

## PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 July 2017, when the following Members were present:-

Roger Mace (Mayor)

Sam Armstrong

Alan Biddulph

Carla Brayshaw

Tracy Brown

Nathan Burns

Darren Clifford

Brett Cooper

Sheila Denwood

Andrew Gardiner

Janet Hall

Janice Hanson

Caroline Jackson

Andrew Kay

Terrie Metcalfe

Rebecca Novell

Margaret Pattison

John Reynolds

Ron Sands

Roger Sherlock

Malcolm Thomas

Andrew Warriner

Anne Whitehead

Phillippa Williamson

Stuart Bateson (Deputy Mayor)

Lucy Atkinson

Eileen Blamire

Dave Brookes

Abbott Bryning

Susie Charles

Ian Clift

Claire Cozler

Charlie Edwards

Nigel Goodrich

Tim Hamilton-Cox

Brendan Hughes

Joan Jackson

James Leyshon

Abi Mills

Jane Parkinson

Robert Redfern

Sylvia Rogerson

Elizabeth Scott

Susan Sykes

Oscar Thynne

David Whitaker

Nicholas Wilkinson

Peter Yates

**19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors June Ashworth, Jon Barry, Rob Devey, Mel Guilding, Colin Hartley, Helen Helme, Ronnie Kershaw, Geoff Knight, John Wild, Peter Williamson and Paul Woodruff.

**20 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 and 15 May 2017 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members advised of the following interests at this stage:

Councillors Susie Charles, Charlie Edwards, Andrew Gardiner, Margaret Pattison and Phillippa Williamson declared non-prejudicial interests in Item 4 – the Urgent Business report on Carnforth Swimming Pool in view of them being members of Lancashire County Council.

**22 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS - CARNFORTH SWIMMING POOL**

The Mayor informed Members that he had accepted an item of urgent business with regard to Carnforth Swimming Pool in accordance with Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as a decision was required prior to the next Council meeting on 27th September 2017.

The Chief Officer (Health & Housing) submitted a report in order for Members to consider whether to continue to operate Carnforth pool for a further 3 months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, to allow time for Carnforth Town Council to lead on developing a community interest company to take over the pool.

***The Mayor agreed to adjourn the meeting at this point for 5 minutes to enable members the opportunity to read the report. The meeting adjourned at 6.08pm and reconvened at 6.13pm.***

The Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility for Leisure responded to questions.

Councillor Clifford proposed, seconded by Councillor Yates:

“That the City Council continues to operate Carnforth pool for a further 3 months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, with the extension funded from the Budget Support Reserve.”

After a short debate Members voted unanimously in support of the proposition.

***Resolved:***

- (1) That the City Council continues to operate Carnforth pool for a further 3 months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, with the extension funded from the Budget Support Reserve.

**23 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported the sad death of Betty Spencer Ford. Betty had represented Heysham Central between 1983 and 1991.

***Members stood in a minute's silence in her memory.***

The Mayor announced that a Notice of Casual Vacancy had been published in respect of Skerton West Ward following the resignation of Councillor Karen Leytham. The date of any by-election was yet to be determined.

The Mayor thanked all those who had attended the recent wine tasting fundraiser and those who had supported the Freedom March on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

**24 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11**

The Mayor advised that no questions had been received from members of the public in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.

**25 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES**

The Mayor called Mr Barry Lloyd forward to address Council about democratising the electorate. A copy of Mr Lloyd's address had been previously circulated.

The Mayor thanked Mr Lloyd, who returned to the public gallery.

**26 LEADER'S REPORT**

The Leader presented her report updating Members on various issues since her last report to Council. Councillor Hanson responded to a question regarding combined authorities, having attended a recent meeting on this subject on behalf of the Leader.

***Resolved:***

That the report be noted.

**27 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2016/17**

Council considered various matters in connection with the Treasury Management outturn for 2016/17 which were referred to them in a report from Cabinet.

The report was for noting.

***Resolved:***

That the report be noted.

**28 LATE NIGHT ECONOMY IN THE LANCASTER DISTRICT INFORMAL TASK GROUP**

Councillor Edwards, as the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny task group which had scrutinised the Lancaster Night Economy in the Lancaster District, presented the task group's report and recommendations to Council.

It was noted that recommendations (1)-(4) of the Task Group's report had been considered by Cabinet and Council was being asked to consider recommendations (5) and (6).

Members asked a number of questions, which Councillor Edwards and the Chief Officer (Environment) responded to.

Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Cooper, proposed:

- “(1) That all Members of the Licensing Act Committee take part in an annual early hours visit with the Licensing Team as part of their mandatory training.
- (2) That the City Council’s policy on the training of staff in licensed premises be reviewed.”

By way of an amendment, which was accepted as a friendly amendment by Councillors Edward and Cooper, Councillor Warriner proposed that all members be invited to attend the early hours visit.

There was a short debate before a vote was taken on the proposition as amended, which was clearly carried.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That all Members of the Licensing Act Committee take part in an annual early hours visit with the Licensing Team as part of their mandatory training and any other interested member would be welcome to attend.
- (2) That the City Council’s policy on the training of staff in licensed premises be reviewed.

## 29 MOTION ON NOTICE - LOCAL PROCUREMENT

The following motion of which notice had been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15 was moved by Councillor Hamilton-Cox and seconded by Councillor Caroline Jackson:-

“This Council applauds the work of Preston City Council in promoting local procurement by 12 of Preston’s key employers who were helped to reorganise their supply chains and identify where they could buy goods and services locally, stopping 61% of their procurement budget being spent outside the Lancashire economy.

This Council notes:

- 1) That several members of Cabinet, other City Councillors and a senior officer attended a meeting in the Gregson Centre in May at which Cllr Matthew Brown, the responsible Cabinet Member on Preston City Council, spoke about how far procurement has been localised and the benefits which have ensued for local businesses;
- 2) The key role of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) in facilitating the work to localise procurement amongst the key employers (including the City Council) in Preston;
- 3) The availability of the 2017-18 £500k economic development budget to fund a commission from CLES.

This Council resolves to request that Cabinet commission a report from the economic development team in the City Council on replicating the 'Preston model' in Lancaster district, to be presented to October Cabinet.”

An officer briefing note was included with the agenda, to inform and assist Councillors’ debate.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Burns:

“That point 3 and the resolution be replaced with:

3. *Officers from Lancaster City Council have had discussions with officers from Preston City Council to explore the potential for taking a similar approach here.*

*This council resolves to request that as part of the development of its own economic strategy, the economic development team investigate the ‘Preston model’ alongside other potential models for implementation in the Lancaster district.”*

***(The meeting adjourned at 6.40pm and reconvened at 6.45pm)***

With the agreement of the meeting and his seconder, Councillor Hamilton-Cox accepted this as a friendly amendment, with the following addition; ‘An interim report will be made available by January 2018.’

At the conclusion of the debate a vote was taken and the motion was clearly carried.

***Resolved:-***

This Council applauds the work of Preston City Council in promoting local procurement by 12 of Preston’s key employers who were helped to reorganise their supply chains and identify where they could buy goods and services locally, stopping 61% of their procurement budget being spent outside the Lancashire economy.

This council notes:

- 1) That several members of Cabinet, other City Councillors and a senior officer attended a meeting in the Gregson Centre in May at which Cllr Matthew Brown, the responsible Cabinet Member on Preston City Council, spoke about how far procurement has been localised and the benefits which have ensued for local businesses;
- 2) The key role of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) in facilitating the work to localise procurement amongst the key employers (including the city council) in Preston;
- 3) Officers from Lancaster City Council have had discussions with officers from Preston City Council to explore the potential for taking a similar approach here.

This council resolves to request that as part of the development of its own economic strategy, the economic development team investigate the ‘Preston model’ alongside other potential models for implementation in the Lancaster district. An interim report will be made available by January 2018.

### **30 MORECAMBE BAY COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT**

The Chief Executive submitted a report providing Council with further information on potential collaborative arrangements with South Lakeland District Council and Barrow Borough Council and presented a Joint Statement of Intent for Council’s consideration.

Members asked a number of questions, which the Chief Officer (Regeneration and Planning) and Councillor Blamire responded to.

Councillor Blamire, seconded by Councillor Hanson, proposed:

- “(1) That the Council explores collaborate opportunities with South Lakeland District Council and Barrow Borough Council in order to take a strategic approach to delivering economic and other benefits for the Morecambe Bay area and the Lancashire and Cumbria sub regions.
- (2) That the Joint Statement of Intent between the three Councils be agreed.”

There was a short debate before Members voted unanimously in support of the proposition.

***Resolved:***

- (1) That the Council explores collaborate opportunities with South Lakeland District Council and Barrow Borough Council in order to take a strategic approach to delivering economic and other benefits for the Morecambe Bay area and the Lancashire and Cumbria sub regions.
- (2) That the Joint Statement of Intent between the three Councils be agreed.

### **31 ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS**

The Chief Executive presented a report which set out the calculation in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Part 4 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, which had been carried out following notification of a change to the political groupings.

The Mayor confirmed that in accordance with a decision previously agreed at Council the report did not take into account the resignation of Councillor Leytham, as this would be considered after the by-election.

A proposition to approve the calculations and allocations of seats, as set out in Appendices B and C of the report, was moved by Councillor Brookes and seconded by Councillor Hamilton-Cox.

A vote was taken and the Mayor declared the proposition clearly carried.

The Mayor then asked the Green Group administrator which seat they wished to pass to the Conservative Group in the Overview and Scrutiny grouping.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox asked for Councillor Brookes' seat on the Budget and Performance Panel to be passed to the Conservative Group.

The Conservative group nominated Councillor Phillippa Williamson for that place.

The Mayor asked the Green Group administrator which place on the Regulatory and Standing Committees grouping they wished to pass to the Labour Group.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox asked for Councillor Mills' seat on the Licensing Act Committee to be passed to the Labour Group and the Labour Group nominated Councillor Denwood for that place.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox, seconded by Councillor Brookes proposed that the adjustments detailed above be approved.

The Mayor called for a vote on the proposition to approve the adjustments. Members voted unanimously in support of the proposition.

***Resolved:-***

- (1) That the calculations and allocations of seats, as set out in Appendices B and C of the report, be approved.
- (2) That Councillor Brookes be removed from the Budget and Performance Panel and Councillor Phillippa Williamson be appointed.
- (3) That Councillor Mills be removed from the Licensing Act Committee and Councillor Denwood be appointed.

**32 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES - GEORGE FOX SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL CHARITY**

Council considered a report submitted by the Chief Executive. The report noted that a vacancy had arisen on the George Fox School Educational Charity. Members were asked to consider the basis for the appointment, which had previously been made by way of nominations and voting at full Council, and to receive nominations at the meeting should the basis remain the same.

Councillor Brookes, seconded by Councillor Caroline Jackson, proposed that the basis of appointment should remain by way of nominations and voting at full Council.

There was no debate and the proposition was clearly carried when put to the vote.

The Mayor called for nominations for the vacancy. Councillor Clifford nominated Councillor Leyshon, seconded by Councillor Brown and Councillor Phillippa Williamson nominated Councillor Joan Jackson, seconded by Councillor Parkinson.

The Mayor called for a vote. There were 35 votes for Councillor Leyshon, 13 votes for Councillor Joan Jackson with 1 abstention whereupon the Mayor declared Councillor Leyshon appointed to the George Fox School Educational Charity.

***Resolved:***

That Councillor Leyshon be appointed to the George Fox School Educational Charity.

**33 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Mayor asked Group Administrators if they wished to make any appointments or changes to Committee Memberships.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox nominated Councillor Barry for appointment to the Planning and Highways Regulatory Committee and confirmed that Councillor Brookes would be a substitute on the Budget and Performance Panel.

Councillor Clifford nominated Councillor Kay for appointment to the Planning and Highways Regulatory Committee and advised that the Labour replacement to the Licensing Act Committee would be confirmed.

The Mayor called for a vote and the appointments and changes set out above were approved.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That Councillor Councillor Barry be appointed to the Planning and Highways Regulatory Committee.
- (2) That Councillor Kay be appointed to the Planning and Highways Regulatory Committee.
- (3) That Councillor Brookes be appointed as substitute to the Budget and Performance Panel
- (4) That it be noted that the Labour vacancy to the Licensing Act Committee would be confirmed.

**34 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 (Pages 10 - 13)**

The Mayor advised that seven questions had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

- (1) Councillor Edwards to Councillor Warriner regarding Council Housing and Housing Association properties and safety.
- (2)&(3) Councillor Reynolds to Councillor Clifford regarding Carnforth Community Swimming Pool.
- (4) Councillor Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Whitehead regarding the budget support reserve
- (5) Councillor Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Hanson regarding road infrastructure costs
- (6) Councillor Brookes to Councillor Clifford regarding Beyond the Castle project
- (7) Councillor Caroline Jackson to Councillor Clifford regarding Castle Fields

Details of the questions and answers together with any supplementary questions and responses are appended to the minutes.

**35 MINUTES OF CABINET**

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2017.

**Resolved:**

That the minutes be noted.

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Mayor

(The meeting finished at 8.55 p.m.)



**Any queries regarding these Minutes,  
please contact Liz Bateson, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582047 or email  
ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk**

**Council – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017****1. Question from Councillor Charlie Edwards to Councillor Andrew Warriner**

*What steps are the Council taking to ensure that all Council Housing and Housing Association properties, and building materials used are properly safe and secure from any and all fire hazards.*

**ANSWER**

In the wake of the severe fire at Grenfell Tower, in North Kensington, London, I want to reassure our residents that Lancaster City Council takes fire safety very seriously.

In respect of our own council housing, residents' safety has and always will be our number one priority. Lancaster City Council works to ensure that all our buildings are safe and comply with Fire Safety regulations. Every building has a current Fire Safety Assessment and we ensure that the building and all Fire Safety Equipment installed is properly tested and alarms, fire doors, lighting and escape routes are properly maintained.

The Council has a published Fire Safety Policy Statement which set out our policy to protect all relevant persons from the fire hazards by ensuring safe premises are provided and safe systems of work followed, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Regular Fire Risk Assessments are carried out by an independent assessor in order to ensure Lancaster's blocks meet the highest possible fire standards. In addition to this Lancaster City Council has developed a programme of fire safety improvements across the city to keep you, and all of our residents, as safe as possible. The construction of our blocks means individual flats are compartmented (individually boxed in), which effectively protects residents in the event of a fire. We also work closely with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that all our buildings are as safe from fire as possible.

In response to the tragic event at Grenfell Tower a full statement of the current matters relating to fire safety in Lancaster City Council high rise properties has been issued to all residents in the high rise blocks on Mainway, and has been circulated to all councillors setting out the current measure in place and the actions being current taken to maintain the level of assurance on fire safety.

Fire Risk Assessments are undertaken by independent fire risk assessors and are then periodically reviewed. The most recent review of Mainway was in 2016.

Council Officers have six monthly meeting with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) to discuss future and ongoing projects. Where the Lancashire fire and Rescue Service have any areas of concern these are highlighted and are addressed as soon as it is possible to do so.

Officers have met with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service on 16th June 2017 and undertook a safety inspection of the flat blocks on Mainway. The outcome of the

inspection confirm the action the Council was already had in place as part of the planned maintenance of the estate which includes the renewal of existing front doors and fire safety measures – renewing and upgrading the existing door closers. Through an adjustment of the existing programme the completion of this work will be brought forward to be contained within this year's works on the estate. The inspection also highlighted some minor works to repairing render damage, and this work will also be programmed. In addition we are also commissioning an independent survey, which will assess the long term maintenance requirements of the tower blocks, and other flat blocks on the Mainway estate.

In relation to Housing Association properties within the District the scrutiny of the response by Housing Associations to the recent events has been directly undertaken by the Homes and Communities Agency as the regulator. The Department for Communities and Local Government have also established a team that is directly talking to and monitoring the actions being taken.

In addition the Fire and Rescue Service have carried out a fire safety audit of all private dwellings over 6 stories, and our Private Housing Services have been liaising closely with colleagues in the fire service. The Council's Housing Standards Manager is meeting with the Fire and Rescue Service this week to reflect on the outcomes of these audits and any future implications. Housing Associations have set up their own programme of checks, and officers will also be contacting each association through our Registered Provider Strategic Partnership Meeting for further details of these checks and how they will be monitored.

The Council has always worked closely with the Fire and Rescue Service to prioritise fire safety both with the Council's own housing stock and within the private rented sector, and we will continue to do so.

**Supplementary: Can the response be electronically circulated to all members and communicated to residents?**

Response: Councillor Warriner confirmed that this was appropriate.

## **2. Question from Councillor John Reynolds to Councillor Darren Clifford**

*Our local community swimming pools are a central part of our communities. In rural areas like Carnforth and Millhead, they provide access to swimming facilities that residents would otherwise not be able to enjoy. Carnforth swimming pool also provides swimming lessons so hundreds of school children every year from 16 local primary schools. I have learnt that bid to save Carnforth Swimming Pool being pursued by Carnforth High School now appears to be in jeopardy. What reassurances can Cllr. Clifford offer us that a new bid to save the pool by Residents and Carnforth Town Council will be successful?*

### **ANSWER**

**This question was dealt with under the Urgent Business Report at Agenda Item 4.**

**3. Question from Councillor John Reynolds to Councillor Darren Clifford**

*Cllr. Clifford outline the actions that this council will take to ensure that the doors remain open, and that a smooth and seamless transfer takes place for users and staff?*

**ANSWER**

**This question was dealt with under the Urgent Business Report at Agenda Item 4.**

**4. Question from Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Anne Whitehead**

*What is the current (2017-18) expected expenditure against the earmarked £1m budget support reserve and for what purpose(s)?*

**ANSWER**

Known spend is estimated in the region of £153K. This covers costs associated with the Assistant Chief Executive post approved by Cabinet back in February, and community pools (as covered by the urgent business item earlier tonight).

Further allocations will be made during the course of the year, and they will be published either as part of any key decision-making process, or retrospectively through financial reporting if below the key decision threshold. The quarterly monitoring reports will include a statement on the reserve, identifying any allocations.

**5. Question from Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Janice Hanson**

*What is the current estimate for the road infrastructure costs - including, but not limited to, the current plans for two crossings of WCML, one crossing of the M6 and a revised J33 layout - of enabling the development of Bailrigg garden village?*

**ANSWER**

The current estimate of costs for the major revisions to Junction 33 required to facilitate additional growth in South Lancaster is between £50m-60m. As yet there are no estimates relating to crossings over or under the West Coast main line. It should be noted that the junction improvements are not related solely to Bailrigg Garden Village. They are also required to address capacity issues on the A6 generally.

**6. Question from Councillor Dave Brookes to Councillor Darren Clifford**

*When will the Council confirm its intentions regarding the continuation of the Beyond the Castle project?*

**ANSWER**

The Council is currently undertaking some research to bring together a range of information on work undertaken so far, as part of the Beyond the Castle project. A

report is expected to be available for Cabinet in the autumn and will propose a way forward for management of the archaeological potential of the site.

The Council will be making some critical decisions about Place Shaping during the remainder of this financial year and from that it will be able to start mapping out its capacity to bring together a number of important projects in a sequence and order which it can practically manage. It is very important that the Council deploys its skills and resources on the top priority projects first then aligns others in the right order to follow on when capacity and funding permits. Beyond the Castle is a project that will be considered as part of this process.

**Supplementary: Isn't it regrettable that the county council officer has now left and we have lost the opportunity to employ someone ourselves?**

Response: Councillor Clifford responded that it was indeed sad that this had been the case but no project would be dependent on one individual and this would be a 20/25 year project which would move forward.

### **7. Question from Councillor Caroline Jackson to Councillor Darren Clifford**

*Following the Cabinet Members enthusiastic description of the way work is going forward on Castle Fields at O&S, please could he give us the names of those involved on the new group and where we can access minutes for their latest meetings?*

#### **ANSWER**

Up to the present time, the Beyond the Castle project has been managed by Lancashire County Council but new arrangements are now required. A report is expected to be available for Cabinet in the autumn and will propose a way forward, including management arrangements.