

Council Meeting

Date	19 December 2005
Venue	Lowther Pavilion, Lytham
Councillors	<p>Mayor (Councillor Ron Wilson)</p> <p>Deputy Mayor (Councillor Peter Hardy)</p> <p>Christine Akeroyd, Tim Ashton, Eric Bamber, John Bennett, Harold Butler, George Caldwell, Stephen Carpenter, Maxine Chew, Elizabeth Clarke, Elizabeth Clarkson, Peter Collins, John Coombes, John Dolan, Susan Fazackerley, Dr Trevor Fiddler, Patricia Fieldhouse, Paul Hayhurst, Howard Henshaw ADK (MALAYSIA), Keith Hyde, Alfred Jealous NP, Derek Lancaster, John Longstaff, Stephen Mason, Kiran Mulholland, Raymond Norsworthy, Linda Nulty, Elizabeth Oades, Janine Owen, Barbara Pagett, Albert Pounder, Dawn Prestwich, John Prestwich, Simon Renwick, Louis Rigby, Paul Rigby, Roger Small, Heather Speak, Martin Taylor, William Thompson, Thomas Threlfall, Stephen Wall, Colin Walton, Andrea Whittaker, Fabian Wilson, Hilda Wilson, Keith Wright</p>
Officers	<p>William Taylor, Philip Woodward, Dave Joy, Ian Curtis, Tracy Scholes, Paul Walker, Alan Blundell, Lyndsey Lacey, Oliver Shimell, Andrew Wilsdon</p>

68. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

69. Mayor's announcements

1. Mr William Taylor - The Mayor welcomed William Taylor (interim Chief Executive) to the Borough Council.
2. Councillor Karen Henshaw - The Mayor informed members that Councillor Karen Henshaw was currently being treated in hospital.
3. Major Frank Hoyle - The Mayor reported that Major Frank Hoyle (former member of the council and consort to the Mayor) was seriously ill in hospital.
4. Cocktail parties - The Mayor thanked all those members/officers who had attended the cocktails parties on 13 and 15 December 2005
5. Christmas wishes - The Mayor wished members and officers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

70. Interim Chief Executive's communications

1. Performance of the Borough Council - Mr Taylor indicated that the performance of the borough Council was very good in some areas and had many examples of good working practices.
2. Closer working - Mr Taylor informed members that he expected to continue the work of exploring closer working relationships with Wyre Borough Council.
3. Good governance - Mr Taylor reminded members that progressing as an authority depended on mutual trust and respect underpinned by the codes of conduct for members and officers.

71. Member's Question

The following question was put from Councillor Elizabeth Deborah Clarke:

"Has the relevant member of the Executive Committee given any thought as to what we might be able to do, as a council, to promote a greater sense of respect not only for each other as councillors but, more importantly, for the position of the Mayor?"

Summary of response from Councillor John Coombes:

"We have an ideal opportunity at the moment to address this issue through a number routes including the development of a new Constitution and a review of the role of the Standards Committee. We also propose to use the Improvement and Development Agency in the New Year to work with us on ethics and standards issues by providing advice and guidance on best practice from other councils across the country.

However, to encourage the greater sense of respect that my colleague refers to, we will need the support of all members and the willingness of all political groups to help restore confidence in our reputation."

72. Decision Making Arrangements - Outcome of Consultation

Philip Woodward (Deputy Chief Executive) reported on the results of the consultation exercise in respect of the Council's new governance arrangements.

Full details of the consultation process and supporting evidence together with information on responses received were circulated with the Council agenda. An update on the responses received after the closing date was reported at the meeting.

Members were advised that the consultation process was legally robust and satisfied the requirements of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

After a lengthy and detailed debate, and following a recorded vote, the council RESOLVED to confirm its intention to move to executive arrangements based on a Leader and Cabinet model.

Votes for the recommendation (24) - Councillors Christine Akeroyd, Tim Ashton, Eric Bamber, Harold Butler, Deborah Clarke, Elizabeth Clarkson, John Coombes, John Dolan, Susan Fazackerley, Dr. Trevor Fiddler, Patricia Fieldhouse, Keith Hyde, Alfred Jealous NP, Ray Norsworthy, Janine Owen, Albert Pounder, Dawn Prestwich, John Prestwich, Simon Renwick, Paul Rigby, Roger Small, Martin Taylor, Andrea Whittaker, Fabian Wilson,

Votes against the recommendation (21) - Councillors John Bennett, Stephen Carpenter, Maxine Chew, Peter Collins, Peter Hardy (Deputy Mayor) Paul Hayhurst, Howard Henshaw, (A.D.K MALAYSIA) Derek Lancaster, John Longstaff, Stephen Mason, Kiran Mulholland, Linda Nulty, Elizabeth Oades, Barbara Pagett, Louis Rigby, Heather Speak, Thomas Threlfall, Stephen Wall, Hilda Wilson, Ronald Wilson (Mayor) Keith Wright.

Abstentions (3) - Councillors George Caldwell, William Thompson, Colin Walton.

73. Members choice debate - Next meeting

The Mayor made the draw to select the councillor to lead the members' choice debate at the next ordinary council meeting. Councillor Keith Hyde was selected.
