

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2006/2007

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

6TH SEPTEMBER, 2006

Present - Councillors Hall (The Mayor), White (Deputy Mayor), Adia, Allen, Ashcroft, Ayub, Ball, Bashir-Ismail, Mrs. Brierley, P. Brierley, Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Clare, Connell, Cox, Critchley, Darvesh, Dennis, Mrs. Fairclough, Gradwell, Greenhalgh, Hayes, Higson, Hollick, Hornby, Hussain, Idrees, Kay, Lever, Morgan, Peel, Rock, Mrs. Ronson, R. Ronson, J. Rothwell, Mrs. Rothwell, Rushton, Shaw, Sherrington, J. Silvester, R. Silvester, Spencer, Stones, Mrs. Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, A.S. Walsh, J. Walsh, A. Wilkinson, David Wilkinson, R. Wilkinson, Williamson and Zaman.

28. PETITION

A petition concerning Shepherd Cross Street Gates was presented to Council and referred to the Executive Member for Development.

29. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on the 19th July, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

30. CONSTITUTION

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Councillor Peel and approved –

That the quarterly report on Executive Decisions made under the special urgency provisions of the Access to Information Regulations 2000 be noted.

31. POLICY FRAMEWORK

It was moved by Councillor Peel, seconded by Councillor Clare and approved –

That the Food Service Plan, as circulated to Members, be approved.

32. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Peel, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and approved –

That the following appointments and changes in membership be approved:-

	1.	Councillor Greenhalgh to replace Councillor Mrs Fairclough on the Access to GP Services Scrutiny Panel.
	2.	That Councillor Williamson replace Councillor Ibrahim on Planning and Highways Committee, Councillor Ibrahim to be Councillor Williamson's deputy.
	3.	That Councillor R. Wilkinson replace Councillor Higson as deputy for Councillor J. Walsh on the Planning and Highways Committee.
	4.	That Councillor Sherrington replace Councillor Kay on Bolton Schools Forums
	5.	That the membership of the Road Safety Issues Scrutiny Panel be Councillors Allen, Hayes, Peel, R Silvester, R Wilkinson and Williamson.
	6.	That the membership of the Children Leaving Care Scrutiny Panel be Councillors Bashir-Ismail, Mrs Brierley, Connell, Cox, Mrs Rothwell and Woodward.

	7.	That Councillor L Byrne replace Councillor Peel on the Access to Council Services Scrutiny Panel
	8.	That Councillor Ashcroft replace Councillor Critchley on the Local Government Association Urban Commission.

33. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)

The following questions were asked under Standing Order 9(a):-

- (i) by Councillor Williamson relating to Higher Swan Lane;
- (ii) by Councillor Hornby relating to weekly bin collections
- (iii) by Councillor J. Walsh relating to Smithills Hall;
- (iv) by Councillor J. Walsh relating to the Lettings Policy;
- (v) by Councillor Idrees relating to prostitution;
- (vi) by Councillor Hussain relating to petitions;
- (vii) by Councillor Lever relating to Bolton Arena;
- (viii) by Councillor Lever relating to broadcasting Council meetings;
- (ix) by Councillor Lever relating to the Planning Improvement Members Group;
- (x) by Councillor David Wilkinson relating to the Planning Improvement Members Group;
- (xi) by Councillor David Wilkinson relating to training on housing matters;
- (xii) by Councillor David Wilkinson relating to training for planning members;
- (xiii) by Councillor David Wilkinson relating to disabled facilities grant;

- (xiv) by Councillor Mrs. Ronson relating to consultants and agency staff;
- (xv) by Councillor Cox relating to foster carers;
- (xvi) by Councillor Cox relating to tuition fees; and
- (xvii) by Councillor R. Silvester relating to recycling.

The Executive Member for Regeneration replied to questions (i), (iv) and (xi), the Executive Member for Recycling and Waste Management replied to questions (ii) and (xvii), the Executive Member for Development replied to questions (vii), (ix), (x) and (xii) the Executive Member for Adults Social Care and Health replied to questions (iii), (v) and (xiii) and the Executive Member for Children's Services replied to questions (vi), (viii), (xiv) (xv) and (xvi).

34. PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Peel, seconded by Councillor Critchley and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Planning and Highways Committee held on 20th and 27th July, 10th and 24th August, 2006 be approved.

35. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough, seconded by Councillor Morgan and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 18th July, 2006 be approved.

36. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Shaw and seconded by Councillor Hollick -

That the minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be approved:-

Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee held on 21st August, 2006

Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 14th August, 2006

Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee held on 16th August, 2006

Adult Services Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd August, 2006

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 17th August, 2006

and the minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1st August, 2006 be noted

Whereupon as an amendment relating to the minutes of the Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee, Minute No. 16 relating to travellers, it was moved by Councillor Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Allen that the following additional recommendation be added -

- (ii) That this Council recognises the problems caused by travellers and determines to establish a task and finish Scrutiny Panel, consisting of members from the Development and Regeneration, Environment and Adult Services Scrutiny Committees, charged with the task of producing, for consideration at the next meeting of this Council, a submission to the North West Regional Assembly Review

During the ensuring discussion Councillor Ashcroft agreed to withdraw his amendment whereupon the original motion was put to the vote and agreed.

37. REFERRED ITEM

The following decision of the Executive Member for Environmental Services was referred to Council by the Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee:

‘That the proposed increase in charges, as set out in the report, be approved.’

Councillor J. Walsh submitted the following recommendation:-

That the matter be referred back to the Executive Member with the comment that the timing is inappropriate given the future developments in the town centre and that the meetings of the Parking Policy Development Group have not been held.

Upon being put to the vote, the voting was as follows:-

For the recommendation (19):

Councillors Allen, Ashcroft, Mrs. Brierley, P. Brierley, Critchley, Mrs. Fairclough, Greenhalgh, Higson, Hollick, Hussain, Idrees, Lever, Morgan, Rushton, Shaw, A.S. Walsh, J. Walsh, A. Wilkinson and R. Wilkinson.

Against the recommendation (33):

Councillors Adia, Ayub, Ball, Bashir-Ismail, Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Clare, Connell, Cox, Darvesh, Dennis, Gradwell, Hayes, Hornby, Kay, Peel, Rock, Mrs. Ronson, R Ronson, J. Rothwell, Mrs. Rothwell, Sherrington, J. Silvester, R. Silvester, Spencer, Stones, Mrs. Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, White, David Wilkinson, Williamson and Zaman.

Whereupon the recommendation was declared not approved and the decision of the Executive Member was noted.

38. CONSTITUTIONAL PANEL

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Thomas seconded by Councillor Rushton and resolved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Constitutional Panel held 1st September, 2006 be noted for information only.

**39. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 -
IDENTITY CARDS ACT 2006**

It was moved by Councillor R. Silvester and seconded by
Councillor Gradwell -

That this Council believes that the Identity Cards Act 2006
will be expensive, intrusive and ineffective and that it will
have an impact upon all of the people of Bolton
Metropolitan Borough.

That this Council also believes:-

- (1) the proposed scheme may well impose costs on the
Council itself in terms of ensuring compatibility of
operations;
- (2) the cost to each individual will be over £90 to obtain
one of the new combined ID Cards and passports;
- (3) the London School of Economics estimated the cost
of the Identity Cards Scheme could be as high as £20
billion - three times government estimates. The LSE
put the lowest cost to each individual at £170, and is
more likely to be £300;
- (4) the ID Card and Database will fundamentally alter the
relationship between the state and the individual -
each individual will have a mandatory responsibility
for updating their personal details with the state and
failure to do so could lead to a fine; and
- (5) the money that the ID Cards Scheme and database
will cost would be better spent on the strengthening of
the Police, the Security Services and a National
Border Police force.

That this Council resolves to:-

- (A) take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in
relation to the introduction of National Identity Cards;

- (B) ensure that National Identify Cards will not be required to access Council services or benefits unless specifically required to do so by an Act of Parliament; and
- (C) only co-operate with the National Identify Card scheme where to do so would otherwise be unlawful.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

**40. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 -
PAYMENT OF TELEVISION LICENCES AT POST
OFFICERS**

It was moved by Councillor R. Ronson and seconded by
Councillor David Wilkinson -

That this Council condemns the actions of the Labour Government in taking away the opportunity for people to pay for their television licences at Post Offices in the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton

This Council believes that this is further evidence of the total lack of support for the Post Office network by successive Governments, leading to many Post Office closures in the Bolton Borough. This Council accordingly calls upon the Government to re-instate the ability for customers to pay for television licences at Post Offices.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.10p.m.)