

# ANNUAL COUNCIL

## Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**PRESENT** –*The Mayor, Councillor Derek Hardman, Councillors, Akhtar H, Akhtar P, Ali, Baldwin, Browne, Casey, Connor, Desai M, Desai S, Fazal, Fielding, Floyd, Gunn, Harling, Humphrys, Hussain I, Hussain M, Hussain S, Irfan, Imtiaz, Khan S, Khan Z, Khonat, Liddle, Mahmood, Marrow, McCaughran, McGurk, Patel Ab, Patel Alt, Raja, Rawat, Riley, Russell, Salton, Shorrocks, Sidat, Slater Jacq, Slater Jo, Slater Ju, Slater N, Smith D, Smith J, Talbot, Taylor and Whittingham.*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

Following the reading of the notice convening the meeting by the Chief Executive, there then followed Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain. The Mayor then welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillors Brookfield, Gee, Rigby and Walker.

#### **2 The Election of Mayor for 2022/23**

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for the Office of Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing Council year. Councillor Suleman Khonat was nominated for Office and declared elected as the Mayor of the Borough for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

The newly elected Mayor then assumed the robe and Chain of Office, made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

#### **3 The Election of Deputy Mayor for 2022/23**

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2022/2023 Council year. Councillor Parwaiz Akhtar was nominated for Office and the Mayor declared him elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

The newly elected Deputy Mayor then received the Chain of Office and made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

#### **4 Tribute to the newly elected Mayor**

Councillors Riley and Desai paid tribute to the newly elected Mayor. The Mayor responded and returned thanks for his election.

#### **5 Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor Councillor Derek Hardman**

Councillors Marrow and Riley paid tribute to the retiring Mayor and the Mayoresses/Consort, for the dedicated work they had undertaken during their term of Office, making reference to the engagements they had attended and activities undertaken in support of the Mayor's chosen charity for the year.

The Mayor presented badges to Councillor Derek Hardman and badges to the Mayoresses and Consort. Councillor Hardman responded to the tributes received and reflected on the many key events over the Mayoral year and thanked all those people who had supported him during 2022/23.

*At this point there was a short recess to allow the Mayor and guests to leave the meeting.*

(The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Parwaiz Akhtar, in the Chair.)

## **6 Minutes of the Council Forum Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**RESOLVED** – The Minutes of the Council Forum meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

## **7 Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were received.

## **8 Election Results May 2022**

The results of the recent elections were submitted. Councillor Phil Riley welcomed the new and returning Members and made reference to former Councillor Yusuf Jan-Virmanji, who would be invited to receive the Civic Service Award at a future Council meeting.

## **9 Appointment of Leader of the Council**

Members received a report which advised that with the retirement of Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE, the Council was required to make an appointment to the position of Leader of the Council. The appointment of the Leader of the Council was a full Council function in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended).

Councillor Quesir Mahmood moved that Councillor Phil Riley be appointed Leader of the Council, which was seconded by Councillor Julie Gunn.

### **RESOLVED -**

1. The Council appoints Councillor Phil Riley as Leader of the Council from 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022, in accordance with Article 7.03 of the Constitution.
2. The Council notes that any changes to the portfolios made by the Leader will be reflected by necessary amendments to the constitution.

## **10 Council Appointments 2022/23**

The Chief Executive referred to her report on the composition and political balance of the Council as detailed in Appendix 1 and asked that Council approve Council Appointments for 2022/23.

The report outlined the political composition and balance of the Council, and proportionality of seats which was also referred to in Appendix 1 of the report.

Applying the principles of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (“the Regulations”), the proportional distribution of seats on Committees between political groups was as set out in Appendix 2. Regulation 15 stated that where a political group had failed to express its wishes in relation to the appointments within the period of three weeks beginning with the date on which notice was given, the authority / committee may make such appointments to those seats as they think fit.

It was therefore anticipated that, where group leaders had not yet notified the proper officer (the Chief Executive) of their appointments to seats, that those appointments be made and notified within three weeks of this Annual Council meeting.

It was proposed that the remit, number of Committees and membership of each of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees was looked at, to ensure that there was sufficient capacity to conduct effective scrutiny of Council and relevant health business, with a report back to Council during 2022/23.

Councillor Phil Riley referred to a document that had had been circulated ahead of the meeting, outlining proposed Portfolio changes that would be reflected in the next Constitution update.

## **RESOLVED –**

That Council:

- 1) notes the composition and political balance on the Council following the local elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022, as referred to in paragraph 3 above and further detailed **Appendix 1**
- 2) notes the appointment of the Executive Board Members and the Deputy Leaders;
- 3) notes the Shadow Executive Members;
- 4) approves the appointments to be made to the positions detailed in Paragraph 2, subsection 3; and
- 5) notes the provisions relating to political balance, referred to in Paragraph 3.

(Note: That in the event the Group nominations are not available before the Annual Meeting the decisions on appointment of Members to Committees can be delegated to the Group Leaders to agree the appointments and confirm to the proper officer within the period stated in the Regulations).

- 6) authorises the Chief Executive in consultation with the three Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees to review the structure of the

overview & scrutiny committees, and present a report to Council at a future date; and

7) notes the Portfolio changes referred to.

## **11 Mayoralty 2022/23**

Members received a report which confirmed the arrangements for the Mayoralty in 2022/2023, namely that Councillor Suleman Khonat be appointed as Mayor and Councillor Parwaiz Akhtar be appointed as Deputy Mayor for 2022/2023.

### **RESOLVED –**

That Annual Council:

- 1) Confirms the appointment of Councillor Suleman Khonat as Mayor of the Borough for 2022/23; and
- 2) Confirms that in accordance with the rotation arrangements agreed at Annual Council in 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 that the Labour Group nominates the Deputy Mayor for 2022/23 and notes the appointment made earlier in the meeting of Councillor Parwaiz Akhtar.

## **12 Appointments to Outside Bodies and Partnership Bodies 2022/23**

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the appointment of representatives to serve on Outside Bodies and Partnership Bodies in 2022/23.

Due to the need to make early appointments to the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel, the Leader moved that the status quo continue in terms of membership for those two bodies.

### **RESOLVED –**

3.1 That following usual practice and subject to the background information in this report, appointments to Outside and Partnership Bodies for 2022/23 be delegated to Group Leaders to agree as soon as possible.

3.2 With reference to 3.1 above, in the event that any appointments cannot be agreed by the Group Leaders, they will be referred to Council for determination.

3.3 That Council approves the following appointments:

- Lancashire Police & Crime Panel: Councillor Quesir Mahmood
- Lancashire Combined Fire & Rescue Authority: Councillor David Smith, Councillor Zamir Khan and Councillor Jean Rigby.

Signed at a meeting of the Council Forum  
On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
(being the ensuing meeting of the Council) by