

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, 18th January, 2023 at 7.00 p.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 meetings of the Council held on 30th November, 2022 (Section A).

2. Constitution

That the amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation for 2022/2023, as circulated, be approved.

3. Recommendation to Council

Motion to be moved by Councillor Hewitt –

That the updated Planning Validation Checklist, as circulated, be approved and that the Checklist be brought into effect for use on 19th January, 2023.

4. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies

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

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

7. Committee Proceedings

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee (See Section C)

8. Scrutiny Committees

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)

9. Motions under Standing Order No.4

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Atcha –

Research commissioned by the Fair Tax Foundation has revealed that between 2014-2019, a huge 17.5% of UK public procurement contracts were won by businesses with connections to a tax haven. Those contracts were worth a combined value of £37.5bn.

Furthermore, the UK loses an estimated £17bn in corporation tax revenues as a result of profit shifting alone.

Profit shifting is a tax avoidance strategy whereby multinational firms exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift income and profits to low or no-tax locations.

Councils should do what they can to encourage fair tax practices amongst supplier companies when

buying goods and services, and be given more powers to tackle tax dodging.

Tax plays a positive role in our society and Councils can be a key part of ensuring high tax standards are applied to businesses.

Bolton Council does have an Ethical Procurement Policy agreed in March 2021 which does include Criminal and non-Criminal conduct regarding tax abuse and compliance.

Many other councils have signed up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration including Oldham and Trafford in Greater Manchester.

Bolton Council therefore resolves to also sign up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration so that we may highlight that we are standing by our own Ethical Procurement Policy.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Silvester –

Council notes that in 2016 the Labour council stated that it would not allow exploratory drilling or infrastructure associated with fracking on land it controls or owns. It further stated that it will “rigorously scrutinise” any planning applications for fracking.

Council notes that the Government temporarily banned fracking in 2019, but then changed its mind recently, and fully supported the practice, which clearly breached its manifesto promises.

Council further notes that this U Turn was firmly supported by the Conservative Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, during the meeting of the Council on September 7th 2022, and therefore expresses its concern that the current Council policy on fracking is in danger of being abandoned by the Conservative led Council.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. reiterate its policy of not allowing any activity associated with fracking to take place on land it controls or owns.
2. To write to the Secretary of State to outline our opposition to fracking and to disagree with his statement that “fracking is in the national interest”.
3. To seek clarification from the Secretary of State as to how local support for fracking (which he says will be needed before the practice can go ahead) will be measured.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Mort –

Council believes that football, the national game in the UK, is currently in crisis.

COVID-19 has devastated the revenue of many lower-league clubs, with the loss of some notables, and dozens more clubs teetering on the brink of survival. Frequently bad management has gone unnoticed or ignored and clubs are run unsustainably, putting at risk all the history, heritage, and economic benefit they bring to an area – often in pursuit of short-term gain.

Council believes that football clubs are not ordinary businesses; they are historic sporting institutions that are both a civic and community asset, and a source of pride and unity, in their hometown or city.

Council therefore supports Fair Game, a national campaign that seeks radical reform of the way football is managed and run, specifically its call for:

- An independent regulator for the sport.
- A refocus on ‘values’ rather than profit.
- The establishment of a Sustainability Index, which will reallocate the payments made to

clubs to reward those which are run well, respect equality standards and properly engage with their fans and their community.

- Fans to be given the final say on any proposed change to a club's 'crown jewels', including the club's name, nickname, colours, badge and the geographical location from where the club plays.
- Council also notes that former Sports Minister Tracey Crouch MP has published a Government-commissioned fan-led review into football governance and that a vast majority of its findings mirror Fair Game's aspirations.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Declare its support for the Fair Game manifesto, 'Solutions for our National Game', and calls on other councils to join us in our support.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Sport, our local Members of Parliament, and the Chair of the Local Government Association Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, asking them to support and work towards implementing Fair Game's manifesto and the findings of the fan-led review led by Tracey Crouch MP.
- Ask the Council's representatives to encourage other like-minded councils to support Fair Game.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor T. Wilkinson –

Bolton Council recently received funding as part of the government's Mental Health Recovery Action Plan to tackle the mental health impacts on businesses.

The Council acknowledges the need to challenge the taboos of mental health and the importance of

being aware of the signs and symptoms,
understanding the questions to ask someone and
sharing knowledge of what help is available.

In December 2021, Bolton Council announced free mental health training to anyone who worked or volunteered within the borough. Due to the demand and limited capacity these courses book up extremely quickly.

Mental health can impact anyone at any time. The council makes a firm commitment to ensure that elected members and council employees who are in public-facing roles, are provided with courses and strongly encouraged to attend Mental Health First Aider training, so they are sufficiently equipped to be able to support our residents.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Sanders -

In the 2019 Budget, the Council committed to £4million of new capital receipts to be “principally” invested into Farnworth - of which, since 2021, can be redirected by the Farnworth Town Centre Steering Group into viable schemes in Kearsley. An example being the £200,000 improvements to the public space and free carpark at Kearsley Precinct.

During the upcoming introduction period for the new leadership within the Place Department, and considering the impact that global and economic events have had on our high streets since the current town centres strategy was introduced in 2018, Council sees this as an opportune time to set-up a Policy Development Group to review:

- 1) The Council’s 2018 strategy in light of current challenges and potential opportunities facing high streets and town centres.
- 2) The inclusivity and fairness of the current town centres strategy and funding.

3) Placing Kearsley and Blackrod firmly within town centres policy.

(f) Motion in the name of Councillor Veevers –

Council congratulates the Labour Party on finally coming to the realisation that Britain needs a system of fair votes for UK General elections.

Council looks forward to seeing this measure included in the Labour Party manifesto for the next General Election.

(g) Motion in the name of Councillor Heslop –

This Council has no confidence in the Leader of this Council and resolves to remove the Leader from this position.

S. Johnson

SUE JOHNSON
Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

11th January, 2023

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 21st November to 21st December, 2022, together with the Chief Officers Appointments Panel, are included for information only in a separate volume.

