

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

18 January, 2023

Meeting commenced: 9.30 a.m.
“ adjourned: 10:30 a.m.
“ re-convened: 10.40 a.m.
“ ended: 12.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ann-Marie Humphreys - Ceremonial Mayor and Chair

Mr Paul Dennett - City Mayor

Councillors Yolande Amana-Ghola, Sharmina August, Damian Bailey, Michele Barnes, Samantha Bellamy, Barbara Bentham, Maria Brabiner, Joshua Brooks, Tanya Burch, Jim Cammell, Philip Cusack, Jim Dawson, Stuart Dickman, Heather Fletcher, Robin Garrido, Jane Hamilton, Adam Kealey, Tracy Kelly, Jim King, David Lancaster, Ari Leitner, Ray Mashiter, Mike McCusker, John Merry, Wilson Nkurunziza, Teresa Pepper, Mike Pevitt, Gina Reynolds, Neil Reynolds, Hannah Robinson-Smith, Jake Rowland, Mishal Saeed, Arnold Saunders, Alexis Shama, Robert Sharpe, Ifan Syed, Nathaniel Tetteh, Les Turner, Madeline Wade, Roseanna Wain, Andrew Walters, John Warmisham and Jack Youd.

78. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A welcome was extended to pupils from Bnos Yisroel High School who were observing proceedings.

79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Paula Boshell, Adrian Brocklehurst, Stephen Coen, Karen Garrido, Bill Hinds, Roger Jones, Margaret Morris, John Mullen, Lewis Nelson, Chris Twells, Darren Ward, Barry Warner and Alex Warren.

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The were no declarations of interest.

81. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2022 were approved as a correct record.

82. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Questions were received as follows and replied to accordingly:-

(a) from Lesley Hurst - a front line Salford care worker

“When Aspire was established in 2016 through the council outsourcing a number of adult services, the council gave a commitment to Aspire staff that they would see no negative impact from the transfer. However, Aspire staff have still not received the 2022/23 NJC pay award that was paid to all directly employed council staff in December. What will the council do to ensure that those staff receive this pay award, and to ensure that those Aspire staff who are not on NJC terms and conditions receive a comparable pay increase?”

Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor, replied that Salford City Council had made a commitment for all Aspire staff to receive the NJC pay award both in 2022/23 and 2023/24, and this would be honoured.

(b) from by Mike Kelly - a front line Salford care worker

“Can the council guarantee that Aspire staff will not need to face the same uncertainty every year and commit that those staff on NJC terms and conditions will receive the same pay awards as their directly employed colleagues, and that those staff who are not will also receive fair and comparable pay increases?”

Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor, replied while Salford City Council would like to provide this reassurance, H.M. Government and current legislation prevented them from giving a commitment to provide funding for such pay awards on a long term, rather than an ad hoc, basis, but every effort would be made to ensure this was the case.

83. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

No petitions, or communications, were submitted.

84. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23 - UPDATE

(Previous Minute 65 - 16 November 2022)

The City Solicitor submitted a report seeking approval to (a) the appointment of the following persons as voting representatives of the Children’s Scrutiny Panel:

- Janet Clarke - Roman Catholic Diocesan representative
- Amy Richards - Free Churches representative
- Philip Roebuck - parent-governor representative

and (b) the following amendments to memberships of outside bodies for 2022/23:

Outside Body	New Member	Replacing
Booth Charities	Councillor John Mullen	Councillor Jim Dawson
Manchester Port Health Authority	vacancy	Cllr Tanya Burch
PATROL (Parking and Transport Regulation Outside of London) - Adjudication Joint Committee	Councillor Mike McCusker	vacancy

RESOLVED: (1) THAT approval be given to the newly appointed representatives of the children's scrutiny Panel, together with re-confirmation of its full membership.

(2) THAT the amendments to the membership of outside bodies for 2022/23 and as detailed above, be approved.

85. GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR ZONE - GMCA SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The City Solicitor submitted a report seeking agreement (a) to the establishment of a Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise decisions of the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee and the Clean Air Administration Committee, and (b) the nomination of a representative and substitute from Salford City Council to sit on it.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT agreement be given to the establishment of a Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise decisions of the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee and the Clean Air Administration Committee.

(2) THAT agreement be given to Terms of Reference of a Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee as detailed in (1) above and as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted.

(3) THAT Councillor Michele Barnes be appointed as Salford City Council's representative on the Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee as detailed in (1) above, with Councillor Mishal Saeed acting as a substitute.

86. SALFORD CITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 9 QUORUM FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The City Solicitor submitted a report seeking approval to revisions to Article 9 of the Salford City Council Constitution and relating to the quorum for the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED: THAT approval be given to the amendment of Article 9 of the Salford

City Council's Constitution as proposed and detailed in the appendix to the report now submitted.

87. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Councillor Les Turner, the Chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee submitted a report detailing the Committee's activities during 2021/22.

RESOLVED: THAT the Audit and Accounts Committee Annual Report 2021/22, be noted.

88. INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM (ICS)

The City Solicitor and the Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development submitted a joint report indicating NHS Greater Manchester (the ICB – local integrated care board) had been established in July 2022. The Thriving Places Guidance and H.M. Government's Integration White Paper set out the expectation that, within the area covered by an integrated care system, the ICB would appoint one person as overall lead for health and care at place level. The ICB has appointed ten place-based leads for each of the ten localities in Greater Manchester, with Tom Stannard, Chief Executive, appointed as Place-Based Lead for Health and Care in Salford.

RESOLVED: THAT the appointment of Tom Stannard as Place-Based Lead for Health and Care in Salford, be noted and endorsed.

89. SALFORD LOCAL PLAN: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND DESIGNATIONS

The Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development submitted a report detailing the Salford Local Plan Development Management Policies and Designations (SLP:DMP), which would form a key part of the statutory development plan for Salford, providing the main policies that would be used to manage development and determine planning applications and identify the designations to protect the City's most important environmental assets, town centres and infrastructure, and which approval and adoption by Salford City Council was now sought.

Councillors Robin Garrido, Adam Kealey and Arnold Saunders all expressed reservations about the Plan, suggesting it was incomplete and needed further development, and on that basis could not support it.

Councillor Mike McCusker, Councillor Ray Mashiter and the City Mayor all spoke in support of the Plan, which they said was a vital tool for the City Council to have autonomy over building and development in Salford, and on that basis recommended Council to approve and adopt it.

The Ceremonial Mayor put the recommendations of the report to Council when, in accordance with the Salford City Council Constitution (Part 4 Rules of Procedure, Section A, Rule 19(iv)) a recorded vote was requested and duly taken:

For (39)	Against (5)
Paul Dennett	Cllr Robin Garrido
Cllr Amana-Ghola	Cllr Kealey
Cllr August	Cllr Leitner
Cllr Bailey	Cllr Saunders
Cllr Barnes	Cllr Turner
Cllr Bellamy	
Cllr Bentham	
Cllr Brabiner	
Cllr Brooks	
Cllr Burch	
Cllr Cammell	
Cllr Cusack	
Cllr Dawson	
Cllr Dickman	
Cllr Fletcher	
Cllr Hamilton	
Cllr Kelly	
Cllr King	
Cllr Lancaster	
Cllr Mashiter	
Cllr McCusker	
Cllr Merry	
Cllr Nkurunziza	
Cllr Pepper	
Cllr Pevitt	
Cllr Gina Reynolds	
Cllr Neil Reynolds	
Cllr Robinson-Smith	
Cllr Rowland	
Cllr Saeed	
Cllr Shama	
Cllr Sharpe	
Cllr Syed	
Cllr Tetteh	
Cllr Wade	
Cllr Wain	
Cllr Walters	
Cllr Warmisham	
Cllr Youd	

(Cllr Humphreys as Chair did not exercise her vote)

Following which, the Senior Democratic Services Officer declared it carried by 39 votes to 5, and it was:

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the findings of the Planning Inspector's Report (Annex 1) into the soundness of the Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations (SLP:DMP), including the Main Modifications that are necessary for the Plan to be sound, be accepted.

(2) THAT the SLP:DMP (Annex 2) which incorporates the Main Modifications recommended by the Planning Inspector (Annex 3) and the Additional Modifications (Annex 4), be adopted.

(3) THAT Policies Map (Annex 5) which incorporates the Modifications to it (Annex 6) and is necessary to give effect to the policies of the SLP:DMP, be adopted.

(4) THAT delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director Place to make any minor nonmaterial editorial amendments to the SLP:DMP and Policies Map ahead of its final publication, these being limited to correcting minor errors and formatting text.

90. STATEMENT OF THE CITY MAYOR

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

- (a) This was the first meeting of 2023, and a Happy New Year was extended to all present.
- (b) Tribute was paid to former Councillor John Davies who had sadly recently passed away and represented the people of Walkden South between 1983 and 1999. Condolences were extended to John's family and friends.
- (c) The past 10 years and the challenges which Salford City Council had faced during this period, were reflected on. Reference was made to the impact governmental austerity, the growth of food banks, the fall in public sector pay, a stall in life expectancy, the UK's ravaged social infrastructure, social mobility, and the respective impacts of Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The forecast for the future appeared to offer no respite, with the Office for Budgetary Responsibility estimating recession, a contraction of the nation's economy by 1.4% in 2023, and GDP not returning to pre-pandemic levels until 2024.
- (d) The provisional Local Government Funding Settlement had been announced and Salford City Council faced a £5m shortfall in its budget for 2023/24. Against a background of inflation and unfunded budget pressures, H.M. Government had adopted an unusual approach in setting its priorities, using methodologies which skewed funding into wealthy areas of southeast England to the detriment of post-industrial regions like Salford. Since 2015, the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) had been reduced nationally from £15.2bn to £2.3bn. Consequently, Salford's annual services budget was £240m less per year than 2010, representing a cut of over 50%. This trend seemed set to continue, with H.M. Government announcing several financial initiatives, including funding for the elimination of negative RSG, top slicing of grants from the Lower Tier Services Grant and New Homes Bonus, providing £136m towards a New Funding Guarantee, and an unevidenced £85m allocation for a new Rural Services Delivery Grant, all of which primarily benefited wealthier, or Conservative controlled local authorities.

The new funding settlement did not identify a long-term funding solution for the social care crisis, instead once again proposing a 2% rise in adult social care precepts to be added to council tax bills.

- (e) Despite declining budgets, Salford City Council was outperforming many of its peers in terms of financial management to protect residents from the worst impact of cuts, but there were limits to the ability to continue to do this.
- (f) Public standards in office had declined under the present government, most recently demonstrated by H.M. Government cabinet member Nadim Zahawi making arrangement to pay back millions of pounds to HMRC (His Majesty's Revenue and Customs) for tax evasion, yet despite this he did not face criminal investigation or even censure by the Conservative Party.
- (g) The NHS (National Health Service) was in crisis, primarily because of mismanagement by H.M. Government, and a failure to invest in services and infrastructures. At the same time, H.M. Government had overseen a huge drive to reduce the real term pay of NHS staff, which had resulted in the recent industrial action by a variety of healthcare workers.
- (h) The recent spate of industrial action had caused H.M Government to propose legislation setting minimum service standards and would effectively remove the right to strike for millions of British workers. The reality was the UK's public services and infrastructure was at breaking point, following years of austerity and privatisation, H.M. Government showed no real commitment to changing this. Legislation to restrict the activities of trade unions, combined with new powers for the police to arrest protestors and crack down on demonstrations, represented a genuine assault on civil liberties, which were fundamental to a healthy democracy.
- (i) Despite the ineffectiveness and intransigence of H.M. Government, in Salford, the City Council would continue to find innovative ways to invest in the area, with a commitment to provide services and grow the local economy, through combining astute investments with the judicious reform and transformation of service provision.

91. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE CITY MAYOR

- Q1. Councillors Robin Garrido, Robert Sharpe and John Merry all endorsed the City Mayor's comments regarding John Davies and paid their own tributes to him (also see Minute 90(b)).

The City Mayor welcomed these comments.

- Q2. Councillor Robin Garrido suggested the City Mayor's statement had again focussed too heavily on H.M. Government and national issues, rather than ones relevant to Salford.

Councillor John Merry said H.M. Government's actions and national issues had a direct effect on Salford and therefore the City Mayor was warranted to address them in his statement.

The City Mayor welcomed Councillor Merry's comments, which he fully endorsed. He commented that the UK had the most centralised governmental system in western Europe and until there was meaningful devolution, then H.M. Government's actions at a national level would be intrinsically linked to local issues in Salford.

- Q3. Councillor Robin Garrido said the City Mayor had failed to acknowledge the significant funding H.M. Government had provided to Salford City Council in a variety of forms, and was demonstrated in the budget shortfall, which had been predicted to be £15m in November 2022, now standing at £5m. Nonetheless it was recognised that there was a need for increased and more sustainable funding arrangements for local authorities also see Minute 90(d)).

The City Mayor noted these comments but said while, funding from H.M. Government was forthcoming, it was not remotely adequate. Salford City Council one again was faced with making reductions in its budget and consequently the services it provided. There were clear imbalances in the formulas used for local government, these needed to be remedied and this could only be achieved by a comprehensive review which created a long term, sustainable and fair funding system.

Councillor Jack Youd said since 2010, H.M. Government had systematically eroded the UK's public services at a national and local level.

- Q4. Councillor Robin Garrido paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of Salford City Council employees.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he endorsed.

- Q5. Councillor Robin Garrido referred to H.M. Government's proposed trade union legislation and suggested industrial action was often taken following votes in which a minority of members had participated (also see Minute 90(h)).

Councillor Maria Brabiner said she fully supported the many and varied workers, particularly those associated with providing health care services, taking industrial action, adding that their demands were realistic and H.M. Government's intransigence has left them with no other option than to strike.

Cllr Tracy Kelly added her support for those currently taking industrial action and said their demands were not solely driven by calls for wage increases.

Councillor Robert Sharpe said H.M. Government's treatment of public sector workers had been one of both negligence and a failure to recognise their value and importance to the U.K and its people. The proposed trade union legislation was further demonstration of this.

Councillor Madeline Wade referred to the role trade unions had played in achieving many significant social reforms in the past. Any attempt to limit their powers should be seen as a dangerous and regressive step.

Councillor John Merry suggested H.M. Government, through their economic mismanagement and ill-founded policies, were causing much more damage and disruption, than any current trade union action.

The City Mayor welcomed and endorsed the comments of his Labour Party colleagues, particularly that trade unions had exhausted all other avenues of resolution and industrial action was now their only recourse.

Councillor Arnold Saunders noted the City Mayor had said he had stood on a picket line during recent industrial action and asked in what capacity he had done this.

The City Mayor replied that he had stood on the picket line with striking workers in solidarity and support for their actions and demands.

- Q6. Councillor Robin Garrido proposed Salford City Council should review its policy of providing financial support for the A.J. Bell Stadium, suggesting this was no longer a viable one.

Councillor Jack Youd said the A.J. Bell Stadium was a valuable community asset and the home Salford Devils RLFC who had been based in the City for 100 years. He referred to the importance of the club to Salford and its residents, along with the £6m of investment made by the Salford Reds Foundation into sporting activities and facilities in the area. On this basis Salford City Council was proud to invest in the stadium and Salford Red Devils RLFC's future.

As a director of the Stadium Joint Venture Company, Councillor David Lancaster provided an overview of the Stadium's operation, future financial viability, and the commercial opportunities it provided.

Councillor Arnold Saunders suggested Salford Devils RLFC remaining at the A.J. Bell Stadium raised issues regarding Moor Lane, the home ground of Salford City FC.

The City Mayor replied the A.J. Bell Stadium was an important community asset, with the City Council's continuing investment in it both fully reasoned and financially responsible.

- Q7. Councillor Robin Garrido said there was a need to restore community pride in the City, by ensuring the maintenance and cleanliness of its highways, parks and greenspaces. He proposed there be a greater commitment to recycling, particularly plastic, and cited Kenya as an example of good practice in this regard.

The City Mayor agreed investment in environmental services was vital for which H.M. Government needed to provide appropriate financial resources.

The City Mayor suggested that the tone of Councillor Robin Garrido's reference to recycling in Kenya could be taken as being detrimental, or demeaning. Councillor Robin Garrido said no such meaning was implied, or should be inferred, and asked the City Mayor to withdraw his remark. The City Mayor said he would not but was willing to discuss the matter further outside of the meeting.

- Q8. Councillor Robin Garrido said there was a need to improve Salford's highways infrastructure and suggested representations be made to H.M. Government on this.

Councillor Adam Kealey supported these calls in addition to raising concerns at the number of road traffic accidents in the vicinity of the Worsley roundabout and the nearby M60 Junction 13. He also suggested the creation of cycle lane roundabouts as part of the Trafford Road improvements were unnecessary and a misuse of resources.

Councillor Mike McCusker provided details of the cycle lane roundabouts and said ensuring the safety of all road users and pedestrians was paramount.

Councillor Robert Sharpe said there had been significant investment in Salford highways and public transport networks, referring to the success of the Leigh Guided Busway. He acknowledged the concerns about Worsley roundabout, together with other areas of Salford, and said the Growth and Prosperity Scrutiny Panel continued to look for solutions for these and consequently the Highways Agency had attended a recent meeting to face questioning. The Agency's response and commitment to taking action had been somewhat intransigent, but pressure would continue to be brought to bear on them, and H.M. Government, urging both to make the necessary highways improvements and provide funding for them.

The City Mayor noted the comments of Councillors Robin Garrido and Kealey, and welcomed the respective responses provided by Councillors Mccusker and Sharpe. He reiterated the claims about the apparent intransigence of the Highways Agency and encouraged cross party support to representations being made to change that and seeking action.

- Q9. Councillor Maria Brabiner echoed the City Mayor's comments regarding the growth in the number, and use, of foodbanks which was a damning indictment of the nation's economic state (also see Minute 90(c)).

Councillor John Warmisham commented it was appalling situation for people to have no other option than to use food banks, this stemmed from H.M. Government's policies of austerity which had resulted in the systematic dismantlement of the nation's public services and infrastructures.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he endorsed.

- Q10. Councillor Heather Fletcher welcomed the City Mayor's comments about the U.K. economy and drew attention to the challenges many ordinary people faced because of the cost of living crisis, referring to rising domestic energy bills and the specific plight of those women who had seen their pension benefits reduced, and the WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) campaign to secure compensation for them (also see Minute 90(c)).

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he endorsed.

- Q11. Councillor Jake Rowland expressed thanks to the environmental services teams who had been responsible for the cleaning and clearing of debris from the waterways at Salford Quays and had been caused by the recent bad weather.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments and echoed the thanks expressed to the environmental services teams.

- Q12. Councillor Adam Kealey suggested that past Labour governments had a poor track record when it came to the management of the NHS (also see Minute 90(g)).

The City Mayor replied the NHS was chronically underfunded and this was an issue H.M. Government had continually failed to address.

- Q13. Councillor Mike Pevitt commented that H.M. Government spending on schools was less than it had been in 2010. Pay increases for teaching staff were not fully funded by H.M. Government, instead being met in part from existing school budget, this put additional strain on them, creating a vicious circle of diminishing resources and increased workloads, which were ultimately detrimental to young people's educations.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he endorsed.

- Q14. Councillor Mike Pevitt referred to the declining standard of public transport services in Greater Manchester and Salford. He commented that H.M. Government had not showed a similar eagerness for imposing minimum service standards on bus and train operators.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments and suggested there was a need for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to have more autonomy over public transport provision in the region, as was the case in Greater London.

(At this point in proceedings (12.25 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 scheduled finish time of 12.30 p.m. It was duly agreed there should be such an extension and for the meeting to now conclude at 12.45 p.m.)

92. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET MEMBERS

- Q1. Councillor Robin Garrido sought clarification about Salford City Council's investment in the A.J. Bell Stadium and the sales of adjacent land, which Councillor Jack Youd, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, duly provided.

93. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY PANELS

There were no questions, or comments.

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

There were no questions, or comments.

95. SCHEDULED REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODY MEMBERS

A report was submitted detailing the recent activities of the Salford Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) Executive Committee.

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted.

A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Council 18 January 2023 Webcast](#)