

BOLTON COUNCIL

Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Second Floor, Town Hall, Bolton on Wednesday next, 21st August, 2019 at the rise of the extraordinary meeting of the Council 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 19th June, 2019 (Section A).

2. Constitution

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Greenhalgh –

To agree the revised AGMA constitution, as detailed in the report circulated.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Mrs. Thomas –

To approve the proposed changes to the powers and duties of the Audit Committee, as detailed in the report circulated.

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:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee
(See Section C)

7. Scrutiny Committees

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

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

8. 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 Hayes regarding agenda item 5 of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 1st August, 2019 –

That the decision should be referred to Council with a recommendation that the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader portfolio resolves not to sell the land but retain it as open green space for the continuing benefit of residents in Horwich.

9. Motions under Standing Order No.4

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

As part of his visit to the United Kingdom, US President Donald Trump said that the NHS must be on the table as part of any trade deal with the UK after Brexit. This echoed comments made by the US Ambassador Woody Johnson a few days earlier.

Council regards this as a serious and direct threat to the NHS and counter to the interests of the many Bolton residents that rely on it and work in it.

Council believes that this could be the beginning of the end for high quality healthcare for all in the UK. Opening up the NHS to US corporations would mean that the profit motive invades our NHS, patient data is up for sale, access to healthcare is rationed and we would be staring at a system, as in the US, where if you can't pay you don't get care.

Council further believes this to be a betrayal of the principles of the system designed by Lord Beveridge and implemented by the 1945 Government under the influence of Bevan and Attlee.

Council regards decent healthcare to be a human right which should never be a commodity to be bought and sold.

Council resolves to write to the current Prime Minister and all Conservative leadership contenders asking them to guarantee that our health service will never form part of a trade deal with the US if they become Prime Minister.

Council also resolves to inform the three Members of Parliament representing Bolton Constituencies of this resolution and ask for their support.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Silvester –

This Council believes that buses are hugely important for citizens of the Borough in accessing work, the services we need, for our communities, districts and townships

and for a sustainable and environmentally healthy Borough.

This Council understands that 80% of public transport journeys in Greater Manchester are undertaken by Bus. Understands that deregulation occurred in most places in the UK in the 1980's meaning that bus companies can run whatever routes they like, charging what they like, with various ticketing structures and that 140 different types of tickets are available in Greater Manchester.

Understands that a regulated bus network is operated in London where its transport authority, Transport for London underneath The Mayor of London sets prices, routes and develops standard ticketing systems and where all bus routes are put out to tender and the service bought from a company.

Understands that regulation of the Greater Manchester bus network would mean profits could be used to subsidise socially necessary services and would allow a simpler smart ticket system with an automatic daily cap on spend, like in London.

Understands that without regulation, a simple and single area-wide zonal ticket with an automatic cap on spend is impossible.

Understand that 76% of people in Greater Manchester would like buses to be regulated.

Understands that bus journeys have declined by 40% in Greater Manchester since deregulation whilst in London, bus use has doubled since then.

Understands that the only alternative to bus regulation is a partnership which is a voluntary agreement between bus companies and the transport authority.

Understands that Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham will be making a decision whether to regulate buses.

This Council therefore further believes that The Mayor of Greater Manchester through Transport for Greater Manchester and working alongside local authorities including this Council should have the ability to plan, join up and design the bus network in Greater Manchester, and compel bus companies to deliver certain standards and also understands that our current bus network throughout the Borough is far too vulnerable to instabilities as we have recently seen with bus routes being withdrawn and districts within the Borough being left with no bus service at all.

This Council therefore resolves to support a regulated bus service in Greater Manchester, to improve bus services in the Borough and commits to writing to Mayor Andy Burnham on this matter in support and asks that both the Leader of the Council and Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport lobbies Mayor Andy Burnham in support on this matter, calling on him to choose to regulate buses in Greater Manchester.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Donaghy –

As a local authority this council is responsible for the procurement of a multitude of construction projects.

This Council recommends to the Leader of the Council to commit to working with trade unions to achieve the highest standards and enter into the UNITE the UNION Construction Charter which requires this authority to support the Get Britain Building campaign and all contractors to:

- directly employ all operatives under a contract of employment, prohibiting contractors from using intermediary pay roll companies to avoid non-compliance with HMRC regulations;
- adhere to Unite the Union's minimum standards for health and safety;

- provide welfare facilities in accordance with the Construction Design and Management Regulation 2015;
- work collaboratively with trade unions to identify and implement reasonable real-world initiatives;
- retain documented evidence that all workers are competent to carry out the work they have been employed to do which evidence can be easily audited;
- consult with this authority to develop and implement a programme that addresses skills shortages and provides training opportunities to residents;
- comply with all appropriate national agreements applicable to the construction industry, including the appropriate national industry collective agreement;
- accept the right of any trade union, that is a signatory to a national agreement to appoint shop stewards, workplace health and safety representatives and union learning representatives, granting them appropriate time and facilities to carry out their role;
- commit to a fair and transparent recruitment policy requiring employment to be based on individuals having the ability to meet the needs of the project and specific tasks they are recruited for;
- agree it is unacceptable for a blacklist to be formed for any them or any of their supply chain, and,
- allow employees, and require their supply chain, access to trade union representatives that are trade unions that are signatories to appropriate national agreements including access to welfare facilities.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Cunliffe –

This Council wants to be able to offer young people leaving care the widest choice of accommodation and is

concerned that current benefit rules and regulations are limiting options for care leavers as a result because of the unintended consequences of regulations for housing allowances and resolves to write to the Minister for the Department for Work and Pensions asking for the following changes to be made:

1. Removal of the “spare room subsidy” for all care leavers up to 25 in the socially rented sector as this regulation has the unintended consequences of limiting care leavers to renting one bedroomed properties from social landlords. There is limited availability and they are not always in areas where young people leaving care have connections and want to live.
2. Extend the Local Housing Allowance exemption up to 25 years of age. Care leavers up to 21 are entitled to claim Local Housing Allowance up to the 1 bedroomed rate. However, once the care leaver turns 22 the care leaver is only entitled to the Shared Room Rate which is significantly less. This change will bring the regulation in line with the age of care leavers this authority has corporate parental responsibility for from 21 years to 25 years.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Haworth –

In the last couple of years the government has been running public awareness campaigns for example antibiotic awareness, female genital mutilation, hate crime and loneliness to name just a few.

Since 2010 Bolton Council has had draconian cuts to its public health budget and is extremely limited in what new public health campaign work it can provide for the Borough.

Many residents and councillors in our Borough are now accustomed to finding used silver metal pellets of nitrous

oxide in our neighbourhoods and there are reports that its use is causing anti-social behaviour.

The Royal College of Nursing UK (RCN) reports that nitrous oxide is predominantly being used by 16 to 24 year olds and that it is the second most popular drug of this age group after cannabis. They also report that many parents and citizens know little at all about this drug. A small number of deaths have occurred due to nitrous oxide pellet use and there are physical and mental damaging effects to young people from this drug.

In light of the risks of harm to young people and a lack of knowledge about the drug by parents and members of the community this Council will;

Ask government ministers to include nitrous oxide misuse in public awareness campaigns and to consider how the work of government can become more adaptable to changes in substance misuse like this.

Ask government ministers to increase the public health budget allocation to Bolton Council so this Council can carry out more responsive public health work.

(f) Motion in the name of Councillor Cunningham -

That this Council reaffirms it previously stated belief in accordance with the Notice of Motion agreed by the Council on 24th February 2016 and subsequently confirmed in the Notice of Motion agreed by the Council on 29th March 2017 that,

The Council continues to recognise that the highest standards of probity and transparency are vital components for the public to have complete confidence in the conduct of elections.

The council further notes that there remains a Substantial Real and Present Threat of electoral fraud both through votes cast "in person" at a Polling Station (there is currently no proof that the person casting a vote

at the polling station is the person named on the polling card) and to an Even Greater Extent through Postal Ballots which we believe should be severely restricted to specific limited criteria such as armed forces serving abroad, persons verifiably being away on holiday/working away or housebound/hospitalised due to illness/injury on polling day

Council again advocates measures such as individual elector registration, including recording the signature of individual voters so that it can then be cross checked by introducing a further requirement of individual voters being required to sign for the issue of a ballot paper.

This Council therefore determines to request HM Government to support the introduction of Voter ID at all future elections both Local and National and implement without delay all reasonable measures to facilitate this, stating clearly and unambiguously what Robust Forms of ID (to include as a minimum photo and signature and possibly additional biometric markers) will be acceptable and How To Obtain Them, thus affording adequate time for those who would claim to be disenfranchised by fact of their not currently being in possession of such ID but legally eligible to be so, to obtain the same without delay on their part in preparation to participate in future elections whenever so called.

This Council further determines to request HM Government with immediate effect (or at the earliest opportunity), to include Bolton in any relevant pilot scheme that that may be in operation (or may become available) in advance of the National Implementation of a Mandatory Voter ID requirement.

(g) Motion in the name of Councillor Donaghy -

That this council recommits itself to the GM Spatial Framework as agreed by the GMCA. Furthermore, this council rejects any move to withdraw from the GMSF and 'go it alone' as supported by the Conservative Group at a previous meeting of the Council.

(h) Motion in the name of Councillor McMulkin -

Council notes:

That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.

That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.

That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;

That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits; and that, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

Council therefore commits to:

Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action;

Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030
Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030;

Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030;

Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale;

Ensure that political and chief officer leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;

Request that Council Scrutiny Panels consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;

Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;

Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;

Request that the Executive Portfolio holder with responsibility for Climate Change convenes a Citizens' Assembly in 2019 in order to involve the wider population in this process. This group would help develop their own role, identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;

Set up a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. Over the

following 12 months, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030. It will also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy

Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio;

Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency;

Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise; and

Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings, in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice.

(i) Motion in the name of Councillor Heslop –

The train stations of Farnworth, Kearsley & Moses Gate do not currently have a Sunday train service, and this is despite four trains passing these stations – in each direction – every hour.

On weekdays and Saturdays, despite eight non-peak trains per hour passing through Farnworth, Kearsley & Moses Gate train stations again in each direction, only one train stops. Even in this borough this is extremely unusual, as at least 60% of the trains that go through stations in this borough's other towns stop – compared to 12.5% for Farnworth, Kearsley & Moses Gate.

It is of course hoped that the redevelopment of Farnworth Town Centre will bring prosperity to the town and that much of the footfall will be from people from outside of the towns of Farnworth and Kearsley.

Despite an additional train from Manchester-bound train stopping Kearsley on weekday mornings, there is still a considerable build-up of traffic along Bolton Road & Manchester Road which sees morning traffic crawling for over three miles in the Manchester direction.

Many people of Farnworth and Kearsley are extremely grateful to respected Farnworth-born train enthusiast Professor Paul Salveson, Yasmin Qureshi MP and member Stuart Haslam for their efforts in lobbying the for additional services.

This Council agrees that it is vital that the potential of Farnworth, Kearsley & Moses Gate stations are utilised to maximise the efforts taking place in Farnworth along with offering viable alternative transport for both Farnworth and Kearsley, and agrees to write to Northern Trains, Transport for Greater Manchester and the Minister of Transport expressing its concerns and impressing on these bodies the need for both Sunday trains and more frequent weekday trains.



TONY OAKMAN
Chief Executive

Town Hall, Bolton

14th August, 2019

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 6th June to 29th July, 2019 are included for information only in a separate volume, together with the minutes of the Audit Committee and Chief Officers Appointments Panel.