

BOLTON COUNCIL

Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Bolton on Wednesday next, 10th December, 2008 at 7.00pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

1. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 22nd October, 2008.(See Section A)

2. Constitution

Motion to be moved by Councillor Morris :-

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

3. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies

4. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(a)

5. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(c)

6. Committee Proceedings

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:
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Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulations Committee
(See Section C)

7. Scrutiny Committees

To receive and consider the proceedings of the undermentioned Scrutiny Committees:-

Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee (to be tabled) (See Section D)

Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)

Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)

Children's Services, Culture and Young People and Sport Scrutiny Committee (to be tabled) (See Section H)

External Organisations Scrutiny Committee (See Section J)

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (See Section K) (submitted for information only)

8. Area Forums

To receive and consider the proceedings of the undermentioned Area Forums :-

Astley Bridge Area Forum

Bradshaw Area Forum

Brightmet Area Forum

Bromley Cross Area Forum

Crompton Area Forum

Farnworth Area Forum

Great Lever Area Forum

Halliwell Area Forum

Harper Green Area Forum

Heaton and Lostock Area Forum

Hulton Area Forum

Kearsley Area Forum

Little Lever and Darcy Lever Area Forum

Rumworth Area Forum

Smithills Area Forum

Tonge with the Haulgh Area Forum
Two Towns Area Forum
Westhoughton with Chew Moor Area Forum

9. Motions Under Standing Order No. 4

(a) Motion to be moved by Councillor Hayes:-

That the Council welcomes the announcement by the Government on 13th November, 2008 that it would, after all, allow the Post Office to continue to run the Card Account which distributes benefits to 4.3 million claimants. The National Federation of Sub Post Masters had warned that a further 3,000 post offices would close if the contract was lost. The Government had previously started a bidding process for the contract.

Council notes that in July one of the Borough's Members of Parliament, David Crausby MP had signed an Early Day Motion on the subject which stated:

'That this House notes with concern the fact that the Department for Work and Pensions has written to Post Office card account holders informing them that the Post Office card account contract ends in 2010; further notes that Post Office card account holders, many of whom have made a conscious decision to support the Post Office by retaining their card account, are being instructed to take out bank accounts in order to receive benefits beyond 2010; expresses its dismay at the fact that the letter does not mention the fact that a replacement for the current card account is currently out to tender, or make any mention of other Post Office products or services; believes that this is a deliberate attempt to encourage people to switch payment to direct debit and remove the role of the Post Office; notes the additional damage inflicted on the Post Office by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, who are currently sending out licence renewal reminders as part of a communications campaign which makes

no mention of the Post Office; calls on Ministers in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to encourage Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions to consider the impact on communities across the country if the Post Office card account is not renewed; and encourages all Government departments to make their services available through post offices in order to ensure that they have a viable future.'

Council also notes that his signing of this Early Day Motion was well publicised in Bolton as signalling his support for Post Offices.

Council notes with concern that at the end of a debate in the House of Commons on 10th November 2008 all three of the Members of Parliament representing Bolton supported the Government by voting against an opposition Motion, even though its wording was identical to the wording of the earlier Early Day Motion; the Motion was lost. This action by the three MPs was far less well publicised in Bolton.

Council believes that this action by the Borough's MPs indicates their lack of support for Post Offices. In the case of David Crausby MP, in announcing his support for a course of action and then voting the opposite way when it mattered is considered to be tantamount to hypocrisy.

(b) Motion to moved by Councillor D.A Wilkinson :-

That this Council confirms its support for the current type of council house tenancies and notes the serious issues concerning housing availability and affordability in the Borough, however this Council does not agree with the proposals of the New Local Government Network being suggested to government ministers that there should be regular reviews of tenants of social housing to see if they can be moved on.

Such proposals would undermine recent efforts of this Council to create more mixed groups of residents and more sustainable areas to live in.

(c) Motion to moved by Councillor D.A Wilkinson :-

That given the seriousness of the current recession both for residents and business of the Borough and the implications of wellbeing both for individuals and the general community this Council agrees to review its governance processes to ensure that all possible help, advice and support by the Council and its partners to affected residents and businesses is fully co-coordinated and effective and to consider the creation of an all party working party or policy development group to oversee that work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. R. Harriss', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

SEAN HARRISS
Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

3rd December,2008.

The proceedings of the Executive and Executive Member Portfolio meetings from 21st October,2008 to 24th November, 2008 ,together with the minutes of the Chief Officers Appointments Panel are included, for information only, in a separate volume.

