

**COUNCIL FORUM MEETING**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**PRESENT** –*The Mayor Councillor F Hussain (in the Chair), Councillors Akhtar H., Akhtar P., Ali, Bateson, Brookfield, Browne, Connor, Cottam, Desai, Entwistle, Evans, Foster D., Foster K., Groves, Gunn, Hardman, Harling, Hollings, Humphrys, Hussain I., Hussain S., Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat S., Lee, Liddle, Mahmood Q., Maxfield, McKinlay, Mulla, Oates, O’Keeffe, Patel, Pearson, Rehman, Rigby C., Rigby J., Riley, Roberts, Shorrocks, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John., Slater Julie., Smith D., Smith J., Talbot, Tapp, Vali, Whalley, Whittle and Wright.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**12. Notice Convening Meeting**

The Chief Executive read out the notice convening the meeting.

**13. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jim Casey, Julie Daley, Denise Gee, Arshid Mahmood, Pat McFall, Salim Sidat, Naushad Surve and Brian Taylor.

**14. Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

**15. Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were received.

**16. Mayoral Communications**

The Mayor updated the Council Forum on recent events and activities including Civic Sunday on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May, and he thanked all those who attended.

A recent highlight was the Queen’s Garden Party in May, which the Mayor and Mayoress had enjoyed very much.

The Mayor advised that he was enjoying his Mayoral year, in particular meeting people and making new friends.

## 17. Council Forum

One question had been received under procedure Rule 10 from Mrs Anne Sutton in respect of street cleaning and volumes of refuse on several back streets in the Ewood Ward:

To the Executive Member for Regeneration:

*“Does the Council have a time driven action plan which will result in a permanent resolution to this problem in line with statutory obligations and Defra Codes of practice? If the answer is yes, what are the details of the action plan and what is the deadline for completion?”*

*Supplementary question – if there is no defined and target date driven action plan why has this not been put into place and when will this be rectified?”*

Mrs Anne Sutton was not in attendance and it was agreed that a written response to her question be sent, and that all Members would receive an e-mail copy of the response.

## 18. Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12

The Chief Executive advised that a Motion had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12 as follows:

*In view of the Council only delivering a small number of houses per year and having a large number of permissions given that have not yet been built is it not time to review the local plan as the numbers are totally un deliverable. This uncertainty is effecting house sales and prices throughout the Borough.*

*PROPOSER: Cllr Michael Lee*

*SECONDER: Cllr Colin Rigby*

Following a debate there then followed a vote on the Motion, which was lost.

**RESOLVED**– That the Motion be lost.

## 19. Policy & Corporate Resources Committee

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

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

## 20. Report of the 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, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods Housing and Customer Services, Resources, Regeneration, Schools and Education and Health and Adult Social Care.

In moving his report, the Leader of the Council, advised that options were still being considered in terms of a potential Combined Authority for Lancashire, and that a Members Seminar would be arranged in the coming months, ahead of submission of a report to the December Policy Council Meeting.

The Executive Member for Children's Services, Councillor Maureen Bateson, in submitting her report, made reference to artwork at the back of the Council Chamber painted by a local 10 year old boy entitled ' I love life' which had been chosen for a new charity calendar. The boy was in local Foster Care and painted a heart to show how happy he was with his Carers. Councillor Bateson also thanked Members and Peter Gunn who was in attendance for participating in the Foster Care Fortnight promotion selfie booth outside the Council Chamber. Councillor Bateson also passed thanks to the former Councillor and Children's Services portfolio holder Frank Connor for his excellent work on behalf of all staff, Children and Members of the Council, and she asked the Mayor to write to Frank to officially thank him.

Councillor Jan-Virmani, the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods Housing and Customer Services, informed Members of two workshops that would be held on the New Anti-Social Behaviour Act, and asked Members to bring key issues to it – the workshops would be held on 20<sup>th</sup> July and 29<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30pm.

The Executive Member for Schools and Education, Councillor Dave Harling provided an update on his report – in terms of School Inspections, 3 more reports had been published – Shadsworth Infants School had been given a strong 'good', Olive School 'outstanding' and Our Lady & St John had been moved out of the 'inadequate' category. Councillor Harling also reported that the Primary School SAT's results were the best in the past decade, with all key stages improving on every measure and were over and above national and regional figures.

**RESOLVED** – that the reports of the Leader, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods Housing and Customer Services, Resources, Regeneration, Schools and Education and Health and Adult Social Care be noted.

## **21. Constitution, Pay Policy Statement and Contract Procurement Procedure Rules Update**

A report was submitted which advised the Council that the Constitution had been updated following changes in organisational structure previously noted with now consequential changes to the Scheme of Delegation included.

Members were advised that since the last constitutional update there had been some changes, including to the Council's organisational structure requiring updates to chief officer portfolio responsibilities and other for clarification purposes to the list of Statutory officers and Proper Officers.

These changes also need to be reflected in the Pay Policy Statement. Also as reported in the Pay Policy Statement approved by the Council in March, the Pay Policy Statement required a data refresh to reflect full year data from 2014/15 coinciding with the publication of the final accounts.

The Pay Policy had also been updated to reflect the revised definition of 'Pay Multiple' to now be included in Pay Policy Statements.

In addition, a revised version of the Council's Contract Procurement Procedure Rules had been produced which was proposed to be approved and incorporated into the Constitution. The new rules had been designed to be easier for officers to use, reflect changes in legislation and the Council's move to e-procurement and maximise opportunities for local providers.

Council Forum was reminded that the Constitution was publicly available on the website and available in printed form in the Political Group rooms.

The sections updated reflecting the Organisational changes were set out in Appendices to the report as was the proposed Pay Policy update and the proposed revised Contract Procurement Procedure Rules.

**RESOLVED** – That the Council Forum approve the following recommendations:

(i) The updates made to the Constitution to reflect the organisational changes previously noted (Appendices '1' and '2' refers).

(ii) Confirm that the statutory post of Registrar of Births Marriages and Deaths be held by the current post holder, and that the proper officer for the Registration Service shall be the Director for HR, Legal & Corporate Services. (Appendix '3' refers).

(iii) The update to the Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15 as set at in this report. (Appendix '4' refers); and

(iv) The revised Contract Procurement Procedure Rules and for the Constitution to be updated accordingly (Appendix `5` refers).

**22. Questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11**

No questions had been submitted by Members under Procedure Rule 11.

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

MAYOR