

## SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

17 November 2021

Meeting commenced: 9.35 a.m.  
“ adjourned: 10.55 a.m.  
“ re-convened: 11.15 a.m.  
“ ended: 12:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor John Mullen - Ceremonial Mayor and Chair

Mr Paul Dennett - City Mayor

Councillors Sharmina August, Damien Bailey, Samantha Bellamy, Barbara Bentham, Paula Boshell, Maria Brabiner, Adrian Brocklehurst, Joshua Brooks, Tanya Burch, Jim Cammell, Stephen Coen, Philip Cusack, Tony Davies, Jim Dawson, Stuart Dickman, Heather Fletcher, Robin Garrido, Jane Hamilton, Bill Hinds, Ann-Marie Humphreys, Roger Jones, Jim King, David Lancaster, Ari Leitner, Sophia Linden, Ray Mashiter, Mike McCusker, John Merry, Margaret Morris, Lewis Nelson, Wilson Nkurunziza, Mike Pevitt, Gina Reynolds, Jake Rowland, Alexis Shama, Robert Sharpe, Irfan Syed, Peter Taylor, Phil Tresadern, Les Turner, Madeline Wade, Roseanna Wain, Joan Walsh, John Walsh, Andrew Walters, John Warmisham, Barry Warner, Colette Weir and Jack Youd.

### 52. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A motion was proposed and seconded to suspend Standing Orders, to enable proceedings to comply with current Covid-19 social distancing guidance.

RESOLVED: THAT in accordance with the Salford City Council Constitution Rule 2 in Part 4 Section A (Standing Orders), Council Procedure Rules be suspended, specifically Rule 18 I (Council: Rules of Debate - Respect for the Chair) to allow members to remain seated when speaking.

### 53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Michele Barnes, Bob Clarke, Karen Garrido, Tracy Kelly, Kate Lewis, Neil Reynolds, Hannah Robinson-Smith, Arnold Saunders, Nathaniel Tetteh and Darren Ward.

### 54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Paul Dennett and Councillors Brocklehurst, Jones and King all declared an interest in the item detailed in Minute 64.

### 55. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were approved as a correct record.

56. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

No petitions or communications were submitted.

57. BLACKFRIARS AND TRINITY BY-ELECTION

The City Solicitor submitted a report detailing the results of the Salford City Council Blackfriars and Trinity By-election, which had been held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

The Ceremonial Mayor and the City Mayor, on behalf of all Members of the Council, congratulated Councillor Roseanna Wain, the successful candidate in the by-election and welcomed her to her first meeting.

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted.

58. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22 - UPDATE  
(Previous Minute 43 - 15 September 2021)

The following amendments to the membership of Salford City Council committees and panels for the Municipal Year 2021/22, were reported:

<b>Committee Panel</b>	<b>New Member/ Amendment</b>	<b>Replacing</b>
Children's Scrutiny Panel	<i>arising Conservative Group vacancy</i>	<i>Councillor Karen Garrido</i>
Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Karen Garrido	<i>Conservative Group vacancy</i>
Audit and Accounts Committee	Councillor Roseanna Wain	<i>Labour Group vacancy</i>

RESOLVED: THAT the amendments to the membership of the committees and panels for the Municipal Year 2021/22, as reported at the meeting and summarised above, be noted.

59. SALFORD CITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION - AMENDMENTS

The City Solicitor submitted a report detailing the reversion of certain interim sections of the Salford City Council Constitution containing time-limited provisions relating to remote meetings together with the following proposed amendments:

- The re-introduction of certain minor corrections/amendments unrelated to remote meetings that were previously contained in the interim sections of the Constitution.
- Transferring responsibility for certain functions under the Council Procedure Rules, including the issuing of summons to members, to the Chief Executive from the City Solicitor.
- Changes incidental to the City Mayor's decision to delegate responsibility for previously reserved strategic regeneration and property functions to the Statutory Deputy City Mayor.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the following interim sections of the Salford City Council Constitution, that had come into effect on the 17 June 2020, reverted as of 7 May 2021 to the versions of those sections that had previously been in force, be noted:

- a) Part 4, Section A - Interim Council Procedure Rules (Standing Orders)
- b) Part 4, Section B - Interim Access to Information Procedure Rules
- c) Part 4, Section D - Interim Scrutiny Procedure Rules
- d) Part 6, Section A - Interim Code of Conduct for Members
- e) Part 6, Section B - Interim Planning Protocol for Members and Officers.

(2) THAT that the Remote Meetings Protocol agreed by Council on 17 June 2020 ceased to apply from 7 May 2021, be noted.

(3) THAT the following revised sections of the Salford City Council Constitution as appended to the report now submitted, be adopted:

- a) Part 3, Section B - Executive Functions
- b) Part 3, Section F - Scheme of Delegation of Non-Executive Functions to Chief Officers and List of Salford City Council's Statutory and Proper Officers
- c) Part 4, Section A - Council Procedure Rules (Standing Orders)
- d) Part 4, Section B - Access to Information Procedure Rules
- e) Part 4, Section D - Scrutiny Procedure Rules
- f) Part 6, Section A - Code of Conduct for Members

60. REMUNERATION PANEL - MEMBERS ALLOWANCES  
(Previous Minute 13 - 19 May 2021)

The Chief Executive submitted a report indicating approval had previously been given to the establishment of an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to undertake a review of the Salford City Council Members Allowances Scheme, the findings and recommendations of which were now presented for consideration.

RESOLVED: THAT the recommendations of the IRP in regard to the Salford City Council Members Allowances Scheme be approved and adopted, subject to the following:

- a) The special responsibility allowance of £2,967 for vice chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the four scrutiny panels, be extended to the vice chairs of

the Planning and Transportation Regulatory Panel, the Licensing and Safety Regulatory Panel and the Audit and Accounts Committee.

- b) The proposed increase in the special responsibility allowance to £26,397 for lead members be rejected and it remain at £25,911.

61. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF POLICY 2022

Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety submitted a report indicating the Gambling Act 2005 required the Salford City Council, as the licensing authority, to have a Gambling Policy Statement which would in turn guide it when considering applications under the Act and this had to be reviewed every three years, or when considered necessary. The draft Statement of Policy 2022/25 was submitted and for which approval was sought.

RESOLVED: THAT the Salford City Council Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Policy 2022/25, subject to and incorporating the suggested amendments as set out in appendix C to the report now submitted, be approved and adopted.

62. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - MID YEAR UPDATE 2021/22

Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, submitted a report providing progress on the treasury management strategy for 2021/22 and which updated the prudential indicators.

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

63. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Councillor Robin Garrido, the Chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee submitted a report detailing the Committee's activities during 2020/21.

RESOLVED: THAT the Audit and Accounts Committee Annual Report 2020/21, be noted

64. NOTICE OF MOTION

Unlocking the Potential of Local High Streets

*(Paul Dennett, City Mayor and Councillors Brocklehurst, Jones and King all declared an interest in this item in that they were members of the Co-operative Party (see Minute 54))*

Councillor Jim King moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Adrian Brocklehurst.

***This Council believes that healthy high streets are essential for community cohesion, civic pride, employment, shopping, services and leisure. But many shops and businesses were struggling even before the Covid pandemic: high street retail employment fell in more than three-quarters of local authorities***

***between 2015 and 2018 according to the Office of National Statistics and more than half of all UK consumers were shopping online before the pandemic.***

***This Council notes that retail is among the sectors most affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and retail workers have been on the frontline of the crisis throughout. The almost complete shutdown of non-essential shops between March and June 2020 has hit businesses hard, and the need for social distancing has changed the way many businesses operate, reducing footfall. The pandemic has accelerated what, in many cases, has been a longer trend of lower footfall and changing shopping habits. As the Portas Review a decade ago acknowledged, the form and function of many high streets needs to radically change if they are to adapt and survive.***

***This Council welcomes the willingness of Government to acknowledge the problems and come forward with initiatives in response to these challenges such as the furlough scheme, the Covid support business loans, and the High Street Taskforce.***

***This Council resolves to:***

- a) Write to the Government to urge them to undertake an urgent review of how best to support high street businesses recover from the pandemic and level the playing field between online and high street businesses, to make it fair and sustainable for all.***
- b) Sign up to the Co-operative Party's Unlock the High Street Campaign and explore what local action can be taken to revive our high streets now as the pandemic seems to be declining.***
- c) Sign Salford City Council up to the Co-operative Party's campaign to devolve the Towns Fund, Levelling Up Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other national funding pots, to give local communities, councils and regions the ultimate say in how it is spend in their area.***
- d) Explore the creation of Community Improvement Districts to reconnect communities with the levers that drive economic development in town centres and create an equal partnership of business and community organisations to galvanise action at a local level.***
- e) Make any data held by the council on ownership of high street properties public and in an accessible format, so that community groups seeking to buy empty shops through a community share offer have the information they need to do so and is Information Governance compliant.***
- f) Make full use of s215 planning enforcement powers where empty units are attracting antisocial behaviour or creating an eyesore on the high street***

***g) Proactively contact landlords of vacant premises (and work with relevant business organisations, Landlord Associations and BID managers) to explore meanwhile use options and/or encourage alternative rental models (e.g. turnover rather than market rent) to enable new co-operatives, SMEs, social enterprises and community businesses to open their doors on the high street.***

Councillor Jim King and Councillor Adrian Brocklehurst both spoke in favour of the motion.

The City Mayor, Councillors Tanya Burch, Philip Cusack, Roger Jones, John Warmisham, Tony Davies, Lewis Nelson and Mike Mccusker all added their own support for the motion.

Councillors Les Turner, Robin Garrido and Ari Leitner said they agreed with the general sentiments of the motion, but due to its wording, particularly the intention to sign up to specific Co-operative Party campaigns and initiatives (as detailed in (b) and (c) above), could not give it their support.

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

#### 65. STATEMENT OF THE CITY MAYOR

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

- (a) A welcome was extended to pupils from Bnos Yisroel High School who were observing proceedings.
- (b) Councillor Barry Warner was welcomed to his first full council meeting following a long absence.
- (c) John Searle was welcomed to his first full council meeting following his recent appointment as Strategic Director Place.
- (d) Thanks were extended to all those who had been involved with the recent annual Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday commemorations.
- (e) H.M Government had recently announced £1.6b additional funding for local government in 2022/23 and while this was welcomed, it had to be balanced against the £10b reduction the sector had seen since 2010 and a similar increase in 2020/21 being primarily made up of Council Tax and precept rates. There was also uncertainty about how local authorities would receive their share of the funding, with a suggestion it would be ring fenced to national priorities and programmes, rather than allocated directly through the Revenue Support Grant.

Additionally, the Fair Funding Review, Business Rates Reset and New Homes Bonus were all set to be changed creating further doubt for the City Council's future funding. H.M. Government had consistently taken money from areas of high need in terms of

poverty and demand for services and transferring it to more affluent areas with fewer pressures and lower levels of deprivation.

It remained to be discovered how much the City Council was expected to be raise through increasing local taxes to set a balanced budget for 2022/23. Since 2015, H.M. Government had continually assumed an increase in Council Tax to pay for its commitments to local government spending, this was likely to be the case again and he challenged the Conservative Group that this wouldn't be proven true in the forthcoming Local Government Finance Settlement 2022/23. The time had come for H.M. Government to place the deserved importance on the value of local government and fund it accordingly.

- (f) The City Council had recently been successful in its bid to the first round of the Levelling Up Fund for the Salford Rise project, which included improvements to public realm on the Crescent with improved access to Peel Park, Salford Museum and Art Gallery and the Working Class Movement Library. Tribute was paid to all those who had helped with this bid. However, despite being the 18<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority area on H.M. Government's own indices of multiple deprivation, Salford were listed as a non-priority area for Levelling Up funding.
- (g) The City Council's Cabinet had recently given approval to fund a £1.5m Skills and Work programme in Salford, providing opportunities to young people and adults, connecting them with employment and training opportunities, as well as supporting the delivery of the Salford Way, the inclusive economy strategy for the City.
- (h) Following the recent COP26 held in Glasgow, attention was drawn to the City Council's many environmental achievements and initiatives in the "greening" of Salford.
- (i) Congratulations and thanks were extended to the following Salford City Council teams and services, for their continuing achievements, commitment and dedication and had received national recognition:
  - Park and Streetscene, who had received the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) National Team of The Year Award and who, during the Covid-19 pandemic, had ensured Salford was the only local authority in Greater Manchester to maintain all waste and recycling services. In addition, Agecroft Cemetery, Blackleach Country Park, Boothsbank Park, Clifton Country Park, Peel Park, Victoria Park, Winton Park and Peel Green Cemetery, had all retained their Green Flag status.
  - The Spirit of Salford Helpline, launched within 72 hours of lockdown being imposed had more than 40,000 residents affected by Covid-19, had been recognised by Digital Leaders 100 by naming it the Pandemic Digital Innovation of the Year.

*(At this point in proceedings (12.25 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 p.m.)*

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

- Q1. Councillor Robin Garrido, responding to the City Mayor's earlier remarks on local government funding (see *Minute 65(e)*) commented that H.M Government had no powers to raise Council Tax and this remained the exclusive responsibility of individual local authorities. He added H.M. Government had provided significant financial support to local authorities in recent years, including Salford, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, and its commitment to "Levelling Up" remained undiminished.

The City Mayor noted these comments.

Councillor Bill Hinds, Lead Member for Finance and Support Services, responding to Councillor Robin Garrido, said while in the past 18 months this was true, it had been made necessary by the unprecedented circumstances created by the Covid-19 pandemic, prior to that local government had been undervalued by H.M Government and he feared this would continue, with once again an expectation on local authorities to increase Council Tax factored into the awaited Local Government Finance Settlement 2022/23.

The City Mayor welcomed these comments which he echoed.

- Q2. Councillor Robin Garrido endorsed the comments of the City Mayor on the environmental achievements of Salford City Council (see *Minute 65(h)*), which he suggested in many cases had been supported by H.M Government funding.

The City Mayor welcomed the recognition of Salford City Council's environmental achievements and activities.

- Q3. Councillor Ari Leitner referred to the re-introduction of the requirement for pupils to wear face covering in schools in Salford due to rising Covid-19 cases and suggested the reasoning behind this was unfounded as young people were generally impacted less by the virus.

Councillor John Merry, Lead Member for Adult Social Care, replied that while young people were less susceptible to the effects of Covid-19 the risk of them transmitting it to more vulnerable members of the community was high, and it was for this reason the wearing of face coverings in schools had been re-introduced.

- Q4. Councillor Andrew Walters referred to all recycling and waste services being maintained in Salford during the Covid-19 pandemic (see *Minute 65(i)*) but suggesting this was not a direct comparison with other Greater Manchester local authorities as they operated a more frequent collection regime, than the current three-weekly one in the City.

In view of the limited time available, the Ceremonial Mayor asked that Councillor Walters to raise this issue outside of the meeting with the Lead Member for Environment, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety.

67. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET MEMBERS

RESOLVED: THAT this item be deferred until the next meeting to be held on 19 January 2022.

68. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY PANELS

RESOLVED: THAT this item be deferred until the next meeting to be held on 19 January 2022.

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

RESOLVED: THAT this item be deferred until the next meeting to be held on 19 January 2022.

70. SCHEDULED REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODY MEMBERS

Submitted reports detailing the recent activities of the following outside bodies:

- The Lowry Centre Trust
- Manchester Port Health Authority

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the reports be noted.

(2) THAT the report concerning the Salford Unemployed Resource Centre be provisionally submitted to the meeting to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

*A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Council 17 November 2021](#)*