

COUNCIL FORUM MEETING
Thursday 26th June 2014

PRESENT –*The Mayor Councillor A. Cottam (in the Chair), Councillors Akhtar H., Akhtar P., Ali, Bateson, Brookfield, Browne, Casey, Connor, Daley, Davies, Desai, Entwistle, Evans, Foster D., Foster K., Gee, Groves, Gunn, Hardman, Hollern, Hollings, Hussain F., Hussain I., Hussain S., Jan-Virmani, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat S., Lee, Liddle, Mahmood, Maxfield, McKinlay, Mulla, Nuttall, O’Keeffe, Patel, Rehman, Rigby C., Rigby J., Riley, Roberts, Shorrocks, Sidat, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John, Slater Julie, Smith D., Smith J., Surve, Talbot, Whalley and Whittle.*

RESOLUTIONS

13 Notice Convening Meeting

The Chief Executive read out the notice convening the meeting.

14 Prayers by the Mayor’s Chaplain

At this point there was a minutes silence observed in memory of Councillor Florence Oldfield.

15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Harling, Humphrys, Johnson, Khonat H., McFall, Pearson, Taylor, Walsh and Wright.

16 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 5th June 2014 be approved as a correct record.

17 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Denise Gee declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10.6 (Report of the Executive Member for Regeneration – Item on Darwen Market) – Stall holder in Darwen Market.

18 Mayoral Communications

The new Mayor updated Members on a number of events that he had recently attended, one of which was the children’s Mini Sing and Big Sing at King George’s Hall and praised the staff and organisers on a fantastic job. The Mayor mentioned that it had been a very busy start to his Mayoral year.

19 Council Forum

Council were advised that no questions had been submitted by Members of the Public under Procedure Rule 10.

20 Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12

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

21. Policy and Corporate Resources Committee

It was reported that the first round of Scrutiny Meetings would start from Monday 30th June 2014 with the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. Work programmes for all Committees would be agreed by the July meeting of Policy and Corporate Resources, to allow task groups to meet over the Summer. All Members had received a copy of the final version of the new Scrutiny handbook which had been written by a Modern Apprentice with the Scrutiny Team.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

22. Reports of Executive Members with Portfolios

Council Forum received and considered reports of the Leader and Executive Member with Portfolios. These were considered as follows:

The Leader, Executive Members for Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services, Regeneration, Resources and Schools and Education, Health and Adult Social Care.

The Leader expressed her disappointment that given the demand for funding from all the LEPs, Ministers had asked the authority to revisit its plan and reduce its 'ask', and that after a review exercise Blackburn with Darwen was now seeking £215.8m with £45.9m in 2015/16 on the Lancashire Growth Deal.

The Executive Member for Children's Services made reference to the Youth Justice Service – Investing in Children Accreditation and congratulated them on their 5th consecutive 'Investing in Children' Award.

A question had been asked on the major enforcement of the Shisha Lounge Prosecution following the report of the Executive Member for Environment. The Network Recovery Scheme was mentioned in particular with regard to

future surfacing schemes and that Members would be notified well in advance on any future surfacing schemes.

Under the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration, questions were asked on the percentages of occupancy of both Blackburn and Darwen Markets and what the Council was doing to support the local traders

RESOLVED –

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

23 Constitution Update

Council was advised that the Constitution had been updated, would be made available to all Members and placed on the Council website. It was explained that from time to time the Constitution needed to be updated to reflect changes in legislation, resolutions passed by Council, portfolio changes made by the Leader, changes made to the Council management structure and delegations and re-election of the Leader of the Council to realign with the municipal calendar concluding at the Annual Council in May 2015. To put this in context, Members were informed that The Constitution was last updated in October 2012. Since the last constitution update there have been a number of resolutions passed by Council.

RESOLVED –

- 1 The amendments made to the Constitution to reflect the resolutions/decisions made at full Council since October 2012:
 - a) the amendments made to the Constitution to reflect changes to the senior management structure, the various provisions of Localism Act 2011 coming into force, the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and other legislative changes; and
 - b) the insertion of the Officer Code of Conduct, as approved by the Executive Member for Resources.
- 2 The re-election of the Leader of the Council to realign with the municipal calendar concluding at the Annual Council in May 2015.

24. To Consider any questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11

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

Question from Councillor Roy Davies to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood and Housing:

“If known - the true figure of empty properties in the Sudell ward?”

Question from David Foster to the Executive Member for Regeneration

“Will the Executive Member instruct Capita to inform Members when Traffic Regulation Orders go out to consultation in a similar way to the procedure adopted by our Planning Department in relation to planning applications.”

Responses to the questions and supplementaries arising were provided by the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Housing and Customer Services and the Executive Member for Regeneration.

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

MAYOR