

## **POLICY COUNCIL**

### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

**PRESENT** – *The Mayor, Councillor Suleman Khonat, Councillors P. Akhtar, H. Akhtar, Baldwin, Casey, Connor, M. Desai, S. Desai, Fazal, Fielding, Floyd, Gee, Gunn, Harling, Hardman, Humphrys, I. Hussain, M. Hussain, S. Hussain, Irfan, Imtiaz, Jackson, Z. Khan, Liddle, Marrow, McCaughran, McGurk, Ab. Patel, Al. Patel, Raja, Rigby, Riley, Russell, Salton, Shorrock, Sidat, Jacq. Slater, Jo. Slater, Ju. Slater, N. Slater, D. Smith, J. Smith, Talbot, and Whittingham.*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **40 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chief Executive read out the notice convening the meeting.

There then followed Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain.

A minute's silence was then held in memory of former Councillor Don Rishton.

Apologies were received from Councillors Ali, Brookfield, Browne, Imtiaz, S. Khan, Rawat and Taylor.

#### **41 Minutes Of The Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Council Forum meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

#### **42 Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were received.

#### **43 Mayoral Communications**

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Matthew Jackson following his election to the Council and highlighted some recent events he attended.

The Mayor brought attention to a number of compliments from partners that had thanked the hard work of Officers and the Council.

The Mayor also thanked Councillors for their work, and hoped that this would continue.

#### **44 By-Election – Darwen South Ward**

Before moving the report, Councillor Riley congratulated Councillor Zamir Khan on his MBE. He also welcomed Councillor Matthew Jackson to the Council.

The report detailed the new political composition of the Council, following the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 by-election. This was as follows:

- Labour Group - 37 (72.55%)
- Conservative Group - 13 (25.49%)
- Liberal Democrat - 1 (1.96%)
- Total - 51 (100%)

Councillor Riley drew attention to the Charitable Funds Committee becoming a formal committee of the Council.

Members were notified of the appointments to serve on the Charitable Funds Committee. These were:

- Councillor Damian Talbot (Labour) - Chair
- Councillor Dave Smith (Labour)
- Councillor Stephanie Brookfield (Labour)
- Councillor Matthew Jackson (Labour)
- Councillor Jean Rigby (Conservative)
- Councillor Julie Slater (Conservative)

**RESOLVED** – That Policy Council:

1. Note the result of the by-election for a seat in the Darwen South Ward, held on Thursday 17th November 2022, and the current political composition of the Council;
2. Note the appointment of six Members to serve on the Charitable Funds Committee for 2022/23.

#### **45 Council Response to Covid-19 Pandemic 20-22**

Members received a report and a video, which outlined the key response highlights throughout the Covid-19 pandemic from various perspectives.

**RESOLVED** – That Policy Council:

1. Note the video and supporting report.
2. Recognise that Covid-19 continues to remain a threat to public health and that eligible residents should utilise the offer of an Autumn Booster vaccination.
3. Acknowledge the Covid-19 response activities undertaken by BwDBC staff; residents; private and public sector partners and VCFS organisations and thanks them for their efforts in such a challenging period.

#### **46 Corporate Plan 2023-2027**

Members received a report which set the Council's strategic priorities for the next four years.

Members were asked to reflect on the Council's current performance.

Each portfolio had been asked to provide a red, amber or green forecast for their performance measures. Information relating to the 69 KPIs for the first half-year of 2022/23 (April 2022 to September 2022) was as follows:

- 61% (42 actual) forecast "green" or on track
- 25% (17 actual) forecast "amber" where delivery is on track and currently being managed
- 3% (2 actual) forecast "red" where performance is, or is likely to be off track
- 11% (8 actual) of the measures' data and/or a RAG rating is currently unavailable

A key focus of the document was the ambitious growth plans. The Corporate plan also highlighted the Council's focus on climate change, as well as providing a focus on young people. Furthermore, the plan drew attention to the aim of building healthier, happier and safer communities.

It was highlighted that this would be done in a financial sustainable way, with the Council continuing to be innovative and forward thinking.

**RESOLVED** – That Policy Council:

1. Note the contents of the report.
2. Note the draft corporate plan for 2023-27.
3. Agree the final text of the Corporate Plan will be signed off by the Leader and Chief Executive.
4. Note the current performance of the Council.

#### **47 Year Planner 2023-24**

The draft Year Planner 2023/24 was submitted, ahead of submission of the final version to the Council Forum Meeting in January 2023 for approval.

**RESOLVED** – That the draft Year Planner 2023/24 be noted.

Signed at a meeting of the Council Form

On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

(being the ensuing meeting of the Council) by

MAYOR