

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2018

Present:

Councillor G Coleman (in the Chair)

Councillors

Benson	Elmes	Maycock	Mrs Scott
Callow	Galley	Mitchell	Singleton
Mrs Callow JP	Mrs Henderson MBE	O'Hara	Stansfield
Campbell	Humphreys	Owen	L Taylor
Clapham	Hunter	Robertson BEM	L Williams
D Coleman	Hutton	Roberts	T Williams
Collett	Jackson	Rowson	Mrs Wright
Cox	Kirkland	Ryan	
Cross	Matthews	D Scott	

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Alan Cavill, Director of Place

Diane Booth, Director Children's Services

Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Karen Smith, Director of Adult Services

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships/Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Jenny Bollington, Media Manager

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Blackburn, Cain and Smith who were on official Council business.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Hunter, Singleton and Robertson declared prejudicial interests in agenda item 4(b), Report from the Deputy Leader of the Council, as Council-appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Housing Company Ltd and indicated that they would leave the room if any discussion arose in relation to the information in the report relating to that company.

As a Director of Blackpool Sixth Form College, Councillor Clapham declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 4(b), Report from the Deputy Leader of the Council, in reference to the contract between Blackpool Sixth Form College and HeadStart – Creative Experiences and also indicated that he would leave the room if there were questions or comments on the paragraph in the report.

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2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2018

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 February 2018, be signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements on this occasion.

4 EXECUTIVE REPORTS, COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report on behalf of the Leader and went on to present her own report. The Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health presented the report on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary.

All reports outlined the work under undertaken in the respective portfolio areas and covered corporate, strategic and policy issues, together with work being undertaken in transforming services and with partners.

On behalf of the representatives of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority, Councillor Jackson presented a report detailing the work of the authority from the meetings held in September and December 2017 and February 2018.

The Chairman of the Audit Committee also presented his report to the Council, which detailed work of the committee during the last municipal year and its future work programme.

Questions, comments and debate were invited from all councillors on each of the report areas.

Notes:

- (1) On behalf of the Leader, the Deputy Leader agreed to provide a response to:
 - Councillor Mrs Callow on the reason for the protracted renovations to the Municipal Buildings to accommodate the Job Centre
 - Councillor M Scott on the rationale for the revised opening time of 10.00 am on Wednesdays for the Customer First office
 - Councillor Callow as to the reason for representatives from the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley Council inspecting trees on grass verges within the Norbreck ward
 - Councillor Mrs Callow on the amount of Government grants and grants from other organisations that the Council had received during 2017/ 2018
 - Councillor T Williams as to why the Council had used Mr Andy Spinoza's Company (SKV Communications) to advertise the Museum Project, along with confirmation of the cost and duration of the contract and the reason why the Council's own Communications Team had not been used.

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- (2) In presenting her own report, the Deputy Leader agreed to provide a response to:
- Councillor T Williams to clarify whether more court cases were being referred to the law courts in Chorley and confirmation about the future of the Blackpool Magistrates, County and Family Courts
 - Councillor Mrs Callow on the cost of the feasibility study for the Central Leisure Quarter (CLQ) site, which had been funded through external money from the Cabinet Office
 - Councillor Clapham on details of the exact location of the potential development site for new housing on Blackpool Road.

5 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018/ 2019

The Council considered the recommendation from the Chief Officer's Employment Committee in relation to the Pay Policy Statement, which was required to be approved for the 2018/2019 financial year. The Statement set out policy on Chief Officer Remuneration, remuneration of its lowest paid employees including the definition used for this group, as well as the relationship between the chief officer remuneration and that of other staff.

The Committee had also recommended the approval of election fees ahead of the 2019 local elections, in order to assist with planning and recruitment of election staff for May 2019. Members noted that the proposed changes did not affect the overall budget for election payments, and contained some minor increases and reductions and clarity over the Returning Officer's fee for multiple by-elections.

Motion: Councillor Campbell proposed (and Councillor Cross seconded):

'To approve the Pay Policy Statement and the local elections fees as submitted to the Chief Officers Employment Committee'.

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

6 MOTIONS AT COUNCIL

Telephone Boxes and Antisocial Behaviour

Motion: Having submitted notice, Councillor Humphreys proposed (and Councillor Ryan seconded):

'That the Council recognises that whilst being a community asset, telephone boxes can also be a source and cause of crime and anti-social behaviour particularly drug dealing. The Council therefore calls upon British Telecom to review its criteria for the removal of telephone boxes to take into account such crime and anti-social behaviour issues evidenced by responsible authorities. The Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary to request that the Council's concerns be raised with Telephone Box providers'.

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Members went on to debate the motion.

Motion carried: The motion was submitted to the Council and carried.

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 7.25 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

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