

## CABINET

23 JULY 2019

Meeting commenced: 10.00 a.m.  
“ finished: 11.15 a.m.

### PRESENT

|                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Paul Dennett    | City Mayor (in the Chair)   |
| Paula Boshell   | Statutory Deputy City Mayor |
| John Merry, CBE | Deputy City Mayor           |

#### LEAD MEMBERS:

|                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bill Hinds           | Finance and Support Services         |
| David Lancaster, MBE | Environment and Community Safety     |
| John Ferguson        | Workforce and Industrial Relations   |
| Gina Reynolds        | Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing |
| Tracy Kelly          | Housing and Neighbourhoods           |
| Derek Antrobus       | Planning and Sustainable Development |

#### EXECUTIVE SUPPORT MEMBERS (AT THE INVITATION OF THE CITY MAYOR):

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| John Walsh    | Education and Learning                        |
| Jane Hamilton | Social Care and Mental Health                 |
| Mike McCusker | Planning, Housing and Sustainable Development |

#### OFFICERS:

|                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jim Taylor              | Chief Executive                   |
| Charlotte Ramsden       | Strategic Director, People        |
| Debbie Brown            | Director, Service Reform          |
| Miranda Carruthers-Watt | City Solicitor                    |
| Sam Betts               | Assistant Director                |
| Janice Lowndes          | Assistant Director                |
| Chris Hesketh           | Head of Financial Management      |
| Peter Brambleby         | Interim Director of Public Health |
| Jacquie Russell         | Assistant Director                |
| Peter Openshaw          | Assistant Director                |
| Karen Lucas             | Service Manager                   |

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jones and, Coen; from officer's Ben Dolan and Joanne Hardman and from invitees Mike Taylor.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019, were approved as a correct record.

## 4. DIGITAL SALFORD STRATEGY

Councillor Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services introduced this Item; and in doing so explained to members that Salford has positioned itself at the heart of a digital enterprise.

The Digital Strategy has FOUR key action areas as detailed in the submission:

- Digital Infrastructure
- Digital Enterprise and Business Growth
- Connected City/Smart City innovation
- Digital public sector development

The Digital Strategy is people-based and aims to ensure that each action area is focused on positive social impact. There are three cross-cutting themes that work across the four action areas:

- Digital skills for the people of Salford and the development of talent pipeline and future opportunities.
- Connected digital health and public engagement for citizen well-being.
- A citizen portal for connecting/transacting amongst communities.

Members of Cabinet acknowledged that the country's infrastructure/fibre network is way down the global league compared to other countries and conversations to advance collaborations will be progressed by way of the strategy.

RESOLVED: THAT, the City Mayor in consultation with Cabinet (1) approved the Digital Salford Strategy;

(2) it was agreed to submit quarterly updates at Cabinet Briefing going forward.

## 5. COMMUNICATIONS STARATEGY 2019/21

Councillor Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services introduced this Item and in doing so informed Cabinet that to develop the communications strategy there has been a lengthy review of the communications service and priorities.

This report outlines the background to the development of the content of the strategy and the peer support received from the LGA through membership arrangements.

The purpose of the strategy is to create a clear coordinated approach across the council and partners, achieving improved impact by amplifying our vision and priorities.

The report prompted the following observations:

- With regard to 'Our Messages' – a request for the inclusion of valuing all types of learning and experiences;
- The need for each Lead Member to champion communications in regard to their portfolio going forward.

Lead Members were asked to consider the Campaign Plan attached to the report and ensure the right priorities have been captured.

The City Mayor highlighted that the Communications Strategy is also a mechanism to influence national policy and the need for a further conversation to consider a strategic approach.

RESOLVED: THAT, the City Mayor in consultation with Cabinet approved the Communications Strategy 2019/21

## 6. CABINET SITTING AS THE DECISION MAKER FOR SCHOOL ORGANISATION

### 6.1 DISCONTINUANCE OF SIXTH FORM PROVISION AT ST AMBROSE

#### BARLOW RC HIGH SCHOOL.

Councillor Merry, Deputy City Mayor introduced this report and in doing so informed members that the detail within the report has been expanded following consideration at Cabinet Briefing on 11 June and 9 July 2019. The report submitted has been supplemented with more information as requested by members previously.

This report is presented to Cabinet, as the decision maker for school organisation, to consider the proposed discontinuance of St Ambrose Barlow RC High School sixth form and alteration of upper age range.

It is proposed that St Ambrose Barlow RC High School age range should become an 11-16 school as from 1 September 2020 with closure to the sixth form to new entrants for September 2019 intake. Any student already undertaking a 2 year course (that commenced in September 2018) will be able to complete their course at the current sixth form before full closure in September 2020. This follows a period of four weeks of statutory consultation.

On 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in accordance with the proposal, the Governing Body of St Ambrose Barlow High School published a notice of proposal of its intention for the discontinuance of the sixth form with effect from 1 September 2020.

The sixth form provision at St Ambrose Barlow RC High School was built to accommodate 250 pupils. Uptake and demand for places at the sixth form have been consistently low and the school and governing body first discussed possible closure in 2015.

The appointment of the new Headteacher reinvigorated the provision and the sixth form was re-launched in September 2016 offering a wide range of A Levels. Initially this was successful in attracting additional uptake. However for the last two academic years demand has fallen and for some time now it has become apparent that the local culture is that young people attend larger, established sixth form colleges.

There was an acknowledgement from members that the revised report now provides a better understanding of the reduction in uptake of the 6<sup>th</sup> form provision at St Ambrose Barlow RC School, the subsequent drain on resources and budgets, and of alternative provision preferred and available to young people in the city.

Councillor Hinds said that now on information submitted he was in support of the request, but that it would be amiss of him if he did not state his disappointment in discontinuing 6<sup>th</sup> form provision at the purpose built school.

Following detailed discussion in regard to pupil placement planning, it was recognised that parental and pupil choice plus a wide range of choices for 6<sup>th</sup> form college provision are likely to have resulted in fewer pupils choosing to attend St Ambrose Barlow 6<sup>th</sup> form than originally envisaged.

**RESOLVED:** THAT, the City Mayor in consultation with Cabinet approved the proposed discontinuance of St Ambrose Barlow RC High School sixth form and change in age range with effect from 1 September 2020 with closure to the sixth form to new entrants for September 2019 intake.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

7.1 HOT WEATHER ALERT

Councillor Antrobus, Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development asked for clarification on the council's plan to cascade information in response to the hot weather as we are presently on a amber warning nationally?

Councillor Reynolds, Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and wellbeing agreed to clarify immediately and cascade information accordingly.