

BOLTON COUNCIL

Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held via Microsoft Teams Live Event on Wednesday next, 15th July, 2020 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 19th February (Section A) and 20th May, 2020 (Section B).

2. Constitution

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Greenhalgh –

To approve amendments to the Constitution of the Council (including changes in respect of Standing Orders Relating to Contracts, the Council's Scheme of Delegation and the Scrutiny Procedure Rules) as circulated.

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:-

Planning Committee (See Section C)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee
(See Section D)

7. Scrutiny Committees

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

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)

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

Joint Meeting of the Place and Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)

8. Items referred to Council from Scrutiny Committee

To consider any motions referred to Council by a Scrutiny Committee.

- (a) Motion in the name of Councillor Sherrington regarding agenda item 6 of the Joint Place and Health Overview and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee held on 29th January, 2020 –

This motion is to call in the community meals and catering service review.

This Committee agrees to refer the decision to full Council with a recommendation to reconsider its decision.

- (b) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel regarding agenda item 5 of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 17th February, 2020 –

That the Council request that the Cabinet Member rescind his decision to scrap the free parking initiative in Bolton town centre. Council notes that since 2013, when the scheme was introduced, shoppers and visitors to the town centre had increased hugely. Council therefore requests that a task and finish Policy Development Group be established that would examine the economic

consequences on the retail sector, that charging would cause.

9. Motions under Standing Order No.4

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Pattison –

People across the UK are living a nightmare, rising floodwaters are forcing people to abandon their homes, and are turning lives upside down.

So far this government has failed to tackle the scale of this crisis and Boris Johnson has come under fire from countless MP's, local councils and scientists who all say the government is not doing enough.

On 9th February, 2020, devastating floods once again hit homes on Riverside Drive, Prestolee, Kearsley. This being only 4 years after the Boxing Day floods, which the Environment Agency told the community were a 'once in one hundred years occurrence'.

Therefore, this council will write to the government Environment Minister to insist that the Environment Agency urgently brings forward money and plans to prevent future flooding at Prestolee, Stoneclough and Ringley.

(b) Motion in name of Councillor Sherrington –

This Council commits itself to immediately support and sign up to the 'Care Workers Vs Covid 19' campaign and asks that the Leader of the Council take steps to ensure that this publicly happens.

Council notes that other councils such as Manchester, Salford, Oldham Trafford and Tameside (among others) have already signed up to the campaign.

Council notes that the campaign calls for urgent action to be taken by councils and other organisations to protect vital care workers, the elderly and those most at risk to the spread of Covid 19.

Council notes that the aims of the campaign are:

1. Protect Health – Priority testing for care workers to limit the spread of disease to vulnerable patients and service users. Guarantee all essential training and personal protection equipment (PPE) to all frontline workers (e.g. goggles, masks, hand sanitisers, thermometers) in line with Public Health England guidance.
2. Protect Pay – Full normal pay for all those required by government guidance to self-isolate or who become ill because of COVID-19, in order to prevent unnecessary spread of infection. This includes all staff on zero-hour contracts, bank/relief contracts or multiple contracts.
3. Protect Employment – Ensure no-one is dismissed or laid-off for staying at home to care for themselves or their family. Absence due to COVID-19 should be excluded from absence management triggers.
4. Protect Families – Carers leave on full-pay for workers caring for a dependent who has COVID-19 or for whom childcare is unavailable.

Council agrees with all of these aims, and will do everything in its power to fulfil them.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Wilkinson –

Council will be aware of the recent franchise changes to the Northern Rail franchise and the decision of the Secretary of State and Government

to bring Northern in as part of the operator of last resort which means that Northern is virtually a nationalised railway operator.

During the Covid emergency members may be aware that TOCs under the franchise system have been operating under emergency management contracts provided by the Government virtually to nationalise the railway system by the back door.

Council urges Government as part of the reconsideration of the emergency management contract and the future of franchises across the country to reconsider the nature of rail services and a sensible structure to the railways.

Council also calls on Government to give greater opportunities for local communities to become involved in the provision of railways with more support for TfGM and Rail North.

Council further calls upon Government to give greater investment in the physical infrastructure of the railway system across the North of England to meet the aspirations of improving the north and 'levelling up.'

Council also calls on Government to take the opportunity to improve the condition of railway stock and passengers' railway journeys by ordering new trains to replace stock over 30 years old.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Silvester –

Council notes that the Building Safety Fund, announced in the March budget, is inadequate to deal with fire safety issues across over 10,000 high rise residential buildings.

Council notes that the registration prospectus, published at the end of May 2020, would leave the majority of buildings, including the Cube in Bolton,

without financial support, and agrees with the concerns expressed by Parliamentary Committees and the National Audit Office.

Council notes that it is now over 3 years since the tragic Grenfell fire, but that the Government must do all in its power to ensure that a repeat of this terrible tragedy should never happen again.

Council therefore calls upon the Government to:

- increase the funding pot and widen the criteria, so that all at risk buildings can be covered, including retrospective payments where work has already been carried out.
- include the remediation of additional fire safety defects, as well as external cladding.
- introduce a complete ban on combustible cladding on ALL buildings - regardless of height

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Veevers –

Council recognises that the anti-social or thoughtless use of fireworks can cause anxiety, alarm and distress to vulnerable people as well as anxiety, distress or death to animals. The RSPCA has recently said that the law is failing.

Accordingly, Council resolves to:

- Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people, including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks, such as purchasing quieter fireworks;
- Ensure all public firework displays within Bolton borough are advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for people in their care and pets;

- Encourage retailers of fireworks to separate 'quieter' fireworks from the louder ones so people can choose which ones they prefer with animal and people safety in mind; and
- Encourage retailers to apply the Challenge 25 scheme to the sale of fireworks in Bolton borough, so that those over 18 but who look under 25 have to show photo ID, as needed when they want to buy alcohol.

(f) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel –

This Council condemns the decision by the Cabinet on the 13th January 2019, to proceed as planned with the scrapping of targeted Neighbourhood Management Funding.

Council notes that part of the decision by cabinet was to ignore the serious concerns outlined in the Equality Impact Assessment that highlighted the negative effect this decision would have in areas of greatest socio economic disadvantage.

Council further condemns the fact that this decision has been made by a minority Conservative administration against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of councillors who made it clear at a previous council meeting that this decision should not be made.

Council therefore reaffirms its commitment to the principal of 'narrowing the gap' and that targeted funding to geographical areas of deprivation in the borough should be at the centre of the forthcoming review.

(g) Motion in the name of Councillor Haworth –

This Council is extremely concerned about the report, 'Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review Ten Years On', which describes health

inequalities that have more public awareness and are brought into sharp focus in the Covid 19 pandemic.

The report summarises that there is no biological reason for stalling life expectancy and widening health inequalities and that this has been a decade of deteriorating health. Many matters reported on are pertinent to Bolton which has a ten year difference in life expectancy between some council wards.

Therefore this Council resolves;

To learn from and make full use of pertaining to local government, the Health Equity Report 2020.

To prioritise action that will bear down on health inequalities in the Bolton Borough.

To place a high priority on the council services, like housing and child early years, in the work of the Council to improve disadvantaged people's lives.

In addition, in all opportunities that arise, the Cabinet seek to gain any additional funding for the Council to assist with the work.

(h) Motion in the name of Councillor Sherrington –

This Council recognises and applauds the vital work that is being carried out by frontline care workers across Bolton, during the Covid 19 pandemic, looking after and protecting some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Council is resolute in its view that decent care work cannot be done on the cheap, and that the Government should challenge the culture of low paid staff who often feel undervalued, by leading a new national strategy in investment in pay, training and support.

Council therefore calls upon the Government to invest £1.4 billion into care workers pay, meaning that these staff who serve a vital function in society receive a 'real Living Wage' of £9.30 per hour, outside of London and £10.75 in London.



TONY OAKMAN
Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

8th July, 2020

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 10th February, 2020 to 30th June, 2020 are included for information only in a separate volume together with Chief Officers Appointments Panel and Constitutional Panel.

