

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

15 July, 2020

Meeting commenced: 9.35 a.m.
“ ended: 12.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Charlie McIntyre - Ceremonial Mayor and Chair

Mr Paul Dennett - City Mayor

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

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BUSINESS

The Ceremonial Mayor asked all present to join him in minute's silence in respect of former councillor Audrey Judge, who had sadly recently passed away and had represented the Walkden South ward between 1999 and 2003.

The City Mayor extended his condolences to Audrey's family and friends and paid a personal tribute, both of which were echoed by other elected members.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Michele Barnes, Gina Reynolds and Darren Ward.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th June, 2020 were approved as correct record.

Councillor Arnold Saunders referred to his previous suggestion of, while Covid-19 social distancing restrictions were in force, for meetings of Council taking a hybrid

form, with some elected members attending in person in the Council Chamber at Salford Civic Centre and remainder taking part in proceedings remotely.

Councillor Arnold Saunders sought clarification as to the archiving and retention of past webcasts and minutes of Council meetings, together with their availability on the Salford City Council website. The City Solicitor said this matter would be investigated and a response provided.

5. APPOINTMENT OF POLITICAL ASSISTANTS
(Previous Minute 86 - 17 June 2020)

The City Solicitor reported this matter had been previously considered and determined at the meeting held on 17 June 2020 and if elected members now wished to revisit it and their previous decision, in accordance with the Salford City Council Constitution this would require the City Council to suspend Rule 17 of the Interim Council Procedure Rules.

Councillor Gillian Collinson, Councillor Karen Garrido and Councillor Arnold Saunders all commented while they accepted the Salford City Council Constitution allowed for the suspension of Rule 17, on this occasion they believed it was being misused and for purely party political purposes.

The City Mayor and Councillor John Merry, replied when the matter had been previously considered on 17 June 2020, elected members had been advised the appointment of political assistants was a statutory entitlement of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, irrespective of any objections raised at a local level. This was not the case and local authorities were required to formally approve, or reject, the creation and appointment to such posts. The suspension of Rule 17 would now enable the matter to be revisited and allow elected members to consider it with full knowledge of the powers and options available to them.

A motion was then moved and seconded to suspend Rule 17 to allow the item to be reconsidered, which following a roll call vote, the City Solicitor declared carried and it was:

RESOLVED: (1) THAT in accordance with the Salford City Council Constitution, the City Council suspends Rule 17 in Part 4 Section A (Standing Orders) pursuant to Rule 16.1(n) in the said section, to allow a decision of the Council made within the last 6 months to be changed, namely that taken on 17 June 2020 relating to the appointment of political assistants, as defined in section 9 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The Chief Executive submitted a report detailing the legislative background to the posts of political assistants in local authorities, together with the scope of the role and constitutional changes necessary to proceed with such appointments at Salford City Council.

Councillor Les Turner said the Conservative Group were seeking only similar support to which was currently available to the City Mayor and the Labour Group and this would not put the latter at a disadvantage. The City Mayor expressed concern at the

additional strain the creation of such post would have on the City Council's budget. He also clarified his own assistant was a post which had been created under the Local Authorities (Elected Mayor and Mayor's Assistant) (England) Regulations 2002 and this was different to the post of a political assistant which was now being considered and as defined in Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

After which a motion was moved for a vote to be taken on the recommendations contained in the report, which following a roll call vote, the City Solicitor declared carried. A further roll call vote was then taken, which the City Solicitor declared carried and it was:

RESOLVED: (2) THAT Council revoke the decision made on 17 June 2020 (see previous Minute 86(1)) and now reject the principle of establishing and appointing to political assistant posts within the framework of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

6. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

No petitions, or communications, were submitted.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS 2020/21
(Previous Minute 82 - 15 June 2020)

Details were submitted of the following amendments to the memberships of committees and panels for the Municipal Year 2019/20:

Committee Panel	New Member/ Amendment	Replacing
Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Karen Garrido	<i>Conservative Group vacancy</i>
	Councillor Jane Hamilton	<i>Labour Group vacancy</i>
Planning and Transportation Regulatory Panel	Councillor John Warmisham	<i>Labour Group vacancy</i>

RESOLVED: THAT the amendments to the memberships of the committees and panels for the Municipal Year 2019/20, as detailed above, be noted.

8. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2020/21

Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services (including Workforce and Industrial Relations), submitted a report detailing the Pay Policy Statement which set out Salford City Council's approach to pay policy, in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. In addition, the Equality Act 2010

(Specific Duties and Public Authorities' Regulations 2017) placed a requirement on public sector employers to publish information relating to the gender pay gap. The report also contained a Salford City Council specific analysis, including reduction of 2.1% in the mean gender pay gap and 5.3% in the median gender pay gap, together with associated actions taken over the last 12 months.

RESOLVED: THAT Salford City Council Pay Policy Statement 2019/20 be approved.

9. SREBRENICA

Members all joined in a moment of silent reflection in remembrance of the victims of the Srebrenica Massacre which had occurred in July 1995 during the Bosnian War.

The City Mayor expressed his own personal thoughts on the Srebrenica Massacre and the importance of this act of remembrance.

10. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

(a) Islamophobia Definition

Councillor Sharmina August moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Heather Fletcher.

Salford has a strong history of promoting cohesion and welcoming people from all over the world. Its residents have always united and supported each other in the fight against racism and discrimination in all its forms. Salford City Council therefore welcomes, endorses and adopts the working APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) definition of Islamophobia, including all of its examples in full cited as follows:

"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."

Contemporary examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in encounters between religions and non-religions in the public sphere could, considering the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

• Calling for, aiding, instigating or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims in the name of a racist/fascist ideology, or an extremist view of religion.

• Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonising, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as such, or of Muslims as a collective group, such as, especially but not exclusively, conspiracies about Muslim entryism in politics, government or other societal institutions; the myth of Muslim identity having a unique propensity for terrorism and claims of a demographic 'threat' posed by Muslims or of a 'Muslim takeover'.

• Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.

- ***Accusing Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.***
- ***Accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to the 'Ummah' (transnational Muslim community) or to their countries of origin, or to the alleged priorities of Muslims worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.***
- ***Denying Muslim populations, the right to self-determination e.g., by claiming that the existence of an independent Palestine or Kashmir is a terrorist endeavour.***
- ***Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded of any other groups in society, eg loyalty tests.***
- ***Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia.***
- ***Holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of any Muslim majority state, whether secular or constitutionally Islamic.***

This motion asks that Salford City Council:

- 1. Write to government ministers asking them to listen to Muslim communities and the cross-party group of MPs and peers and to adopt this definition of Islamophobia which classifies discrimination against Muslims as a form of racism.***
- 2. Continue to prioritise tackling hate crime and Islamophobia in partnership. That Salford City Council works with partners, especially Greater Manchester Police, on a rolling basis, and will now co-ordinate future actions in line with this definition of Islamophobia for all Muslims.***

Councillor Sharmina August and Councillor Heather Fletcher both spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillors Bill Hinds, John Mullen, Jim Cammell, John Merry, Mike Pevitt, Damian Bailey, Margaret Morris, Lewis Nelson and Laura Edwards and the City Mayor all added their own support for the motion.

Councillor Les Turner said while the motion was well intentioned, its current wording prevented the Conservative Group giving it their support and they would be voting against it. Councillors Arnold Saunders, Karen Garrido and Robin Garrido echoed these comments and stressed although they could not support this particular motion in its current form, the Conservative Group rejected all forms of racism and were committed to tackling it. Councillor Robin Garrido suggested the motion as submitted be withdrawn and that the Labour and Conservative Groups work together to draft one with the same intent, but the wording of which was acceptable to both.

Councillor Sharmina August expressed disappointment at the stance taken by the Conservative Group and said the concerns regarding the wording of the motion, particularly apparent allegations H.M Government's security services had made in terms of its impact in tackling terrorism, were unfounded. These sentiments were echoed by other members of the Labour Group.

A roll call vote was then taken, which the City Solicitor declared carried and it was:

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

(b) Members Code of Conduct

Councillor Les Turner moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Arnold Saunders.

This council reaffirms its determination to promote and maintain its high standard of conduct for Members and Co-opted Members and requests the Monitoring Officer to arrange suitable training under the Code adopted by the Council for all Elected Members to commence as soon as possible.

Councillor Les Turner and Councillor Arnold Saunders both spoke in favour of the motion.

The City Solicitor advised that a comprehensive training package on the Salford City Council Code of Conduct and Social Media was planned which all elected members would be required to undertake.

A roll call vote was then taken, which the City Solicitor declared carried and it was:

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

11. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE DEPUTY CITY MAYOR AND LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

(At this point in proceedings, the Ceremonial Mayor, reported that Councillor John Merry had to attend another appointment and therefore to allow questions to be asked of him in his capacity as Deputy City Mayor, Lead Member for Children's and Young People's Services and on behalf of the Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing, in the absence of Councillor Gina Reynolds, in accordance with Part 4 Rules of Procedure, Section A, Rule 13.3 of the Salford City Council Constitution, sought approval to change the order of the business, by moving that element of item 12 to this point in proceedings, which was duly agreed)

Q1. Councillor Karen Garrido asked whether additional accommodation could be made to schools to enable them to reopen at a swifter pace and ensure social distancing requirements were observed.

Councillor John Merry replied all options would be considered, but these had to be the subject of a comprehensive risk assessment process as the health and safety of both pupils and staff remained the priority.

Q2. Councillor Ari Leitner asked whether all schools would be open by the start of term in September.

Councillor John Merry replied while this remained the aim, it could only be achieved if the health and safety of pupils and staff could be assured.

12. STATEMENT OF THE CITY MAYOR

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

- (a) The impact of the Covid-19 emergency, which was now entering its fifth month, particularly in Salford and the City Council's response to it, in which the following key issues were highlighted:
- Need for a comprehensive national testing regime.
 - Number of deaths and infection rates. Salford had the lowest infection rate in Greater Manchester and was in line with national averages in this regard.
 - While lockdown restrictions were being relaxed, there remained a need to be vigilant to prevent a future spike in cases and the resulting necessity to continue to observe current social distancing regulations and fully assess the relevant H.M. Government guidance. Working from home if possible, wearing of face coverings and washing of hands were all key elements of this, for which their promotion and adoption was encouraged.
 - Salford's Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan had been published on 1 July 2020. [Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan](#)
 - Local testing plans and the adoption of a robust track and trace approach.
 - Work with and support for care homes in Salford.
 - Phased re-opening of schools in Salford since 1 June 2020.
 - Salford Community Leisure (SCL) programme of activities for young people during summer months.
 - Support to local businesses through the delivery of H.M. Government grant funding totalling £47.4m including the following, for which the Council had made additional resources available to ensure delivery to those who were eligible:
 - Business Rates discounts
 - Small Business Grant Fund
 - Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund
 - Support and guidance provided to the local charity sector.
- (b) The reintroduction of localised social distancing measures in Leicester was in part, the result of the lack of up to date information and guidance being provided by H.M. Government to local Directors of Public Health, including Salford's. This failure had hampered the response provided by local authorities and prevented them from taking appropriate prompt mitigating action. Similar issues and consequences were being experienced in providing test results and the real time sharing of detailed and

comprehensive data. Representations on behalf of Salford City council had been made to H.M Government highlighting these issues and seeking immediate action.

- (c) Reference was made to the Prime Minister's recent comments claiming some care homes had been negligent and not followed procedures to protect residents and staff from Coronavirus. Such suggestions were disgraceful and failed to acknowledge the failings of H.M. Government's official guidance, which had resulted in 25,000 people being transferred from hospitals to care homes without being tested for the Coronavirus in the early days of the emergency.
- (d) Salford's many art and cultural institutions were central to the life of its residents and communities and it was hoped they would benefit from H.M Government's recently announced £1.57b support package to help the nations arts, culture and heritage industry against the impact of the Covid-19 emergency.
- (e) A tribute was paid to Chris Findley who had recently retired after over 30 years of service to Salford, chiefly and most recently as the Head of Planning. Chris, whose knowledge and expertise would be greatly missed, was wished a long and happy retirement. James Shuttleworth, who was taking over the reins from Chris as the new Head of Planning, was welcomed to Salford City Council. Councillor Karen Garrido echoed the sentiments expressed about Chris Findley.

(At this point in proceedings (12.15 p.m.), the Ceremonial Mayor, in accordance with Part 4 Rules of Procedure, Section A, Rule 12 of the Salford City Council Constitution, asked whether members wished to extend the meeting beyond the regular finish time of 12.30 p.m. It was duly agreed there should be such an extension and for the meeting to now conclude at 12.45 pm.)

13. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE CITY MAYOR

- Q1. Councillor Karen Garrido expressed concerns at the tone of some of the City Mayor's statement, which she suggested were overtly and unnecessarily party political. She commented these were unprecedented and challenging times and the emphasis should instead be placed on the magnificent efforts both locally and nationally, including the actions of H.M Government and recognise the benefits these had brought about in mitigating the impact of the Covid-19 emergency. She paid particular tribute to Muna Aziz, Salford's Director of Public Health, Salford City Council staff and the many volunteers, both groups and individuals, across the City, who had ensured services continued to operate and provide vital support to those who needed it.

The City Mayor noted the alleged partisan nature of his statement, but said he felt any criticism he had levelled at H.M. Government had been measured and justified. He endorsed the thanks Councillor Garrido had extended to various groups and individuals and said their actions and dedication, along with those of many others, demonstrated the Spirit of Salford.

- Q2. Councillor Arnold Saunders said he had recently taken part in a LGA (Local Government Association) event and said the experiences of colleagues from many other local authorities, where during the Covid-19 emergency they felt their role as elected members and local representatives had been diminished, this had happily not

been the case at Salford City Council, where councillors had continued to have a full and active role.

The City Mayor noted these comments.

- Q3. Councillor Arnold Saunders referred to the City Mayor's comments with regard to H.M. Government failing to share data with local authorities and suggested while this was important, in some cases this information may have a more national focus and therefore not have relevance, nor value, to individual local areas.

The City Mayor noted these comments, but reiterated his earlier statement asking H.M Government to share current, accurate and relevant data with local authorities was an essential requirement.

- Q4. Councillor Ari Leitner noted and welcomed the support, financial and otherwise, which had been provided to local businesses, but this had not included mobile ones, or those where individuals operated for home and asked if similar assistance could be given to them.

The City Mayor noted these comments and said it was an issue which was being looked at, but within the constraints of the financial resources available to the City Council.

- Q5. Councillor Bill Hinds welcomed the City Mayor's statement and while the benefits of certain actions of H.M Government were acknowledged Salford City Council had a duty to challenge them and hold them to account when they had failed.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he endorsed.

- Q6. Councillor Mike Pevitt extended thanks to all Salford City Council officers for their recent efforts in ensuring vital services were maintained. He added that while the various financial support H.M Government had made available during the Covid-19 emergency, this would inevitably impact on the national debt, but hoped it would not mean a return to a period of austerity for public services.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments and shared Councillor Pevitt's concerns and similarly hoped this would not result in increased financial constraints being placed on the City Council and the inescapable negative impact this would have on the people of Salford, particularly its most vulnerable.

(At this point in proceedings (12.45 p.m.), as the agreed extension of 15 minutes to proceedings had now been reached, the Ceremonial Mayor declared the meeting closed and indicated all outstanding items, as detailed below, unless otherwise stated, would be deferred to the next meeting on 16th September 2020.)

14. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET MEMBERS

(Questions to the Deputy City Mayor, Lead Member for Children's and Young People's Services and Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing had been dealt with earlier in proceedings (see Minute 11))

RESOLVED: THAT this item be deferred to the next meeting to be held on 16th September 2020.

15. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY PANELS

RESOLVED: THAT this item be deferred to the next meeting to be held on 16th September 2020.

16. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND 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 16th September 2020.

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

- Windsor and Albion Co-operative
- ForHousing Board
- Stadium Joint Venture Company

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