

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Friday, 16 May 2025 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Abbott, Ball, Baker, Begg, Bevan, Bramwell, Carlin, Connolly, Dennett, Fry, Garner, Gilligan, Goodall, Harris, S. Hill, V. Hill, Hughes, Hutchinson, Jones, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, McDermott, McDonough, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Polhill, Ratcliffe, Ryan, Stretch, Skinner, Teeling, Thompson, Wainwright, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Woolfall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Davidson, Dourley, Leck, A. Lowe, Nelson, L. Nolan, P. Nolan, Philbin, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Rowe, Stockton and Thornton

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, S. Young, G. Ferguson and W. Rourke

Also in attendance: 39 Members of the public

		<i>Action</i>
COU1	ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR Moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Wright:- RESOLVED: That Councillor Martha Lloyd Jones be elected Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2025/26. Moved by Councillor Hutchinson and seconded by Councillor S. Hill:- RESOLVED: That Councillor Wallace be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2025/26. THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MARTHA LLOYD JONES IN THE CHAIR	
COU2	COUNCIL MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 5 March 2025, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	

COU3 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that her Charities for the year would be Nightstop Communities North West and Halton Speak Out with Ella Performance Group.

COU4 LEADER'S REPORT

There were no Leader's announcements.

COU5 EXECUTIVE BOARD (SELECTION COMMITTEE) 13 MAY 2025

The following results of the Executive Board (Selection Committee) were moved by the Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Mayor.

COU6 LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mike Wharton be appointed Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2025/26 and Councillor Dave Thompson be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

COU7 BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED: That the Boards and Committees be constituted with the membership as shown for the Municipal Year 2025/26:-

Executive Board (10)

Councillors Wharton, (Chair), Ball, Bevan, Dennett, Harris, T. McInerney, P. Nolan, Thompson, Wall and Wright.

Health & Wellbeing Board

Councillors Wright (Chair) Ball, T. McInerney and Woolfall.

Corporate and Inclusion Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Gilligan (Chair), Philbin (Vice Chair), Carlin, C. Loftus, Davidson, Leck, Logan, N. Plumptre Walsh, McDermott, McDonough and A. McInerney.

Health and Social Care Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Dourley (Chair), Baker (Vice Chair), Davidson, Lowe, Goodall, S. Hill, Hughes, McDonough, N. Plumptre Walsh, Skinner, and Stretch.

Environment and Regeneration Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Woolfall (Chair), P. Lloyd Jones (Vice Chair), V. Hill, Hutchinson, K. Loftus, McDermott, Nelson, L. Nolan, C. Plumpton Walsh, Stockton and Wainwright.

Local Economy Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Jones (Chair), Teeling (Vice Chair), Connolly, Begg, Garner, Gilligan, Hutchinson, K. Loftus, Rowe, Skinner and M. Ryan.

Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Logan (Chair), Goodall (Vice Chair), Baker, Dourley, Fry, Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Plumpton Walsh, Ratcliffe, Ryan and Skinner.

Housing and Safer Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Fry (Chair), Carlin (Vice Chair) Bramwell, Connolly, Garner, C. Loftus, A. McInerney, L. Nolan, Ratcliffe, Stretch and Teeling.

Development Management Committee (11)

Councillors Leck (Chair), Thornton (Vice Chair), S. Hill, Hughes, P. Nolan, Philbin, C. Plumpton Walsh, Polhill, Rowe, Thompson and Woolfall.

Audit and Governance Board (7)

Councillors Polhill (Chair), Connolly (Vice Chair), Abbott, V. Hill, Ratcliffe, Thornton and Wallace.

Regulatory Committee (11)

Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott (Vice-Chair), Begg, Bramwell, Fry, Hughes, K. Loftus, Lowe, Nelson, Stockton, and Wainwright.

Mayoral Committee (5)

Councillors M. Lloyd Jones, Wainwright, Gilligan, Philbin and Wright.

Appointments Committee (6)

Councillors Wharton (Leader), Thompson (Deputy Leader), Dennett (or another portfolio holder as selected by Leader), Wainwright (or a Chair of a PPB, selected by Leader) Ratcliffe and Davidson.

COU8 APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

RESOLVED: That Councillor Wainwright be

appointed Scrutiny Co-ordinator for the Municipal Year 2025/26

COU9 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEE AND INDEPENDENT PERSONS

RESOLVED: That

Chief Executive

- 1) Mr David Wilson be re-appointed as the Healthwatch Halton representative and non-voting Co-optee to the Health and Social Care Policy and Performance Board for the Municipal Year 2025/26; and
- 2) Professor David Norman and Mrs Diane Howard be re-appointed as Independent Persons for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011, for a further period of 4 years.

COU10 APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, regarding the appointment of Members to serve on various Outside Bodies. A document was tabled showing the recommendations put forward.

RESOLVED: That representatives be appointed to Outside Bodies in accordance with the tabled document.

COU11 EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIOS

The Leader confirmed that the Executive Board would consist of the following Portfolio holders for the Municipal Year 2025/26:-

Leader - Councillor Wharton - Overall Leadership and Corporate Strategy, Communications and Liverpool City Region matters
Deputy Leader - Councillor Thompson - Leadership on Cheshire Sub-Regional matters and Major Projects
Councillor T. McInerney - Children and Young People
Councillor Ball - Adult Social Care
Councillor Dennett - Corporate Services
Councillor Wright - Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Wall - Community Safety
Councillor P. Nolan - Environmental & Urban Renewal
Councillor Bevan - Employment, Learning & Skills and Community
Councillor Harris - Housing and Environmental Sustainability

RESOLVED: That the Portfolios be noted.

COU12 UPDATES TO COUNCIL CONSTITUTION (MINUTE EXB121 REFERS)

Executive Board had considered a report of the Director, Legal and Democratic Services, which sought approval of a number of changes to the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED: That Council approve the revised Constitution, including the matters set out in the appendices, attached to the report

Chief Executive

COU13 URGENT DECISIONS

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, on the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Council note the report.

COU14 ABSENCE OF A MEMBER

This item was withdrawn.

COU15 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2025-26

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director, Chief Executive's Delivery Unit, on the Pay Policy Statement for 2025/26.

The Localism Act 2011 required every local authority to prepare a Pay Policy Statement each year, which detailed the Council's approach to a range of issues relating to the pay of its employees, principally its senior staff (Chief Officers) and the Authority's lowest paid employees.

The purpose of the Statement was to provide transparency with regards to the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees by identifying the following:-

- The methods by which salaries of all employees were determined;
- The details and level of remuneration of its most senior staff (i.e. its Chief Officers) as defined by relevant legislation; and
- The Committee responsible for ensuring the provisions set out in the Statement were applied consistently throughout the Council and

recommending any amendments to the Full Council.

The following information was included in the report:-

- Background to the Pay Structure;
- Senior Management Remuneration;
- Recruitment of Chief Officers;
- Additions to Salaries of Chief Officers;
- Pensions Contributions;
- Payments on Termination;
- Publication of the Statement;
- Lowest Paid Employees; and
- Accountability and Decision Making.

RESOLVED: That the Pay Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2025/26 be adopted.

Corporate
Director - Chief
Executive's
Delivery Unit

COU16 CIVIC SUNDAY

The Mayor announced her intention to attend a Civic Service at St Michaels and All Angels CofE Church, Greenway Road, Runcorn, on Sunday 29th June 2025, at 10.30am.

Meeting ended at 7.08 p.m.