

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

15 January, 2020

Meeting commenced: 9.30 a.m.
“ adjourned: 10.50 a.m.
“ re-convened: 11.05 a.m.
“ ended: 12.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Charlie McIntyre - Ceremonial Mayor and Chair

Mr Paul Dennett - City Mayor

Councillors Derek Antrobus, Sharmina August, Damian Bailey, Barbara Bentham, Paula Boshell, Adrian Brocklehurst, Joshua Brooks, Tanya Burch, Jim Cammell, Bob Clarke, Jillian Collinson, Richard Critchley, Jim Dawson, Stuart Dickman, Laura Edwards, Heather Fletcher, Karen Garrido, Robin Garrido, Darren Goulden, Jane Hamilton, Stephen Hesling, Bill Hinds, Ann-Marie Humphreys, David Jolley, Roger Jones, Tracy Kelly, Jim King, David Lancaster, Ari Leitner, Sophia Linden, Mike McCusker, Ray Mashiter, John Merry, John Mullen, Lewis Nelson, Mike Pevitt, Gina Reynolds, Neil Reynolds, Brendan Ryan, Arnold Saunders, Robert Sharpe Les Turner, Madeline Wade, Ray Walker, Joan Walsh, John Walsh, Darren Ward, John Warmisham, Barry Warner, Colette Weir, Michael Wheeler and Ronnie Wilson.

53. COUNCILLOR PETER CONNOR

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect for Councillor Peter Connor who had sadly recently passed away.

The City Mayor extended his condolences and paid a personal tribute, both of which were echoed by Councillors Hinds, Humphreys, Fletcher, King, Saunders and Leitner.

54. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ITEMS OF SPECIAL BUSINESS

The Ceremonial Mayor indicated he had been advised of an urgent item of business concerning the appointment to the post of City Solicitor and sought approval from Council for its inclusion on the agenda for the meeting, which was duly given. (see *Minute 61*)

55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Michele Barnes, Samantha Bellamy, Stephen Coen, Kate Lewis, Margaret Morris and Wilson Nkurinziza.

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

57. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2019 were approved as correct record.

58. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor David Jolley (*in the absence of Councillor Michelle Barnes*) submitted a petition on behalf of Barton residents, regarding a proposed housing development on land to the rear of 40-48 Peel Green Road, Barton.

59. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

(Previous Minute 42 - 20 November 2019)

The City Mayor submitted a report detailing the following amendments to the memberships of committees and panels for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

Committee Panel	New Member/ Amendment	Replacing
Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Damian Bailey	<i>Labour Group vacancy</i>
Audit and Accounts Committee	Councillor Damian Bailey	<i>Labour Group vacancy</i>

The City Mayor also reported that Councillor Barbara Bentham, as Executive Support for Workforce and Industrial Relations and Councillor Sharmina August, as Executive Support for Equalities, Communities and Social Impact, had both been recently appointed to his Mayoral Team.

RESOLVED: THAT the amendments to the memberships of the committees and panels for the Municipal Year 2019/20 and appointments to the Mayoral Team, as detailed in the report now submitted and/or summarised above, be noted.

60. PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

The Returning Officer submitted a report detailing the results of Parliamentary Elections and the Salford City Council Pendlebury By-election, both of which had been held on Thursday 12th December, 2019.

The Ceremonial Mayor and the City Mayor, on behalf of all Members of the Council, congratulated Councillor Damian Bailey, the successful candidate in the Pendlebury By-election and welcomed him to his first meeting.

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted.

61. APPOINTMENT OF CITY SOLICITOR (MONITORING OFFICER)

The Chief Executive submitted a report which provided details of recent interviews and sought approval to an appointment to the post of City Solicitor (Monitoring Officer).

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted and approval given to the appointment of Sian Roxborough to the post of City Solicitor (Monitoring Officer).

62. SALFORD COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2020/23

The Lead Member for Environment and Community introduced the Salford Community Safety Strategy for 2020/23, which set out the ambitions for community safety across the city over the coming three years. Thanks were extended to all who had been involved in drafting the Strategy.

RESOLVED: THAT the Salford Community Safety Strategy for 2020/23 be approved and adopted.

63. SALFORD LOCAL PLAN: DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT AND DESIGNATIONS

The Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development presented a report which provided an overview of the Salford Local Plan: Development and Management Policies and Designations. Thanks were extended to all who had been involved in drafting the Plan.

Councillor Karen Garrido, while welcoming the publication of this element of the Plan, expressed concerns the second part was still awaited and suggested the timetable for this needed to be expedited. These sentiments were echoed by Councillor Robin Garrido.

Councillor Derek Antrobus, noted these comments, but said the timetable for publication had been dictated by H.M. Government.

RESOLVED: THAT the Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations, together with the supporting background documents, be noted and Cabinet be recommended to approve these for publication and subject to which, they then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

64. GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE LAMA

The Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety presented a report which provided an update on the Greater Manchester Waste Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA) following a change of waste disposal contractor.

RESOLVED: THAT the contents of the report be noted and endorse the Greater Manchester Waste Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement be endorsed.

(At this point in proceedings, the Ceremonial Mayor, in accordance with Part 4 Rules of Procedure, Section A, Rule 13.3 of the Salford City Council Constitution, sought approval to change the order of the business, by moving items 11 and 12 to the end of the agenda. Following a show of hands this change to the order of business was agreed)

65. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET MEMBERS

- Q1. Councillor Jillian Collinson asked for a financial update with regard Salford City Stadium (aka AJ Bell Stadium).

The City Mayor reported that the Stadium and its operation was a joint partnership between Salford City Council and the Peel Group. On a daily operational basis the stadium was covering its costs, while the development of the land around it was reducing the outstanding debt and liabilities to the Council, which now stood at around £15m. The stadium was a great success in revitalising the west area of Salford where it was located as well as in creating employment opportunities. It was indicated that a more detailed report on this matter would be submitted to a future meeting of Council.

Councillor Robin Garrido commented that £15m still represented a significant debt and suggested that it would now be better for the City Council's to sell its interests in the Stadium.

- Q2. Councillor Jillian Collinson referred to the recent initial findings of an investigation into the handling child sex abuse cases in the region which had been instigated by Andy Burnham the Greater Manchester Mayor and sought assurances none of the cases involved children from Salford.

Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor, said he shared the sense of outrage which had been voiced with regard to the failings of the police and care services that had been revealed by the investigation, but as far as he was aware, these cases did not involve any young people from Salford.

- Q3. Councillor Arnold Saunders sought clarification as to suggestions that, following the change of contractor responsible for waste disposal in Greater Manchester, the recycling rates at local recycling centres had fallen.

Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety, said he would raise this at a Greater Manchester level and respond directly to Councillor Saunders.

- Q4. Councillor Ari Leitner, referred to recent enforcement action against people discarding cigarettes and asked, while no form of littering could be condoned, was this an effective use of resources.

Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety, replied this was one small element of wide ranging enforcement activities in Salford, which aimed to tackle the major anti social issue of littering and fly-tipping.

Councillor Jane Hamilton endorsed Councillor Lancaster's comments and paid tribute to the efforts of the neighbourhood teams across Salford, who were at the forefront of these enforcement activities.

- Q5. Councillor Jim King asked whether it was possible for the proposed north of England to the Midlands elements of HS2 to commence before the London to the Midlands works, as was planned.

Councillor Roger Jones, Executive Support for Transport, replied that the HS2 project was probably too far advanced to enable such a major rescheduling of its construction. Also in response to Councillor King, he provided details of the process that would be followed should H.M. Government's decide to terminate the franchise operated by Northern Rail.

- Q6. Councillor Stephen Hesling referred to the declaration of a climate emergency which had been made the City Council on 17th July 2019 and asked what progress had been made following this and the measures being introduced in both Greater Manchester and Salford to address the problems attributed to climate change, which Councillor Derek Antrobus, Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development, duly provided
- Q7. In response to Councillor Damian Bailey, Councillor Gina Reynolds, Lead Member for Adult services, Health and Wellbeing, provided details of the services and support Salford City Council and partners provided for people suffering with dementia.

66. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY PANELS

There were no questions, or comments.

67. GENERAL QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THE DISCHARGE OF FUNCTIONS OF JOINT AUTHORITIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no questions, or comments.

RESOLVED: THAT the update submitted in relation to the recent activities of the Salford Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), be noted.

68. STATEMENT OF THE CITY MAYOR

The City Mayor made a number of announcements, highlighted issues and made comments as follows:

- (a) This was the first full Council meeting of 2020 and best wishes for the new year were extended to all present.

- (b) He provided his own thoughts and assessment of the recent general election, the result of which was not what he had anticipated, nor hoped for, but had changed the political landscape. The result had confirmed the majority wish of the electorate and the result of the 2016 referendum, that the United Kingdom should leave the European Union and that democratic demand had now to be realised.

He believed the Labour Party's campaign could have been better organised and communicated and there was now a need for those who would be leading the Party in the future to reflect on the election result and listen to the broader Labour movement and the electorate as a whole and accordingly represent them.

The vital investment in the nation's infrastructure, as has been promised by the Labour Party, would not now be realised. Similarly, the failings of London centric politics had to be recognised, together with the feelings of disenfranchisement clearly felt by voters in the post-industrial areas of the country, which had manifested in the election results. As a consequence of this, the political system needed refreshing and the economy rebalancing to reflect the aspirations of these sections of the electorate. He doubted the new Conservative government's alleged commitment to this would be realised, particularly as the real possibility of a no deal Brexit remained, despite Conservative Party claims to the contrary during the election campaign.

- (c) As the delay in publication of the long-awaited green paper continued, there remained no increase in H.M. Government's funding of social care, with this again to be met by local authorities through a 2% increase of the adult social care precept on Council Tax.
- (d) There were no details on the exact levels of promised investment in the north of England and its infrastructure. In this regard, the recent BBC report that, Swinton Town Centre, as one of 14 pilot areas, was to receive £25m of investment from the Future High Streets Fund were erroneous and no details of any potential funding had been revealed, or made.
- (e) H.M. Government's pending decision to terminate the franchise operated by Northern Rail after years of mismanagement and under performance was welcomed, but without also significantly upgrading the region's railway infrastructure, would have minimal impact in improving services for fare paying passengers.
- (f) The recent revocation of the successful landlord licensing policy in Liverpool created fears that H.M. Government would act similarly in Greater Manchester and Salford, restricting the ability to effectively regulate the local private rented housing sector and safeguarding the many tenants who lived in such accommodation.
- (g) Last week he had attended the official opening of Route 29, a new and innovative scheme enabling young people aged 12 to 17 in care, or the edge of care, to get instant access to the professional support tailored to their individual needs.
- (h) New Islington Mill, located on Chapel Street, Ordsall, had been awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which would enable it to undertake much needed renovations to its premises and continue as an important arts and cultural hub for

Salford. In the longer term, there was an ambition to see the Mill complex and the neighbouring Regents Industrial Estate, to be under the control of a community land trust, which would see rents set by the tenants of the properties themselves, so creating an environment in which artistic and creative industries would thrive and accordingly benefit Salford economically, socially and culturally.

- (i) Friends of the Earth had declared Salford City Council the “Most Climate Friendly Local Authority Area” in the north west of England and joint nationally. This achievement was particularly welcomed and merited in view of the Council’s commitment to developing Salford’s green infrastructure, including cycle paths, the renovation of existing and creation of new parkland, the RHS Bridgewater Garden in Worsley and preservation and protection of mossland in Irlam. There were also future plans, in association with Bolton MBC and Bury MBC, for the creation of an extensive City Forest Park, which would further protect and preserve natural woodland and wildlife. Other initiatives included the development of Cutacre Park, in Little Hulton, pioneering legal work preventing peat extraction, ensuring biodiversity in developments and the renovation of Worsley Delph and Canal. Together these represented the realisation of Green Revolution in Salford, a decades long process which had been embarked on by the Council’s visionary former elected members such as Ben Wallsworth, who had been made an Honorary Freeman of the City in October 2020.
- (j) In a similar vein to these successes, Salford City Council remained committed to defending Salford’s areas of natural beauty, such as the Broadoak site in Worsley, from future development. It was disappointing that further public money would now be needed to defend this position in the Court of Appeal, following another legal challenge by Peel Investments, to overturn the Council’s original decision to refuse the building of housing on the site and which had in turn, been upheld by the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government and in the High Court. This represented an unwanted expenditure, particularly when the Council’s budget had been reduced by £211m since 2011, with central government grant reduced by 53% in the same period, while demands for children and adult services has continued to grow. Despite these financial restraints, Salford City Council would continue to ensure its citizens had employment, as well as places to visit, relax and enjoy leisure time activities.

69. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE CITY MAYOR

- Q1. Councillor Les Turner commented that the Labour Party’s radical left-wing policies had been rejected by the electorate, in favour of those of the Conservative Party, who would now provide a safe and strong government for the United Kingdom. He also provided details of recent and planned H.M. Government funding for Salford and the neighbouring region, which he said demonstrated the commitment to invest in the infrastructure of the nation, particularly outside London and the south east.

The City Mayor noted these comments, but said he did not feel the Labour Party’s policies were as left-wing as was claimed and had proved popular, particularly with younger voters.

- Q2. In response, Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor, commented that, historically, Conservative governments, elected with large majorities, had a record of failing to deliver on their manifesto promises and feared this would be the case again.

The City Mayor endorsed these comments, particularly in view of the possible economic uncertainty which faced the United Kingdom arising from leaving the European Union.

- Q3. Councillor Arnold Saunders commented the result in the Worsley and Eccles South parliamentary constituency indicated Salford could no longer be considered as a Labour stronghold.

The City Mayor said while he did not agree with these comments, the Labour Party would never take the Salford electorate for granted and always endeavour to represent their wishes and protect their interests.

- Q4. Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, expressed disappointment at the general election result and said issue of Brexit and the Labour Party's policy on it, had been had been the key factor in their poor performance at the polls. That issue aside, their manifesto had proved popular with the electorate and should not now be indiscriminately abandoned. He added that the new Conservative government would honour their promises, particularly in terms of representing those people who lived in the areas of the country which were impacted by the problems caused by post industrial decline and accordingly required investing in.

The City Mayor endorsed these comments and said the promised investment in the regions had yet to be fully quantified and questioned whether this would be additional finance, or merely the reallocation of existing funding. He added that the recent local government financial settlement had done nothing to change his opinion that significant new and additional funding would not be forthcoming.

- Q5. Councillor Robin Garrido said the success of the new Conservative government could only be judged in the long term, but already it was taking action to realise its ambitions in rejuvenating and investing in the north of England, as well as tackling poverty. He referred to an intention to relocate government departments outside of London in other areas of the country and urged Salford to make a case to become the home for one of these.

The City Mayor noted these comments and in terms of the de-centralisation of H.M Government departments, hoped the Conservative Group would support and actively engage in any efforts by the City Council to see one of these relocate to Salford.

- Q6. Councillor Jillian Collinson said in her opinion, Jeremy Corbyn's past support of the IRA had made him unsuitable to be Prime Minister and this may have been a factor in the electorate's rejection of him and the Labour Party. She also reiterated the Conservative government's commitment to investment in the regions by referring to the recent announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of £100bn spending on infrastructure projects, chiefly in the north and Midlands, over the next five years.

The City Mayor noted these comments but in his opinion did not think Jeremy Corbyn was an apologist, or supporter of terrorism. In terms of the £100bn infrastructure, although this was welcomed, actual details of the projects which would be met from it, remained unclear.

- Q7. Councillor Jim King agreed to the necessity to rebalance the nation's economy through investment in its neglected regions and communities, but this needed to be accompanied by a coherent, comprehensive and long term approach to achieve it.

The City Mayor endorsed these comments.

(At this point in proceedings (12.20 p.m.), the Ceremonial Mayor, in accordance with Part 4 Rules of Procedure, Section A, Rule 12 of the Salford City Council Constitution, asked whether members wished to extend the meeting beyond the regular finish time of 12.30 p.m. Following a show of hands it was agreed there should be such an extension and for the meeting to now conclude at 12.45 pm.)

- Q8. Councillor Karen Garrido commented that in the general election the Conservative Party had received the support of a significant majority of the electorate and their democratic wishes now needed to be respected. Similarly she felt the aspirations and ambitions of voters would be honoured by the new government, who would represent the best interests of the country and its citizens and in doing so, there would not be a submission to, nor a dependency on, the United States of America, as had been suggested by some political observers.

The City Mayor noted these comments and said the Labour Party in Salford was similarly committed to representing the wishes and safeguarding the interests of its residents.

- Q9. Councillor Ari Leitner asked whether the Union Flag would be flying at Salford Civic Centre on 31st January 2020, the day the United Kingdom left the European Union.

The City Mayor said the Union Flag flew at Salford Civic Centre every day of the year and would do so on 31st January 2020.

A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Council 15 January 2020 Webcast](#)