

COUNCIL FORUM
Thursday 27th July 2017

PRESENT – *The Mayor Councillor Rigby C (in the Chair), Councillors; Akhtar H., Akhtar P; Ali; Bateson; Casey; Connor; Davies; Fazal; Foster D; Foster K; Gee; Groves; Gibson; Hardman; Humphrys; Hussain F; Hussain I; Jan-Virmani; Johnson; Kay; Khan M; Khan Z; Khonat; Lee; Liddle; Mahmood A; Mahmood Q; Marrow; McFall; McGurk; Mulla; Murray; Nuttall; Oates; Patel; Pearson; Perkins; Rigby J; Riley; Shorrocks; Sidat; Slater Ja; Slater Jo; Slater Ju; Smith D, Smith J; Surve; Talbot; Taylor; Tapp; Vali; Whittle and Wright.*

RESOLUTIONS

14 Notice Convening Meeting

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Gunn, Daley, Desai, Maxfield, Neil Slater, Brookfield, Harling, Hollings and Entwistle.

16 Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 18th May 2017

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on the 18th May 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

17 Declarations of Interest

Councillors John Slater, Kevin Connor, Mike Lee, Denise Gee and Ron Whittle declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 (Motion submitted under procedure rule 12 – NJC pay claim).

18 Mayoral Communications

The new Mayor updated Members on a number of events that he had recently attended. One of the events was the opening of a new skills centre at the Olive Tree (for Adults with Learning Difficulties) with the Mayor highlighting the great work of staff and organisers at the centre. The Mayor also stated that it had been a very busy start to his Mayoral year.

19 Council Forum

The Chief Executive advised that no questions had been received from members of the Public under Procedure Rule 10.

20 The Motions Submitted under Procedure Rule 12

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

NJC PAY TO COUNCILS

This Council calls upon the government to end the unfair policy of pay restraint for public sector workers – if the government can find £1bn to “encourage “ the DUP to support the Conservative Party in Parliament, it can find the money to pay a decent wage to public sector workers who, on a daily basis, work to provide the vital front line services that the country depends on.

In particular, this Council sympathises with the background to the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers. This Council also welcomes the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom-loaded pay settlements. This Council however is increasingly concerned regarding the impact of the drastic ongoing cuts to local government funding and the tough choices on services that are being left for local councils to make and therefore calls on the Government to provide the additional funding for this pay rise.

The Council fully supports the national bargaining arrangements and considers provision of funds to facilitate meaningful and fair negotiations is a reasonable expectation following years of real time cuts in public sector pay.

The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on public sector employers such as local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone.

- This Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the LGA to make urgent representations to Government to provide adequate funding for the NJC pay negotiations and pay spine review and notify us of their action in this regard.
- Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor calling for an end to further public sector pay cuts and request proper funding for public services.

Proposer: Cllr Jim Shorrock

Seconder: Cllr Ron Whittle

Following debate there then followed a Vote on the Motion.

RESOLVED – That the Motion be carried.

21 Policy and Corporate Resources Committee

In submitting the report of the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee, Councillor Jim Shorrocks advised that the Annual Scrutiny Review had been held on the 28th June 2017 at the same time as the first meeting of the Committee in the new Municipal Year, and had been well attended. Included with the Council Forum Agenda was a report containing a list of work programme items from each of the Scrutiny Committees for 2017/2018.

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

22 Standards Committee Report

Members received a report from the Standards Committee which advised Council of the findings of a Hearing Panel held on 6th July 2017. Members held a discussion in the Chamber around the outcome and implications of the report.

RESOLVED – That Council Forum note the Standards Committee Report.

23 Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios

Council Forum received and considered reports and updates from the Leader and Executive Member's with portfolios. They were considered as follows: the Leaders report, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods and Prevention, Resources, Schools and Education, Regeneration and Health and Adult Social Care.

RESOLVED – That the reports of the Leader and Executive Members for the following portfolios: Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods and Prevention, Resources, Schools and Education, Regeneration and Health and Adult Social Care be noted.

24 Questions Received from Members under Procedure Rule 11

The Chief Executive reported that one question had been received under Procedure Rule 11 as follows:

For the Executive Member for Regeneration, Councillor Phil Riley from Councillor Roy Davies:

“Given the Planning Committee decision to wave £73,600 section 106 on the former Elizabeth House site can he promise to put in an equivalent amount of money to improve amenities in the Sudell Ward”?

A response to the question was provided by 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