

COUNCIL FORUM MEETING
Thursday 26th September 2013

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

RESOLUTIONS

27. Notice Convening Meeting

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

28. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brookfield, Hirst, Maxfield, Rigby J., Rigby C., Smith J. and Whalley.

29. Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 27th June 2013

RESOLVED -

That the minutes of the Council Forum meeting held on 27th June 2013 be approved as a correct record.

30. Declarations of interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

31. Mayoral Communications

The Mayor updated the Council Forum on a number of engagements he had attended since the last Council Forum meeting including the Annual Forces Day Parade in Darwen and the Flag Raising event in Blackburn in June.

Other recent engagements included the official opening of Witton Park High School and Darwen Vale, the Blackburn Canal Festival and a number of Citizenship Ceremonies. Reference was also made to the recent Heritage Open Days in the Mayor’s Parlour and Council Chamber, and to an Open Day at Greenbank Police Headquarters.

The Mayor had recently hosted a Civic tour of the Borough for other visiting Mayors and had attended a presentation of a Queens Award to Pentland Group plc by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire. Additionally the Mayor had hosted a reception to mark the retirement of Mike Murray who though his work on the LSP and other Partnership activities had been very influential and a valuable person for the Council to work with over a number of years. The Mayor also thanked the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Cottam, for standing in for him on some recent engagements when the Mayor was ill.

Finally, the Mayor asked the Council to observe a minutes silence in memory of former Councillor Bill Pickup, who sadly passed away recently and who had represented the Meadowhead Ward from 1997 to 1999.

32. Council Forum

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

33. To consider Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12

The Chief Executive advised that no Notices of Motion had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12.

34. Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Development

A report was submitted which advised of the receipt of the Inspector's Report into the Examination into Public of the Joint Lancashire Site Allocation and Development Management Policies Local Plan (the Local Plan) and accompanying Policies Map. Council approval was sought of the recommended changes to the submission version of the Local Plan including the Policies Map, and for adoption of the Local Plan as modified by the Planning Inspector under Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

As a Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council was required to prepare and adopt a Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework (LDF). The Council had agreed with the other two Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities in Lancashire – Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council to prepare a joint Minerals and Waste LDF. Thus far a Joint Core Strategy had been adopted by all three joint authorities. The Local Plan was necessary in order to deliver the Core Strategy and provide a more detail policy basis for the determination of mineral and waste planning applications.

RESOLVED -

That the Council Forum:

- (i) Accept the recommended modifications to the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Local Plan and the Policies Map made by the Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to examine the soundness of the DPD and;
- (ii) Adopt the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Local Plan and Policies Map together with the recommended modifications made by the Planning Inspector.

35. Policy and Corporate Resources Committee

The Chair of the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee presented an update report on the work of the Committee.

RESOLVED –

That the report of the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

36. Reports of Executive Members with Portfolios

Council Forum reviewed and considered reports of the Leader and Executive Members with portfolios. These were considered as follows: The Leader, Regeneration, Resources, Schools and Education; Health and Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People and Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Kate Hollern updated the Council Forum on a letter received from the Government in response to the recent Motion on shisha bars. The Leader advised that she was not satisfied with the response and was extremely concerned about the health implications of shisha use, and that she would update Members if any further responses were received.

Councillor Maureen Bateson advised of two recent developments since her report was submitted – the approval of two pilot schemes, under the Preston City Deal – the widening of the raillink between Blackburn and Manchester and the improvements on Haslingden Road between junction 5 of the M65 and Guide.

Several references were made to the excellent work undertaken by Chris Allen and Deborah Gornick during their time with the Council and the thanks and best wishes were passed to them both. Chris Allen was due to retire on

the 27th September and Deborah Gornick had been appointed to a new position at Wirral MBC.

Reference was also made to the excellent work of volunteers who had helped several parks in the Borough Secure Green Flag status.

Finally, thanks were passed to staff who had worked through the recent changes made to the one stop shop reception at Blackburn Town Hall.

RESOLVED –

That the reports from the Leader and the Executive Members for The Leader, Regeneration, Resources, Schools and Education; Health and Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People and Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services, be noted

37. Year Planner 2013-14

Members were asked to approve a number of changes to the Year Planner for 2013/14 namely:

- The move of the Local Elections from 1st May 2014 to 22nd May 2014, the same day as the European Elections which have been moved from 5th June 2014, with the European Elections Count to be held on Sunday 25th May 2014. This meant that Annual Council/Mayor making meeting would now be held on 5th June 2014 with Civic Sunday being held on 15 June 2014.
- Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny meeting moved from 17th February to 24th February 2014.
- Annual Review of Scrutiny meeting added 7th April 2014.
- Council Forum Meeting moved from 24th April (Easter week) to Thursday 1st May as there were now no elections that week.
- Executive Board date added for 15th May 2013 (and therefore no meeting would be held in June).

The draft Year Planner for 2014/5 would be submitted to the next Council Forum Meeting.

RESOLVED –

1. That the revised Year Planner for 2013-2014 be agreed; and
2. That the draft Year Planner for 2014-2015 be submitted to the next meeting of the Council Forum.

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

MAYOR

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