

COUNCIL FORUM

Thursday 24th March 2022

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

RESOLUTIONS

61 Welcome and Apologies

The Chief Executive read out the notice convening the meeting.

There then followed Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain.

There then followed a Minutes Silence in memory of former Councillor and Mayor, Sheila Williams.

Apologies were received from Councillors Baldwin, Fielding, McGurk, Rawat and Sidat.

62 Minutes Of The Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Finance Council meeting held on 28th February 2022 be agreed as a correct record

63 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

64 Mayoral Communications

The Mayor paid tribute to the retiring Councillors who were attending their last Council meeting, namely Councillor Khan, Bateson, Oates, and McFall, and also Ron Whittle who was not present having resigned earlier in the week. The Mayor also thanked Dominic Harrison who was also attending his last meeting before retirement.

The Mayor also reported on recent events he had attended.

65 Council Forum

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

66 Motions

The Chief Executive announced that no Notices of Motion had been submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

67 Pennine Lancashire Building Control – Withdrawal from Joint Agreement

A report was submitted seeking approval for Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (BwDBC), as a Partner Authority of the Pennine Lancashire Building Control (PLBC) Partnership Agreement, to give notice of withdrawal from membership of the Joint Committee and proceed with all withdrawal arrangements including completion of contractual obligations and settlement of financial commitments.

Burnley Council was the other Partner Authority of PLBC, and by mutual consent they were similarly progressing their approval arrangements to withdraw from the Partnership Agreement.

The proposed withdrawal would allow for the BwDBC and Burnley Building Control sub-teams to be better integrated within their wider respective departments at each authority. This would enable more effective local decisions to be taken regarding new back-office systems, procedures and resourcing whilst continuing to collaborate and support each other whenever necessary.

RESOLVED – That Council Forum:

1. Approve the issuing of a written notice of withdrawal of BwDBC from the PLBC Partnership Agreement; and
2. Delegate authority for completion of all exit arrangements, including but not limited to contractual obligations, settlement of financial commitments and staff transfers to the Strategic Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development.

68 Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy

Members were asked to note the recent Executive Board approval of the Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy and were asked to approve the Social Value Policy.

The Council had developed a new Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy to ensure that every pound the Council spent maximised value for money for the Borough and helped to deliver the priorities of the Council.

At the Executive Board meeting on 10th March 2022, Members approved the Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy, with a recommendation that Full Council approve the Social Value Policy.

RESOLVED –

That Council Forum:

1. Notes the Executive Board approval of the Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy;
2. Approves the Social Value Policy.

69 Update from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Council Forum received an update from the Chairs of the PEOPLE, PLACE and Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committees on progress of their work, reference was also made to the meeting of the Call-in Committee the previous night, where the Officer Decision to acquire a Covid Media Archive had been upheld.

RESOLVED –

That the updates from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

70 Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios

Ahead of moving his report, the Leader moved the following recommendation:

Senior Management Update:

At the end of February, the former Strategic Director, Adults & Health (DASS) left the authority. Following an external recruitment process the Chief Officer Employment Committee (COEC) unanimously agreed that Mark Warren be appointed to the post of Strategic Director, Adults & Health.

Council is asked to endorse the decision of the Chief Officer Employment Committee to appoint Mr. Mark Warren to the post of Strategic Director, Adults & Health (DASS).

RESOLVED – That Council Forum endorse the decision of the Chief Officer Employment Committee to appoint Mr. Mark Warren to the post of Strategic Director, Adults & Health (DASS).

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

In particular, the Leader referred to the recent invasion of Ukraine by Russia, and expressed his hopes for a resolution to the situation as soon as possible.

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.

71 Questions from Members

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

At this point of the meeting, the Leader paid tribute to the retiring Councillors not seeking re-election and also paid tribute to Dominic Harrison who was attending his last Council meeting. The Leader also thanked all Councillors, Officers, Partners, Volunteers and members of the community who had supported and worked with him during his time on the Council, and highlighted some of the key achievements of the Council during this time, including winning the Council of the Year award three times as a Unitary Authority.

Councillor Phil Riley, on behalf of the Labour Group, paid tribute to the Leader, Mohammed Khan OBE, who was attending his last Council meeting, highlighting his very significant contribution to the Council over more than 30 years, highlighting in particular his inspirational leadership during the last two years of the Covid-19 outbreak. Councillor John Slater on behalf of the Conservative Group thanked Councillor Khan and paid tribute to his service. Councillor Paul Browne also passed on his best wishes to Councillor Khan.

Signed at a meeting of the Annual Council

On 19th May 2022

(being the ensuing meeting on the Council) by

MAYOR