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COUNCIL FORUM
Thursday, 4 October 2018

PRESENT –*The Mayor Councillor Pat McFall , Councillors Afzal; Akhtar P; Batan; Bateson; Brookfield; Casey; Connor; Davies; Fazal; Floyd; Gee; Groves; Gunn; Harling; Hussain F; Hussain I; Hussain M; Hussain S; Jan-Virmani; Kay; Khan M; Khan Z; Khonat; Liddle; Mahmood; Marrow; McGurk; Oates; Patel; Pearson; Richards; Riley; Salton; Shorrocks; Sidat; Slater Ja; Slater Jo; Slater Ju; Slater N; Smith D; Smith J; Surve; Talbot; Taylor and Whittle.*

RESOLUTIONS

28 Notice Convening the meeting

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

29 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hussain Akhtar, Julie Daley, Derek Hardman, Colin Rigby and Jean Rigby.

30 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2018

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Forum held on 19th July 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

31 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were submitted.

32 Mayoral Communications

The Mayor provided an update on recent activities and events attended, commenting that at that point, she had attended 143 events in 140 days in office.

Particular reference was made to the Mayor's 100 Years of Remembrance Concert at King Georges Hall on 6th November, to which all Members were encouraged to attend.

33 Council Forum

No questions had been submitted under Procedure Rule 10 from members of the public.

34 Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12

Two Motions had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12 as follows:

MOTION 1

In response to the campaign by the Cooperative Party regarding exploitation of individuals under conditions termed as "Modern Slavery" we

ask the Council to supplement its current policy on modern slavery by means of the following motion:-

BwDBC resolves that it will....

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through appropriate training.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure as far as possible they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

Moved by Shaukat Hussain

Seconded by Parwaiz Akhtar

Following debate, Council Forum moved to the vote.

RESOLVED – That the Motion be carried.

MOTION 2

This Council notes the results of the Brexit referendum as declared by the people of Blackburn with Darwen. The Blackburn constituency voted 56.3% to 43.7% to leave the EU and the Rossendale constituency voted 60.7% to 39.3% to leave. The Council also notes the public statements made by our two Members of Parliament:

Kate Hollern in her speech during the Article 50 debate

“As the MP for Blackburn, I was a strident remain campaigner. I absolutely

respect the result of the referendum and voted to trigger article 50 tonight. So, while I will vote to honour the result of the referendum, I won't offer the government a blank cheque"

Jake Berry's statement "I was a reluctant remain voter but now describe myself as a 're-leaver' and having seen what has happened since the referendum would now vote for Brexit".

This motion requests the Chief Executive to write to both MPs reminding them of the decision of the people they represent and to continue to reflect their constituent's democratic view in all they have to say on Brexit during these critical times.

Moved by Councillor John Pearson

Seconded by Councillor John Slater

Councillor Phil Riley moved an amendment to the Motion, seconded by Councillor Mohammed Khan, and circulated the following suggested amended Motion:

This Council notes the results of the Brexit referendum as declared by the people of Blackburn with Darwen on a local authority basis. Blackburn and Darwen voted 56.3% to 43.7% to leave the EU and Rossendale voted 60.7% to 39.3% to leave.

The Council also notes the public statements made by our two Members of Parliament:

Kate Hollern in her speech during the Article 50 debate –

"As the MP for Blackburn, I was a strident remain campaigner. I absolutely respect the result of the referendum and voted to trigger Article 50 tonight. So, while I will vote to honour the result of the referendum, I will not give the government a blank cheque."

Jake Berry's statement "I was a reluctant remain voter but now describe myself as a 're-leaver' and having seen what has happened since the referendum I would now vote for Brexit."

The motion requests the Chief Executive to write to both MPs reminding them of the need to ensure that any settlement reached between the UK Government and the EU reflects the best economic, social and environmental interests of the people of Blackburn with Darwen. It must include a customs union and no hard border in Northern Ireland and it must protect jobs, people's rights at work and environmental and consumer standards and it must be subject to the approval of Parliament, the sovereign representative voice of the British people.

There then followed a debate on the amended Motion and following a vote this was accepted as the Substantive Motion.

There then followed a vote on the Substantive Motion.

RESOLVED – That the Motion, as amended, be carried.

35 Updates from other Committees

Council Forum received reports from the following Committees: Audit and Governance Committee (Annual Report 2017/2018), Standards Committee, Policy and Corporate Resources Committee, PEOPLE Overview and Scrutiny Committee and PLACE Overview and Scrutiny Committee (update reports).

RESOLVED –

1) That the Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2017/18 be endorsed; and;

2) That the update reports from the Standards Committee, Policy and Corporate Resources Committee, PEOPLE Overview and Scrutiny Committee and PLACE Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

36 Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios

Council Forum received and considered reports and updates from the Leader and Executive Members with portfolios.

During the course of moving her report, Councillor Maureen Bateson welcomed Jayne Ivory, the new Director of Children's Services and Education, and made reference to David Fleming who was retiring from his post as Manager of the Youth Offending Team, and thanks were passed for his valuable service.

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

37 To consider any 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 Policy Council
on Thursday 6th December 2018
by

MAYOR