



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Thursday, 4th April 2013

PRESENT

MEMBERS

His Worshipful The Mayor (Councillor Charles Bullas) in the Chair;

Councillors Howard Baker, Jonathan Barker, Gordon Birtwistle, Margaret Brindle, Janet Brown, Paul Campbell, Frank Cant, Ida Carmichael, Saeed Chaudhary, Julie Cooper, Jean Cunningham, John Fifield, Bea Foster, Gary Frayling, Roger Frost, Joanne Greenwood, John Harbour, Tony Harrison, David Heginbotham, Shah Hussain, Mathew Isherwood, Marcus Johnstone, Anne Kelly, Tracy Kennedy, Stephen Large, Margaret Lishman, Tony Martin, Elizabeth Monk, Andrew Newhouse, Lian Pate, Tom Porter, Paul Reynolds, Ann Royle, Betsy Stringer, Jeff Sumner, Andrew Tatchell, and Mark Townsend.

OFFICERS

Steve Rumbelow	-	Chief Executive
Mike Cook	-	Director of Economic Regeneration
Helen Seechurn	-	Director of Resources
Tom Forshaw	-	Head of Chief Executive's Office
David Wilcock	-	Head of People, Law and Regulation
Jeremy Richards	-	Communications Officer
Imelda Grady	-	Democracy Officer
Eric Dickinson	-	Democracy Officer
David Farrar	-	Mayor's Officer

95. Minutes

RESOLVED The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 28th February 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

96. Public Question Time

Mr J Rowe addressed the Council under the Request to Speak Policy on Woodtop School.

97. Notices of Motion

- (1) It was moved by Councillor Julie Cooper and seconded by Councillor Andy Tatchell, that:

'This Council notes with alarm the proposal from the Post Office to change how Burnley`s main post office is operated. If their plan - to franchise the operation of this office to a private concern - succeeds, this popular and well run post office will for ever more cease to be a publicly owned service.

Additionally this Council stands fully on the side of our community - both residents and businesses - in valuing the dedicated and professional service provided by the counter staff and management working there.

This Council notes the positive impact that main post offices have on the local economy. Independent assessments carried out over the years have shown how changes to the post office Network, especially in urban areas like Burnley has had a devastating impact on the local economy. Our economy is already under strain and we don`t want anything to potentially add to this.

Further, this Council is appalled that the Post Office has failed to properly consult with this Council regarding the proposed change. Especially considering one of the main reasons given for this change is the cost of maintaining the office. Regardless we would still be willing to work with Post Office Ltd to look at every possibility, including using our own buildings to help maintain this office as a main post office serving the residents of Burnley, as a publicly owned Crown Office.

This Council calls on the Post Office to withdraw the proposal to franchise the Burnley Crown Office on Hargreaves Street and to join with us to seek a way forward that safeguards this publicly owned facility. This Council also calls on local businesses and individuals to refuse to assist in the downgrading of this local facility and asks them not to play any part in the Post Office`s proposals to establish a franchisement agreement.'

On being put to the vote the motion was declared to be carried and it was **RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY**

(2) It was moved by Councillor Lian Pate and seconded by Councillor Marcus Johnstone that:

'This Council asks the Government to re-examine the measures it is putting in place to cut housing benefit from some of Burnley`s most vulnerable residents on the grounds that their social housing has a spare bedroom.

Additionally this Council believes it to be an unworkable policy given that if people moved house it would not save any money, and could even end up costing Burnley taxpayers more of their hard earned money.

This Council notes that according to the Government`s own impact assessment, two thirds of the households affected have a disabled person.

Further this Council notes that many households taking in their own adult children or a lodger to avoid the Bedroom Tax will be financially be worse off than if they had left the room vacant.

This Council calls on the Government to drop this policy and think again.'

On being put to the vote the motion was declared to be carried and it was **RESOLVED**

98. Leisure Trust

With reference to Minute 135 (2nd April 2013) of the Executive, consideration was given to the establishment of a budget of £70,000 for Leisure Trust Project implementation.

RESOLVED That approval be given to the establishment of a Leisure Trust Project Implementation budget of £70,000, funded from the Modernisation Reserve.

99. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2012/13 – Cycle 4

With reference to Minute 128 (2nd April 2013) of the Executive, consideration was given to a reduction in net spending and the related transfer to earmarked reserves.

RESOLVED That approval be given to the estimated reduction in net spending of £598,269 (including £551,393 underspend as shown as Appendix 4 to the report), and the related transfer to earmarked reserves as shown in Appendix 2 to the report.

100. Capital Budget Monitoring 2012/13 – Cycle 4

With reference to Minute 129 (2nd April 2013) of the Executive, consideration was given to a revised capital budget for 2012/13.

RESOLVED That approval be given to a revised capital budget for 2012/13 totalling £8,326,080, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report..

101. Calendar of Meetings 2013/14

Consideration was given to the establishment of a calendar of meetings for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED That approval be given to a Calendar of meetings for the 2013/14 Municipal Year from May 2013, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

102. Amendments to Part 3, Scheme of Delegation, by the Leader

With reference to Minute 138 (2nd April 2013) of the Executive, consideration was given to noting decisions made by the Leader to add and remove delegations to Officers within the Executive functions of the Council's Part 3 Scheme of Delegation.

RESOLVED That it be noted that on 21st March 2013 the Leader made the following amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation within the Executive Functions of Part 3 of the constitution.

(1) To add the following delegation to the Head of Revenues and Benefits, as Paragraph 12 (4);

12. To determine applications for:

1. reductions in the level of Council Tax under s13a Local Government Finance Act

1992

2. hardship relief for business rates under s49 Local Government Finance Act 1992

3. discretionary housing payments

ADD 4. Exceptional hardship payments for Council Tax Support

(2) To remove the current Part 3 Paragraph 14 delegation to the Director of Resources;

14. 'To determine appeals made by applicants against determinations regarding reductions in the level of Council Tax, hardship relief for business rates, and hardship payments for housing benefits in consultation with the Executive member for Resources. Appeals will be considered on the basis of a written submission by the applicant'.

103. Strategic Plan Progress Reports and Minutes of Committees

RESOLVED That the Strategic Plan Progress Reports of Executive Members, together with the Minutes of the meetings of the following Committees held on the Dates shown, be received and the decisions contained within them be noted.

Committees	Date
Development Control	7 th March 2013
Licensing	28 th March 2013
Community Services	19 th March 2013
Community Services	26 th March 2013
Resources	26 th March 2013
Economic Regeneration	27 th March 2013
Audit Committee	13 th March 2013