

## SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

16 September, 2020

Meeting commenced: 9.30 a.m.  
“ adjourned: 11.00 a.m.  
“ re-convened: 11.10 a.m.  
“ ended: 12.25 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Charlie McIntyre - Ceremonial Mayor and Chair

Mr Paul Dennett - City Mayor

Councillors Derek Antrobus, Sharmina August, Damian Bailey, Michele Barnes, Samantha Bellamy, Barbara Bentham, Paula Boshell, Adrian Brocklehurst, Joshua Brooks, Tanya Burch, Jim Cammell, Bob Clarke, Stephen Coen, Jillian Collinson, 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, John Merry, Margaret Morris, John Mullen, Lewis Nelson, Wilson Nkurunziza, Mike Pevitt, Gina Reynolds, Neil Reynolds, Arnold Saunders, Robert Sharpe Les Turner, Madeline Wade, Ray Walker, Joan Walsh, John Walsh, Darren Ward, Barry Warner, Michael Wheeler and Ronnie Wilson.

### 17. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BUSINESS

There were no announcements or special business.

### 18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Richard Critchley, Mike McCusker, Ray Mashiter, John Warmisham, and Colette Weir.

### 19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 20. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 were approved as correct record.

### 21. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor John Mullen submitted a petition on behalf of Barton residents, regarding a proposed housing development on land to the rear of 40-48 Peel Green Road, Barton and had most recently been utilised as a bowling green for the adjacent Rock House public house.

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

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

| <b>Committee Panel</b>    | <b>New Member/<br/>Amendment</b> | <b>Replacing</b>                |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Children's Scrutiny Panel | Councillor Joshua Brooks         | <i>Councillor Jane Hamilton</i> |
|                           | Councillor Laura Edwards         | <i>Labour Group vacancy</i>     |
|                           | Councillor Colette Weir          | <i>Labour Group vacancy</i>     |

RESOLVED: THAT the amendments to the memberships of the Children's Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2019/20, as detailed above, be noted.

23. SENIOR MANAGER REMUNERATION

Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, submitted a report indicating the Workforce Panel had established an appointment panel and agreed the approach and process for the recruitment, selection and appointment to the post of Chief Executive, following the planned retirement of the current post holder in January 2021.

In line with the Salford City Council Constitution, the Council made determinations in relation to the remuneration of posts where it was above £100,000 per annum. As the salary range for the Chief Executive exceeded that level, Council needed to be given the opportunity to consider and give approval to the remuneration package before it was offered in respect of a new appointment.

RESOLVED: THAT approval be given to the remuneration level for the post of Chief Executive as agreed by the Workforce Panel on 11 August 2020.

24. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL OUTTURN 2019/20

Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, submitted a report detailing treasury management activity in 2019/20.

Councillor Robin Garrido, as Chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee, endorsed the contents of the report, but raised the following points:

- Investment income was lower than budgeted because of the reduction in interest rates, and therefore would it have been prudent to have estimated rates on the lower side for investment income and on the higher side in relation to borrowings?

- Why was the 2019/20 budget for borrowings considerably higher than the previous year?
- Was the capital financing requirement likely to rise this year because of the impact of Covid-19, or would additional funding provided by H.M. Government offset the need for this?
- Would the annual PFI (private finance initiative) payment of £5.5m be in addition to the leasing payments made by schools and other PFI's?
- What was the amount of the capital borrowing need funded from reserves, which reserves and had it been paid back?

Councillor Bill Hinds said he would respond directly to Councillor Garrido on the matters raised.

RESOLVED: THAT the report and the outturn position and the performance of Treasury Management during 2019/20, be noted.

## 25. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The City Solicitor submitted a report which provided details of the activities of the Standards Committee for the period 1 March 2019 to 30 June 2020. It was indicated the original intention had been to present the report to the meeting of Council on 18 March, but this had not been possible until now, due to the Covid-19 emergency and the timespan of its contents had been extended accordingly.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the report and the work undertaken by the Standards Committee and by the Council's Monitoring Officer and her staff to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by elected and co-opted members, be noted.

(2) THAT the assurance provided by the report, as to how the authority is fulfilling its statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct, be noted.

## 26. NOTICE OF MOTION

### Planning for the Future White Paper

The City Mayor moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Derek Antrobus.

#### ***This Council notes that:***

- ***the latest published figure for unbuilt dwellings with planning permission in Salford was 20,512 dwellings;***
- ***the delivery of significantly more dwellings in each of the last four years in Salford than the target - 3,344 in last published data, 92% of which are on brownfield sites;***
- ***the conscientious approach to ensuring future housing land supply through the local plan process.***
- ***the securing of £26.6 million through s106 agreements to invest in making development more acceptable;***

- ***the delivery of 2,028 affordable homes - 18% of the Greater Manchester total and the second highest in the conurbation.***

***This Council recognises that:***

- ***the underlying assumption of the Government White Paper Planning for the Future is the housing shortage is due to the failure of the planning system is demonstrably wrong;***
- ***the White Paper's 'zoning, proposals will remove power from communities and local people to influence individual developments;***
- ***the White Paper's proposal to introduce a national Infrastructure Levy will benefit wealthier parts of the country and remove the link between a development and the necessary physical and social infrastructure that mitigates its impact(s);***
- ***the White Paper is silent on how it will tackle the current viability system, which often allows developers to negotiate away their commitments to affordable housing and seemingly offers nothing to mandate that affordable housing should be a non-negotiable requirement that impacts how land is valued and sold, favouring that the national infrastructure levy on developers be discounted if affordable homes are delivered.***

***Therefore, this Council calls on the Government to:***

- ***withdraw the undemocratic proposals which remove citizens' rights to influence individual developments;***
- ***address the market failure in housing through a sustained programme of significant public investment in affordable social-rented homes;***
- ***ensure that landowners and developers are no longer able to avoid obligations by limiting the uplift in value that goes to private profit rather than public benefit.***

The City Mayor and Councillor Derek Antrobus both spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor John Merry added his own support for the motion.

Councillors Karen Garrido, Arnold Saunders and Robin Garrido all expressed concerns with the motion and said this did not provide elected members with the opportunity for them to fully debate the contents and implication of the Planning for the Future White Paper and respond accordingly and in the correct manner to H.M. Government on it.

A roll call vote was then taken, which the Senior Democratic Services Officer declared carried and it was:

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

## **27. 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 seventh month, particularly in Salford and the City Council's response to it, in which the following key issues were highlighted:
- Infection rates were rising across Salford and in all age groups, with 87 positive cases per 100,000 of the local population recorded for the week ending 8 September 2020.
  - There had also been an increase in the number of reported care home cases.
  - Covid-19 risk assessments had been undertaken for schools and care home in Salford as well as for the imminent return of university students to the City.
  - The impact on the local economy, particularly the hospitality and leisure industries.
  - The shortcomings of the current national track and trace scheme and its management by H.M Government were obvious. This, together with the failure to share relevant information with local authorities on a real time basis was scandalous.
  - An effective, comprehensive, robust and locally led community track and trace system remained the best way to slow the rate of infection, coupled with appropriate community engagement and enforcement action to break the chain of infection.
  - Advice and support had been provided to businesses which were re-opening, or continuing to operate, as well as ensuring they did so safely and observed current social distancing regulations.
  - Salford City Council's and that of partner agencies response to the pandemic, along with that of local residents was wide reaching and exemplary.
  - Thanks were extended to the support of representatives from the local Jewish community, who had helped with arrangements to discourage large groups of people gathering to mark the recent traditional Taschlich ritual and ensure social distancing regulations were observed.
- (b) The recent ruling by the Court of Appeal to uphold the decision of Salford City Council refusing a planning application to build houses at Broadoak Farm, Worsley. This was a major victory which preserved an important piece of greenspace in the City and thanks were extended to local residents, local elected members and Barbara Keeley, the local member of parliament, for their part in the successful outcome. This issue was particularly relevant in the context of the earlier consideration of the H.M. Government Planning for the Future White Paper (*see Minute 26*) and the importance of retaining local control over planning and development matters.
- (c) Associated with (b) above and enhancing local autonomy, was the need for the creation of affordable housing, which met the City's needs and was not led by the interests of developers. This issue had been highlighted in the recent BBC television documentary "Manctopia", in which the work of the City Council, particularly the Supported Housing Team had featured. Salford's independent social housing arm Dérive was committed to delivering a significant number of truly affordable homes across the City and had already made great advances in this direction. He extended thanks to Councillor Tracy Kelly in her capacity as Lead Member for Housing.
- (d) The continuing and long-term economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was likely to be serious on many levels, but particularly in terms of increased unemployment and

in the short-term with the imminent ending of the Coronavirus Job Retention (or Furlough) Scheme. This would individually and collectively create major challenges, which it was hoped the City Council, elected members and partners would come together for and tackle.

## 28. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE CITY MAYOR

- Q1. Councillor Robin Garrido sought the City Mayor's views on the decision of the Salford NHS CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) to evict a group of homeless people who had been occupying a vacant medical surgery in Eccles.

The City Mayor responded by commenting it was indefensible there were such homeless people who found their only option was to occupy vacant premises in this manner. In terms of this specific case, the decision to evict them had been taken by the CCG and was due health safety issues at the property and alternative accommodation had been offered to the persons concerned.

- Q2. Councillor Derek Antrobus added his support to the City Mayor's comments on the recent Court of Appeal decision in relation to the Broadoak Farm, Worsley planning application (see *Minute 27(b)*). He commented that the City Council had spent approximately £400,000 in fees for this successful outcome, but what should have been an unnecessary legal challenge and which demonstrated the failings of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Councillor Karen Garrido echoed the City Mayor's thanks for all those, particularly local residents, who had been involved in the campaign which had culminated in the favourable Court of Appeal decision. She also suggested the recovery of the City Council's legal fees should be pursued.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he endorsed and agreed that the possibility of making representations to H.M Government to recover the City Council's legal costs should be investigated.

- Q3. Councillor Bill Hinds expressed concerns at the rise in Covid-19 cases (see *Minute 27(a)*) and said it was something that everyone needed to play a part in combatting by observing social distancing regulations and general guidance on hygiene. In the wider context, he endorsed the City Mayor's concerns about the negative economic impact of the pandemic (see *Minute 27(d)*) both on the City Council and Salford itself, highlighting specifically the effect on the collection of council tax and the Job Retention Scheme, the latter of which, he suggested should be extended or, the subject of a more gradual withdrawal.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments.

- Q4. Councillor Arnold Saunders welcomed the City Mayor's thanks in relation to the arrangements for recent Jewish religious festivals (see *Minute 27(a)*) and which he believed had been successful in conveying to the local community the need for the restrictions that had been put in place this year for health and safety reasons, particularly the temporary closure of Clowes Park, Kersal, as well as, more importantly, ensuring they had been observed.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he endorsed.

- Q5. Councillor Karen Garrido expressed concerns at the number of care homes in Salford where Covid-19 cases had been reported and suggested this needed to be investigated both at a local and national level.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he endorsed.

- Q6. Councillor Tracy Kelly added her own thanks to the work of the Supported Housing Team (*see Minute 27(c)*) particularly their recent success in being awarded “The Frontline Team of the Year” and “The Support and Care Team of the Year” at the recent Housing Heroes Awards 2020. She commented on the continuing impact and extent of the national housing crisis, particularly in Salford, adding access to housing remained a fundamental human right and was one which Salford City Council was committed to ensuring was fulfilled.

Councillor Karen Garrido added her own thanks and congratulations to the Supported Housing Team.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he endorsed.

- Q7. Councillor John Merry added his own criticism of the failings of the national Covid-19 testing regime (*see Minute 27(a)*) and agreed that effective and comprehensive testing, coupled with a similar track and trace system, were fundamental to tackling the pandemic.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments, which he endorsed, reiterating the introduction of effective and comprehensive mass community testing was an essential first step to combatting Covid-19 and a return to normality.

## 29. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET MEMBERS

- Q1. Councillor Jillian Collinson sought details of the number of year groups in Salford schools, who had been sent home because of Covid-19 cases being identified amongst the pupils concerned. In addition, she asked for an update on the provision of free school meals for those eligible who had been sent home and homework to ensure continuity with their studies.

Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor and Lead Member for Children’s and Young People’s Services, said he would provide a response direct to Councillor Collinson on all these matters

- Q2. Councillor Michael Wheeler sought an update on the economic impact of Covid-19 on Salford’s most vulnerable residents, which Councillor Boshell, Lead Member for Anti-Poverty, Neighbourhoods, Financial Inclusion and Equalities, duly provided, highlighting in particular, the use of food banks, universal credit, Salford Assist and a request for H.M Government to consider an extension of the current Job Retention Scheme beyond October 2020.

- Q3. Councillor Arnold Saunders referred to recent reports of a series data breaches which had been recently experienced by a number of local authorities.

Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, said he was not aware of this being an issue as far as Salford City Council was concerned, but would investigate to confirm this was the case.

- Q4. Councillor Arnold Saunders referred to difficulties in contacting certain Salford City Council services using the call centre.

Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, said he would look into this matter.

- Q5. Councillor Ari Leitner referred to a number of recent firearms incidents in the Higher Broughton area of Salford.

Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety said the incidents were an obvious concern, but Greater Manchester Police (GMP) were investigating them and taking appropriate action, including ensuring the safety of local residents and providing reassurance to them, all of which had been the subject of a recent comprehensive briefing given to elected members.

- Q6. Councillor Lewis Nelson referred to a recent H.M. Government announcement proposing the creation of 29 lorry parks throughout the United Kingdom, with one possible site identified being in Salford and asked what powers Salford City Council would have in its location and operation.

Councillor Derek Antrobus, Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development, replied that the lorry parks were part of contingency planning to offset possible congestion and delays at ports following the United Kingdom leaving the EU (European Union) in January 2021. He added the location of the parks was a decision for H.M. Government and while he hoped the City Council would be consulted and have an influence, or even a veto, on any plans, he could not give any guarantees this would be the case.

- Q7. Councillor Laura Edwards referred to the demands placed on care workers, particularly during the current Covid-19 pandemic and the need for them to be appropriately financially recompensed. With this in mind, she asked whether any action was being taken with care home operators with premises in Salford, who were not taking advantage of the "The Salford Offer", which Salford City Council and the Salford NHS CCG had introduced and aimed in part, to protect local care workers, by providing financial support to care providers in exchange for guarantees they would make commitments designed to stop the spread of coronavirus in Salford.

Councillor Gina Reynolds, Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing, replied, that ensuring the welfare of care workers was a key objective of the City Council and while "The Salford Offer" went some way to addressing this, there was no requirement for care providers to take advantage of it, which regrettably some operating in Salford had not done, despite being encouraged to do so and being made aware of the benefits to both them and their employees.

Q8. Councillor John Mullen expressed thanks for the recent work of members of the Health Improvement Team in parks and other public spaces across Salford, promoting the use of face coverings, regular hand cleaning and other practical advice for preventing the spread of Covid-19.

Councillor Gina Reynolds, Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing, echoed these thanks.

30. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY PANELS

There were no questions, or comments.

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

Councillor Heather Fletcher and Councillor Damian Bailey expressed concerns about the recent decision of Northern Rail to reduce train services for the Swinton, Moorside and Walkden stations by approximately 50% and the negative impact this had on the local communities.

Councillor Roger Jones, Executive Support for Transport, said he was aware of the reduction in services, which although were apparently a temporary measure following a drop in passenger numbers during the Covid-19 pandemic, was something he shared the concerns of Councillors Bailey and Fletcher on. He gave a commitment, along with Councillor Barry Warner, to raise the issue, in their capacities as the City Council's representatives on the Greater Manchester Transport Committee and to ensure Northern Rail were called to account.

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

- Manchester Port Heath Authority
- North West Employers Organisation
- Salfordian Trust

*A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Council 16 September 2020 Webcast](#)*