

Council Forum

Thursday, 27th January, 2022

6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Blackburn Town Hall

[Link to webcast](#)

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Prayers by the Mayors Chaplain**
3. **Minutes Of The Previous Meeting**
Policy Council Dec 2021 **5 - 7**
4. **Declarations of Interest**
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM **8**
5. **Mayoral Communications**
6. **Council Forum**
To consider any questions from members of the public under Procedure Rule 12.
7. **Motions**
To consider two Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 10 as follows:

MOTION 1

When an opposition party holds a quarter of the Council Member seats, then the Chairs of the, Place scrutiny committee and the People's scrutiny committee are to be held by the opposition party.

We believe this change to the Council's Constitution will give further confidence in the Council's scrutiny process.

Proposed by Councillor Paul Marrow
Seconded by Councillor John Slater

MOTION 2

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council recognises the importance of ensuring that elections are fair and accessible for all voters.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council notes that the Elections Bill is set to bring in major changes to national elections, including the introduction of compulsory photographic ID to vote.

There is no evidence basis to justify the introduction of photographic ID. Out of over 40 million votes cast at the last General Election there were only a handful of incidents of confirmed voter impersonation.

This Council believes that the change will act as a barrier to people voting and increase inequality in the electoral process.

Council notes with concern that currently 3.5 million people in the UK do not have any form of photographic ID, in the form considered acceptable under these proposals – namely a passport or driving licence – both of which are costly to obtain.

Council notes that these changes are estimated to cost the taxpayer £180 million in administration and will create unnecessary bureaucracy to Councils.

Council believes that at a time when voter turnout is declining, we should be doing all we can to make it easier not harder for people to vote.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council does not wish to see people being turned away at the ballot box because of these changes and resolves to support the #HandsOffOurVote campaign by asking the Chief Executive to write to :

1. Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities;
2. Both local MPs asking them to raise these concerns in Parliament.

Proposed by: Damian Talbot

Seconded by: Dave Smith

8.	Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire Our New Deal	9 - 19
9.	Gambling Policy 2022-25 CF report_Gambling Policy 2022 Gambling Policy 2022_Final	20 - 54
10.	Update from the Standards Committee Standards Committee - Report for January Council Forum	55
11.	Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolio	
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11.4	Public Health and Wellbeing Public Health and Wellbeing	65 - 67
11.5	Adult Services and Prevention Adult Services and Prevention	68 - 70
11.6	Digital and Customer Services Digital and Customer Services	71 - 73
11.7	Finance and Governance Finance and Governance	74 - 76
11.8	Growth and Development Growth and Development	77 - 80
12.	Questions from Members To consider any questions received from members under Procedure Rule 11.	
13.	Year Planner 2022/23	

Year Planner 2022-23 Final

81 - 84

To agree the Final version of the Year Planner for 2022/23, the draft of which was submitted to the Policy Council meeting in December.

Date Published: Wednesday, 19 January 2022
Denise Park, Chief Executive