

24 March 2015

**Dear Councillor / Honorary Alderman,**

## **Meeting of the Council**

You are summoned to a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 1 April 2015 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Manchester Town Hall Extension.

### **1. The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business**

Including:

Presentation on Housing in Manchester by John Ryan, Regional Manager for the North West, SHELTER

### **2. Interests**

To allow members an opportunity to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax or Council rent arrears. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

### **3. Minutes**

To submit for approval the proceedings of the meeting held on 6 March 2015

### **4. Proceedings of the Executive**

To submit the part proceedings of the Executive on 13 February 2015 and the proceedings of the Executive on 18 March 2015 (to follow) and in particular to consider:

#### **Exe/15/024 Capital Programme Monitoring 2014/15**

To recommend that the Council approve the in-year budget transfers above £0.5m between capital schemes to maximise use of funding resources available to the City Council.

#### **Exe/15/025 Enforcement Policy**

To recommend to Council that the Enforcement Statement of Policy appended to the Executive report on 13 February 2015 is approved and adopted with effect from 1 April 2015.

### **Exe/15/040 The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework**

To recommend that Council:

- a. Approve the making of an agreement with the other nine Greater Manchester councils to prepare jointly the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework ('GMSF') to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester (as set out in Appendix 1 of the attached AGMA Executive Board report of the 28 November 2014) as a joint development plan document.
- b. Note that the Executive will be asked to delegate the formulation and preparation of the GMSF to AGMA Executive Board
- c. Note that there will be further reports to Full Council in respect of matters which are within the remit of full Council including approval of the GMSF
- d. Approve the amendment of paragraph 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the AGMA constitution by deleting the words ' (initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning) ' and authorise the updating of the AGMA Constitution to reflect this

### **Exe/15/043 Capital Programme - Proposed Increases**

To recommend that the Council approve:

- Leisure Programme - National Squash Centre: An increase to the capital budget of £0.165m in 2015/16 funded by borrowing, the costs of which will be covered by Stadium rental income.
- Members are requested under powers delegated to the Executive to approve the following:
- Children's Services - School Basic Need Allocation: To increase the capital budget by £84.878m in 2017/18 funded by Education Funding Agency capital grant.
- Children's Services - School Condition (Maintenance) Allocation: To increase the capital budget by £3.349m in 2015/16 funded by Education Funding Agency capital grant.
- Children's Services - Universal Infant Free School Meals: To increase the capital budget by £0.5m in 2015/16 funded by Education Funding Agency capital grant.

### **Exe/15/045 Ben Street Regeneration Proposals**

To recommend that the Council approve a capital budget increase of £15.61m to deliver the project

### **Exe/15/047 Walking with the Wounded, Canada Street, Manchester**

To recommend that the Council:

Authorise the City Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Members for Housing and Regeneration and Finance and Human Resources, to increase the capital programme to the value of £405,000 to provide gap funding for the capital works to the empty properties which will be owned and managed by Haig Housing

### **Exe/15/050 The Housing Investment Programme**

To recommend to Council that:

- a) the Council enter into a legal agreement with DCLG to receive the £300m GM Housing Fund and to guarantee the repayment of up to £240m of refund to DCLG
- b) The Capital Programme be increased by £300m for the GM Housing Fund to be funded through borrowing
- c) The Council obtain indemnities from all other nine GM districts to meet the shortfall of any funds to be repaid to DCGL based on the respective percentage population within GM
- d) Authority be delegated to the City Treasurer and the Executive Member for Finance to approve capital expenditure decisions from the GM Housing Fund on the basis of recommendations of GMCA

### **Exe/15/052 Final Report and Recommendations of the Living Wage Task and Finish Group**

1. To recommend to the Council that a Living Wage Policy be developed that reflects the findings and conclusions of the Task and Finish Group, with the draft policy submitted first to the Economy and Finance scrutiny committees for consideration.
2. To recommend to the Council that the development of the policy includes consideration of all of the Task and Finish Group's recommendations.

### **5. Questions to Executive Members under Procedural Rule 23**

### **6. Scrutiny Committees**

To note the minutes of the following committees:

Young People and Children – 10 February and 10 March 2015  
Neighbourhoods – 10 February and 10 March 2015 (to follow)  
Economy – 11 February and 11 March 2015  
Communities – 11 February and 11 March 2015 (to follow)  
Finance – 12 February and 12 March 2015 (to follow)  
Health – 11 February and 11 March 2015  
Joint Health Scrutiny Committee – 23 March 2015 (to follow)

## **7. Proceedings of Committees**

To note the proceedings of the following meetings acting under delegated powers:

Audit Committee – 26 March 2015 (to follow)

Health and Wellbeing Board – 25 March 2015 (to follow)

Licensing and Appeals Committee – 9 February and 23 March 2015 (to follow)

Personnel Committee – 13 February, 18 March and 24 March 2015 (to follow)

Planning and Highways Committee – 19 February and 19 March 2015 (to follow)

Standards Committee 0- 16 March 2015 (to follow)

Wythenshawe Area Committee – 26 February 2015

## **8. Business of the Combined Authority, Joint Authorities and Joint Committees**

To receive answers to any questions raised in accordance with Procedural Rule 24 on the business of: (a) the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, (b) the Greater Manchester Fire and Civil Defence Authority, (c) the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority, (d) the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee.

## **9. Key Decisions**

The report of the City Solicitor is enclosed for members' information.

## **10. Greater Manchester Spatial Framework**

The report of the Chief Executive is enclosed

## **11. Notice of Motion - UK Kashmiri Community**

Council notes that the Kashmiri community living in the UK since the 1950's remains excluded at local and national levels. While they form part of the wider identities such as Asians, Blacks and Muslims their Kashmiri identity remains to be recognised and included.

The UK is home to one of the largest Mirpuri/Pahari diasporic populations; according to various estimates, well over half of the total British Pakistani population is of Mirpuri/Pahari origin. Over 99% of British Kashmiris speak Pahari as their mother tongue and have a distinct Pahari cultural and social heritage which is different from other South Asians.

We further note that;

- Kashmiris are very underrepresented in the medium to large business sector
- The Kashmiri community has higher levels of unemployment
- Even fourth generation Kashmiris are over represented in the low income night time economy
- Kashmiris are excluded from all meaningful engagement initiatives locally, regionally and nationally.

- Due to non-recognition of their language, Kashmiris are likely to be misrepresented in courts, NHS, reporting crime etc.
- Kashmiris live in poor housing
- Older generation Kashmiris face horrendous health problems i.e diabetes, mental health but little NHS help and advice trickles to them due to language barriers and false sense of understanding about the community amongst other South Asian communities of urban middle class background; most elder generations of Kashmiris are of mountainous agrarian background.
- Kashmiris are more likely to rely on social housing and welfare benefits, hence Kashmiri exclusion costs the state and tax payers a lot of money.

Council believes that addressing the needs of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and increasing their participation in civic and public life is one of the key indicators for increasing community resilience, outreach and development. Too many research reports and initiatives addressing these issues at a policy level hardly mention any reference to the existence of the Kashmiri diaspora. Many local authorities and organisations up and down the country, realising this have started monitoring Kashmiri ethnic category for employment and service delivery but it has very little effect in isolation.

We therefore call on the City Council to include a Kashmiri category for the purposes of monitoring employment and service delivery and for meaningful engagement strategies by including Pahari/Mirpuri language. We would ask all AGMA authorities and partners including, for example, Registered Social Landlords, health trusts, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Greater Manchester Police and the judicial system to follow suit.

We call on the Local Government Association to campaign for Kashmiri ethnicity inclusion and we request that AGMA to write to the Home Office, census regime and all other relevant stake holders and government departments for Kashmiri inclusion.

(Proposed by Councillor Shaukat Ali, seconded by Councillor N Ali and signed by Councillors Watson, N Murphy, Loughman and Collins)

## **12. Notice of Motion - Ethical Rent To Own Companies (RTO's)**

Manchester City Council:

- i. Notes the post financial crisis growth of Rent To Own (RTO's) companies in many of the communities that make up Manchester.
- ii. Recognises that RTO's target customers ( numbering an estimated 350,00 in the UK) come from low-income households, with many significantly or wholly reliant on benefit income. The typical customer is young, female and with children, and almost all live in rented accommodation.
- iii. Understands why The RTO model is appealing because weekly or monthly instalments give customers the ability to spread costs over two or three years. The ability to spread payments is valuable for people on low incomes who do

not have access to more mainstream credit (credit cards, overdrafts) and lack the savings to afford the cash price upfront.

iv. Note that RTO agreements are expensive and price transparency is poor. The separate cost of extra warranties and insurance is often not made clear. Interest rates of 94.7% and charges for bolt-on cover can treble the cost of essential household goods.

Council further notes that,

i.: Rent to own agreements are almost impossible to obtain without compulsory added extras. We are concerned that firms may have mis-sold protection to customers who already had adequate contents cover.

ii. There is a lack of mainstream alternative allowing poorer households to obtain essential items. Emergency support has been drastically cut by the Tory led government since the introduction of local welfare schemes. The market for more ethical RTO providers from the social enterprise and not-for-profit sectors need to be stimulated.

iii. Over 10% of customers have goods taken back or repossessed. Customers are having essential items removed such as a cooker or a washing machine. FCA rules provide few specific safeguards for customers experiencing financial difficulties.

Council therefore resolves to support the key recommendations outlined in the All Parliamentary Party Group on Debt & Personal Finance ( Rent To Own Sector ).

These are:

- Price transparency and health warnings
- The FCA to conduct an Investigation into over-charging
- The FCA to crackdown on unfair insurance sales
- Advice on cheaper insurance options
- Tighter affordability criteria and better explanation of alternatives
- The FCA to enforce RTO's to provide Safeguards for customers in financial difficulty
- Call on the Tory led government to increase financial Support for alternative provision of essential household goods

Council further resolves to:

i. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the FCA to provide greater consumer protection and regulation of the sector.

ii. Set up a Task and Finish Group to explore the options to develop an ethical RTO alternative market with partners (Credit Unions, Social Housing providers)

(Proposed by Councillor Amesbury, seconded by Councillor Richards and signed by Councillors Reid, Cookson, Watson, Lanchbury, and Ollerhead)

### **13 Notice of Motion – Trade Union Rights**

Council notes:

The UK has some of the most draconian, anti-trade union legislation in the EU.

54 trade unions are members of the TUC, representing nearly six million workers across all industries and sectors.

The TUC has described the most recent Conservative Party policies as effectively ending the right to strike in the public sector.

Accident at work rates are almost twice as high in workplaces without trade union recognition. Union members earn more and receive more paid days holiday than workers not in a Union.

Every worker in the UK has the legal right to be a member of their appropriate trade union.

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Almost every piece of workplace legislation to improve conditions has come from campaigning by the trade union movement including the national minimum wage, equal pay, health and safety laws, statutory redundancy pay and better rights for agency workers.

Trade Unions do more than just negotiate pay. They fight for better terms and conditions, represent members' interests to employers, provide education and training to Reps and members, lobby the government, fight discrimination in the workplace and provide legal information.

Trade unions are on the forefront of campaigning for better terms and conditions for members. The Living Wage, Pensions, Work Your Proper Hours Day, and Health and Safety Campaigns all support workers to have safe and secure employment.

The right to organise in the workplace is fundamental – as is the right to demonstrate.

Council calls on the Government to:

- Stop attacking ordinary workers, the people they claim to represent
- Allow electronic and workplace balloting of Union members.
- Recognise the positive work trade unions do for workers and society.
- Recognise the legal right of workers to demonstrate and protest against their terms and conditions.
- Recognise the right of all workers to organise in their workplace.
- Retain the right for all workers to pay subs by check off.
- Expand and enshrine in law the Right to strike for all workers.

(Proposed by Councillor Peel, seconded by Councillor Fletcher-Hackwood,  
and signed by Councillors Lanchbury, Hackett, and Brian O'Neil)



## Information about the Council

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The Council is composed of 96 councillors with one-third elected three years in four. Councillors are democratically accountable to residents of their ward. Their overriding duty is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them.

Seven individuals with previous long service as councillors of the city have been appointed Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester and are entitled to attend every Council meeting. They do not however have a vote on the decisions.

All councillors meet together as the Council under the chairship of the Lord Mayor of Manchester. There are seven meetings of the Council in each municipal year and they are open to the public. Here councillors decide the Council's overall strategic policies and set the Council budget each year.

Agenda, reports and minutes of all Council meetings can be found on the Council's website [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk)

## Members of the Council

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### **Councillors –**

Adams, Ahmed, Akbar, Ahmed Ali, Azra Ali, N. Ali, Sameem Ali, Shaukat Ali, Amesbury, Andrews, Austin, Barrett, R. Battle, Chappell, Chohan, Collins, Cookson, Cooley, Cooper, Cowell, Cox, Craig, Curley, Dar, Davies, Ellison, Evans, Fender, Flanagan, Fletcher-Hackwood, Gillard, Green, Grimshaw, Hackett, Hacking, Hassan, Hewitson, Hitchen, Hughes, Hyde, Judge, Kamal, Karney, Keegan, Khan, Kirkpatrick, Knowles, Lanchbury, Leese, Lone, Longsdon, Loughman, Ludford, Lyons, Manco, Midgley, Monaghan, Moore, M. Murphy, N. Murphy, P. Murphy, S. Murphy, E. Newman, S. Newman, Noor, Ollerhead, Barbara O'Neil, Brian O'Neil, Paul, Peel, Priest, Pritchard, Rahman, Raikes, Rawlins, Razaq, Reeves, Reid, Richards, Rowles, Royle, Russell, Shilton Godwin, Siddiqi, Simcock, Shone, Smith, Smitheman, Stogia, Stone, Strong, Swannick, Teubler, Trotman, Watson and Wilson

### **Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester-**

Gordon Conquest, William Egerton JP, Kenneth Franklin, Audrey Jones JP, Peter Morrison, John Smith and Keith Whitmore

## Further Information

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For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the Committee

Officer:

**Carolyn Whewell**

Tel: 0161 234 3011

Fax: 0161 274 7017

Email: [c.whewell@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:c.whewell@manchester.gov.uk)

This summons was issued on **24 March 2015** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester, M60 2LA.



