

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 19 July 2023 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Abbott, Ball, Baker, Begg, Bevan, Bramwell, Cargill, Carlin, Dennett, Davidson, Dourley, Fry, Garner, Gilligan, Goodall, Harris, S. Hill, V. Hill, Hutchinson, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, McDermott, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, L. Nolan, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Ratcliffe, Rowe, Ryan, Stretch, Teeling, Thompson, Thornton, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Woolfall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J. Bradshaw, P. Nolan, Stockton, Skinner and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: One Member of the press

Action

COU16 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 19 May 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU17 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:-

- The Mayor and her consort had attended many engagements since May. This included a visit to Liverpool for the appointment of the new High Sheriff of Merseyside; and
- following a visit to Hope Corner Church, the Mayor had received a gift of two copies of the New Testament.

COU18 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported on the following issues since the last meeting of the Council:

- an update on the LGA Conference held in July;
- following a recruitment process for the post of

Director of Children's Services (DCS), an offer of employment had been made and Members would be updated on the successful candidate as soon as all the formalities had been agreed. Council was advised that until the successful candidate was in post, John Wilson had been appointed as Interim DCS;

- the Transformation process was progressing, and the Labour Group and Opposition Groups would be kept updated. A Members portal was being developed on which the Transformation Team would deposit updates;
- the Council, along with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, had written to the Secretary of State for Transport, urging that they work with the train operators to prevent the closure of ticket offices at railway stations because of the detrimental impact on rail users;
- Grant Thornton (External Audit) had provided the 2021-22 Annual Report to Audit and Governance Board at its meeting on 7 July. This was an excellent report, coming at a time when the Council faced many challenges; and
- he congratulated Damian Nolan – Operational Director Commissioning and Provision, on being awarded an MBE.

COU19 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.

N.B. Councillor A. Lowe and J. Lowe declared a Registrable Other Interest in the following item of business (Executive Board Minutes - 15 June 2023 items 3A, and 3C) as they have a family member employed at St Lukes Care Home.

COU20 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings on 16 March, 20 April, 16 May and 15 June 2023.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU21 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 22 March 2023.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU22 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

It was noted that no questions had been submitted under Standing Order No. 8.

N.B. Councillor Bramwell declared an Registrable Other Interest in the following item of business as she has a family member employed within Halton Borough Council.

COU23 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023 - 2024

RESOLVED: That Council adopts this Pay Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2023/24.

COU24 HALTON MICRO GRID - KEY DECISION

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the intention to undertake a procurement exercise via The Chest with the purpose of securing a Design, Build, Operate and Maintenance Contract for the implementation of the Halton Micro Grid, be approved; and
- 2) Council agree to include the £11m total estimated cost of the Halton Micro Grid scheme within the capital programme, to be funded as outlined in section 5.

COU25 PROTOCOL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN

RESOLVED: That the Protocol for the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen appended to this report at Appendix B ("the Protocol") be adopted.

COU26 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD

The Council considered the reports of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of Council on 19 May 2023:-

- Children, Young People and Families;

- Employment, Learning and Skills and Community;
- Health;
- Safer;
- Environment and Urban Renewal;
- Corporate Services; and
- Audit and Governance Board.

COU27 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 19 May 2023:-

- Development Management;
- Appointments; and
- Taxi Licensing Sub Committee

Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.