

**Minutes of Council**

**Meeting date Tuesday, 27 September 2022**

**Committee Members present:** Councillor Julia Berry (Mayor), and Councillors Sarah Ainsworth, Aaron Beaver, Martin Boardman, Alistair Bradley, Sam Chapman, Mark Clifford, Alan Cullens, Magda Cullens, Karen Derbyshire, Gordon France, Margaret France, Danny Gee, Alex Hilton, Terry Howarth, Hasina Khan, Samir Khan, Zara Khan, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Matthew Lynch, Michelle Le Marinel, June Molyneaux, Alistair Morwood, Dedrah Moss, Beverley Murray, James Nevett, Alan Platt, Debra Platt, Aidy Riggott, Jean Sherwood, Arjun Singh, Kim Snape, John Walker, Jenny Whiffen, Neville Whitham, Alan Whittaker and Peter Wilson

**Committee Members present virtually (non-voting):** Councillor Keith Iddon

**Officers:** Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Chris Sinnott (Deputy Chief Executive), Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities), Tasneem Safdar (Legal Services Team Leader) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)

**Apologies:** Councillor Tommy Gray, Harold Heaton and Ryan Towers

Nine members of the public

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

### **33 Minute's silence**

The Mayor invited Members to observe a minute's silence in memory of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Councillors Alistair Bradley and Alan Cullens paid tribute and sent their condolences to the Royal Family.

### **34 Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 19 July 2022 of Council**

Resolved (unanimously) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 July 2022 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.

### **35 Declarations of Any Interests**

No declarations of interests were declared.

### **36 Armed Forces Covenant Overview**

The Mayor explained that she had decided to take this item next as colleagues from the armed forces family were in attendance.

The Armed Forces Champion, Councillor Aaron Beaver, presented the report of the Director of Communities which informed members of the commitment and support to the Armed Forces Community, via its Armed Forces Covenant work.

The Armed Forces Covenant was a pledge from the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served, and their families, are treated fairly; and it recognised the sacrifices they make on behalf of the country. The Chief Executive, Gary Hall, recently signed the 'Armed Forces Covenant' at The Flag Raising Celebration Event during Armed Forces Week in June 2022.

Members supported the work undertaken and several spoke in support, including Councillor Karen Derbyshire and Alan Cullens.

The Armed Forces Champion, Councillor Aaron Beaver proposed and the Executive Member (Early Intervention), Councillor Bev Murray seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**

- 1. To reaffirm Chorley Council's continued commitment and support to the Armed Forces Community via its Armed Forces Covenant work.**
- 2. To agree that Chorley Council should continue its pursuit of The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS), Gold Award in 2023.**

### **37 Mayoral Announcements**

The Mayor invited Members to observe a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor and Mayoress, Nora Ball, and former member of staff, James Thompson, who was the Deputy Director of Finance before leaving the Council in March this year.

The Mayor updated members on her fundraising activities and charity events.

### **38 Public Questions**

There were no public questions for consideration.

### **39 Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Task and Finish Groups**

Members considered a general report of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 27 July and 22 September.

Councillor Walker noted there were a number of projects 'on hold' and that these would be monitored.

Councillor Martin Boardman queried the missed bin performance. The Executive Member for Customer, Streetscene and Environment, Councillor Adrian Lowe,

explained that staffing issues had impacted on the missed bin performance, but noted that this was monitored and financial penalties were in place with the contractor. It was suggested that ward councillors be kept informed if there were issues in their area.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor John Walker proposed and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Roy Lees seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.**

#### **40 Governance Committee**

Members considered a general report of the meeting of the Governance Committee held on 3 August.

The Chair of the Governance Committee, Councillor Debra Platt proposed and the Vice-Chair, Councillor Mark Clifford seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.**

#### **41 General Purposes Committee**

Members considered a general report of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 7 September.

The Chair of the General Purposes Committee, Councillor Aaron Beaver proposed and the Vice-Chair, Councillor Alex Hilton seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the report be noted.**

#### **42 Chorley Economic Strategy**

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley, presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery.

The pandemic had a dramatic impact on the economic environment and demonstrated that economic circumstances are intrinsically connected to overall wellbeing and potential.

The Economic Strategy set out a clear ambition and vision for Chorley, considering the local, regional and national context. It set out a new vision, priorities, objectives and action plan to provide direction and guide the allocation of resources and was developed based on data relating to the local business demography, economic trends and national economic policy.

In response to a query Councillor Bradley noted that there was a lack of investment in the east of Lancashire and that there was a 'travel to work' area, which included neighbouring authorities. The new 'investment zones' had been announced the previous week so more information was needed about them before any decisions relating to them.

Members discussed the potential to invite businesses from the local service centres to future discussions.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded and it was **Resolved (by majority 37:0:1)**  
**To consider and approve the Chorley Economic Strategy for implementation.**

#### **43 Polling Station Review 2022**

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the report of the Director of Governance, which inform members on the outcome of the recent Polling Station Review 2022 survey.

Each year it is customary for the Returning Officer to review the success of the polling stations used at that year's election.

To gain a greater understanding on the suitability of polling stations used, members of the council were invited to complete a short survey which consisted of questions about the suitability of premises for the use as a polling station and the ability of the polling station staff employed.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson proposed and the Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously)**  
**To note that there will be no change to polling station locations, except for St Chad's parish hall which will be used instead of a portacabin, which returns to the original approved recommendation at the council meeting held on 16 November 2021.**

#### **44 Questions Asked under Council Procedure Rule 8**

No questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 8.

#### **45 To consider the Notices of Motion given in accordance with Council procedure Rule 10**

No Notices of Motion were submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.

#### **46 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded and it was **Resolved (unanimously) that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 1 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act.**

#### **47 Review of Management Capacity**

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley, introduced the confidential of the Chief Executive.

The report presented the review of management capacity and sought approval for changes to the council's management structure to ensure that it is able to deliver its priorities.

Members debated the proposals, including the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Cullens, Councillors Aidy Riggott and Martin Boardman.

Councillor Martin Boardman proposed, and Councillor Alan Cullens seconded an amendment that the post 'Head of Economic Growth' be a non-shared post.

A vote was undertaken and the amendment was lost (by majority 7:31:0).

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Wilson seconded and it was **Resolved (by majority 31:1:6)**  
**To approve the changes proposed to the council's management structure within the review of management capacity.**

Mayor

Date