

Council Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday, 14 November 2019 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Councillors present:

The Mayor, Councillor Ann Turner and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Barry Birch.

Councillors I Amos, R Amos, Armstrong, Lady D Atkins, Sir R Atkins, Ballard, Beavers, Berry, C Birch, Bowen, Bridge, Catterall, Collinson, Cropper, P Ellison, Fail, Fairbanks, Gerrard, George, Henderson, Holden, Ibison, Ingham, Kay, Le Marinel, Leech, Longton, McKay, Minto, Moon, Orme, O'Neill, Raynor, Robinson, Smith, Stirzaker, Swales, S Turner, A Vincent, Matthew Vincent, M Vincent, D Walmsley, L Walmsley, Webster and Williams.

Apologies: Councillors Baxter, Cartridge and E Ellison.

Officers present:

Garry Payne, Chief Executive
Mark Billington, Service Director People and Places
Marianne Hesketh, Service Director Performance and Innovation
Clare James, Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Emma Lyons, Communications and Marketing Lead
Roy Saunders, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
Peter Foulsham, Democratic Services Officer
Rebecca Thornton, Marketing Officer (Theatres and Markets).

Also present: Four members of the public.

36 Confirmation of minutes

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record (by 38 votes to 8).

37 Declarations of Interest

None.

Mark Billington, Marianne Hesketh and Clare James did not enter the

Chamber until agenda item 5 (Appointment of Corporate Directors) had been considered.

38

Announcements

The Mayor announced:

1. That a concert by the Lancashire Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Lancashire Youth Concert Band in aid of the Mayor's Charities would be held at 3pm on Sunday 8 December 2019 at Hodgson School.
2. That the Mayor's Civic Dinner would be held at The North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood on Friday 28 February 2020 at 7.00 pm.
3. That Councillors who had not yet paid their promised sponsorship money for her Wyre Walk Challenge were requested do so as soon as possible.
4. That the next Council meeting, originally scheduled for 12 December 2019, had been postponed because of the General Election. The meeting would now take place on Thursday 9 January 2020 and drinks and festive nibbles would be available for Members afterwards.

The Armed Forces Champion (Cllr Kay) announced that the Council had received a Bronze Award under the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme and presented the signed certificate to the Mayor.

The Chief Executive announced that on 11 November 2019 he had received written notification that Councillors O'Neill, Gerrard, Fairbanks and Williams had left the UKIP Party and had joined with Cllr George to form a Brexit Group on the Council. He had been informed that the Leader of the Group was Cllr O'Neill and the Deputy Leader was Councillor Gerrard. A report on changes required to membership of committees to reflect the revised political balance would be submitted to the Council meeting on 9 January.

39

Appointment of Corporate Directors

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) and the Chief Executive submitted a report on the outcome of the interviews held by the Senior Officers Appointments Committee on 4 November 2019.

Agreed (unanimously) that the following appointments be approved, with effect from 1st December 2019:

Mark Billington - Corporate Director Environment (Street Scene Services, Engineering Services, Environmental Health & Community Safety and Built Environment).

Marianne Hesketh - Corporate Director Communities (Housing, Community Services, Planning and ICT Services).

Clare James - Corporate Director Resources (Financial Services, Governance Services, Contact Centre and Business Support).

40 Public questions or statements

None received.

41 Questions "On Notice" from councillors

None received.

42 Executive reports

(a) Leader of the Council (Councillor Henderson)

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) submitted a report.

Cllr Henderson provided an update on the Lancashire District Leaders meeting and the Lancashire Leaders meeting held on 6 November. He referred to the Penine Lancashire Unitary Council bid and a proposal for a Lancashire wide bid to be County of Culture in 2025.

Cllr Henderson responded to questions and comments from Cllr Lady Atkins, Cllr Le Marinel and Cllr Fail.

Agreed that the report be noted.

(a) Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor A Vincent)

The Resources Portfolio Holder (Cllr A Vincent) submitted a report.

There were no questions or comments to Cllr A Vincent.

Agreed that the report be noted.

(a) Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder (Councillor Bridge)

The Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder (Cllr Bridge) submitted a report.

Cllr Bridge responded to a comment from Cllr Swales.

Agreed that the report be noted.

(a) Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder (Councillor Michael Vincent)

The Planning and Economic Development portfolio Holder (Cllr Michael Vincent) submitted a report.

Cllr Michael Vincent provided an update on the Future High Street Fund and referred to an open meeting to be held in Fleetwood on 3 December.

Cllr Michael Vincent responded to a question from Cllr Fail.

Agreed that the report be noted.

- (a) Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder (Councillor Berry)

The Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder (Cllr Berry) submitted a report.

Cllr Berry referred to a Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC) Crime Prevention Conference to be held in Blackburn on 7 December and asked any councillors who wanted to attend to contact him.

He also said he was pleased to be able to report that Cleveleys and Fleetwood beaches had both retained their “good” bathing water quality status.

Cllr Berry responded to questions and comments from Cllr L Walmsley and Cllr George.

Agreed that the report be noted.

- (a) Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder (Councillor Bowen)

The Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder (Cllr Bowen) submitted a report.

Cllr Bowen responded to comments from Cllr C Birch.

Agreed that the report be noted.

- (a) Cabinet Member Questions and Comments

Cllr Henderson responded to a question from Cllr Michael Vincent.

Constitution Review

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) and the Chief Executive submitted a report on proposed amendments to Wyre’s Constitution following an external review carried out by external consultants.

Cllr Henderson, when introducing the report pointed out two corrections required to the paragraph numbers referred to in the recommendations in the report, as follows:

- In recommendation 3.3, the references should be to paragraphs 5.12 and 5.13 of the report (not paragraphs 5.10 and 5.11);
- In recommendation 3.4 the references should be to paragraphs 5.14 and 5.15 of the report (not paragraphs 5.12 and 5.13)

An amendment, proposed by Cllr Fail and seconded by Cllr Beavers, that *“the report be withdrawn to enable the proposals in the report to be considered by a cross-party group of Councillors, before being resubmitted to the Council for approval”* was LOST (by 8 votes to 33, with 5 abstentions).

An amendment, proposed by Cllr Michael Vincent and seconded by Cllr A Vincent, to insert the words *“the day of agenda dispatch will be 5 working days (usually 7 calendar days) prior to the date of the meeting”* in paragraphs 9.3, 12.2 and 14.1 of the revised Council Procedure Rules, was CARRIED (by 38 votes to 8).

Agreed (by 38 votes to 8) that the recommendations in the report, subject to the inclusion of the agreed amendment, be approved, as follows:

1. That the amendments to the Constitution set out as track-changes in Appendix 1 be approved and adopted with immediate, as follows:
 - Responsibilities for Council Functions (Part 3.02);
 - Responsibilities for Executive Functions (Part 3.03);
 - Access to Information Procedure Rules (Part 4.02);
 - Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules (Part 4.03);
 - Cabinet Procedure Rules (Part 4.04);
 - Overview and Scrutiny procedure Rules (Part 4.05)
 - Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Part 7.02).
2. That the changes to the Council Procedure Rules (Part 4.01) set out as track changes in Appendix 1 also be approved, subject to the words *“the day of agenda dispatch will be 5 working days (usually 7 calendar days) prior to the date of the meeting”* in paragraphs 9.3, 12.2 and 14.1.
3. That no change be made to the current delegation of authority to the Audit Committee to review and approve changes to the Council’s Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules.
4. That the comments on the effectiveness of the current Procedure Rules relating to “points of order” and “points of personal explanation” (referred to in paragraphs 5.12 and 5.13 of the report) be noted, but that no changes be made to those Procedure Rules at this stage.
5. That the comments of the consultants on the interpretation of the political balance rules when making appointments to committees (referred to in paragraph 5.14 and 5.15 of the report) be noted, but no changes be made to the Constitution relating to appointments to committees and that such appointments continue to be made by the

Council on the basis of advice submitted on each occasion by the Councillors officers.

6. That the intention to submit a further report, to the February Council meeting, on changes which would be required to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers as a consequence of decisions to be made at this Council meeting on the appointment of Corporate Directors, be noted.
7. That the intention of the Council's officers to now also undertake a quick internal review of the Parts of the Constitution not included in the current review and to make recommendations on any further changes which may be necessary to be consistent with the decisions made at this meeting, be noted.

44 Honorary Aldermen

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) and the Chief Executive submitted a report on the possible appointment of a number of former councillors as Honorary Aldermen.

Agreed (unanimously) that the title of Honorary Aldermen to be conferred on Marge Anderton, Ruth Duffy, John Hodgkinson and Terry Lees, at a special meeting of the Council on a date to be arranged by the Chief Executive.

45 Audit Committee Periodic Report

The Chairman of the Audit Committee (Cllr McKay) submitted a report on issues considered by the Committee since her last periodic report to the Council on 6 September 2018.

Agreed that the report be noted.

46 Licensing Committee Periodic Report

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee (Cllr Robinson) submitted a report on issues considered by the Committee during the period October 2018 to September 2019.

Agreed that the report be noted.

47 Councillor Development Strategy and Councillor Development Programme 2019 -2023

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) and the Service Director Performance and Innovation submitted a report on a proposed Councillor Development Strategy for the period 2019 to 2023 and a proposed Councillor Development Programme for the same period.

Agreed (unanimously):

1. That the proposed Strategy be approved and the relevant Director continue to make appropriate arrangements for the provision of development opportunities for all councillors within the agreed budget.
2. That the proposed Programme be approved and that the four stages of development as set out within the Programme be endorsed as a credible expected “career pattern”.
3. That the leaders of each political group continue to allocate a suitable number of senior councillors of their group to act as mentors to newly elected councillors as described on pages 10-11 of the Programme.
4. That the Strengths and Development Record (SDR) 2019 questionnaire (pages 15-20 of the Programme), which replaces the previous Development Needs Analysis, be approved.
5. That, to ensure that development opportunities are relevant and available to all councillors, the political group leaders actively encourage all elected members within their group to participate fully in completion of the Strengths and Development Record questionnaires as outlined on pages 12-20 of the Programme and review their SDR annually.
6. That responsibility for making appropriate arrangements for ongoing training and development opportunities for councillors using the collated development needs identified through completion of the SDRs remain with the relevant Director.
7. That the updated Wyre Councillor Skills Framework included as the Appendix to the Programme be noted and endorsed.
8. That the updated criteria agreed by the Councillor Development Group (CDG) for attendance at external training and other events on page 8 of the Programme be approved.

48 Independent Remuneration Panel Membership

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) and the Service Director Performance and Innovation submitted a report on the membership of the Council’s Independent Remuneration Panel.

Agreed that Mr Ryan Hyde and Rev John Squires be appointed to the Independent remuneration Panel.

49 Notices of Motion

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 8.08 pm.

NOTE: An audio recording of this meeting is available on the Council’s website via the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8Qdu_rftU8

