

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

20 November, 2019

Meeting commenced: 9.30 a.m.
“ adjourned: 10.55 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, Michele Barnes, Barbara Bentham, Paula Boshell, Adrian Brocklehurst, Joshua Brooks, Tanya Burch, Jim Cammell, 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, David Lancaster, Ari Leitner, Kate Lewis, Mike McCusker, John Merry, John Mullen, Lewis Nelson, Gina Reynolds, Neil Reynolds, Brendan Ryan, Arnold Saunders, Les Turner, Madeline Wade, Ray Walker, Joan Walsh, John Walsh, Darren Ward, John Warmisham, Barry Warner, Colette Weir and Ronnie Wilson.

37. COUNCILLOR JOHN FERGUSON AND FORMER COUNCILLOR ANDY CHEETHAM

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect for Councillor John Ferguson and former Councillor Andy Cheetham, both of whom had sadly recently passed away.

The City Mayor extended his condolences and paid personal tributes, which were echoed by Councillor Les Turner, Councillor Laura Edwards, Councillor Sharmina August and Councillor Arnold Saunders.

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Samantha Bellamy, Bob Clarke, Stephen Coen, Jillian Collinson Peter Connor, Jim King, Sophia Linden, Ray Mashiter, Margaret Morris, Wilson Nkurinziza, Mike Pevitt, Robert Sharpe and Michael Wheeler.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

40. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 18th September and 30th October 2019 were approved as correct record.

41. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Richard Critchley submitted a petition on behalf of Walkden South residents, regarding proposals for the disposal of land at Holyoake Road, Walkden.

Councillor Ronnie Wilson submitted a petition on behalf of Weaste and Seedley residents, regarding proposals for the change of use of 55 Hayfield Road, Weaste and Seedley to a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

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

(Previous Minute 27 - 18 September 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 Michelle Barnes	<i>Labour Group vacancy</i>
Planning and Transportation Regulatory Panel	Councillor Mike McCusker	Councillor Laura Edwards

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.

43. SALFORD CITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION - AMENDMENTS

The City Solicitor submitted a report detailing proposed changes to Salford City Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED: THAT the changes to Salford City Council's Constitution, as detailed in the report now submitted, be approved.

44. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Returning Officer submitted a report detailing the review of parliamentary polling districts and polling places in Salford, which was required to be undertaken every five years, in accordance the Electoral Administration and Registration Act 2013 and Fixed Term Parliament Act 2011. The review also took into account the changes to

some of the City's ward boundaries, following the conclusion of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) Electoral Review of Salford.

Councillors Robin Garrido, David Lancaster and Arnold Saunders all expressed thanks to everyone who had been involved in undertaking the review.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the changes to polling districts and polling stations, as detailed in the report, be adopted.

(2). THAT the Chief Executive be requested to publish such notices and other documentation required by law, on completion of the review.

(3) THAT for the Parliamentary General Election taking place on 12th December 2019, the intention for the electoral register used, to be the one published for the existing scheme, with the revised register reflecting the new scheme, then being re-published on 1st January, or 1st February, 2020, be noted.

45. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

The Lead Member for Finance and Support Services submitted a report detailing treasury management activity in 2018/19, as required by the Local Government Act 2003.

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted.

46. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY MID YEAR REVIEW 2019/20

The Lead Member for Finance and Support Services submitted a report providing progress on the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20.

Councillor Robin Garrido, as Chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee, endorsed the contents of the report.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the report, be noted.

(2) THAT update to the prudential indicators, be approved.

47. DOING BUSES DIFFERENTLY: PROPOSED FRANCHISING SCHEME FOR GREATER MANCHESTER - CONSULTATION

The City Mayor, supported by Councillor Roger Jones, Executive Support for Transport, provided details of the consultation being undertaken by the Greater Manchester Combined authority (GMCA) on a proposed bus franchising scheme for the region and the draft Salford City Council response to this.

Councillor Heather Fletcher, Councillor John Merry, Councillor David Jolley, Councillor Lewis Nelson, Councillor Derek Antrobus and Councillor Laura Edwards all added their support to the proposed Salford City Council response to the GMCA

consultation and in doing so expressed personal observations on the failings of the existing deregulated system for bus services in Salford and Greater Manchester.

Councillor Les Turner indicated that the Conservative Party Group would be abstaining on any vote on this matter, so not actively endorsing the draft response of the City Council as now presented and instead making their own collective representations to the GMCA consultation. Councillor Robin Garrido, Councillor Karen Garrido and Councillor Ari Leitner all added their support to this approach, also respectively highlighting the merits of the current deregulated system and how it could be improved.

RESOLVED: THAT the draft Salford City Council response to the GMCA consultation on a proposed bus franchising scheme for Greater Manchester, as now submitted, be approved.

48. STATEMENT OF THE CITY MAYOR

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

- (a) Acts of remembrance had been held across Salford on 10th and 11th November 2019, to mark the end of the First World War in 1918. It was important that this act of reflection, for those who had fallen in that conflict and subsequent ones, continued to be observed. Unfortunately the service at Eccles Cenotaph had been disrupted by the disrespectful actions of one individual.
- (b) This meeting was taking place against the backdrop of a General Election, with the United Kingdom (UK) in a state of decline, with its infrastructure under extremes pressure in terms of transport, housing, hospitals, prisons and local authorities. H.M. Government's policies of austerity had contributed to this, with the World Economic Forum ranking the UK towards the bottom of the table on infrastructure of the G7 nations and globally 24th. The country's economy was heavily dependent on low paid, unsecure, part time contract jobs, with H.M Government failing to plan and invest in domestic industry. This, on the eve of Brexit, made the UK, more isolated, dependent on world markets and reliant on other countries for food, manufactured goods and energy. The Labour Party provided an alternative to this, with a planned and costed programme of investments in the UK's infrastructure.
- (c) Local government funding continued to be the subject of arbitrary grants for certain towns and regions, but not others. The £3.6b allocated from H.M. Government's Town Fund was an example of this, which seemed to favour relatively affluent areas, rather than those with the highest levels of deprivation and need.
- (d) Over the weekend of 16th and 17th November 2019, as Chair of the Greater Manchester High Rise Taskforce, he had spent time with firefighters, members of other emergency services and partners in Bolton, following a fire in student accommodation known as the Cube. He paid tribute to all these agencies, members of the public, together with Bolton University and Bolton MBC for their swift response and follow up to the incident, to ensure the safety and welfare of the students who

had been affected. Investigations would now take place to determine the cause of the fire.

- (e) It had now been almost 2½ years since the Grenfell Tower fire, which had claimed the lives of 72 people, with a further 70 suffering injuries. Following this tragedy, the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety had effectively rendered the current regulatory system, with regard to the use of building materials, not fit for purpose, but H.M. Government continued to procrastinate and not introduce the necessary legislation required to overhaul the current high rise fire safety system. At the same time, the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) would see its budget reduced by £12.8m over the next 3 years. It was now necessary for H.M. Government to re-evaluate its priorities, to provide and fund a comprehensive and coherent response to the removal and replacement of all non-compliant types of cladding on buildings.
- (f) The annual Winter pressures on the NHS (National Health Service) were already starting to have a negative impact on the effective provision of health care and were, in part, a symptom of years of inadequate funding.
- (g) The problem of homelessness continued to grow, with hundreds of people across Greater Manchester having to be placed in temporary accommodation. At the same time, the National Audit Office had reported that none of the 200,000 starter homes promised by H.M. Government in 2014, had yet to be completed.
- (h) Dérive Salford, the development company wholly owned by Salford City Council, had recently been officially launched, with the creation of 20 homes in Charlestown for social rent, or which were truly affordable. These would be followed by hundreds more similar properties anticipated to be delivered in forthcoming years. Both Salix and Great Places housing associations were also making an impact in the same vein, with the creation of new social rented properties of their own. However, lack of resources, current planning legislation and regulation, all prevented the building of homes on the scale required. Similarly the same planning legislation, favoured private developers, rather than addressing the housing requirements and demands of the individual areas concerned.
- (i) Salford had recently been recognised as the UK's first Living Wage City. At the same time, the City Council were continuing to invest in Salford's growth, through building the business rate base, together with creating opportunities for start up and small businesses.
- (j) Salford City Council continued to progress the green agenda, with £4m invested in carbon reduction schemes. This would go towards meeting the Greater Manchester 2038 target for carbon neutrality. These efforts had contributed to the Friends of the Earth declaring Salford City Council the most climate friendly local authority in the North West of England.

49. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE CITY MAYOR

- Q1. Councillor Les Turner provided statistical data, which he said demonstrated the UK's economy was thriving and contrary to the assessment made by the City Mayor (see

Minute 48(b)).

The City Mayor suggested the statistics provided by Councillor Turner were selective and did not provide a comprehensive, or accurate, picture of the nation's economic health, or the realities of everyday life behind that.

Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, concurred with the City Mayor's earlier comments with regard to the state of the UK economy. He commented that every area of public service was under strain and a result of H.M. Government's austerity policies over the past 10 years and the failings of neo-liberalism.

Councillor Kate Lewis referred to recent figures published by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) which indicated the UK economy was at the lowest level of growth for 10 years.

Councillor Jane Hamilton commented that, the apparently positive UK economic and employment figures failed to reflect many people were having to do multiple zero hour contract jobs and the mental strain this often created.

The City Mayor welcomed the respective comments of Councillors Hinds, Lewis and Hamilton, which he endorsed.

Councillor Robin Garrido commented that, H.M. Government had a proven and successful track record in terms of managing the UK's economy, the benefits of which were only now being realised. He added that many of the problems nationally and locally, which had prevented this happening sooner, were the result of the actions of the previous Labour government.

The City Mayor noted these comments, but said they failed to acknowledge the significant impact the global financial crisis, experienced in 2007 to 2008, had played in creating the economic landscape which existed at the start of the decade.

- Q2. Councillor Tracy Kelly, Lead Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods, endorsed the comments made by the City Mayor with regard to the creation of affordable and housing and for social rent (*see Minute 48(h)*).

The City Mayor welcomed these comments.

Councillor Karen Garrido said ForViva had been omitted from the list of local housing agencies who were at the forefront of providing social and affordable accommodation. Separately, she also suggested that the vacant Lancastrian Hall, Swinton, be considered as temporary accommodation for homeless people.

The City Mayor acknowledged the impact of ForViva as a social housing provider.

- Q3. Councillor Laura Edwards referred to a racially motivated attack which had been suffered by a former school colleague and their family. She said, while all forms of racism were abhorrent and sadly a continuing problem in Salford, the way the local

community had rallied around to support the family concerned, went some way to redressing the balance and restoring faith in human nature.

The City Mayor echoed similar disgust at this incident and said racism and the hate crimes which arose from it, had no place in Salford.

- Q4. Councillor Heather Fletcher concurred with the City Mayor with regard to the importance of the recent acts of remembrance (*see Minute 48(a)*), but said there was also a need to ensure surviving military veterans had the necessary support available to them in civilian life.

The City Mayor endorsed these comments and drew attention to Salford City Council's adoption of the Armed Forces Covenant and its associated work with the University of Salford, in providing support for former members of the military.

- Q5. Councillor Lewis Nelson referred to the recent sad death of Mike "Budgie" Benson, a popular local figure and activist in the Irlam and Cadishead community and who would be greatly missed.

The City Mayor extended condolences and said it was the many similar community spirited individuals who demonstrated the Spirit of Salford.

- Q6. Councillor Robin Garrido commented that, the positive impression and service provided by the Salford Royal NHS Trust, was indicative of the investment and value placed on the NHS generally, by H.M. Government.

The City Mayor noted these comments but all stressed the success of the Salford Royal NHS Trust was largely dependent on its dedicated and hard working staff.

Councillor Karen Garrido commented that, contrary to suggestions otherwise, the NHS was not for sale, nor did this form part of the Conservative Party manifesto.

The City Mayor noted these comments.

- Q7. Councillor Karen Garrido asked if the City Council would consider the introduction of a local publicity campaign to raise awareness and prevent the misuse of fireworks, particularly in the run up to Bonfire Night.

Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety, made reference to the associated RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) campaign which aimed to minimise the distress the use of fireworks caused pets and other animals. He also suggested there was a possible need to look at increased restrictions on the sale of fireworks, but this was something which had to be taken up at a national level and would necessitate the introduction of new legislation.

The City Mayor said these were all issues which could be investigated.

- Q8. Councillor Karen Garrido referred to the “Spirit of Salford” logos which had been painted on the road surface of Chorley Road, Swinton, directly opposite Salford Civic Centre.

(Post meeting note: The logos had been painted on the road surface for the Tour of Britain cycling event, the final stage of which had been held in Greater Manchester and Salford on 14th September, 2019. The logos, which promoted the City, were visible during the aerial television coverage of this international event and would degrade naturally over the next few months.)

- Q9. Councillor Sharmina August expressed concerns at alleged remarks made by a fellow councillor on social media, with regard to the role of female elected members and parenting.

The City Mayor echoed these concerns and said there should be no barriers to becoming an elected member of Salford City Council and its composition should be as diverse and inclusive as possible and truly reflective of the communities and citizens it represented.

50. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET MEMBERS

- Q1. Councillor Ray Walker referred to the growing dependency on food banks and with suggestions the continued operation of those in Salford was under threat, asked what was being done to prevent this.

Councillor Paula Boshell said food banks sadly played a vital role in many people’s lives and as such Salford City Council would provide any support it could to ensure their continued operation.

- Q2. In response to Councillor Robin Garrido; Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor, provided an update in relation to the removal and replacement of cladding at residential tower blocks in Pendleton. He referred to the procrastination of H.M. Government in providing appropriate guidance, being the chief factor in preventing a swift resolution to this matter, but progress was now being made and Salford City Council would continue to work with the residents affected. *(see also Minute 48(e)).*

(At this point in proceedings (12.20 p.m.), the Ceremonial Mayor 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.)

- Q3. Councillor Les Turner asked if he could be provided with the business case for the Embankment development, Greengate. Councillor Bill Hinds said he would ensure this request was responded to.

- Q4. Councillor Ari Leitner suggested, with the increased level of high rise accommodation in Salford, it was now appropriate for the City Council to review its existing recycling and refuse collection policies for domestic premises.

Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety, replied that the Council's current policies and regimes in this regard had been extremely successful, though these were subject to periodic review and improvements made whenever necessary.

- Q5. Councillor Stephen Hesling sought feedback on the two recent Salford City Council organised bonfire and firework displays, which had been held in the City.

Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety, said both events had been successful and well attended. They, in conjunction with the annual Operation Treacle with Greater Manchester Police, had the added benefit of reducing the number of anti social incidents involving bonfires and fireworks which occurred at this time of year. He concluded by expressing thanks to all staff who had been involved with organising the events. (*see also Minute 49 Q7*).

- Q6. Councillor Robin Garrido, referred to the amendments to the Salford City Council's Constitution (*see Minute 43*), suggesting these had resulted in an increase in the number of powers now delegated to officers in terms of determining planning matters.

Councillor Derek Antrobus, Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development, replied there had been no such extension of delegated powers. He added that, while officers, as previously, retained authority to determine certain minor planning matters, elected members could always request these were instead referred to the Planning and Transportation Regulatory Panel for consideration.

- Q7. In response to Councillor Arnold Saunders; Councillor Gina Reynolds, Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing, provided details of the support for coping with mental health issues, Salford City Council offered to both, employees and elected members.

51. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY PANELS

RESOLVED: THAT this item be deferred to the next meeting to be held on 15th January 2020.

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

RESOLVED: (1) THAT this item be deferred to the next meeting to be held on 15th January 2020.

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

- Centre for Local Economic Strategies
- General Assembly for the University of Manchester
- ForHousing Board
- Salfordian Trust+
- Salford Unemployed Community Resource Centre+

+ *No written reports were submitted in relation to these two bodies, instead Councillor Bill Hinds indicated he would be willing to provide a response to any questions on their respective activities.*

A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Council 20 November 2019 Webcast](#)