

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2006/2007

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

25TH OCTOBER, 2006

Present - Councillors Hall (The Mayor), White (Deputy Mayor), Adia, Ayub, Ainscough, Allen, Ashcroft, Bashir-Ismail, P. Brierley, Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Clare, Connell, Cox, Critchley, Darvesh, Mrs. Fairclough, Gradwell, Greenhalgh, Hamilton, Hayes, Hollick, Hornby, Hussain, Ibrahim, Idrees, Kay, Lever, Lord, Morgan, Morris, Peel, Price, Rock, Mrs. Ronson, R. Ronson, Rushton, Shaw, Sherrington, J. Silvester, R. Silvester, Mrs. Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, A. Wilkinson, David Wilkinson, R. Wilkinson, Williamson, Woodward and Zaman.

**41. CONFERMENT OF THE TITLE OF HONORARY
ALDERMEN OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Rushton and resolved –

That the title of Honorary Aldermen of the Metropolitan Borough Council be conferred on Mr. Donald Carr, Mr. Donald Grime and Mrs. Prentice Howarth.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 7.40 p.m.)

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42. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 6th September, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

43. CONSTITUTION

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas and agreed –

That the responsibility for licensing strategy and policy (except where they fall within the remit of the Licensing and Environmental Regulations Committee) be transferred from the Executive Member for Environmental Services to the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance.

44. POLICY FRAMEWORK – ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY 2006/2011

It was moved by Councillor Adia, seconded by Councillor Sherrington and agreed –

That the Environmental Strategy 2006/2011, as circulated to Members, be approved.

45. POLICY FRAMEWORK – CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2006

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas and agreed –

That the Capital Investment Strategy 2006, as circulated to Members, be approved.

46. POLICY FRAMEWORK – CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

It was moved by Councillor Adia, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas and agreed –

That the 2006 Corporate Asset Management Plan, as circulated to Members, be approved.

47. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

(Note: Councillors Rock and Mrs Thomas declared a prejudicial interest in the matter, in that they were members of the Board of Bolton at Home and left the meeting)

It was moved by Councillor Zaman, seconded by Councillor Adia and agreed

That the Management Agreement with Bolton at Home be extended for a period of two years.

48. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

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

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

- (1) Councillors Ashcroft (Chair), Burrows, Hayes, Mrs. Ronson, J Walsh and Williamson be appointed to the Sustainable Development Scrutiny Panel;
- (2) Councillors Connell, Critchley, Peel, Mrs. Rothwell, Mrs. Thomas, David Wilkinson and Woodward be appointed to the Planning Improvement Working Group; and
- (3) Councillors Clare, Gradwell, Hussain, Kay, David Wilkinson, R Wilkinson and Zaman be appointed to the Bolton at Home Monitoring Group.

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

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

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- (i) by Councillor Morgan relating to the Adult Social Care Budget;
- (ii) by Councillor Ashcroft relating to travellers;
- (iii) by Councillor R. Ronson relating to care worker shift patterns;
- (iv) by Councillor Rock relating to match day traffic;
- (v) by Councillor Hornby relating to the Children's Centre, Little Lever;
- (vi) by Councillor Adia relating to a leaflet;
- (vii) by Councillor Darvesh relating to child poverty;
- (viii) by Councillor Kay relating to Business Growth Incentive Scheme;
- (ix) by Councillor Williamson relating to Minerva Road traffic;

- (x) by Councillor Burrows relating to fuel poverty;
- (xi) by Councillor Bashir-Ismail relating to the weekly bin collections;
- (xii) by Councillor Mrs. Ronson relating to the Bolton Brand; and
- (xiii) by Councillor R. Silvester relating to waste paper.

The Leader of the Council replied to question (vi), Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health replied to questions (i), (ii), (iii) and (x). the Executive Member for Environmental Services replied to questions (iv) and (ix), the Executive Member for Children's Services replied to questions (v) and (vii), the Executive Member for Regeneration replied to question (viii), the Executive Member for Recycling and Waste Management replied to questions (xi) and (xiii) and the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance replied to question (xii).

50. PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Planning and Highways Committee held on 7th and 21st September and 5th October, 2006 be approved.

51. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 5th September and 3rd October, 2006 be approved.

52. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Morgan and agreed –

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

Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee held on 9th October, 2006

Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd October, 2006

Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee held on 11th October, 2006

Adult Services Scrutiny Committee held on 10th October, 2006

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 12th October, 2006

and the minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 19th September, 2006 be noted.

53. ITEMS REFERRED TO COUNCIL FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – EARLY START PROGRAMME

It was moved by Councillor Hussain and seconded by Councillor Allen -

That the matter be referred back to the Executive Member for Human Resources and Diversity so that more detailed consideration can be given to the wider issues.

Whereupon, as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor J. Silvester and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Ronson -

That the motion be amended to read:

That this Council reiterates its strong support for the Early Start programme and appreciation of the excellent work done by staff in post.

Council resolves to refer the decision back to the Executive Member on the grounds of the identified major financial risk of £270,000 if Government funding was to cease, and in the light of the exceptionally difficult budget settlement expected next year.

In doing so, Council requests that the Executive Member reconsider the decision having had further information on:

- (a) more detail on the business risks that contract permanency would entail for the employees cited in the original report;
- (b) the consequences of delaying contract permanency;
- (c) whether it is possible, as suggested at the Scrutiny Committee by the Executive Member for Children's Services, to underpin the accepted risk with money allocated for commissioning;
- (d) the effects contract permanency might have on the contracting of services."

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

The original motion, as amended, was then put to the meeting and approved.

54. AREA FORUMS

It was moved by Councillor Lord, seconded by Councillor Connell and agreed –

That the minutes of the meetings of the following Area Forums be approved:-

Heaton and Lostock and Hulton Area Forum held on 20th September, 2006

Astley Bridge and Smithills Area Forum held on 7th September, 2006

Farnworth and Kearsley Area Forum held on 11th September, 2006

Crompton and Halliwell Area Forum held on 12th September, 2006

South Turton Area Forum held on 4th October, 2006

South Area Forum held on 13th September, 2006

Two Towns Area Forum held on 19th September, 2006

Leverhulme Area Forum held on 27th September, 2006

55. CONSTITUTIONAL PANEL

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Rushton and resolved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Constitutional Panel held 27th September, 2006 be endorsed.

56. AUDIT COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Hayes, seconded by Councillor Connell and resolved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 20th September, 2006 be agreed.

57. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – THE DETERIORATION OF BUS SERVICES

It was moved by Councillor David Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Peel -

That this Council notes that since Government deregulated local bus services outside London in October 1986, bus services in Bolton have deteriorated in reliability and quality, prices have increased and many fewer people now use buses.

This Council believes:

- buses have a major role to play in providing regular and reliable public transport services to the communities within the Borough;
- under the deregulated system, popular routes are being prioritised by private bus companies to make larger profits whilst other, less well used routes, that serve many of our communities are being cut back; and
- local authorities, including Passenger Transport Authorities, should be given the option of powers to licence and regulate bus services.

This Council calls on the Government to introduce a system of bus regulation, similar to that operating in London, which would allow the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority to:

- Specify bus routes, timetables and fares and franchise services
- Remove wasteful 'on the road' competition;
- Become the operator 'of last resort' if commercial bus operators cannot or will not operate a service; and
- Ensure that Council Taxpayers money and subsidies are used in the most effective manner.

and agrees that copies of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of State for Transport, the Borough's Members of Parliament and Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority.

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

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(The meeting started at 7.40 p.m. and finished at 10.00 p.m.)

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