

BOLTON COUNCIL

Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Bolton on Wednesday next, 17th April, 2013 at 7.00pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

1. Vote of Thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress

Motion to be moved by Councillor Ashcroft.

2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 20th February, 2013 (Section A).

3. Constitution

Motion to be moved by the Leader of the Council:-

That the quarterly report on Executive decisions made under the special urgency provisions of the Access to Information Regulations be noted.

4. Recommendations to Council

Motion to be moved by Councillor J. Byrne:-

That the adoption of the Joint Minerals Development

Plan Document and consequential changes to Bolton's Proposals Map be agreed to be effective from 26th April, 2013.

5. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies

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

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

8. Committee Proceedings

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulations Committee (See Section C)

9. Scrutiny Committees

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

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

Environmental Services, Regeneration, Housing and Skills Scrutiny Committee (See Section E) (enclosed)

Adults, Community and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section F) (to follow)

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (See Section G) (submitted for information only)

10. Area Forums

To receive and consider the proceedings of the under mentioned Area Forums:-

Astley Bridge Area Forum

Bradshaw Area Forum

Brightmet Area Forum

Bromley Cross Area Forum

Crompton Area Forum

Farnworth Area Forum

Great Lever Area Forum

Halliwell Area Forum

Harper Green Area Forum

Heaton and Lostock Area Forum

Hulton Area Forum

Kearsley Area Forum

Little Lever and Darcy Lever Area Forum

Rumworth Area Forum

Smithills Area Forum

Tonge with the Haulgh Area Forum

Two Towns Area Forum

Westhoughton with Chew Moor

11. Motions under Standing Order No. 4

(a) Motion to be moved by Councillor Peel:-

That this Council;-

1. believes that the Government's new 'bedroom tax' will cause devastating consequences for the 3,500 Bolton residents who are being directly affected by it. This figure includes separated parents who share the care of their children and disabled people who have their home specially adapted for their needs;
2. acknowledges that the number of people facing the prospect of having to move to smaller properties far outstrips the number of social rented properties available;
3. believes that as well as being badly thought out, the bedroom tax is also bad economics as there is likely to be a rise in the national housing benefit bill, as more people enter the more expensive private rented sector; and
4. resolves to write to the Minister, Ian Duncan Smith, to urge the Government to immediately suspend the

bedroom tax , and to carry out an urgent review into its consequences.

(b) Motion to be moved by Councillor J. Byrne:-

That this Council notes that a number of construction companies have been challenged about supporting the existence of and subscribing to construction industry 'blacklists', which detail covertly and potentially illegally gathered information on trade union members in the construction industry. Blacklisting is an unacceptable practice and cannot be condoned. The GMB union is leading a national campaign aimed at forcing those who have been involved in blacklisting to apologise and provide compensation to those who have found it impossible to work in construction as a result of this blacklisting.

It is understood that the construction industry blacklist was collated by the Consulting Association (a private consultancy) and was then provided at a cost to construction companies as they sought to recruit/avoid new workers. The Information Commissioner has investigated and taken action against the Consulting Association for this practice. Furthermore, the Information Commissioner has taken enforcement action against a number of construction companies based on the evidence recovered from the Consulting Association.

Owing to the concentration of construction activity in and around large towns and cities, many of those alleged to have been discriminated against live in the country's major towns and cities, and undoubtedly this practice has disadvantaged Bolton residents.

Given the potential impact on Bolton residents the Council resolves to support the GMB campaign and, where lawful, not contract with companies who continue using this information for future work.

(c) Motion to be moved by Councillor Mrs. Thomas:-

The Coalition Government promised to lead the most family friendly government ever. However, on 1st April, 2013 whilst millionaires received tax cuts of £100,000 cuts to maternity pay were introduced effectively introducing a 'mummy tax.'

This Council calls on the Coalition government to withdraw such policies and prioritise struggling mums and their families not millionaires.

(d) Motion to be moved by Councillor Critchley:-

This Council agrees in the principle of introducing a mandatory 20 mph speed limit on most residential roads in the Borough.

This proposal confirms this Council's policy to improve road safety, reduce the severity of casualties and improve the local environment.

Consequently, the Cabinet be requested to examine the introduction of speed limit of 20mph in phases over a period of two years, and that the speed limit and enforcement be closely discussed with Greater Manchester Police.

(e) Motion to be moved by Councillor Ayub:-

This Council notes with serious concern the Government's alarming proposals to privatise fire services.

This Council is deeply worried that the Government has lost sight of the fire service's main purpose and that it threatens to put private profit ahead of the need to save lives and help people feel safe in their homes.

This Council recognises the excellent work undertaken by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and applauds the commitment of its frontline and support staff. This Council also notes that those individuals' ability to protect the people of Greater Manchester is being jeopardised by the Government's actions.

This Council further notes that the Government's proposals are in the context of a programme of ill-conceived cuts to fire and rescue services. The impact this will have on Bolton is extremely worrying.

This Council notes data from Communities and Local Government which shows that Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service has already suffered a 12.4% reduction in the number of whole-time and retained fire-fighters, and that the Government plans to cut a further 5,000 fire-fighters and 1,000 support staff, nationally, by 2015.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to

1. cease their irresponsible cuts to our Fire and Rescue Services; and
2. pledge to protect the Fire and Rescue Services from the threat of privatisation

(f) Motion to be moved by Councillor J. Walsh:-

This Council recognises the need for a fresh approach to regenerating Bolton town centre, a view held not just by Conservative members of this Council but one supported by one of the Borough's MPs who in his Christmas Newsletter described it as "Closed for business" and went on to say it was "a mess". Equally the Chief Superintendent of Bolton Division, GM Police and the then Director of Public Health who told the Vision Conference that the town centre "needed a family friendly approach".

As customers are the key to a vibrant town centre this Council needs to be bold in its approach to help ward off competition from other centres by making Bolton a more welcoming town centre.

As a first step this Council now accepts that cheaper, easier car parking, removing the perceived risk of high charges and over-zealous enforcement, is important to attracting shoppers and visitors. Accordingly Council invites executive members to bring forward proposals to introduce within weeks, free street parking across the town centre, limited say to 1 hour in three, seven days a week, all year round to make Bolton more welcoming to shoppers and kick starting the regeneration of our town centre with a unique selling point.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'S. R. Harriess', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

SEAN HARRISS
Chief Executive

Town Hall, Bolton

10th April, 2013.

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 18th February, 2013 to 8th April, 2013 are included for information only in a separate volume, together with the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee.