

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, 7th December, 2011 at 7.00pm 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 19th October, 2011. (Section A).

2. Constitution

Motion to be moved by Councillor Morris:-

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

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:

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Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulations 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)

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

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)

8. Area Forums

To receive and consider the proceedings of the undermentioned 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

9. Motions under Standing Order No. 4

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

Council notes that the Localism Act has now received Royal Assent, and that the parts which allow Councils to abandon the current Executive arrangements and return to a Committee Structure will become effective in April 2012.

Council recalls and reaffirms its resolution made on 20th October 2010 relating to a committee style of governance. Council also reaffirms its commitment made on 23rd February 2011 “to fully evaluate and consider” a number of potential savings including “return to a slimmed down Committee System”, and accordingly asks the Chief Executive to bring appropriate reports to a meeting of a Policy Development Group as a matter of urgency.

The timescale should be designed to allow the appropriate resolution to be debated at the first meeting of the Council after the relevant part of the Act comes into effect. If approved by Council, this would allow the process to start promptly and any savings to be made at the earliest possible time.

(b) Motion to be moved by Councillor Mrs. Swarbrick:-

Council welcomes the recent Government announcement which gives details of an extension to the Early Intervention Grant.

It is estimated that this initiative will benefit 140,000 two year olds nationally, of which 1,000 will be Bolton children, enabling them to receive free early years education.

(c) Motion to be moved by Councillor Morgan :-

That this Council places on record our sincere thanks to the people of the Borough for their show of support of our armed forces and their families, both past and present, during the recent Armistice and Remembrance Day Services.

It was uplifting to see some many of our residents along with serving soldiers from the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and their families, our old soldiers and veterans, the young men and women of our cadet forces along with the children from our schools paying their respects.

Bolton has a proud military heritage and we will not forget those that have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our town and country.

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

This Council recognises the importance of Bolton town centre and its long term economic viability.

In welcoming the recent limited and minor concessions for free parking the Council does not believe this is sufficient to overcome the perceptions of an expensive and over-zealous parking regime in Bolton and is disappointed that the Leader of the Council in making his announcement did not accept the Conservative proposals which included:-

A suspension of street parking charges after say 3.00pm every day;

Free parking on car parks at a similar time whilst recognising this would need the support of the car park operators under the terms of the agreement between the Council and the operators;

Free or very low price parking at weekends whilst accepting the current free street parking arrangements on Sundays; and

The opening up of surface level car parks recently closed, again recognising that this would need the support of the car park operators under the terms of the agreement between the Council and the operators and that there might be a small cost in staffing.

Accordingly, Council resolves through the appropriate PDG to consider all these and any other measures to plan car parking schemes along with any other proposals to promote Bolton Town centre for Christmas 2012 much earlier and not as knee jerk reaction as was the case in 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'S. R. Harriss'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

SEAN HARRISS
Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

29th November, 2011.

The proceedings of the Executive and Executive Member Portfolio meetings from 25th October, 2011 to 23rd November, 2011 are included for information only in a separate volume, together with the minutes of the meeting of the Constitutional Panel.