

# **COUNCIL FORUM**

## **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**PRESENT** – *The Mayor Councillor Derek Hardman, Councillors, Akhtar H, Akhtar P, Baldwin, Bateson, Brookfield, Browne, Connor, Desai M, Desai S, Fielding, Floyd, Gee, Gunn, Harling, Humphrys, Hussain I, Hussain M, Hussain S, Irfan, Jan-Virmani, Khan M, Khan Z, Khonat, Liddle, Mahmood, Marrow, McFall, McGurk, Oates, Patel Ab, Patel Alt, Rawat, Rigby, Riley, Russell, Sidat, Shorrocks, Slater Jacq, Slater Jo, Slater N, Smith D, Smith J, Talbot, Walker and Whittle.*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **25 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chief Executive read out the notice convening the meeting.

There then followed Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain.

Apologies were received from Councillors Casey, Fazal, Jan-Virmani, Salton and Julie Slater.

#### **26 Minutes Of The Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 be agreed as a correct record

#### **27 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Katrina Fielding declared an interest in Agenda Item No's 10.1 and 10.6 (Community Group involved in received grant funding).

#### **28 Mayoral Communications**

The Mayor highlighted some recent events and engagements, advising that he had attended 40 engagements since the last meeting, including the WISH Centre AGM, 999 Day, Veteran's Breakfast Club at Blackburn Rovers FC and the Heritage Weekend.

#### **29 Council Forum**

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

#### **30 Motions**

The Chief Executive announced that no Notices of Motion had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12.

### **31 Updates from Other Committees**

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

The Standards Committee report contained recommendations relating to mandatory Members training in 2021/22 and also an updated Remote Meetings Protocol.

**RESOLVED** – 1) That the update reports from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Chair of the Standards Committee be noted;

2) That the Council note the Training Plan developed by the Standards Committee for 2021/22 and agree the mandatory training elements and that Members be encouraged to take advantage of the training and development provided to support their roles in the community; and

3) The the updated Protocol for Remote Meetings be agreed.

### **32 Governance Update Report**

Members received a report requesting approval for an update to the Constitution to amend the Officer Scheme of Delegation and in relation to the Common Seal of the Council, approval of the updated Council Appointments for 2021/22, and the agreed appointments to Various Bodies, Groups and Panels.

The report advised that the wording of the functions relating to town and country planning and development control delegated to the Strategic Director Place has been reviewed, in light of changes in the Government's definitions of planning application categories. Changes to the wording of these delegated powers, and the reciprocal changes to the powers of the Planning & Highways Committee have been proposed. This was considered by the Planning & Highways Committee on 16 September 2021, which recommended the proposed changes be approved by Council and the Constitution amended. The proposed changes to the Officer Scheme of Delegation and the reciprocal changes to the Planning & Highways Committee powers were detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Other proposed changes to the Constitution referred to in the report had arisen following a review by the Monitoring Officer of operational procedures following recent structural changes.

Since the approval of Council Appointments for 2021/22 at Annual Council on 20 May 2021, there had been some minor changes to the membership to committees, which was reflected in the updated list in Appendix 2.

Annual Council on 20 May 2021 also recommended the agreed

appointments to Various Bodies, Groups and Panels be submitted to the next available meeting of the Council, and these were submitted at Appendix 3.

Members of the Conservative Group raised concerns that the proposed amendments to the Officer Scheme of Delegation would mean important Planning decisions would be taken behind closed doors and requested assurances that Planning Applications that received objections from members of the public, would still be submitted to the Planning and Highways Committee.

Councillors Riley and Dave Smith advised that all rules and procedures would be followed and that in terms of bringing items to the Committee, whilst there was no written minimum threshold for numbers of objections requiring an application being submitted to the Committee, that they would err on the side of caution and ensure any matters attracting public interest would be brought to Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That Council approve:

- the revisions to the Constitution as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
- the updated list of Council Appointments for 2021/22, as contained in Appendix 2.
- the appointments to Various Bodies, Groups and Panels (Appendix 3).

### **33 Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios**

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

Several Members also passed thanks to various teams throughout the Council for their excellent contributions and successes over the past months.

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

### **34 Questions from Members**

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

Signed at a meeting of the Policy Council

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

(being the ensuing meeting on the Council) by

MAYOR

---