is being constructed immediately behind the properties on the west of Gib Lane and that some of its access will be from Gib Lane. It is therefore more logical for the West side of Gib Lane to be moved into Livesey with Pleasington. We will provide photographs of some of the existing new developments.

4. Darwen Rural

Notwithstanding the Commissions draft recommendations refer to Park Street, which should actually refer to Park Road – we support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft geographical recommendations. However we wish to suggest a change of name to the ‘Darwen Rural’ ward: Feedback from residents suggests that the ward would be better suited to a name making less reference to any local towns. People in Edgworth, Belmont and Chapelton consider themselves most closely associated with Bolton, whilst people living in the southern part of the current Whitehall ward do not consider themselves to be rural. A more appropriate name would be ‘West Pennine’. This reflects the geographical situation of the ward, encompassing the largest part of the locally important landscape area the West Pennine Moors’.

5. Billinge and Beardwood / Shear Brow and Corporation Park

Shear Brow/Billinge and Beardwood. The BwD proposal recommended that a straight line was drawn along Revidge Road. This was to correct the current boundary which cuts in and out along the length of the highway. This was arrived at by using the Commissions statutory criteria of

- Delivering electoral equality for local voters,
- Interests and identities of local communities, and
- Effective and convenient local government.

The Boundary Commission proposal effectively argues for the current boundary line to be retained. We wish the Commission to consider the following two points: We cannot see the rationale for properties between (approx.) 401 Revidge Road and 539 Revidge Road to be placed into Beardwood and Billinge, whilst the other properties on the north side of Revidge Road are claimed to fit better with Shear Brow and Revidge. Secondly - the BwD proposal has better equality of electors than the Boundary Commission draft recommendation, which has Billinge and Beardwood at – 9%.

• **Audley and Queens Park**

Support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft recommendations.

• **Wensley Fold**

Support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft recommendations.

- **Bastwell and Daisyfield**
Support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft recommendations
 - **Roe Lee**
Support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft recommendations
 - **Blackburn South East**
Support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft recommendations
 - **Blackburn South and Lower Darwen**
Support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft recommendations
 - **Little Harwood and Whitebirk**
Support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft recommendations
 - **Darwen East**
Notwithstanding the fact that Ellison Fold is actually two properties not one, we support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft recommendations.
 - **Darwen West**
Support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft recommendations
 - **Darwen South**
Support the Local Government Boundary Commission reviews draft recommendations.
6. Subject to agreeing the above recommendations, authorise the Chief Executive to formally submit the proposal on Council Warding arrangements from May 2018 to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for their inclusion as early as possible in the next round of consultation.

3. COUNCIL 2017 WARDING PROPOSAL

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council currently has 64 elected Members in 23 wards. Members will be aware that following the agreement at Council on 6th October 2016 the Boundary Commission formally confirmed the size of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council to be 51 Councillors for 17 Wards by 2018 to ensure appropriate levels of Governance, Scrutiny and Community Leadership which also allows for the Authority to continue to elect its Members by thirds.

Using the Boundary Commissions guidance to develop a new Warding proposal for the Borough, several factors were taken into consideration, primarily the statutory criteria of;

- **Delivering electoral equality for local voters** – this means ensuring that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters so that the value of your vote is the same regardless of where you live in the local authority area.
- **Interests and identities of local communities** – this means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, avoid splitting local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.

- **Effective and convenient local government** – this means ensuring that the wards can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole, including both the council size decision and warding arrangements, allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

4. BACKGROUND

It should be noted that the Council cannot take its own decisions on size or warding arrangements and must submit its proposals to the LGBCE at every stage. The LGBCE will consider and determine the proposals based on its own assessment of relevant factors.

Timetable

Draft Council Size submission deadline	17 th October 2016	Done
Boundary Commission decision on Council size	15 th November 2016	Done
Consultation on warding	22 nd November 2016 – 30 th January 2017	Ongoing
Draft recommendations on warding arrangements	11 th April 2017	
Consultation on draft recommendations	11th April – 19th June 2017	
Final recommendations published	5 th September 2017	
Order Laid	October 2017	
Implementation*	Elections in 2018*	

Members have been provided with a copy of the full Review timetable. Whilst the Council has engaged with all parties to work on one submission, it should be noted that this does not exclude individuals or political groups from putting forward their own ideas. At every stage the LGBCE will consult widely seeking the views of a range of stakeholders.

Key messages for the public and individuals - How to have your say:

Please note the deadline for submissions on the draft recommendations is 19th June 2017.

An electoral review is a consultative process. You, and your community, can influence the outcome. The commission have an open mind about adopting proposals from groups or individuals that are supported by evidence and complement the statutory criteria.

The commission are only able to consider evidence that is made to them in writing as all decisions are taken by formal meetings of the whole commission. The best evidence includes the reasons why you agree with our proposals or why you disagree with them. If you do not think their proposals are right for our area, we would welcome alternative suggestions for boundaries that meet their criteria.

There are several ways in which you can keep up to date with the progress of the review and to have your say:

Online

You can keep track of the electoral review for your area through our website at www.lgbce.org.uk. The commission have set up a dedicated web page for each review where you will find details of its timetable, our reports, maps, proposals and guidance. You can comment on their proposals directly through their website or by emailing: reviews@lgbce.org.uk They also publish all the submissions they receive so you can see what kind of evidence they relied on to make our decisions.

Interactive consultation portal

The portal allows you to view and interact with our maps as well as comment on their proposals directly. By logging on to www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk you will be able to view their proposals down to street level, draw your own pattern of wards or annotate the maps to tell them about the nature of community interests and identities in your area.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council are asked to note the direction of travel from both this Warding proposal and the background papers submitted to and agreed by Council Forum in October 2016 and January 2017, acknowledging that a detailed review will be undertaken over the next 12 months to redesign a political structure that will be fit for purpose and fit for future to best serve the people of Blackburn with Darwen.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Effectively supporting fewer yet larger Wards will subject to the detailed review outlined in "Policy implications" to deliver strong effective local government.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

1. The LGBCE is required to comply with certain rules when conducting a Review. Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, section 56 requires the LGBCE to conduct a Review of principal local authorities from time to time and recommend whether a change should be made to the "electoral arrangements" meaning:

- the total number of Members to be elected to the Council ('Council size');
- the number and boundaries of electoral areas for the purposes of the election of Councillors;
- the number of councillors to be returned by any electoral area (ward) in that area
- the name of any electoral area.

In making recommendations, under Schedule 2 of the Act the LGBCE must have regard to:

- the need to secure equality of representation;
- the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
- the need to secure effective and convenient local government.

2. Any resolutions regarding the scheme of elections must be in accordance with the Part 2 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

3. The review of Members' allowances will need to be undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

A small team of Officers continues to be convened when required, to support the various stages and requirements of the Review and its consultations, ensuring compliance with the timetable outlined by the Local Government Boundary Commission England.

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

As an integral element to the process, Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken at various stages of the Review and its consultations.

10. CONSULTATIONS

21st July 2016 the Commission consulted with all Members of the Council on the Review process. From 22nd November – 30th January 2017 the Commission carried out the first stages of a review. Currently they are in the process of a public consultation on new draft warding arrangements, from 11th April – 19th June 2017. A final decision by the Commission and recommendation to Government will be made on 5th September 2017, following which an Order will be Laid before Parliament in October 2017 for implementation in the all-out elections of May 2018.

Useful links:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/lancashire/blackburn-and-darwen>

Contact Officer: Ben Aspinall Lead Review Officer
Ben.aspinall@blackburn.gov.uk
01254 585191

Date: 18th May 2017.

Background Papers: Report to Council Forum October 2016,
Report to Council 13th January 2017.

Year Planner 2017-2018

Please note that all meeting dates are subject to change

18th May 2017

This revised Year-Planner for 2017-18 submitted to Annual Council on 18th May, reflects changes to several dates as a result of the General Election, as well as other changes.

YEAR PLANNER 2017

	May	June	July	August	September	October
Monday	1 May Day BH					
Tuesday	2 DTC			1 DTC		
Wednesday	3			2		
Thursday	4	1		3		
Friday	5	2 Half Term Ends		4	1 Eid al Adha Schools Reopen	
Saturday	6	3	1	5	2	
Sunday	7	4 Whitsun	2	6	3	1
Monday	8	5 Schools Reopen	3 LSP Board	7	4 H&A	2
Tuesday	9	6 DTC SACRE	4 DTC	8	5 DTC LASC	3 DTC LASC SACRE
Wednesday	10	7	5	9	6	4
Thursday	11	8 General Election	6 SC	10 EB	7	5 CF
Friday	12	9	7	11	8	6
Saturday	13	10	8	12	9	7
Sunday	14	11	9	13	10	8
Monday	15	12 C&YP	10	14	11 C&YP	9
Tuesday	16	13 AUD GLSC/LASC	11 L	15	12	10
Wednesday	17	14 L	12	16	13 R&N	11
Thursday	18 AC	15 EB	13 EB	17 PH	14 EB	12 EB
Friday	19	16	14	18	15	13
Saturday	20	17	15	19	16	14
Sunday	21 Civic Sunday	18	16	20	17	15
Monday	22	19 R&N	17	21	18 L	16 H&A
Tuesday	23	20 HVB	18 GLSC	22 GLSC	19 AUD	17 GLSC
Wednesday	24	21 H&A	19 CI/T	23 CI/T	20 CI/T	18 CI/T R&N
Thursday	25 PH Ascension Day	22 PH	20 PH Schools Close – Summer Term	24	21 PH Rosh HaShannah	19 PH Diwali
Friday	26 School Closes – Half Term	23	21 Summer Term Starts	25	22	20
Saturday	27 Ramadan starts	24	22	26	23	21
Sunday	28	25 Eid al Fitr	23	27	24	22
Monday	29 Spring Bank BH Half Term Starts	26	24	28 August BH	25 P&CR	23 C&YP
Tuesday	30	27 LASC	25 LASC	29	26 HVB	24 LASC
Wednesday	31	28 P&CR + ASR	26	30	27	25 P&CR
Thursday		29	27 CF	31 Summer Term Ends	28	26 SC
Friday		30	28		29	27 School Closes
Saturday			29		30 Yom Kippur	28

Sunday			30			29
Monday			31			30 Half Term
Tuesday						31

YEAR PLANNER 2017/2018

	November	December	January	February	March	April
Monday			1 New Years Day			
Tuesday			2 DTC LASC			
Wednesday	1		3			
Thursday	2		4 SC	1 L	1	
Friday	3 Half Term Ends	1	5	2	2	
Saturday	4	2	6	3	3	
Sunday	5	3	7	4	4	1 Easter Sunday
Monday	6 LSP Board Schools Reopen	4 H&A	8 Schools Reopen	5 NNDR P&CR	5 H&A LSP Board	2 Easter Monday BH
Tuesday	7 DTC	5 DTC GLSC	9 AUD	6 DTC LASC SACRE	6 DTC LASC HWB	3 DTC
Wednesday	8	6 R&N	10	7	7 R&N	4
Thursday	9 EB	7 PC	11 EB	8 EB	8 EB	5
Friday	10	8	12	9 School Closes – Half Term	9	6 Easter Holidays End
Saturday	11	9	13	10	10	7
Sunday	12 Remembrance Sunday	10	14	11	11	8
Monday	13	11 C&YP	15 H&A	12 Half Term Starts	12 C&YP	9 Schools Reopen
Tuesday	14 L	12 HWB	16 GLSC	13 GLSC	13 GLSC	10 GLSC AUD
Wednesday	15	13 P&CR	17 CI/T	14 Ash Wednesday	14	11 ASR
Thursday	16 PH	14 EB	18 PH	15 PH	15 PH	12 EB
Friday	17	15	19	16 Half Term Ends	16	13
Saturday	18	16	20	17	17	14
Sunday	19	17	21	18	18	15
Monday	20	18	22 C&YP	19 Schools Reopen	19 SC	16
Tuesday	21 GLSC	19	23 R&N	20	20 P&CR	17
Wednesday	22 CI/T	20 CI/T	24	21 CI/T	21 CI/T	18 CI/T
Thursday	23	21 PH	25 CF	22	22 CF	19 PH
Friday	24	22 School Closes - Christmas	26	23	23 Schools Close - Easter	20
Saturday	25	23	27	24	24	21
Sunday	26	24 Christmas Eve	28	25	25	22
Monday	27	25 Christmas Day	29	26 FC	26 Easter Holiday Start	23
Tuesday	28	26 Boxing Day	30	27	27 LASC	24
Wednesday	29	27	31	28	28	25
Thursday	30	28			29 Maundy Thursday	26
Friday		29			30 Good Friday BH	27
Saturday		30			31	28
Sunday		31 New Years Eve				29
Monday						30
Tuesday						

Wednesday					
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YEAR PLANNER 2018

	May	June	KEY
Monday			Council, Executive and Council Committee Meetings
Tuesday	1 DTC		AC – Annual Council 6.00 pm
Wednesday	2		FC – Finance Council 6.00 pm
Thursday	3 Elections		CF – Council Forum 6.00 pm
Friday	4 Election Count	1 Half Term Ends	PC – Policy Council 6.00 pm
Saturday	5	2	EB – Executive Board 6.00 pm
Sunday	6	3	PH – Planning & Highways Committee 6.30 pm
Monday	7 May Day	4 Schools Reopen	AUD – Audit and Governance Committee 6.00 pm
Tuesday	8	5 DTC LASC SACRE	SC – Standards Committee 6.00 pm
Wednesday	9	6	LASC – Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committee & GLSC General Licensing Sub Committee 4.00/6.00 pm
Thursday	10 New Member Induction Ascension Day	7	L – Licensing Committee 6.00 pm
Friday	11	8	SACRE - Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education 9.00 am
Saturday	12	9	NNDR – National Non Domestic Ratepayers Meeting
Sunday	13	10	ASR – Annual Scrutiny Review 6.00 pm
Monday	14	11	
Tuesday	15	12 AUD GLSC	
Wednesday	16 Ramadan	13	Overview and Scrutiny Committees
Thursday	17 AC	14 EB Eid al Fitr	P&CR – Policy & Corporate Resources 6.00 pm
Friday	18	15	H&A – Health & Adults 6.00 pm
Saturday	19	16	C&YP – Children & Young People 6.00 pm
Sunday	20 Civic Sunday Whitsun	17	R&N – Regeneration & Neighbourhoods 6.00 pm
Monday	21	18	CI/T – <u>provisional</u> dates assigned for Call Ins or Member Training if needed
Tuesday	22	19 HWB	
Wednesday	23	20 CI/T	Partnership Meetings:
Thursday	24 PH	21 PH	LSP Board – Local Strategic Partnership Board 5.30 pm
Friday	25 Schools Close – Half Term	22	HWB – Health & Wellbeing Board 5.30 pm
Saturday	26	23	
Sunday	27	24	
Monday	28 Spring Bank Holiday	25 H&A	
Tuesday	29	26 LASC	
Wednesday	30	27 R&N	Other Meetings: These Meetings are open to the Public
Thursday	31 L	28	DTC Darwen Town Council 7.00 pm

Friday		29	
Saturday		30	Other:
Sunday			
Monday			BH – Bank Holiday Blackburn with Darwen School Holidays
Tuesday			

