

Council

Tuesday, 18th July 2023, 6.30 pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley and YouTube

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the above meeting of the Council, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda No	Item	
12	To consider the Notices of Motion (if any) given in accordance with Council procedure Rule 10	(Pages 113 - 118)
	To consider the attached Notices of Motion submitted by Councillor Ryan Towers and Councillor Samantha Martin.	
13	Exclusion of the Public and Press	
	To consider the exclusion of the press and public for the following items of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act.	
	By Virtue of Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) Condition: Information is not exempt if it is required to be registered under- The Companies Act 1985 The Friendly Societies Act 1974 The Friendly Societies Act 1992 The Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978 The Building Societies Act 1986 (recorded in the public file of any building society, within the meaning of the Act) The Charities Act 1993 Information is exempt to the extent that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	
	Information is not exempt if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to Regulation 3 of the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992(a).	
19	Tatton Gardens - Project Completion Report	(Pages 119 - 128)
	To receive and consider the report of the Chief Executive.	

Chris Sinnott
Chief Executive

Meeting contact Ruth Rimmington on 01257 515118 or email ruth.rimmington@chorley.gov.uk

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**MOTION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY TO CHORLEY LABOUR GROUP:
A FULLY FUNDED, PROPER PAY RISE FOR COUNCIL AND SCHOOL
WORKERS**

This Council Notes:

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they received from central government. Councils across England, Wales and Scotland are facing a collective funding shortfall of £3bn by the financial year 2023/24.

Councils led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 10% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials.



Note from Local Unison Branch Secretary Lesley Miller:

In a time of a cost-of-living crisis, the bottom line is everything, so with local government workers' pay being restrained this has a disproportionate impact on the lower-paid workers in local government. We have an increase in worker poverty and face issues recruiting to council roles. This leaves those left in public service doing the work of 3 or 4 people on ever-diminishing salaries. More workers are leaving public sector roles, and those remaining are under immense pressure to continue to deliver the services our local communities need.

Chorley Council is a good employer but has been forced to reduce staff numbers to balance the books. Whilst Unison works hard with the employer to support staff that remain and look at new innovative ways of attracting new employees, the light at the end of the tunnel for those on the ground is very dim.

Better central government funding would make all the difference. We could improve wages for those hard-working staff, ensuring higher retention rates and attract more people to public service work. We don't want to continue to lose more people to the lure of higher pay and lower responsibility jobs in the private sector, but this is what is happening because we can't afford to pay people their worth.



This Council believes:

1. Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.
2. Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
3. Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

This Council resolves to:

- A. Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, Unite & GMB on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of RPI + 2%
- B. Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim
- C. Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government
- D. Write to NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign
- E. Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

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Notice of Motion On Proposal By Northern Trains To Close Rail Ticket Offices In The Borough To The Labour Group

To Oppose the Closure Of Chorley, Buckshaw and Adlington Ticket Offices And Replacement With 'Journey Makers'

Currently in Chorley we have 5 railway stations of which three have attended ticket offices. The proposal recently issued by Northern Rail and the Department of Transport will see the full closure of these ticket offices, and the creation of a new 'Journey Maker' role. The hours of attendance of this new role are a significant reduction in the hours a current staff member is available at the stations, and in the case of Adlington, outside of peak travel times.

Across the Chorley Borough, pre-Covid, nearly 1.5 million people used the stations annually. The latest data available is for 21/22 when almost 1 million people used the network. Given our recovery since the pandemic it would be fair to say we are again approaching pre-Covid usage numbers.

Many of those users will be placed in a situation of the rail network no longer being accessible to them by the ticket office closures. Young and old. Those with physical and hidden disabilities. Those who are not familiar with the rail connections and current routes who simply need to speak to a person for assistance. Those who will not be travelling at the peak times the 'Journey Maker' will be available. In fact, the 'Journey Maker' times seem to be geared around being available at times when people are travelling for work. A journey they probably make several times a week and require little assistance. There is very little provision being made for those who do not wish to travel at the busier times. People who would probably wish to avoid peak travel times.

There are also safety concerns about busy stations having no staff on site, leaving some users extremely vulnerable. We are already aware of issues around anti-social behaviour at local stations and this will only increase with no staff presence. Many young people do not fully understand the dangers around the railways or the number of serious injuries and deaths that occur every year on railway tracks. We should not be leaving stations open and unattended for young people to congregate and 'hang out'.

There appears to be very little equality of opportunity within the proposed measures and very little to support anyone presenting with any disability that may limit their access to the public transport system without assistance.

I ask that this Council urgently write to Northern Trains and the Secretary of State for Transport to strongly oppose this decision and to highlight the difficulty many of our residents will face if these proposals are enforced and the safety concerns of leaving such busy stations unattended. I also ask that the Council Leader submits a formal response to the consultation currently taking place to record the Council's opposition for the reasons stated above and any other reasons identified in due course.

I would also ask all Councillors present to voice their concerns via the online consultation and engage with their local residents to encourage them to also take part.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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