

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**2009/2010**

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**3RD MARCH, 2010**

Present - Councillors Critchley (Mayor), Connell (Deputy Mayor), Adia, P. Allen, R. Allen, Ayub, P. Barrow, R Barrow, Bashir-Ismail, Mrs. Brierley, P. Brierley, Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Chadwick, Clare, Cottam, Darvesh, Mrs. Fairclough, Greenhalgh, Hall, Harkin, Hayes, Higson, Hollick, Hornby, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Kay, Lord, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Norris, Peel, Rock, Mrs. Ronson, R. Ronson, J. Rothwell, Mrs. Rothwell, Rushton, Shaw, Sherrington, J. Silvester, R. Silvester, Spencer, Mrs. Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, A. Walsh, J. Walsh, Wild, A. Wilkinson, D. Wilkinson, Williamson and Woodward.

63. EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor informed members that he had agreed to call a special meeting of the Council on 17th March, 2010 at 7.00p.m. to consider the issue of City Region Governance.

64. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on the 24th February, 2010 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

65. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

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

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

- (1) That Councillor Bashir – Ismail replace Councillor Sherrington on the Bolton/Bury Groundwork Trust.
- (2) That Councillor Thomas be appointed as deputy for Councillor Adia on the LEP Strategic Partnering Board and that the Assistant Director BSF be appointed as deputy for the Director of Children's Services on the Board.

66. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)

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

- (i) by Councillor Hayes relating to Recycling Rates.

The Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor J. Silvester relating to consultation with users of the New Unity Centre.

The Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor J. Silvester relating to the New Interchange and New Unity Centre.

The Executive Member For Development, Regeneration and Skills replied to this question.

- (iv) by Councillor J. Silvester relating to the reduction in the number of jobs.

The Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity

replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor J. Silvester relating to refuse collection service.

The Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Greenhalgh relating to Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Capital Grants.

The Executive Member for Looked After Children and Safeguarding.

- (vii) by Councillor J. Walsh relating to Enforcement Issues.

The Executive Member For Development, Regeneration and Skills replied to this question.

- (viii) by Councillor J. Walsh relating to Quangos.

The Executive Member for Strategy and External Relations replied to this question.

- (ix) by Councillor Rock relating to assisted bin collections.

The Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer replied to this question.

- (x) by Councillor Chadwick relating to dog fouling.

The Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer replied to this question.

- (xi) by Councillor R. Silvester relating to Council Tax 2010/2011.

The Executive Member for Strategy and External Relations replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to savings resulting from changes to bin collection rounds.

The Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer replied to this question.

- (xiii) by Councillor Hornby relating to permission from lease holders to make alterations.

The Executive Member for Development, Regeneration and Skills replied to this question.

- (xiv) by Councillor Hornby relating to selling off of land.

The Executive Member for Strategy and External Relations replied to this question.

67. PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 10th December, 2009, 14th, 21st January and 4th February, 2010 be approved.

68. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 9th February, 2010 be approved.

69. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor P. Brierley and agreed –

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

Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee – 8th February, 2010

Development, Housing and Skills Scrutiny Committee – 1st February, 2010

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 3rd December, 2009 and 11th February, 2010

Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee – 10th February, 2010

Adults and Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 9th February, 2010

External Organisations Scrutiny Committee – 19th February, 2010

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12TH January, 2010

70. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – CITY STATUS

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor J. Walsh and supported by Councillor Hayes –

That this Council notes the opportunity for towns to be nominated for city status as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012. It believes that in view of its position as one of the largest towns in the UK, its heritage, cultural diversity and economic significance, Bolton should be officially recognised as a city.

Therefore, this Council authorises its officers to work with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to prepare a submission which conforms to Government

guidance to be issued in the spring. It should represent Bolton's case for becoming a city and should be regarded as Bolton's formal application for city status.

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

71. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – SNOW CLEARNANCE AND GRITTING

It was moved by Councillor D. Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Ronson –

Council wishes to place on record its appreciation of the hard work and dedication shown by all its employees engaged in gritting during the recent prolonged periods of severe weather to meet the Council's established policy. That was despite the restrictions placed on them by the Government's instructions to reduce the use of salt to conserve stocks to help those Councils which had been less prudent in its reserves than Bolton had been.

However, Council feels that this policy did not do enough to help residents living off the main gritting routes, many of who were left isolated and to their own devices for an extended period, or to allow essential services such as refuse collection to be properly carried out.

Council therefore determines that, taking into account the changed conditions brought about by the recent winter, a review should be held through the normal PDG process in an attempt to improve these deficiencies before next winter. It is suggested that the review includes consideration of the following:-

- a) Improved use of 'self help' facilities for residential areas;
- b) Ways in which additional help can be given to areas with high concentrations of elderly or schools;

- c) A review, in conjunction with ward Members, of which feeder roads or particularly difficult roads should be tackled when time allows after completion of the main priorities;
- d) Whether a number of snow clearing blades should be purchased for fitting to refuse vehicles or other Council vehicles;
- e) Whether greater flexibility could be introduced within the workforce in such circumstances (e.g. refuse collection staff who are unable to carry out their normal duties being used on gritting and snow clearance work); and
- f) How support can be shown for the LGAs campaign to enhance civic responsibility.

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

72. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – EDL DEMONSTRATION

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor J. Walsh and supported by Councillor Hayes –

That this Council is very concerned about the proposed English Defence League (EDL) demonstration in Bolton on the 20th March, 2010 as their presence in other towns has led to violence and disorder and caused local people to fear for their safety.

As a consequence of the considerable risk of violence and disorder associated with the demonstration the Council should do all within its powers, supported by key local organisations, such as the Faith Leader's Forum, to lobby the Home Secretary to ban the event on public order/safety grounds.

Bolton has a very strong track record on community cohesion and the Council is confident that this will not be

harmful by the EDL and urges local people not to be provoked by the prospect of the EDL event.

The Council should continue to work with local organisations, communities and businesses to prepare for any potential event on the 20th March, 2010 to minimise disruption to the Borough and to pledge publicly the Council's commitment to community cohesion.

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was declared carried unanimously.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 8.20 p.m.)