

# Annual Council

Thursday, 20th May, 2021  
6.00 pm  
King George's Hall,  
Blackburn

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## AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **The Election of the Mayor 2021/2022**
3. **Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain**
4. **The Election of the Deputy Mayor 2021/22**
5. **Tribute to the newly elected Mayor**
6. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**  
**Council Forum March 2021** **3 - 6**
7. **Declarations of Interest**  
**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM** **7**
8. **Election Results - May 2021**  
To note the Local Election results which took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021, link below:  
  
[Election results: Locals 06.05.21 | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council](#)
9. **Motion on Human rights in Palestine**  
Council notes with great concern the blatant disregard for human rights by Israeli forces in the occupied Palestinian lands with aerial/ground attacks against innocent civilians.  
  
Council notes the state sanctioned forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes contrary to

international law.

Council is concerned that HM government has not spoken out against these attacks on the human rights and safety of civilians.

Council resolves to:

- 1) Write to the prime minister & foreign secretary demanding immediate condemnation by HM government against the actions of Israeli forces.
  
- 2) Ask HM government to raise this at the United Nations Security Council and seek sanctions against the government of Israel for these blatant breaches of international law.

Moved by: Cllr Quesir Mahmood

Seconded by: Cllr Phil Riley

<b>10.</b>	<b>Council Appointments for 2021/2022</b> <b>Council_appointments_for_2021-22</b>	<b>8 - 9</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Mayoralty 2021/2022</b> <b>Mayoralty_from_2021-22</b>	<b>10 - 11</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Appointments to Various Bodies, Groups and Panels 2021/2022</b> <b>Outside_Bodies_Report_2021-22</b>	<b>12 - 14</b>

Date Published: Wednesday, 12 May 2021  
Denise Park, Chief Executive

**COUNCIL FORUM**  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**PRESENT** – *The Deputy Mayor Councillor Derek Hardman, Councillors Afzal, Akhtar H, Akhtar P, Batan, Bateson, Brookfield, Browne, Casey, Connor, Daley, Davies, Desai, Fazal, Floyd, Gee, Gunn, Harling, Hussain I, Hussain M, Hussain S, Jan-Virmani, Kay, Khan M, Khan Z, Khonat, Liddle, Mahmood, Marrow, McFall, McGurk, Oates, Patel, Rawat, Rigby C, Rigby J, Riley, Salton, Sidat, Shorrocks, Slater Jacq, Slater Jo, Slater Ju, Slater N, Smith D, Smith J, Talbot, Taylor and Whittle.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**52 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chief Executive read out the notice convening the meeting and the Mayor advised how the remote meeting would operate.

After Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain, a Minute's Silence was observed in memory of all those who had lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic in the Borough over the past year, and Council Officer Andy Clayworth who had tragically recently passed away.

**53 Minutes Of The Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Finance Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

**54 Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were received.

**55 Mayoral Communications**

The Mayor noted the first anniversary of the Covid-19 lockdown, and advised that his thoughts were with all those affected, advising that nominations for the Mayoral Awards could be made for anyone who had gone above and beyond in responding to the pandemic.

The Mayor also confirmed his chosen Mayoral Charities for 2021/22 which were the East Lancs Scouts, East Lancs Guides, Derian House and the East Lancs Hospice,

The Mayor concluded by thanking all those who had made it possible to run virtual meetings during the Municipal Year.

## **56 Council Forum**

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Procedure Rule 12.

## **57 Motions**

The Chief Executive reported that no Motions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.

## **58 Covid-19 Pandemic- One Year On**

A report was submitted which provided an overview of the key highlights of the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic over the last 12 months.

Since the first case in Blackburn with Darwen last March, the Pandemic had seen more than 17,500 positive cases of COVID in the Borough; the highest cumulative rate for any local Authority in the Country.

The report detailed the Council's role as Civic Leader, and the response including, Governance, Leadership and Partnership, Adapting Services, the Testing Programme, Support for Residents, Businesses and Workplaces, the Vaccination Programme, as well as a look ahead to the 'New Normal'.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **59 Updates from Other Committees**

The Chairs of the Standards Committee, PEOPLE, PLACE and Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committees provided updates on the recent work of their respective Committees.

The Chair of the Standards Committee, Councillor Saima Afzal, reported that the Committee on Standards in Public Life made a number of recommendations in their January 2019 report on local government ethical standards. In that report, they identified some best practice recommendations which represented a benchmark for ethical practice and which they expected any local authority to implement. The Standards Committee reviewed the recommendations made and as set out in the Appendices to the report considered these, against the current Code of Conduct and Constitution and also considered the option of adopting the latest Model Code of Conduct produced by the LGA.

After considering the options the Standards Committee unanimously recommended to the Council Forum

- 1) Adopt the 15 best practice recommendations which the Committee on Standards in Public Life consider represent a benchmark for ethical practice and which they expect any local authority should implement (Appendix A).

Then subject to 1) above agree the Full Council:

- 2) Update the local *Code of Conduct* and update the local *Arrangements for dealing with Complaints about the Code of Conduct for Members* to reflect the Committee on Standards in Public Life best practice recommendations as set out in both documents referenced in Appendix B;
- 3) That Best Practice Recommendation 5 – continue to apply annually for administrative effectiveness and efficiency.
- 4) That Best Practice Recommendation 15 – be applied on an annual basis with Group Leaders.

**RESOLVED** – That the recommendations from the Standards Committee be approved and that the report and updates from the Chairs of the PEOPLE, PLACE and Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

## **60 Reports of Executive Members with Portfolios**

The Leader and Executive Members presented their reports, providing updates as appropriate.

During discussion of the reports, the use of the Chat function in MS Teams was discussed, and Members were advised that at the Standards Committee the night before, it had been agreed that Officers produce a protocol for correct use of the function.

**RESOLVED** – That the reports of the Leader and Executive Members be noted.

## **61 Questions from Members**

No questions from Members had been received under Procedure Rule 11.

At the end of the formal business, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan, reported that Councillor Suleman Khonat had been nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/22 and passed best wishes to the current Deputy Mayor for when he became Mayor. Councillor Khan also noted that this was the last Council Forum meeting that Louise Mattinson, Director of Finance would attend, and thanked her for her excellent contribution to the Council.

Councillor Khan, Councillor John Slater and the Mayor led tributes to the Councillors not seeking re-election: Councillors Colin Rigby, Andy Kay, Julie Daley and Saima Afzal.

Councillors Hardman and Khonat returned thanks, and Councillors Andy Kay and Saima Afzal responded to the tributes.

Signed at a meeting of the Annual Council

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

(being the ensuing meeting on the Council) by

MAYOR

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

**Members attending a Council, Committee, Board or other meeting with a personal interest in a matter on the Agenda must disclose the existence and nature of the interest and, if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Interest under paragraph 16.1 of the Code of Conduct, should leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.**

**Members declaring an interest(s) should complete this form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer at the commencement of the meeting and declare such an interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.**

MEETING:                      **ANNUAL COUNCIL**

DATE:                              **20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021**

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

DESCRIPTION (BRIEF):

NATURE OF INTEREST:

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/OTHER (delete as appropriate)

SIGNED :

PRINT NAME:

(Paragraphs 8 to 17 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Council refer)



REPORT OF: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO: ANNUAL COUNCIL

ON: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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## COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2021/22

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### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To make Council appointments for 2021/22.

### 2. ANNUAL COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

At the Annual Meeting of the Council each year, Council notes the appointment of various Members as well as appointing Chairs and Vice Chairs to Committees.

The Council is requested to:

1. Note the Leader's appointment of the Executive Board Members and Deputy Leaders;
2. Note the Shadow Portfolio Members; and
3. Appoint Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members to the following Committees:
  - Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee
  - Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee
  - People Overview & Scrutiny Committee
  - Planning & Highways Committee
  - Licensing Committee
  - Audit and Governance Committee
  - Standards Committee
  - Call-in Committee
  - Charitable Funds Committee

The Licensing Committee has established Sub-Committees consisting of three members of the Committee to deal with licensing applications. A rota of Members is drawn up with the Chair or Vice Chair leading each Sub-Committee meeting.



The Call-in Committee is chaired by the Vice Chair of Policy and Corporate Resources and is made up of eight other Members, appointed by Political Group Leaders according to the proportionality of the Council at the time.

**3 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

Members of the Executive Board cannot serve on any Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Political parties make nominations to the Committees listed in 2 above. Places are allocated in line with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (ss.15-17) as regards proportionality. Political Group nominations will be circulated prior to the meeting of Annual Council.

**4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) That Council notes the appointment of the Executive Board Members;
- 2) That Council notes the Shadow Portfolio Members;
- 3) That appointments be made to the positions detailed in Paragraph 2, subsection 3; and
- 4) That Council note the provisions relating to political balance, referred to in Paragraph 3.

(Note: That in the event the Group nominations are not available before the Annual Meeting the decisions on appointment of Members to Committees can be delegated to the Group Leaders to agree the appointments).

**Denise Park  
Chief Executive  
15<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Background Papers: Council Constitution  
Contact Officers: David Fairclough (tel: 585642)  
Phil Llewellyn (tel:585369)



**REPORT TO: ANNUAL COUNCIL**  
**FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: All**

**WARDS AFFECTED: All**

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<b>TITLE OF REPORT</b>	<b>THE MAYORALTY 2021/22</b>
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## **1. PURPOSE**

To consider arrangements for the nominations to office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Annual Council:

1. Confirms the appointment of Councillor Derek Hardman as Mayor of the Borough for 2021/22; and
2. Confirms that in accordance with the rotation arrangements agreed at Annual Council in May 2018 that it is the Labour Group's turn to nominate the Deputy Mayor for 2021/22 and notes the appointment of Councillor Suleman Khonat as Deputy Mayor for 2021/2022 earlier in the meeting.
3. Notes that a report on the future rotation agreement for the Mayoralty from 2023/2024 onwards will be submitted during the new Municipal Year.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

Annual Council formally appoints Members of the Council to the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming Municipal year. The Member appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor is normally appointed to the office of Mayor in the following year.

At previous meetings of the Council it has been agreed that the rotation of the nomination to the Office of Mayor between the political groups be based on proportionality of the Council, and an agreed rotation would be set for the next five years.

Annual Council in May 2018 determined the rotation arrangements for 2018/19 onwards. The rotation for the next 5 years was determined as follows:

2018/19 Labour  
2019/20 Labour  
2020/21 Labour  
2021/22 Conservative

2022/23 Labour

A report on the appointment of the Mayor is submitted to the Annual Council each year, and in the event that the proportionality of the Council changes going forward in a way that would affect the nomination of Mayor for a particular year, a report on this matter would be submitted for Council's consideration.

In accordance with the above, it would be for the Conservative Group to nominate the Mayor for 2021/2022, who in line with usual practice would be the serving Deputy Mayor, which in this case is Councillor Derek Hardman.

As referred to above, it is also the turn of the Labour Group to nominate the Deputy Mayor for 2021/22.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Office of Mayor is funded from the Council's annual budget..

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Office of Mayor is provided for in the Council's Constitution.

#### **6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **8. CONSULTATIONS**

None

Contact Officers: David Fairclough, Director for HR Legal & Corporate Services (01254 585642)

Phil Llewellyn, Corporate and Governance Lead (01254 585369).

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Background Papers: None



REPORT OF: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO: ANNUAL COUNCIL

ON: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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## APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BODIES, GROUPS AND PANELS 2021/22

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### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To request the Council to consider the appointment of representatives to serve on various Bodies, Groups and Panels.

### 2. BACKGROUND

The Council Constitution provides the Council with authority to appoint representatives to Outside Bodies. The Council is asked to consider nominations to the Outside Bodies, and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Partnership Bodies.

### 3. APPOINTMENTS

#### Outside Bodies

At the Annual Council Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2001 the following was approved in relation to Outside Body appointments (Minute 13 refers):-

*This Council believes that when considering appointments to Outside Bodies it should seek to reflect the political composition of the Council as closely as possible.*

*It therefore resolves that, with the exclusion of those nominations made by reference to political office (that is Leader of the Council, Leaders of the Political Groups, Executive Board Members, Chairs of Committees or their nominees) or to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, appointments be made on the following basis:-*

1. *When there is only one representative it is from the controlling Group.*
2. *Where there is more than one representative the places are allocated in the same proportion as the political composition of the Council.*
3. *That discussions take place between representatives of all political Groups at the start of the Council Year to agree the allocation of seats in accordance with (1) and (2).*

*4. When seats become vacant during the Council Year, the political party allocated the seat in (3) has the right to nominate a replacement.*

As referenced below in the recommendations when the Outside Bodies list has been agreed it will be submitted to the next available Council meeting.

### **Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Partnership Bodies**

Members of the Council serve on various partnership bodies. Appointments to these may be determined by the constitution of the body concerned, or have been made previously by the Executive or an appropriate Committee of the Council.

If the political Group nominations are available they will be circulated before the Annual Meeting.

### **Appeals and other bodies**

The Council is asked to establish a panel of fifteen members to form an Appeals Panel to consider, in accordance with the Constitution and any statutory provisions:

- Discretionary Grant, School and Post School Transport Appeals
- Social Services Review Panel
- Any other Appeals as appropriate

If the Political Group nominations are available they will be circulated before the Annual Meeting.

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 That in the first instance, (as is usual practice) each of the organisations listed on the outside bodies, and partnership bodies list is contacted to establish;

That their Terms Of Reference / Articles Of Association have not changed and still require Council Representation in the same capacity, for the same tenure, and what added value will be mutually brought by such engagement. Subject to which;

4.2 That following the process outlined in Section 3 above, nominations will be confirmed as the Council's representatives to serve until the end of the current Municipal Year; or if a longer period of office is shown, until that date; unless during the Municipal Year the Leader amends the appointments to take account of changed requirements.

4.3 That fifteen Members be appointed to serve on the panel of Members to deal with appeals.

(Note: As is usual practice, the decisions on representation can be delegated to the Group Leaders to agree the appointments. The nominations to the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority will need to be agreed so that appointments can be affected by the Clerk to the Authority as soon as possible).

**Denise Park  
Chief Executive  
15<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Background Papers:  
Contact :

Outside Bodies File  
Phil Llewellyn ( Tel 585369)  
Asad Laher (Tel 585495)