

POLICY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 2nd December 2010

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, 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, Meleady, Melia, Mulla, O'Keeffe, Oldfield, Patel, A., Patel M., Pearson D., Pearson J., Rehman, Rigby C., Rizwan, Shorrocks, Sidat, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John, Slater Julie, Smith D., Smith James, Smith Joseph, Solkar, Surve, Talbot, Tapp, Thayne, Walsh and Wright.

76. The Chief Executive read the Notice convening the meeting

77. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Jones, Rigby J and the Mayor, Councillor Sheila Williams.

78. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received

79. Performance Agreement 2009/11

Members received a report on progress made towards achieving the Council's Strategic Objectives at the end of 2009/10 and during first months of 2010/11, together with a presentation by the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED -

1. That Policy Council notes the performance against the Performance Agreement 2009/10; and
2. That Policy Council notes current performance against the Performance Agreement 2010/11.

80. Council Objectives and Policy Framework 2011/12

A report was submitted which proposed changes to the Council's vision, objectives and Corporate Priorities for 2011/12 and which proposed changes to the Constitution to reflect these changes. The changes proposed in the report were as a result of the unexpected challenge resulting from the Comprehensive Spending Review, and changes to regulatory regimes.

Appendix 1 outlined the proposed Council Objectives and Corporate Priorities Framework for 2011/12 and Appendix 2 the revised delivery

vehicle for Executive Board oversight of the new strategic objectives and corporate priorities.

RESOLVED –

That Elected Members endorse: -

1. Changing the Council's vision, objectives and corporate priorities for 2011/12 in line with Appendix 1, to ensure appropriate strategic focus in the challenging new context. These changes will provide the backdrop to financial decisions over coming months and Finance Council in 2011.
2. Reviewing the appropriate sections of the Constitution which, pending Policy Council's views relating to proposed changes in the recommendation above, would rework the Policy Framework in line with Vision 2030 themes and revised corporate priorities; and
3. Mandate the Chief Executive to take forward appropriate revisions to the scheme of delegation prior to Finance Council in 2011, and review and develop the range of strategies and plans outlined in Appendix 2 to ensure delivery against objectives and priorities.

81

Pre-budget Medium Term Financial Outlook

Members received a report which outlined the Financial Framework for the Council for the Medium Term. The Appendix to the report outlined the preparation of an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to cover the four year period 2011-2015. The final MTFS would be incorporated with the Council's Performance Agreement and approved at the Finance Council in March 2011.

RESOLVED –

1. That portfolios take steps to ensure they continue to balance their budgets within their provisional cash limits, taking into account the Council's overall priorities.
2. Council note the delivery of savings reported through Executive Board to deal with the in-year reductions in grant funding in 2010/11, including Area Based Grants.
3. Endorse the development of a Single Integrated Management Team and the Council Chief Officer restructuring as approved by the Chief Executive and Chief Officers Employment Committees, the Executive Board and the Care Trust Plus Board, which will deliver significant recurring savings for both organisations.
4. That options are formulated for consideration and appraisal which reflect the council's priorities and ensure a balanced budget is set at

7

Finance Council in March, whilst ensuring a minimum level of balances is maintained; and

5. To consider a council tax policy that seeks to minimise increases each year in the light of the impact of the economic situation and any consequent changes to funding and grant settlements to the Council.

82

Outside Bodies, proportionality and political balance.

Members received a report and recommendations from the Director of Legal Services of the Council on Outside Bodies, proportionality and political balance.

The report requested that Members agree the latest iteration of the Outside Bodies list (Appendix A) as the list for the remainder of the Municipal Year, and requested Group Leaders to forward outstanding nominations within the next five working days. In the absence of nominations pursuant to the recommendation above and the need to fill the positions as a matter of urgency, it was proposed that a new policy would be adopted, to fill the seats for the remainder of the year by offering unallocated seats to remaining political groups instead of holding vacancies, and that the revised list be circulated to Members, Chief Officers and partner organisations as soon as practicable. During the debate, several issues arose where Members requested further information.

RESOLVED – That Group Leaders meet in advance of the next Executive Board to finalise appointments to Outside Bodies, and that in the absence of an agreement that delegation be granted to the Leader in consultation with the Chief Executive if no agreement is reached.

83

Draft Schedule of Meetings For 2011/12.

Further to the first draft of the Schedule of Meetings for 2011/12 which was submitted to Council Forum in November, a small number of amendments were put forward by Members.

RESOLVED – That the amendments to the Schedule of Meetings for 2011/12 be incorporated and that the final version be circulated to Members by email.

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

Mayor.