

# Council Forum

Thursday, 25th January, 2024

6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Blackburn Town Hall

[Link to Webcast](#)

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## AGENDA

1. Prayers by Mayor's Chaplain followed by Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes Of The Previous Meeting  
Policy Council Nov 23 4 - 13
3. Declarations of Interest  
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM 14
4. Mayoral Communications
5. Council Forum  
To consider any questions from members of the public under Procedure Rule 10.
6. Motions  
To consider the following Motion received under Procedure Rule 12:

### ***Foster Carers and Council Tax***

*Council acknowledges the importance of Foster Carers in providing a safe, loving home to children who are unable to live with their birth parents. In recent years, we have become concerned that the recruitment of Foster Carers by the Council has stagnated. We are of the view that the Council must do more to both reward existing Foster Carers for their brilliant work and to attract new Foster Carers into the sector. By doing so, children in need will continue to receive the same or better care at a fraction of the cost of other placements.*

*Accordingly, in addition to paying Foster Care fees, Council resolves to consider providing existing and new Foster Carers with an exemption from the payment of Council Tax with effect from the next financial year. It is our view that the cost of this will,*

*in time, be met from reduced costs for Children who, otherwise, would be put in expensive placements often out of the Borough.*

**Moved by Councillor John Slater**  
**Seconded by Councillor Denise Gee**

<b>7.</b>	<b>Council Appointments Update</b>	
	<b>Council Appointments 2023-24.Update.Jan 2024v.1</b>	<b>15 - 22</b>
	<b>App 1 - Political balance - CF Jan 24</b>	
	<b>Appendix 2. Council Appointments 2023-24 Jan 24</b>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25</b>	
	<b>Council Tax Support Scheme</b>	<b>23 - 96</b>
	<b>Council Tax Support Scheme 2024 -25</b>	
	<b>CTS consultation results Dec 2023</b>	
	<b>Council Tax Support EIA December 2023</b>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Adoption of the Blackburn with Darwen Local Plan 2021-2037</b>	
	<b>Council Forum Report Local Plan Adoption</b>	<b>97 - 340</b>
	<b>Background Paper 1 - Inspectors' Final Report on the Blackburn with Darwen Local Plan 2021-2037</b>	
	<b>Background Paper 2 - Schedule of Main Modifications</b>	
	<b>Appendix to the Inspectors' Final Report</b>	
	<b>Local Plan Adoption EIA</b>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Updates from Other Committees</b>	
	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committees Update</b>	<b>341 - 343</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios</b>	
<b>11.1</b>	<b>Leader</b>	
	<b>Leader</b>	<b>344 - 345</b>
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Adult Social Care &amp; Health</b>	
	<b>Adult Social Care &amp; Health</b>	<b>346 - 348</b>
<b>11.3</b>	<b>Children, Young People &amp; Education</b>	
	<b>Children Young People and Education</b>	<b>349 - 352</b>
<b>11.4</b>	<b>Digital &amp; Customer Services</b>	
	<b>Digital and Customer Services</b>	<b>353 - 355</b>
<b>11.5</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Operations</b>	

	<b>Environment &amp; Operations</b>	<b>356 - 357</b>
<b>11.6</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>	
	<b>Finance and Governance</b>	<b>358 - 359</b>
<b>11.7</b>	<b>Growth &amp; Development</b>	
	<b>Growth and Development</b>	<b>360 - 364</b>
<b>11.8</b>	<b>Public Health, Prevention &amp; Wellbeing</b>	
	<b>Public Health and Wellbeing</b>	<b>365 - 367</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Questions from Members</b>	
	To consider any questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11.	
<b>13.</b>	<b>Year Planner 2024/25</b>	
	<b>Year Planner 2024-25 v0.2</b>	<b>368 - 371</b>
	To approve the final version of the Year Planner for 2024/25, following submission of the draft version at the Policy Council Meeting in December.	

Date Published: Wednesday, 17 January 2024  
Denise Park, Chief Executive