

PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 9 November 2022, when the following Members were present:-

Joyce Pritchard (Mayor)	Ross Hunter (Deputy Mayor)
Tony Anderson	Fabiha Askari
Richard Austen-Baker	Mandy Bannon
Phillip Black	Gerry Blaikie
Alan Biddulph	Victoria Boyd-Power
Dave Brookes	Abbott Bryning
Keith Budden	Roger Cleet
Tim Dant	Roger Dennison
Gina Dowding	Jason Firth
Kevin Frea	Andrew Gardiner
Jake Goodwin	Mike Greenall
June Greenwell	Mel Guilding
Tim Hamilton-Cox	Colin Hartley
Caroline Jackson	Joan Jackson
Debbie Jenkins	Mandy King
Geoff Knight	Sarah Knight
Jack Lenox	Erica Lewis
Sally Maddocks	Cary Matthews
Abi Mills	Stuart Morris
Jean Parr	Margaret Pattison
Faye Penny	Robert Redfern
Oliver Robinson	Alistair Sinclair
Luke Taylor	Malcolm Thomas
Sandra Thornberry	Sue Tyldesley
David Whitaker	Anne Whitehead
Jason Wood	Peter Yates

71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Anderton, Darren Clifford, Tricia Heath, Paul Stubbins, John Wild and Joanna Young.

72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

73 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor did not make any formal announcements. She informed Councillors that she intended to take items 10 and 11 at the end of the agenda because there was a recommendation to exclude press and public for the item on the Fibre Network and Digital Exchange. Moving the item would avoid any need to exclude and then re-admit the public. (Minutes 84 and 85 refer.)

The Mayor then reminded members that, when a Councillor was invited to speak during the meeting, there should be no individual conversations going on between other Councillors. Holding individual conversations was both distracting and disrespectful to the Councillor addressing the meeting.

Finally, the Mayor reminded Councillors that she would be holding a Ceilidh fundraiser for her chosen charities at 7.30pm on 25 November 2022. Tickets were still available from Democratic Support.

74 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.

75 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES

The Mayor informed Members that no petitions or requests to address Council had been received from members of the public.

76 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader presented her report updating Members on various issues since her last report to Council.

Councillor Gardiner proposed a motion without notice in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 25.1. He proposed:

"That Standing Orders be suspended."

Councillor Budden seconded the motion.

Just before the vote was taken, there was a request for clarity on the motion. It was confirmed that the intention of the motion was actually:

"That Council Procedure Rule 12.1 (a) be suspended, to allow Councillors to question the leader on items which are not within her report."

With 27 Councillors voting for the motion, 14 against and 8 abstentions, the motion was carried.

The Leader then responded to a number of questions from Councillors and offered to supply written responses or supplementary information on Bailrigg Garden Village (to Councillor Gardiner) and free port status (to Councillor Cleet).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

77 MINUTES

The Mayor noted that Item 2 on the agenda, the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2022, had been missed and the minutes needed to be approved.

The minutes were then approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

78 UPDATED RESERVES STRATEGY 2022/23

Councillor Whitehead, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, presented a report asking Council to note the s151 Officers assessment of the minimum level of reserves and approve revisions to the governance arrangement for future reserve funded expenditure.

A number of Councillors asked questions, which Councillor Whitehead responded to, before proposing the recommendations in the report:

- “(1) That Council notes the Section 151 Officer’s advice regarding the increase in the Council’s minimum level of General Fund balance from £3.5M to £5M, to provide for added uncertainty
- (2) That Council amend the Budget & Policy Framework to incorporate the revised governance arrangements to the Reserves Strategy.”

There was a short debate before a vote was taken and the proposition was clearly carried.

Resolved:

- (1) That Council notes the Section 151 Officer’s advice regarding the increase in the Council’s minimum level of General Fund balance from £3.5M to £5M, to provide for added uncertainty
- (2) That Council amend the Budget & Policy Framework to incorporate the revised governance arrangements to the Reserves Strategy.

79 MOTION TO ENABLE ACCESS TO HOLDERS OF THE "JUST CAN'T WAIT" CARD

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

“This Council notes:

170.000 people carry the ‘Just Can't Wait Card’ across the country including in Lancaster

where the number is rising. Many people across the district suffer from illnesses/conditions which can be debilitating, ranging from incontinence to stoma surgery. These conditions can lead to them needing the emergency use of toilet facilities urgently.

The Bladder & Bowel community have established the 'Just Can't Wait Toilet Scheme' which enables people to carry a card and enables businesses and organisations to allow emergency access to toilet facilities. People have told the Bladder and Bowel Community that they are trapped in their own homes due to the lack of public toilets and the fear of being caught short. There are over 14 million people in the UK living with a bladder condition and 6.4 million with a bowel condition with thousands suffering across Lancashire desperately in need of emergency access to toilet facilities.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

- 1) That Lancaster City Council becomes a partner for the 'Just Can't Wait Card' scheme and all Lancaster City Council public buildings are accessible for those carrying this card.
- 2) That the Chief Executive writes to town and parish councils and our suppliers and business partners across the district encouraging them to join this scheme."

An officer briefing note had been published with the agenda to accompany the motion.

Councillor Parr responded to questions on the motion before a short debate.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Black:

"That, in 1), the words "and other similar schemes" be added after the word "scheme."

With the agreement of her seconder, Councillor Parr accepted this as a friendly amendment.

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

Resolved:-

This Council notes:

170.000 people carry the 'Just Can't Wait Card ' across the country including in Lancaster where the number is rising. Many people across the district suffer from illnesses/conditions which can be debilitating, ranging from incontinence to stoma surgery. These conditions can lead to them needing the emergency use of toilet facilities urgently.

The Bladder & Bowel community have established the 'Just Can't Wait Toilet Scheme' which enables people to carry a card and enables businesses and organisations to allow emergency access to toilet facilities. People have told the Bladder and Bowel Community that they are trapped in their own homes due to the lack of public toilets and the fear of being caught short. There are over 14 million people in the UK living with a bladder condition and 6.4 million with a bowel condition with thousands suffering across Lancashire desperately in need of emergency access to toilet facilities.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

- 1) That Lancaster City Council becomes a partner for the 'Just Can't Wait Card'

scheme and other similar schemes and all Lancaster City Council public buildings are accessible for those carrying this card.

- 2) That the Chief Executive writes to town and parish councils and our suppliers and business partners across the district encouraging them to join this scheme.

80 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

No appointments or changes to committee memberships were reported.

81 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

The Mayor advised that no questions on notice had been received from Councillors in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 12.

82 MINUTES OF CABINET

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2022. There were no questions.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

83 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Council considered the minutes of the following committee meetings:

- a) Personnel Committee – 14th June 2022
- b) Council Business Committee – 16th June 2022
- c) Shareholders Committee – 26th July 2022
- d) Budget & Performance Panel – 28th July
- e) Licensing Committee – 25th August 2022
- f) Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 7th September 2022
- g) Planning Regulatory Committee – 12th September 2022

There was one question on the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny minutes. The Planning Chair commented on the length of the planning meetings.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

84 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Mayor reminded Council that it had been recommended to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox moved, seconded by Councillor Dowding:

“That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

A vote was taken and the motion was carried.

Resolved:-

That in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

(The Council Chamber was cleared of any press or public present at this point.)

85 FIBRE NETWORK AND DIGITAL EXCHANGE (Page 7)

Councillor Hamilton-Cox, Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economic Prosperity, submitted a report seeking a decision from Council regarding a local full fibre network.

The report was exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The full minute and resolution are set out in a minute which is also exempt from publication for the reasons set out above.

Mayor

(The meeting finished at 7.35 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes,
please contact Debbie Chambers, Democratic Services - email dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk**

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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