

Council

Minutes of the meeting on 15 July 2015

Present: The Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor Councillor P Murphy – in the Chair

Adams, Ahmed, Akbar, Ahmed Ali, Azra Ali, N. Ali, Sameem Ali, Amesbury, Andrews, Appleby, Austin, Barrett, Battle, Bridges, Chappell, Chohan, Collins, Connolly, Cookson, Cooley, Cooper, Cox, Craig, Dar, Davies, Farrell, Fender, Flanagan, Fletcher-Hackwood, Gillard, Green, Grimshaw, Hackett, Hassan, Hitchen, Hughes, Igbon, S Judge, T Judge, Kamal, Karney, Kirkpatrick, Knowles, Leese, Lone, Loughman, Ludford, Manco, Midgley, Monaghan, Moore, N. Murphy, E. Newman, S. Newman, Noor, Ollerhead, O’Neil, Paul, Peel, Priest, Pritchard, Rahman, Raikes, Rawlins, Rawson, Razaq, Reeves, Reid, Richards, Rowles, Royle, Russell, Sheikh, Shilton Godwin, Siddiqi, Simcock, Shone, Smitheman, Stogia, Stone, Strong, Swannick, Trotman, Watson, Webb and Wilson

Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester

Peter Morrison and Keith Whitmore

CC/15/47 Urgent Business

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that he had consented to the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee on 15 July 2015 being submitted for consideration as urgent business.

CC/15/48 One Minute Silence – Ken Franklin and Sousse, Tunisia

The Lord Mayor informed the Council of the death of former Councillor, Lord Mayor and Alderman Ken Franklin. He was first elected as a councillor for the Lighthouse ward in 1958. He served on the Council for many years before retiring as the oldest member of the Council in 2004. The Lord Mayor also spoke of the murders of holiday makers in Sousse, Tunisia who were killed by a terrorist attack.

The Council and those present at its meeting then observed a period of silence in memory of the lives lost.

CC/15/49 Equalities Award

The Lord Mayor presented a certificate to the Council’s Equalities Team for the recent accreditation as an “Excellent” authority against the Local Government Association’s Equality Framework for Local Government.

CC/15/50 Presentation – Business Engagement with Education and Schools

The Council received a presentation from Rachel Walsh, Assistant Headteacher at St. Matthew’s High School and Liam Manton from Wates Construction on the work to engage schools with businesses in Manchester. The Council also welcomed Toby Stringer, Hannah McCarrick, Thomas McCartney and Winnie Omotayo, students

from St Matthew's High School who also talked about their involvement in the project. The presenting officers answered questions from members after the presentation.

(Councillor Gillard declared a personal interest in this item as he was friends with one of the presenting officers)

CC/15/51 Presentation – Child Sexual Exploitation

The Council received a presentation from Gladys Rhodes White, Manchester City Council's Director of Children's Services and Jayne Horan, the Service Manager of the Protect Team on the work being undertaken to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation. Following the presentation, officers answered questions from members.

CC/15/52 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting on 20 May 2015 as a correct record.

CC/15/53 Proceedings of the Executive

The proceedings of the 3 June 2015 and 1 July 2015 were submitted. The Council considered the following recommendations:

Exe/15/062 Capital Programme Proposed Increases

To recommend that the City Council approve:

Parks Improvement Programme - Park Events Infrastructure. An increase to the capital budget of £600k in 2015/16 funded by a virement from the Clean City - Clean and Green Places revenue budget.

Exe/15/063 The Regional Growth Fund Leverage

To recommend to the Council that the Capital Programme be increased by £21.5m for the increase of the Regional Growth Fund to be funded through prudential borrowing including a £6.5m loan from the GMCA.

To recommend that the Council accepts a 5 year interest free loan from the GMCA to cover the first losses on any loans advanced by the Council.

Exe/15/072 Revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Borrowing Limits Annual Investment Strategy Statement

To recommend to Council the proposed revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2015/16 to Council.

Exe/15/073 Capital Programme – Proposed Increases

To recommend the Council to approve:

- a. Development Capital Programme – Belle Vue Speedway. To increase the capital budget by £320k in 2015/16, funded by Capital Fund.
- b. Children’s Capital Programme – Manchester Solar PV project: To increase the capital budget by £280k in 2015/16, funded by a revenue contribution (Climate Innovation Fund).
- c. Highways – Maintenance Challenge Fund. To increase the capital budget by £8.037m (£1.367m in 2015/16, £4.662m in 2016/17 and £2.008m in 2017/18), funded by £6.345m DfT grant administered by Greater Manchester Combined Authority and £1.692m revenue contribution (Clean and Green Places Reserve).
- d. ICT Programme – Infrastructure and Mobile Working. To increase the capital budget by £9.5m in 2015/16 funded by borrowing.
- e. Environment Programme – Acquisition of waste collection vehicles. To increase the capital budget by £0.782m in 2015/16 and funded by a Growth and Neighbourhood service revenue contribution.

Exe/15/075 Civic Quarter - Heat Network

To recommend that the Council approve the release of £500,000 from the Climate Innovation Fund Reserve to fund the revenue costs of the Civic Quarter Heat Network project development to financial close.

Decision

1. To receive those minutes.
2. Capital Programme Proposed Increases

To approve an increase to the capital budget of £600k in 2015/16 for the Parks Improvement Programme - Park Events Infrastructure, to be funded by a virement from the Clean City - Clean and Green Places revenue budget.

3. The Regional Growth Fund Leverage
 - a. To increase the Capital Programme by £21.5m for the increase of the Regional Growth Fund to be funded through prudential borrowing including a £6.5m loan from the GMCA.
 - b. To accept a 5 year interest free loan from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to cover the first losses on any loans advanced by the Council.
4. Revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Borrowing Limits Annual Investment Strategy Statement

To adopt the revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2015/16.

5. Capital Programme – Proposed Increases

- a. To increase the capital budget by £320,000 in 2015/16 for the Development Capital Programme – Belle Vue Speedway, funded by Capital Fund.
- b. To increase the capital budget by £280,000 in 2015/16 for the Children’s Capital Programme – Manchester Solar PV project, funded by a revenue contribution (Climate Innovation Fund).
- c. To increase the capital budget by £8.037m (£1.367m in 2015/16, £4.662m in 2016/17 and £2.008m in 2017/18) for the Highways – Maintenance Challenge Fund which will be funded by £6.345m DfT grant administered by Greater Manchester Combined Authority and £1.692m revenue contribution (Clean and Green Places Reserve).
- d. To increase the capital budget by £9.5m in 2015/16 for the ICT Programme – Infrastructure and Mobile Working which will be funded by borrowing.
- e. To increase the capital budget by £0.782m in 2015/16 for the Environment Programme – Acquisition of waste collection vehicles which will be funded by a Growth and Neighbourhood service revenue contribution.

6. Civic Quarter - Heat Network

To approve the release of £500,000 from the Climate Innovation Fund Reserve to fund the revenue costs of the Civic Quarter Heat Network project development to financial close.

CC/15/54 Scrutiny Committees

The minutes of the following committees were submitted:

Young People and Children – 26 May 2015 and 23 June 2015
Neighbourhoods – 26 May 2015 and 23 June 2015
Economy – 27 May 2015 and 24 June 2015
Communities – 27 May 2015 and 24 June 2015
Finance – 28 May 2015 25 June 2015
Health – 25 June and 23 July 2015

Decision

To receive those minutes.

(Councillor Grimshaw declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in minute reference NSC/15/33 of the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee)

CC/15/55 Proceedings of Committees

The minutes of the following committees were submitted:

Constitution and Nomination Committee – 15 July 2015

The Committee made recommendations about changes to the membership of Council committees.

Decision

1. To receive the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee on 15 July 2015.
2. To approve the changes to membership of Council committees.

Audit Committee – 11 June 2015

Health and Wellbeing Board – 10 June and 8 July 2015

Licensing and Appeals Committee – 15 June 2015

Licensing Committee – 15 June 2015

Licensing Policy Committee – 1 July 2015

Personnel Committee – 3 June 2015

Planning and Highways Committee – 4 June 2015 and 2 July 2015

Standards Committee - 18 June 2015

CC/15/56 Key Decisions

The Council noted the report of the City Solicitor on key decisions that had been exempted from call in.

CC/15/57 Changes to the Constitution

The Council considered proposed amendments to the Council's constitution for 2015/16.

Decision

To approve the following:

1. To remove all references to 'Director of Neighbourhood Services' in the Constitution and replace with 'Director of Neighbourhoods'.
2. To remove subparagraphs (a) and (b) of Rule 7.2 of the Budget and Policy Framework Rules contained in Part 4 Section C of the Constitution (which set out virement provisions) and to replace with the table at paragraph 86 of Chapter 1 of Part 5 Section D (Financial Systems and Procedures) of the Constitution which sets out virement thresholds.
3. To authorise the City Solicitor to make the necessary changes to the Constitution.

CC/15/58 Changes to Executive Portfolios

The Council noted the report from the Leader of the Council, which provided details of changes to the Executive portfolios.

CC/15/59 Revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Borrowing Limits and Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16

The recommendations in the Revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Borrowing Limits and Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16 report had been approved by the Council earlier in the meeting under the proceedings of the Executive (minute CC/15/53).

CC/15/60 Northern Powercut

Motion proposed and seconded:

Council calls on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reverse the government's recent decision to place 'on hold' plans for the electrification of Transpennine rail services between Manchester and Leeds, and demands that the Government fulfils its promise of a much heralded 'Northern Powerhouse'.

Electrification of this over-stretched service is long overdue and is vital for Manchester's long term, low carbon economic growth. Failure to re-instate the programme of electrification will condemn passengers to the continued misery of long journey times on out-dated and unreliable trains.

Council welcomes the campaign launched by the Manchester Evening News to re-instate the improvements which passengers and businesses were promised and we call on Mancunians to sign up to the 'Northern Powercut' petition.

Resolution

The motion was put to Council and voted on, and the Lord Mayor declared that it was carried.

Decision

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CC/15/61 Child Poverty and Welfare Reform

The previous Labour government set a target to eliminate child poverty in this country by 2020. This was a visible commitment to ending the impact that living in poverty has on too many children and families in the UK. The Coalition government kept the same pledge but failed to make any progress towards it during their five years in office. Now the Conservative government are set to abolish the target altogether, demonstrating their lack of concern for some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our society.

Alongside this, they are cutting welfare by a total of £12 billion. Planned cuts to housing benefit and tax credits will mean many more children and families falling below the poverty line. Many of these households are working families, struggling to get by on low wages and in insecure jobs.

We will do our best to support families and individuals affected by these callous cuts, and will do everything we can to lobby the government to end these attacks on the poorest residents in our city. We will continue to stand up for Manchester people.

Council resolves:

1. To ask the Chief Executive to prepare a report outlining the devastating impact of these cuts on people in Manchester.
2. To ask our Members of Parliament to stand with us in lobbying against these cuts.
3. To continue our policy of paying the Living Wage and encouraging our partners and suppliers to do the same.

Resolution

The motion was put to Council and voted on, and the Lord Mayor declared that it was carried.

Decision

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