

## SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

18 November, 2020

Meeting commenced: 9.30 a.m.  
“ adjourned: 10.50 a.m.  
“ re-convened: 11.00 a.m.  
“ ended: 12.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Charlie McIntyre - Ceremonial Mayor and Chair

Mr Paul Dennett - City Mayor

Councillors Derek Antrobus, Sharmina August, Damian Bailey, 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, 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, Sophia Linden, Mike McCusker, Ray Mashiter 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, John Warmisham, Barry Warner, Colette Weir and Ronnie Wilson.

### 37. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BUSINESS

There were no announcements or special business.

### 38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Samantha Bellamy, Paula Boshell and Kate Lewis.

### 39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ray Walker and Councillor Madeleine Wade declared interests in the item concerning the Working Class Movement Library (*see Minute 51*) in that they both had partners who were connected to the Library in an official capacity.

### 40. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 were approved as correct record.

### 41. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

No petitions, or communications, were submitted.

#### 42. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

The City Solicitor submitted a report seeking approval to the appointment of Independent Persons, which was a requirement Salford City Council had under the Localism Act 2011 as part of ensuring the high standards of conduct expected of its elected members were maintained and any complaints were thoroughly investigated and impartially dealt with.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the report be noted.

(2) THAT approval be given to the appointment of Ms. Donna Allen as Independent Person for Salford City Council for an initial term of four years.

(3) THAT thanks be extended to Mr. Jonathan Storey as outgoing Independent Person for his commitment to the role and assistance to the current and former Monitoring Officers in considering allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members.

(4) THAT approval be given to the continuation of the current appointment of Shazia Nazir and Caroline Wolfenden as Independent Persons for Salford City Council until such time as a new second Independent Person is recommended for appointment.

(5) THAT a further advertising and recruitment exercise for the role of Independent Person will be initiated to allow a recommendation to be presented for approval at a future meeting of full Council, be noted.

#### 43. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHAIR AND INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The City Solicitor submitted a report seeking approval to the appointment of an Independent Chair and Independent Member to the Standards Committee, who would have responsibility for ensuring compliance with Salford City Council's Code of Conduct as set out in its Constitution.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the report be noted.

(2) THAT approval be given to the appointment of Mr Jonathan Storey as Independent Chair of the Standards Committee for an initial term of four years.

(3) THAT thanks be extended to Ms. Nicole Jackson, as outgoing Independent Chair, for her commitment to the role and contribution to maintaining high standards of conduct for elected members at Salford City Council.

(4) THAT a further advertising and recruitment exercise for the role of Independent Member of the Standards Committee will be initiated to allow a recommendation to be presented for approval at a future meeting of full Council, be noted.

44. SALFORD CITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION - AMENDMENTS

The City Solicitor submitted a report detailing proposed amendments to the Salford City Council Constitution.

RESOLVED: THAT this report be deferred, and a cross party elected member group be established to consider the proposed amendments and all future ones, in advance of them being submitted to full Council for approval.

45. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND MID TERM REVIEW 2020/21

Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, submitted a report providing a progress on the treasury management strategy for 2020/21 and which updated the prudential indicators.

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

In response to Councillor Jim Cammell, it was indicated that Salford City Council remained committed to minimising and reducing investment in fossil fuel-based industries and activities, a policy which it would continue to review and revise as appropriate.

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted and approval given to the updated prudential indicators.

46. GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK (GMSF)

Councillor Derek Antrobus, Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development submitted a report seeking agreement to the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF); publication Draft 2020.

It was indicated the GMSF required approval from all ten local authorities in Greater Manchester and Stockport MBC had recently indicated it was not able endorse it. (*see also Minutes 47(h), 48(Q1) and 49(Q4 & Q5)*)

RESOLVED: THAT this report be withdrawn.

47. STATEMENT OF THE CITY MAYOR

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

- (a) A welcome was extended to the recently appointed new Chief Executive, Tom Stannard, who would take up his post early in the New Year and he looked forward to working with.
- (b) Despite the logistical difficulties current social distancing regulations had created, a fitting and dignified Remembrance Sunday ceremony had been held in Salford on 8 November 2020 and thanks were extended to all those who had made this possible.

- (c) 2020 had marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War and it was a time to particularly reflect on the sacrifice members of the armed services had and continued to make. Salford City Council remained committed to supporting veterans and as part of this was a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant.
- (d) Covid-19 and the arising restrictions it brought, continued to impact on both everyday life, local businesses and the local economy. The current lockdown was having a positive effect, with the number of transmissions of the virus falling in all age groups, both in Salford and across Greater Manchester.

Salford City Council was participating in H.M. Government's "Operation Moonshot" mass testing pilot for Covid-19, but the findings of this had been mixed. Nevertheless, this partnership approach would continue and reviewed as necessary, which hopefully in turn would ascertain the most appropriate testing technology.

The recent announcements about the development of vaccines was welcomed news and hopefully would prompt the start of gradual return to normality.

- (e) The economic outlook for the UK remained bleak and was compounded with its impending departure from the European Union, particularly as a free trade deal as had yet to be secured.
- (f) Criticism was levelled at H.M. Government for the way it had conducted negotiations with Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham and other local authority leaders, regarding the imposition of Tier 3 Covid-19 restrictions on the region. A strong, evidence based and fully costed case had been presented as to the financial support which needed to be provided to mitigate the impact the restrictions would have on Greater Manchester's economy and its people, but this had been discounted by H.M. Government.
- (g) The issue of homelessness continued to be an increasing problem across Greater Manchester and in Salford and was one there was a commitment to tackle both locally and at a regional level.
- (h) At the heart of the homelessness problem was the lack of truly affordable housing and against this background it was frustrating to see Stockport MBC's opposition to the GMSF and not approving its adoption, which now seriously jeopardised its introduction across the region. (*also see Minutes 46, 48(Q1) and 49(Q4 & Q5)*) The GMSF, despite suggestions to the contrary, represented a major protection of greenspace in Greater Manchester. It was hoped this was only a temporary setback which could be overcome, and Stockport MBC would reconsider their position on the GMSF, but irrespective of this, the City Council remained committed to a major programme of housing construction in Salford over the forthcoming years. The City Council's long-term strategy of encouraging commercial building development in Salford had been successful and placed it in a stronger economic position than many of its fellow local authorities.
- (i) In tandem with the GMSF, Salford City Council had a similar commitment to mitigate the impact of climate change and meet targets on carbon neutrality, this was

particularly demonstrated by the continuing development of an infrastructure which promoted walking and cycling and the £127m invested into Salford's parks and green spaces.

- (j) Appreciation was expressed to Dr Lee Kai Hung for his generous donation of £1.8m to the City of Salford and towards the realisation of RHS Bridgewater.
- (k) Salford City Council continued to campaign for more funds for Salford in submitting its response to H.M. Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, in which a focus was placed on the importance of investment in the City's public transport network with the aims of making it integrated, modern and accessible. This submission had also emphasised the importance of delivering transport connections at Port Salford, together with connecting MediaCityUK with The Crescent, all of which were significant elements of the City's on-going economic recovery. Thanks to the foresight of previous City Council leaderships, Salford's growth prospects remained strong in the face of adversity and uncertainty.
- (l) Thanks were extended to everyone in the City who had been involved in the tremendous efforts of the Spirit of Salford Network.
- (m) H.M Government had recently rescinded its previous decision not to fund support for children and families reliant on free school meals during holidays. However this had come after the recent Autumn half-term holidays, which had led the City Council to take the urgent decision to support children and families over this period, providing almost 2,000 free school meals, with food vouchers claimed to the value of approximately £20,000 and 700 vouchers collected on the first day of our scheme going live. Thanks, were also extended to the many community and voluntary organisations, charities and business in the City who had contributed and assisted with delivering this support.

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

- Q1. Councillor Robin Garrido suggested the draft GMSF had not fully taken into account the views of the residents of Salford and although the matter had been withdrawn from the agenda for this meeting, the Conservative Group would be calling-in the associated decision regarding it, which had been taken by Cabinet on 10 November 2020. *(also see Minutes 46, 47(h) and 49(Q4 & Q5))*

The City Mayor said the GMSF had started development in 2016 and since then, there had been extensive consultation on it with residents across Greater Manchester and Salford and that would continue as it entered this latest stage.

Councillor John Merry agreed that the GMSF would play a vital part in protecting Salford's greenspace.

Councillor Derek Antrobus endorsed the comments of Councillor Merry and the earlier ones of the City Mayor in the same vein. He said there was a need to retain and strengthen the autonomy local authorities had in determining planning matters. The GMSF would go some way to achieving this and mitigate the favourable bias the current system often afforded developers.

The City Mayor welcomed the comments of both Councillors Merry and Antrobus and the support they had respectively given to the GMSF.

Councillor Roger Jones said one of the founding principles of AGMA (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities) and which had now been superseded by the GMCA (Greater Manchester combined Authority), had been to best represent the region's interests and give it an advantage over other areas of the UK. The GMSF did this and following Stockport MBC's opposition, the remaining nine Greater Manchester local authorities should now work together to ensure its implementation for their individual and collective benefit.

The City Mayor again welcomed these comments and said he too hoped that the GMSF would be adopted whether this was with, or without, the support of Stockport MBC and how this could be achieved now needed to be examined.

- Q2. Councillor Les Turner echoed the welcome extended to the new Chief Executive. (see *Minute 47(a)*)
- Q3. Councillor Robin Garrido suggested it was the Greater Manchester Mayor and local leaders who had demonstrated intransigence during the negotiations with H.M. Government on imposing Tier 3 restrictions for the region (see *Minute 47(f)*) and the latter had provided significant financial support to local authorities to assist in combatting the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillor Karen Garrido endorsed these comments and said the Greater Manchester Mayor's actions had delayed and potentially jeopardised the Greater Manchester local authorities from receiving the £60m funding H.M. Government had made available and which she said should now be divided amongst them on an equal basis, rather than a pro rata one based on other factors.

The City Mayor said both the financial support of £1.8m during the Tier 2 Lockdown between August and November and the £60m for the current Tier 3 lockdown had been released, but said neither an equal division, nor a simple head of population calculation, to determine its distribution between the ten Greater Manchester local authorities was necessarily the best method and this had to be agreed.

Councillor John Merry said the position taken by the Greater Manchester Mayor in the negotiations with H.M. Government had been correct and in the best interests of the region, its people and economic welfare. Councillors Bill Hinds, Jim King, Ray Walker and Laura Edwards all echoed these comments.

The City Mayor welcomed these collective comments which he endorsed and added that the cost of Covid-19 through H.M. Government borrowing, should not fall on local authorities. He reiterated his belief that H.M Government had not been open in their negotiations with the Greater Manchester Mayor, who ,along with the other local authority leaders, had acted in good faith and had made a detailed evidence based case for more financial support, which ultimately had been ignored.

Councillors Robin Garrido, Karen Garrido, Les Turner and Jillian Collinson suggested

there was an attempt to make a political issue out of the Covid-19 pandemic which failed to recognise the unprecedented challenges this had presented and the effective manner H.M Government had dealt with them, as well as possible inference it was uncaring.

The City Mayor noted these comments, but they said they failed to reflect his fair and evidence-based assessment of H.M Government's performance during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well an acknowledgment of the financial support they had provided to local authorities. He said he did not feel his comments were politically motivated, nor should he be unable to voice criticism if it was warranted and similarly, it was necessary to hold H.M. Government to account for their failings, particularly if these adversely affected Salford and its residents.

- Q4. Councillor Tanya Burch thanked the City Mayor for his actions in providing free school meals to qualifying children and families during the recent half-term holidays (see *Minute 47(m)*).

The City Mayor welcomed these comments and said the thanks should be shared with Councillors Paula Boshell and Sharmina August who had played a vital role in the successful delivery of this programme of support.

#### 49. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET MEMBERS

- Q1. Councillor Jillian Collinson asked to be provided with details of the number of vacant residential properties in Salford.

Councillor Tracy Kelly, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Housing said approximately 100 properties had been returned to use but would provide a more detailed response to Councillor Collinson outside of the meeting.

- Q2. Councillor Arnold Saunders referred to a current vacant local authority governor position at St Paul's CE Primary School, Kersal and asked whether he could be considered for the post.

Councillor John Merry, Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services said he would be happy to consider Councillor Saunders' expression of interest along with any others.

- Q3. Councillor Damian Bailey expressed thanks to all the teaching and support staff in Salford schools for their work during the current Tier 3 lockdown.

Councillor John Merry said there was a commitment to ensure schools in Salford remained open wherever possible and this difficult task, particularly in constantly changing circumstances and had only been achieved due to the dedication of the staff concerned. He also said he believed teaching staff should be prioritised as the Covid-19 vaccines programme was rolled out.

- Q4. Councillor Arnold Saunders asked how the recent decision of Stockport MBC not to endorse the GMSF would impact on the Brownfield Land Fund Funding Agreement and Getting Building Funding Agreement which the GMCA had entered into with the

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and had been a key factor in developing the Framework. *(also see Minutes 46, 47(h), 48(Q1) and 49(Q5))*

Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services said there was likely to be an impact but this was difficult to quantify at this stage and would be dependent on any possible review of the GMSF and potential renegotiation with the MHCLG in light of the decision of Stockport MBC.

- Q5. Councillor Karen Garrido expressed concerns at an apparent suggestion the GMSF was the sole means of preventing the development of Broadoak Farm, Worsley. She referred to the successful opposition campaign by local resident to this development and said this would be renewed if the proposals were revived.

Councillors Robin Garrido and Arnold Saunders said the Conservative Group fully supported the principles and intent of the GMSF but could not endorse the current version. *(also see Minutes 46, 47(h), 48(Q1) and 49(Q4))*

Councillor Derek Antrobus, Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development replied that while the Court of Appeal had recently ruled to uphold the decision of Salford City Council refusing a planning application to build houses at Broadoak Farm, this didn't prevent the developer from renewing their interest in the future, but the adoption of the GMSF would afford further protection to the site and its preservation as an area of vital greenspace.

- Q6. Councillor Ray Walker asked for an update on the current number of fly-tipping offences in Salford, pest control activities and issues, together with a comparison for the previous year and the resources the City Council allocated to tackle both, which Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety, duly provided, including details of enforcement action and arising prosecutions.
- Q7. Councillor John Walsh asked to be provided with an update on the mass Covid-19 testing currently being piloted in Salford and which Councillor Gina Reynolds, Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing duly provided. She indicated the pilot had been problematic due chiefly to the H.M. Government not delivering on the resources and support which had been promised. *(also see Minute 47(d))*

50. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY PANELS

There were no questions, or comments.

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

There were no questions, or comments.

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

- Salford Royal NHS Trust

- Working Class Movement Library
- Lowry Centre Trust
- Centre for Local Economic Strategies
- Salford Unemployed and Community Resource centre

*A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Council 18 November 2020 Webcast](#)*