

COUNCIL FORUM

Thursday 28th July 2022

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

RESOLUTIONS

13 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 Akhtar H, Baldwin, Brookfield, Connor, Fazal, McGurk and Walker.

14 Minutes Of The Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 19th May 2022 be agreed as a correct record

15 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

16 Presentation of Civic Service Awards

The Mayor presented Civic Service Awards to former Councillors Mohammed Khan CBE, Maureen Bateson MBE and Yusuf Jan Virmani.

The former Councillors gave short acceptance speeches, thanking Officers and Members for their support, and Councillors Phil Riley and John Slater congratulated them for their outstanding service over many years serving on the Council.

17 Mayoral Communications

The Mayor reported on events he had attended since his installation, including Civic Sunday, many events in commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Festival of Making, and the ceremonies to receive the Commonwealth Games Baton.

The Mayor also encouraged schools to arrange visits to meet him and visit the Council Chamber and Mayor's Parlour.

18 Council Forum

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

19 Motions

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

20 Local Plan 2021-2037 Submission

A report was submitted, advising that the Council has been preparing a new Local Plan for the Borough since 2018. During this time it had been subject to a number of different periods of statutory consultation, the latest being to the 'Regulation 191 Publication Plan Consultation' document between 4th February and 18th March 2022.

This report provided an update to the key issues raised during the Regulation 19 consultation and sought approval for the 'submission' of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Submission of the Council's Local Plan to PINS would then commence an independent Examination in Public (EiP) process. The Local Plan EiP was a requirement to ensure that the Plan was 'sound', prior to the local authority being able to adopt the Plan as the formal development plan for the Borough.

RESOLVED – That Council Forum:

3.1 Approve submission of the Regulation 19 Local Plan (January 2022) and accompanying documents to the Secretary of State for independent examination in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

3.2 Note the key issues arising from the Regulation 19 consultation and:

a) approve the proposed Council responses set out in Appendix D(iv) of the Regulation 22 Consultation Statement, provided on the Local Plan: Council Forum website; and

b) approve the proposed 'Schedule of Minor Amendments to Local Plan 2021- 2037' and 'Schedule of Minor Amendments to Local Plan 2021-2037 Policies Map', provided on the Local Plan: Council Forum website.

3.3 Agree to request that the appointed Planning Inspector recommends any modifications ('main modifications') to the Plan necessary to meet the requirements of the Regulations and to make the Plan 'sound'. Any main modifications will be subject to further public consultation (in 2023) ahead of adoption of the new Local Plan.

3.4 Authorise the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), following consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development, to confirm the Council's position in respect of any suggested minor or main modifications during the EiP process. All modifications proposed through

the EiP will be subject to public consultation following the Local Plan hearing sessions. These will be made available on the Local Plan examination page.

21 Article 4 HMO Report

Council Forum received a report on current issues relating to Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and which set out the justification for making a new Article 4 Direction to control the change of use from a dwelling house to a HMO and to set out the new designated area which that Direction would apply to. (The new Article 4 Direction designation was proposed to cover the whole urban area of Blackburn with Darwen and would replace the existing Article 4 Direction.)

The report recommended to Council Forum an approach to making the Direction, namely a non-immediate Direction that would come into effect in 12 months, covering the urban areas of the Borough (and so affecting all wards). A map of the proposed Article 4 Direction area was provided as Appendix 1.

Council Forum was asked to endorse the proposed approach and approve the making of the Direction and the commencement of consultation.

Council Forum was also recommended to agree the cancellation of the existing Article 4 Direction, but only on the condition that the new direction was confirmed at a later date, at which point it would be cancelled on the date that the new Direction took legal effect.

RESOLVED –

- 2.1 That Council Forum note the issues described in the report and the rationale behind the proposed approach;
- 2.2 That Council Forum endorse the making of a non-immediate Direction under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended), with a 12-month lead-in period, to remove the permitted development right granted by Schedule 2 Part 3 Class L(b) of that Order, which allows a change of use from a dwelling house (C3) to a house in multiple occupation with between 3 and 6 occupants (C4) and which will apply to all urban areas of the borough as shown on the accompanying plan.
- 2.3 That Council Forum approve the making of such Article 4 Direction, with the required consultation to take place over a 6 week period over August/September 2022.
- 2.4 That Council Forum note that it will receive a further report to formally confirm the Article 4 Direction, taking into consideration the feedback and outcome of the consultation.

22 Corporate Plan

Members were updated on the development of the Corporate Plan refresh and the timetable for adopting it.

As Members agreed at Policy Council in December 2021, a programme of engagement activity, including the first residents' survey since 2018, has been carried out to help inform development of the new Corporate Plan.

Several themes have emerged which will help determine the focus of the new corporate plan, with more engagement activity planned over the next few months with young people, partner organisations and internal staff and services. Updates would also be provided to scrutiny committees.

A further update report was planned to Council Forum on October 6th before the final draft of the Corporate Plan was presented to Policy Council in December for approval.

An implementation plan, incorporating the new business planning process for 2023 would be prepared by the end of the calendar year.

RESOLVED -

That Council Forum:

- i. Notes the progress on the engagement plan
- ii. Notes the emerging themes
- iii. Agrees the future timetable for the corporate plan development

23 Constitutional Update

Council Forum received a report advising that since the last Constitution update in October 2021, there had been some changes to the Council management structure and the Leadership. These changes required amendments to be made to the Council's Constitution. Other amendments had been made following a review by the Monitoring Officer and in consultation with other key officers and these were outlined in the report submitted.

The Council is asked to:

1.1 approve the updated Council Constitution as contained in the **Appendix**.

1.2 subject to 2.1 above, note that a pdf version of the updated constitution will be published on the Council website.

24 Review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees Structure

Council Forum received a report that requested Members to consider a review of the current structure of Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

Annual Council on 19th May 2022 recommended that the Chief Executive in consultation with the three Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees review the structure of the OSCs, and present a report to Council at a future date. The review would look at the remit, number of Committees and membership of each of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees, to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to conduct effective scrutiny of Council and relevant health business.

Following this review, it was proposed that the remit of the current People OSC was divided, and the structure reviewed replacing it with two new OSCs: Health and Social Care OSC and Children and Young Peoples OSC. For the remainder of 2022/23, the composition for each of these two newly established OSCs would be six members including a Chair and Vice Chair. The composition for the Call-in Committee remained unchanged. The composition of the Policy and Corporate Resources OSC and Place OSC also remain unchanged for 2022/23, but would be reviewed in May 2023. The appointments to the OSCs were detailed in Appendix 2.

RESOLVED –

The Council is asked to:

1. Suspend Rule 1 of the Council Procedure Rules to enable Council Forum to consider this report and, subject to 2.3 below, appoint to the Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
2. Agree to the restructure of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as detailed in this report and note the revised composition and political balance for 2022/23 as detailed in **Appendix 1**.
3. Approve the appointments to the Overview & Scrutiny Committees for 2022/23 as detailed in the **Appendix 2**.
4. Subject to 2.2 and 2.3 above, authorise the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

25 Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report 2021/22

The draft Audit & Governance Annual Report 2021/22 was attached for consideration and approval.

The report summarised the work undertaken and reports considered by the Committee during the year to demonstrate that it had fulfilled its agreed terms of reference.

RESOLVED – That the Annual Report be noted and endorsed.

26 Update from other Committees

Council Forum received an update from the Chair of the Standards Committee and the Chairs of the PEOPLE, PLACE and Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committees on progress of their work.

The Chair of the Standards Committee, Parwaiz Akhtar, reminded Members of the essential requirement for all Members to undertake the Information Governance and Cyber Security Training, particularly in view of recent cyber attacks on Councils and also reported on the Committee's work programme for 2022/23.

RESOLVED –

1. That the work programme of the Standards Committee be noted.
2. That Council Forum agree that all Members undertake the essential training for Information Governance and Cyber Security.
3. That the updates from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

27 Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios

During discussion of the reports, several Members made reference to Councillor Zamir Khan's recent award of the MBE in the Queen's Honours List and congratulated him.

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

28 Questions from Members

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

Signed at a meeting of the Council Form

On 6th October 2022

(being the ensuing meeting on the Council) by

MAYOR