

# Council Forum

31<sup>st</sup> January 2013

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## 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 Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012. (pages 1-9)
- 5 **Declarations of Interest**  
A form is attached (page 10)
- 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**  
No Notices of Motion have been submitted.
- 9 **Localised Council Tax Support Scheme and changes to empty property and second home discounts 2013/14**  
To receive a report from the Director of Finance on the introduction of a local council tax support scheme and changes to discounts on empty properties and second homes (pages 11-60)

*Please note that approval of the recommendations in this report directly impacts the calculation of the tax base as outlined in the next report at item 10, therefore any proposed amendments should, if possible, be discussed with the Director of Finance in advance of the meeting to enable a revised tax base to be calculated should it be necessary to do so.*

*Copies of Appendix A 'Council Tax Support Scheme', Appendix D 'Equality Impact Assessment – Localisation of Council Tax Support Scheme' and Appendix F 'Equality Impact Assessment – Council Tax –*

*Reducing empty property and second homes discounts and introducing a premium charge' have been placed on deposit in Political Group Rooms.*

**10 Approval of Blackburn with Darwen Council's Tax Base and National Non-Domestic Rates income estimate for the financial year 2013/14**

To receive a report requesting approval of the Council Tax base for the 2013/2014 financial year.

(pages 61-64)

*Please note that the setting of the council tax base is calculated following a prescribed methodology and will reflect the decisions of Council made in the report at item 9 of this agenda.*

*Please note that the actual level of Council Tax for 2013/14 will be set at the Finance Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013.*

**11 Preparation for Budget 2013/14 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/15**

To receive a report on preparation of the Budget 2013/14 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013-2016.

(pages 65-82)

In respect of Items 9,10 and 11 above, technical questions on the contents of the reports should be raised directly with Liz Hall, Director of Finance, tel: 585482 by 5p.m. on Monday 28th January 2013.

**12 Year Planner 2013/14**

Following submission of the draft Year Planner 2013/14 to the last meeting, Council Forum is asked to approve the final Year Planner for 2013/14.

(pages 83-86)

**13 Policy and Corporate Resources Committee**

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

(pages 87-88)

**14 Reports of Executive Members with Portfolios**

14.1 Leader (pages 89-90)

14.2 Environment (pages 91-92)

14.3 Leisure, Culture and Young People (pages 93-94)

14.4 Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services (pages 95-96)

- 14.5 Regeneration (page 97)
- 14.6 Resources (pages 98-99)
- 14.7 Schools and Education (pages 100-101)
- 14.8 Health and Adult Social Care (pages 102-103)
- 14.9 Children's Services (pages 104-105)

**15 To consider any questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11**

**16 Constitution Review and Update**

To receive a report on the recently updated Constitution.  
(pages 106-107)

**PART 2: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**

There are no items to be considered under Part 2.

**Harry Catherall**  
**Chief Executive**  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013