

## **BOLTON COUNCIL**

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Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall on Wednesday next, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 at 7.00 p.m. 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 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 (Section A).

**2. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies**

**3. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(a)**

**4. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(c)**

**5. Committee Proceedings**

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee  
(See Section C)

**6. Scrutiny Committees**

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)

## **7. Items referred to Council from Scrutiny Committees**

To consider any motions referred to Council by a Scrutiny Committee

- (a) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel regarding item 6 of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 –

With reference to the decision made by the Executive Cabinet Member on the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 this 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.

## **8. Motions under Standing Order No.4**

- (a) Motion in the name of Councillor Donaghy –

Council notes that following a 'call in' by the Labour Group on the decision to close Harvey Nursery, the issue finally came to a meeting of the Council on the 13th January 2021, when a resolution to refer the decision back to Executive Cabinet Member

with a reference to exploring financial options, was passed by a majority of members.

Council further notes that a new consultation report, with a recommendation to close Harvey Nursery, was approved by the Executive Member on the 13th September 2021.

Council is extremely disappointed that 8 months after the express wishes of Council was made absolutely clear, this new report was considered without any evidence being provided that showed that the exploration of options aiming to make the Nursery financially viable had actually taken place.

Notwithstanding the arguments for and against the closure of the Nursery, this Council expresses its deep concern that the 'call in' process is not fit for purpose when a clear steer from the majority of Councillors to a minority administration is blatantly and deliberately ignored.

Council reminds the minority Conservative Administration that they govern with the consent of a majority of Councillors from other parties, and therefore again calls upon the Leader of the Council to respect the majority views expressed by members, by withdrawing the current closure proposals until a full and up to date report is brought back to the Executive Member that identifies what work has taken place since January 2021 to attempt to save Harvey Nursery from closure.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Zaman –

Bolton Council has a statutory duty to assess the local population need for adult social care and to ensure that there is delivery of a full range of adult social care services.

In that endeavour

This Council believes there is a serious funding crisis affecting adult social care in the in Bolton and throughout the UK, made much worse by a decade of Conservative inaction.

This Council further believes that the planned rise in National Insurance contributions, affecting around 26 million working people, is an unfair way of dealing with the funding crisis in the crumbling social care system, and agrees with the Prime Ministers previous comments that NI increases are a regressive form of taxation, and agrees that the increase represents a clear betrayal of the Conservative Party 2019 manifesto promise to “not raise the level of NI”.

The NI rise will mean that young, poorly paid workers will in effect subsidise elderly rich people and the wealthiest in our society. On top of the cut to Universal Credit, it is again the lowest paid workers who will be hit the hardest.

Council believes that regressive NI rises will not bring about a social care funding solution, and instead longer term solutions that raises finance from those with the broadest shoulders, through stocks, shares, dividends and properties should instead be explored.

Council resolves to send this motion to the Prime Minister.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Silvester –

This Council believes that planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes.

This Council strongly disagrees with and criticises the Conservative Government's proposals to take away planning decisions from this Council and hand them to development boards appointed by Ministers in Whitehall. These new quangos are proposed to help zone areas for development. Residents living in areas zoned for growth would find that they no longer have an automatic right to object to individual planning applications on their own doorsteps; no right to object to oversized blocks at the end of the street; no right to object to concreting over precious green space, and no right to object to new developments that overburden local infrastructure such as roads, doctors' surgeries, schools or public transport.

This Council opposes such changes proposed by the Conservative Government and therefore calls upon the Secretary of State for Housing to protect the right of residents throughout the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton to object to individual planning applications.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Haworth –

The Council is extremely concerned that there is a government consultation in England on a plan to move the qualifying age for free prescriptions in England from 60 to 66 years of age. Subsequently, thousands of 60 to 66 year olds in the Bolton Borough, in receipt of prescriptions for medicines and health care products, would be affected by this change.

The pandemic has impacted health inequalities and wellbeing and it is imperative to avoid changes that will impact people's lives negatively going forward. If implemented, this change of people from 60 to 66 years for prescriptions for physical and mental health needs in Bolton could easily roll back progress made in the start to tackling health inequalities and increasing wellbeing here.

We ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister for Public Health and the Minister for Mental Health, outlining the Council's concern that the raising of prescription charges on people of 60 to 66 years of age in England will have a marked effect on already problematic health inequalities in the Bolton Borough.

We also call on our local Members of Parliament to support the Council motion and reject the plan to have 60 to 66 year olds pay prescription charges.  
Ends

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Baines

Council recognises the harmful impact of advertising on Children within the Borough in relation to Vaping products and will aim to support and promote a tobacco-free and Vape-free Borough in order to protect the current and future health, wellbeing and prosperity of children, families, and the wider community.

Background

Smoking remains the biggest cause of preventable death and a significant indicator of inequalities in the UK. Eradicating smoking is highlighted as a prominent issue in the 2019 NHS long term plan

The Council receives guidance from NICE and what was PHE (now the OHID - Office for Health Improvement and Disparities) on vaping as a quit aid. There is increasingly robust evidence of their effective use in driving smoking rates down. However, people who use vaping products should be supported to use regulated nicotine products and to ultimately stop smoking and vaping completely.

Some products would seem to be designed in such a way to entice children and young people to take up vaping (using bubble gum, gummy- bear and other similar flavourings).

This introduces a dependency on nicotine at a young age, via a route of administration which is not in itself without harm. Additionally, it creates an additional economic burden which given that smoking rates are highest amongst our most economically deprived neighbourhoods is felt most acutely by those who are least well off.

Council acknowledges its share of responsibility to try to ensure good public health in the population by:

1. Protecting children and young people against advertising and against the sale of products designed to entice young people to use nicotine products (either tobacco and/or vaping)
2. Promoting Smoke free environments which will also include the absence of second-hand vape, including playgrounds and other outdoor and indoor venues

Further, that Council should seek to:

- Actively promote a wider understanding of the impact of vaping on children and young people.
- Work with retailers to encourage them to challenge buyers of vaping products for proof of age, if there is any doubt that they are under the age of 18.
- Ask national government to do more to prevent the marketing of vaping products which are targeted towards young people.



TONY OAKMAN  
Chief Executive  
Town Hall, Bolton

29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet  
Member Portfolio meetings from 23<sup>rd</sup> August to 21<sup>st</sup>  
September, 2021, together with the Constitutional Panel, are  
included for information only in a separate volume.