

## **Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting on 30 November 2016**

Present: The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor Councillor Austin-Behan – in the Chair

#### **Councillors –**

Akbar, Ahmed Ali, Azra Ali, N. Ali, Sameem Ali, Shaukat Ali, Alijah, Amesbury, Andrews, Appleby, Austin-Behan, Barrett, Battle, Bridges, Chohan, Collins, Connolly, Cookson, Cooley, Craig, Curley, Dar, Davies, Ellison, Farrell, Fender, Flanagan, Fletcher-Hackwood, Green, Grimshaw, Hacking, Hassan, Hewitson, Hitchen, Hughes, Igbon, S Judge, T Judge, Kamal, Karney, Kirkpatrick, Knowles, Lanchbury, Leese, Lone, Longsden, Ludford, Manco, Marshall, Midgley, Madeleine Monaghan, Mary Monaghan, Moore, N. Murphy, S. Murphy, E. Newman, S. Newman, Noor, Ollerhead, O'Neil, Paul, Peel, B Priest, H Priest, Pritchard, Rahman, Raikes, Rawlins, Rawson, Razaq, Reid, Richards, Rowles, Russell, Sadler, Sharif Mahamed, Sheikh, Shilton Godwin, Siddiqi, A Simcock, Smitheman, Stogia, Stone, Taylor, Teubler, Watson, Webb, Wills and Wilson

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

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#### **CC/16/82 Urgent Business**

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that he had consented to the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee on 30 November 2016 being submitted for consideration as urgent business.

#### **CC/16/83 Lord Mayor's Special Business – Presentation: Preventing Cancer Locally – How Manchester can beat cancer sooner**

The Council received a presentation on "Preventing Cancer Locally" from Phillip Brownlie (Local Public Affairs and Campaigning Manager), Stuart Pepper (Chief Laboratory Officer) and Stacey Arnold (Local Public Affairs and Campaigning Officer) from Cancer Research UK. At the end of the presentation the presenters answered questions from members.

#### **CC/16/84 Lord Mayor's Special Business – Presentation: State of the City Report (2016)**

The Council received a presentation on State of the City (2016) from Courtney Brightwell (Performance Manager – Place and Core). At the end of the presentation Mr Brightwell and Janice Gotts (Deputy City Treasurer) responded to questions from members.

#### **CC/16/85 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To agree the minutes of the meeting on 5 October as a correct record.

## **CC/16/86 Proceedings of the Executive**

The proceedings of the Executive on 19 October 2016, and 16 November 2016 were submitted. The Council considered the following recommendations:

### **Exe/16/127 Capital Programme – Proposed Increases**

Growth and Neighbourhoods – Waste and Recycling. Purchase of Recycling Bins. To increase the capital budget by £1,200k in 2016/17, funded by borrowing.

### **Exe/16/139 Manchester – a Housing Strategy 2016-2021**

To recommend that the Council adopts the Housing Strategy as part of the Council's formal Policy Framework

### **Exe/16/142 Capital Programme Monitoring 2016/17**

To approve the in-year budget transfers over £500,000 between capital schemes to maximise use of funding resources available to the City Council.

## **Decisions**

1. To receive those minutes.
2. Capital Programme – Proposed Increases:  
To increase the capital budget by £1,200k in 2016/17 for recycling bins, funded by borrowing.
3. Manchester – a Housing Strategy 2016-2021:  
To adopt the Housing Strategy as part of the Council's Policy Framework
4. Capital Programme Monitoring 2016:  
To approve in-year budget transfers over £500,000 between capital schemes to maximise use of funding resources that are available to the City Council.

## **CC/16/87 Questions to Executive Members under Procedural Rule 23**

Councillor Leese responded to a question from Councillor Sameem Ali about recent events which had caused Puma helicopters to fly low over homes in Moss Side.

Councillor Nigel Murphy responded to a question from Councillor Igbon about the increased demand on the police's 101 non emergency service.

Councillor Nigel Murphy responded to a question from Councillor Sameem Ali about the compostable waste collection service.

Councillor Nigel Murphy responded to a question from Councillor Amesbury about the effectiveness of street cleaning services, as provided by the current contractor.

Councillor Nigel Murphy responded to a question from Councillor Wills about the effectiveness of additional street patrols that were carried out in South Manchester.

Councillor Nigel Murphy responded to a question from Councillor Paul about the introduction of new smaller sized non recyclable waste bins.

Councillor Nigel Murphy responded to a question from Councillor Stogia about the incidence of flytipping in Whalley Range ward.

Councillor Bernard Priest responded to a question Councillor Bridges about plans to build new social housing for rent in Manchester.

Councillor Bernard Priest responded to a question from Councillor Amesbury about the recent announcement by the Chancellor to relax current restrictions to build additional social housing.

Councillor Bernard Priest responded to a question from Councillor Igbon about community asset transfers.

Councillor Sheila Newman responded to a question from Councillor Ellison about the future provision of secondary school places in South Manchester.

Councillor Andrews responded to a question from Councillor Teubler about the resettlement of Syrian refugees, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Councillor Andrews responded to a question from Councillor Connolly about alcohol related crime.

Councillor Flanagan responded to a question from Councillor Fletcher-Hackwood about sources funding for the refurbishment of the Town Hall.

Councillor Battle responded to question from Councillor Watson about gully cleansing in Whalley Range ward.

### **CC/16/88 Scrutiny Committees**

The minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

Children and Young People – 11 October 2016 and 8 November 2016  
Neighbourhoods and Environment – 11 October 2016 and 8 November 2016  
Economy – 12 October 2016 and 9 November 2016  
Communities and Equalities – 12 October 2016 and 9 November 2016  
Resources and Governance – 13 October 2016 and 10 November 2016  
Health – 10 October 2016 and 10 November 2016  
Trafford Borough Council and Manchester City Council Joint Health Scrutiny  
Committee – 11 October 2016

### **Decision**

To receive those minutes.

## **CC/16/89 Proceedings of Committees**

The minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 30 November 2016

The Committee had made recommendations about changes to the membership of Council committees and an admission to the roll of Honorary Alderman.

### **Decisions**

1. To receive the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee on 30 November 2016.
2. To agree to suspend Procedural Rule 25.1 to allow the reconsideration of a decision taken by the Council within the previous six months.
3. To approve the recommendations about membership of Council Committees
4. To approve the recommendation that a special meeting of the City Council be convened on 25 January 2017 for the purpose of adopting a resolution, to be proposed by the Lord Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, that Mr Paul Murphy is admitted as an Honorary Alderman of the City of Manchester in recognition of the long and eminent service that he has rendered to the Council, and thereafter to install Mr Paul Murphy as an Honorary Alderman.

The following minutes were also submitted to Council:

Audit Committee – 6 October 2016

Health and Wellbeing Board – 2 November 2016

Licensing and Appeals Committee – 24 October 2016

Licensing Committee – 24 October 2016

Planning and Highways Committee - 20 October 2016 and 17 November 2016

Standards Committee – 3 November 2016

Wythenshawe Area Committee – 24 November 2016

Personnel Committee – 16 November 2016. The Council considered the following recommendations:

### **PE/16/27 Project Director – ‘Our Town Hall’**

1. To recommend to Council that recruitment commences to the role of Project Director with a salary package of circa £120,000 to £140,000. The role will be subject to the new approach to senior Job Evaluation and dependant on the outcome may require the introduction of a market supplement. To note that the outcome of this exercise will be reported to Personnel Committee in December 2016 and will include any recommendations to Council if required.

2. To recommend to Council the introduction of a completion payment of £50,000 for the Project Director upon satisfactory completion of the project to agreed timelines, cost and quality; and that this payment is dependent on the Project Director leaving the employment of the Council at the end of the project.

## **Decisions**

1. To receive those minutes.
2. Project Director – ‘Our Town Hall’: To approve the commencement of recruitment to the role of Project Director with a salary package of circa £120,000 to £140,000. To also approve a completion payment of £50,000 for the Project Director upon satisfactory completion of the project to agreed timelines, cost and quality; noting that this payment is dependent on the Project Director leaving the employment of the Council at the end of the project.

### **CC/16/90 Business of the Combined Authority, Joint Authorities and Joint Committees**

There were no questions in relation to the Business of the Combined Authority, Joint Authorities and Joint Committees.

### **CC/16/91 Urgent Key Decisions**

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

### **CC/16/92 Motion - Domestic Abuse Evidence Letter Fees – Scrap the Fee Campaign**

Motion proposed and seconded:

Tackling domestic violence and abuse is a key priority for Manchester City Council. For many years, we have had, and continue to have, a zero tolerance approach.

Manchester City Council believes that it is everyone’s responsibility to stop domestic violence and abuse and it is our ambition that people treat one another with respect and compassion.

Yet between April 2014 and March 2015 domestic abuse incidents reported in the city increased by 35%.

National statistics have not changed for decades - 2 women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner. 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes.

Legal Aid is a lifeline for women in the city fleeing domestic abuse. It helps them to protect themselves, their children and secure their financial situation. Yet due to Government changes to the rules for women to qualify for legal aid they now need to provide a prescribed piece of evidence to prove they have been subjected to abuse.

One of the accepted forms of evidence is a letter from a GP. However some GPs charge a fee – in some cases as much as £75 – to produce that letter.

No GP should charge victims of domestic abuse for a letter they need to access legal aid. It's unfair. It's immoral. And it has to stop.

Manchester City Council will:

1. Support the Scrap the Fee campaign which was established by Tom Watson MP following a plea from Wythenshawe Safe Spots.
2. Call on the Government to scrap this unfair and unjust charge by bringing this service back under the NHS contract.
3. Resolve to use its strengthened relationship with GPs through Health & Social Care Devolution to work with them to bring about a 'Manchester GPs pledge' to not charge for legal aid evidence letters in cases of domestic abuse.
4. Work with the Greater Manchester Mayor to highlight this campaign across all 10 Greater Manchester Councils.

## **Resolution**

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

## **Decision**

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3. Resolve to use its strengthened relationship with GPs through Health & Social Care Devolution to work with them to bring about a 'Manchester GPs pledge' to not charge for legal aid evidence letters in cases of domestic abuse.
4. Work with the Greater Manchester Mayor to highlight this campaign across all 10 Greater Manchester Councils.

(Councillor Watson declared a personal interest in the item as Board Member of the Pankhurst Trust).

**CC/16/93 Motion – Recognising and acknowledging diverse needs of children in adoption and fostering**

Motion proposed and seconded:

This Council notes that Manchester is one of linguistically diverse City in Europe where over 200 languages are spoken and it is comfortable and proud for its diversity and its heritage.

This Council notes that number of children in Local Authority Care has now reduced from 1,294 it stands at 1,237 between April 2015 and March 2016.

We recognise that the majority of looked after children in our care are from White British background due to abuse or neglect and the birth parents are unable to care for them.

The Council notes that all children have diverse and often complex needs and we try to place them to the appropriate matched foster or adoptive carer. Statistics from our Corporate Panel shows that LAC come from Mixed, Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities; 14% of children described as Black or Black British; 5% as Asian; and 18% as mixed.

The Council further notes to continue our endeavours in engaging Manchester's diverse range of communities to attract wide range of potential foster and adoptive carers.

The Council resolves to continue and redouble its effort in line with the spirit of Our Manchester to promote and develop new links and relationships and recruit more foster and adoptive carers.

### **Resolution**

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

### **Decision**

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The Council further notes to continue our endeavours in engaging Manchester's diverse range of communities to attract wide range of potential foster and adoptive carers.

The Council resolves to continue and redouble its effort in line with the spirit of Our Manchester to promote and develop new links and relationships and recruit more foster and adoptive carers.

(Councillor Amesbury declared a prejudicial interest in this item as a result of his wife's employment and left room whilst this matter was debated.)