

PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 December 2018, when the following Members were present:-

Andrew Kay (Mayor)

June Ashworth

Stuart Bateson

Alan Biddulph

Dave Brookes

Abbott Bryning

Susie Charles

Rob Devey

Kevin Frea

Mel Guilding

Tim Hamilton-Cox

Colin Hartley

Brendan Hughes

Joan Jackson

Geoff Knight

Roger Mace

Abi Mills

Jane Parkinson

Margaret Pattison

John Reynolds

Sylvia Rogerson

Elizabeth Scott

Malcolm Thomas

Anne Whitehead

Peter Williamson

Peter Yates

Claire Cozler (Deputy Mayor)

Jon Barry

Amara Betts-Patel

Eileen Blamire

Tracy Brown

Nathan Burns

Ian Clift

Charlie Edwards

Nigel Goodrich

Janet Hall

Janice Hanson

Helen Helme

Caroline Jackson

Ronnie Kershaw

James Leyshon

Terrie Metcalfe

Rebecca Novell

Jean Parr

Robert Redfern

Peter Rivet

Ron Sands

Susan Sykes

David Whitaker

John Wild

Phillippa Williamson

79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carla Brayshaw, Darren Clifford, Sheila Denwood, Oliver Robinson, Andrew Warriner and Nick Wilkinson.

80 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 14 November 2018 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

81 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members advised of the following interests at this stage:

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Cozler, reported that S.106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to her. Consequently, she would not be voting in any part of the meeting which related to the setting of the budget.

Councillor Barry declared an interest as a member of the Standards Committee in relation to the Committee's report regarding an Investigation into Leaked Sensitive Information and Members' Conduct (minute 92 refers). He would present the report as Vice-Chairman, answer any resulting questions, and propose the Committee's recommendations but would not take part in the vote.

Councillors Whitaker, Brown, Hartley, Burns, Yates, Mace and Peter Williamson declared prejudicial interests as past or present members of the Standards Committee and would leave the meeting whilst the Committee's report was discussed. (Minute 92 refers.)

Councillor Knight declared an interest in the motion on notice about Brexit as a member of the European Committee of the Regions. (Minute 100 refers.)

Councillors Parkinson, Rivet and Sykes declared disclosable pecuniary interests as private landlords in relation to the Empty Homes Charging Policy report. (Minute 94 refers.)

Councillor Charles declared an interest in Planning in relation to the motion on notice about Climate Change Emissions From New Build Homes and would not take part in the debate or voting. (Minute 88 refers.)

82 ANNOUNCEMENT - FORMER COUNCILLOR JOHN HARRISON

The Mayor reported the sad death of former Councillor John Harrison, who passed away peacefully at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary on 3 December 2018.

John was elected in the late 1990s and served for almost 15 years until May 2015. His funeral would take place on Friday 21 December at 10am at St Joseph's RC Church in Skerton, followed by burial at Dalton Woodland Burial Ground in Burton-in-Kendal.

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

83 ANNOUNCEMENT - INVESTMENT STRATEGY SURVEY

The Mayor asked Councillors to spare a few moments to complete an online survey being

circulated about the Investment Strategy.

Regarding the agenda, the Mayor explained that, because there were a number of items to deal with, he intended to keep to the 45 minute timescale set out in Council Procedure Rule 15.5 for debating the motions on notice. He also reserved the right to re-order items, depending on speed of progress, to ensure that all reports which required a decision that evening would be dealt with.

Finally, the Mayor explained that he would be bringing forward the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel to be dealt with following item 6. This was to allow Panel member Harsha Shukla MBE, who was in attendance, to present the report at the earliest opportunity.

84 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

The Mayor advised that one question had been received from a member of the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11. He invited Ms Janet Taylor to put her question to Councillor Hanson, portfolio holder for Regeneration and Planning.

A copy of the question had been circulated at the commencement of the meeting. It read:

Lune Valley Flood Forum see that it is now more important than ever to have flooding expertise within many areas of the Council. When recruiting for new posts in regeneration and planning will this include qualifications and expertise in Flooding and Flood Mitigation?

Councillor Hanson thanked Ms Taylor for her question and responded:

When recruiting for specific roles in the Regeneration and Planning areas, the Council will always consider the relevant skills and experience required before finalising and placing adverts. Roles within our Regeneration and Planning areas will ordinarily cover a number of specialisms rather than one, and so we would ask for expertise across a wider remit than flooding alone. Whilst we acknowledge that internal expertise in flooding and flood mitigation would be of benefit to the Council, where that expertise is not available the Council will look for advice and support from external specialists in the first instance. It is also of note that the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the Lancaster District is not the City Council, but is Lancashire County Council, and Officers will often work with the LLFA and the Environment Agency when assessing flood mitigation or flooding impacts.

The Mayor thanked Ms Taylor for attending the meeting to ask her question.

85 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME: REVIEW

Mrs Harsha Shukla MBE presented the findings and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel's recent review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Councillor Peter Williamson thanked Mrs Shukla for the work that she and the other Panel members had put into their review and resulting report.

Councillor Whitehead, seconded by Councillor Hanson, proposed that:

- “(1) All the recommendations of the IRP be approved.
- (2) Recommendations a) to e) and recommendation g), as set out in the report, be incorporated into The Members' Allowances Scheme to come into effect following the City Council's Elections in May 2019.”

There was a short debate, followed by a vote on the proposal, which was clearly carried.

Resolved:

That:

- (1) All the recommendations of the IRP be approved.
- (2) Recommendations a) to e) and recommendation g), as set out in the report (and below), be incorporated into The Members' Allowances Scheme to come into effect following the City Council's Elections in May 2019.
 - a) The broadband allowance, of £173.88 (£14.49 per month), be incorporated into the basic allowance and the scheme amended accordingly, as set out in the IRP report.
 - b) The basic allowance of £3,557.38, (current basic allowance of £3,383.50 plus £173.88 broadband allowance) be increased by 2%, to match the Local Government Pay Award of 2% awarded to Council employees in 2018. This will give a new basic allowance of £3,628.53, to take effect following the local elections to the city council in 2019.
 - c) The basic allowance be increased, year on year, in line with Employee Pay Awards, unless Council votes against an increase.
 - d) An increase of 2% be applied to all Special Responsibility Allowances
 - e) The Council should continue to adhere to the established conventions that no member should receive more than one SRA and that no more than 50% of elected members should receive an SRA.
 - f) Before the next major review, detailed role profiles be drafted for each role qualifying for an SRA, to assist with future evaluation of responsibilities, complexity and time commitment.
 - g) The existing levels of dependent carer's allowance should be increased to allow the reimbursement of up to a maximum of the current National Living Wage (currently £8.75 per hour).

86 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES

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

87 CANAL QUARTER PROGRESS UPDATE

Council considered a report of Cabinet, which had been deferred from the November Council meeting.

The report was an update setting out progress on the emerging draft development framework and the work undertaken so far. Councillor Hanson presented the report and responded to questions from Members.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

88 MOTION ON NOTICE - REDUCING CLIMATE CHANGE EMISSIONS FROM-BUILD HOMES BY IMPROVING THEIR MINIMUM ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

***(Having previously declared an interest in this item,
Councillor Charles left the Chamber at this point.)***

The following motion, deferred from the November Council meeting, was moved by Councillor Hamilton-Cox and seconded by Councillor Frea. Notice of the motion had been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.

“Motion on reducing climate change emissions from new-build homes by improving their minimum energy efficiency standard.

This Council notes:

- the Government announcement in July 2018 that Council could set their own energy efficiency standards for new buildings beyond those set in Part L of the Building Regulations;
- the October 2018 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighting that we only have around 12 years to reduce climate change emissions in order to limit global warming to 1.5 C. degrees above pre-industrial levels, for the reasons set out in the IPCC's report;
- that local authorities are best placed to take a lead on, and implement, many of the measures needed to reduce climate change emissions.

This Council believes:

- that one such measure is to improve the energy efficiency standards in new buildings, not only to reduce carbon emissions, but also to keep money that would otherwise go to energy companies circulating in our local economy;
- that improving energy efficiency in new buildings is just one part of a strategy to reduce emissions in our district but is an important step to take that should be part of a wider strategy to be set out in a further motion in December following cross-party discussion.

This Council resolves:

- to instate Level 4 of the Sustainable Homes Code as the minimum standard on all new homes and include this direction in the draft Local Plan;
- to require a Passivhaus standard, as exemplified by the Lancaster Co-housing development in Halton, for all new homes built on council-owned land (following the lead of councils in Norwich and Cambridge, which have mandated higher standards of sustainability for homes on council-owned land);
- to expand the range of housing specified in the Canal Quarter section of the draft Local Plan to include social and affordable homes and that these homes match the Passivhaus standard at Halton.”

An officer briefing note had been circulated with the agenda.

At the conclusion of the debate a vote was taken and the motion was lost, with 16 Members in favour, 28 against and one abstention.

(Councillor Charles returned to the Chamber at this point.)

89 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 (Pages 18 - 21)

The Mayor reminded Councillors that four questions had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rules in time for the November meeting. The questions had been deferred to this meeting and were as follows:

- (1) Councillor Barry to Councillor Pattison regarding a trading pitch in the outdoor Market in Lancaster.
- (2) Councillor Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Burns regarding grant aid for a full-fibre network.
- (3) Councillor Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Clifford regarding Middleton Solar Farm.
- (4) Councillor Caroline Jackson to Councillor Warriner regarding stray dogs.

The questioners agreed to receive written answers, Details of the questions and answers are appended to the minutes.

90 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.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

91 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

(The Monitoring Officer left the Chamber for this item, and the following item. Having advised the Standards Committee up to this point, he did not feel it appropriate to give advice to Council regarding the Committee's recommendations.)

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 Pattison moved, seconded by Councillor Redfern:

"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 grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph

3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

(Members of the public left the Council Chamber at this point, as did Councillors Brown, Burns, Hartley, Mace, Whitaker, Wild, Peter Williamson and Yates, having previously declared an interest.)

92 INVESTIGATION INTO LEAKED SENSITIVE INFORMATION AND MEMBERS CONDUCT

Members considered a report of the Standards Committee which was exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillor Barry, Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee, introduced the report and responded to questions from Members. It was noted that the report and recommendations erroneously referred to the Committee's terms of reference as being set out in Appendix 2, instead of Appendix 5.

Councillor Barry proposed the recommendations in the report, set out below, seconded by Councillor Novell.

- “(1) To appoint a single purpose Standards Committee with a differently constituted membership for the purpose of considering the investigation, councillor conduct during the investigation phase, and the data breach.
- (2) To amend the Standards Committee's terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 5, to clearly state the need for political impartiality in decision making.”

Councillor Goodrich, asked if could make a friendly addendum to recommendation (2) to add “to reflect current practice.” This was accepted as a friendly amendment by the proposer and his seconder. Debate followed, the matter was put to the vote and the proposal was clearly carried.

Attention then turned to appointing members to the new single purpose Standards Committee. Each political group nominated their membership (Councillors Whitehead, Reynolds, Rivet and Blamire for the Labour Group; Councillor Brookes for the Green Group and Councillors Bateson and Phillippa Williamson for the Conservative Group). The nominations were accepted. Three nominations for Chairman were proposed and seconded (Councillor Brookes; Councillor Whitehead and Councillor Phillippa Williamson).

A vote was taken to appoint a Chairman. With 8 votes for Councillor Brookes, 21 votes for Councillor Whitehead and 11 votes for Councillor Phillippa Williamson, Councillor Brookes, having received the lowest number of votes, dropped out and a second vote was taken. With 23 votes for Councillor Whitehead and 13 votes for Councillor Phillippa Williamson, the Mayor declared Councillor Whitehead Chairman of the single purpose Standards Committee.

Resolved:

- (1) To appoint a single purpose Standards Committee with a differently constituted membership for the purpose of considering the investigation, councillor conduct during the investigation phase, and the data breach.
- (2) To amend the Standards Committee's terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 5,

to clearly state the need for political impartiality in decision making to reflect current practice.

- (3) That the membership of the single purpose Standards Committee be Councillors Bateson, Blamire, Brookes, Reynolds, Rivet, Whitehead and Phillippa Williamson.
- (4) That Councillor Whitehead be appointed Chairman of the single purpose Standards Committee.

93 APPOINTMENT TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE POST

(The Monitoring Officer and Councillors who had absented themselves from the Chamber for the previous item of business returned to the Chamber at this point.)

Members considered a report of the Personnel Committee to enable Council to make a decision regarding the Chief Executive post, following the resignation of the current Chief Executive.

Councillor Kershaw, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, introduced the report and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Kershaw proposed the recommendations in the report, set out below, seconded by Councillor Pattison.

- “(1) That Council agrees the recommendation of Personnel Committee, to set up a sub-committee of full council to appoint the Head of Paid service (Chief Executive).
- (2) The sub-committee shall agree and implement the process for recruitment of the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive), and agree any interim arrangements necessary.”

Councillor Goodrich asked to make a friendly amendment by way of an addendum:

- “(3) That the sub-committee should investigate whether sharing a Chief Executive might be possible.”

This was not accepted by Councillors Kershaw or Pattison. Councillor Edwards seconded Councillor Goodrich’s amendment.

There was some debate on the amendment before it was put to the vote and, with 18 members voting for and 30 voting against, the amendment was lost.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox then proposed an amendment to (1):

- “(1) That Council sets up a sub-committee of full Council to bring options for appointing a Head of Paid Service back to full Council in January for consideration.”

This was not accepted by Councillors Kershaw or Pattison. Councillor Brookes seconded Councillor Hamilton-Cox’s amendment.

The amendment was put to the vote and was lost, with 18 Members voting in favour and 30 against.

A vote was then taken on the original proposition and, with 33 Members voting in favour, 9 against and four abstentions, the motion was passed.

(The meeting adjourned at 8pm for a ten minute comfort break, in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.)

The Mayor then asked political groups to nominate members to the Chief Executive Recruitment Committee. Each group nominated their membership (Councillors Kershaw, Blamire, Betts-Patel, Pattison and Cozler for the Labour Group; Councillor Caroline Jackson for the Green Group and Councillors Parkinson, Rogerson and Sykes for the Conservative Group). The nominations were accepted.

Councillors Kershaw and Parkinson were nominated for Chairman. With 29 votes for Councillor Kershaw and 19 votes for Councillor Parkinson, Councillor Kershaw was appointed Chairman of the Chief Executive Recruitment Committee.

Resolved:

- (1) That Council agrees the recommendation of Personnel Committee, to set up a sub-committee of full council to appoint the Head of Paid service (Chief Executive).
- (2) The sub-committee shall agree and implement the process for recruitment of the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive), and agree any interim arrangements necessary.
- (3) That the membership of the Chief Executive Recruitment Committee be Councillors Betts-Patel, Blamire, Cozler, Caroline Jackson, Kershaw, Parkinson, Pattison, Rogerson and Sykes.
- (4) That Councillor Kershaw be appointed Chairman of the Chief Executive Recruitment Committee.

94 REVIEW OF THE EMPTY HOMES CHARGING POLICY USE OF DISCRETIONARY POWERS

(Councillors Charles, Hamilton-Cox, Parkinson, Rivet and Sykes, having disclosable pecuniary interests as private landlords, left the Chamber at this point.)

Members considered a report of the Interim Financial Services Manager, informing them of new discretionary powers available with regard to council tax premiums applicable to long term empty homes, and to review existing discount arrangements in relation to empty and substantially unfurnished properties.

Councillor Whitehead presented the report and responded to questions. She agreed to supply a written answer to Councillor Helme, who asked what arrangements would apply to a house left empty because the owner had died and probate was in progress.

Councillor Whitehead, seconded by Councillor Metcalfe, proposed:

- “(1) That the Council’s Empty Homes Council Tax Charging Policy for 2019/20 be amended to:
- Levy an increasing “premium” of Council Tax, in line with new discretionary powers, on long term empty dwellings that have been empty and unfurnished for over two years, subject to statutory exemptions and locally determined exceptions.
 - Use the policy guidelines set out in Appendix A of the report, when determining

applications for exceptions to the payment of a premium, for properties that have been vacant for more than two years.

- (2) That the S151 Officer be authorised to finalise the Council's Empty Homes Charging Policy in line with (1) above, and to include "policy guidelines" for locally determined exceptions in line with Government guidance when available, and make all other necessary arrangements for its implementation.
- (3) That the S151 Officer be authorised to advertise the variations to the Empty homes Charging Policy in accordance with statutory provisions."

The proposition was debated before a vote was taken. With 30 Members in favour, 11 against and one abstention, the proposition was clearly carried.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Council's Empty Homes Council Tax Charging Policy for 2019/20 be amended to:
 - Levy an increasing "premium" of Council Tax, in line with new discretionary powers, on long term empty dwellings that have been empty and unfurnished for over two years, subject to statutory exemptions and locally determined exceptions.
 - Use the policy guidelines set out in Appendix A of the report, when determining applications for exceptions to the payment of a premium, for properties that have been vacant for more than two years.
- (2) That the S151 Officer be authorised to finalise the Council's Empty Homes Charging Policy in line with (1) above, and to include "policy guidelines" for locally determined exceptions in line with Government guidance when available, and make all other necessary arrangements for its implementation.
- (3) That the S151 Officer be authorised to advertise the variations to the Empty homes Charging Policy in accordance with statutory provisions.

95 LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2019/20

(Councillors who had absented themselves for the item above returned to the Chamber at this point.)

Council considered a report of the Interim Financial Services Manager seeking a decision on whether the existing Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme should be retained for application in 2019/20.

Councillor Whitehead presented the report and responded to questions. She agreed to supply written answers to Councillor Peter Williamson, who asked for the definition of 'low incomes' and how many councils were 'the few' which still provided full level of Council Tax support for working age claimants, depending on their circumstances.

Councillor Sykes asked for a figure of the total amount denied to parish councils in the last year because of the current policy. Councillor Whitehead agreed to supply a written answer to all Councillors for this question.

Councillor Guilding asked the number receiving relief on grounds of dementia. It was agreed that she would receive a written answer showing a breakdown of the grounds for

relief.

Councillor Whitehead, seconded by Councillor Blamire, proposed:

- “(1) That Council retains its existing Localised Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019/20.
- (2) That the Interim Financial Services Manager be authorised to finalise and publish the Council’s approved Scheme for 2019/20 and make all other necessary arrangements for its implementation next financial year.”

Debate on the proposition followed. The Mayor called for a vote and the proposition was clearly carried, with 33 Members voting in favour, 9 against and four abstentions.

Resolved:

- (1) That Council retains its existing Localised Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019/20.
- (2) That the Interim Financial Services Manager be authorised to finalise and publish the Council’s approved Scheme for 2019/20 and make all other necessary arrangements for its implementation next financial year.

96 EDEN PROJECT NORTH

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report seeking agreement to contribute to the development of the Eden North proposals.

The Chief Executive responded to Members’ questions.

Councillor Hanson, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, proposed:

- “(1) That Council agrees to contribute £250,000 towards specific pieces of work which will significantly advance detailed work on the proposals for the development of the Eden North Project.
- (2) It is noted that £250,000 represents a 25% share of the total cost with each of the four partners being asked to contribute equally. The Council’s contribution will be conditional upon:
 - (i) Each party making its contribution; and
 - (ii) Confirmation to the Council that funds have been applied as specified.

After some debate, a vote was taken and the proposition was clearly carried.

Resolved:

- (1) That Council agrees to contribute £250,000 towards specific pieces of work which will significantly advance detailed work on the proposals for the development of the Eden North Project.
- (2) It is noted that £250,000 represents a 25% share of the total cost with each of the four partners being asked to contribute equally. The Council’s contribution will be conditional upon:
 - (i) Each party making its contribution; and
 - (ii) Confirmation to the Council that funds have been applied as specified.

97 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Mayor asked political groups to report any changes to committee memberships. The Labour group reported that it wished to replace Councillor Burns with Councillor Hanson on the Constitution Review Working Group.

The change was proposed by Councillor Blamire, seconded by Councillor Brown. The proposal was clearly carried when put the vote.

Resolved:

That Councillor Hanson replace Councillor Burns on the Constitution Review Working Group.

(In view of the lateness of the hour, the Mayor took the decision to defer the two remaining items of business (question on notice from Members and minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 6 November and 4 December 2018) until the January Council meeting.)

98 COMMITTEE TIMETABLE 2019/2020 (Pages 22 - 23)

Council considered a report of the Council Business Committee recommending a timetable of committee meetings for 2019/20.

Councillor Reynolds presented the report and proposed the recommendations therein. Councillor Hall seconded the proposition.

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

Resolved:

- (1) That Council approves the draft 2019/20 timetable (Appendices A and B of the report) with the following revisions:
 - a) That the agenda for the full Council budget meeting in February be limited to consideration of the Budget and Policy Framework proposals only.
 - b) That two additional meetings of full Council be scheduled in future Council calendars towards the end of March and during June (*26 June 2019 and 18 March 2020 for 2019/20 calendar*).
 - c) That a separate full Council meeting be arranged for any substantial agenda items.

(The finalised timetable is appended to the minutes.)

99 MOTION ON NOTICE - HIGH SPEED 2 (HS2) AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LANCASTER DISTRICT

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

"This Council notes:

- That in principle it welcomes the opportunity for improving rail links to the North West, particularly the potential for High Speed 2 (HS2) to add further capacity to the existing West Coast Main Line rail network.
- That the final HS2 timetable is subject to future revision and consultation, but it wishes to ensure that our citizens benefit from the social and economic advantages that connection of the West Coast Main Line to the wider HS2 network may bring.

This Council believes:

- That the City of Lancaster's mainline station should serve as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains, which in turn will provide improved access for businesses, organisations, and residents within (and visitors to) the Lancaster District.
- That the inclusion of Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains has the potential to improve the future transport connections to Morecambe, including to Eden North (Eden Project), which is an emerging and potentially nationally-significant proposal.
- That the Council should continue to consult with other prominent politicians, business leaders and organisations within the district to establish high-level support for the inclusion of Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains.

This Council resolves:

- That the Chief Executive and Officers are empowered to promote Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains, on behalf of the City Council and its' citizens, for the reasons set out above.
- That Officers are empowered to respond positively, on behalf of the City Council and its' citizens, to any future, relevant, national consultations regarding HS2 to promote Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains.
- That as a first step, Officers arrange to work alongside prominent politicians, business leaders and organisations within the Lancaster District to collectively agree the detail regarding district-wide support for the inclusion of Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains.
- That in promoting Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains, that residential amenity environmental standards will continue to be protected."

An officer briefing note accompanied the motion to aid the debate. The motion was clearly carried when put to the vote.

Resolved:-

This Council notes:

- That in principle it welcomes the opportunity for improving rail links to the North West, particularly the potential for High Speed 2 (HS2) to add further capacity to the existing West Coast Main Line rail network.

- That the final HS2 timetable is subject to future revision and consultation, but it wishes to ensure that our citizens benefit from the social and economic advantages that connection of the West Coast Main Line to the wider HS2 network may bring.

This Council believes:

- That the City of Lancaster's mainline station should serve as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains, which in turn will provide improved access for businesses, organisations, and residents within (and visitors to) the Lancaster District.
- That the inclusion of Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains has the potential to improve the future transport connections to Morecambe, including to Eden North (Eden Project), which is an emerging and potentially nationally-significant proposal.
- That the Council should continue to consult with other prominent politicians, business leaders and organisations within the district to establish high-level support for the inclusion of Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains.

This Council resolves:

- That the Chief Executive and Officers are empowered to promote Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains, on behalf of the City Council and its' citizens, for the reasons set out above.
- That Officers are empowered to respond positively, on behalf of the City Council and its' citizens, to any future, relevant, national consultations regarding HS2 to promote Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains.
- That as a first step, Officers arrange to work alongside prominent politicians, business leaders and organisations within the Lancaster District to collectively agree the detail regarding district-wide support for the inclusion of Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains.
- That in promoting Lancaster as a primary stopping station served by HS2 trains, that residential amenity environmental standards will continue to be protected.

100 MOTION ON NOTICE - BREXIT

Councillor Caroline Jackson had submitted a motion on notice about Brexit having given the required notice to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15. Councillor Brookes proposed the motion on Councillor Caroline Jackson's behalf, because she had lost her voice.

The motion was set out in the agenda:

"This Council notes:

- That 28 months have passed since the European Union (EU) Referendum, and that we are now approaching a critical time when the results of the negotiations on the terms of the UK's withdrawal from the EU will be presented to Parliament for a decision

- The significant support that the Lancaster district has received from the EU over many years for farming, infrastructure investment, tourism and the environment
- There are at least 10,000 EU nationals working and studying in the district, mainly in Lancaster University and the health service. In this district there is nearly full employment: any reduction in the labour pool will make recruitment difficult for businesses
- That in a recent survey in Lancaster 91 % of those surveyed believed that Brexit was not going well and that 86% of those surveyed said that there should be a popular vote on the final deal before we leave the EU
- The mounting public concern at the prospect of leaving the EU with either a bad deal or no deal at all
- That many Councils across the UK including, in the North West, Trafford, Liverpool, Stockport, Preston, Knowsley and Warrington have each adopted motions supporting calls for a People's Vote on the final Brexit Deal. Other Councils have carried out impact studies on how their area will be affected by Brexit.

This Council believes:

- That prior to the UK leaving the EU a national People's Vote should be held where the voters make their final choice.
- This Council resolves:
- To explore with other Councils in Lancashire preparing impact studies on the effects that leaving the EU will have on the economy of the County."

Councillor Mace seconded the motion.

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

Resolved:-

This Council notes:

- That 28 months have passed since the European Union (EU) Referendum, and that we are now approaching a critical time when the results of the negotiations on the terms of the UK's withdrawal from the EU will be presented to Parliament for a decision
- The significant support that the Lancaster district has received from the EU over many years for farming, infrastructure investment, tourism and the environment
- There are at least 10,000 EU nationals working and studying in the district, mainly in Lancaster University and the health service. In this district there is nearly full employment: any reduction in the labour pool will make recruitment difficult for businesses

- That in a recent survey in Lancaster 91 % of those surveyed believed that Brexit was not going well and that 86% of those surveyed said that there should be a popular vote on the final deal before we leave the EU
- The mounting public concern at the prospect of leaving the EU with either a bad deal or no deal at all
- That many Councils across the UK including, in the North West, Trafford, Liverpool, Stockport, Preston, Knowsley and Warrington have each adopted motions supporting calls for a People's Vote on the final Brexit Deal. Other Councils have carried out impact studies on how their area will be affected by Brexit.

This Council believes:

- That prior to the UK leaving the EU a national People's Vote should be held where the voters make their final choice.

This Council resolves:

- To explore with other Councils in Lancashire preparing impact studies on the effects that leaving the EU will have on the economy of the County.

Mayor

(The meeting finished at 10.00 p.m.)

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

**ITEMS DEFERRED FROM THE NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING
QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

1. Question from Councillor Jon Barry to Councillor Margaret Pattison

Do you agree with the officer decision to move Sanah's Indian food stall's daily pitch position to Church Street?

ANSWER

The officer decision was actually to revoke street trading consents in Market St and Market Square.

The officer decision to grant a consent to trade in Church St was then done following agreement with the owners of the Indian food stall

The facts are as follows-

Lancaster City centre is an upcoming and thriving area and the council is committed to working with its partners to ensure sustainable growth. An important part of this is getting the right balance between shop and street-based businesses, as well as public events and entertainment.

Recently the museum has come back under the management control of the city council after 15 years. This has provided an opportunity to rethink the use of Market Square and nearby streets, to create exciting new shopper experiences that increase footfall to the city centre. This, in the long-term, will benefit all businesses and traders.

In order to achieve this objective, The officer undertook a review of the types and location of concessionary pitches in the city centre - starting with those located in Market Street and Market Square. He believes there are suitable alternative locations in the city centre that would greatly benefit from street trading and the type of shopping experiences we wish to create.

Therefore in accordance with the conditions of the street trading consent, which state clearly that consent is granted for a year but may be revoked by the Council (delegated to the Chief Officer) at any time for any reason, the trading consents for two concessions on non-market days in Market St and Market Square were revoked.

The Council is under no obligation at all to provide a replacement but the officer made the offer of discussions with the concessionaires.

One concessionaire took up this offer.

Officers have met with the concessionaire on numerous occasions an amicable conclusion was reached with a location at the top of Church St being offered and accepted.

However, I understand the concessionaire then made alternative arrangements to trade from private land in the City Centre.

I agree with the principle of developing the city centre in a way that benefits all businesses and traders and that on occasion there will be a need for positive actions to be taken. In this case it provided a good result for all concerned.

2. Question from Councillor Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Nathan Burns

Has the expression of interest for grant-aiding a local full-fibre network been submitted by the city council to the Department for Culture Media and Sports?

ANSWER

In 2017 the Government launched the Local Full Fibre Network Programme (LFFN) – a competitive, exclusively capital, grant scheme to help local bodies deliver fast and reliable digital communications networks. The aim is to harness public sector connectivity and aggregate private sector demand to stimulate improvements in broadband connectivity. In August 2018 the Government issued revised LFFN guidance. There is now no fixed date for future submissions - an iterative approach to project selection has been initiated where:

- Local bodies with an interest in bidding to the LFFN are invited to submit an informal expression of interest (Eol) to the programme.
- A dialogue will take place to assess the project.
- A full proposal would be invited when the strategic approach is deemed satisfactory by Government.

While stated as being "informal", the Eol has a series of DCMS specific requirements to allow them to make an initial comparative analysis and initiate pre-dialogue. Bidders are expected to have a good idea of the coverage, project cost, funding required, delivery method and likely impact of the proposed investment.

Officers are working in partnership with the Lancaster Digital and other stakeholders on the development of proposal. There is a need for expert input to assist in bringing together key information which will allow the partnership to understand what can reasonably be achieved and to give an idea of the broad shape and costs of a proposal. The group is in the process of commissioning work which will: provide a sound basis on which to make a proposal under the Eol terms; gives stakeholders a clear understanding of the resources required to develop and agree a full proposal through the DCMS's full dialogue stage and Investment Panel requirements. The work should allow the Council to understand its own potential resource commitments required in engaging in a "full dialogue" with DCMS and the likely costs and benefits of developing and delivering any proposal. A report will be made to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

Officers have contacted DCMS noting that the local partnership does intend to make a formal Expression of Interest. We have noted that Lancaster is committed to a growing, prosperous and inclusive future building on the advantages of its world class University and growing knowledge economy.

3. Question from Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox to Councillor Darren Clifford

At full council in September 2017, Cllr Brookes asked you when the Middleton solar farm would be built out? You replied that it had been agreed to review the financial viability of this in March 2017.

In Appendix B of the budget framework documents presented to full council on 28th February 2018, there was reference to Middleton solar farm in 'Solar Farm Design & Business Case Development' in item 2.

In your annual report to full council in April you wrote that:

'Funds to continue feasibility into two potential sites for solar farms were secured at the most recent budget council.'

In Appendix B of the project monitoring report to cabinet on 6th November, the Middleton solar farm was notable by its absence.

What is the current status of the Middleton solar farm project?

ANSWER

Appendix B of the project monitoring report to Cabinet on 6th November does actually make reference to the proposed solar farm projects. Looking at the appendix there is reference to Solar Project Phase 1 (P65) and Solar Project Phase 2 (P66)

Solar Project Phase 1- is the project that has been developed for increasing the solar array on the roof of and within the grounds of Salt Ayre Leisure Centre. There is also a proposal to provide battery storage so that energy generated can be used when it is dark.

As part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, we are updating our Capital Programme. All potential capital schemes are supported by an outline business case which, amongst other things, considers financial cost and return and fit with Council priorities. The Solar Farm business case is being assessed and scored alongside other bids for Capital funding as part of the budget setting process and will be presented as a proposal during this year's budget process

Solar Project Phase 2- is the project to assess the feasibility of using Council land to locate a Solar Farm. Land in Middleton has been considered for this and more recently the Salt Ayre former landfill site has become an option. Work is ongoing to assess feasibility.

Officers recently met with our expert advisor on renewable energy to progress. What was explored was how the development of Heysham Gateway could provide a strategic opportunity to drive economic growth and generate income through the provision of off-grid renewable energy, from a variety of sources- including a solar farm, to businesses in the area. Work is now progressing to develop this much more ambitious and bigger plan.

4. Question from Councillor Caroline Jackson to Councillor Andrew Warriner

During the years 2016/17 and 2017/18 how many stray dogs were collected by Lancaster City Council Dog Wardens? How many of these were restored to owners and how many passed on to a rescue centre?

ANSWER

During 2016/17 there were 197 stray dogs taken to the council's appointed kennels by dog wardens or the council's kennels contractor. Of these 128 were claimed by the owner and 69 were accepted by animal rescue organisations.

During 2017/18 there were 183 stray dogs taken to the council's appointed kennels by dog wardens or the council's kennels contractor. Of these 112 were claimed by the owner and 70 were accepted by animal rescue organisations.

COMMITTEE TIMETABLE 2019/2020 AGREED BY COUNCIL ON 19 DECEMBER 2019

	2019						2020							
	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	
Mon			1											Mon
Tue			2 Budget and Performance Panel			1 Cabinet LTH								Tue
Wed	1		3			2			1 Bank Holiday			1		Wed
Thur	2 CITY COUNCIL & PARISH ELECTIONS		4 Licensing Reg Member Briefing	1		3 Member Briefing			2			2 Member Briefing		Thur
Fri	3		5	2		4	1		3 Planning Site Visit			3	1	Fri
Sat	4	1	6	3		5	2		4	1		4	2	Sat
Sun	5	2	7	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	1	5	3	Sun
Mon	6 Bank Holiday	3	8	5	2	7 Planning Site Visit	4 Planning Site Visit	2 Planning Site Visit	6	3 Planning	2 Planning	6	4 Bank Holiday	Mon
Tue	7	4	9	6 Cabinet LTH	3 Cabinet MTH	8	5 Cabinet MTH	3 Cabinet LTH	7 Planning	4 Budget and Performance Panel	3	7	5	Tue
Wed	8	5	10 Overview and Scrutiny	7	4	9	6	4	8	5	4	8 Council	6	Wed
Thur	9	6 Licensing Reg	11	8	5 Member Briefing	10 Licensing Reg	7 Member Briefing	5	9 Licensing Reg Member Briefing	6 Licensing Reg Member Briefing	5 Council Business Committee	9	7 PCC ELECTIONS	Thur
Fri	10	7	12	9	6	11	8	6	10	7	6	10 Bank Holiday	8	Fri
Sat	11	8	13 Freeman's Court	10	7	12	9	7	11	8	7	11	9	Sat
Sun	12	9	14	11	8	13	10 Remembrance Sunday	8	12	9	8	12	10	Sun
Mon	13	10	15 Planning Site Visit	12 Planning Site Visit	9 Planning Site Visit	14 Planning	11 Planning	9 Planning	13	10	9	13 Bank Holiday	11	Mon
Tue	14	11	16	13	10 Budget and Performance Panel	15	12 Budget and Performance Panel	10 JCC Personnel	14 Cabinet MTH	11 Cabinet LTH	10	14	12	Tue
Wed	15	12 Audit	17 Council	14	11	16 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13 Council	11 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	15	12 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	15	13	Wed
Thur	16	13 Licensing Act	18	15	12	17	14	12	16 Standards	13	12 Member Briefing	16	14	Thur
Fri	17 Annual Council	14	19	16	13	18	15	13	17	14	13	17	15 Annual Council	Fri
Sat	18	15	20	17	14	19	16	14	18	15	14	18	16	Sat
Sun	19 Mayor's Sunday	16	21	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	15	19	17 Mayor's Sunday	Sun
Mon	20 Business Council	17 Planning Site Visit	22 Planning	19 Planning	16 Planning	21	18	16	20	17	16	20 Planning Site Visit	18 Business Council	Mon
Tue	21	18 JCC Personnel	23	20	17	22	19	17	21 Budget & Perf Panel - MTH	18	17 Cabinet MTH	21 Cabinet LTH	19	Tue
Wed	22	19 Overview & Scrutiny Committee	24 Audit	21	18 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	23	20 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	18 Council	22 Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19 Audit	18 Council	22	20	Wed
Thur	23 Planning Site Visit	20 Council Bus Com	25	22	19	24	21 Licensing Reg	19	23	20	19 Licensing Reg	23	21	Thur
Fri	24	21	26	23	20	25	22	20	24	21	20	24	22	Fri
Sat	25	22	27	24	21	26	23	21	25	22	21	25	23	Sat
Sun	26	23	28	25	22	27	24	22	26	23	22	26	24	Sun
Mon	27 Bank Holiday	24 Planning Armed Forces Day Flag Raising	29	26 Bank Holiday	23	28	25	23	27 Planning Site Visit	24 Planning Site Visit	23 Planning Site Visit	27 Planning	25 Bank Holiday	Mon
Tue	28 Planning	25 Cabinet MTH	30	27	24	29	26	24	28	25	24	28	26	Tue
Wed	29	26 Council	31	28	25 Council	30	27 Audit	25 Bank Holiday	29 Council	26 Budget Council	25	29	27	Wed
Thur	30	27 Standards		29 Licensing Reg	26	31 Council Business Committee	28 Licensing Act	26 Bank Holiday	30	27	26	30	28	Thur
Fri	31	28		30	27		29	27	31	28	27		29	Fri
Sat		29		31	28		30	28		29	28		30	Sat
Sun		30			29			29			29		31	Sun
Mon					30			30			30 Planning			Mon
Tue								31			31			Tue

Meeting Start Times/Venues/Number of meetings 2019/20 Agreed by Council 19 December 2018

Meeting	Venue(s)	Start Time	Number of meetings
Annual Council (Ceremonial)	Ashton Hall, LTH	12 noon	1
Annual Council (Business)	MTH	6.30pm	1
Council*	MTH	6.00pm	9
Council Business Committee	MTH	6.00pm	3
Cabinet	Alternating between LTH/MTH	6.00pm	10
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	MTH	6.00pm	9
Budget and Performance Panel	LTH The stakeholder meeting in January 2018 to be held in MTH commencing at 6.00pm.	6.10pm	5
Licensing Regulatory Committee	LTH	1.00pm	8
Licensing Act Committee	LTH	2.00pm	2
Planning & Highways Regulatory Committee	LTH	10.30am	13
Personnel Committee**	LTH	6.10pm, 'or at the rise of JCC, whichever is the later'.	2
JCC	LTH	4.00pm. Chairman to use their discretion regarding an earlier start for JCC depending on the amount of business to be considered.	2
Audit Committee	LTH	6.10pm	4
Standards Committee**	LTH	6.10pm	2

Notes:

(LTH = Lancaster Town Hall)

(MTH = Morecambe Town Hall)

The Appeals Committee is convened as and when necessary at LTH with no set day or time.

*Budget Council meeting is for budget and policy framework items only.

**These Committees will begin earlier in the day where additional meetings are convened to hear specific cases.