

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

20 January, 2021

Meeting commenced: 9.30 a.m.
“ adjourned: 11.20 a.m.
“ re-convened: 11.30 a.m.
“ ended: 12:40 a.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, 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, Jim King, David Lancaster, Ari Leitner, Kate Lewis, Sophia Linden, Mike McCusker, Ray Mashiter John Merry, Lewis Nelson, Wilson Nkurunziza, Mike Pevitt, Gina Reynolds, Neil Reynolds, Brendan Ryan, Arnold Saunders, Les Turner, Madeline Wade, Ray Walker, Joan Walsh, John Walsh, Darren Ward, John Warmisham, Colette Weir and Ronnie Wilson.

52. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BUSINESS

There were no announcements or special business.

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Samantha Bellamy, Tracy Kelly, Margaret Morris, John Mullen, Barry Warner and Michael Wheeler.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

55. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2020 were approved as correct record.

56. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

It was indicated Councillor John Mullen had submitted a petition on behalf of Barton

residents in support of an Asset of Community Value (ACV) application for the bowling green to the rear of the Rock public house, Peel Green Road, Barton.

57. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS 2020/21
(Previous Minute 22 - 16 September 2020)

Details were submitted of the following amendments to the memberships of committees and panels for the Municipal Year 2020/21

Committee Panel	New Member/ Amendment	Replacing
Standards Committee	Councillor John Walsh Councillor Tracy Kelly	<i>Councillor Kate Lewis</i> <i>Councillor John Mullen</i>
Community and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Charlie McIntyre	<i>Councillor John Mullen</i>
SACRE (<i>Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education</i>)	Councillor John Walsh	<i>Councillor John Mullen</i>

RESOLVED: THAT the amendments to the memberships of the panels and committees for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/21, as detailed above, be noted.

58. URGENT KEY DECISIONS

The City Solicitor submitted a report detailing recent key decisions taken in accordance with the special urgency powers during the period November 2020 to January 2021.

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted.

59. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Councillor Robin Garrido, the Chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee submitted a report detailing the Committee's activities during 2019/20.

RESOLVED: THAT the Audit and Accounts Committee Annual Report 2019/20, be noted.

60. SALFORD LOCAL PLAN: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND DESIGNATIONS - PROPOSED AND ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS

Councillor Mike Mccusker, Executive Support for Planning, Housing and Sustainable Development, presented a report on behalf of the Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development.

Councillor Karen Garrido expressed concerns at the Salford Local Plan, particularly the way several greenspace sites in the City had been categorised and in turn she believed weakened the protection they received from potential development in the future. Councillor Robin Garrido endorsed these comments and suggested the methodology for this needed to be reviewed and consequently the Plan deferred for consideration.

Councillor Derek Antrobus replied that expert legal advice had been sought in drawing up the Plan, particularly in relation to the categorisation of the specific greenspace sites which had been referred to, and the Salford Local Plan now presented afforded them the strongest protection against any future proposals for development. The City Mayor and Councillor John Merry, both echoed and supported these comments.

The Chair of the Council then put the motion to Council when, in accordance with the Salford City Council Constitution, Part 4 Rules of Procedure, Section A, Rule 19(iv) a recorded vote was requested by three elected members (*including Councillors August, Dickman and Edwards*) and duly taken:

For (41)	Against (9)	Abstained (1)
Paul Dennett Cllr August Cllr Bailey Cllr Barnes Cllr Bentham Cllr Boshell Cllr Brocklehurst Cllr Brooks Cllr Burch Cllr Cammell Cllr Coen Cllr Critchley Cllr Dawson Cllr Dickman Cllr Edwards Cllr Fletcher Cllr Hamilton Cllr Hesling Cllr Hinds Cllr Humphreys Cllr Jolley Cllr Jones Cllr King	Cllr Clarke Cllr Collinson Cllr Karen Garrido Cllr Robin Garrido Cllr Goulden Cllr Leitner Cllr Saunders Cllr Turner Cllr Ward	Cllr Wilson

Cllr Lancaster Cllr Lewis Cllr Linden Cllr McCusker Cllr Mashiter Cllr Merry Cllr Nelson Cllr Nkurunziza Cllr Pevitt Cllr Gina Reynolds Cllr Neil Reynolds Cllr Ryan Cllr Wade Cllr Walker Cllr Joan Walsh Cllr John Walsh Cllr Warmisham Cllr Weir		
--	--	--

(For technical reasons, Cllr Derek Antrobus was not present when the vote was taken, but subsequently indicated his support for the motion, which is not recorded above, nor included in the declared totals detailed below)

Following which, the Senior Democratic Services Officer declared it carried by 41 votes to 9, with 1 abstention and it was:

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the Publication Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations Addendum (Proposed Main Modifications and Additional Modifications) and the supporting background documents be noted and Cabinet be recommended to approve them for publication.

(2) THAT the Strategic Director Place be given delegated authority to approve any further necessary minor changes to the Publication Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations following the period for representations and before the document is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

(3) THAT subject to Cabinet approving the Publication Salford Local Plan: Development Management Policies and Designations Addendum (Proposed Main Modifications and Additional Modifications) and supporting background documents for publication, it be agreed these documents are submitted to the Secretary of State for examination (along with, and as an addendum to, the Publication Salford Local Plan which was approved in January 2020) following the period for representations between 5 February and 19 March 2021.

61. NOTICE OF MOTION

H.M. Government's Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and Proposed Council Tax and Precept Increases for 2021/22

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

This Council notes that:

- i. ***on 25th November 2020, the government set out the outcome of the 2020 Spending Review, suggesting that core spending power for councils in England would increase from £49.0 billion to £51.2 billion in 2021/22, an estimated 4.5% cash-terms increase and a rise on real terms.***
- ii. ***the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's provisional local government finance settlement 2021/22 supplies the detail behind the increase and opens a four week consultation between 17th December 2020 and 16th January 2021.***
- iii. ***the data behind the provisional settlement shows that, when the government suggested in the 2020 Spending Review an estimated 4.5% cash-terms increase for councils in England, they are in fact assuming that councils in England will increase council tax by 2% and the adult social care precept by 3% to raise £1,918.4 billion from council tax payers in England in 2021/22.***
- iv. ***consequently within the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's core spending calculations for councils in England, the government contribution element constitutes only 13% of the overall increase of £2.2 billion - so, of the stated overall increase of 4.5%, only 0.6% or £292.7 million relates to the government element.***
- v. ***the government's 2020 Spending Review and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's provisional local government finance settlement 2021/22 set against a backdrop of 10 years of austerity and local government cuts, which has seen Salford City Council face £211 million in cuts to core government grant and unfunded budget pressures since 2010/11 and an overall reduction in core funding from central government of 53%.***

This Council recognises that:

- i. ***the underlying assumptions within consecutive government Spending Reviews and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's core spending power calculations for councils in England has been to force councils in England to increase council tax and precepts and pass on the costs of any increases onto local council taxpayers.***
- ii. ***the government has failed numerous times over a number of years to hit its own deadlines to publish details of care system reforms***

- for adults with disabilities and the elderly, which has resulted in the government introducing the Adult Social Care (ASC) precept in 2016/17, forcing councils in England to consider increasing this government introduced precept by 13% between 2016/17 and 2021/22 with no national funding solution still on the horizon.*
- iii. the fair funding review for local government has also been delayed for a second year, with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government confirming in April 2020 that the implementation of the review will not go ahead in 2021/22 to allow councils to focus on meeting the immediate public health challenge posed by the pandemic.*
 - iv. council tax and precept increases are regressive forms of taxation which impact the poorest and lowest paid within our communities the most.*

Therefore, this Council calls on H.M. Government to:

- i. urgently increase the overall funding provided by the government to all councils in England from the government's £292.7 million in the core spending power calculations to allow councils in England to mitigate the impact(s) on local council taxpayers.*
- ii. urgently resolve the adult social care funding crisis and bring forward proposals to mitigate the impact(s) on local council tax payers.*
- iii. make progress with the fair funding review, ensuring that differentials with regards to poverty and inequality and council tax payer's ability to pay are effectively factored into any future methodology for determining central government grant.*

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

Councillors Gina Reynolds, Jim Cammell, Madeline Wade, John Merry, Damian Bailey, Sharmina August and Laura Edwards all added their own support for the motion.

Councillor Les Turner said that, during the current Covid-19 pandemic, it was not the right time to submit this motion, nor did it fairly reflect the wider economic circumstances and the financial support H.M. Government had given to local authorities, including Salford City Council, as a consequence the Conservative group would not be supporting it. Councillors Arnold Saunders, Karen Garrido and Ari Leitner all echoed these comments.

The City Mayor noted these comments and expressed regret that there was not universal support for the motion from all members of the Council. He outlined the financial challenges which faced local government, due to both H.M. Government's past and current economic policies, together with the anticipated long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, all of which the motion aimed to raise awareness of and hopefully address.

The Chair of the Council then put the motion to Council, when for purely confirmatory purposes a roll call vote was taken, which the Senior Democratic Services Officer declared carried (43 votes for and 7 against) and it was:

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

62. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET MEMBERS

- Q1. Councillor Karen Garrido asked how many children had been attending Salford schools during the current and first national lockdowns.

Councillor John Merry, Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services said this information would be provided.

- Q2. Councillor Gillian Collinson said it had been reported that approximately 4,000 Salford school children did not have access to a laptop, or other suitable electronic device, to enable them to continue with their studies during lockdown, despite H.M. Government indicating that all pupils would be provided with such equipment.

Councillor John Merry, Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services, replied this unfortunately was the case and H.M. Government had not fulfilled the commitments they had made in this regard.

- Q3. Councillor Kate Lewis referred to the challenges home schooling created for many families. She also welcomed the return to a voucher system for those children receiving school meals, rather than food boxes.

Councillor John Merry, Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services, said the return to a voucher system was a positive move. He added that, while food boxes had received criticism in certain areas of the UK because of their inadequate contents, those which Citywide had prepared and distributed in Salford had been of a high standard and received positive feedback.

- Q4. Responding to Councillor Karen Garrido, Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, said he would provide details of all direct and indirect funding, that Salford City Council had received from H.M. Government during the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Q5. Councillor Robin Garrido sought an update on the enforcement of social distancing regulations, which Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety, duly provided, where he highlighted the challenges this created, particularly in terms of instigating legal proceedings.

- Q6. Councillor Karen Garrido asked if a briefing could be provided for elected members following the recent HMICFRS (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services) review of GMP's (Greater Manchester Police) service to victims and the identification of deficiencies in the recording of certain crimes.

Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety said it was hoped such a briefing could be arranged in the near future, in the interim he provided details of the initial remedial actions which had been taken arising from the HMICFRS's findings.

- Q7. Councillor Gillian Collinson referred to Councillor Lancaster's monthly briefings for elected members on community safety matters, which she said were both informative and of great value.
- Q8. Councillor Derek Antrobus, Lead Member for Sustainable Development, extended thanks to the relevant Salford City Council staff, partners, the Environment Agency and emergency services, for their efforts in dealing with and mitigating the impact of the recent bad weather, which had created a potential threat of flooding in the City.
- Q9. Councillor Karen Garrido noted that Councillor Derek Antrobus had announced his intention to step down from his position as Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development in advance of him not standing in the forthcoming elections for Salford City Council. She expressed thanks to him for his work for the Council and the City of Salford.
- Q10. Councillor Stephen Hesling asked for an update on the delivery of the Covid-19 vaccine programme in Salford, which Councillor Jim Cammell, Executive Support for Social care and Mental Health, duly provided, where he expressed thanks to all the staff involved, highlighted the challenges which were faced and the need to encourage the uptake of the vaccine and counter misinformation about it.
- Q11. Councillor Karen Garrido extended thanks to everyone involved with dealing with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in Salford over the past ten months and who were continuing to do.

Councillor Gina Reynolds, Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing, welcomed these thanks which she endorsed.

- Q12. Councillor Gillian Collinson referred to a situation where some residents of Boothstown, while otherwise residents of Salford, for the provision of medical services came under the administration of neighbouring Wigan and asked whether this would impact on them receiving the Covid-19 vaccine.

Councillor Gina Reynolds, Lead Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing, said this anomaly was recognised and measures to ensure it did not negatively affect the residents concerned, were being investigated.

63. STATEMENT OF THE CITY MAYOR

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

- (a) This would be Jim Taylor's last meeting before his forthcoming retirement following seven years' service as Salford City Council's Chief Executive, during which time the local area had seen significant development and economic growth. He thanked Jim

for his work, commitment and support he had provided to him both personally as City Mayor, as well as to Salford as a whole and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Councillor Bill Hinds and Councillor John Walsh both endorsed these comments as well as adding their own personal tributes and best wishes.

- (b) Tackling the Covid-19 pandemic remained the current focus of activities with over 18,000 cases recorded in Salford to date. The new variants of the virus were creating additional challenges, but the continuing hard work and commitment of the Council's and its partners front line staff, along with those from the voluntary sector and wider community, to meet these, was something he was equally proud of and humbled by.
- (c) The creation of a robust testing regime remained a key element to controlling the virus, and Eccles Town Hall was now acting as centre to provide this for service for key workers and those who could not work from home.
- (d) Approximately 20,000 Salford residents had now received their first Covid-19 vaccinations and although the decision to delay second doses and ensuring the continuity of supply, had caused some issues, the long-term delivery of the programme remained on target.
- (e) He reiterated his regret that there had not been unanimous support for the earlier motion regarding H.M. Government's funding for local authorities in 2021/22 (see *Minute 61*). Local government finance was in a perilous state and in urgent need of wholesale review to ensure it was both fair and provided appropriate resources for the most deprived areas of the UK.
- (f) A total of £6.4b had been lost from the RSG (Revenue Support Grant) since 2015/16, which had placed immense financial strains on all local authorities, but despite this. Salford City council remained on course to deliver a balanced budget in 2021/22.
- (g) Against this economic background and the additional challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic, there was an increasing need for a government which was committed to restoring the nation's economy and infrastructure. These were issues which were particularly having an impact on Salford, as was demonstrated by increasing levels of unemployment and Universal Credit claimants, particularly those aged 18 to 39 and from BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) communities. The restoration and improvement of local services and the provision of the devolved funding to achieve this, should now be a key objective of both this and any future government.

64. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE CITY MAYOR

- Q1. Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, said he fully supported the City Mayor's comments regarding local government finance (see *Minutes 63(e)(f)(g)*).

The City Mayor welcomed this support.

- Q2. In relation to the City Mayor's earlier comments, concerning both the pandemic and for local authority funding to fairly reflect indicators of deprivation, socio-economic and

demographic factors, Councillor Paula Boshell, Lead Member for Anti-Poverty, Neighbourhoods, Financial Inclusion and Equalities, referred to the recent City Council Policy Forum where the correlation between Covid-19 and poverty had been highlighted.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments which he endorsed and added that, at the heart effective local government was understanding the real needs of people and supporting them accordingly and consequently tackling social inequality.

- Q3. Councillor Karen Garrido urged the City Mayor to follow lead of the Mayor of Greater Manchester, who had indicated an intention to freeze local Council Tax for 2021/22. This could potentially provide some financial relief to residents of Salford, many of whom were suffering additional hardships because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The City Mayor replied that he and his counterpart the Mayor of Greater Manchester had a totally different respective roles and responsibilities and while he wished to avoid increasing Council Tax, this was not a realistic option for the reasons he had outlined in his earlier statement (*see Minute 63*) as well as ensuring local services were maintained. He added that the Mayor of Greater Manchester had announced a freeze of his mayoral precept for his own office, which was a totally different matter.

- Q4. Councillor Karen Garrido commented while she supported a fair distribution of local government funding, it had to be recognised all areas had needs, irrespective of their geographic location, or whether they were predominately rural, rather than urban, in nature.

The City Mayor said he fully recognised that all local areas had needs, which were often specific to them and this was why a fairer method for funding, which truly reflected these regional individualities and demographics had to be urgently developed.

(At this point in proceedings (12.30 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.)

65. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY PANELS

RESOLVED: THAT this item be deferred until the next meeting to be held on 17 March 2021.

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

RESOLVED: (1) THAT this item be deferred until the next meeting to be held on 17 March 2021.

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

- ForHousing
- Salford Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) Executive Committee

A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Council 20 January 2021 Webcast](#)