

Council Forum

1st November 2012

AGENDA

PART 1: 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 **Minutes**
To receive and confirm the minutes of the Council Forum and Policy Council Meetings held on 30th August 2012. (pages 1-10)
- 5 **Declarations of Interest**
A form is attached (page 11)
- 6 **Mayoral Communications**
- 7 **Council Forum**
To consider questions from members of the public received under Procedure Rule 10.
- 8 **To consider motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12**
The following Notice of Motion has been submitted:

"This Council wishes the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to note the following:

Blackburn with Darwen believes that local people, through their democratically elected local authorities, are the most suitable judges of what development is acceptable in an area and the suitable level of contributions that developers need to make;

Blackburn with Darwen Council opposes:

- *The Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to have powers to override agreements between Councils and developers over the number of affordable housing units allocated to planning applications.*
- *The Secretary of State's proposals for planning permission – currently required for extensions of more than three or four metres from the rear*

wall of any home – to only be needed for those reaching beyond 8m for detached homes and 6m for others

- The Secretary of State's intention to override Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1990 which will allow developers to immediately appeal to the Planning Inspectorate over the allocation of affordable housing units in any scheme they maybe concerned with.
- The Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to take planning powers away from local authorities which he deems to be slow or of making poor quality planning decisions in determining applications.

This Council notes that the current Coalition government did listen earlier in the year over concerns regarding the National Planning Policy Framework and revised its plans accordingly, so urges the Government to listen to the concerns being expressed by the cross-party LGA;

This Council however welcomes other parts of the stimulus package including:

- £300 million to provide 15,000 affordable homes across the country
- An extension of the refurbishment programme to bring an extra 5,000 empty homes back into use
- £280m for FirstBuy, the shared equity scheme to give a further 16,500 first time buyers the chance to own their own homes
- Up to £10bn of guarantees to housing associations, property management companies and developers which will be able to use the guarantees to secure lower borrowing costs. This will lead to hundreds of thousands of extra rental homes being built.

This Council also notes:

- the record of the previous Labour government on providing affordable social housing – and that during their 13 years in power, the social housing stock fell by another 420,000 houses, as Labour continually failed to build more homes than they were selling off. In the meantime, social housing waiting list soared to almost 1.8million, a rise of 741,000 families.
- the record of previous Conservative Governments where 1.1 million social homes were lost from the stock during the 18 years of Tory rule up to 1997, through a combination of Right to Buy sales and a failure to invest in replacements. When the Major government left office more than 1 million families were on social housing waiting lists.

This Council resolves to formally write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, outlining this Council's opposition to the plans.

Proposed by David Foster

Seconded by Chris Thayne

- 9 Confirmation of Article 4 Direction to control the change of use from a family dwelling to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO)**
To receive a report on seeking Council approval of a Article 4 Direction.
(pages 12-22)
- 10 Treasury Management Annual Report 2011-12 and Mid Year Review for 2012-13**
To receive a report advising Members of Treasury Management Performance for 2011/12, and updating Members with the regard to the position in 2012/13.
(pages 23-33)
- 11 Budget Strategy 2013/15 – Proposed Timetable Update**
To receive a report containing proposals relating to the Budget Strategy 2013/15.
(pages 34-36)
- 12 Gambling Policy Statement 2013**
To receive a report on the outcome of consultations undertaken on the revision of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Policy.
(pages 37-62)
- 13 Draft Year Planner 2013/14**
To receive the draft Year Planner for 2013/14 and any amendments ahead of submission of the final version at the meeting of the Council Forum in January 2013.
(Pages 63-66)
- 14 Policy and Corporate Resources Committee**
Report of the Chair and Vice Chair of Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
(Pages 67-68)
- 15 Reports of Executive Members with Portfolios**

 - 15.1 Leader (page 69-70)
 - 15.2 Children's Services (page 71-72)
 - 15.3 Environment (page 73-74)
 - 15.4 Leisure, Culture and Young People (page 75-77)

- 15.5 Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services (page 78-79)
- 15.6 Regeneration (page 80-81)
- 15.7 Resources (page 82-83)
- 15.8 Schools and Education (page 84-85)
- 15.9 Health and Adult Social Care (page 86-87)

17 To consider any questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11

18 To receive any questions submitted regarding the functions of the Police Authority

Any questions will be answered by Councillor Andy Kay as this Council's representative on the Police Authority.

PART 2: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

There are no items to be considered under Part 2.

Harry Catherall
Chief Executive
24th October 2012