

**COUNCIL FORUM**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2016**

**PRESENT** – *The Mayor Councillor Akhtar H., (in the Chair), Councillors; Akhtar P., Ali, Bateson, Brookfield, Connor, Daley, Davies, Entwistle, Fazal, Foster D., Foster K., Gee, Groves, Gunn, Hardman, Humphrys, Hussain F., Hussain I., Hussain S., Jan-Virmani, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat, Liddle, Mahmood A., Mahmood Q., Marrow, McGurk, McFall, McKinlay, Mulla, Murray, Nuttall, Oates, Patel, Pearson, Rigby C., Rigby J., Riley, Roberts, Shorrock, Sidat, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John., Slater Julie, Slater Neil, Smith D., Smith J., Surve, Talbot, Tapp, Taylor, Vali Whittle and Wright.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**12     Notice Convening Meeting**

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

**13     Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Casey, Desai, Harling, Hollings, Johnson, Lee and Maxfield.

**14     Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and the Annual Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

Council received and confirmed the minutes of the Council Forum meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> April and Annual Council meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May.

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Council Forum meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April and the Annual Council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> May be agreed as a correct record.

**15     Notice of Motion**

The Chief Executive announced that one Notice of Motion had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12:

**HATE CRIME**

*“Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crime unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.*

*Blackburn with Darwen Council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent racism and we reassure all people living in Blackburn with Darwen that they are valued members of our community.”*

The Motion was Moved by Cllr Mohammed Khan and seconded by Cllr Phil Riley. At this point Councillor Connor asked to Move an amendment to the Motion to read as follows:

*“Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crime unequivocally. Our council condemns such crimes and deplores the increase in intolerant behaviour towards people from overseas who live and work here. We are proud to live in a diverse and cohesive country and borough which has always made welcome those from other nation states”. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.*

*Blackburn with Darwen Council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent racism and we reassure all people living in Blackburn with Darwen that they are valued members of our community.*

*This Council requests the Chief Executive write to the Home Secretary and both of the borough’s Members of Parliament to express our concerns.*

Following some debate and comments from some Members, Councillor Connor requested a revision to his amendment to only insert the last sentence:

*This Council requests the Chief Executive write to the Home Secretary and both of the Borough’s Members of Parliament to express our concerns.”*

The Motion then read as follows:

*“Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crime unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.*

*Blackburn with Darwen Council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent racism and we reassure all people living in Blackburn with Darwen that they are valued members of our community.*

*This Council requests the Chief Executive write to the Home Secretary and both of the Borough's Members of Parliament to express our concerns."*

Following some debate Councillor David Foster advised that his Group were content with the amended Motion, and Councillor Khan accepted the amendment to his original Motion, and the Council moved to the vote on the substantive Motion.

The amended Motion was agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED** – That the Chief Executive write to the Home Secretary and both of the Borough's Members of Parliament expressing Members concerns as outlined in the substantive Motion.

## **16     Constitution and pay policy update**

Council received a report of the Director of HR, Legal & Corporate Services advising that the Constitution had been updated following changes in organisational structure previously noted and agreed, statutory changes, changes to the delegations following the structural changes and amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to officers in respect of planning applications as agreed by the Council on 1st October 2015.

Approval was also sought to adopt the revised terms of reference for the Audit and Governance Committee and agree the changes to the membership. The report also outlined the change to the Pay Policy agreed at Finance Council.

**RESOLVED –**

That Council approved:

- a) The amendments made to the Constitution to reflect the resolutions/decisions made at full Council since April 2015:
- b) The amendments made to the Constitution to reflect changes to the portfolios, the senior management structure, the delegations and legislative changes;

- c) The amendments to the terms of reference for Audit and Governance Committee set out in the Constitution.
- d) The amendment to the membership of the Audit and Governance Committee as set out in this report.
- e) The revisions to the Pay Policy.

## **17 Policy and Corporate Resources Committee**

A report of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee was presented to Council.

### **RESOLVED –**

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

## **18 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: Health and Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods and Prevention Services, Resources, Schools and Education, and Regeneration.

In moving his report, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, outlined his hopes that the new Chancellor and Central Administration would continue to help and support Combined Authorities in the North West.

The Executive Member for Children's Services, Councillor Maureen Bateson, in submitting her report, made reference to the Investors in Children award the Children's Services had received indicating that the team was one of only a few in the country to have received this accolade.

Councillor Jim Smith, the Executive Member for Environment, thanked Environmental Investigation staff for the number of successful prosecutions that had taken place, advising Members that cameras would be pro-actively used in the forthcoming weeks to support further prosecutions. He also wished to thank the 300<sup>th</sup> litter picking volunteer.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhood and Prevention Services, Councillor Arshid Mahmood was asked if there was a possibility of commissioning the Council's CCTV services on a commercial basis to other boroughs.

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

## **19     Corporate Plan 2016 – 2019**

Members were advised that in 2012, Policy Council agreed the Corporate Plan for 2013-2015 and Policy Council 2013 reaffirmed the six corporate priorities that drive the Council's business and ensure that improved outcomes are achieved for residents.

It was further explained that in December 2014, Policy Council agreed to continue to deliver the six strategic priorities and portfolio priorities for one further year (2015/16) and in December 2015, Policy Council again re-affirmed the Council's top six corporate priorities and agreed the adoption of four new long term strategic themes that will be distilled into every portfolio to complement the corporate priorities.

The report submitted outlined the Corporate Plan 2016-2019 and requested its approval at the Council Forum.

**RESOLVED** – That Council Forum adopt the Council's Corporate Plan, its summary and technical appendices for 2016-2019.

## **20     2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) update.**

A report was submitted which provided an update on the 2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2016/20 and which presented information for consideration and decision on proposed to achieve the remaining savings for 2016/17.

The following charges were proposed to contribute to the required budget savings:

- Introduction of charges for green waste collection.
- Introduction of alternate weekly residual waste collection.

- Revisions of the Blue Badge parking arrangements.
- Changes to car park charges at Witton Country Park and the reintroduction of charges for Council owned car parks at weekends.

The report submitted also provided an update on the ongoing workforce review.

Members debated at some length several elements of the budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy. In the absence of any alternative budgets/ strategies being proposed, Council voted on the Medium Term Financial Strategy update.

### **RESOLVED –**

That Council Forum

1. Noted the financial assumptions on which the 2016/17 budget and MTFS is based.
2. Noted the reduced projected level of reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 outlined in the report.
3. Approved the introduction of charges for green waste as outlined in section 5.1 of the report.
4. Approved the introduction of alternate weekly collections as outlined in section 5.2 of the report.
5. Approved the revision to blue badge parking arrangements as outlined in section 5.3 of the report.
6. Approved the introduction of car parking charges at Witton Country Park and the removal of free weekend car parking on council owned car parks as outlined in section 5.4 of the report.
7. Noted the actions taken to ensure delivery of the workforce related savings required for 2016/17 as outlined in section 5.5 of the report.

### **21 Questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11.**

Council noted that no questions had been submitted 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