

## Meeting of the Council 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Order Of Business

# Bolton Council

1. Prayers
2. Mayor's Communications (if any)
3. To receive a petition requesting that Bolton Council assess, and where necessary fix, potholes in roads in the area bounded by Mornington Road, Lonsdale Road, Back Hastings Road and Harrow Road
4. Declarations of Interests.
5. Proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

*Motions, amendments and questions of which notice has been given and items upon which comment will be made*

Date and Time 2021	Page and Item Number	Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment	In the name of	Subject	Motion, Amendment or Question
6. Changes In Committee Membership and Appointments To Other Bodies					
See Appendix A					

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<b>7. Questions/Comments under Standing Order 9(a)</b>					
27 <sup>th</sup> August, 2021 09:42 a.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Cox)	Councillor Hayes	Amendment to the Budget	<p>The Leader will doubtless recall that the Council's budget in February was passed by only six votes and, that it included a very strongly worded amendment proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group. Among other things that amendment expressed the view that Council funding cuts were now causing a risk to the Council's ability to meet even its statutory responsibilities and committed the Council to:</p> <p>'convey this view in the strongest terms to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Association and the Borough's Members of Parliament.'</p> <p>This amendment was approved by the Council, and was supported by the controlling Conservative Group.</p> <p>The Leader will also be aware that it was on the promise of this amendment being supported, together with agreement to scrap the proposed pay cut to staff that persuaded the Liberal Democrat Group to abstain on the amended Motion rather than to vote against the Budget. As it was passed by only six votes our abstention was significant.</p> <p>Despite me having raised this privately and at Council on 17th March and 23rd June it appears that none of these contacts have yet been made.</p>

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					<p>Can the Leader understand why this Group is extremely annoyed about apparently being misled and let down in this way?</p> <p>What actions will he now take to ensure that the will of Council, as expressed on 17th February is carried out?</p>
19 <sup>th</sup> September, 2021 17:40 p.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Cox)	Councillor Heslop	Council Tax Support	<p>It was recently announced that in the borough of Bolton, 9,064 Summons were issued for non-payment of Council Tax in the financial year 2020/2021.</p> <p>The Kearsley ward was in the top half of wards with the most summons with 424 summons being issued.</p> <p>Of course, the consequences of COVID19 may have resulted in the majority of these summons issued in 2020/2021. However, the consequences of the 12.5% top-slicing rule introduced on 1st April 2017 which meant that all working-age Council Tax payers must pay at least 12.5% of their Council Tax irrespective of their income.</p> <p>Evidence obtained suggests that in Kearsley, South Farnworth, Prestolee, Ringley &amp; Stoneclough – the ward of Kearsley - there may be a direct link between top-slicing and the increasing numbers of residents being summonsed and taken through the court system. In addition, it appears that the number of bailiffs sent to homes in the borough - even prior to COVID19 - may also be linked to a Council Tax that many residents are paying out of 'what the law states that you need to live on' or in other words, if they pay the Council Tax, then</p>

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					<p>they are surviving on less than what the law says that they need to live on.</p> <p>The ruling group aims to increase the top-slice to 17.5% for the year 2022/2023.</p> <p>Could the relevant member please provide Members with the following – in respect of the whole borough:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The total number of Summons, liability orders &amp; cases referred to bailiffs in respect of financial year 2016/2017 – before top-slicing was introduced</li> <li>2. The total number of summons, liability orders &amp; cases referred to bailiffs in respect of each of the financial years 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020 – after top-slicing was introduced but before the impact of COVID19</li> <li>3. Could the relevant member also please provide this orally for the benefit of residents of the borough who may be viewing this meeting online, and also email Members these figures for any future debate on this important issue?</li> </ol>
19 <sup>th</sup> September, 2021 18:15 p.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Cox)	Councillor Heslop	Creation of Principal Officer posts	It was noted that from the Agenda of the Executive Cabinet Member Leaders Portfolio held on 13th September 2021, that a Grade I post – Transformation Division - was created at an annual cost of over £50,000pa.

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					Could the Leader confirm to this Council the net number of Grade I Officers and above that have been created since 1st April 2020 along with – using 2021 pay-scales - the annual cost of each of these posts?
19 <sup>th</sup> September, 2021 18:27 p.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader (Councillor Mrs. Fairclough)	Councillor Heslop	Funding of Events/Festivals	<p>On 25th September 2021, Farnworth held its first festival in many years. It was noticeable that Bolton Council's name was not amongst the list of sponsors.</p> <p>In contrast, recent events held in the town of Bolton including the Bolton Film Festival and Bolton Pride have been sponsored by Bolton Council.</p> <p>Could the relevant Executive Cabinet Member confirm the events/festivals held across all the borough in the current calendar year – past and future – and also confirm the cash amount – or cash-equivalent for services if appropriate - that the Council has awarded to the organisations?</p>
22 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2021 18:16 p.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader (Councillor Mrs. Fairclough)	Councillor Hartigan	Food and Drink Festival and Future Events	I am sure the Executive Cabinet Member will join me in thanking all the Bolton team responsible for our fabulous Food and drink festival and agree this puts our town on the map, with this in mind does the cabinet member have any plans to increase the number of similar events in our town.

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1 <sup>st</sup> October, 2021 13:29 p.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Warren)	Councillor Finney	Westhoughton Town Hall Refurbishment	<p>Westhoughton Town Hall is a landmark building in the heart of Westhoughton town centre. Once refurbished, the works will enhance the Market Street building to ensure that it can continue to act as an important base for local services over the years to come.</p> <p>£2 Million was put aside for investment and the Town Hall. I would kindly like to ask, can the Executive Cabinet Member of Regeneration, please give me an update on the progress so far regarding the Town Hall refurbishment, as this is a vitally important scheme for Westhoughton Town Centre and its residents.</p>
2 <sup>nd</sup> October, 2021 19:21 p.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader (Councillor Mrs. Fairclough)	Councillor Veevers	Fireworks	<p>At end of the last year this chamber unanimously passed a motion the I put forward promoting a more considered use of fireworks within the town.</p> <p>The motion proposed a public awareness campaign across the Borough highlighting the real and the potential impact of fireworks on the community, including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.</p> <p>It also sought to ensure that all public firework displays within the Borough are advertised far enough in advance to enable residents to take any necessary precautions to safeguard their pets and minimise anxiety within neighbourhoods particularly for elderly and vulnerable members of society.</p>

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					<p>And thirdly, it suggested that retailers should be asked apply the Challenge 25 scheme to the sale of fireworks in much the same way as it used in the sale of alcohol, and also separating the quieter fireworks from the louder ones, and so providing the consumer with a clear defined choice.</p> <p>Now considering that we are fast approaching the time of year that typically sees a huge spike in the use of fireworks and considering that the motion was passed with the approval of all Councillors present at the time, could the Executive Cabinet Member provide an update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the agreed public awareness campaign</li> <li>b) the steps have been taken to ensure that all public firework displays are advertised in a timely manner</li> <li>c) whether or not have retailers been encouraged to apply the Challenge 25 scheme to the sale of fireworks</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2021 13:20 p.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport (Councillor Haslam)	Councillor Heslop	Remembrance Sunday in Kearsley	<p>Information received by me suggests that ‘in more recent years, the Remembrance Sunday events have been the responsibility of the event organiser, particularly in relation to management of the parade.’</p> <p>The Kearsley Remembrance Sunday Event includes a parade on one of the most significant arterial roads in this borough – namely Bolton Road – the historical road that linked Manchester to Bolton that is still busy even at weekends.</p>

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					<p>It is far from clear whether any formal decision was made to shift the responsibility of traffic management from the Council and/or Police onto the either volunteers or indeed ex-service personnel who have in my opinion given more than enough to this country.</p> <p>Could the relevant Executive Cabinet Member confirm the extent to which both the Council and Police will facilitate the Kearsley Remembrance Sunday Parade including costings either incurred directly by the Council or for which the Council will be billed? In addition, to assure the other outlying towns' residents, could the relevant Member also provide the same details for all of the towns in the borough including the town of Bolton?</p>
3 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2021 16:11 p.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning (Councillor Hewitt)	Councillor Hayes	Performance of the Planning Department	<p>At the last meeting of Council I asked the Executive Cabinet Member a question about the unacceptable performance of the Planning Department.</p> <p>He carefully sidestepped two of the most important parts of the question, so I would like to ask him again:</p> <p>Why have we got the problem – how much is it due to funding cuts? and</p> <p>What is he doing about it?</p>
3 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2021 21:36 p.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery (Councillor Muslim)	Councillor Veevers	Lack of HGV drivers	<p>In September it was widely reported that at least 18 councils have delayed bin collections owing to a lack of HGV drivers necessary to operate recycling and refuse lorries.</p>



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					<p>At roughly the same time, Lancashire County Council announced around 500 schools are now offering a reduced menu to pupils also because of the national driver shortage.</p> <p>A combination of factors, but primarily Brexit and COVID, have exacerbated the problem of a shortfall in driver numbers, and this means that drivers who 2 years ago would typically have earned in the region of £35,000 are being offered salaries as high as £56,000.</p> <p>Consequently, local authorities are haemorrhaging drivers like never before because they cannot possibly hope to match these vastly inflated salaries.</p> <p>Can the Executive Cabinet Member give assurances to the Bolton public that there are no grounds for concern that any of the services offered by the Council that require the use of HGV drivers will not be able to function as normal – and if they cannot function as normal, then what actions are being taken to ensure minimal disruption to essential services such as bin collections, provision of school meals and, as winter fast approaches, the gritting of Bolton's roads?</p>
4 <sup>th</sup> October, 2021 07:40 a.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader (Councillor Mrs. Fairclough)	Councillor Haworth	Pest Control Contracts	<p>What progress has been made since the Executive Cabinet Member decision in January 2021 to approve that the Council enter into formal discussions with Bolton at Home and other larger registered social landlords to explore the potential for specific pest control contracts, or service level agreements, that may better meet the needs of social housing tenants and their landlords?</p>

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4 <sup>th</sup> October, 2021 07:46 a.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Baines)	Councillor McGeown	Accessing Health Services in Primary and Secondary Care	<p>The Council is extremely concerned following recent reports of long delays in accessing health services in primary and secondary care following the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. Whilst it is appreciated that it has been difficult with such high and continuing high numbers of seriously ill Covid patients we are now looking at a huge backlog of late and undiagnosed patients with other serious conditions. There is no blame attached to this question simply a request for the various bodies to submit their plans to Council for the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What steps are being taken to assist primary care to get back to the face to face service they have provided for many years? It is appreciated that primary care has moved on and triage is a definite way forward but how do we educate our residents to this new way of working and that not everyone needs a face to face appointment, at least initially? This is difficult with the background of high Covid infections so what are the primary care bodies doing to minimise this impact?</li> <li>2. With current and continued falling GP numbers what plans are in place to address or mitigate this in our area?</li> <li>3. What plans are there to facilitate the rapid access to diagnostic investigations from both primary and secondary care for example, MRI, Ultrasound, CT, etc?</li> </ol>

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					<p>4. What plans are there for secondary care to reduce the backlog of waiting lists for conditions like hip and knee replacements, etc?</p> <p>5. Are there any plans to increase the provision of services in the community to try to reduce hospital admissions in vulnerable people for example increased capacity of the Admission Avoidance Team?</p> <p>6. What additional plans are in place to support Mental Health provision especially for our younger population.</p>
4 <sup>th</sup> October, 2021 09:08 p.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Baines)	Councillor Hornby	Access to GP's	<p>I along with many other Councillors within this Chamber will have received many complaints from residents in our wards about the difficulties in getting to see their own GP whilst excepting we have been through very difficult times and our GPs and their teams have been under a lot of pressure, concerns are being expressed as to the long term effects this may be having on patients especially when early detection is so important in curing many conditions.</p> <p>Could the executive member please take our concerns away and can they give each ward and update as to the GP appointment situation in their area.</p>

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4 <sup>th</sup> October, 2021 09:19 a.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Baines)	Councillor Taylor-Burke	Access to GP's	Is it now time that we should expect all our GP's to have regular face to face appointments available, particularly if the patient requests one?
4 <sup>th</sup> October, 2021 09:06 a.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Service Delivery (Councillor Muslim)	Councillor McMulkin	Fly Tipping and Contaminated Bins	<p>At the last full council meeting I asked a question regarding the Councils strategy regarding fly tipping and contaminated bins.</p> <p>The exec member provided a comprehensive reply but unfortunately much of it did not relate to the question asked.</p> <p>There was however one quote by the exec member who claimed "The Council has for some time operated a successful 2 tier approach to the issue of fly tipping on Council land". This will come as a shock to the hundreds of unpaid volunteers who daily clear our streets and greenspaces of thousands of bags of litter, waste and fly tip plus tons of larger items. The system is clearly not working.</p> <p>He promised a new set of Waste and recycling policies for Bolton which will include a contaminated bins policy. Will the new policies include a revised strategy around education and enforcement?</p> <p>What is key to all this is what part will the unpaid volunteers play in this policy development or are they to be sidelined and only consulted again when an election photo opportunity is required.</p>

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					If this is the case then I believe those volunteers will quite rightly feel taken for granted and insulted because make no mistake without those volunteers many areas of the borough including many greenspaces would be buried under filth, waste and fly tip resulting in the inevitable increase in vermin and associated health hazards.
4 <sup>th</sup> October, 2021 11:25 a.m.	Council Summons	Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Cox)	Councillor Hill	Armed Forces Covenant	<p>Bolton Borough is home to many proud veterans and their family members. Members will be aware that the late Leader of the Council, Cllr David Greenhalgh, very proudly recommitted this council to the Armed Forces Covenant (Bronze Award) and set a target of embedding veteran support within the council and a commitment to working towards the Silver Award.</p> <p>Can I ask the Leader of the council to confirm his personal commitment to promote and support the veteran community and also reaffirm this councils commitment to achieving the Armed Forces Covenant Silver and Gold Level Awards. Can he also tell the council what work is currently ongoing to achieve this and how we, as Councillors, can assist him, the Armed Forces Champion and Officers to achieve Cllr Greenhalgh's and this councils previous aspiration.</p>
<b>8. Questions/Comments under Standing Order 9(c)</b>					
None					

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<b>9. Committee Proceedings</b>					
<b>Planning Committee</b> Motion to be moved by Councillor Walsh <b>(See Section B).</b>  <b>Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee</b> Motion to be moved by Councillor Flitcroft <b>(See Section C).</b>					
<b>10. Scrutiny Committees</b>  Composite Motion to be moved by Councillor Bagnall					
<b>(A) Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)</b>  <b>(B) Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)</b>  <b>(C) Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)</b>  <b>(D) Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)</b>					

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<b>11. Item referred to Council from Scrutiny Committee</b>					
29 <sup>th</sup> September, 2021	Council Summons	Motion	Councillor Peel	Free Weekend Parking	With reference to the decision made by the Executive Cabinet Member on the 28th June, 2021, this Council believes that the Executive Member made the decision to withdraw free weekend parking, at Bolton town centre's multi storey car parks without full knowledge of all of the facts. Namely that the report contained no analysis nor narrative whatsoever on the effect that the withdrawal of this facility, in place since 2012, would have on the retail and cultural sector in Bolton town centre. This Council requests that the Executive Cabinet Member now commission a new report that covers all of the relevant issues, that will allow him to make a more informed decision on this important facility.
<b>12. Motions Under Standing Order No 4</b>					
(a)	Harvey Nursery Motion to be moved by Councillor Donaghy				
(b)	Funding Crisis affecting Adult Social Care Motion to be moved by Councillor Zaman				
(c)	Changes to the way planning decisions are made at a local level Motion to be moved by Councillor Silvester				

(d)	Qualifying age for free prescriptions in England for 60 to 66 years of age Motion to be moved by Councillor Haworth
(e)	Vaping Products Motion to be moved by Councillor Baines



## **Appendix 1**

### **Meeting Of the Council – 6th October 2021**

#### **Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies**

Moved by Councillor

and seconded by Councillor

- (a) Councillor Flitcroft to replace Councillor Dean as Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee – Traffic Offences
- (b) Councillor Muslim to replace Councillor Cox on the Audit Committee
- (c) Councillor Mrs. Fairclough to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Chief Officers Appointments Panel
- (d) Councillor Mrs. Fairclough to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Chief Officers JCC
- (e) Councillor Mrs. Fairclough to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Constitutional Panel
- (f) Councillor Cox to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Single Local Joint Consultative Committee
- (g) Councillor Cox to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Mayoral Advisory Group
- (h) Councillor Warren to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on PSP
- (i) Councillor Warren to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Bolton Strategic Economic Partnership
- (j) Councillor Dean to replace Councillor Warren on the Be Safe Bolton Strategic Partnership
- (k) Councillor McMulkin to replace Councillor Ismail on the Planning Committee
- (l) Councillor Ismail no longer a member of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee