

COUNCIL FORUM
Thursday 22nd March 2018

PRESENT – *The Mayor Councillor Rigby C (in the Chair), Councillors; Akhtar H; Akhtar P; Ali; Bateson; Brookfield; Casey, Connor; Daley; Davies; Desai; Entwistle; Fazal; Foster D; Foster K; Gee; Gibson; Groves; Gunn; Hardman; Harling; Hussain F; Hussain I; Jan-Virmani; Kay; Khan M; Khan Z; Khonat; Lee; Liddle; Mahmood Q; Marrow; McFall; Murray; Nuttall; Oates; Patel; Pearson; Perkins; Riley; Shorrocks; Slater Ja; Slater Jo; Slater Ju; Slater N; Smith D, Smith J; Talbot; Tapp; Taylor; Vali; and Whittle.*

RESOLUTIONS

61 Notice Convening Meeting

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

62 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Wright, McGurk, Hollings, Hussain S, Humphrys, Johnson, Rigby J, Sidat, Surve, Mahmood A, Mulla and Maxfield.

63 Minutes of the Finance Council Meeting held on 26th February 2018

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Finance Council meeting held on the 26th February 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

64 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were submitted.

65 Mayoral Communications

The Mayor updated Council Forum on recent activities and events, in particular a number of school visits, and the successful Mayor's Ball held at Ewood Park.

The Mayor thanked all those Councillors not standing for re-election for their service to the Council, and gave best wishes all those Councillors standing for re-election.

In recognition of service to the Council and the fact that it was the last meeting she would attend, Councillor Eileen Entwistle was presented with a bunch of flowers from the Labour Group.

66 Council Forum

No questions had been submitted by Members of the public.

67 Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12

No Motions had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12.

68 Governance – Council May 2018

A report was submitted which requested Council approval of a number of recommendations relating to the corporate governance arrangements for the Council to take effect after the elections in May 2018. The outstanding Governance arrangements would then be the subject of a further report to Annual Council in May 2018.

The report presented recommendations for consideration which if adopted, required the Council's Constitution to be updated and re-published in May 2018.

Members were reminded that at the meeting in December, Policy Council agreed the retention of the Leader and Executive (Board) structure.

The current Leader's term of office would end alongside other councillors in May 2018. This would then require a Leader for the Council to be appointed at the Annual Council in May 2018. Following the appointment of the Leader at Annual Council 2018, the composition and the individual Executive Board members would be confirmed.

Given the reduction in the number of Councillors overall, the Policy Council in December 2017 recommended the Leader in May 2018 review the composition of the Executive (Board) with the new Executive Board comprising the Leader plus 8 Members with 7 Executive Members with portfolio and the Leader of the Main Opposition Group.

In recognition of this recommendation the current portfolio responsibilities had been reviewed and it was suggested that Council Forum considered recommending to the Leader in May 2018, that the current `Children's Services` and `Schools & Education` portfolios be merged, and also that Young Peoples Services transfer into the new portfolio from the current Leisure, Culture & Young People portfolio. The revised 7 Executive Members portfolios becoming therefore:

Children, Young People & Education
Environment
Health & Adult Social Care
Leisure & Culture
Neighbourhoods & Prevention
Regeneration
Resources

It was also agreed in December by the Policy Council that going forward the Council operate with 3 rather than 4 scrutiny committees, with the number of elected members on each committee remaining at 11 seats. The 3 Scrutiny Committees to broadly cover People Services, Place Services and Policy & Resources. The frequency of meetings was to be considered further, and following some assessment of the position and experience of current arrangements it was now suggested that the frequency be amended to quarterly meetings. Membership of each Scrutiny Committee would be agreed at Annual Council each May with the annual report on the work of the Scrutiny Committees being presented to the final Council Forum each year in the following March/April.

Moving to a quarterly cycle therefore presented the best opportunity to ensure the work of the Committees could be planned and undertaken effectively throughout the year and proposals in this regard were now suggested in the proposed Year Planner also attached to the agenda.

RESOLVED -

- 1 That the Leader be recommended to implement the following after the elections on 3rd May 2018 : there should be 7 Executive Members with portfolios as set out in this report, with the final decision confirmed by the Leader at the Annual meeting of the Council on 17th May 2018;
- 2 That the revised cycle of meetings for Overview and Scrutiny Committees as set out in this report (and referenced in the draft Year Planner also on this Agenda) be agreed; and
- 3 Subject to 1-2 above the Director of HR, Legal & Corporate Services be authorised to update the Council Constitution to reflect these proposed new Council governance arrangements to take effect in May 2018.

69 Report of the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee

Council Forum received the latest report from the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report of the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

70 Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios

Council Forum received and considered reports and updates from the Leader and Executive Members with portfolios. They were considered as follows: Leader, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods and Prevention, Resources, Schools and Education, Health and Adult Social Care, Regeneration, Children's Services and Environment.

During the course of reports being moved, reference was made to the excellent service to the Council by Linda Clegg, Director of Children's Services who would be leaving the Council in the summer to take up a new position, and the thanks of the Council were passed on. Reference was also made to the excellent job being done at Shadsworth Primary School by Jean Etherington and her staff.

RESOLVED – That the reports of the Leader and Executive Members for the following portfolios: Leader, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods and Prevention, Resources, Schools and Education, Health and Adult Social Care, Regeneration, Children's Services and Environment be noted.

71 Draft Year Planner 2018/19

The draft Year Planner for 2018/19 was submitted ahead of submission of the final version at Annual Council.

Councillor Andy Kay proposed that the meetings scheduled for July 2018 all be put back a week to accommodate the Blackburn Fortnight holidays.

RESOLVED – That the Year Planner be amended as proposed and the final version submitted to the Annual Council meeting.

72 Questions Received from Members under Procedure Rule 11

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

Signed at a meeting of the Council
on the day of
(being the next ensuing meeting of the Council) by

MAYOR