

# MINUTES

## Council

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, 18 March 2024
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	<p>Mayor Councillor Cheryl Little Deputy Mayor Councillor Peter Anthony</p> <p>Councillors Frank Andrews, Tim Armit, Liz Bickerstaffe, Julie Brickles, Damian Buckley, Karen Buckley, Edward Collins, Peter Collins, Chris Dixon, Martin Evans, Kelly Farrington, Susan Fazackerley MBE, Joanne Gardner, Ellie Gaunt, Noreen Griffiths, Gavin Harrison, Paul Hayhurst, Paul Hodgson, John Kirkham, Jordan Ledger, Matthew Lee, Michelle Morris, Jayne Nixon, Sandra Pitman, Richard Redcliffe, Andrew Redfearn, Vince Settle, William Taylor, Tommy Threlfall, Viv Willder, Michael Withers.</p>
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Allan Oldfield, Ian Curtis, Colin Dockery, Katharine McDonnell, Kassie Navarasi and Sharon Wadsworth.
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	Councillors Mark Bamforth (via remote access) <sup>1</sup> One member of the public

Prayers were led by Lay Preacher, Ms Elizabeth O'Connor.

### 1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Council meetings held on 4 March 2024, as correct records for signature by the Mayor.

### 3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised she was overwhelmed with the support for her forthcoming fundraising event her Mayoral Ball on 23rd March. She announced that the last fundraising event of the Mayoral year would be a May the Fourth Be With You BBQ at Lytham Hall on 4 May.

### 4. Chief Executive's Communications

There were no communications on this occasion.

<sup>1</sup> Council procedure rule 2 allows a councillor to participate in a meeting remotely in certain circumstances. A remotely participating councillor is not deemed to be present at the meeting and may not move, second or vote on any matter.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public on this occasion.

6. Questions from Members of the Council

There were no questions from members of the council on this occasion.

7. Appointment of Leader and Deputy Leader 2024/25

Councillor Gaunt, lead member for finance and resources, introduced the annual report inviting members to confirm the appointment of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2024/25

Councillor Nixon seconded.

It was RESOLVED to:-

1. To confirm Councillor Karen Buckley as Leader of the Council.
2. To confirm Councillor Richard Redcliffe as Deputy Leader of the Council.

8. Confirmation of Committees and Allocation of Membership

Councillor Karen Buckley, leader of the council, introduced the annual report which required the council to confirm the committees that it wished to appoint, and to allocate the membership of certain committees in accordance with the principles of political balance under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

However she advised there had been significant change to the opposition political groups since the publication of the agenda and therefore it was not possible to move the recommendations as published.

Councillor Buckley further advised that whilst notification of the changes to the opposition groups and a recalculation of the political balance had been circulated prior to the meeting, it was not possible to allocate members to particular committees without further consideration.

Councillor Gaunt seconded.

Councillor Peter Collins advised that the Independent Group did have names proposed for the committees however he indicated he was content for the matter to be dealt with at a future meeting.

An amendment was tabled to the motion.

The amendment was proposed by Councillor Lee, having previously submitted it in writing to the Mayor, the effect of which would be to amend the motion as follows;

Replace “as set out in the table in paragraph 6” with “with the seats allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group, Labour Group and Non-aligned Members be increased from 9 to 12 in total to better reflect the Political Balance of the Council.” So the motion would read “Allocate committee seats in accordance with the principles of political balance with the seats allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group, Labour Group and Non-aligned Members be increased from 9 to 12 in total to better reflect the Political Balance of the Council”

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Ledger.

The amendment was then debated.

Following a request for advice Mr Curtis advised that the effect of the amendment would be to increase the number of committee seats allocated to each of the Labour group, Liberal Democrat group and the non-aligned councillors to four seats each instead of three, and reduce the number of committee seats allocated to the new independent group to 21 instead of 24. He further advised that while Councillor Lee’s calculations appeared to comply with the principles of political balance set out in the relevant legislation, they would depart from the methodology which the council had used for at least the last twenty years, and which also complied with those principles.

Councillor Peter Collins spoke against the amendment.

Councillor Karen Buckley suggested that the wording of the amendment be altered, to read as follows;

“Allocate committee seats, in accordance with the numbers as circulated, with a view to revisiting the calculation of political balance, as outlined by Councillor Lee, together with the appointment of members to seats on committees at a future meeting.”

Councillor Lee accepted the amendment to his motion, and with no dissent from the seconder or the council the Mayor moved to a vote on the amendment as altered.

Following a request from five members of the council, a recorded vote was taken on the amendment.

For the amendment (23): Andrews, Anthony, Armit, K Buckley Dixon, Evans, Fazackerley, Gaunt, Harrison, Kirkham, Ledger, Lee, Little, Morris, Nixon, Pitman, Redcliffe, Redfearn, Settle, Threlfall, Willder, Withers.

Abstained (10): Bickerstaffe, Brickles, D Buckley, E Collins, P Collins, Farrington, Gardner, Griffiths, Hayhurst, Hodgson, Taylor.

The amendment was therefore carried.

With no further debate, and following a request from five members of the council, a recorded vote was taken on the motion.

For the amendment (28): Andrews, Anthony, Armit, Bickerstaffe, D Buckley, K Buckley, E Collins, Dixon, Evans, Farrington, Fazackerley, Gaunt, Harrison, Hodgson, Kirkham, Ledger, Lee, Little, Morris, Nixon, Pitman, Redcliffe, Redfearn, Settle, Taylor, Threlfall, Willder, Withers.

Against (1): Brickles.

Abstained (4): P Collins, Gardner, Griffiths, Hayhurst.

It was RESOLVED:

1. Appoint the committees and joint committees set out in appendix 1 for the municipal year 2024-2025, with the same terms of reference as presently agreed.
2. Allocate committee seats, in accordance with the numbers as circulated, with a view to revisit the calculation of political balance, as outlined by Councillor Lee, together with the appointment of members to seats on committees at a future meeting.
3. Reconfirm the panel members of the JNC (Chief Executives) Independent Panel as the Independent Persons Mr Peter Clements, Mr Brian Horrocks and Mrs Helen Broughton.
4. Reconfirm the Leader of the Council as the representative to the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board.
5. Appoint members to the Licensing Committee, which is not required to be politically balanced.

#### 9. Confirmation of Appointments to Outside Bodies

Councillor Morris, lead member for customer and operational services, advised that the council was asked to make appointments to outside bodies at the last full Council meeting prior to the annual meeting. Due to the local elections in May 2023, she advised that appointed councillors had been in post less than 12 months and it was proposed to make no alterations.

She advised of a number of omissions to the printed report. Councillor Lee's appointment to the Police Crime Commissioner's Panel in October 2023 had been omitted, as had Councillor Threlfall and Councillor Evans appointments to the Springfield Site Stakeholder Group, with these corrections she proposed approval of the appointments.

Councillor Threlfall seconded.

It was therefore RESOLVED to agree that the currently appointed members to the outside bodies are to continue for a further twelve months.

10. Standards Independent Persons

Councillor Gaunt, lead member for finance and resources, introduced the report to consider an extension of the term of office for the Independent Persons (IP) appointed by the Council to support the standards framework.

She advised that the IPs were a discreet but an important part of the governance framework.

Councillor Fazackerley seconded.

It was RESOLVED that Pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Localism Act 2011, to extend the appointment of Mrs Helen Broughton, Mr Peter Clements and Mr Brian Horrocks as Independent Persons until 28 February 2027.

11. Statement of Licensing Policy

Councillor Dixon, lead member for social wellbeing, introduced a report considering the revised Statement of Licensing Policy. In accordance with the guidance issued by the Secretary of State under S182 of the Licensing Act, a Statement of Licensing Policy had been prepared for a further five-year period.

He advised that the policy was held in high regards by our stakeholders, particularly the police.

Councillor Pitman seconded.

It was RESOLVED to approve the adoption of the Statement of Licensing Policy, following the Licensing Committee's unanimous recommendation to approve the policy at its meeting last week.

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