

BOLTON COUNCIL

Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Town Hall on Wednesday next, 15th March, 2023 at 7.00 p.m. when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

1. Vote of Thanks to The Mayor and Mayoress

Motion to be moved by Councillor Cox -

2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 15th February, 2023 (Section A).

3. Policy Framework

Motion in the name of Councillor Cox –

That the Bolton Council Pay Policy Statement 2022/2023, as circulated, be approved.

4. Constitution

Motion in the name of Councillor Cox -

That the recommendations of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the remuneration of the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as circulated, be approved.

5. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies

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

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

8. Committee Proceedings

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee (See Section C)

9. Scrutiny Committees

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

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

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)

10. Motions under Standing Order No.4

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Veevers -

Council congratulates the Labour Party on finally coming to the realisation that Britain needs a system of fair votes for UK General elections.

Council looks forward to seeing this measure included in the Labour Party manifesto for the next General Election.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor T. Wilkinson -

Bolton Council recently received funding as part of the government's Mental Health Recovery Action Plan to tackle the mental health impacts on businesses.

The Council acknowledges the need to challenge the taboos of mental health and the importance of being aware of the signs and symptoms, understanding the questions to ask someone and sharing knowledge of what help is available.

In December 2021, Bolton Council announced free mental health training to anyone who worked or volunteered within the borough. Due to the demand and limited capacity these courses book up extremely quickly.

Mental health can impact anyone at any time. The council makes a firm commitment to ensure that elected members and council employees who are in public-facing roles, are provided with courses and strongly encouraged to attend Mental Health First Aider training, so they are sufficiently equipped to be able to support our residents.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Mort –

Council believes that football, the national game in the UK, is currently in crisis.

COVID-19 has devastated the revenue of many lower-league clubs, with the loss of some notables, and dozens more clubs teetering on the brink of survival. Frequently bad management has gone unnoticed or ignored and clubs are run unsustainably, putting at risk all the history, heritage, and economic benefit they bring to an area – often in pursuit of short-term gain.

Council believes that football clubs are not ordinary businesses; they are historic sporting institutions that are both a civic and community asset, and a source of pride and unity, in their hometown or city.

Council therefore supports Fair Game, a national campaign that seeks radical reform of the way football is managed and run, specifically its call for:

- An independent regulator for the sport.
- A refocus on 'values' rather than profit.
- The establishment of a Sustainability Index, which will reallocate the payments made to clubs to reward those which are run well, respect equality standards and properly engage with their fans and their community.
- Fans to be given the final say on any proposed change to a club's 'crown jewels', including the club's name,

nickname, colours, badge and the geographical location from where the club plays.

- Council also notes that former Sports Minister Tracey Crouch MP has published a Government-commissioned fan-led review into football governance and that a vast majority of its findings mirror Fair Game's aspirations.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Declare its support for the Fair Game manifesto, 'Solutions for our National Game', and calls on other councils to join us in our support.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Sport, our local Members of Parliament, and the Chair of the Local Government Association Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, asking them to support and work towards implementing Fair Game's manifesto and the findings of the fan-led review led by Tracey Crouch MP.
- Ask the Council's representatives to encourage other like-minded councils to support Fair Game.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Hayes –

Council supports the ambition of the Government to make gigabit broadband available nationwide.

However, Council deplores the weakening of planning controls introduced by the Government generally and specifically to facilitate the development of the various networks. These have led in many cases to totally inappropriate structures being erected.

Council particularly deplores the activities of one operator in this area - IX Wireless. This Company has sought to reduce its costs (and increase its profits) by erecting hundreds of telegraph poles to carry over ground fibre, and many large masts, claiming that they constitute 'permitted development'. Misleadingly, the Company also leads potential customers to believe that they provide a 6G service.

These poles and masts are an undesirable addition to street clutter and in many cases cause considerable inconvenience to nearby householders and pedestrians who are visually impaired. Some are positioned against gable ends restricting residents' ability to maintain their property or erected in clusters near the same property.

The Company appears to have conducted minimal or no contacts with the local authority re the siting or erection of the poles and masts. They have failed to answer many complaints made by residents. When a group of residents recently met their Member of Parliament (Chris Green MP) about the problems, he claimed to have no knowledge of the Company until they pointed out to him that he had recently received a political donation of £5000 from IX Wireless. He has failed to answer any questions as to what his relationship is with the Company or why he received and accepted the donation. It is noted that similar donations have been made to a number of other Conservative MPs in the north west of England.

It is alleged that IX Wireless received public funding from Project Gigabit. If this is the case, it seems inappropriate for the Company to be making political donations.

Council resolves:

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to prepare an urgent report to all Members of the Council to include information on:
 - a) What powers the Council has to control the activities of IX Wireless and similar Companies;
 - b) What action will be taken to minimise the street clutter and inconvenience to the public;
 - c) Whether or not IX Wireless has received public funding, and if so, how much.
2. To ask Chris Green MP to clarify what relationship he has with IX Wireless and why he received and accepted a political donation from the Company.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Silvester –

This Council believes that a green recovery from the pandemic is not only possible but imperative if we are to meet our carbon reduction targets as a local authority. However, up to now much of the proposed actions are little more than rhetoric. We need to turn rhetoric into action.

We note that melting ice caps and forest fires can often seem like someone else's crisis when many are occurring so far from our homes. But we also note that crises closer to home affecting thousands of local families cannot be separated from those further afield. Here in the Bolton Borough it is estimated that there are around 18,250 households or 14.7% of population living in fuel poverty and around 11% of homes in the private rented sector, 4% of homes in the social-rented sector and 2% of owner-occupied homes affected by damp. Across the UK there are more than 24 million homes leaking heat.

There is no route to decarbonising the economy without retrofitting more than 24 million homes across the UK. Doing so would not only help to protect our planet, but can improve housing, lead to cheaper energy bills and create hundreds of thousands of good quality jobs. Here in the Bolton Borough there are estimated to be 62% of properties that require retrofitting because they don't meet basic energy efficiency standards (i.e. they are D or below) and this could create hundreds of good quality jobs across our Borough leading to much cheaper bills for our residents.

The Royal Institute of British Architects in September 2022 called the mini-budget at that time a 'missed opportunity' to improve the energy efficiency of the built environment. Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council therefore calls upon the Prime Minister to call for a Great Homes Upgrade and a commitment to retrofit 19 million homes by 2030. We also call on the Chancellor to commit to spending £11.7 billion over the next three years to begin a Great Homes Upgrade, and that the Government will commit to working with housing associations, private rental properties and owner occupiers to upgrade properties for net zero and commits to setting up

a retrofitting taskforce to target resources now to achieving net zero through upgrading properties. We also commit to writing to the Council Leaders of our neighbouring local authorities throughout Greater Manchester and also Chorley and Blackburn to ask them to join us in this campaign.

S. Johnson

SUE JOHNSON

Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

8th March, 2023

The proceedings of the Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 6th February to 20th February, 2023, together with the Audit Committee, are included for information only in a separate volume.

