

Council Forum

Thursday, 20th July, 2023

6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Blackburn Town Hall

[Link to Webcast](#)

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Minutes Of The Previous Meeting**
Annual Council Minutes 2023 **4 - 14**
Appendix 1 Minutes
Appendix 2 Minutes
3. **Declarations of Interest**
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM **15**
4. **Mayoral Communications**
5. **Council Forum**
To consider any questions from members of the public under Procedure Rule 12.
6. **Motions**
To consider any Motions received under Procedure Rule 10.
One Motion has been received as follows:

A key priority of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council is in tackling digital exclusion and social isolation. This Council therefore notes with dismay, the recent announcement of proposals for hundreds of train station ticket offices to close. These include nearby stations such as Preston (a main-line station with over 4 million passenger movements in 2021-22), Accrington and Burnley – all of which will be used by Blackburn with Darwen residents.

Not only do our railways provide a vital service in ensuring that our residents and communities stay connected, but they also form a key element of the climate change strategy.

Government's role should therefore be to encourage rail use

and this announcement contradicts statements in support of increasing rail travel.

The provision of ticket offices is vital in ensuring that those not in a position to purchase tickets online or via machines – a fifth of all passengers, most certainly to include some of the most vulnerable members of society, including the elderly and those with learning difficulties – are able to do so and it is inevitable that many passengers will stop using trains if they are not able to continue booking tickets at ticket offices. This will be yet another lifeline cut off for potentially millions of individuals around the country.

This Council therefore condemns the recent announcement of ticket office closures and requests that our Chief Executive and Leader raise these concerns with the Secretary of State for transport and our local Members of Parliament.

Moved by Cllr Damian Talbot; Seconded by Cllr Brian Taylor.

- 7. Proposed Introduction of Article 4 Direction**

Council Forum Report 20.07.23 Confirmation of A4D 16 - 91
Appendix 1 - Article 4 Direction plan ward maps - compressed
Appendix 2 - Article 4 Direction Justification Paper
Appendix 3 - A4D Consultation - Feedback Report
Appendix 4 - Article 4 HMO Report Council Forum
28.7.22
- 8. Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report and Minutes of Meetings 2022/3**

Audit Governance Committee Annual Report 2022.23 92 - 134
Audit and Governance Committee June 2022
Audit and Governance Committee November 2022
Audit and Governance Committee March 2023
- 9. Governance Update**

Governance Update.July 2023.amended 135 -
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Link to Updated Constitution July 2023:
[ConstitutionJuly2023MasterCopy.docx.pdf](#)
[\(blackburn.gov.uk\)](#)

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12.	Questions from Members	
	To consider any questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11.	

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Denise Park, Chief Executive