

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

10th October, 2018

Meeting commenced: 9.45 a.m.
“ adjourned: 10.40 a.m.
“ re-convened: 11.00 a.m.
“ ended: 12.50 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ronnie Wilson - Chair of the Council and
Ceremonial Mayor

Mr Paul Dennett - City Mayor

Councillors Derek Antrobus, Michele Barnes, Samantha Bellamy, Barbara Bentham, Adrian Brocklehurst, Tanya Burch, Bob Clarke, Christopher Clarkson, Jillian Collinson, Peter Connor, Richard Critchley, Jim Dawson, Stuart Dickman, Peter Dobbs, Laura Edwards, John Ferguson, Heather Fletcher, Karen Garrido, Robin Garrido, Jane Hamilton, Bill Hinds, David Jolley, Roger Jones, Tracy Kelly, Jim King, David Lancaster, Ari Leitner, Kate Lewis, Sophia Linden, Mike McCusker, John Merry, Margaret Morris, John Mullen, Wilson Nkurunziza, Mike Pevitt, Gina Reynolds, Brendan Ryan, Arnold Saunders, Robert Sharpe, Peter Taylor, Les Turner, Barry Warner, Neil Watkin and Michael Wheeler.

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Paula Boshell, Stephen Coen, Stephen Hesling, Jimmy Hunt, Iain Lindley, Charlie McIntyre, Ray Mashiter, Stephen Ord, Neil Reynolds, Lisa Stone, Joan Walsh, John Walsh, John Warmisham, Colette Weir and Paul Wilson.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 18th July and 29th August, 2018 were approved as correct record.

25. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Appointments to Outside Bodies 2018/19
(Previous Minute 9(3) - 18th July, 2018)

Councillor Arnold Saunders referred to his appointment, at the last meeting, as a

representative on Inspiring Communities Together (ICT) and the subsequent discovery there was no existing vacancy on this body.

The City Solicitor apologised for this error and any embarrassment it may have caused. She said the accuracy of similar arising vacancies would be thoroughly validated before appointments were sought and made, to prevent this situation from happening in the future.

(b) Boundary Review Warding Patterns
(Previous Minute 21 - 29th August, 2018)

Councillor Les Turner reported that, contrary to a statement made at the meeting of Council held on 29th August, 2018, the same level of officer support and identical resources, to those provided to the Labour Group, had both also been placed at the disposal of the Conservative Opposition Group, to assist them in preparing a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) consultation on Salford's warding pattern.

26. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

No petitions, or communications, were submitted.

27. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

The Lead Member for Finance and Support Services submitted a report detailing treasury management activity in 2017/18, as required by the Local Government Act 2003.

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted.

28. ECCLES BY-ELECTION

The Returning Officer submitted a report detailing the result of the Eccles ward by-election, which had been held on Thursday 27th September, 2018. The report indicated that, after the counting of votes, Mike McCusker of the Labour Party was elected as Councillor for the Eccles ward and would retire from office no later than May 2020.

The Ceremonial Mayor and the City Mayor, on behalf of all Members of the Council, congratulated Councillor Mike McCusker and welcomed him to his first meeting.

29. TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER (TfGM)
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
(Previous Minute 82 - 16th May 2018)

The City Solicitor submitted a report detailing revised governance arrangements for the newly created TfGM Committee, as well as seeking agreement of the associated operating agreement and confirming Salford City Council's representation.

Councillor Karen Garrido and Councillor Robin Garrido expressed concerns at the proposed revised governance arrangements, particularly that, the Salford City Council Conservative Opposition Group would no longer have a representative on the Committee, primarily arising from the overall size of the new Committee reducing to 23 members, compared with the 33 members of the existing one. On that basis Councillor Robin Garrido proposed an amendment to the recommendation within the report, which was seconded by Councillor Jillian Collinson that, the proposed revised governance arrangements and membership and proposed composition of the TfGM Committee be rejected.

The Ceremonial Mayor put the amendment to Council and following a show of hands declared it not carried.

The Ceremonial Mayor then put the original recommendations of the report to Council and following a show of hands declared them carried.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT approval be given to the proposal for the TfGM Committee to comprise 23 members.

(2). THAT approval be given to the appointment of Councillor Roger Jones to the TfGM Committee, together with the nomination of Councillor Barry Warner, to be appointed by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to ensure political balance.

(3). THAT the proposal for 2 appointments on the TfGM Committee, to be 1 member appointed by GMCA and 1 member appointed by the Mayor for Greater Manchester, be noted.

(4) THAT agreement be given to amend the operating agreement to reflect these changes as detailed in (1), (2) and (3) above.

(5). THAT the intention to review the terms of reference, to ensure they reflect the Mayor for Greater Manchester's current transport powers with a further review in 2019/20 to reflect proposed revised powers, be noted.

30. NOTICE OF MOTION

Co-operative Party Charter on Modern Slavery

Councillor Jim King moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Kate Lewis.

This council notes, though slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour.

There were 3805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims

estimated by the Home Office. Modern Slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.

This council believes that, action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK. That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government. That councils have an important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.

This Council resolves to adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery to ensure our procurement practices don't support slavery.

Councillor Jim King and Councillor Kate Lewis both spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Les Turner, Councillor Gina Reynolds, Councillor Arnold Saunders, Councillor Robin Garrido, Councillor Bill Hinds, Councillor Laura Edwards and the City Mayor all added their own support for the motion.

RESOLVED: THAT the motion, as moved by Councillor Jim King and detailed above, be approved and adopted.

31. STATEMENT OF CITY MAYOR

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

- (a) He welcomed the Prime Minister's recent announcement at the Conservative Party Conference that, "austerity is over". However, expressed caution at this news and suggested it had to be offset against the many unrealised promises made by H.M. Government in the past, particularly in the light of the Local Government Association's (LGA) predictions of a further £1.3bn reduction in the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for local authorities in 2019/20. Similarly the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) had highlighted a £20bn shortfall in the UK's budget deficit for 2020/21, together with the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) downgrade of productivity forecasts, all pointed to a less favourable economic future for the UK. It was against this background that Salford City Council would have to make further £16m reduction in its spending in 2019/20, which was in addition to the cumulative £198m already made since 2010. In response to this Salford City Council, along with over thirty other labour controlled local authorities, had launched the "Councils Against Austerity" campaign.
- (b) Irrespective of whether austerity was over, its damaging impact on public services and people's lives could not be underestimated, and it was likely these effects would continue for many years. During this period H.M. Government had promised additional financial resources for a variety of public services, but in reality this was often merely the re-allocation of existing funds. At the same time, they had managed to find money for particular projects, initiatives and individual local authorities, but

their approach in this regard was both inconsistent and often unfair. Despite this additional funding the UK's public services were in chaotic state, in such areas as healthcare, prisons, police, schools and courts, including legal aid. This in turn contributed to a falling life expectancy, homelessness, worklessness, in-work poverty and the use of food banks. He concluded by suggesting that austerity could only be truly brought to an end, through substantial state investment in the nation's economy, infrastructure and essential services, together with the re-empowerment of local government to plan and manage growth in local economies.

- (c) He welcomed the Prime Minister's other recent announcement of the removal of the borrowing cap on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), which would allow local authorities to invest in new council housing.
- (d) He extended thanks to Councillor John Merry, the Strategic Director for Place and all officers involved, for their ongoing efforts in negotiating financing for the removal of the cladding at the nine tower blocks in Pendleton. This was despite the procrastination, lack of guidance and other obstacles which had been put in the way of this process by the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government and H.M. Treasury.
- (e) Early feedback from the Fair Funding Review for Local Government suggested H.M. Government planned to reinforce the existing inequalities which favoured affluent areas to the detriment of inner city ones and failed to recognise their varied and real individual needs and instead focus investment where it was needed most. Decisions made by previous Labour councils had helped to minimise the negative impact of this territorial injustice. A history of investment in Salford's infrastructure had put it in a strong position for growth, with for every £1 invested leveraging in £54 of private investment.
- (f) There had also been huge investment in Salford's green infrastructure, with initiatives and projects such as cycle lanes, RHS Garden Bridgewater, work to re-establish lowland raised bog habitat on Salford mosslands, innovative street tree schemes, the new flood basin at Castle Irwell, the restoration of Peel Park and the creation of an outdoor recreational area at Cutacre Country Park. Together with the development of a planning framework which would help realise a zero carbon Greater Manchester by 2038.
- (g) The demands placed on Greater Manchester's and Salford's road and public transport infrastructure remained a serious issue and pressure continued to be placed on H.M. Government to deliver appropriate investment to support and improve both.
- (h) Progress was being made on developing Salford's Local Plan, which would be available for public consultation in early 2019, when the revised draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) would also be published.
- (i) Salford City Council continued to work hard to meet the challenges and significant adversity it now faced, despite not having the inequitable and seemingly arbitrary support, H.M. Government gave to some Conservative controlled local authorities, who had lower levels of deprivation than many of their Labour controlled

counterparts. It was perhaps no coincidence that, those local authorities who had fully embraced the principles of free market economics, the sale of assets and the outsourcing of services, now found themselves in a perilous financial position and struggling to balance their budgets for 2019/20.

32. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE CITY MAYOR

- Q1. Councillor David Jolley commented that, while the Prime Minister had announced the end of austerity, at a national level it would require an injection of £4b with regard to the forthcoming RSG settlement, just to ensure the existing levels of local authority service provision was maintained, though he suspected this was unlikely.

The City Mayor agreed with these comments.

- Q2. Councillor Jillian Collinson referred to difficulties experienced by a constituent in contacting Salford City Council's Register Office.

The City Mayor and the City Solicitor replied the matter would be investigated, together with the improvements to the service suggested. Councillor Collinson was also advised if in future, she had any questions regarding operational matters, such as this, she should in the first instance raise them with the appropriate Strategic Director, so they could be acted upon immediately.

- Q3. Councillor Robin Garrido commented that 2018 marked the 50th anniversary of Labour controlled councils in Salford, and while there had been many achievements to celebrate during this period, often these had been the result of Conservative government inspired initiatives, or could not have been realised without their support.

Councillor Karen Garrido cited the creation of Salford Quays as an example of such an initiative which had been the result of Conservative Party policy.

Councillor Derek Antrobus, countered this claim and said the actions which had led to the creation of Salford Quays were chiefly the result of the foresight, ambition and radical thinking of the Labour controlled City Council during the 1980s, principles which continued to be honoured today.

The City Mayor agreed with Councillor Antrobus's comments and said the successes of Salford Labour councils were innovative, varied, far reaching and had gone a long way in redressing the failings of privatisation.

- Q4. Councillor Robin Garrido In reference to the City Mayor's previous claims there was inadequate H.M. Government funding of public services, commented that, re-nationalisation was not answer to improving public transport and the police had not made optimum use of the various time saving technologies which were available to improve efficiency and enhance working practices.

The City Mayor noted these comments but could not agree with them, adding that, there was undisputed evidence and statistics which supported his previous assessment of H.M. Government's policies.

Councillor David Lancaster commented the reduction in police officers, both locally and nationally, since 2010 was a key cause in the rise of crime. He added that both the effectiveness of the prison and probation services had been adversely affected by reductions in funding and the privatisation of some of their activities.

The City Mayor welcomed Councillor Lancaster's comments which he agreed with.

Councillor Jane Hamilton invited Councillor Robin Garrido to attend the East Salford Community Committee, so he could hear firsthand of the pressures and challenges which Greater Manchester Police (GMP) currently faced.

- Q5. Councillor Robin Garrido expressed concerns at the delays in removing and replacing cladding on high rise tower blocks in Salford.

Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor, reiterated the previous comments of the City Mayor in this regard (see Minute 31(d)) and the delays and hindrance of H.M. Government, which had prevented Salford City Council and its partners, bringing about a speedy resolution to this issue. He also referred to the Conservative Opposition Group's support of the City Council's decision on 23rd August 2017 to release £25m of funding to undertake the necessary remedial works, but which had subsequently been prevented by H.M. Government.

The City Mayor welcomed and echoed Councillor Merry's comments.

- Q6. Councillor Bill Hinds endorsed the City Mayor's previous comments about H.M. Government's economic and social policies. He went on to suggest the Conservative Party did not have a true understanding of poverty and the real issues which affected people who lived in areas of the highest deprivation. This was perhaps a factor as to why the electorate of Salford had returned Labour councils for the past 50 years.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he agreed with.

- Q7. Councillor Gina Reynolds echoed the City Mayor's comments regarding the funding of public services and made reference to the estimated shortfall of £116m for the provision of adult care services in Greater Manchester in 2020/21.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he agreed with.

- Q8. Councillor Kate Lewis endorsed the earlier comments of the City Mayor and said the actions of some local authorities in selling off public assets had been short-sighted.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments.

- Q9. Councillor Stuart Dickman asked whether the Conservative Opposition Group were in a position to reveal their response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) consultation on Salford's warding pattern. The City Mayor and Councillor John Ferguson, both shared Councillor Dickman's concerns and sought a similar answer.

Councillor Les Turner replied that, their response had been forwarded to the LGBCE and would be published in November by them, as part of their wider findings following the consultation period.

- Q10. Councillor Heather Fletcher referred to cuts in legal aid and how matrimonial cases no longer qualified for such support. She commented that a mark of a civilised society was one where access to justice was a right of all, but sadly this seemed not the case in the UK today.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he agreed with.

Councillor Karen Garrido suggested that, many legal cases, which would once have qualified for legal aid, could be undertaken on a pro bono basis. With regard to the increased use of food banks, she suggested there was perhaps need to look at providing advice on the preparation of cost-effective family meals and making the most of household budgets, but acknowledged this did not represent a solution for those suffering the severest levels of hardship.

- Q11. Councillor Karen Garrido asked why, despite the financial restraints which faced it, Salford City Council continued to provide support for the running the AJ Bell Stadium.

The City Mayor replied the AJ Bell Stadium was now making a profit, also progress was being made with the sale of the land surrounding the site, which in turn would reduce the existing debt and pay off the working capital.

- Q12. Councillor Arnold Saunders asked, if it was thought the Labour Party's economic policies represented a more viable and beneficial alternative, why they had failed to convince H.M. Government of their merits and to adopt them. He also asked what the Labour Party's policy was in terms of the UK leaving the European Union.

The City Mayor replied that, he supported a Brexit which would protect jobs.

- Q13. Councillor Jane Hamilton announced this was World Mental Health Day and encouraged all members to show support for the events being held to mark it and in doing so raise awareness and understanding of the issue.

The City Mayor echoed these comments.

33. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET MEMBERS

- Q1. Councillor Robin Garrido referred to the delays in removing and replacing cladding on the nine high rise tower blocks in Pendleton, Salford.

Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor, reiterated his previous response on this matter, as well as the delays caused by H.M. Government, which had prevented Salford City Council bringing about a swift resolution (see Minute 32 Q5).

- Q2. Councillor Les Turner said he supported the recent actions taken with regard to Harrop Fold School.

Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor, noted these comments.

- Q3. Councillor Jillian Collinson asked what procedures were in place to validate the age of young people with asylum seeker status, before placing them in residential care accommodation.

Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor, said he would provide a written response to Councillor Collinson on this matter.

- Q4. Councillor Mike McCusker asked what impact there had been on levels of recycling following the introduction of the three weekly domestic waste collection regime.

Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety replied that, current data demonstrated an increase in recycling rates since the introduction of the new collection regime and every effort would be made to continue build on this improvement.

- Q5. Councillor Karen Garrido referred to the inclusion of affordable housing within new developments and asked for the proposed policy guidance document on this, to be made available as soon as possible.

Councillor Derek Antrobus, Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development, replied this document would form part of the Salford Local Plan to be published in early 2019.

(At this point in proceedings (12.50 pm) the Ceremonial Mayor announced the three hours allocated for the transaction of the items of business listed on the agenda, as set out in the Salford City Council Constitution, had been exceeded and in view that, no member had proposed an extension, declared the meeting closed and indicated all outstanding items, as detailed below, together with any questions to the Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing and the Lead Member for Workforce and Industrial Relations, would be deferred to the next meeting on 21st November, 2018.)

34. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY PANELS

RESOLVED: THAT this item be deferred to the next meeting to be held on 21st November, 2018.

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

RESOLVED: THAT this item be deferred to the next meeting to be held on 21st November, 2018, together with any issues arising from the updates submitted in relation to the recent activities of the following bodies:-

- CityCo
- The Lowry Centre Trust
- Manchester Port Health Authority

- North West Employers Organisation
- Salfordian Trust
- Salford Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Salix Parent Board

A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Council 10 October 2018 Webcast](#)