

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

18 September, 2019

Meeting commenced: 9.30 a.m.
“ adjourned: 10.25 a.m.
“ re-convened: 10.45 a.m.
“ ended: 12.15 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Charlie McIntyre - Ceremonial Mayor and Chair

Mr Paul Dennett - City Mayor

Councillors Derek Antrobus, Sharmina August, Michele Barnes, Barbara Bentham, Adrian Brocklehurst, Joshua Brooks, Tanya Burch, Jim Cammell, Bob Clarke, Stephen Coen, Jillian Collinson, Richard Critchley, Jim Dawson, Stuart Dickman, Laura Edwards, Heather Fletcher, Darren Goulden, Bill Hinds, Ann-Marie Humphreys, David Jolley, Jim King, David Lancaster, Ari Leitner, Sophia Linden, Mike McCusker, Ray Mashiter, John Merry, Margaret Morris, John Mullen, Lewis Nelson, Wilson Nkurinziza, 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 and Ronnie Wilson.

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Samantha Bellamy, Paula Boshell, Peter Connor, John Ferguson, Karen Garrido, Robin Garrido, Jane Hamilton, Stephen Hesling, Roger Jones, Tracy Kelly, Kate Lewis, Barry Warner, Colette Weir and Michael Wheeler.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

25. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 17th and 24th July 2019 were approved as correct record.

26. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

No petitions, or communications, were submitted

27. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20
(Previous Minute 9 - 17 July 2019)

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

Committee Panel	New Member/ Amendment	Replacing
Licensing and Safety Regulatory Panel	Councillor Robin Garrido	<i>Conservative Group vacancy</i>
Growth and Prosperity Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Robert Sharpe Chair Councillor Sharmina August Deputy Chair	<i>Councillor Kate Lewis+</i> <i>Councillor Robert Sharpe</i>
Overview and Scrutiny Board	Councillor Robert Sharpe [^] Councillor Sharmina August [^]	<i>Councillor Kate Lewis</i> <i>Councillor Robert Sharpe</i>
Lowry Committee	Councillor Heather Fletcher	<i>Labour Group vacancy</i>

+ *Councillor Kate Lewis standing down as Chair only and remains a member of the Growth and Prosperity Scrutiny Panel.*

[^] *Automatic appointments as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively of the Growth and Prosperity Scrutiny Panel.*

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

28. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

(a) Rail Services to Southport

Councillor Laura Edwards moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Stuart Dickman.

This City Council is concerned at the recent decision of Northern to switch all Southport rail services to run via Westhoughton and Bolton, rather than on the Atherton line, which serves Swinton, Moorside and Walkden Stations. This decision, which will be implemented in December 2019, has been made

without adequate consultation with local councillors and rail passengers. We urge TfGM to make representations to Northern and ask them to consider a minimum rail service directly to Southport of one train per hour on the Atherton line, with effect from May 2020.

Councillor Laura Edwards and Councillor Stuart Dickman both spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillors Mike Pevitt, Richard Critchley, Heather Fletcher, Joshua Brooks, Jim King and the City Mayor all added their own support for the motion.

Councillor Arnold Saunders commented, while the Conservative Group wholeheartedly agreed with the motion as submitted, they could not similarly endorse calls for the re-nationalisation of the rail network, which had been made in some statements in support of it.

RESOLVED: THAT the motion, as moved by Councillor Laura Edwards and detailed above, be unanimously approved and adopted.

(b) A Fully Funded, Proper Pay Rise for Local Government Workers

The City Mayor moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Bill Hinds.

This Council notes

- ***Local government has endured central government funding cuts of nearly 50% since 2010. - Between 2010 and 2020, councils will have lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government.***
- ***The 2019 LGA survey of council finances found that 1 in 3 councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23. This number rises to almost two thirds of councils by 2024/2025 or later.***
- ***The LGA estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.***
- ***Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10. • At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010, a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.***
- ***There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three quarters of the local government workforce.***

This council believes

- ***Local Government workers provide an invaluable safety net for people and communities across the country and without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services residents rely on would not be deliverable.***

- **Government funding has been cut to the extent that a proper pay rise could result in a reduction in local government services.**
- **The government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone.**

This council resolves to

- ***Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Housing Communities for Local Government in support of the pay claim submitted by GMB, UNISON and Unite the Union on behalf of council and school workers for a £10 per hour minimum wage and a 10 per cent uplift across all other pay points in 2020/21 - calling for this increase to be fully funded with new money from central government.***
- ***Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim.***
- ***Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.***
- ***Encourage all local government workers to join a union.***

The City Mayor and Councillor Bill Hinds both spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillors John Merry, Ray Walker, Madeline Wade and Jim King all added their own support for the motion.

RESOLVED: THAT the motion, as moved by the City Mayor and detailed above, be approved and adopted.

29. STATEMENT OF THE CITY MAYOR

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

- (a) The recent action of H.M Government to prorogue Parliament and the potential implications of this.
- (b) The Chancellor of the Exchequer's recently announced Spending Round 2019. While this initially looked favourable for Salford, a final judgement needed to be reserved until more detail was provided, particularly as the "Fair Funding Review" for local government had been delayed for another year and previous experience of H.M Government funding formulas, which often seemed to favour more affluent areas of the country, to the detriment of those with higher levels of deprivation and greater needs. It also needed to be acknowledged that, the Chancellor's spending announcements for local government were made with an assumption there would be an overall increase in Council Tax of 4%, including a 2% increase on the Adult Social Care Precept, rather than providing the necessary resources through the Revenue Support Grant. At the same time the burden of taxation seemed to be placed on those who could least afford it, with increases in Council tax and Value Added Tax (VAT) being used to replace low levels of Income Tax and Corporation Tax. In summary, the proposals detailed in the Chancellor's announcement, represented an

un-hypothecated increase in spending, apparently not investing in key infrastructures, which were only guaranteed for a year, with their affordability and sustainability already questioned by the Office of Budgetary Responsibility.

- (c) Since 2010, H.M Government's austerity policies had negatively impacted the United Kingdom. During this period as a result, violent crime and homelessness had both increased, the use of food banks had become more commonplace, strains on health and care services intensified, together with the growth of the low pay, low skilled job market. Such a situation was alarming, particularly in a country with the world's fifth richest economy.
- (d) The "A Bed Every Night" initiative and other complimentary activities had seen the number of rough sleepers in Salford reduce to 25, from 49 in 2017. Funding had also been secured, which would support Phase 2 of the initiative until 30th June 2020, with 110 beds available from 1st October 2019.
- (e) The City Council had significantly invested in Derive, its wholly owned housing company, which continued to deliver truly affordable homes for the people of Salford.
- (f) Following the declaration of a "Climate Emergency" at its last full meeting, Salford City Council had established a new board to develop a carbon budget, with a long term aim of making the City carbon neutral by 2038. The Council, also had a policy of not investing in fossil fuel companies, while conversely by 2021, was on course to have invested £4m in carbon reduction schemes. Beyond Salford, the climate crisis represented one of the gravest threats to humanity and the environment and support was encouraged for the Global Day of Action on Climate Change on 20th September 2019, including an event at Salford Civic Centre.
- (g) Despite the fiscal restraints placed upon it, the City Council's capital investments over past years had realised economic growth in Salford and in turn gone some way in mitigating the worst impacts of H.M Government's policy of austerity.
- (h) Councillor Barry Warner, as Salford's Veterans Champion and on behalf of the City Council, had recently accepted the Ministry of Defence's Support for the Armed Forces Community Award. The City Council had also introduced a new dedicated housing role to support Salford's armed forces community.
- (i) Against the backdrop of uncertainty at a national level, the City Council would continue to defend the interests of Safford and its citizens.

30. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE CITY MAYOR

- Q1. Councillor Darren Goulden referred to the current viability testing taking place on land at Chat Moss, to determine its suitability for development. He said any housing developments arising from this would have a negative environmental impact on Irlam and Cadishead, also placing further strain on the existing local infrastructure, particularly the transport network. He suggested this appeared to be contrary to the City Council's respective commitments to tackle climate change and preserve its areas of greenspace, particularly one of such environmental importance as Chat Moss and urged for its removal from both the Salford Local Plan and the Greater

Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) as an area identified as suitable for development.

Councillor Les Turner said he supported these comments.

Councillor Lewis Nelson made reference to Action Against Rural Development (AARD), a local interest group, which was monitoring and undertaking an independent assessment of the viability testing at Chat Moss.

The City Mayor reiterated the City Council's commitments to carbon neutrality, sustainable development and the preservation of Salford's greenspace. He said both Salford's Local Plan and the GMSF were essential in ensuring the City Council retained autonomy in determining the suitability and location of developments and mitigate H.M. Government's prescriptive National Planning Policy, which placed an emphasis on viability, rather than suitability to the benefit of developers. He acknowledged, while there had been investment in the facilities at Irlam railway station, deficiencies remained in relation to Salford's transport infrastructure, but these were due more to the wider issue of the inequality in the respective investment in this regard for London and the south east of England, compared with the rest of the United Kingdom.

Councillor Derek Antrobus, Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development, endorsed and elaborated on the points made by the City Mayor in relation to Salford's Local Plan and the GMSF. He also provided details of various actions which had been taken by the City Council to preserve and protect Chat Moss.

- Q2. Councillor Stuart Dickman referred to the recent announcement by Swinton Lions RLFC, who had been founded in the City in 1866, that they were to be renamed Manchester Lions RLFC. He asked for an update on what support the City council could provide to the club in light of this decision, which had not received universal approval from supporters of the club and the local community, particularly the lack of consultation prior to taking it.

The City Mayor said he had already sent a public letter to the Club's board, expressing reservations at the change of name, at the same time extending an offer for Salford City Council to engage with them and continue to provide any support they could.

- Q3. Councillor Mike Pevitt extended congratulations to Salford Red Devils RLFC on reaching the Betfred Super League Play-offs.

The City Mayor extended similar congratulations and stressed the importance of sport in the life of Salford, its people and communities. (*see also Minutes 30 (Q2), (Q7) and (Q10)*)

- Q4. Councillor Arnold Saunders reported he looked forward to attending the forthcoming Armed Services Covenant Awards and had also been appointed as a reserve member of the Local Government Association's (LGA) Community Wellbeing Board.

The City Mayor noted this information.

- Q5. Councillor Mike McCusker welcomed the recent announcement regarding the proposals which would secure the continued operation of Boddan Lodge, Monton as a community venue for a further three years, particularly in terms of the Over 60's Club, who were based there. (*Previous Minute 6(a) - 17th July 2019*)

The City Mayor similarly welcomed this announcement and expressed thanks to the Eccles Ward councillors for the part they had played in developing the proposals and the positive outcome to this matter.

- Q6. Councillor Gina Reynolds, Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing, referred to the details of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent announcement and said this failed to provide the necessary finance in terms of adequately funding the provision of social care for older people, both nationally and locally. At the same time, the publication of the long awaited H.M. Government Adult Social Care Green Paper, which promised to provide long term and viable options in this regard, had been delayed once again.

Councillor Margaret Morris echoed these comments.

The City Mayor welcomed the comments of both members, which he endorsed and reiterated.

- Q7. Councillor Lewis Nelson paid tribute to the many and varied local groups and individuals whose activities benefited Irlam and its community. He also expressed good luck to Irlam FC in their forthcoming Emirates FA Cup Second Qualifying Round tie against York City FC.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments and similarly recognised the invaluable role local community groups played, which needed to be celebrated. He also added his own good luck to Irlam FC.

- Q8. Councillor Heather Fletcher expressed thanks to all who had been involved with staging the successful Big Day Out event at Salford Civic Centre on 14th September 2019.

The City Mayor extended similar thanks.

- Q9. Councillor Les Turner said he noted the City Mayor's comments with regard to the record and recent actions of H.M. Government, but said he did not feel the Labour Party currently provided a viable alternative.

Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor, commented the current Conservative administration and Prime Minister, appeared to no longer believe in the British Constitution and the principles of a parliamentary democracy and were embarking on a course which seemed only to serve their own personal and party political interests, not those of the Country and its citizens.

The City Mayor welcomed the comments of Councillor Merry. In response to Councillor Turner, he reiterated his belief the Labour Party represented the only political group who were in a position to take office with the necessary policies and fully costed proposals to meet the challenges the Country now faced.

Q10. Councillor Laura Edwards extended respective congratulations to Roe Green, Worsley and Walkden Cricket Clubs on their recent successful seasons.

The City Mayor expressed similar congratulations.

Q11. Councillor Ari Leitner commented, if the Labour Party and its members regarded themselves as best suited to take up the reins of government, why had they not supported a recent parliamentary vote calling for the holding of a general election, which would have given them the opportunity to realise that ambition?

The City Mayor noted this comment.

31. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET MEMBERS

The Ceremonial Mayor reminded members that questions to the City Mayor and Cabinet Members were not limited to being submitted at full meetings of Council and they could be made directly anytime, particularly if an urgent response was required.

Q1. Councillor Robert Sharpe expressed thanks to the local businesses who had recently provided support to North Walkden FC following vandalism to their facilities and asked whether similar assistance would be forthcoming in the future should the need arise.

Councillor Derek Antrobus, Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development, replied it would be dependent on the circumstances, but was confident a similar sense of community spirit would prevail.

Q2. In response to Councillor John Warmisham, Councillor Gina Reynolds, Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing, provided details of the support given to homeless people to ensure they had access to medical services and care.

Q3. Councillor Jim Cammell reminded members that World Suicide Prevention Day had been marked on 10th September, 2019 and World Mental Health Day would be held on 10th October, 2019. With this in mind, he asked what workplace based support Salford City Council offered for coping with mental health issues, to both employees and elected members, which Councillor Gina Reynolds, Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing, duly provided.

32. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY PANELS

Councillor Arnold Saunders referred to a recent decision taken by the City Mayor, regarding the designation of a Selective Landlord Licensing Scheme for Langworthy, Weaste and Seedley and sought clarification with regard to respective timings for the publication of this and an associated legal notice appearing in the local media. He suggested the latter seemed to overlook the decision was, at that time, still

potentially a matter which could have been called-in by the Growth and Prosperity Scrutiny Panel.

The Chief Executive said the matter would be investigated and a response provided direct to Councillor Saunders.

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

There were no questions or comments.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the updates submitted in relation to the recent activities of the following bodies, be noted:-

- Lowry Centre Trust
- Manchester Port Health Authority
- Salford Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Salix Parent Board

(2) THAT updates in relation to following bodies be submitted to the next meeting:-

- Working Class Movement Library
- North West Employers Organisation
- Salfordian Trust

A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Council 18 September 2019 Webcast](#)