

Minutes of Meeting of the Extraordinary Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 28 July 2020, starting at 6.30pm held via ZOOM
Present: Councillor S Brunskill (Chairman)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	S A Hirst
S Atkinson	B Holden
A Austin	S Hore
R Bennett	A Humphreys
D Berryman	A M Knox
S Bibby	S Knox
D Birtwhistle	G Mirfin
A Brown	R Newmark
I Brown	D O'Rourke
R Buller	S O'Rourke
J Clark	D Peat
L Edge	M Robinson
S Fletcher	J Rogerson
M French	J Schumann
J Hill	G Scott
B Hilton	R E Sherras
M Hindle	R J Thompson

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Economic Development and Planning, Director of Resources, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of HR.

671 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Baxter, S Carefoot, R Elms, S Rainford, and N Walsh

672 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

673 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

674 LANCASHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY AND DEVOLUTION

Consideration was given to the written report of the Chief Executive updating the Council on the latest position on devolution and asking members to reconsider whether or not the Council supported the creation on a Combined Authority for Lancashire with a Directly Elected Mayor.

The report outlined previous discussions that had taken place over recent years regarding the possibility of creating a Combined Authority for Lancashire, the

position of other Lancashire Authorities and the latest position on matters taking account of the most recent Government position on devolution which was due to be laid out in a Devolution White Paper in the Autumn.

The report also outlined the implications of devolution for the Ribble Valley.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor S Atkinson, spoke on the report and highlighted issues for the Ribble Valley particularly in respect of how much consideration would be given to rural matters if a new unitary authority was created. He was also concerned that no decision should be made on the future of local government in Lancashire without proper public consultation.

The Leader proposed that the Council:

1. await the publication of the Government's English Devolution White Paper before exploring further the creation of a Lancashire Combined Authority with a Directly Elected Mayor with limited powers;
2. reject any form of local government reorganisation as a precondition for the devolution of funding and powers from the Government to Lancashire; and
3. instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State setting out the Council's position and urging him to ensure that any future proposals to reorganise local government in Lancashire must be based on evidence that clearly demonstrated that local government and service delivery in the area would be improved and have a good deal of community support following a local referendum.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Allan Knox.

The matter was then debated and members voted unanimously to support the recommendation.

RESOLVED: That the Council:

1. await the publication of the Government's English Devolution White Paper before exploring further the creation of a Lancashire Combined Authority with a Directly Elected Mayor with limited powers;
2. reject any form of local government reorganisation as a precondition for the devolution of funding and powers from the Government to Lancashire; and
3. instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State setting out the Council's position and urging him to ensure that any future proposals to reorganise local government in Lancashire must be based on evidence that clearly demonstrated that local government and service delivery in the area would be improved and have a good deal of community support following a local referendum.

The meeting closed at 7.13pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400)