

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, 6th September, 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 meeting of the Council held on 26th July, 2023 (Section A).

2. Constitution

(a) Motion to be moved by Councillor Peel –

That the proposed changes to Standing Orders Relating to Proceedings of the Council (and other formal meetings) 2023/2024, as now circulated, be approved.

(b) Motion to be moved by Councillor Peel –

That the proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation 2023/2024, as now circulated, be approved.

3. Recommendation to Council

Motion be moved by Councillor Silvester –

That a Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise decisions of the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee and the Clean Air Administration Committee, as detailed in the report now circulated, be established.

- 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 Committee Proceedings**

To approve the proceedings of the following Scrutiny Committees:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

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

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)

- 9. Motions under Standing Order No.4**

- (a) Motion in the name of Councillor Warren –**

Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence. Victims of domestic violence come from all walks of life, varying age groups, all backgrounds, all economic levels, all cultures, all ethnicities, all abilities and all lifestyles. 1 in 4 woman and 1 in 6

men experience domestic abuse and around a million children are affected in the UK.

Ask ANI (Action Needed Immediately) is a codeword scheme that enables victims of domestic abuse to discreetly ask for help in participating pharmacies, job centres and banks.

When a victim uses the code word they are taken to a safe space and assisted to contact the police, a domestic abuse helpline, a family friend or family member or even a solicitor.

Launched in Jan 2021 Over 5000 organisations have signed up to the Ask for ANI, safe spaces campaign and many individuals have been helped and assisted to stay safe. Within Bolton all of the Boots Pharmacies have signed up to the scheme however this means large areas of the Borough currently have no safe spaces.

This council has a strong history of supporting Domestic abuse victims in the borough and has strong working partnerships through the domestic abuse and partnership board.

I request that the council works in partnership with UK Says No More and creates safe spaces in council assets such as Libraries, Schools, Community Centres and Start Well Centres and also work with the many partnerships boards in the town to create as many safe places as possible.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Grant –

Council writes to Michael Gove MP, Secretary of state for levelling up Housing and communities in relation to the planning inspector's decision to allow an advertisement within a conservation area contrary to NPPF section 16 sections 189 to 208.

Recently a government inspector (Elaine Moulton) overturned Bolton Councils planning officers over the erection of an internally illuminated sign in a conservation area in Horwich ref: App/N4205/23/3316435. Both the NPPF and local plans put emphasis on not only preserving conservation areas but enhancing them.

In the past due to lack of challenge a few have been permitted however to stop the over proliferation and eventual eradication of these horrendous signs we needed to inspector to focus on enhancement which she does not refer to in her report.

This decision has serious ramifications not only for Horwich, Blackrod and the other Towns of Bolton but every historic town in our country who wish to protect their heritage and culture and historical distinctiveness. We believe this decision should have been "called in" on the basis of its national significance that this precedence sets.

We therefore write to ask that the secretary of state for levelling up Housing and communities to acknowledge Bolton Councils disappointment and to look at this decision and offer guidance in such circumstances to officers of the planning inspectorate over the importance of conservation areas to local communities possibly with a view to reviewing national guidance to correctly weight the significance of local historical classifications in their towns.

Currently members only get an appeals decision notice so Council will require that the planning department regularly informs ward members of any application that has been appealed so they may make representations to the inspectorate.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Meehan –

It is essential for Bolton Council to promote an inclusive and respectful community, free from discrimination and prejudice; and

Anti-Semitism remains a persistent and concerning issue that requires a proactive approach in combating it on a global scale; and

Whereas, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has established a working definition of anti-Semitism that has been widely accepted, providing a valuable framework for identifying and addressing anti-Semitic acts in all their forms; and

Whereas, adopting this internationally recognized definition would reinforce the council's commitment to combating anti-Semitism and creating a safe environment for all residents; and

Whereas, by adopting this definition, Bolton Council demonstrates its dedication to eradicating bigotry and discrimination, fostering a culture of understanding and acceptance;

Be it resolved that Bolton Council hereby adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of anti-Semitism as follows:

"Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

This definition should be accompanied by the following examples, which are provided by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance:

- Making derogatory or offensive remarks about Jews or Judaism, including Holocaust denial and conspiracy theories relating to Jewish people.
- Engaging in stereotypes, myths, or negative generalizations about Jews.
- Accusing Jews as a people, or Israel, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Denying Jews their right to self-determination by claiming that the existence of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the State of Israel.

Furthermore, Bolton Council commits to raising awareness about this definition and to incorporate it into our existing policies and procedures.

By adopting this definition, Bolton Council sends a strong message that it stands united against anti-Semitism, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring a diverse, inclusive, and respectful community.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel –

Islamophobia is the fear of, hatred of, or prejudice against the religion of Islam or Muslims in general especially when seen as a geopolitical force or a source of terrorism. Anti-Semitism is anti-Jewish prejudice, discrimination, hatred, hostility, violence, or oppression.

These two issues continue to be in the news headlines for one reason or the other. Some people have tried to use these as political tools for the wrong reasons however we cannot deny the fact that both of these phenomenon have one thing in common. They almost certainly result in discriminatory practices which manifest themselves as disempowerment, low self-esteem and self-confidence, marginalisation, restricted

opportunities, unemployment, lack of social cohesion, negative behaviours such as violence or criminality and loss of rights for Muslims and Jewish people which is not acceptable at all.

Over the years there have been quite a lot of debate and research into the two topics.

In 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Plenary defined the Antisemitism as follows:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

In 2019, the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims proposed the following definition: “Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.”

This Council believes that Islamophobia and Antisemitism have no place in British society. If we are to be a truly anti-racist borough, we must root out Islamophobia and Antisemitism from our borough with serious commitment.

This Council therefore fully adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Anti-Semitism and the definition of Islamophobia by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG).

- (e) Motion in the name of Councillors Cox, Hayes, Grant and Sanders -

Council is aware of reports circulating on social media that the Mayor, on behalf of Bolton, has

signed a Town Twinning agreement with Khuerta in Kashmir. Apparently, he has visited Khuerta in the company of Councillors N Ayub and Khurram in what was viewed in Khuerta as an official delegation.

Council considers that this is not a good example of openness or transparency.

Council demands an explanation from the Chief Executive or the Leader of the Council to clarify:

- What was the status of this visit;
- Were any Council resources used to fund this visit;
- What agreement, if any has been made between Bolton and Khuerta; and
- Why no discussion was held with other parties represented on the Council.

Council resolves that until it receives full details of what is contained in the agreement and has an opportunity to discuss them, it shall not be considered an official expression of Council views.

Council further resolves that:

- a) any future proposals for Town Twinning or Friendship Agreements involving Bolton should be considered by Full Council before anything is agreed; and
- b) the circumstances of this signing be referred to an early meeting between representatives of all political groups to determine a sensible way forward to implement the content and spirit of this Motion.

S. Johnson

SUE JOHNSON
Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

30th August, 2023

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet
Member Portfolio meetings from 18th July to 16th August, 2023
are included for information only in a separate volume.