

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2020/2021

17th MARCH 2021

Present - Councillors Mrs. Thomas (Mayor), Mrs. Fairclough (Deputy Mayor), Abdullah, Adia, Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunningham, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, J. Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

65. PETITION

A petition was received relating to the installation of pedestrian controlled lights on Thicketford Road at the junction between Thicketford Road and Crompton Way and was referred to the Director of Place.

66. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 17th February 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

67. SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS

It was moved by Councillor Greenhalgh, seconded by Councillor Cox and agreed –

That it be noted that no decisions under the special urgency provisions had been taken this quarter.

68. SCHEME OF DELEGATION

It was moved by Councillor Greenhalgh and seconded by Councillor Cox and agreed –

That the amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation for 2020/2021, as circulated, be approved.

69. RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES REGARDING CLEAN AIR

It was moved by Councillor Greenhalgh and seconded by Councillor Cox -

- (1) Agree to the establishment of joint committees and to delegate to those committees the Authority's functions as set out in the report to the Cabinet on 8th March, 2021 regarding Clean Air ('the Report') at paragraph 8.5 and the terms of reference as set out in Appendix 6 to the report;
- (2) Agree to appoint the Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Service Delivery to sit on both committees for purposes as set out in the Report at paragraph 8.5 with specific terms of reference as set out in Appendix 6 to the report; and
- (3) Agree to appoint the Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services as substitute for both committees for purposes as set out in the Report at paragraph 8.5 with specific terms of reference as set out in Appendix 6 to the Report.

The motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 55 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunningham, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Haworth,

Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ibrahim, Ismail, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

70. RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – NEW JOINT COMMITTEE REGARDING A JOINT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

It was moved by Councillor Greenhalgh and seconded by Councillor Cox -

- (1) Approve a new joint committee under Part VI of the Local Government Act 1972 along with Bury Council, Manchester City Council, Oldham Council, Rochdale Borough Council, Salford Council, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Trafford Borough Council and Wigan Council;
- (2) Delegate authority to the joint committee to prepare, adopt and implement a joint development plan document to cover strategic policies including housing and employment land requirements and, as appropriate, strategic site allocations and Green Belt boundary amendments and associated infrastructure across the nine districts insofar as such matters are executive functions;
- (3) Agree the district lead Member for the joint committee (Councillor Hewitt) and a nominated deputy (Councillor Cox) to attend and vote as necessary

The motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 55 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunningham, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ibrahim, Ismail, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

71. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Dean, seconded by Councillor Khurram and agreed –

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

1. That Councillor Walsh be appointed to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund in place of Councillor Parkinson; and
2. That Councillor Zaman replace Councillor Ayub on the Education Assistance Panel

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

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

- (i) by Councillor Hornby relating to leaving the European Union

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The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor Evans relating to road surfacing on Park Road, Little Lever

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor Peel relating to a cycle lane on Chorley New Road

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (iv) by Councillor Murray relating to CSE Training for Members

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor McKeon relating to Licensing Sub-Committees

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Regulatory Services replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Donaghy relating to Neighbourhood Management Spend

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (vii) by Councillor Gibbon relating to land off Park Road in Little Lever

The Executive Cabinet Member – Deputy Leader replied to this question.

- (viii) by Councillor Dean relating to giving thanks to traders and staff at Bolton Market

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Regulatory Services replied to this question.

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- (ix) by Councillor Connor relating to vaccination centres

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (x) by Councillor Veevers relating to Barrow Bridge Road

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

- (xi) by Councillor McGeown relating to the Bin Collection Service

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor Hayes relating to an action plan in relation to policing

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xiii) by Councillor Wilkinson relating to the Government's Towns Fund

The Executive Cabinet Member – Deputy Leader replied to this question.

- (xiv) by Councillor Wilkinson relating to the delegation of decisions to officers

The Chairman of the Planning Committee replied to this question.

- (xv) by Councillor Newall relating to the extension of Speedwatch

The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities replied to this question.

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- (xvi) by Councillor Hayes in relation to funding cuts

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xvii) by Councillor Newall relating to Reclaim the Night vigils

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xviii) by Councillor Cunningham relating to The Royal Bolton Hospital

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (xix) by Councillor Ismail relating to Genocide, Torture and Human Rights

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xx) by Councillor Eckersley-Fallon relating to the A6 and Chorley New Road cycle lanes

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

- (xxi) by Councillor Cunningham relating to the train service for Kearsley

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

- (xxii) by Councillor Brady relating to 577 Blackrod, Horwich, Middlebrook, Ladybridge, Bolton bus service

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

- (xxiii) by Councillor Silvester relating to uploading Council meetings

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

(xxiv) by Councillor Cunningham relating to flooding at Prestolee

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

73. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(c)

The following question was asked under Standing Order 9(c) by Councillor McGeown relating to police numbers and the Spokesperson for Greater Manchester Police replied to this question.

74. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Ayub and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held 18th February and 4th March 2021 be approved.

75. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Silvester, seconded by Councillor Hornby and agreed –

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

Place Scrutiny Committee – 23rd February 2021

Joint meeting of Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee and Place Scrutiny Committee – 2nd March 2021

Councillor Wilkinson made a comment in respect of minute 27 of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 23rd February, 2021.

76. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – COUNCIL FINANCES

It was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Zaman -

Council notes that Bolton has suffered 10 years of swinging cuts, under the guise of austerity, that despite promises from successive Prime Ministers that austerity was “over”, that the cuts and subsequent damage to council services continued.

Council believes that the impact of the years of cuts has left this council exposed and vulnerable to an unforeseen crisis, and that our resilience to deal with such a crisis has been damaged. The “perfect storm” of the Covid Pandemic has now led to council finances being stretched to such an extent, that further heavy cuts will cause damage beyond repair for the foreseeable future.

Council notes that Covid related costs, both in year, and projected to future years are considerable, both in terms of loss in income, loss of projected future income, and additional demands of services, and cannot be easily quantified in the proposed 2021/23 budget.

Council notes that at the start of the Covid crisis, the Government promised to do all that it can to assist local councils and said that no local council would be out of pocket. Council now concludes that the Government has fundamentally failed to keep its promises and has failed the people of Bolton.

Council believes that the actions of the Government, in turning a blind eye, to the financial crisis in local government across the country is a dereliction of duty, and that in forcing elected members to a position of making

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over £35 million pounds of cuts to staff and services in a single financial year is immoral and wrong.

Council believes that the £3 million of additional Government resources for our council services is nothing short of an insult.

Council notes that a motion calling for the Government to assist Bolton Council budget setting, by allowing deficit budgets to be passed for a period of time, thus spreading the pain over several years, whilst allowing for the economy and therefore income levels at the council to improve, was passed unanimously. However, council is extremely disappointed that despite lobbying on this 'part solution' to the crisis, the Government has failed to formally respond to this motion.

Council maintains its position that the stringent and pedantic controls that central Government has placed on local councils requiring them to always set a balanced budget, even in times of a national crisis, are no longer fit for purpose, and that the Government needs to take urgent action to reform these strict rules.

Council, therefore regards the financial parameters around the 2021/23 budget to be wholly false, misleading and short term in their nature, and that a long term financial settlement, that allows

- (A) additional Government funding, and
- (B) the ability to plan properly for the future, by allowing for deficit budgeting.

is the only viable solution to Bolton Councils financial problems.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 34 viz:

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Councillors Adia, Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Darvesh, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hornby, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Newall, Pattison, Peel, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Weatherby, Wilkinson and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 21 viz:

Councillors Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunningham, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hewitt, Morgan, Muslim, Parkinson, Radcliffe, Walsh, Warren, Watters and Wright.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

At this point, the Mayor advised that as the meeting had gone past the time limit of 10.30 p.m. the following Motions under Standing Order 4 would be deferred to the next meeting of the Council, viz:-

- Care Workers Pay;
- Community Speed Watch Initiatives;
- Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill; and
- Action Plan for Greater Manchester Police.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.40 p.m.)

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NOTES