

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, 16th March, 2022 at 7.00p.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 16th February, 2022 (Section A).

2. Policy Framework

Motion in the name of Councillor Cox –

That the Bolton Council Pay Policy Statement 2021/2022, as circulated, be approved.

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 Committee:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

7. Scrutiny Committees

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

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

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

8. Motions under Standing Order No.4

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Heslop -

At the full council meeting of 6th October, Cllr Paul Heslop asked a question about traffic management at Remembrance Sunday events that aimed to establish how much the council will be billed in respect of Bolton Town Centre along with the other outlying towns in the borough.

Information received since suggested that whilst Bolton's Remembrance Sunday event is being financially supported by the Council, the other towns in this borough are not receiving the same financial support for their towns' Remembrance Day events and that the events organisers – usually ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen – must pay for their own traffic management.

This Council agrees that all Remembrance Sunday Events - at every cenotaph/war memorial in this borough - are of equal importance. This Council also agrees that the cost of traffic management in the other towns in this borough should not fall upon the event organisers. This Council requests that a PDG is called to consider what options there are for supporting these other events.

(b) 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.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor McMulkin –

The value and importance of parks and green spaces to local residents has been brought strikingly home since the onset of the Covid pandemic, especially for residents living in homes without access to outdoor living space. Public Parks and green spaces are not only a cornerstone in our efforts relating to the climate crisis, but significantly contribute to health and wellbeing and should not simply be judged by what they cost to maintain.

We know from numerous research studies that access to local quality green spaces improves the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all sections of the community. Indeed, the Marmot Review of 2010, recommends that improving the availability of good quality green spaces across the social gradient will help reduce health inequalities.

In terms of health, parks and green spaces save the NHS at least £111 million per year through prevented GP visits, which is enough to pay for

more than 3,500 nurses.

Fields in trust research confirms that any decision by a public body to remove a park or green space is often short-sighted and will, in most cases, cost more money than is saved.

The evidence is clear: green spaces are good; they do good and they need to be protected for good.

I therefore call on this Council to as a matter of urgency hold a PDG to consider how it can establish protection of all the eligible public parks and green spaces in the Borough from being sold off or built upon in perpetuity and agree to appoint the mover of the motion as a member of this PDG.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor McKeon –

We are seeing a crisis of food poverty born out of the political choices and systemic failings created since 2010 which have now reached a tipping point for so many in our communities. The figures are devastating for one of the richest nations in the world and highlight the inequality of the UK in 2022.

Need for food banks is already at a record high. Food banks in the Trussell Trust network gave out 2.5 million emergency food parcels between April 2020 and March 2021, a 33% rise on the previous year. This comes on top of year-on-year increases in need.

This council notes the consistent high rates of poverty across our borough. We recognise the growing concern amongst our health and care professionals of the current situation and the likely exacerbation of poverty figures through the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and economic uncertainty.

To clarify the local context the following statistics indicate the numbers of households in Bolton who are reliant on state support as of Autumn 2021:

	Bolton West	Bolton South East	Bolton North East
On Universal Credit	11,489	10,373	6,690
On Legacy Benefits and Tax Credits	8,880	7,126	4,495

We also note the Government's forthcoming White Paper in response to the National Food Strategy which reported in July 2021 and was the first independent review of England's entire food system for 75 years. The Right To Food campaign believes that the 11 million people currently living in food poverty must be central to the response from Government.

Enshrining the 'Right To Food' into law would clarify Government obligations on food poverty and would introduce legal avenues to hold Government bodies accountable for violations.

This council calls for the 'Right to Food' to be incorporated in the Government's White Paper in response to the National Food Strategy. We ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister to further this request.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Haworth –

The social care sector is in crisis. Without urgent action to support recruitment and retention, there is fear for the consequences for people who receive social care, and their families who care for them, also for providers and care workers themselves. It

is estimated that in the country employees will need to increase by 520,000 in the next fifteen years to meet the increasing demand for social care. It is in the interests of the NHS and the wider public that action on social care recruitment and retention is taken now.

Council notes that the government are providing an Adult Social Care Worker Recruitment and Retention Fund grant and an Adult Social Care Omicron Fund grant to Bolton Council, and whilst welcome, the former, must be spent by 31st March 2022, having covered a five month period and so, has limited use for recurring revenue financing.

This council also notes that Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, has committed to Greater Manchester becoming a living wage city-region and called for care workers to receive a massive pay rise.

Therefore, in light of the urgency in recruitment and retention in this sector, council calls on the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member to back bringing in improved basic pay for care workers through the Foundation Living Wage of £9.90 an hour as a minimum starting salary for all directly employed and commissioned care workers.

Council also proposes that a review be undertaken to map out how the council can reach the foundation living wage as a minimum offer for the borough and make best use of evidence of success in other councils who have acted to improve recruitment and retention of staff.

Costs of the foundation living wage as a minimum, are not reflected in the councils existing models for commissioned care in part due to the chronic underfunding for adult social care by central government. Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer

and set out the council's need for more funding in order to increase investment in adult social care in Bolton and address the ongoing social care recruitment and retention crisis.

(f) Motion in the name of Councillor Veevers –

Council notes with concern that inflation has risen to its highest point for 10 years and that further increases to the cost of power, fuel, food and other consumer goods and to fares for public transport are likely to mean more rises.

Council also notes that this is happening at a time when real incomes are being reduced by increases to National Insurance, below inflation pay rises, cuts to Universal Credit and ending or suspension of the 'triple lock' safeguarding for state pensions. This will have a proportionately greater impact on those on low or medium incomes.

Council believes that Government must take urgent action to reduce the impacts on those who cannot afford it and spread the cost to those at the top of the earnings scale and Companies that have largely avoided paying a fair level of taxation.

Council resolves to make these views known to appropriate levels of Government and ask the Borough's MPs to support these moves to reduce the impact on the majority of Bolton's inhabitants.

(g) Motion in the name of Councillor Hayes –

Council notes its severe disappointment in the Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Council further notes that the Prime Minister acted unlawfully, misled Parliament and lied to the residents of our country.

Council adds that while the Prime Minister attended Downing Street parties, millions of people obeyed the lockdown rules, often at huge personal cost. They missed funerals, cancelled weddings and said goodbye to dying loved ones on video calls - some on the very day that Number Ten illegally hosted a garden party.

Council condemns the Prime Minister who has now become a threat to the health of our nation, and for the sake of the country still gripped by this awful pandemic he must resign.

Council calls upon the Leader of the Council to write to Boris Johnson stating that council has no confidence in his leadership and calls for him to resign.

Council resolves that we no longer have confidence in the Prime Minister.

(h) Motion in the name of Councillor D. Wilkinson –

Council strongly believes that it is unreasonable for residents of the Borough to be expected to live in accommodation that does not meet the Minimum Space Standards described in the DCLG Technical House Standards Nationally Described Space Standard.

Council notes that despite being frequently raised at Planning Committee, with apparent cross party agreement, these standards have still not been adopted by this Council. Accordingly, Council instructs officers to bring forward a report to consider those standards being adopted at the earliest opportunity.

S. Johnson

SUE JOHNSON

Deputy Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

9th March, 2022

The proceedings of the Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 7th February to 25th February, 2022, together with the Constitutional Panel, are included for information only in a separate volume.