

BOLTON COUNCIL

Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Town Hall on Wednesday next, 7th September, 2022 at 7.00p.m. when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

1. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 27th July, 2022 (Section A).

2. Policy Framework

Motion in the name of Councillor Khurram –

That the draft Gambling Act 2005 ‘Statement of Principles’ be approved and replace the current ‘Statement of Principles’ which were approved in 2019.

3. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies

4. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(a)

5. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(c)

6. Committee Proceedings

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee (See Section C)

7. Scrutiny Committees

To receive and consider the proceedings of the undermentioned Scrutiny Committees:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D) (to follow)

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section E) (to follow)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

8. Motions under Standing Order No.4

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Grant -

I ask this council to request that a letter is sent to our 3 elected MPs and the government requesting:

1. That the Government
 - a. Delivers the leasehold reforms that were promised (but continually delayed) and that they include the online calculator for lease extensions and enfranchisement as soon as possible.,
 - b. Prevents the sector from fixing capitalisation rates at a low rate in the calculation as this will push up the cost for the leaseholder
 - c. speeds up progress on other reforms that the Law Commission worked on - such as Right to Manage and commonhold as this will address the abuses that we see today with service charges and insurance commissions, and,
 - d. implements planning policy changes to ensure councils adopt the estates residents live on in full, to stop developers creating what we call "fleecehold" where fees are typically

secured by a rent charge which means if residents fall into default on those fees the property can be converted from freehold to leasehold again and so the cycle begins again.

2. Furthermore, this council resolves that it will no longer sell its reversionary freehold or leasehold interests to 3rd parties without offering the first refusal to the existing leaseholder at fair value.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Veevers -

Council notes that if the proposed rises in energy caps take place many more Bolton residents will be forced into extreme fuel poverty and choosing between turning their heating off and doing without food and other essentials.

Council condemns the potential rises as a major risk to the health and wellbeing of those who are vulnerable and suffer from ill health.

Council urges the Borough's MPs to support calls for the recall of Parliament to vote for

- a) Cancellation of the rises in the fuel cap; and
- b) Introduction of windfall taxes on the excessive profits of energy and fuel companies.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Heslop –

The national Council Tax Benefit Scheme was abolished on 1st April 2013 to be replaced by the local Council Tax Support Scheme. For some of the least well-off in this borough including low-paid workers, carers and the disabled, the former paid all of the Council Tax due. The current scheme which was devised by this Council now requires that all liable non-pensionable-age Council Tax

payers contribute at least 17.5% towards the Council Tax - the minimum currently being £170.99 per year for a single person in a Band A property. Entitlement to help under the Council Tax Support Scheme is withdrawn for non-pensionable-age residents if the householders' savings exceed £3,000 which means that many older people who are under age 66 could be excluded for simply having a small financial safety-net in their old age.

This Council acknowledges that the reduction in help with Council Tax for residents has in large part been due to central government limiting the amount that it sends to Councils to administer the scheme.

In Greater Manchester, the savings limit that triggers no entitlement to help varies from: Bolton £3,000, Stockport £8,000, Wigan £12,000 and the remaining seven Councils £16,000.

One Council in Greater Manchester looks at limiting the level of support based on only Band A levels of Council Tax but does not insist that householders pay a minimum amount to the Council Tax. Another Council gives extra help for those with children under five.

Trafford Council has looked at the percentage of available income that the resident should contribute towards their Council Tax. Trafford expects householders to pay 30% of their excess income compared to 20% by the other authorities. On the face of it, Trafford may appear to provide less help but it should be noted that many of their least well-off do not pay – the financial support that they receive only reduces with increased income over and above a minimum income level.

This Council accepts that within Greater Manchester, this borough's scheme is one of the simplest. However, it also accepts that it may also

be the most unfair – particularly for the least well-off.

This Council agrees to

1. ask officers to consider alternatives to the current Council Tax Support Scheme by reference to other schemes in Greater Manchester with emphasis on helping the least well-off, and,
2. call an urgent PDG to consider the alternatives identified by officers referred to above.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel –

This Council believes that the current energy bills crisis is causing serious financial hardship for the people of the Bolton Borough, and all future projections point to an even bleaker future. This is not only adding to the severe cost of living crisis, but is also a major cause of the sharp rise in inflation. This is a national emergency.

Council believes that the help offered so far by the Government is inadequate and pitiful, and that they are clearly putting the profits of oil and gas giants before the wellbeing of the public.

Oil and gas company giants are making eye watering profits, directly from the pockets of struggling households, despite their previous dire warnings of a sharp drop in profits. This council believes that they are not playing their fair and affordable part in ensuring that energy bills remain as low as possible. Therefore Council fundamentally supports the policy of additional tax on these companies to be used to cancel the Energy Price Cap rise. Council notes that this targeted tax can raise £29 billion pounds in order to save the average family £1000 this winter.

Council notes that cancelling the Price Cap would bring inflation down by an estimated 4%, thus making future interest rates rises less likely, as well as boosting consumer spending power

In addition, Council believes that the Government needs to urgently address the longer term problems through a Warm Homes Plan that would see the insulation of 19 million homes over the next decade, which again would lead to a reduction in energy costs as well as making a significant contribution to achieving our carbon emissions target. Further, we believe that a planned and sustained policy of securing our countries energy needs should be pursued as a matter of priority, through investment in British sustainable energy sources, that will bring stability to the energy sector in the long term.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Bullock –

In 2025 Stockton & Darlington are to celebrate their George Stephenson designed railway bi-centenaries-by progressing a HAZ-Heritage Action Zone-with the support of both the UK Government and Historic England, along with the support from local landowners, interested local companies and importantly residents-with much happening including a full archaeological survey of the route.

With the recent listing of this area by Historic England as a ‘Scheduled Monument’, the historic and probably unique ‘CHEQUERBENT EMBANKMENT’, now is the perfect time to bring a similar initiative to our area for the benefit of local people?

Starting at the original ‘Daubhill ‘ station site on Adelaide St., crossing over St. Helens Rd., running alongside Hulton Playing Field, through Winterfield Dr./Beaumont Chase green path system and linking up with and extending the Bolton Public Right of

Way WES121 on the Bolton & Leigh Railway route and on to 'Chequerbent Embankment' Scheduled Monument section, across the A6 down the Chequerbent Incline (one of the world's steepest adhesion worked routes) down to the Atherton rail line on the border of Bolton with Wigan.

Not only would this provide an opportunity to preserve and enhance an important piece of our history, it would provide a new Active Travel Route through mainly open spaces and countryside, protecting some of Bolton's most historic railway heritage-whilest connecting some of its highest levels of deprivation and most built-up areas in Rumworth, Daubhill and Deane with our countryside and green spaces, creating health and wellbeing benefits and opportunities for those who most need it.

'I ask....

That this Council sets up a PDG to:-

- Target applying for a HAZ-Heritage Action Zone along the remaining sections of the historic 'Bolton & Leigh Railway' route within Bolton between Daubhill and the Atherton boundary.
- Looks at ways that Bolton might participate in and permanently benefit from a programme to celebrate in 2025, the bi-centenary and beyond of our early railway history of the 'B&L', including but not limited to Bolton Museum (with a new upgraded display), Westhoughton Library and Horwich Loco. Works. With enhanced station platform signs at both Bolton and Horwich Parkway.
- Enhanced route markings and Public Rights of Way access, establishing this route as a new Active Travel & Walking Route, so that

people who live in some of the most built-up areas of our town can easily access our countryside and leisure areas.



TONY OAKMAN
Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

31st August, 2022

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 18th July to 16th August, 2022 are included for information only in a separate volume.