

Council

Minutes of the meeting on 25 January 2017

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, Chappell, Chohan, Collins, Connolly, Cookson, Craig, Curley, Dar, Davies, Ellison, Farrell, Fender, Flanagan, Fletcher-Hackwood, Green, Grimshaw, Hacking, Hewitson, Hitchen, Hughes, S Judge, T Judge, Kamal, Karney, Kirkpatrick, Knowles, Lanchbury, Leese, Lone, Longsdon, Ludford, Manco, Marshall, Midgley, 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, Watson, Webb, Wills and Wilson

Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester –

Paul Murphy OBE

CC/17/02 Urgent Business

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that he had consented to the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee on 25 January 2017 being submitted for consideration as urgent business.

CC/17/03 Lord Mayor's Special Business – Steve Mycio and Former Councillor Vincent Young

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Leese to make a statement about the recent deaths of Steve Mycio and former Councillor Vincent Young. The Council and those present at its meeting then observed a minute's silence in their memory.

CC/17/04 Lord Mayor's Special Business – New Years Honours List

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that he had written to the following Mancunians to congratulate them on the honours they received in the New Year's Honours list:

Professor Carol Christine Smart CBE
Jody Alan Cundy OBE
Mrs Bernie Ryan OBE
Ms Elinor Jane Barker MBE
Mrs Jennifer Ann Foote MBE
Steven Errol Grant MBE
Miss Corrine Claire Hall MBE
Peter Girvan Hilton JP MBE
Michael James Bernard Jones MBE
Ms Lynne Davina Potts MBE

Mrs Sharon Avril Bannister BEM
Akeim Mundell BEM
Insp Ian David Hanson QPM

CC/17/05 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the ordinary meeting on 30 November 2016 and the special meeting on 14 December 2016 as correct records.

CC/17/06 Proceedings of the Executive

The proceedings of the Executive on 14 December 2016 and 16 January 2017 were submitted. The Council considered the following recommendations:

Exe/16/156 Global Revenue Budget Monitoring

To recommend that Council approve the budget virements of £3.6m being £1m additional income from planning applications and £2.6m of uncommitted money allocated to adults' investment funding.

Exe/17/012 Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2017

To commend to Council the revised Council Tax Support Scheme and recommend it be adopted.

To recommend that Council delegate authority to the City Treasurer to continue to make minor technical changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme to provide for uprating of applicable amounts, disregards and non-dependant deduction levels and income bands.

Decisions

1. To receive those minutes.
2. Global Revenue Budget Monitoring
To approve the budget virements of £3.6m being £1m additional income from planning applications and £2.6m of uncommitted money allocated to adults' investment funding.
3. Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2017
To adopt the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme and delegate authority to the City Treasurer to continue to make minor technical changes to the Scheme to provide for uprating of applicable amounts, disregards and non-dependant deduction levels and income bands.

CC/17/07 Questions to Executive Members under Procedural Rule 23

Councillor Battle responded to a question from Councillor Midgley about measures to improve road safety around schools in light of a recent road traffic incident near Cavendish school.

Councillor Battle responded to a question from Councillor Craig about ongoing bridge replacement works in Burnage.

Councillor Battle responded to a question from Councillor Leech about a proposed reduction to the speed limit on Princess Road.

Councillor Andrews responded to a question from Councillor Stogia about the new provider for mental health services for Manchester residents.

Councillor Rahman responded to a question from Councillor Leech about income generated by Manchester parks.

Councillor Bernard Priest responded to a question from Councillor Leech about the support that is available to people who are recognised as homeless.

Councillor Nigel Murphy responded to a question from Councillor Leech about flytipping on Council-owned land.

CC/17/08 Scrutiny Committees

The minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

Children and Young People – 6 December 2016 and 3 January 2017
Neighbourhoods and Environment – 6 December 2016 and 3 January 2017
Economy – 7 December 2016 and 4 January 2017
Communities and Equalities – 7 December 2016 and 4 January 2017
Resources and Governance – 8 December 2016 and 5 January 2017
Health – 8 December 2016 and 5 January 2017

Decision

To receive those minutes.

[Councillor Watson declared a prejudicial interest in HSC/17/02 as trustee of Pankhurst Trust]

[Councillor Curley declared a prejudicial interest in ESC/17/04 as an employee of Manchester College]

CC/17/09 Proceedings of Committees

The minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 25 January 2017

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

Decisions

1. To receive the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee on 25 January 2017.
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

The following minutes were also submitted to Council:

Audit Committee – 1 December 2016

Health and Wellbeing Board – 18 January 2017

Licensing and Appeals Committee – 5 December 2016 and 16 January 2017

Licensing Committee – 16 January 2017

Personnel Committee – 11 January 2017

Planning and Highways Committee – 15 December 2016 and 12 January 2017

Standards Committee – 15 December 2016

Wythenshawe Area Committee – 15 December 2016

Decision

To receive those minutes.

CC/17/10 Business of the Combined Authority, Joint Authorities and Joint Committees

Councillor Fender responded to questions from Councillors Strong and Leech regarding the newly awarded operating contract for Metrolink.

CC/17/11 Urgent Key Decisions

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

CC/17/12 Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on its Electoral Review draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council

Decision

To support the recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council.

CC/17/13 Annual report of Standards Committee

The Council noted the report of the City Solicitor on matters within the remit of the Standards Committee.

CC/17/14 Treasury Management Interim report

Decision

To approve the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Statement as set out in the report.

CC/17/15 Code of Corporate Governance

Decision

To approve the Code of Corporate Code of Governance.

CC/17/16 Findings of the hearing Panel in respect of a complaint concerning a breach of the Code of Conduct for Members

The Council noted the report of the Monitoring Officer concerning the Findings of the hearing Panel in respect of a complaint concerning a breach of the Code of Conduct for Members.

CC/17/17 Motion – Sex and Relationship Education in schools

Motion proposed and seconded:

This council notes that there is an urgent need for mandatory quality inclusive sex and relationship education for every child in every school.

Our young people are being denied their right when: there is a scandalous level of sex crime in our schools - 5,500 sex crimes reported to the police over the last three years; 44% of LGBT young people have considered suicide; young people with disabilities are at a high risk of being subjected to sexual and emotional abuse; 10-15% of children are unhappy with their appearance – an issue that can lead to significant mental health problems. We cannot idly accept this.

This Tory Government is continuing to deny our young people the right the British Youth Council, the UK Youth Parliament and the NUS have been demanding since 2014 – the right to quality inclusive sex and relationship education.

As most of our secondary schools are academies and exempt from the National Curriculum, it is only in maintained schools and only from age 11, that a form of sex and relationship education (teaching about reproduction, sexual health, sexual orientation) is required – and even here parents can withdraw their children. By age 11, 28% of our children will have been exposed to online pornography and 22% of our girls will have been subjected to sexual comments from boys.

Studies show, 94% of parents expect sex and relationship education to be delivered in our schools yet, whilst there are isolated cases of good practice, teachers generally are not trained to teach the subject and health workers are not trained to teach in our school environment.

Our young people are being educated elsewhere: through the pornography they stumble upon; through airbrushed and highly sexualised images splashed across billboards, prevalent in the music videos they watch, the games they play and displayed on tv and cinema screens; through sexual harassment and exploitation in the school playground and beyond.

Our young people, from an early age are discovering themselves and their identity. Disturbingly, those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, disabled or not white see little healthy representation about them.

This council calls on the Education Secretary urgently, to legislate for every pupil in every school, compulsory quality, inclusive sex and relationship education that includes consent, body image, pornography, sexting, sexual orientation, gender, partner and domestic violence.

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/17/18 Motion – Action ‘To Let’ Boards

Motion proposed and seconded:

Communities across Manchester are blighted by unsightly To Let boards. These have a negative impact on the sustainability of the housing market. Wards with a high proportion of private rented housing stock are most affected. There has been a huge growth in unauthorised 'Let By' and 'Managed By' signs in the residential and commercial sectors.

Removing To Let boards would benefit all of our residents and local landlords, making the worst affected neighbourhoods more desirable places to live. These signs attribute, wrongly, to a sense that there is no fixed community.

To Let boards are an outdated way of advertising. Market research shows that most of those renting find available properties via the internet or by visiting letting agencies in person.

Many properties with To Let signs displayed are not actually on the market. The signage is often left up all year round as a form of free advertising for landlords and agencies.

Over 85,000 students live in Manchester. To Let and Let agreed boards often indicate that the properties concerned are rented to students. Wards with larger student populations are known to experience high levels of domestic burglary due to the association with lower levels of security and higher levels of expensive consumer goods.

When our student residents are vulnerable we are all vulnerable; and we want to keep our mixed residential communities safe.

Manchester City Council notes:

- Pernicious cuts from the current Tory Government and 2010-2015 Coalition Government have vastly reduced the capacity for our Planning Department to police and prioritise this growing problem.
- Liverpool City Council have successfully implemented scheme to get rid of To Let boards. Greenbank Ward- an area with 1,600 houses- used to have over 600 To Let signs. Since the introduction of the ban, there are now none of these boards. Other successful schemes have been implemented in Leeds, Westminster and Newcastle.

This motion calls on Manchester City Council to:

- Investigate the implementation of pilot schemes where estate/ letting agents and landlords will be asked to remove all To Let boards from properties.
- Prioritise implementation in wards with the highest levels of private rented accommodation.
- Approach other local authorities to investigate the successes and failures of respective schemes and to share best practice on enforcement.
- To enforce a ban on unauthorised 'Let by' and 'Managed by' boards.
- If a voluntary removal scheme does not work, the council resolves to investigate using an Article 4 direction to make a ban of To Let boards legally enforceable.

Resolution

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

Decision

Communities across Manchester are blighted by unsightly To Let boards. These have a negative impact on the sustainability of the housing market. Wards with a high proportion of private rented housing stock are most affected. There has been a huge growth in unauthorised 'Let By' and 'Managed By' signs in the residential and commercial sectors.

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