

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2016

Present:

Councillor Callow (in the Chair)

Councillors

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

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

Carmel McKeogh, Deputy Chief Executive

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Alan Cavill, Director of Place

Delyth Curtis, Director of People

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services/ Monitoring Officer

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Yvonne Burnett, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

Jenny Bollington, Media Manager

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Henderson declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 'Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17'.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2015

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 November 2015 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised the Council that he had agreed for the March Council meeting to take place on 30 March 2016 in order to allow for briefings to be held on the Combined Authority proposals.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2016

4 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

Mr Andy Higgins, spokesperson for the Blackpool Supporters Trust, addressed the Council on the concerns regarding the relationship between Blackpool Football Club's owners and the local community. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Blackburn, responded on behalf of the Council.

5 EXECUTIVE REPORTS TO COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and the 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 Campbell agreed to provide details to Councillor T Williams on staffing costs in relation to Selective Licensing, including the numbers of staff and working hours and to confirm whether those costs related solely to Selective Licensing duties.

6 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2016/ 2017

Members considered the recommendation from the Executive at its meeting on 7 December 2015 in relation to the approval of a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and noted that the proposals were for the Scheme to be of the same design as currently in place but with the removal of the family premium from housing benefit for children born after April 2016 or for new claims made after that date.

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

- '1. To agree that the Council continues to operate a Discretionary Discount Policy to be awarded in cases of exceptional hardship.
2. To agree that the reduction applied to Working Age claimants remains at 27.11% for the 2016/2017 Scheme and that the main elements and method of calculating awards previously agreed by Council on 22 January 2015 will remain the same.'

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

(Note: Councillor Mrs Henderson left the room while the item was under consideration).

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2016

7 BLACKPOOL LOCAL PLAN PART 1: CORE STRATEGY

The Council considered the recommendation from the Executive in relation to the adoption of the Core Strategy which formed part of the statutory planning framework for Blackpool and set out where new development should be located to meet the town's needs to 2027. The Strategy would also be used to determine planning applications and priorities in Blackpool over the next 12 years.

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

1. To accept the Inspector's findings and his recommendations and adopt the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy with the Main Modifications recommended by the Inspector as set out in Appendix 2(a) (ii) to the Executive report and with the additional (minor) modifications to the Core Strategy set out in Appendix 2(b) to the Executive report and the amended Policies Maps at Appendix 2(c) (ii) to the Executive report.
2. To authorise the Chief Executive to undertake the necessary steps for the adoption process to be completed.
3. To authorise the Director of Place to make any final modifications to improve readability and the final presentation of the document, and to correct any factual matters or typographical errors.'

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

8 WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2016/ 2020

Members considered the recommendations from the Executive meeting on 18 January in relation to the draft Workforce Strategy. It was noted that the document replaced the People Strategy and was designed to provide direction for the current and future management and development of people across the Council and informed business planning, workforce planning, employment policy development, procedures and practice.

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

'To approve the Workforce Strategy 2016-2020.'

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

9 LOCAL AUTHORITY DECLARATION ON HEALTHY WEIGHT

The Council received the recommendations from the Executive meeting on 18 January regarding proposals for a Healthy Weight Declaration that had been developed as a vision and commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of Blackpool. Members noted that the Declaration followed a collaborative programme launched by Directors of Public Health in the North West to tackle increasing obesity.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2016

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

'To sign up to the Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight including both the national themes outlined in paragraph 5.2 and the local priorities outlined at paragraph 5.3 of the Executive agenda.'

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

10 MAYOR ELECT FOR 2016/ 2017

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

'That Councillor Kath Rowson be invited to offer herself for the election of Mayor at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 16 May 2016 and agree that the meeting commences at 2.00pm, as it has in previous years.'

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

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 7.14 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

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