

POLICY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 3rd December 2015

PRESENT – Councillor H. Akhtar (*in the Chair*), Councillors Ali, Bateson, Brookfield, Browne, Casey, Connor, Cottam, Desai, Entwistle, Evans, Gee, Groves, Gunn, Hardman, Harling, Hollings, Hussain S., Jan-Virmani, Kay, Khan M., Khonat S., Lee, Liddle, Mahmood A., Mahmood Q., Maxfield, McFall, McKinlay, Mulla, Nuttall, O’Keeffe, Oates, Patel, Pearson J., Rigby C., Rigby J., Riley, Roberts, Shorrocks, Sidat, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John, Smith D., Smith J., Surve, Talbot, Tapp, Taylor, Vali, Whalley, Whittle and Wright.

RESOLUTIONS

38. Notice Convening Meeting

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

39. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Tony Humphrys, Julie Slater, Karimeh Foster, David Foster, Zamir Khan, Parwaiz Akhtar, Iftakhar Hussain, Mike Johnson, Julie Daley, Abdul Rehman and The Mayor, Councillor Faryad Hussain.

40. Minutes of the Council Forum Meeting held on 1st October 2015.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Council Forum meeting held on 1st October 2015 be approved as a correct record.

41. Declarations of interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

At this point of the meeting, the Chief Executive advised that in line with the Constitution, the Policy Council would now be held in Committee.

42. Corporate Plan 2016-2019

A report was submitted outlining the Corporate Plan for 2016-2019.

In line with the Council’s policy and decision making framework, the report provided an update on the progress made on delivering key priorities to date.

The Corporate Plan built on the work of the last three years as the Council continues to put the views and the expectations of residents at the forefront of its thinking.

Building upon the previous Corporate Plan and the Corporate Priorities agreed at Policy Council 2012, the report proposed that the same corporate priorities be brought forward and used as the basis for the setting of Council policy until 2019. By adopting the existing corporate priorities for a second three year period the Local Authority would be able to provide continuity to the services that it provided whilst also affording the same continuity to the strategic objectives and pledges the portfolios outline for themselves.

It was proposed that the Corporate Priorities remain:

1. Creating more jobs and supporting business growth;
2. Improving housing quality and building more houses;
3. Improving health and well-being;
4. Improving outcomes for our young people;
5. Safeguarding the most vulnerable people; and
6. Making your money go further.

Further to this corporate continuity, the report also proposed the adoption of four long term strategic themes that would be distilled into every portfolio and would complement the Corporate Priorities.

These themes were:

- Image and Marketing of the borough
- Fairness/Equality/cohesion
- Partnership working – residents/business/other key stakeholders
- Digital First

By adopting these four themes the Council would commit itself to further transforming how both the Borough was perceived and how it operated whilst also ensuring that the Local Authority was fit for purpose in the current online and digital landscapes. The Council was therefore asked to consider these themes in conjunction with the corporate priorities to ensure the Local Authority and its Executive could continue its work in mitigating the impact on residents during the continuing economic and legislative ‘tough times’.

Alongside the update, the report also outlined and provided an overview for the future delivery of the key priorities and the future delivery of the wider 2016–2019 Corporate Plan, with associated pledges.

Members were reminded that the Policy Council in December 2013 made a commitment to explore and implement a localised approach to a living wage for Council employees.

The Council introduced its own local ‘Living Wage’ on 1st April 2014 to enhance life opportunities and well-being for the lowest paid of its employees (commended to local Schools). This was set at £7.45 per hour. It was agreed to increase this to £7.65 per hour on 1st April 2015. This would be above the government’s proposed new national living wage of £7.20 per hour from April.

It was recommended that to re-enforce the commitment made previously at Policy Council to implement a localised approach to a Living Wage and agree to increase the Local Living Wage further to £7.85 from 1st April 2016. There then followed a wide ranging debate on the key issues ongoing as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED –

That the Policy Council:

- Note the progress updates for each portfolio from 2013 (Appendix A);
- Adopt the Council's Corporate Plan for 2016-2019:
 - six strategic priorities
 - four themes supporting the delivery
 - portfolio priorities
 - pledges to be delivered by 2019;
- Delegate final sign off of the Corporate Plan to the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive following the development of performance measures and targets for portfolio priorities through consultation with Executive Members; and
- Agree to increase the Local Living wage for Council employees from £7.65 to £7.85 per hour from April 2016.

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

MAYOR