

# COUNCIL FORUM

## Thursday, 23 January 2020

**PRESENT** –*The Mayor Councillor Jim Shorrocks, Councillors Afzal, Akhtar H, Akhtar P, Batan, Bateson, Brookfield, Browne, Casey, Connor, Daley, Davies, Desai, Floyd, Gee, Groves, Gunn, Hardman, Hussain I, Hussain M, Hussain S, Jan-Virmani, Kay, Khan M, Khan Z, Khonat, Liddle, Mahmood, Marrow, McFall, McGurk, Oates, Pearson, Rawat, Rigby C, Rigby J, Riley, Salton, Sidat, Slater Jaq, Slater Jo, Slater J, Slater N, Smith D, Smith J, Talbot D, Taylor B, and Whittle.*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **38 Welcome and Apologies**

Following the reading of the notice convening the meeting by the Chief Executive, the Mayor welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillors Fazal, Harling and Patel.

#### **39 Minutes Of The Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Policy Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **40 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Suleman Khonat declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 – Motion on Fireworks (Retailer).

#### **41 Mayoral Communications**

The Mayor thanked Members and Officers for their condolences following the recent passing of his Mother.

Additionally, the Mayor reminded Members of the following forthcoming events; Holocaust Memorial Day on 28<sup>th</sup> January, a curry night for the Mayor's Charity on 10<sup>th</sup> February and the Mayor's Ball at Ewood Park on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

#### **42 Council Forum**

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

#### **43 To consider Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12**

One Motion had been received as follows:

##### **Motion**

The Pennine Community Safety Partnership, of which Blackburn with Darwen is a full member has highlighted significant concerns from communities across the region with regards the private use of fireworks.

Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different events. Whilst they can bring much enjoyment to some people when used in the right way, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people and animals.

Animals are particularly vulnerable to their use with the RSPCA raising repeated concerns with government as detailed in their “Bang Out of Order” report. This notes that “loud noises, that are unpredictable and out of an animal’s control – as is the case with fireworks – are particularly stressful for them. Being unpredictable, as well as intermittent and relatively infrequent, also makes it unlikely that animals will acclimatise to fireworks noise.”

This isn’t just an issue for domestic animals and wildlife. Vulnerable people can become confused and disorientated by the noise of fireworks, and of further concern individuals and groups can and do put themselves at risk of harm through their inappropriate use with significant resources locally having to be deployed each year to police private and unofficial events through the BrightSpark programme.

**Council resolves:**

- (i) To request that organisers of all public firework displays within Blackburn with Darwen advertise them in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people;
- (ii) To support public awareness about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks;
- (iii) To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit firework sales to licensed firework operators and prevent their sale to the general public. To also limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90 decibels for those sold for private displays.

**Proposed by: Councillor Mustafa Desai**

**Seconded by: Councillor Phil Riley**

Following debate, Council Forum moved to a vote.

**RESOLVED** – That the Motion be carried.

**44 Statement of Licensing Policy**

Members receive a report which recommended approval of the revised Statement of Licensing Policy for the Licensing Act 2003.

The report advised that the Statement of Licensing Policy had to be kept under review and changed if deemed necessary and this exercise had to be carried out at least every 5 years.

The report outlined the amendments made which reflected legislative

changes and updated information about the Borough and the insertion of a section on the role of public health, alcohol and licensing.

**RESOLVED** – That the Council approves the revised Statement of Licensing Policy for the Licensing Act 2003.

**45 Update from other Committees**

Updates from the Chairs of the PEOPLE and PLACE Overview and Scrutiny Committees were received on the work of their Committees along with an update from the Vice Chair of the Policy and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That the Updates from the Policy and Resources, PEOPLE and PLACE Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

**46 Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios**

The Leader and Executive Members presented their update reports to the Council Forum, providing verbal updates as appropriate.

The Leader confirmed that as referred to in an e-mail to Members earlier in the day, Councillor Vicky McGurk had been appointed as Executive Member for Finance and Governance.

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

**47 Draft Year Planner 2020-21**

The Draft Year Planner for 2020-21 was submitted ahead of approval of the final version at Finance Council on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

The Leader advised of proposed changes to the draft Year Planner, at the request of the Cathedral it was proposed that Civic Sunday be moved from Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – this was because Pentecostal Sunday fell on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021.

As there were no Elections in 2021, it was therefore proposed that Annual Council be moved to Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (with Civic Sunday on the 16<sup>th</sup> as above) and that the scheduled Exec Board on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 be moved to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

These changes would be reflected in the final version of the Year Planner that would be submitted to Finance Council.

**RESOLVED** – That the Draft Year Planner for 2020-21 as amended be approved and that the final version be submitted to Finance Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 for confirmation.

**48 To consider any questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11**

The Chief Executive advised that no questions from Members had been

received under Procedure Rule 11.

Signed at a meeting of the Council Forum  
on Thursday, 26 March 2020  
(being the ensuing meeting on the Council Forum) by

MAYOR