

COUNCIL FORUM
28th June 2012

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

RESOLUTIONS

16 Notice Convening Meeting

The Deputy Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Browne, Harling, Rigby J., Sidat, Talbot and Whalley.

18 Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Council meeting held on Thursday 17th May 2012

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17th May 2012 be approved as a correct record.

19 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Brian Taylor declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11.9 (Report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care – Item on Learning Disability Integration) – Employed by Creative Support.

20 Mayoral Communications

The Mayor updated the Council Forum on recent activities and events since the last Council Forum Meeting.

Reference was made to the Mayor’s attendance at a recent Memorial Day Event for Sgt. Philip Jones who had served and died in the Falklands, attendance at the Queen’s Garden Party and Civic Sunday, as well as events relating to the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations and welcoming the Olympic Torch to the Borough.

The Mayor had also attended the recent Armed Forces Day Ceremony and had welcomed visitors from Russia to the Borough.

Finally, the Mayor offered congratulations to all the local people who had recently received honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and to Councillor Damian Talbot and his wife Donna on the arrival of their second child.

21 Council Forum

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that no questions from members of the public under Procedure Rule 10 had been received.

22 Motions Submitted under Procedure Rule 12

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that one Notice of Motion had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12.

MOTION 1

This Council notes:

- 1) The Provisions within the Localism Act 2011 for local authorities to change their governance arrangements.*
- 2) Many Councillors have expressed doubts about the current Executive Structure and would prefer a return to the Committee System.*

This Council resolves:

To request the Chief Executive to prepare a report for Council Forum outlining the alternative governance arrangements available to this Council and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Before any decision is made by Council Forum a Members' Seminar be arranged which will allow Councillors to examine in depth and informally the different alternatives.

Proposed by: Councillor David Foster

Seconded by: Councillor Chris Thayne

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Kate Hollern, moved an amendment to the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Andy Kay and this was circulated to Members:

This Council resolves:

To request the Chief Executive, in due course, to prepare a report for Council Forum outlining options for making improvements to the existing decision making arrangements to enable more Members of

Council to become more involved in the decision making processes of the Council whilst also ensuring additional costs are avoided where possible.

Following debate and a vote on the amendment, the amended motion was accepted.

Councillor David Foster, seconded by Councillor Karimeh Foster, moved an amendment to the motion as follows: after 'arrangements' on the third line, add 'and consider a Committee structure'.

Following a debate, the amended motion as proposed by Councillor David Foster was voted on, but this was not accepted.

There then followed a vote on the substantive motion, as previously accepted by the Council, as submitted by Councillor Kate Hollern.

RESOLVED – That the Motion as amended be carried.

23 Budget Strategy 2013/15 – Proposed Timetable and Revised Corporate Plan Process

The Council Forum received a report which outlined proposals and a timetable for developing the Corporate Plan for 2012-2015 and the budget strategy for 2013-2015.

The scale of the budget challenge for 2013-16 was a major issue for the Council. To meet this challenge the matter needed to be addressed urgently and earlier than under the normal policy and budget process.

Any budget had to be based on the corporate priorities. Therefore, it was essential that the Corporate Plan was agreed prior to the budget being discussed to ensure the budget reflected the key priorities.

A timetable had been developed that aimed to ensure that the Corporate Plan was reviewed and priorities set, in good time to influence the Council's budget strategy and again, ensure that key decisions were made in time to deliver any required savings for 2013-2014.

Following discussion, Councillor David Foster, seconded by Councillor Karimeh Foster moved that recommendation 2 be amended to reflect that the Policy Council meeting would be added to the scheduled Council Forum meeting on 30th August, which was agreed by Council.

RESOLVED - Council Forum is recommended to agree to the following:

- 1) Bringing forward the timescales for establishing the Council's corporate plan and budget strategy;
- 2) That the 2012 Policy Council be added to the scheduled Council Forum on 30th August for adoption of the Corporate Plan 2012-2015;
- 3) Converting the scheduled Policy Council on 6th December to a Budget Finance Council to agree key budget decisions for 2013-15; and
- 4) Maintain the scheduled Finance Council on 4th March to agree the final budget and set Council Tax for 2013-2014.

24 Report of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Chair of the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Jim Shorrocks, presented his report on Scrutiny work undertaken since the last meeting of the Council Forum.

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

25 Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios

Council Forum received and considered reports of the Leader and Executive Members with portfolios. These were considered as follows: The Leader, Children's Services, Regeneration, Leisure and Culture, Housing, Resources, Environmental Improvement and Sustainability, Neighbourhoods and Customer Services and Adult Social Care.

In moving her report, the Executive Member for Children's Services made particular reference to Audrey and Fred Waring, who had been foster carers for over 40 years, and who had recently been awarded MBEs and offered congratulations on behalf of the Council.

Several Councillors made reference to the excellent support and efforts of staff in supporting residents during the recent floods.

Reference was also made by several Councillors to the recent successful Jubilee Celebrations across the Borough.

The Council also welcomed Martin Eden, who had recently joined the Council as Director of Culture, Leisure, Sport and Young People.

RESOLVED – That the reports from the Leader and the Executive Members for Children's Services, Regeneration, Leisure and Culture, Housing, Resources, Environmental Improvement and Sustainability,

Neighbourhoods and Customer Services and Adult Social Care be noted.

26 Questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11

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

1) From Councillor David Foster to the Executive Member for Regeneration: Councillor Dave Harling:

What steps are being taken to implement the Resolution on 20 mph Speed Limits passed at the Council Forum on 26 April?

2) From Councillor David Foster to the Leader of the Council:

What steps has she taken to ensure the Chief Executive reports to full Council on the number and grade of officers required for the discharge of functions and the organisation of officers?

Responses to the questions and supplementary questions arising were provided by the Leader.

27 Questions submitted regarding the functions of the Police Authority

The Deputy 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