

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH 2024

Present:

Councillor Campbell (in the Chair)

Councillors

Baker	Critchley	Jackson	Sloman
Bamborough	Ellison	Jones	M Smith
Benson	Farrell	Marshall	Taylor
Boughton	Fenlon	B Mitchell	Thomas
N Brookes	Galley	C Mitchell	Warne
P Brookes	Hobson	D Mitchell	Williams
S Brookes	Hoyle	Roberts	Wilshaw
Burdess	Hugo	Roe	
Cartmell	Humphreys	D Scott	
Cooper	Hunter	Mrs Scott	

In Attendance:

Neil Jack, Chief Executive

John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration

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 (items 1 to 4 only)

Sarah Chadwick, Democratic Governance Senior Adviser

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Boughton, Bamborough and B Mitchell declared personal interests in agenda item 3 'Lancashire Devolution' as Council-appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Transport Services Limited. Councillors Benson and Thomas also declared personal interests in the item as their partners were employees of Blackpool Transport Services Limited.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2024

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 February 2024 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

Following the item, the Mayor announced that Councillor Sarah Smith had had a baby boy and expressed congratulations to Councillor Smith and her family on behalf of the Council.

3 LANCASHIRE DEVOLUTION

Members considered the report on the proposal to create the Lancashire Combined County Authority (CCA) for the areas of Blackpool Council, Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council. In doing so, they noted the previous decisions of the

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three constituent Councils to agree the draft proposals as a basis for consultation with residents and stakeholders. It was reported that since those agreements, consultation had taken place from 1 December 2023 until 26 January 2024 on the eight thematic areas, the findings of which were included in the report along with the Councils' responses and resulting amendments to the proposal document. It was highlighted that one of the main areas of amendment was in relation to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and delivery of benefit across the whole area and it was noted that the work of the proposed CCA would be informed by a Lancashire Data Observatory based on an alliance of local authorities, industry experts and academic researchers delivering sub-regional research.

Members also noted minor changes had been made to the proposal document to reflect updated advice from government and legal clarifications.

The report also informed members that the regulations which set out the legal terms for establishing the CCA along with some proposed key governance arrangements for chairing meetings, substitute members, voting arrangements and capacity funding from government, were currently being drafted by government. In respect of those, delegation arrangements for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to formally sign off the final wording was proposed in order to avoid any delay in the process.

Members noted that additional detail such as arrangements for meetings, scheme of delegation and details of committee functions would be set out in the Constitution which would be subject to a further report to the three constituent Councils in June or July.

The report also included an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) which recognised that the Proposal had the potential to provide significant benefits to all communities, but specifically for people from the protected characteristic groups and deprived communities. In order to achieve these benefits, it was reported that the new CCA would be required to set equality objectives, publish annual equalities information and have due regard for equality matters when carrying out its functions, making decisions and delivering projects and programmes and that early thought should be given to these areas in meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Motion: Councillor Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

'That the Council agrees to:

1. To note the outcomes of the consultation on the draft Proposal published in November 2023, as set out in the Council report and its appendices.
2. Approve the final Proposal attached at Appendix 3(b) to the Council report, taking into consideration and having due regard to the consultation responses and the Public Sector Equality Duty, to create the Lancashire Combined County Authority (LCCA) for the areas of Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council.
3. Note how the Proposal has been amended to take account of the results of the Consultation, as set out in the Council report and in more detail within Appendix

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3(b) (the Summary of the Consultation and the Constituent Councils' Response), Appendix 3(c) (Summary of the Ipsos Consultation Report), and Appendix 3(d) (the Summary of Communications and Engagement Activity).

4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to submit the Proposal to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (SoS) after consultation with the Chief Executives of the other two constituent councils to confirm that all constituent councils approve the amended proposal for submission.
5. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve any typographical or technical amendments to the final Proposal which the Chief Executives of the other two constituent councils also agree on, on behalf of Lancashire County Council, prior to submission.
6. Consent to the making of the necessary Regulations to create the Lancashire Combined County Authority in accordance with the arrangements and principles set out in the report and delegates to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and subject to the approval of the other two Constituent Councils, final approval of the draft Regulations, subject to those regulations reflecting the principles agreed in the Proposal document and this report'.

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

4 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024/2025

The Council considered the recommendation from the Chief Officer's Employment Committee in relation to the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/2025 which incorporated the annual gender pay gap data.

Motion: Councillor Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

'To approve the Proposed Pay Policy Statement, as attached at Appendix 4(a) to the report'.

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

5 MONITORING OFFICER

Members considered the recommendations from the Chief Officers' Employment Committee meeting in respect of the appointment of a Monitoring Officer pending the retirement of Mark Towers, the current Monitoring Officer, later in the year.

Motion: Councillor Williams proposed (and Councillor Taylor seconded):

1. To appoint Lorraine Hurst as the Council's Monitoring Officer from 1 April 2024 with a review by Council prior to the end of the calendar year.
2. That the duties and responsibilities assigned in the Constitution to the Director of Governance and Partnerships be assigned to the Monitoring Officer and those assigned to the Head of Democratic Governance be assigned to the Deputy Monitoring Officer,

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both with effect from 1 April 2024'.

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

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 6.11 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Lorraine Hurst, Head of Democratic Governance

Tel: 01253 477127

E-mail: lorraine.hurst@blackpool.gov.uk