Council

City Of Preston At a Meeting of the Council held at the Town Hall, Preston, on Thursday, 18th April, 2019

Present:

The Right Worshipful Councillor Trevor Michael Hart, Mayor, in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor David Borrow)

Councillors

Mrs Atkins, Ashton; Bailey, College; Bax, Deepdale; Boswell, Tulketh; Brown, Tulketh; Cartwright, Preston Rural East; Craven, Cadley; C Crompton, University; Mrs Crompton, Riversway; Crowe, Larches; Darby, Ingol; Desai, Town Centre; Dewhurst, Lea; Ms Eaves, Brookfield; Mrs Edmondson, Greyfriars; Gale, Town Centre; Mrs Gildert, Sharoe Green; Greenhalgh, Garrison; Hawkins, Fishwick; Henshaw, Tulketh; Hindle, Garrison; Hull, St Georges; Iqbal, St Matthew's; Jolliffe, Greyfriars; Kelly, Riversway; Khan, Moor Park; McKeever, Lea; Morgan, St Matthew's; Moss, Riversway; Patel, Town Centre; Pomfret, Ribbleton; Potter, Cadley; Rawlinson, Fishwick; Rollo, Ribbleton; Saksena, Ribbleton; Seddon, College; Sedgewick, Sharoe Green; Mrs Smith, Preston Rural North; Swindells, University; Mrs Thomas, Garrison; Thompson, Preston Rural North; Walker, Sharoe Green; Mrs Whittam, Preston Rural North; Woollam, Preston Rural East; M Yates, Larches; R Yates, Larches;

Apologies: Councillors Brooks, Mrs Brown, Browne, Corker, Donnell, Faruki, Grisdale, Jeffrey and Routledge
CO100 Mayor's Announcements

(i) The Mayor welcomed Mr David Bullock, the Markets Manager, to the Chamber. David had recently been awarded a Smiles Better Award at a ceremony held by Preston Bid whereby he came top in the category of Retail Manager of the Year. David had worked for the Council for over 19 years and was a major player in the transition from the old Market to the fantastic new Market Hall.

The Mayor thanked David for all of his hard work and for his success in being presented with an Award in recognition of what he had achieved.

(ii) The Mayor then reported on the sad passing of a former colleague, Graham Holden, who had retired on ill health grounds last May. Graham had worked in Benefits, the Contact Centre and more recently the Revenues Section. At only 48 years old Graham died on 2 April leaving behind his wife Gill who works in the Council’s Benefits Section, a son and step-daughter. The Mayor sent his condolences to Gill and her family before Members stood for a minutes silence in respect of Graham.

(iii) The Mayor then sent his best wishes for a speedy recovery to Councillor Pauline Brown and Honorary Alderman John Collins, both of whom had recently been in hospital.

(iv) Finally, the Mayor invited Group Leaders to speak for their retiring Members as there were fifteen colleagues retiring at the May elections. The Mayor also personally thanked all those Members who were retiring. He said that being a Councillor could be very rewarding but also hard work, especially when combined with working for a living. The Mayor then wished all retirees good luck with very best wishes for the future.

CO101 Declarations of Interests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Councillors M Brown, Moss, Cartwright, Mrs Whittam and M Yates</td>
<td>Minute CO105 – Appointment of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service</td>
<td>A Personal and Prejudicial Interest insofar as they are Members of the Chief Officer Employment Committee who recommended the Chief Executive appointment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillors C Crompton, Pomfret, Saksena and Sedgewick</td>
<td>Minute CO111 – Special Urgency Decision</td>
<td>A Personal and Prejudicial Interest insofar as they are all Trustees of Gift ‘92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18 April 2019
Council

which receives funding from Voluntary Community and Faith Sector Grants.

Councillor Moss | Minute CO111 – Special Urgency Decision | A Personal and Prejudicial Interest insofar as he is a Board Member of the Preston and District Citizens’ Advice Bureau which received funding from Voluntary Community and Faith Sector Grants

CO102 Minutes

Resolved - That the minutes of Council held on 28 February 2019 be noted and signed as a correct record.

CO103 Questions of Members of the Public

There were none.

CO104 Questions of Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies

In accordance with Rule 10 of the Council Procedure Rules, Members of the Council had the opportunity to ask questions of Members of the Cabinet, Chairs of Committees and representatives on outside bodies on matters falling within their terms of reference.

Mr Adrian Phillips left the room prior to discussion on the following item of business.

Councillors M Brown, Moss, M Yates, Cartwright and Mrs Whittam left the room during discussions on the following item of business as they had a Personal and Prejudicial interest in the item insofar as they were members of the Chief Officer Employment Committee tasked with recommending an appointment to the position of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.

CO105 Appointment of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service

The Chief Officer Employment Committee had undertaken an assessment and interview process for the recruitment to the post of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service. The Committee had recommended to Council that Mr Adrian Phillips be offered the appointment to the position of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service on a permanent basis.
The report was moved by Councillor M Brown and seconded by Councillor Rollo and it was

Resolved – That Council

(i) approved the recommendation by the Chief Officer Employment Committee that Adrian Phillips be offered the appointment to the post of Chief Executive/ Head of Paid Service on the terms and conditions set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report;

(ii) subject to the approval of (i) above, approved Adrian Phillips, Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, as the Returning Officer and the Electoral Registration Officer for Preston City Council on appointment to the post of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service; and

(iii) noted that, subject to approval of (i) above, the Chief Officer Employment Committee would make an offer of appointment with immediate effect.

Mr Adrian Phillips and Councillors M Brown, Moss, M Yates, Cartwright and Mrs Whittam returned to the Chamber.

CO106 Review of the Size of Membership of Council Committees

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report on the number of elected Councillors for the City of Preston which would reduce from fifty-seven to forty-eight at the forthcoming election, on 2 May 2019. She advised that the reduction in elected Councillors had prompted a review of the size of membership of Council committees, and the proposed size of Council committees was attached in the appendix to the report.

The report was moved by Councillor Rawlinson and seconded by Councillor M Brown and it was

Resolved – That the report be noted at this stage.

CO107 Notification of Changes to Membership of Committees

There were none.

CO108 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Atkins - Police Cuts

A Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Atkins and seconded by Councillor Bailey:

Police Cuts

Preston City Council notes the increasing pressures facing Lancashire Constabulary and:
1. Supports the warnings of a multitude of agencies, that nationally police forces are reaching a breaking point as a result of the wide ranging cuts initiated by the Conservative Government. This has left forces across the country and here in Preston depleted to critical levels. This is against a background of a continued rise in reported crime across Lancashire.

2. Recently, in Preston residents have reported greater levels of burglary and gang activity as well as figures across Lancashire showing an increase in violent crime in recent years. It is also the case that the Police have to support many individuals who should be receiving support from mental health services which has itself faced cutbacks.

3. Welcomes the announcement by Lancashire’s Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw for 100 additional officers; but recognises that this will not fill the gap that has been created following nine years of real term cuts imposed on Lancashire Constabulary that has seen the loss of over 800 police officers and over 300 civilian staff.

4. Believes that the Government should rethink their strategy for policing and adopt Labour’s 2017 manifesto commitment, pledging to put 10,000 additional police on to the streets of England and Wales.

5. Welcomes Lancashire Constabulary’s commitment to neighbourhood policing, with its key emphasis on tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, as well as having a focus on problem solving and crime prevention through enhancing local intelligence gathering along with work done through the Community Safety Partnership and the Police and Crime Panel. However, we would benefit from a clearer communication channel between the Council, Councillors and the Police to ensure a mutual exchange of local concerns in the most effective manner.

Preston City Council therefore calls upon the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary, local MP’s and Police and Crime Commissioner condemning the scale of government cuts to the police since 2010 and calls for a properly funded police force.

Additionally, the Crime and Disorder Committee should be requested to consider reviewing the relationship between elected members and the Police especially at times of reduced Police numbers to ensure concerns of significant importance by members can continue to be dealt with in an effective and accountable manner.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Jolliffe and seconded by Councillor Mrs Whittam:

**Police Cuts**

Preston City Council notes the increasing pressures facing Lancashire Constabulary and:

1. Supports the warnings of a multitude of agencies, that nationally police forces are reaching a breaking point as a result of the wide ranging cuts initiated by the
1. Has significant concerns about the rise in reported crime in particular in Preston where residents have reported greater levels of burglary and gang activity as well as figures across Lancashire showing an increase in violent crime in recent years. The Council notes that the Police are often now the initial interface with many individuals who would benefit by it. It is also the case that the Police have to support many individuals who should be receiving support from mental health services which has itself faced cutbacks.

2. Welcomes the announcement by Lancashire’s Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw for 100 additional officers; but recognises that this will not fill the gap that has been created following nine years of real term cuts imposed on Lancashire Constabulary that has seen the loss of over 800 police officers and over 300 civilian staff.

3. Believes that the Government should rethink their funding strategy for policing and commit to providing additional police on to the streets of England and Wales.

4. Recognises that our residents however, we would benefit from a clearer communication channel between the Council, Councillors and the Police to ensure a mutual exchange of local concerns in the most effective manner.

5. The Mayor put the amendment to the vote and it was defeated.
Resolved:

Notice of Motion - Police Cuts

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1. Supports the warnings of a multitude of agencies, that nationally police forces are reaching a breaking point as a result of the wide ranging cuts initiated by the Conservative Government. This has left forces across the country and here in Preston depleted to critical levels. This is against a background of a continued rise in reported crime across Lancashire.

2. Recently, in Preston residents have reported greater levels of burglary and gang activity as well as figures across Lancashire showing an increase in violent crime in recent years. It is also the case that the Police have to support many individuals who should be receiving support from mental health services which has itself faced cutbacks.

3. Welcomes the announcement by Lancashire’s Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw for 100 additional officers; but recognises that this will not fill the gap that has been created following nine years of real term cuts imposed on Lancashire Constabulary that has seen the loss of over 800 police officers and over 300 civilian staff.

4. Believes that the Government should rethink their strategy for policing and adopt Labour’s 2017 manifesto commitment, pledging to put 10,000 additional police on to the streets of England and Wales.

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Additionally, the Crime and Disorder Committee should be requested to consider reviewing the relationship between elected members and the Police especially at times of reduced Police numbers to ensure concerns of significant importance by members can continue to be dealt with in an effective and accountable manner.

The Mayor then adjourned the meeting for a short comfort break.

The meeting reconvened.
CO109 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Henshaw - Climate Change Emergency

A Notice of Motion, with Alteration, was moved by Councillor Henshaw and seconded by Councillor Hull:

Climate Change Emergency

Recent extreme weather events over several years have presented severe challenges to property, transport, agriculture and other services in the Preston area and have led to the deaths and displacement of thousands of people worldwide. The Meteorological Office clearly states that these kind of extreme weather events are significantly more likely on a planet with human-caused climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. In their report “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report”¹, published in October 2018, they conclude that humanity has 11 years for “ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities” to deliver the “rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities” needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we would no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

Business as usual is no longer an option.

Children in Preston will be in their teens and twenties in 11 years’ time. They deserve a liveable Preston. We must act now to ensure this.

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved well-being for people locally and worldwide.

Over 40, and increasing, local councils, together with the Mayor of London, have passed motions declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’. Many local authorities, include Preston City Council, have also signed up to the UK100 Agreement², pledging to achieve 100% ‘clean energy’ usage by 2050 in their area, but the IPCC report shows it is imperative that this target is reached much, much sooner.

Preston City Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions, both as an organisation and as the Local Planning Authority and resolves to go further than the UK100 Agreement and to act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030, and therefore commits to:


² https://www.uk100.org/
Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’ that requires urgent action.

Make the Council’s activities net-zero carbon by 2030.

**Commit to municipalisation of energy supply by utilising public sector sites to generate energy where appropriate.**

Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.

Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the Preston district Zero Carbon within the same timescale.

Achieve 100% clean energy across Preston City Council’s full range of functions by 2030.

Convene an assembly of interested groups not directly represented on Council in 2019 to oversee and feed into the development of related action plans and budgets across the City.

And to take the following actions:

(a) Ensure that political groups and Corporate Management Team embed this work in all areas of the Corporate Plan and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council’s activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that a Task and Finish group be established to review Council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;

(b) Request that Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies and charge Task & Finish groups to also consider those impacts in any report and every topic;

(c) Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;

(d) Set up a Preston Climate Change group, drawing on the expertise from Councillors, UCLAN, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, skills providers, and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a City wide strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030, by engaging with other anchor institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It will also recommend ways to
maximise the local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy;

(e) Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future-their future;

(f) Review the Council’s Investment Strategy to give due consideration to climate change targets in the Investment portfolio and to ensure the security of the Council’s investments. Request a report within 6 months from the City Treasurer on investment strategies of all financial institutions where Council funds are or could be held;

(g) Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and Investment Strategy will take into account the actions the Council will take to address this emergency;

(h) Add the voice of Preston City Council to the calls on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible;

(i) In recognition of the seriousness of the financial constraints that the Council faces, and the expectation that both the development and implementation of many measures above are likely to be contingent on securing significant additional extra funding, that Preston’s local MPs be called upon to ensure that Central government provides the powers, resources and funding to make this possible, and that the Leader and Chief Executive jointly write to them to seek their commitments;

(j) Consider other actions that could be recommended (but are not restricted to): low carbon energy production and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure, encouraging the use of electric vehicles within the fleet, workforce and wider community, integrating low carbon technologies into operational assets and projects, increasing the efficiency of buildings, prioritising these measures for housing to address fuel poverty; proactively using our local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice;

(k) Where needed, officer reports to the Council, Cabinet and Committees contain impact assessments on climate change that include carbon emission appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible; and

(l) Note the Central Lancashire City Deal, which also includes South Ribble Borough Council and Lancashire County Council, will have a direct effect on Preston climate and ensure that all partners are aware of Preston’s ambition.

Following debate, the Mayor put the Motion, with Alteration, to the vote and it was
Resolved:

Climate Change Emergency

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(g) Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and Investment Strategy will take into account the actions the Council will take to address this emergency;

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(k) Where needed, officer reports to the Council, Cabinet and Committees contain impact assessments on climate change that include carbon emission appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible; and

(l) Note the Central Lancashire City Deal, which also includes South Ribble Borough Council and Lancashire County Council, will have a direct effect on Preston climate and ensure that all partners are aware of Preston’s ambition.

**CO110 Leader’s Report**

The Leader of the Council submitted a report giving details of the work he had carried out on behalf of the Council since the date of the last meeting.

18 April 2019
The Leader updated Members on the following:-

- City Deal:
  - Progress so far
  - Preston Western Distributor
  - Housing Outcomes
  - Commercial Development
  - Employment and Skills
- Lancashire Combined Authority
- Community Bank
- Co-operatives

Resolved – That the report be noted.

CO111 Special Urgency Decision

In accordance with Rule 19.3 of the Council’s Access to Information Procedure Rules, the Leader submitted details of one decision taken by the Cabinet in the circumstances set out in Rule 18 (Special Urgency) since the last meeting:-

CA118 - Utilisation of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) Grants in 2019/20 was considered as an urgent item as the business to be transacted could not reasonably be deferred as the existing grant funding expired on 31 March 2019 and Members were keen to support the work of the VCFS to deliver high quality services to the residents of Preston. The approval meant that officers and Members would be able to conduct a complete review of Grant Funding in 2019/20.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

CO112 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Council is the Annual Meeting. The election of Mayor and appointment of the Deputy Mayor, together with the Mayor Making Ceremony, will be held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 15 May 2019. The remainder of the business will be transacted at 2.00 pm on Thursday 16 May 2019 at the Town Hall, Preston.