

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2008/2009

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

22ND OCTOBER, 2008

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

47. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on the 27th August, 2008 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

48. POLICY FRAMEWORK – STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

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

That the Statement of Licensing Policy be approved.

49. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

That the following appointments be made:-

- (1) That Councillors Ashcroft, Mrs Fairclough, R. Silvester, Darvesh, White and Mrs Ronson be appointed to the NEETS Young People not in Employment or Training Scrutiny Panel.
- (2) That Councillors Mistry, Iqbal, Spencer, R. Allen, Critchley and Hayes be appointed to the Property Maintenance Scrutiny Panel.

50. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)

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

- (i) By Councillor R. Ronson relating to bus passes.

The Executive Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor J. Silvester relating to "Deceased Online".

The Executive Member for Environmental Services replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor Mrs Swarbrick relating to SATS Tests for 14 Year Olds.

The Executive Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

A3

- (iv) by Councillor Hayes relating to travellers.

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

- (v) by Councillor Hornby relating to free swimming initiative.

The Executive Member for Culture, Young People and Sport replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Darvesh relating to local voluntary groups.

The Executive Member Strategy and External Relationships replied to this question.

- (vii) by Councillor Williamson relating to SATS tests.

The Executive Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

- (viii) by Councillor Williamson relating to closure of Back Greenland Road and Brook Hey Avenue.

The Chairman of the Planning Committee replied to this question.

- (ix) by Councillor Iqbal relating to unemployment figures.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration replied to this question.

A question was asked under Standing Order 9(c) by Councillor R. Silvester regarding the Chairmanship of the GMPTA, which was answered by the nominated spokesman of the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority.

52. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Hornby, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Woodward and resolved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 21st August, 4th September, 18th September and 2nd October, 2008 be approved.

53. 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 16th September, 2008 be approved.

54. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Greenhalgh and seconded by Councillor Hall –

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

Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee – 13th October, 2008

Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – 6th October, 2008

Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee – 8th October, 2008

Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 7th October, 2008

Children's Services and Young People and Sport Scrutiny Committee – 9th October, 2008

External Organisations Scrutiny Committee – 11th September, 2008

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17th September, 2008

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Critchley and seconded by Councillor R. Allen -

That Minute 33 of the proceedings of the meeting of the Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be amended by the addition of the following:-

(iii) That given the credit crunch the Executive be requested to seek ways to work with its car park partners to help to attract trade to Bolton and thus help businesses in the Town Centre by providing up to 2 hours free car parking on designated car parks in the vital trading period around Christmas from, say 15th November, 2008 to 5th January, 2009.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost

Whereupon as a second amendment, it was moved by Councillor J. Walsh and seconded by Councillor Lever -

That Minute 35 of the proceedings of the meeting of the Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be

amended by the addition of the following:-

(ii) That the Council confirms its determination to help local businesses in the current economic crisis and requests the Executive to run, in conjunction with agencies such as Business Bolton, business forums in parallel with the next round of Area Forums. This would allow a wide range of Council and business support to be made available outside normal business hours across the Borough thus enabling business to access services without impacting on their normal business hours. Such advice could include not just council services such as cleansing and environmental health but licensing and planning advice on access to business databases and similar information.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost

The original Motion was then put to the meeting and agreed.

55. AREA FORUMS

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the various Area Forums now submitted be approved.

56. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY

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

That this Council acknowledges that over recent years its Treasury Management Policy has served the Council well and that the spread of funds across a range of deposits and investments is a prudent policy to minimise risk, whilst achieving some income. This policy is also in accordance with Government guidance.

A7

However, given the recent experience with the Landsbanki Group, Council determines to ask the Executive to report to the next meeting of the Executive on actions to overcome the possible loss of £6million. In order to reduce the impact on services and costs to council tax payers such a review should include inter alia;

- joint working with other authorities, including through the LGA to seek assistance from HM Government to protect these investments;

- a review of all other sizeable deposits and investments;

- a review of current budgets and all non-committed expenditure; and

- early all party discussion on the budget for 2009-2010,

together with any other measures thought appropriate to ensure that services and council tax payers do not suffer.

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

(The meeting started at 7.30 p.m. and finished at 9.15 p.m.)