

ANNUAL COUNCIL

Thursday 18th May 2023

PRESENT –*The Mayor, Councillor Suleman Khonat, Councillors, Akhtar H, Akhtar P, Ali, Baldwin, Casey, Connor, Desai M, Desai S, Fazal, Fielding, Floyd, Gee, Gibson, Gunn, Hardman, Humphrys, Hussain I, Hussain M, Hussain S, Irfan, Imtiaz, Jackson, Khan S, Khan Z,, Liddle, Mahmood, Marrow, McCaughran, McGurk, Patel Ab, Patel Alt, Patel, S, Raja, Rigby, Riley, Russell, Shaw, 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. Apologies were received from Councillors Brookfield, and Harling.

At this point of the Meeting a Minutes Silence was observed in memory of former Councillor, Leader of the Council and Mayor, Colin Rigby OBE, and former Strategic Director of Resources Alan Cotton, who had both recently passed away.

2 The Election of Mayor for 2023/24

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for the Office of Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing Council year. Councillor Parwaiz Akhtar was nominated for Office and declared elected as the Mayor of the Borough for the 2023/2024 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 2023/24

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2023/2024 Council year. Councillor Sylvia Liddle was nominated for Office and the Mayor declared her elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2023/24 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 Shaukat Hussain and Phil Riley 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 Suleman Khonat

Councillors Phil Riley and Mustafa Desai 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 Suleman Khonat and badges to the Mayoresses and Consort. Councillor Khonat 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 his year in office.

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

(The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sylvia Liddle, in the Chair.)

6 Minutes of the Council Forum Meeting held on 23rd March 2023

RESOLVED – The Minutes of the Council Forum meeting held on 23rd March 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

7 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Denise Gee declared an Interest relating to her role as Head of the Charity ELHT and Me (East Lancashire Hospitals) which was one of the Mayor's chosen charities for 2023/24.

8 Election Results May 2023

The results of the recent elections were submitted. Members of the Council welcomed the newly elected Councillors.

9 Council Appointments 2023/24

The Chief Executive referred to a report on the composition and political balance of the Council as detailed in Appendix 1 and asked that Council approve Council Appointments for 2023/24, including the Re-appointment of the Leader for a further 4 year term.

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.

Members were reminded of the revised scrutiny arrangements during 202/23 and it was proposed that the composition for all four committees be 9 Members each for 2023/34, with the composition of the Call-in Committee unchanged.

It was proposed that the arrangements for the Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group be reviewed in consultation with relevant officers and Members.

RESOLVED –

That Council:

- 1) re-appoints Councillor Phil Riley as Leader of the Council from 18th May 2023, and in accordance with Article 7.03 of the Constitution;
- 2) notes the composition and political balance on the Council following the local elections on 4th May 2023, as referred to in Paragraph 4 above and further detailed **Appendix 1**;
- 3) notes the appointment of the Executive Board Members and the Deputy Leaders;
- 3) notes the Shadow Portfolio Members;
- 4) approves the appointments be made to the positions detailed in Paragraph 3, subsection 3; and

(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).

- 5) authorises the Chief Executive to review the Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group in consultation with the Strategic Director, Childrens & Education (DCS), and the Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education and the Chair of Children's & Young Persons OSC, and present a report to Council at a future date.

10 Governance Update

A report was submitted, advising Council that the current statutory 'Section

151' Chief Finance Officer Dean Langton would leave his post on 21st May 2023, and which asked Council to agree the arrangements for the statutory 'Section 151' function following this date.

Council was also asked to note that the Council Constitution would be updated and reported to the Council Forum on 20th July 2023 for approval.

RESOLVED –

That Council:

1. notes the current statutory 'Section 151' Chief Finance Officer will leave his post on 21st May 2023.
2. approves that Denise Park, Chief Executive be appointed interim Section 151 Chief Finance Officer pending an appointment to a post, incorporating the statutory function.
3. notes that the Council Constitution will be updated and reported to the Council Forum on 20th July 2023 for approval.

11 Mayoralty 2023/24

Members received a report which confirmed the arrangements for the Mayoralty in 2023/2024, namely that Councillor Parwaiz Akhtar be appointed as Mayor and Councillor Sylvia Liddle be appointed as Deputy Mayor for 2023/2024.

RESOLVED –

That Annual Council:

- 1) Confirms the appointment of Councillor Parwaiz Akhtar as Mayor of the Borough for 2023/24; and
- 2) Confirms that in accordance with the rotation arrangements agreed at Annual Council in 22nd July 2022 that the Labour Group nominates the Deputy Mayor for 2023/24 and notes the appointment made earlier in the meeting of Councillor Sylvia Liddle.

12 Appointments to Outside Bodies and Partnership Bodies 2023/24

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the appointment of representatives to serve on Outside Bodies and Partnership Bodies in 2023/24.

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 2023/24 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 20th July 2023
(being the ensuing meeting of the Council) by

MAYOR