

Council Forum

3rd December 2015

AGENDA

PART 1: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PUBLIC

- 1 Chief Executive to read the notice convening the meeting**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
A form is attached (page 1).
- 3 Council Forum**
To consider questions from members of the public received under Procedure Rule 10.
- 4 To consider motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12**
One Notice of Motion has been submitted under Procedure Rule 12;

This Council notes with grave concern the threat to public services cuts and the impact of these cuts on BWD residents.

In November, after a June announcement and September consultation, the government finally confirmed that there will be a 6.2% in-year cut to the Local Authority Public Health Grant in England. This means that Blackburn with Darwen has to find £931,000 of cuts to the public health services of local residents in the last 4 months of this year. To order such a cut three quarters of the way through the financial year is a very inefficient way to manage the health of the nation and illustrates the contempt with which local government is held by the current national government.

In addition, it has recently been announced that the government is proposing to change the Public Health Grant Formula from 2016/17. This will change the basis on which Local Authority Public Health Grant is calculated. The formula is very complex – but results in rural areas being allocated a greater share than previously. One consequence is that deprived and mainly urban areas generally lose out. The reformulation will mean that Blackburn with Darwen with its high levels of deprivation loses £2.6m, Wokingham in Berkshire, one of the wealthiest boroughs in the country, gains £1m. and the borough with some of the worst health outcomes in the country, Blackpool, will lose about £6m.

Governments have choices and this current government is choosing to move resources from the poorer parts of the country to the richer parts as a mechanism for rewarding its supporters. Since the Second World War, successive governments, Conservative and Labour, have seen the reduction of inequality as a major objective of public policy – this has now been reversed and we have a government that unashamedly does not care about growing inequality in the country. Indeed it deliberately chooses policies that make inequality predictably and preventably worse.

This Council asks both the Chief Executive and the Director of Public Health to write to the Secretary of States for Health and the Treasury to ask for these cuts to be reversed.

Councillor Mohammed Khan
Leader of the Council and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Cllr Phil Riley Deputy Leader of the Council

5 Finance / Medium Term Financial Strategy

To consider a report outlining proposed changes to the Councils Minimum Revenue Provision Policy. (pages 2 - 8)

Any technical Questions on the recommendations should be raised directly with Louise Mattinson, Director of Finance & IT tel: 01254 585600 by 12 noon Tuesday 24th November 2015.

6 Update on Leisure Review

To consider a report outlining recommendations on the review of leisure provision across the Borough following consultation with residents, stakeholders and employees who may be affected by the outcome of the leisure review (pages 9 - 14).

7 Adoption of Blackburn with Darwen Local Plan Part 2: Site allocations and Development Management Policies.

For Council to be presented with the Local Plan Part 2: Site allocations and development Management Policies for adoption, incorporating the changes set out by the Planning Inspector following independent public examination. (pages 15 - 23).

8 Combined Authorities

For Council to receive a paper outlining the position and recommendations in respect of a combined Authority for Lancashire. (pages 24 – 66).

9 Policy and Corporate Resources Committee

Report of the Chair and Vice Chair of Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (pages 67 - 68).

10 Reports of Executive Members with Portfolios

- 10.1 Leader (pages 69 - 70).
- 10.2 Leisure, Culture and Young People (pages 71 - 73).
- 10.3 Neighbourhoods Housing and Customer Services (pages 74 - 75).
- 10.4 Regeneration (pages 76 - 77).
- 10.5 Resources (pages 78 - 79).
- 10.6 Schools and Education (pages 80 - 81).
- 10.7 Health and Adult Social Care (pages 82 - 83).
- 10.8 Children's Services (pages 84 - 85).
- 10.9 Environment (pages 86 - 87).

11 Year Planner 2016/17

To approve the Year Planner for 2016 2017 (pages 88 - 91).

12 To consider any questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11.

PART 2: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

There are no items to be considered under Part 2.

Harry Catherall
Chief Executive
25th November 2015