

Policy Council

Thursday, 30th November, 2023

6.00 pm

Council Chamber
Blackburn Town Hall

[Link to Webcast](#)

AGENDA

1. Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain, followed by Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes of the Council Forum Meeting held on 5th October 2023
Council Forum Oct 2023 4 - 8
3. Declarations of Interest
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM 9
4. Devolution to Lancashire - Proposal and Consultation
BwD Policy Council - Devolution to Lancashire Proposal and Consultation 10 - 106
Appendix A - Lancashire Devolution Proposal
Appendix B - Devolution Final EIA 22.11.23
5. To consider any Motions received under Procedure Rule 12

Motion on the situation in Gaza

This Council notes with horror, the increasing number of deaths in Gaza as a result of the Israeli response to the Hamas attack on Israel of the 7th October.

The Council condemns Hamas for its unprovoked attack on Israel, and in taking over 200 hostages – many being civilians, including innocent women and children.

Israel's response to the attack has, however, been utterly out of proportion, with over 12,000 innocent Gazan citizens killed at the time of writing. In addition to those killed, over 2 million Gazans have been impacted either through the loss

of their homes, loss of family members, lack of food, water, energy or medicine supplies – all of which have been stopped by Israel. This Council believes such measures which amount to collective punishment to be in breach of international humanitarian law.

This Council also recognises that there will inevitably be large numbers of orphaned children as a result of the continuing violence and calls upon the government to put in place a scheme whereby such orphans can be adopted by families in the UK – this would be similar to the schemes introduced for Ukrainian orphans.

The only sustainable solution to the dispute in Palestine and Israel is for peaceful negotiations to take place with the ultimate aim of a two state solution where both Palestinians and Israelis can exist independently in autonomous states.

This Council therefore calls for an immediate ceasefire; the release of the hostages taken by Hamas and a resumption of all humanitarian aid including food, water, sanitary products and fuel to the population of Gaza. We call on our national leaders of all political parties to support the calls for a ceasefire, following which we ask our Prime Minister to work with other world leaders to facilitate peace talks.

This Council calls on our Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Secretary, and our Members of Parliament, to seek the implementation of these requests.

Moved by: Cllr Shaukat Hussain

Seconded by: Cllr Sabahat Imtiaz

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 6. | Council Appointments 2023/24 Update | |
| | Council Appointments 2023-24.Update.Nov1 | 107 - |
| | Political balance - Policy Council Nov23 | 114 |
| | Appendix 2. Council Appointments 2023-24.Nov (003) | |
| 7. | Polling Districts Review | |
| | Polling District review. Report to Council.OCT2023.Final | 115 - |
| | Appendix 1.POLLING DISTRICT POLLING PLACES | 159 |
| | PROPOSALS OCT 2023 - Final | |
| | Appendix 2 - Review of Polling Districts Polling Places and Polling Stations.Final Recommendations | |
| 8. | Draft Year Planner 2024/25 | |

Year Planner 2024-25 v0.1

**160 -
163**

To receive the draft Year Planner for 2024/25, ahead of submission of the final version to the Council Forum Meeting on 25th January 2024.

9. National Policy Reflections and Delivering on our Corporate Plan Core Missions

Policy council - National Policy and delivering on our Corporate Plan core missions - final

**164 -
189**

Appendix One Mid Year 23-24 Performance v1

Appendix Two Mid Year Exception Reports 23-24

Date Published: Wednesday, 22 November 2023
Denise Park, Chief Executive