

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, 25th August, 2021 at 7.00 p.m. when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

1. Tributes to the Leader of the Council Councillor David Greenhalgh

2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 23rd June and 28th July, 2021.

3. To appoint the Leader of the Council

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:-

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

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)

Joint Health Overview and Adult Social Care and Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

9. Motions under Standing Order No.4

(a) Motion in name of Councillor McGeown –

Council deplores the decision of the Government to remove the 'temporary' uplift in Universal Credit on 1st October.

Council agrees with the former Tory Leader and architect of Universal Credit, Sir Iain Duncan Smith, and five of his successors (Stephen Crabb, Damian Green, David Gauke, Esther McVey and Amber Rudd) that a failure to keep the uplift in place would 'damage living standards, health and opportunities for those that need our support most as we emerge from the pandemic, and that the extra £20 has been essential in allowing people to live with dignity.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to request that the uplift be incorporated permanently into Universal Credit.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor McKeon -

On Sunday September 5, Bolton people will have an opportunity to take part in a memorial walk to

remember the events of Sunday September 6 1896 when around 10,000 Bolton folk walked up Halliwell Rd, Smithills Dean and Coalpit Lane over the fields to Winter Hill and down into Belmont. They walked to reclaim a right of way closed by local landowner Col Ainsworth.

This Council commends the march to the people of Bolton and congratulates the organisers and their sponsors, Bolton Socialist Club, The Ramblers, The Woodland Trust and Bolton@Home.

The Council is also mindful, in our own times, of the need to protect open space and access to it. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 introduced a provision for a cut off of January 1 2026 for the registering of historic rights of way. The Ramblers have been undertaking surveys of public rights of way throughout England and Wales in an attempt to identify what they believe to be public rights of way that have not been included in the Definitive Map. The Ramblers 'Don't Lose Your Way' campaign tries to identify these paths. The Council expresses support for this campaign and commits its Public Rights of Way Team, albeit with its limited resources, to offer advice and support to volunteers who may be involved in this task locally. We owe it to our forebears, the working class walkers to Winter Hill, whose recognition of the importance of the accessibility of the countryside continues to be an inspiration.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Donaghy –

Following a 'call in' by the Labour Group on the decision to close Harvey Nursery, the issue finally came to a meeting of the Council on the 13th January 2021, when a resolution to refer the decision back to Executive Cabinet Member with a reference to exploring financial options, was passed by a majority of members.

Despite the fact that over 6 months later, no report has been taken to the Executive Cabinet Member, Council takes hope from the fact that the Conservative Group has not ignored the wishes of Council and gone ahead with closure, to date. (Council cites other called-in items that that were subsequently implemented against the wishes of the majority of the Council).

In view of this, and in view of the fact that the nursery is still operating (we understand with an increased attendance), Council resolves to ask the Executive Cabinet Member to consider a report as soon as possible that will inform her of:

- a. Additional work that has been carried out since January that aims to address the finances of the nursery.
- b. What new advertising strategies the council have explored and put in place in order to directly promote the nursery to town centre employers, the University and other local organisations in the catchment area.

Council commits itself yet again to Harvey Nursery being continued to be supported by the Council in every way possible to maintain its future sustainability and to the fact that unless these crucial pieces of work are carried out, the nursery could again go into decline, with a subsequent future report to the Executive Cabinet Member for again recommending closure.

- (d) Motion in the name of Councillor Silvester –

This Council believes that planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes.

This Council strongly disagrees with and criticises the Conservative Government's proposals to take

away planning decisions from this Council and hand them to development boards appointed by Ministers in Whitehall. These new quangos are proposed to help zone areas for development. Residents living in areas zoned for growth would find that they no longer have an automatic right to object to individual planning applications on their own doorsteps; no right to object to oversized blocks at the end of the street; no right to object to concreting over precious green space, and no right to object to new developments that overburden local infrastructure such as roads, doctors' surgeries, schools or public transport.

This Council opposes such changes proposed by the Conservative Government and therefore calls upon the Secretary of State for Housing to protect the right of residents throughout the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton to object to individual planning applications.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Haworth –

The Council is extremely concerned that there is a government consultation in England on a plan to move the qualifying age for free prescriptions in England from 60 to 66 years of age. Subsequently, thousands of 60 to 66 year olds in the Bolton Borough, in receipt of prescriptions for medicines and health care products, would be affected by this change.

The pandemic has impacted health inequalities and wellbeing and it is imperative to avoid changes that will impact people's lives negatively going forward. If implemented, this charge of people from 60 to 66 years for prescriptions for physical and mental health needs in Bolton could easily roll back progress made in the start to tackling health inequalities and increasing wellbeing here.

We ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister for Public Health and the Minister for Mental Health, outlining the Council's concern that the raising of prescription charges on people of 60 to 66 years of age in England will have a marked effect on already problematic health inequalities in the Bolton Borough.

We also call on our local Members of Parliament to support the Council motion and reject the plan to have 60 to 66 year olds pay prescription charges.
Ends



TONY OAKMAN
Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

18th August, 2021

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 14th June to 27th July, 2021, together with the Audit Committee, are included for information only in a separate volume.