

Council Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday, 11 July 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, Baxter, Beavers, Berry, C Birch, Bowen, Bridge, Cartridge, Catterall, Collinson, Cropper, E Ellison, P Ellison, Fail, Gerrard, George, Henderson, Holden, Ingham, Kay, Leech, Longton, McKay, Minto, Moon, Orme, Raynor, Robinson, Smith, Stirzaker, Swales, S Turner, A Vincent, Matthew Vincent, M Vincent, D Walmsley, L Walmsley and Webster.

Apologies: Councillors Fairbanks, Ibison, Le Marinel and O'Neill.

Officers present:

Garry Payne, Chief Executive
Mark Broadhurst, Service Director Health and Wellbeing
Marianne Hesketh, Service Director Performance and Innovation
Emma Lyons, Communications and Marketing Lead
Roy Saunders, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
Emma Keany, Governance Trainee.

(No members of the public or press attended the meeting)

12 Confirmation of minutes

Agreed:

1. That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 4 April 2019 be confirmed by those present at the meeting as a correct record (by 21 votes to 4).
2. That the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 16 May 2019 be confirmed as a correct record (by 31 votes to 9, with 1 abstention).

13 Declarations of Interest

None.

14 Announcements

The Mayor announced that her Civic Dinner would take place at The North Euston Hotel on Friday 28 February 2020.

15 Public questions or statements

None received.

16 Questions "On Notice" from councillors

None received.

17 Executive reports

- (a) Leader of the Council (Councillor Henderson)

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

Cllr Henderson replied to questions from Cllrs Fail and Beavers.

Agreed that the report be noted.

- (a) Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor A Vincent)

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

Cllr Vincent responded to questions and comments from Cllrs Fail and Lady Atkins.

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 questions and comments from Cllrs Sir R Atkins, Raynor, L Walmsley, Longton, Armstrong and Fail.

Agreed that the report noted.

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

The Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder (Cllr

Michael Vincent) submitted a report.

No questions and comments were directed to Cllr Michael Vincent.

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 responded to questions and comments from Cllrs Armstrong, George, Kay and Sir R Atkins.

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 questions and comments from Cllrs Fail, Lady Atkins, Stirzaker and Webster.

Agreed that the report be noted.

- (a) Cabinet Member Questions and Comments

Cllr Berry responded to a question referred to him by Cllr Henderson and also responded to a question from Cllr Bridge.

Cllr Bridge responded to a question from Cllr Michael Vincent.

18 Code of Conduct Review

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) and the Chief Executive submitted a report on a review of the Councillors Code of Conduct undertaken by the Standards Committee.

Agreed (unanimously):

1. That the amendments to the Code of Conduct recommended by the Standards Committee, set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
2. That the revised Code of Conduct be adopted with effect from 11 July 2019 and included in Part 5.01 of the Constitution, in place of the current version.

19 Treasury Management Activity 2018/19

The Resources Portfolio Holder (Cllr A Vincent) and the Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) submitted a report on the overall position and activities with regard to treasury management for the financial year 2018/19.

Agreed (unanimously), that the annual report on Treasury Management activity for the 2018/19 financial year be approved.

20 Notice of Motion

Councillors Fail, Beavers, Raynor and Stirzaker submitted a Notice of Motion under Procedure Rule 15 on the declaration of a “climate emergency”, as set out under agenda item 10. The motion was proposed by Cllr Fail and seconded by Cllr Raynor.

An amendment, to add and delete words to the motion (shown as track-changes below) was proposed by Cllr Henderson and seconded by Cllr Michael Vincent, as follows:

“The Council notes:

- That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.
- That the ‘Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018,
 - (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5C rise, and
 - (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.
- That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and we congratulate Her Majesty’s Government (HMG) on being the first country to take a lead on this issue;
- That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits; and
- That, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions and this Council tonight declares a climate emergency.

The Council therefore commits to:

- Make the Council’s activities net-zero carbon by 2050;
- Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council’s full range of functions by 2050;

- Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2050 as far as Planning Laws allow it;
 - Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire Wyre area zero carbon within the same timescale;
 - Ensure the Council take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
 - Where necessary officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council contain impact assessments on Climate Change, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible
- This Council will continue its already agreed policy to report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee its progress towards a zero carbon emissions target;
 - Work with, influence and inspire partners across Wyre, Lancashire and the North West to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;
 - Request that the Council and partners, take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;
- This Council will continue its policy of having officers and departmental groups work on a climate change action plan which will report back to Council on a regular basis as to its progress towards a target of zero emissions by 2050;
- Will request an annual investment report from our pensions administrators Lancashire County Council (LCC) on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry, such report to go to Cabinet who will make any appropriate observations thereon reflecting our zero carbon emissions target of 2050;
 - Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/ 2021 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the financial implications of the actions the council will take to address this emergency;
 - CRquest the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and

help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise;

- Continue to consider other actions within the Council's remit that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of all buildings, including housing in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net zero carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice;
- The Council should if possible not allow its land to be used for anything that would result in the Council not meeting the target of net zero emissions by 2050; and
- Monitor the advice of, the Local Government Association, (and where possible implement) as to what steps can be taken quickly to have the greatest possible impact on air quality, modal shift away from private cars, increased take up on public transport, and ensure that every aspect of the Councils activities are sighted on the need to preserve Wyre's ecological and environmental heritage."

Cllr Henderson, when proposing the amendment also proposed that the following additional paragraph be included in the list of commitments to be made by the Council (which he said he was aware Cllr Gerard had intended to propose as an additional amendment on behalf of the UKIP Group, but which he had accepted as an addition to the Conservative Group amendment) as follows:

"to use trees to offset carbon emissions arising from the Council's activities and therefore to instruct our officers to report back on costings for the planting of trees and the maintenance of woodlands in the Borough, which is a matter of urgency because we need to start planting trees now."

The amendment proposed by Cllr Henderson, including the additional wording above, was APPROVED (by 35 votes to 0, with 8 abstentions).

Cllr Fail then proposed, and Cllr Raynor seconded, a further amendment to the amended version of the original motion, to change all references to commitments by the year 2050 to 2030. That amendment was lost (by 9 votes to 35).

The following substantive motion was then approved (unanimously) and it was **agreed**:

That the Council notes:

- That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world;

- That the ‘Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees centigrade, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018,
 - (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5C rise, and
 - (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector;
- That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and we congratulate Her Majesty’s Government (HMG) on being the first country to take a lead on this issue;
- That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits; and
- That, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions and this Council tonight declares a climate emergency.

The Council therefore commits to:

- Make the Council’s activities net-zero carbon by 2050;
- Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council’s full range of functions by 2050;
- Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2050 as far as Planning Laws allow it;
- Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire Wyre area zero carbon within the same timescale;
- Ensure the Council take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council’s activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
- Where necessary officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council contain impact assessments on Climate Change, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible;
- Continue its already agreed policy to report to the Overview and

Scrutiny Committee its progress towards a zero carbon emissions target;

- Work with, influence and inspire partners across Wyre, Lancashire and the North West to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;
- Request that the Council and partners, take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;
- Continue its policy of having officers and departmental groups work on a climate change action plan which will report back to Council on a regular basis as to its progress towards a target of zero emissions by 2050;
- Request an annual investment report from our pensions administrators Lancashire County Council (LCC) on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry, such report to go to Cabinet who will make any appropriate observations thereon reflecting our zero carbon emissions target of 2050;
- Ensuring that all reports in preparation for the 2020/2021 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the financial implications of the actions the council will take to address this emergency;
- Request the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise;
- Continue to consider other actions within the Council's remit that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of all buildings, including housing in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net zero carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice;
- The Council should if possible not allow its land to be used for anything that would result in the Council not meeting the target of net zero emissions by 2050; and
- Monitor the advice of the Local Government Association, (and where possible implement) as to what steps can be taken quickly to have the greatest possible impact on air quality, a modal shift away from private cars, increased take up on public transport, and ensure that every aspect of the Councils activities are sighted on the need to preserve Wyre's ecological and environmental heritage.

- Use trees to offset carbon emissions arising from the Council's activities and therefore to instruct our officers to report back on costings for the planting of trees and the maintenance of woodlands in the Borough, which is a matter of urgency because we need to start planting trees now.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 8.35 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=7MKH_xNmFPI