

## PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 12 March 2025, when the following Members were present:-

Hamish Mills (Deputy Mayor)

Joanne Ainscough

Mandy Bannon

Gerry Blaikie

Dave Brookes

Roger Cleet

Brett Cooper

Maria Deery

Gina Dowding

Martin Gawith

Tim Hamilton-Cox

Chris Hanna

Paul Hart

Ross Hunter

Peter Jackson

John Livermore

Sarah McGowan

Paul Newton

Jean Parr

Sue Penney

Joyce Pritchard

Robert Redfern

James Sommerville

Paul Stubbins

Sue Tyldesley

David Whitaker

Nick Wilkinson

Suhir Abuhajar

Catherine Armistead

Louise Belcher

Phil Bradley

Keith Budden

Ruth Colbridge

Claire Cozler

Roger Dennison

Tom Fish

Alan Greenwell

John Hanson

Prof Chris Harris

Colin Hartley

Caroline Jackson

Jack Lenox

Sally Maddocks

Isabella Metcalf-Riener

Andrew Otway

Margaret Pattison

Catherine Potter

Sarah Punshon

Sam Riches

Jackson Stubbs

Sandra Thornberry

Paul Tynan

John Wild

Jason Wood

**112 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor and Councillors Matt Black, Phil Black, Martin Bottoms, Andrew Gardiner and Grace Russell.

**113 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2025 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**114 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**115 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Deputy Mayor reminded Councillors of the recent death of former Lancaster City Councillor Peter Williamson, who had passed away suddenly on 25 February 2024.

Peter had been a City Councillor for the Upper Lune Valley ward for twelve years from 2007 to 2019. He was also leader of the Conservative group on the City Council for eight years.

Councillors' thoughts were with Peter's wife, County Councillor Phillippa Williamson, and the rest of his family.

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

The Deputy Mayor made a second announcement to inform Councillors that the Labour Group Leader was now Councillor Jason Wood, the Deputy Leader was still Councillor Jean Parr.

He then reminded Councillors of an ICT training day taking place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Information had been circulated to all members.

Finally, the Deputy Mayor made a personal announcement to express his thanks to Councillors and Officers for their support whilst he had been chairing Council meetings during the Mayor's absence due to illness. He hoped that the Mayor would be back in the Chair for her last full Council meeting in April.

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

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

**117 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES**

The Deputy Mayor informed Councillors that no petitions and addresses had been received.

**118 LEADER'S REPORT**

The Leader presented her report updating Members on various issues since her last report to Council. She then responded to numerous questions from Councillors, with Councillor Wilkinson also responding on matters to do with progress on transport and parking for the Eden Project. Councillor Dowding responded to a question regarding battery run trains.

In response to a request from Councillor Belcher, it was agreed that Councillors would receive information from officers on progress with Eden.

***Resolved:***

That the report be noted.

**119 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2025/26**

***The Deputy Mayor informed Councillors that, since they all had an interest in the Pay Policy, Officers would leave the Chamber for the duration of the following item of business.***

Councillor Professor Harris, Chair of the People and Organisational Development Committee, presented a report of the Committee seeking approval for the Pay Policy Statement 2025/26 before dealing with questions and proposing:

“That the Pay Policy Statement for 2025-2026 be approved.”

The proposition was seconded by Councillor Wood.

Following a short debate a vote was taken on the proposition.

***Resolved unanimously:***

That the Pay Policy Statement for 2025-2026 be approved.

**120 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION WORKING GROUP UPDATE 1**

Councillor Caroline Jackson, as Chair of the Local Government Reorganisation Working Group provided Council with an update report from the Group. She then responded to questions from Councillors, with the Chief Executive responding to questions on technical issues.

Councillor Caroline Jackson agreed to circulate the interim response letter to all Councillors.

The report was for noting.

***Resolved:***

That the report be noted.

**121 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

One change to committee memberships was reported by the Green group. Councillor Maddocks had been replaced on the Planning Regulatory Committee by Councillor Fish.

**122 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

The Deputy Mayor advised Councillors that no questions had been submitted.

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Mayor

(The meeting finished at 7.35 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these minutes,  
please contact Debbie Chambers, Senior Manager, Democratic Support & Elections/Deputy  
Monitoring Officer - email [dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk)**