

**COUNCIL FORUM MEETING**  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**PRESENT** – *The Mayor Councillor Sheila Williams (in the Chair), Councillors Akhtar, Bateson, Browne, Cottam, Davies, Desai, Doherty, Entwistle, Foster D, Foster K, Gee, Gordon, Graham, Hardman, Harling, Hirst, Hollern, Huggill, Humphrys, Hussain F., Hussain I., Jan-Virmani, Jones, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat, Law-Riding, Lee, Mahmood, Maxfield, McFall, McGarvey, Meleady, Melia, O’Keeffe, Oldfield, Patel, A., Patel M., Pearson D., Pearson J., Rehman, Rigby C., Rigby J., Rizwan, Shorrocks, Sidat, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John, Slater Julie, Smith D, Smith Joseph, Solkar, Surve, Talbot, Tapp, Thayne, Walsh and Wright.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**14 Notice Convening the Meeting**

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

**15 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Barry, Johnson, Mulla, and Jim Smith.

**16 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Councillor Bateson expressed concern that the 2010 local election results were not reported at the Annual Council meeting, and having raised this at that meeting, they were not subsequently recorded in the minutes and were missing from the current agenda, which meant they still had not yet formally been presented to Council. She asked that they be placed on the next agenda.

**RESOLVED** – That subject to the revisions stated the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**17 Declarations of Interest**

Muntazir Patel	agenda item 11.2 (wife has market stall).
Salim Sidat	agenda item 11.2 (son has market stall).

**18 Mayoral Communications**

The Mayor remarked on several engagements she had attended during her first few weeks in office. She thanked Members and Officers for their support and attendance at Civic Sunday, made reference to the

recent Royal Visit by the Duke of Kent, and other visits from several groups of school children to the Council Chamber / Mayor's Parlour, and concluded with reference to Armed Forces Day which took place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June when the Union Jack was presented by the Deputy Lieutenant Tony Cann to Captain Paul Mitchell.

Councillor Jan Virmani asked the Mayors permission to acknowledge a minutes silence to mark a recent murder in the Little Harwood Community. Council stood in silence as a mark of respect.

## **19 Public Questions**

The Chief Executive reported no public questions had been received for Council Forum under Procedure Rule 10.

## **20 To consider motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12**

The Chief Executive announced that the following Notice of Motion that had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12:

*The Labour Government ensured that the residents of both Blackburn with Darwen and Pennine Lancashire saw some of the highest funding in the country. Under the ConDem coalition we are now facing the severest cuts. These cuts will be a major blow, particularly to people in Blackburn with Darwen, who depend on public services. By choosing to cut a grant that is targeted at councils in areas with high levels of deprivation, "Cameron's claim that 'we are all in this together' has today been exposed as a sham.*

*This Council condemns the unfair distribution of cuts and how they have been made. This has led to the most deprived Councils, many within this region, shouldering the highest percentage of cuts and we call on this Council to lobby the Coalition government to be fair and equitable in any cuts it makes now and in the future and therefore ensuring "as claimed" that the most vulnerable will not suffer.*

*Proposed by Councillor Kate Hollern*

*Seconded by Councillor Andy Kay*

Councillor David Foster moved the following amendment

Delete all after "The Labour Government" on the first line with ".....never fully funded this Council and year on year failed to provide the funding it admitted we needed. The incoming Government has had to deal with the economic disaster left by Labour which has meant reigning in spending to prevent the chaos facing the people of Greece.

This Council will continue to fight for the resources we need to decrease the degree of deprivation that increased under the previous local and national Labour administrations”.

Following debate the Mayor asked Members to vote on the amendment to the motion. Following a vote and revote the amendment to the motion was lost.

**RESOLVED** – That the amendment was lost

**A vote on the substantive motion was taken and the vote was won**

**RESOLVED** – That the motion be carried.

**21 Development and approval of Vision 2030 for Blackburn with Darwen**

A report from the Leader of the Council on the development and approval of Vision 2030 for Blackburn with Darwen was presented and following a brief debate the report was accepted.

**RESOLVED** –

1. That the draft Vision 2030 be noted and endorsed. subject to final consultation and approval through the Local Strategic Partnership on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010
2. That no final comments on Vision 2030 were raised for inclusion in discussions at the LSP Board.

**22 Policy and Review Committee**

The Chair of the Policy and Review Committee, Councillor Derek Hardman presented his report on scrutiny work undertaken since the last meeting of the Council Forum.

**RESOLVED** – That the Report of the Policy and Review Committee be noted.

## **23 Reports of Executive Members**

The Executive Members submitted reports on work within their portfolios since the last meeting of the Council Forum. These were considered as follows:

- Leader
- Regeneration
- Leisure and Culture
- Housing
- Environmental Improvement and Sustainability
- Neighbourhoods and Customer Services
- Adult Social Care
- Children's Services
- Resources

**RESOLVED** – That the reports from the Leader, Executive Members for Regeneration, Leisure and Culture, Housing, Environmental Improvement and Sustainability, Neighbourhoods and Customer Services, Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Resources be received.

## **24 Questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11**

The Chief Executive announced that no questions had been received under Procedure Rule 11.

## **25 Questions submitted regarding the Functions of the Police Authority**

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received regarding the functions of the Police Authority.

Signed at a meeting of the Council

on the                      day of

(being the next ensuing meeting of the Council)

by

MAYOR

**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2010**

**PRESENT** – *The Deputy Mayor Councillor Foster K.O.M. in the Chair; Councillors Akhtar, Barry, Bateson, Davies, Desai, Doherty, Entwistle, Foster D., Gee, Gordon, Graham, Hardman, Harling, Hirst, Hollern, Huggill, Humphrys, Hussain F., Hussain I., Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat, Law-Riding, Lee, Mahmood, Maxfield, McFall, McGarvey, Melia, Mulla, O’Keeffe, Oldfield, Patel, A., Patel M., Pearson D., Pearson J., Rehman, Rigby C., Rigby J., Rizwan, Shorrocks, Sidat, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John, Slater Julie, Smith D., Smith James, Smith Joseph, Solkar, Surve, Talbot, Tapp, Thayne, Walsh and Wright.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**26     Notice Convening Meeting**

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

**27     Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of The Mayor, Councillor Sheila Williams, Councillors Cottam, Browne, Meleady and Jones.

**28     Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest (personal) were received from The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Karimeh Foster (member of Darwen and Rural Neighbourhood Board), Councillor Julie Slater (son works for Child Action North West) Roy Davies (Member of Community Association at Sudellside Community Centre) and Simon Huggill (wife employed by Ashleigh School).

Councillor Derek Hardman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the same item (daughter a PCSO and could be affected by withdrawal of funding).

**29     Procedure Rule 13(c) Change Order of Business**

The Deputy Mayor requested that Agenda Item No.6 – Petition re: Shadsworth Leisure Centre – be moved up the Agenda for the meeting.

In order that the matter could be debated ahead of Motion 1 as both were interrelated (Procedure Rule 13c) and following a vote this was agreed.

**30 Petition re: Shadsworth Leisure Centre**

A report was submitted which advised Members that a petition had been received objecting to the closure of Shadsworth Leisure Centre.

The petition read as follows: "This petition is to object against Shadsworth Leisure Centre being closed – We the public and the various groups of people who use this centre for sport, dance and pleasure would like our voice to be heard against the closure of this facility."

The petition contained 5,582 signatures, and a further 316 signatures had been received later. A verification process took place and a total of 548 signatures were rejected for various reasons, including not stating name and/or addresses. The petition met the scheme criteria and in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, petitions containing 4,200 signatures or more required debate and consideration by full Council.

The petitioner's organiser, Terry Moorby, presented the petition to the Council and outlined the strong feelings of local residents and service users who felt the Centre should remain open.

Following a vote it was agreed that there would be no time restriction on the debate on the petition.

Following a debate, Councillor James Shorrock moved the following recommendation, which was seconded by Councillor Tony Humphrys.

"That this Council, given that this popular centre has the highest number of users in the Borough, (some 220,000) that the intended closure does not proceed, we recommend that the Council examines some of the larger projects, costing millions of pounds, and gives less benefits to residents.

A true option analysis should be presented back to the full Council on all service efficiencies, to enable Councillors who have an understanding of service needs in Blackburn, to participate in decisions that have an impact on so many."

A named vote was requested.

**Those in favour of the recommendation:**

*Councillors Akhtar, Bateson, Desai, Doherty, Entwistle, Graham, Harling, Hollern, Humphrys, Hussain F., Hussain I., Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat, Mahmood, McFall, Mulla, O'Keefe, Oldfield, Patel, A., Shorrocks, Sidat, Slater Julie, Smith D., Smith James, Solkar, Surve, Talbot, Walsh and Wright.*

**Those against the recommendation:**

*Councillors Davies, Foster D., Foster K.O.M., Hirst, Lee, Pearson J., Rigby C., Rigby J., Rizwan M., Slater John and Smith Joseph.*

**Abstentions**

*Councillors Barry, Gee, Gordon, Hardman, Huggill, Law-Riding, Maxfield, McGarvey, Melia, Patel M., Pearson, D., Rehman, Slater Jacqueline, Tapp and Thayne.*

**RESOLVED** – That the recommendation be approved (see also minute number 31 below).

**31 Motions Submitted under Procedure Rule 12.**

Councillor Kate Hollern moved that a recorded vote be taken in respect of the following two motions, which was agreed by the Council.

(Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item, Councillor Derek Hardman left the room.)

**Motion 1**

The following motion had been moved by Councillor Kate Hollern and seconded by Councillor James Smith:

“Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council recognises the importance of front line services provided by both our own staff, contractors and in particular the Borough's Voluntary and Community Sector. These services make an important difference to the lives of some of our most disadvantaged residents as well as the wider community of our Borough.

The Council therefore resolves to require the Executive Board to reconsider the unjust cuts in service currently being implemented”.

At the meeting, Councillor Hollern moved and Councillor Smith seconded that the motion be amended by adding the following:

"The Council also resolves that any reconsideration of current cuts and all future potential cuts are properly and fully evaluated with regards to the following criteria: value for money, financial implications, accurate and fully costed proposals, impact and effects on the community, fairness, all legal implications, potential impact on other budgets, staffing and poverty implications. These considerations to be outlined fully in reports before any further recommendations are brought forward."

Following a debate, the Council moved to a recorded vote on the amended motion.

*(Councillors Jean Rigby, Mohammed Rizwan, Jacqueline Slater and John Slater had left the meeting).*

#### **Those in favour of the motion**

*Councillors Akhtar, Bateson, Desai, Doherty, Entwistle, Harling, Hollern, Humphrys, Hussain F., Hussain I., Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat, Mahmood, McFall, Mulla, O'Keeffe, Oldfield, Patel, A., Shorrocks, Sidat, Smith D., Smith James, Solkar, Surve, Talbot, Walsh and Wright.*

#### **Those against the motion**

*Councillors Barry, Davies, Foster D., Foster K.O.M., Gee, Gordon, Hirst, Huggill, Law-Riding, Lee, Maxfield, McGarvey, Melia, Patel M., Pearson D., Pearson J., Rehman, Rigby C., Smith Joseph, Tapp and Thayne.*

#### **Abstentions**

*Councillors Graham and Slater Julie.*

**RESOLVED** – (1) That the motion be carried; and

(2) That the motion and recommendation relating to Shadsworth Leisure Centre (see minute no. 30 above) be referred back to the next meeting of the Executive Board for further consideration.

*(Councillor Derek Hardman rejoined the meeting).*

#### **Motion 2**

The following motion was moved by Councillor Dave Harling and seconded by Councillor Maureen Bateson:



"That the increase in VAT from 17.5% to 20% announced in the Government's June Budget will fall hardest on those least able to afford it.

That the increase in VAT will lead to higher prices for goods and services; will have a disproportionate impact on pensioners and other low income groups; and will have a severe impact on businesses, charities and community groups in Blackburn with Darwen.

That the effect of the increase in VAT, when taken with other measures in the Budget, will be unfair to pensioners, who have not had a compensatory increase in other benefits and allowances.

That the way the VAT increase will affect pensioners and other low income groups runs counter to the Government's Coalition Agreement statement on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010 that it would "ensure that fairness is at the heart of those decisions so that all those most in need are protected".

That the Institute of Fiscal Studies has stated the VAT increase was not "unavoidable," as the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in his Budget speech.

This Council resolves:

To write directly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer raising concerns about the impact of the proposed VAT increase on pensioners, other vulnerable groups and businesses in Blackburn with Darwen.

To call on the Members of Parliament representing both Blackburn and Darwen to stand up for our pensioners, businesses and wider community, to voice their opposition to this unfair increase in VAT and to vote against it in Parliament".

Following a debate, the Council moved to a named vote on the motion:

*(Councillors Jean Rigby, Mohammed Rizwan, Jacqueline Slater, John Slater, Muntazir Patel and Abdul Rehman had left the meeting).*

#### **Those in favour of the motion**

*Councillors Akhtar, Bateson, Desai, Doherty, Entwistle, Graham, Harling, Hollern, Humphrys, Hussain F., Hussain I., Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat, Mahmood, Maxfield, McFall, Mulla, O'Keeffe, Oldfield, Patel, A., Shorrocks, Sidat, Smith D., Smith James, Solkar, Surve, Talbot, Walsh and Wright.*

**Those against the motion**

*Councillors Barry, Davies, Foster D., Foster K.O.M., Gee, Gordon, Hardman, Hirst, Huggill, Law-Riding, Lee, McGarvey, Melia, Pearson D., Pearson J., Rigby C., Slater Julie, Smith Joseph, Tapp and Thayne.*

**RESOLVED** - That the motion be carried.

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

MAYOR

**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2010**

**PRESENT** – *The Deputy Mayor Councillor Foster K.O.M. in the Chair; Councillors Akhtar, Barry, Bateson, Browne, Cottam, Davies, Desai, Doherty, Entwistle, Foster D., Gee, Gordon, Hardman, Harling, Hirst, Hollern, Huggill, Humphrys, Hussain F., Hussain I., Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Jones, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat, Law-Riding, Lee, Mahmood, Maxfield, McFall, McGarvey, Meleady Melia, Mulla, O’Keeffe, Oldfield, Patel, A., Patel M., Pearson D., Pearson J., Rehman, Rigby C., Rigby J., Rizwan, Shorrock, Sidat, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John, Slater Julie, Smith D., Smith James, Smith Joseph, Solkar, Surve, Talbot, Tapp, Thayne, Walsh and Wright.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**32    Notice Convening Meeting**

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

**33    Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of The Mayor, Councillor Sheila Williams and Councillor Andrew Graham.

The Deputy Mayor, on behalf of the Council, passed on her best wishes to the Mayor for a speedy recovery from her current illness.

**34    Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

**35    Motion Submitted under Procedure Rule 12**

The Deputy Mayor moved that a recorded vote be taken in respect of the following motion, which was agreed by Council

The following motion had been moved by Councillor Maureen Bateson and seconded by Councillor Mohammed Khan.

*This Council has no confidence in the Leader of the Council to manage the business of the Council and moves for his removal as Leader of the Council.*

*This Council further moves that Councillor Hollern is elected as Leader of the Council.*

*As a result of this change, authority is given to the leaders of the groups to appoint chairs and vice chairs and to amend the nominations to committees in line with current practice on proportionality.*

Following speeches by several members the Council moved to a recorded vote on the motion.

**Those in favour of the motion:**

*Councillors Akhtar, Bateson, Desai, Doherty, Entwistle, Harling, Hollern, Humphrys, Hussain F., Hussain I., Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat, Mahmood, Maxfield, McFall, Meleady, Mulla, O'Keeffe, Oldfield, Patel A., Shorrocks, Sidat, Smith D., Smith James, Solkar, Surve, Talbot, Walsh and Wright.*

**Those against the motion:**

*Councillors Barry, Browne, Cottam, Davies, Foster David, Foster K.O.M., Gee, Gordon, Hardman, Hirst, Huggill, Jones, Law-Riding, Lee, McGarvey, Melia, Patel Muntazir, Pearson David, Pearson John, Rehman, Rigby Colin, Rigby Jean, Rizwan, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John, Slater Julie, Smith Joseph, Tapp and Thayne.*

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the motion be carried; and
2. That Councillor Kate Hollern be appointed to serve for a four year term as Leader of the Council until Sept 2014 (or until earlier expiry in accordance with the Constitution)

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

MAYOR