

## PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.10 p.m. on Wednesday, 15 November 2017, when the following Members were present:-

Roger Mace (Mayor)	Stuart Bateson (Deputy Mayor)
Carla Brayshaw	Jon Barry
Sam Armstrong	June Ashworth
Lucy Atkinson	Alan Biddulph
Eileen Blamire	Dave Brookes
Tracy Brown	Abbott Bryning
Nathan Burns	Darren Clifford
Ian Clift	Claire Cozler
Sheila Denwood	Rob Devey
Charlie Edwards	Kevin Frea
Andrew Gardiner	Nigel Goodrich
Mel Guilding	Janet Hall
Tim Hamilton-Cox	Janice Hanson
Colin Hartley	Brendan Hughes
Caroline Jackson	Joan Jackson
Andrew Kay	Ronnie Kershaw
Geoff Knight	James Leyshon
Terrie Metcalfe	Abi Mills
Rebecca Novell	Margaret Pattison
Robert Redfern	John Reynolds
Sylvia Rogerson	Ron Sands
Susan Sykes	Malcolm Thomas
Oscar Thynne	Andrew Warriner
David Whitaker	Anne Whitehead
John Wild	Peter Williamson
Phillippa Williamson	Peter Yates

**67 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Susie Charles, Jane Parkinson, Jean Parr, Elizabeth Scott and Nick Wilkinson.

**68 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2017 and the extraordinary meeting held on 31 October 2017 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record, subject to the following change to minute 44 of the meeting on 27 September 2017:-

The words "He showed Members the inscribed medal which had been presented to the Council" to be replaced with the words "He showed Members the inscribed book which had been presented to him".

**69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Devey declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 9, the motion regarding Holiday Hunger, because his employer campaigned on child poverty and free school meals.

**70 ANNOUNCEMENTS - COUNCILLOR ROGER SHERLOCK**

Councillors were reminded of the sad passing of Councillor Roger Sherlock on 8 November 2017. The Mayor announced that a civic funeral would take place on Wednesday 22 November at Lancaster Priory commencing at 11am, followed by the committal at Lancaster and Morecambe crematorium.

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

The Mayor informed Councillors that he would wish to adjourn the meeting if it was still in progress after one and a half hours, because he still had some difficulty sitting for long periods, following his operation.

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

The Mayor advised that no questions had been received from members of the public.

**72 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES**

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

**73 LEADER'S REPORT**

The Leader presented her report updating Members on various issues since her last report to Council. She then responded to a number of questions from Councillors.

Councillor Blamire asked Councillor Hamilton-Cox to put his question regarding British

Land's holdings in Hercules Unit Trust, based in Jersey, in writing to her. She would then supply a written answer.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**74 MOTION ON NOTICE - HOLIDAY HUNGER**

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

“The Council is concerned at reports by teachers’ unions and others concerning the growth of “holiday hunger” amongst children.

Holiday hunger occurs when families who are usually entitled to free school meals during term time have that provision taken away during school holidays. This is most acute during the long summer holidays with an extra cost to families affected of an average of £30 to £40 per week to feed their children.

This Council notes:

1. A survey led by the NUT (National Union of Teachers) found that as many as four in five staff reported a rise in “holiday hunger” over the past two years. 78% of teachers polled said that they recognised children arriving at school hungry. More than a third went as far as to say that pupils were returning after the school holidays showing signs of malnutrition.
2. That Mark Hendrick MP has sponsored a Private members’ Bill by Frank Field MP which places a legal duty on local authorities to ensure the provision of free meals and activities during school holidays. This would be paid for by earmarking 10p from every pound raised from the sugar tax on soft drinks.
3. It has been reported that the Bill has received a certain amount of cross party support with 14 Conservative MPs publicly backing the Bill, which means that more Private Members’ Bills are likely to become law if the government gives support to them.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the Bill and asks the Chief Executive to write to our two MPs namely Cat Smith and David Morris to explain the Council’s support and request that they also offer their support and actively persuade the Conservative led government to put Mr Field’s Bill into law.
2. The Chief Executive writes to all Council Leaders across Lancashire asking them to support the Bill and requesting them to write to their own Members of Parliament to offer support for the Bill.
3. The Chief Executive writes to Mark Hendrick thanking him for sponsoring the Bill and making him aware it has the support of Lancaster City Council. The Council should also publicise its support for the Bill.

An officer advice note had been prepared to accompany the motion.

A number of Councillors spoke in favour of the motion and, at the conclusion of the debate, a vote was taken and the motion was clearly carried.

**Resolved:-**

The Council is concerned at reports by teachers' unions and others concerning the growth of "holiday hunger" amongst children.

Holiday hunger occurs when families who are usually entitled to free school meals during term time have that provision taken away during school holidays. This is most acute during the long summer holidays with an extra cost to families affected of an average of £30 to £40 per week to feed their children.

This Council notes:

1. A survey led by the NUT (National Union of Teachers) found that as many as four in five staff reported a rise in "holiday hunger" over the past two years. 78% of teachers polled said that they recognised children arriving at school hungry. More than a third went as far as to say that pupils were returning after the school holidays showing signs of malnutrition.
2. That Mark Hendrick MP has sponsored a Private members' Bill by Frank Field MP which places a legal duty on local authorities to ensure the provision of free meals and activities during school holidays. This would be paid for by earmarking 10p from every pound raised from the sugar tax on soft drinks.
3. It has been reported that the Bill has received a certain amount of cross party support with 14 Conservative MPs publicly backing the Bill, which means that more Private Members' Bills are likely to become law if the government gives support to them.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the Bill and asks the Chief Executive to write to our two MPs namely Cat Smith and David Morris to explain the Council's support and request that they also offer their support and actively persuade the Conservative led government to put Mr Field's Bill into law.
2. The Chief Executive writes to all Council Leaders across Lancashire asking them to support the Bill and requesting them to write to their own Members of Parliament to offer support for the Bill.
3. The Chief Executive writes to Mark Hendrick thanking him for sponsoring the Bill and making him aware it has the support of Lancaster City Council. The Council should also publicise its support for the Bill.

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

Council considered a report submitted by the Chief Executive, setting 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. The calculation had been carried out following two recent by-elections in the Skerton West and Halton-with-Aughton wards.

Councillor Clifford, seconded by Councillor Brookes, moved recommendation (1), to

approve the calculations and allocation of seats, as set out in the report.

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

With regard to recommendation (2), to approve the adjustments set out in the report, the Conservative Group had given advance notice that it wished to pass Councillor Gardiner's place on the Budget and Performance Panel to the Labour Group and that Councillors Peter and Phillippa Williamson would change places on the Panel, with Councillor Peter Williamson becoming a member of the Panel and Councillor Phillippa Williamson becoming a substitute member.

Councillor Frea was nominated by Councillor Clifford to fill the place on the Budget and Performance Panel and he also nominated Councillor Frea to take the place on the Licensing Act Committee left vacant by Honorary Alderman Paul Woodruff. Councillor Clifford also asked that Councillor Armstrong be replaced by Councillor Burns on the Budget and Performance Panel with Councillor Cozler as a named substitute. Councillor Brown seconded the nominations. The adjustments were all carried when put to the vote.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) That in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, and Part 4 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990, the City Council approves the calculations and allocation of seats set out in Appendices B and C of the report.
- (2) That the following adjustments be approved:
  - a) Councillor Gardiner to give up his seat on the Budget and Performance Panel.
  - b) Councillor Phillippa Williamson to give up her place on the Budget and Performance Panel and become substitute member, with Councillor Peter Williamson taking her seat on the Panel.
  - c) Councillor Frea to be appointed to the Budget and Performance Panel.
  - d) Councillor Frea to be appointed to the vacant place on the Licensing Act Committee.
  - e) Councillor Burns to replace Councillor Armstrong on the Budget and Performance Panel and Councillor Cozler to be appointed as a named substitute on the Panel.

**76 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES – THE DUKES BOARD, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LANCASTER CHARITY AND GROWTH LANCASHIRE**

Council considered a report submitted by the Chief Executive. The report noted that four vacancies had arisen on the Board of the Dukes and one vacancy had arisen on the Board of Trustees of the Lancaster Charity. In addition, Growth Lancashire Limited had invited the Council to appoint a Director.

The Mayor asked that each body be considered in turn, starting with the Board of the Dukes, where all four appointed Members had recently resigned to avoid any conflict of interest when Council was required to consider Canal Corridor issues.

There were several queries from Members about conflicts of interests regarding the Dukes and the Canal Corridor development proposals, which the Monitoring Officer responded to.

Councillor Edwards asked whether the issue of the Canal Corridor had, historically,

caused any conflict of interests for Members appointed to the Dukes Board. Officers present at the time could not recall this but agreed to check and respond to Councillor Edwards after the meeting.

Councillor Clifford proposed recommendation (1) as set out in the report, seconded by Councillor Blamire.

A vote was taken on the proposal, which was clearly carried.

For the Board of Trustees of the Lancaster Charity, Councillor Clifford proposed Councillor Cozler, seconded by Councillor Brown.

There were no further nominations and the Mayor declared Councillor Cozler appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Lancaster Charity.

Councillor Clifford, seconded by Councillor Brown, then proposed recommendation (3), as set out in the report. The proposition was clearly carried when put to the vote.

***Resolved:***

That:

- (1) Council does not fill the vacancies on the Dukes Board at the present time, as any Member taking up a place on the Board would be ineligible to take part in further discussions and voting on progress with the Canal Corridor North project, due to a conflict of interests.
- (2) Councillor Cozler be appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Lancaster Charity.
- (3) Council recommends to Cabinet that the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration be appointed to the Growth Lancashire directorship, with the Leader of the Council as alternate director.

**77 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 (Pages 8 - 10)**

The Mayor advised that five questions had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rules, however Councillor Barry had asked for his question to be deferred to the December Council meeting, and Councillor Caroline Jackson had agreed to accept a written answer to her question, which, due to an administrative error, had not been forwarded to the Cabinet Member in advance of the meeting.

The questions were:

- (1) Councillor Hartley to Councillor Hanson regarding Heysham Gateway.
- (2) Councillor Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Clifford regarding the Salt Ayre landfill site and renewable energy.
- (3) Councillor Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Hanson regarding student accommodation in Bulk Ward.
- (4) Councillor Caroline Jackson to Councillor Hanson regarding the Canal Corridor proposals and car parking spaces.

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

**78 MINUTES OF CABINET**

Council noted the Cabinet minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2017.

***Resolved:***

That the minutes be noted.

---

Mayor

(The meeting finished at 7.30 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these minutes,  
please contact Debbie Chambers, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582057 or email  
dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk**

**Council – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017****1. Question from Councillor Colin Hartley to Councillor Janice Hanson**

*The Bay Gateway has been open over 12 months now and it's clear from the amount of HGV traffic using the road that the economy around the Port is benefiting. The Heysham Gateway development will enhance this and bring more economic benefits (especially employment) to the area. Are you able to provide an update on progress and in particular when we might expect to see clearance and building work start?*

**Councillor Hanson replied:**

Since the opening of the Bay Gateway, and as a result of effective marketing during its construction period, both the City Council and County Council have agreed disposals of previously low demand employment sites attracting around £250 million of inward investment and demand from companies seeking to relocate/expand, in turn creating around 800 jobs in the locality. These disposals should shortly lead to a first wave of planning applications.

Proactive investigations are also taking place with landowners and potential investors to add a potential truck stop facility to the existing land allocations to complement the recent £20 Million investments in the Port of Heysham. This will enable port traffic to be handled more efficiently without dispersing parking into the surrounding areas.

The Lancashire Regeneration and Property Partnership is also now preparing a detailed master plan for remaining areas in private and public sector control to generate a coordinated approach to dealing with infrastructure deficiencies relating to highways, land drainage and ecology with the aim of stimulating the regeneration of around 260 hectares of underused brownfield land. A Cabinet report detailing this approach will be considered in December.

Continuing investment enquiries for further redevelopment are now being received and the two councils working with the Lancashire Regeneration and Property Partnership will be aiming to match requirements with the regeneration opportunities being identified in the master plan.

**2. Question from Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Darren Clifford**

*Given information that the lease on Salt Ayre landfill site reverts to the city council in December, will Cllr Clifford ask officers to investigate the feasibility of using it to site renewable energy generation?*

**Councillor Clifford replied:**

Your question is well-timed. This was discussed last week. Yes; officers are already coming forward with ideas for the use of this land that would generate income in the future. However, as it's a recently used landfill site there are technical and operational issues that need to be considered in conjunction with these ideas.



Councillor Hamilton-Cox put a supplementary question, asking about the commitment to review the viability of Middleton Solar Farm during the current financial year.

Councillor Clifford said that this issue was under review all the time and had been discussed recently. With plans for renewable energy business rates to come to Councils in the future, these types of schemes were looking more viable.

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

*Will Cllr Hanson in principle support an Article 4 designation for housing in a substantial part of Bulk ward, including Freehold, in order to require planning approval for further conversion of residential housing (class C3) into student accommodation (class C4 or sui generis); in recognition, and support, of emerging planning policy which directs new student accommodation into the city centre?*

**Councillor Hanson replied;**

Article 4 Directions may be used by local planning authorities to introduce additional planning controls where there are issues that can effectively be addressed by extending planning controls to development which would not normally require consent. I could, in principle, support the consideration of an Article 4 direction, however, the introduction of additional planning controls must be justified, appropriate and proportionate to the issues that they are designed to redress. I will therefore need to give proper consideration to the request once I am advised of what the issues are and how the proposed Article 4 would redress these issues.

This would include consideration of the supply and demand of such accommodation particularly in light of the number of new build schemes that have been approved and delivered. We still have not seen the most up to date accommodation study from the University of Lancaster. I would also want to consider whether such a Direction should include other wards experiencing demand for student lets, and the lead in time for making a direction without opening the Council to claims for compensation for any subsequent refusals of planning permission.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox put a supplementary question, asking Councillor Hanson if she would be prepared to press the University to provide student accommodation, because it was essential.

Councillor Hanson said she could certainly ask them but did not know their requirements.

**4 Question from Councillor Caroline Jackson to Councillor Janice Hanson.**

*In view of the heartfelt plea from the Prime Minister of Fiji, currently hosting the COP 23 talks in Bonn that as all nations and all civil society we “accelerate the possibility of positive change and act more boldly than we thought possible”, how does the Cabinet member justify advocating the inclusion of 250 extra parking spaces in the Canal Corridor Scheme?*

Councillor Caroline Jackson had agreed to a written response to her question and also to a supplementary question, which she asked at the meeting:-

*When will Cabinet take a proactive bold line where we can reduce carbon emissions through initiatives such as the Middleton Solar Farm and schemes like providing free buses for late night festive shopping, as raised earlier in the meeting?*