

**COUNCIL FORUM**  
**Thursday 5th October 2017**

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

**15 Notice Convening Meeting**

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

**16 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Akhtar H, McFall, McGurk, Perkins and Oates.

**17 Minutes of the Council Forum Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Council Forum meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

**18 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were submitted.

**19 Mayoral Communications**

The new Mayor updated Members on a number of events that he had recently attended and reminded Members of the events planned for Remembrance Weekend on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and asked that as many Members attend the events as possible.

**20 Council Forum**

The Chief Executive advised that one question had been received from members of the Public under Procedure Rule 10 as follows:

From Brian Todd, on behalf of the Older People's Forum, to Councillor Phil

Riley, Executive Member for Regeneration:

*Why are the Council adamant about stopping Category 3 mobility scooters from parking inside the Bus Station, insurance issues are the only reasons I have been given?*

Councillor Phil Riley gave a response to the question and supplementary question arising, advising that Blackburn Bus Station provided accessible facilities to all in a way that the town has never had before. The Council had been asked to consider the parking and storage of class 3 mobility scooters on a number of occasions over a prolonged period of time and considerable efforts had been made to accommodate these requests. However, there wasn't an appropriate supervised place for class 3 mobility scooters to park within the bus station, due to Health and Safety concerns.

## **21 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:

*Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council reflects the concerns of local residents on the subject of the very worrying events taking place in Myanmar. The targeted killing, abuse, rape, displacement and atrocities are being described by independent Human Rights Organisations as ethnic cleansing and if unchecked then there is a real risk of genocide.*

*A humanitarian disaster is unfolding by the day. The Myanmar Government has the power to stop this in its tracks. So far Aung Sang Suu Kyi has remained silent. To remain silent is to be complicit. This Council and the community we represent will not remain silent.*

*We resolve to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime minister Theresa May, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, our local MP's Kate Hollern and Jake Berry in seeking action from our government to urge the United Nations to call for an immediate and lasting stop to the violence and killing and to intensify pressure on the Myanmar government to allow both full humanitarian access and aid and a United Nations peacekeeping force, pending a peaceful political solution."*

Proposed by: Cllr Shaukat Hussain

Seconded by: Cllr Dave Smith

Councillor Imtiaz Ali, seconded by Councillor Michael Lee moved the following amendment to the Motion:

Insert before final paragraph of Motion:

*The UK Government must pursue the following,*

- 1 UN protection needs to be given immediately to this group of people.*
- 2 There had to be a recognition of Rohingya Muslims as an endangered group of people.*
- 3. Pressure needs to be applied to Myanmar Government through a UN Resolution that the UK Government along with Europe should table. This resolution should be strongly worded and include sanctions.*

*We promised the world that Bosnia will never happen again. Yet we are allowing the same to happen here and we are still talking instead of taking action.*

There then followed debate and a vote on the proposed amendment which was lost.

Following debate on the original Motion as submitted there then followed a Vote on the Motion.

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

**22 Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Review for 2017/18 and Annual Report 2016/17.**

Members received an update report with regard to the Treasury Management position to date and proposed Strategy for the remainder of 2017/18, and the Treasury outturn for 2016/17, as previously reflected in reporting to Audit and Governance Committee, and in the 2016/17 Outturn Corporate Monitoring Report (13th July Executive Board).

The originally approved Treasury and Prudential Limits and Indicators were set at cautious levels and could largely remain unchanged. However it was proposed to vary two indicators to allow for the ongoing increase in the level of short-term borrowing being undertaken.

**RESOLVED** –. That the Council Forum:

- (a) Note the Outturn position for 2016-17;
- (b) Agree to the proposed changes to the Treasury Indicators for the Maturity Structure of Borrowing, and for the Upper Limit on Variable Interest Rate Exposure, and
- (c) Agree to the continuation of the existing Treasury Management Strategy, and the remaining Treasury and Prudential Indicators for 2017/18, as set at Finance Council in February 2017.

**23 Independent Remuneration Panel and Members Allowances 2018/19**

Council Forum received a report containing recommendations relating to the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2018 onwards.

It had been several years since the Council refreshed the Independent Remuneration Panel and recruited members to it. Accordingly Council was now asked to agree that recruitment to a refreshed panel be undertaken, (with an invite to existing members to reapply should they wish to continue). Consideration would also need to be given to the revised roles and responsibilities of elected Members when the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) recommendations to reduce the number of wards and councillors were introduced from 2018. Once Members had given further consideration to this matter in Council over the coming months this could be considered by the Panel once the recruitment had been completed and the Panel established. The Panel would then make recommendations back to Council for consideration

**RESOLVED** – That Council the process to recruit and appoint members to a refreshed Independent Remuneration Panel for 2018 onwards commence in accordance with the Regulations.

**24 Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2016/17**

The Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report 2016/17 was attached for endorsement by the Council. This summarised the work that the Committee has undertaken during the year to demonstrate that it has fulfilled its agreed terms of reference.

**RESOLVED** – That the Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2016/17 be endorsed.

**25 Policy and Corporate Resources Committee**

Council Forum received the latest report from the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee.

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

**26 Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios**

Council Forum received and considered reports and updates from the Leader

and Executive Members with portfolios. They were considered as follows: the Leader's report, Children's Services, Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods and Prevention, Resources, Schools and Education, Health and Adult Social Care and Regeneration.

**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, Health and Adult Social Care and Regeneration be noted.

**27 Questions Received from Members under Procedure Rule 11**

No questions had been received from 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