

COUNCILLOR JUDITH DRIVER, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 16th May 2025

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Driver (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Bauld,
Bleakley, Cheetham, Eaton, Gill, Hancock, Harris, Harrison,
Hodgkiss, Holland, Kenyon, Looker, Lythgoe, McInnes,
McMahon, Neal, Norton, Payne, Procter, M.Smith, Walmsley
and Woods.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/Monitoring Officer
Stephanie Carroll, Civic Services Officer and Leader's PA
Phillip Veevers, Mayor's Attendant
Darren Kershaw, Mayor's Attendant**

ALSO PRESENT: 43 guests

A short silence was held as a mark of respect for former councillor Mike Royds.

CIVIC MATTERS

1. Election of the Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26. Councillor Michelle Smith was proposed by Councillor Andrew Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Alan Woods.

Resolved:

That Councillor Michelle Smith be appointed as the Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

NB: The New Mayor, Councillor Michelle Smith, chaired the meeting from this point forward.

2. Election of the Deputy Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26. Councillor Liz McInnes was proposed as Deputy Mayor for external engagements only by Councillor Alyson Barnes and seconded by Councillor Alan Neal.

Resolved:

That Councillor Liz McInnes be appointed as the Deputy Mayor for external engagements only for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

3. Presentation and Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor and Consort

Councillor Michelle Smith moved the vote of thanks and spoke in relation to the retiring Mayor and Consort, seconded by Councillor Simon Holland, to which Councillor Judith Driver responded.

Resolved:

That the grateful thanks of this Council be offered to Councillor Judith Driver for the excellent manner in which she has fulfilled her duties as Mayor.

BUSINESS MATTERS

4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Belli and S.Smith.

5. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2025 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

6. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

7. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

8. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service

There were no communications.

9. Urgent decisions

Council noted the Special Urgency Decision taken 11th April 2025 regarding the acceptance of the Household Support Fund 7 (HSF7) grant as detailed in the decision notice.

10. Political Balance, Committees and Outside Bodies 2025/2026

The Council considered the Political Balance, Committees and Outside Bodies report.

Resolved:

That the Council confirm appointments proposed by the various political groups as set out in the following appendices:

- Appendix A - Draft political balance calculation
- Appendix B - Draft committees of the Council, working groups, member champions and other meetings.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.25pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date