

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2018

Present:

Councillor Rowson (in the Chair)

Councillors

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

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships/Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Philip Welsh, Head of Visitor Economy

Jenny Bollington, Media Manager

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Blackburn, Jackson and T Williams declared personal interests in Agenda Item 9a 'Notices of Motion – Lancashire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority'.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2018

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 May 2018, be signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor reminded members that it was Armed Forces week and asked councillors for their support for the Service and Parade.

The Deputy Mayor announced that Terrie Carmody had been awarded the Blackpool and the Fylde College Higher Education Student of the Year award (Computing) and congratulated Terrie, on behalf of the Council.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2018

4 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS - PUBLIC SPEAKER

Members noted that Mr Stuart Clayton had been unable to attend the Council meeting as expected and agreed that the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

5 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION - PETITION SCHEME - RE-OPENING OF THE BLACKPOOL FOYER TO HELP THE HOMELESS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER LOCAL GROUPS

It was reported that the Council's Petitions Officer had received a petition containing over 1,500 signatures relating to the re-opening of the Blackpool Foyer to help the homeless in partnership with other local groups and that in line with the approved Council's Petition Scheme, qualified for report to and debate at Council.

The petition organiser, Mr Bennison, addressed Council members with regards to the petition statements and representations from residents and asked the Council to consider opening the Foyer for young homeless people aged, particularly over the winter period.

Motion: Councillor Mrs Wright proposed (and Councillor Cross seconded):

'That the Council does not reopen the Blackpool Foyer for use as accommodation for young homeless people.'

Debate took place on the motion and while it was accepted that homelessness was a significant issue across the country, members expressed the view that other homelessness services were in place aimed at tackling the root of the issue.

Motion carried: The motion on being submitted to the Council was carried.

6 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

The Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Secretary presented reports to the Council on work undertaken in their own portfolio area and those portfolios under their responsibility. The reports covered corporate, strategic and policy issues, together with work being undertaken in transforming services and with partners.

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

Notes:

- (1) Councillor Blackburn agreed to provide a response to Councillor Mrs Callow on the total staffing budget for the Blackpool Museum and sources of funding, as well as the figure for commuted sums.
- (2) In response to Councillor T Williams, Councillor Campbell agreed to provide details of when the Airport Enterprise Zone Business Plan and Market Assessment, which was being prepared by York Aviation, would be published and whether it would be

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2018

publically available or subject to commercial confidentiality. Councillor Campbell also agreed to confirm for Councillor Mrs Callow when the toilets at Little Bispham (junction of Princes Way) would be reopened.

- (3) During the discussion on the report from the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Clapham declared a personal interest as a Director of Blackpool Sixth Form College.
- (4) Councillor Stansfield left the meeting following consideration of the item.

7 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2018 TO 2021)

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive from its meeting on 16 April 2018 relating to the approval of the three-year Local Transport Plan, which had been structured around the six Local Transport Plan strategic objectives including: highway maintenance, road safety, congestion, economy, parking and accessibility.

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

- ‘1. To approve the indicative three-year Local Transport Plan works programme 2018/ 2019 to 2020/ 2021 attached at Appendix 2a to the Executive report.
2. To approve the programme incorporated with the objectives and vision from the 2011 Local Transport Plan Strategy forming Blackpool’s Local Transport Plan (Implementation Plan 2018 to 2021) attached at Appendix 2b to the Executive report.
3. To grant authority to the Director of Communication and Regeneration following consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs) subject to a published officer decision, to vary the programme as required to deliver overall objectives and ensure spend of the indicative grant allocations.’

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

8 POLITICAL BALANCE CALCULATIONS

The Council was asked to consider the political balance and re-appointment of its committees, in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Local Government Act 1972, due to the creation of an Independent Group. The Deputy Mayor informed the Council that the group would be known as the ‘Independent Blackpool Residents Group’.

Motion: Councillor Blackburn proposed (and Councillor T Williams seconded):

- ‘1. To appoint the following Council committees, in line with the political balance calculations and adjustments at Appendix 8(a) and to agree that the powers and duties remain as set out in the Council’s Constitution:
 - Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee (membership of ten with a composition of six Labour, three Conservative and one Independent)

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2018

- Resilient Communities and Children’s Scrutiny Committee (membership of ten with a composition of six Labour, three Conservative and one Independent)
 - Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee (membership of ten with a composition of six Labour, three Conservative and one Independent)
 - Audit Committee (membership of nine with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
 - Appeals Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative)
 - Planning Committee (membership of eight and with a composition of five Labour, two Conservative and one Independent)
 - Standards Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative)
 - Chief Officers Employment Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative)
 - Shareholder’s Advisory Board (membership of four and with a composition of three Labour and one Conservative)
2. That in relation to scrutiny, to agree to continue with two diocesan co-opted representatives and the two governor co-opted representatives to the Resilient Communities and Children’s Scrutiny Committee and for that committee to confirm the necessary appointments.
 3. That the Licensing Committee also be re-appointed with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (membership of fourteen and a composition of nine Labour, four Conservative and one Independent).
 4. That the Licensing Committee be requested to re-appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative).
 5. To note the appointment of members to committees as set out in Appendix 8(b) and thereafter any nominations or changes to nominations reported to the Director of Governance and Partnerships by the relevant Group Leader.
 6. To agree to the appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for those committees as identified at Appendix 8(b) based on the above recommendations.
 7. To note that the Health and Well Being Board is not affected by the creation of an Independent Group and remains constituted as agreed at Annual Council.
 8. To agree that as a new Independent Group has been constituted, as per normal practice when positions are created which are not already in the Council’s Members Allowances Scheme (ie Group Leader of a third group) that a referral to the Independent Remuneration Panel be made and a report from that Panel be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2018

9. To agree that the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.'

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

9 LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Motion: Having submitted notice, Councillor T Williams proposed (and Councillor Jackson seconded):

'Lancashire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority remains committed to delivering the best possible service to its communities, with the resources it has available. It continues to work productively and effectively with a range of stakeholders. The new statutory duty to collaborate with other emergency services is also acknowledged, while recognising many initiatives were already in place or in development irrespective of this mandate.

The Fire and Rescue Authority remains confident that current governance arrangements present the best way to deliver a fire and rescue service for its communities. It will though provide the information required for the work proposed by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), which it believes will evidence that it is already effectively progressing collaborative opportunities within existing structures.

Consequently, this Council places on record its opposition to any proposals that transfer any current responsibilities of the Fire and Rescue Authority in Lancashire to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Blackpool Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Home Secretary explaining this view, sending copies to all Lancashire Members of Parliament.'

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

10 LEARNING DISABILITIES

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

'Blackpool is home to a number of exceptional schools, services and groups dedicated to the inclusion and support of residents with a learning disability, who are a treasured part of our town and our communities.

This Council notes that due to health inequalities, gaps in care and poor specialist health provision, people with learning disabilities are at significantly higher risk of dying avoidable deaths, both in hospital and at home. Both the LeDer and Mencap's "Treat Me Well"

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2018

reports have set out what ought to be done about this national scandal, yet little progress has been made in the past decade.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to both the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to outline the Council's position and to urge meaningful action on the following points:

- The introduction of basic mandatory training for all hospital staff and social workers, regarding the care for people with learning disabilities.
- An urgent and comprehensive review of NHS resources, training and recruitment, and provision of specialist nurses, doctors and associated health professionals with a detailed knowledge of the needs of patients with learning disabilities.
- A detailed review of NHS policy and process in relation to the identification and tracking of people with learning disabilities and the systems used to make reasonable adjustments for them, such as access to in-patient specialist services, accessible verbal and written communication and longer appointment times.
- The creation of a ministerial role for learning disabilities in Health and Social Care.'

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

11 REINSTATEMENT OF THROUGH TRAINS

Motion: Having submitted notice, Councillor O'Hara proposed (and Councillor Mitchell seconded):

'This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Chairman of Transport for the North, Sir John Cridland and the Secretary Of State for Transport, insisting that "THROUGH" trains to and from Blackpool, connecting the resort with East Lancashire and West Yorkshire, are reinstated as soon as possible.

Visitors from these areas have for over a century, been the mainstay of inbound tourism. Many people who use the train to come to Blackpool have no alternative means of transport, many are elderly or suffer from disabilities - requiring them to change trains, often at stations which may be legally compliant, but hardly disabled friendly, is an intolerable situation.'

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

12 SINGLE USE PLASTICS

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

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2018

'This Council supports Surfers Against Sewage "Plastics Free Coastlines" movement, committing to plastic free alternatives and supporting plastic free initiatives within Lancashire.

The Council commits to lead by example to remove single-use plastic items from its premises. It must also encourage plastic free initiatives, promoting the campaign and supporting its events.

A representative of this Council, appointed by the Leader, will volunteer to become a member of the Surfers Against Sewage "Plastic Free Coastlines" Steering group, in order to support them in developing a local action plan.

Blackpool Council therefore commits to eliminating, wherever practically possible, its use of single use plastics by May 2020 and to work with our wholly owned companies to the same end.'

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

13 SAVE CREATIVE ARTS GCSE SUBJECTS IN BLACKPOOL

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

'Since the announcement of the English Baccalaureate, Blackpool secondary schools are having to prioritise subjects within the EBacc as the Government has said that schools' performance will be measured on the success rate of pupils studying these qualifications. The Government expects 90% of all secondary school pupils to be choosing this combination by 2025.

Subjects within the new qualification are English language and literature, maths, the sciences, geography or history and a language. This does not leave much room for creative subjects such as art, dance, drama and music.

With the increased emphasis on core academic subjects, together with funding pressures, resources for creative subjects are being cut back.

The Council is therefore asked:

- To support teachers and parents who want young people to study arts in Blackpool secondary schools.
- To support that further work be carried out with Blackpool secondary schools and the Council looking at ways to work together to ensure Blackpool's creative talent is not lost at secondary school, providing a dedicated resource looking at funding opportunities and ways to support creative subjects at GCSE level.
- To assess the feasibility of an arts-based secondary school in Blackpool.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2018

- That the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of state for Education on the Council's behalf to ask if Blackpool secondary school students can choose a creative arts subject as part of their EBacc.'

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

14 THE RAIL NETWORK AND ITS IMPACT ON BLACKPOOL'S ECONOMY

Motion: Having submitted notice, Councillor Collett proposed (and Councillor Hutton seconded):

'This Council deplores the current chaotic state and catastrophic decline in performance of our rail network and its impact on Blackpool's economy, as well as the human and financial costs to our residents and local business.

This Council therefore requests its Chief Executive to write the Secretary of State for Transport to outline this situation and to support the Leader of the Council's call (made in his role as a Director of Transport for the North) for a compensation scheme for Blackpool businesses to be rapidly developed, alongside a "disaster recovery" marketing scheme for the Fylde Coast, both to be funded jointly by Northern and Network Rail.'

Members went on to debate the motion.

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

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 9.06 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
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