

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

19 January 2022

Meeting commenced: 9.35 a.m.
“ adjourned: 11.00 a.m.
“ re-convened: 11.20 a.m.
“ ended: 12:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ann-Marie Humphreys - Deputy 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, Philip Cusack, Tony Davies, Jim Dawson, Stuart Dickman, Heather Fletcher, Robin Garrido, Jane Hamilton, Bill Hinds, Tracy Kelly, Jim King, David Lancaster, Mike McCusker, Lewis Nelson, Wilson Nkurunziza, Mike Pevitt, Neil Reynolds, Hannah Robinson-Smith, Jake Rowland, Arnold Saunders, Alexis Shama, Robert Sharpe, Irfan Syed, Nathaniel Tetteh, Phil Tresadern, Madeline Wade, Roseanna Wain, Joan Walsh, John Walsh, Andrew Walters, Darren Ward John Warmisham, Barry Warner, and Jack Youd.

71. FORMER COUNCILLOR GRAHAM COMPTON

The Ceremonial Mayor informed those present of the sad death of former Councillor Graham Compton and asked them to join him in minute's silence as a mark of respect.

The City Mayor also offered his own condolences and paid a personal tribute, both of which were echoed by other elected members.

72. 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.

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Michele Barnes, Bob Clarke, Stephen Coen, Karen Garrido, Roger Jones, Ari Leitner, Kate Lewis, Sophia Linden, Ray Mashiter, John Merry, Margaret Morris, John Mullen, Gina Reynolds, , Peter Taylor, Les Turner and Colette Weir.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Wilson Nkuriunziza declared an interest in the item detailed in Minute 79.

75. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting held 17th November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

76. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Stuart Dickman submitted petition on behalf of local residents seeking the reintroduction of the bus service serving Overdale, Swinton.

77. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22 - UPDATE
(Previous Minute 58 - 17 November 2021)

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

Committee Panel	New Member/ Amendment	Replacing
Children's Scrutiny Panel	arising Labour Group vacancy	<i>Councillor Hannah Robinson-Smith</i>
Corporate Parenting Regulatory Panel and R44 Visits	arising Labour Group vacancy	<i>Councillor Hannah Robinson-Smith</i>

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

78. NOTICE OF MOTION

H.M. Government's Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and Proposed Council Tax and Precept Increases for 2022/23

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

1. This Council notes that:

- i. On 27 October 2021, the government set out the outcome of the 2021 Spending Review, suggesting that core spending power for**

- councils in England would increase from £50.4 billion in 2021/22 to £55.3 billion by 2024/25.**
- ii. On 16 December 2021, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' provisional local government finance settlement supplied one financial year's detail for 2022/23, with a headline increase in core spending power of £3.5bn - a 6.9% increase in cash terms, or 4% in real terms, compared to 2021/22 - and opened a 4-week consultation between 16 December 2021 and 13 January 2022**
 - iii. The data behind the provisional settlement shows that, when the government suggested in the 2021 Spending Review an estimated 6.9% 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 1% to raise £1.4 billion from council taxpayers in England in 2022/23.**
 - iv. Consequently, within the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' core spending calculations for councils in England, the government contribution element constitutes only 60% of the overall increase of £3.5 billion - so, of the stated overall increase of 6.9%, only 4.1% or £2.1 billion relates to the government element.**
 - v. The government's 2021 Spending Review and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 is set against a backdrop of 11 years of austerity and local government cuts, which has seen Salford City Council face £232 million budget reductions arising from cuts to government grant and unfunded budget pressures between 2010/11 and 2021/22 and an overall reduction in core funding from central government of 53% over the period.**
 - vi. The government's national insurance changes will cost Salford City Council an extra £1.1m (for Salford City Council staff plus a likely impact where we contract for services for example care services) in employer national insurance contributions for 2022/23 and the government's changes to the national minimum wage will cost Salford City Council an extra £1.4m within the Council and Clinical Care Group's integrated health and care fund for 2022/23. This is in addition to additional pressures in 2022/23 such as an additional £400k in employer pension contributions, £1.3m in price inflation and £3.4m to meet pay inflation.**

2. This Council recognises that:

- i. The underlying assumptions within consecutive government Spending Reviews and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG)/the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) core spending power calculations for councils in England has been to force councils in England to increase council tax and precepts and passport the costs of any increases onto local council taxpayers. 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 considering increasing this government-introduced precept by 14% between 2016/17 and 2022/23.*
- ii. The fair funding review for local government has also been delayed for a third year, with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities confirming in the settlement that the implementation of the review will not go ahead in 2022/23 to allow councils to focus on meeting the immediate public health challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- iii. Council tax and precept increases are regressive forms of taxation which impact the poorest and lowest paid within our communities the most.*

3. 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 £2.1 billion in the core spending power calculations to allow councils in England to mitigate the impact(s) on local council taxpayers and ensure that all the additional funding made available in 2022/23 is mainstreamed into future settlements.*
- ii. Urgently resolve the adult social care funding crisis and bring forward proposals to mitigate the impact(s) on local council taxpayers.*
- iii. Make progress with the fair funding review, ensuring that differentials with regards to poverty and inequality and council taxpayer's ability to pay are effectively factored into any future methodology for determining central government grant if 'levelling up' is to mean anything for how local government is financed amidst the current inflationary crisis the country is facing.*

- iv. Aim to provide local government with a rolling three-year settlement, to give more certainty of funding and to allow for proper planning and the management of risks to financial resilience.**

Councillor Bill Hinds and Paul Dennett, City Mayor, both spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillors Les Turner, Robin Garrido, Maria Brabiner, Arnold Saunders, Mike McCusker, Robert Sharpe, Tracy Kelly all added their own support for the motion.

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

79. NOTICE OF MOTION

Salford - City of Sanctuary

(Councillor Wilson Nkurunziza declared an interest in this item in that he was (i) a volunteer with Salford Forum for Refugees and People Seeking Asylum and (ii) an employee of Refugee Action (see Minute 73))

Councillor Wilson Nkurunziza moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor John Walsh.

This Council notes that:

- 1. Salford City Council celebrates diversity through its support for activities and events in the community aiming to welcome and to embrace all people regardless of their background.***
- 2. The Council continues to celebrate Refugee Week every year in which we celebrate the contribution of refugees and migrants across the City of Salford.***
- 3. Salford City Council is a home of the Northwest Refugees Centre Healthcare Professional Education (REACHE) which is hosted by Salford Royal Hospital since its launch in 2003. The Centre has been set up to assist refugees and people seeking access to healthcare professions in the UK. It has helped more than 200 people, predominately doctors, integrate their overseas qualification and gain employment in the NHS.***
- 4. The 'hostile environment' policies pursued by this Government have made it harder for refugees and those seeking asylum to access services - particularly those who cannot prove their right to remain in the UK. People seeking asylum are left to live on just over £5.00 per day, with no recourse to public funds and unable to work. This leaves many struggling to support themselves and their family resulting in the majority left vulnerable to destitution, isolation and exploitation.***
- 5. Salford City Council is concerned about the controversial Nationality and Borders Bill particularly clause 9 which stipulates that British Citizenship can be revoked without notice or any legal oversight whatsoever. It is clear that the***

Government should amend the bill to ensure that our most respected judicial system in the world is given its place.

6. Since 2002, people seeking asylum are only able to apply for the right to work after they have waited over 12 months for an initial decision on their asylum claim, and only if they can be employed into one of the narrow, high skilled professions included on the government's shortage occupation shortage list. The change in policy could benefit the UK economy by £42.4 millions via increased taxable income and reduced payments of accommodation and subsistence support (Reference : Lift ban report published in October 2018)

7. Restrictions on right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of Salford and the UK.

8. Salford City Council goes above and beyond in the call of duty to support refugees and asylum seekers despite huge pressures on our own budgets and services. The Government's failed and unfair asylum dispersal scheme puts significant pressure on the most deprived areas of the UK like Salford whereas the most affluent council areas do little to help the national effort.

9. The work of 'Salford City of Sanctuary Steering Group' supported by Salford CVS, Salford Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (under the children services' directorate) as well as the Salford Forum for Refugees and People seeking Asylum, have been fundamental in bringing together local charities, community groups and the University of Salford to progress the plan of becoming a 'City of Sanctuary'.

10. Salford has two secondary schools and seven primary schools recognised as schools of sanctuary with numbers continuing to increase. The University of Salford is providing scholarships every year to young people seeking asylum who cannot access student finance and therefore enrolment into higher education.

This council further notes:

1. That, throughout the pandemic, Salford Council's support services under 'Spirit of Salford' Helpline have helped anyone who needed support regardless of their immigration status

2. A Bed Every Night Scheme has been set to provide a bed and personal support to anyone who is sleeping rough or at imminent risk of sleeping rough in Greater Manchester. Greater Manchester Combined Authority has supported 60 people at any one time who have No Recourse to Public Funds due to their immigration status. Greater Manchester Combined Authority do not receive funding to support them.

3. Salford hosts asylum seeker mental health consultation services funded through the Greater Manchester Mental Health Foundation Trust which

provides professional support to deal with lived experiences resulting in trauma, PTSD etc.

4. Salford recently launched its new 'Equality and Inclusion Strategy' which is aiming to address all forms of social inequalities to achieve a fairer and more inclusive Salford for all.

5. That, the City Council has a good reputation in respect to the representation of Councillors who are from a refugee background.

This council resolves to:

1. Join the network of Cities and Towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries and become a recognised "City of Sanctuary".

2. Call on the Government to give people seeking asylum and their adult dependent the right to work, unconstrained by the Shortage Occupation List, after waiting six months for a decision on their initial claim or further submission.

3. Continue to be a welcoming place of safety for all, proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.

4. Recognise the contribution of refugees and people seeking asylum across the city of Salford.

5. Continue to promote diversity through recognition and celebration of our different cultures that exist across Salford.

6. Encourage integration and community cohesion by strengthening links between refugees, those seeking asylum and local communities.

7. Challenge discrimination and negative perceptions of refugees and those seeking asylum.

8. Whilst we appreciate that central government do support A Bed Every Night Scheme (ABEN) to eradicate rough sleeping in Greater Manchester. This is not the case for this people with no recourse to public funds who require emergency accommodation and a means to meet daily living costs. We call on the government to provide financial support to all people who are destitute and without income.

Councillor Wilson Nkurunziza and Councillor John Walsh both spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillors Heather Fletcher, Sharmina August, John Warmisham, Robin Garrido, Bill Hinds, Arnold Saunders, Jim King, Irfan Syed, Alexis Shama, Nathaniel Tetteh and Barbara Bentham all added their own support for the motion.

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

80. STATEMENT OF THE CITY MAYOR

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

- (a) Members were wished a Happy New Year and welcomed to the first full Council meeting of 2022.
- (b) Iolanda Puzio was welcomed to her first meeting following her recent appointment as City Solicitor.
- (c) A tribute was paid to Peter Hunter who had sadly recently passed away and as an architect and urban consultant, been integral to the redevelopment and regeneration of the area of the City now known as Salford Quays.
- (d) The impact of austerity policies was still being felt and H.M. Government continued to have no coherent and comprehensive plan for public spending.
- (e) Senior members of H.M. Government had failed to show leadership and acted inappropriately during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in themselves apparently not observing the regulations they had imposed.
- (f) H.M. Government had failed to adequately invest in healthcare services and infrastructure and generally prepare for the economic challenges which now faced the United Kingdom and its citizens.
- (g) In February the Council would set its budget for 2022/23, as always this would be a challenging task made even more difficult by inadequate funding of local government, which had seen Salford City Council's funding from central government, reduced by £230m in the past eleven years. There needed to be an overhaul of local government funding and it not to be dependent on ad hoc local taxation. The City Council had already made representations on this to H.M. Government, which had received cross-party support.
- (h) An update was provided on the recent activities of the Greater Manchester Air Quality Administration Committee, particularly the introduction of the proposed Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone (CAZ) was to be reviewed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) on 20 January 2022, with the intention that H.M. Government be asked to support and finance a revised scheme which would mitigate the likely impact on small businesses.
- (i) The recent statement by the Secretary State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities declaring that, the responsibility for covering the costs of recladding buildings would be the responsibility of developers was welcomed. However, the possible reduction in future Section 106 payments the Council received as a consequence, was a concern. In addition, there remained the need for a wholesale review of current building control regulations

81. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE CITY MAYOR

- Q1. Councillor Robin Garrido commented that fiscal policies of H.M Government since 2010 had been necessary because of the national economic situation they had inherited (*see Minute 80(d)*).

Councillor Bill Hinds commented that in 2007 the Conservative Party had made a pledge to honour the then public spending levels and commitments in the event they were elected to power.

Councillor Robert Sharpe commented that the economic circumstances of 2010 had been the direct result of a global financial crisis.

In response, the City Mayor said he hoped 2022 would represent a new spirit of co-operation between the Labour and Conservative groups on the Council, particularly in terms of continuing to make representations to H.M Government to ensure fairer and more comprehensive funding of local government and ultimately benefit Salford residents. He commented that H.M Government's austerity policies were effectively cuts in local services. He also agreed that the financial crisis of 2007/08 had been a global one and not the responsibility of the then Labour government.

- Q2. Councillor Robin Garrido welcomed the announcement of the Secretary State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities regarding remedial cladding works, but referred to other issues at Pendleton Together properties which needed to be urgently rectified (*see Minute 80(i)*).

Councillor John Warmisham said the issues at these properties and the inconvenience caused to residents, were all fully appreciated and work to remedy them was ongoing but for several reasons this had not been as swift as wished.

The City Mayor said the issues relating to the Pendleton Together properties were fully recognised and every effort was being taken to ensure they were resolved as soon as possible. He reiterated his earlier comments about a national building safety crisis, including H.M Government's actions in addressing dangerous cladding and the direct impact these had on the specific issues raised and the residents concerned.

- Q3. Councillor Robin Garrido welcomed the decision by GMCA to review the introduction of the proposed Greater Manchester CAZ, suggesting the existing scheme was flawed, particularly in terms of its impact on small businesses (*see Minute 80(h)*).

The City Mayor noted these comments but, said the proposals had been developed prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, when there had been more economic certainty. The impact of this was fully recognised and was one of the reasons the CAZ was now being reviewed.

- Q4. Councillor Bill Hinds supported the City Mayor's comments regarding H.M Government's record, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic and the failings of their economic policies (*see Minutes 80(d) and 80(e)*).

The City Mayor welcomed these comments.

Councillor Arnold Saunders said the alleged non observance of social distancing regulations by Senior members of H.M. Government and staff during lockdown were currently the subject of an official inquiry and the findings of that should be awaited before making any judgement (*see Minute 80(e)*).

The City Mayor noted these comments but said the Prime Minister had already made an apology for gatherings at 10 Downing Street during lockdown where he had been present, which seemed to suggest to an admission of wrongdoing.

- Q5. Councillors Robin Garrido, Bill Hinds, Phil Tresadern and Robert Sharpe all echoed the comments of the City Mayor regarding Peter Hunter and Salford Quays was a tangible and fitting tribute to his work and vision (*see Minute 80(c)*).

The City Mayor welcomed these comments.

- Q6. Councillor Damian Bailey reported the recent news that the Bury South MP Christian Wakeford had crossed the floor in Parliament to join the Labour Party.

The City Mayor welcomed this announcement.

(At this point in proceedings (12.20 p.m.), the Deputy 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 scheduled finish time. It was duly agreed there should be no extension and for the meeting to conclude at 12.30 p.m. as planned)

82. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET MEMBERS

- Q1. Councillor Heather Fletcher and Councillor Arnold Saunders urged support for the various events in Salford which were being held to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2022.

Councillor Sharmina August and the City Mayor both endorsed these comments, with the former providing further details of the events planned.

- Q2. Councillor Arnold Saunders referred to the Local Government Association's recent Transparency Statement on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, detailing their actions and activities in this regard during the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, which he encouraged members to read and take note of.

- Q3. Councillor Robin Garrido expressed concerns that a further meeting of the Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee had been cancelled and asked for GMCA to be requested to ensure a meeting of this body was held at the earliest opportunity.

It was suggested that Councillor Robin Garrido raise this matter with Councillor David Lancaster, Lead Member for Environment, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, outside of the meeting.

83. GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY PANELS

There were no questions or comments.

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

There were no questions or comments.

85. SCHEDULED REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODY MEMBERS

Submitted a report detailing the recent activities of the Salford Unemployed Community Resource Centre.

RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted.

A full audio/visual recording of these proceedings can be found on the Salford City Council website [Council 19 January 2022](#)