

## PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 13 November 2019, when the following Members were present:-

David Whitaker (Mayor)	Alan Biddulph (Deputy Mayor)
Tony Anderson	Paul Anderton
Richard Austen-Baker	Mandy Bannon
Stephie Barber	Phillip Black
Victoria Boyd-Power	Dave Brookes
Abbott Bryning	Keith Budden
Roger Cleet	Darren Clifford
Tim Dant	Roger Dennison
Adrian Duggan	Merv Evans
Kevin Frea	Jake Goodwin
Mike Greenall	June Greenwell
Tricia Heath	Debbie Jenkins
Mandy King	Sarah Knight
Cary Matthews	Jack O'Dwyer-Henry
Faye Penny	Joyce Pritchard
Stewart Scothern	Alistair Sinclair
Paul Stubbins	Sandra Thornberry
Katie Whearty	David Whitworth
John Wild	Jason Wood
Joanna Young	Mel Guilding
Tim Hamilton-Cox	Janice Hanson
Colin Hartley	Caroline Jackson
Joan Jackson	Geoff Knight
Abi Mills	Jean Parr
Robert Redfern	John Reynolds
Oliver Robinson	Malcolm Thomas
Anne Whitehead	Peter Yates

**74 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lucie Carrington, Gina Dowding, Erica Lewis and Michael Mumford.

**75 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2019 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**76 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this stage.

**77 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor expressed thanks to all the staff and volunteers involved in arrangements for the various Remembrance Services throughout the district and all those that had attended them.

The Mayor requested that Councillors showed respect to each other and to officers during the meeting and limited debate to the issues on the agenda. The Council were there to discuss matters in Lancaster district not national politics.

**78 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.

**79 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES**

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

**80 LEADER'S REPORT**

The Deputy Leader presented the Leader's report updating Members on various issues since the last Leader's report to Council and responded to questions from Councillors.

***Resolved:***

That the report be noted.

**81 MOTION ON NOTICE - COMMITTEE SYSTEM**

Councillor Dant had given the required notice to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15 to move the following motion set out in the agenda:-

*"This council believes that it could make better use of the skills of all its councillors and improve the democratic accountability of decision making by ceasing the current leader and cabinet model of governance and implementing a committee system. Council requires the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in conjunction with Cabinet to investigate the best way to introduce a committee system of governance, taking into account the experiences of other councils. The investigation will lead to a detailed, legally and constitutionally sound*

*proposal, including a programme for implementation, to be presented to full Council for consideration on or before its Annual Meeting in May 2020.”*

An officer briefing note had been included with the agenda. In light of comments in the briefing note, Councillor Dant had circulated a revised version of his motion via email:-

“This council believes that it could make better use of the skills of all its councillors and improve the democratic accountability of decision making by ceasing the current leader and cabinet model of governance and implementing a committee system. Council will establish a Committee of the Council, with membership in balance, to investigate the best way to introduce a committee system of governance, taking into account the experiences of other councils. The investigation will lead to a detailed, legally and constitutionally sound proposal to be presented to full Council for consideration on or before its meeting in September 2020. That proposal will set out a future programme for implementation of a committee system of governance.”

With the Mayor’s permission, the Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that there was an error in the briefing note she had drafted. It referred to a Committee of Council being an appropriate mechanism for investigating a committee system of governance, when this should have been a Working Group. A note of explanation had been provided on the revised version of the motion on Members’ desks. This was why the text of the motion on the tables referred to a Working Group rather than a Committee of Council.

The Mayor asked for a vote to be taken to allow Councillor Dant to revise the wording of his motion. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.7 he reminded Members that the vote would be taken without any discussion. Council voted to allow the revised wording below to be debated.

“This council believes that it could make better use of the skills of all its councillors and improve the democratic accountability of decision making by ceasing the current leader and cabinet model of governance and implementing a committee system. Council will establish a Working Group, with membership in balance, to investigate the best way to introduce a committee system of governance, taking into account the experiences of other councils. The investigation will lead to a detailed, legally and constitutionally sound proposal to be presented to full Council for consideration on or before its meeting in September 2020. That proposal will set out a future programme for implementation of a committee system of governance.”

The revised motion was seconded by Councillor Austen-Baker.

An amendment to the motion, which was not accepted as a friendly amendment by Councillor Dant, was moved by Councillor Sinclair and seconded by Councillor Wood:

“That the word ‘could’ be replaced with the word ‘*might*’; the words ‘*politically proportionate*’ be inserted prior to ‘Working Group’; deletion of the words ‘*with membership in balance*’ after Working Group; deletion of ‘*the best way to introduce*’ prior to ‘a committee system of governance’; the insertion of ‘*and an assessment of the effectiveness of the current Cabinet Model*’ after ‘other councils;’ the insertion of ‘*will produce a detailed assessment of both models of governance; including a comprehensive SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of the two models and a comprehensive finance and resource analysis*’ after ‘the investigation;’ the insertion of ‘*If the assessment supports a case for change it*’ prior to ‘will lead to a detailed, legally and constitutionally sound proposal’ with the insertion of ‘*and a realistic timetable for implementation*’ added to the end of the motion.

Debate followed on the amendment before a vote was taken and the amendment was lost.

By way of a friendly amendment, Councillor Stubbins proposed, seconded by Councillor Wood:

“That the word ‘could’ be replaced with the word ‘might’ in the first sentence of the motion.”

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

By way of a further amendment which was accepted as a friendly amendment by the proposer and seconder of the motion, Councillor Wood proposed ‘that the words ‘a committee’ in the final sentence be replaced with ‘any change to the’ prior to ‘system of governance.’

Members then debated the substantive motion and at the conclusion of the debate a vote was taken and the motion was carried.

**Resolved:-**

This council believes that it might make better use of the skills of all its councillors and improve the democratic accountability of decision making by ceasing the current leader and cabinet model of governance and implementing a committee system. Council will establish a Working Group, with membership in balance, to investigate the best way to introduce a committee system of governance, taking into account the experiences of other councils. The investigation will lead to a detailed, legally and constitutionally sound proposal to be presented to full Council for consideration on or before its meeting in September 2020. That proposal will set out a future programme for implementation of any change to the system of governance.

**82 MOTION ON NOTICE - CHAMPION FOR THE DISABLED**

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

*“This Council believes it could better support and therefore enhance the services provided by this Council for the disabled communities and their families by re-instating the position of Champion for the Disabled.”*

An officer briefing note had been supplied with relevant background information.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Sinclair:

“That this Council believes it can better support and improve the services provided by this Council for people with disabilities and their families by re-instating the role of ‘Champion for the Disabled’ and renaming it ‘Disability Champion.’

Council will establish the ‘Disability Champion’ role and the role holder will work with the portfolio holder for Communities & Social Justice and support the Lancaster City Council Wellbeing Advisory Group in its exploration of wellbeing and social justice issues in the district. The new ‘Disability Champion’ role will be filled by nomination and voting at the next Council meeting on the 18 December 2019.”

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

There was no debate. The motion, as amended, was clearly carried when put to the vote.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) This Council believes it can better support and improve the services provided by this Council for people with disabilities and their families by re-instating the role of 'Champion for the Disabled' and renaming it 'Disability Champion.'
- (2) Council will establish the 'Disability Champion' role and the role holder will work with the portfolio holder for Communities & Social Justice and support the Lancaster City Council Wellbeing Advisory Group in its exploration of wellbeing and social justice issues in the district. The new 'Disability Champion' role will be filled by nomination and voting at the next Council meeting on the 18 December 2019.

**83 MOTION ON NOTICE - RECYCLING**

Councillor Stubbins proposed the following motion having given the required notice to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15:-

***"Purpose:***

- *To increase the proportion of local household waste that is recycled and to minimise residual waste (which cannot be recycled).*
- *To achieve this through greater collaborative work between Lancaster City Council and its residents by raising awareness of recycling issues, sharing targets and consulting widely on how best to facilitate this.*

***Recommendations:***

*Full Council welcomes the progress that is being made to reduce residual waste per household and to increase the scope of plastic that can be recycled.*

*Council recognises that there is a pressing need however to improve recycling efforts within our City and with the support of County. Council aims to achieve this by putting recycling high on our agenda and committing to share the responsibility and actions needed to be taken.*

*Full Council therefore:*

- *Commits to being active in promoting waste prevention, reduction and reuse activities in all wards across our City.*
- *Requests that Overview and Scrutiny committee investigates best practice in achieving higher recycling rates by consulting with other councils, residents and City Councillors. For example asking residents and members what they want to know about recycling, how this might be presented and how they wish to be kept informed.*
- *Requests County provides the necessary local recycling information needed to support our aim to substantially increase public engagement and outcomes for recycling.*
- *Requests that better, more meaningful targets for recycling be set and progress reported at least quarterly on the Council Website, annually on the recycling guidance*

*cards that are posted to residents, and by any other means that Overview and Scrutiny may recommend.*

- *Requests that more detailed information be provided on the Council's website of the ways materials can be recycled in our own district particularly where materials might be reused by local organisations.*
- *Encourages individuals and community groups to create specialist reuse or recycling projects for their areas.*

### **Notes**

*There are many effective ways to reduce the generation of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. Composting reduces anaerobic decomposition of organic waste at landfill, whilst reducing waste and increasing recycling saves energy that would have been used in the production of materials.*

*Using recycled materials, instead of trees, metal ores, minerals, oil and other raw materials harvested from the earth, also conserves the world's scarce natural resources.*

*Whilst the majority of Household Waste is derived from households, it also includes waste from street bins, street sweepings, parks and grounds.*

*Lancaster is making progress in reducing residual waste per household. In 2017/18 residual waste per household was 482.9kg, the 6th best in Lancashire. We continued to reduce that figure in 2018/19, achieving the biggest in-year improvement in Lancashire.*

*In the financial year 2017/18, 35.64% of household waste was recycled in Lancaster, which fell below the North West and England rates of 44.7% and 43.2% respectively. At the district/unitary level, recycling, reuse and composting rates varied between a low of 29.8% in Preston to 47.5% in Fylde, with the best achieving local authority in the North West Region being Trafford at 59%. Our target in Lancaster this year was 45% but we have achieved just 36%. With the City Council set to adopt the EU target of 50% of household waste to be recycled by 2020, it is clear that we need to make huge strides to achieve this.*

*Although targets are being set and monitored by Lancaster City Council for the percentage of household waste recycled and residual waste collected, this information is not widely shared with residents. This is a lost opportunity to develop awareness amongst the public and to share the challenges that we face. Detailed recycling information is collected and reported by County for DEFRA and so this could be accessed and presented for local use.*

*Greater support is required to let people know what can and cannot be recycled, in particular, awareness of types of plastics that can be recycled and how food residue contaminates recycling. In doing so, Council needs to support elderly and transient populations on an ongoing basis, without expecting such residents to be proactive in accessing the internet."*

An officer briefing note had been included with the agenda.

Councillor Dant seconded the motion.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Frea and seconded by Councillor O'Dwyer-Henry "that 'Overview and Scrutiny committee' be replaced by the 'Climate Emergency Advisory Group' in the second and fourth bullet points." This was not accepted as a friendly amendment by the proposer and seconder of the motion.

Debate followed on the amendment before a vote was taken and the amendment was lost.

By way of a friendly amendment, Councillor Heath proposed, seconded by Councillor Knight:

“That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up a working group open to all councillors.”

With the agreement of the meeting and his seconder, Councillor Stubbins accepted this as a friendly amendment.

By way of a further friendly amendment, which was accepted as a friendly amendment by Councillor Stubbins and Councillor Dant, Councillor Brookes proposed:

“That the words ‘on the recycling guidance cards’ in bullet point (4) be replaced with ‘in the Your District Council Matters newsletters’ with the word ‘any’ deleted before ‘other’ and the word ‘suitable’ inserted after the word ‘other’.

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

**Resolved:-**

- 1) Council welcomes the progress that is being made to reduce residual waste per household and to increase the scope of plastic that can be recycled.
- 2) Council recognises that there is a pressing need however to improve recycling efforts within our City and with the support of County. Council aims to achieve this by putting recycling high on our agenda and committing to share the responsibility and actions needed to be taken.
- 3) Council therefore:
  - a) Commits to being active in promoting waste prevention, reduction and reuse activities in all wards across our City.
  - b) Requests that Overview and Scrutiny committee set up a working group open to all Councillors to investigate best practice in achieving higher recycling rates by consulting with other councils, residents and City Councillors. For example asking residents and members what they want to know about recycling, how this might be presented and how they wish to be kept informed.
  - c) Requests County provides the necessary local recycling information needed to support our aim to substantially increase public engagement and outcomes for recycling.
  - d) Requests that better, more meaningful targets for recycling be set and progress reported at least quarterly on the Council Website, annually in the Your District Council Matters newsletters that are posted to residents, and by other suitable means that Overview and Scrutiny may recommend.
  - e) Requests that more detailed information be provided on the Council’s website of the ways materials can be recycled in our own district particularly where materials might be reused by local organisations.
  - f) Encourages individuals and community groups to create specialist reuse or recycling projects for their areas.

**84 DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER**

*(The Acting Head of Legal Services left the meeting at this point, having an interest in the following item.)*

The Chief Executive submitted a report recommending that the Acting Head of Legal Services, Mr Luke Gorst, be appointed Monitoring Officer for the City Council.

Council was informed that the current Monitoring Officer had stepped down from the role.

Councillor Hanson proposed the recommendation as set out in the report, seconded by Councillor Robinson and requested that the Council's appreciation for the monitoring officer support previously provided by Mr Rephael Walmsley be minuted.

The Mayor called for a vote and the proposal was clearly carried.

***Resolved:***

- (1) That the Acting Head of Legal Services, Mr Luke Gorst, be designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer with immediate effect.
- (2) That the Council's appreciation for the support provided by the previous Monitoring Officer, Rephael Walmsley, be noted.

**85 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2018/19**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report to enable Council to consider the Annual Treasury Management report and Prudential Indicators.

***Resolved:***

That the report be noted.

**86 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

No appointments or changes to committee memberships were reported.

**87 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

The Mayor advised that no questions had been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

**88 MINUTES OF CABINET**

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2019.

***Resolved:***

That the minutes be noted.

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Mayor



(The meeting finished at 7.35 p.m.)

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