

Council

Minutes of the meeting on 24 January 2018

Present -

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor Councillor Eddy Newman – in the Chair

Councillors –

Akbar, Ahmed Ali, Azra Ali, N. Ali, Alijah, Andrews, Appleby, Austin-Behan, Barratt, Bridges, Chohan, Cookson, Craig, Curley, Dar, Ellison, Evans, Farrell, Flanagan, Fletcher-Hackwood, Grimshaw, Hacking, Hassan, Hewitson, Hitchen, Hughes, Igbon, Ilyas, T. Judge, S. Judge, Kamal, Karney, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Leech, Leese, Longsdon, Lovecy, Ludford, Madeleine Monaghan, Manco, Midgley, Moore, N. Murphy, S. Murphy, S. Newman, Noor, Ollerhead, O’Neil, Paul, B. Priest, H. Priest, Pritchard, Rahman, Raikes, Rawlins, Rawson, Razaq, Reid, Richards, Russell, Sadler, Sameen Ali, Shaukut Ali, Sharif Mahamed, Shilton Godwin, Siddiqi, A. Simcock, K. Simcock, Smitheman, Stogia, Stone, Strong, Taylor, Teubler, Watson, Webb, Wills and Wilson

CC/18/01 Lord Mayor’s Special Business – One Minute Silence

- **Death of Councillor Kieran Quinn (Leader of Tameside Borough Council)**
- **Death of former Councillor Mark Hackett**

The Lord Mayor invited those present to observe a minute’s silence in memory of the late Councillor Kieran Quinn who had served as Leader of Tameside Borough Council. The Lord Mayor also invited those present to stand in memory of former Councillor Mark Hackett who had served on the Council between 1986 and 2011 and had held the office of Lord Mayor of Manchester (2010-2011).

CC/18/02 Lord Mayor’s Special Business – New Year’s 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 Diane Coyle, CBE
Professor Caroline Dive, CBE
David Deane, OBE
Professor Christopher Ernest Maitland Griffiths, OBE
Lou Cordwell, OBE
Paul Berman, MBE
Elinor Chohan, MBE
Professor Philippa Jane Tyrell, MBE
Dr Tracey Jayne Vell, MBE
Sandra Bradshaw, BEM
Roselyn Hirst, BEM
Janice Moss, BEM
Adele Owen, QPM

CC/18/03 Urgent Business

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that he had consented to the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee on 24 January 2018 being submitted for consideration as urgent business.

CC/18/04 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 29 November 2017 as a correct record.

CC/18/05 Proceedings of the Executive

The proceedings of the Executive on 13 December and 10 January 2018 were submitted. The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following recommendations:

Exe/17/152 New Manchester Youth Zone Council to approve a capital contribution of £1.2m towards the project build plus an additional £300k land allowance and a revenue contribution of £200k per year from 2020-2023.

Exe/17/158 Capital Programme – Proposed Increases Council to approve:

1. The following changes to Manchester City Council's (MCC) capital programme:
 - (a) Growth and Neighbourhoods Programme – Ross Place Refurbishment. An increase to the capital budget of £2.120m, £1.012m in 2017/18 and £1.108m in 2018/19, funded by Revenue Contributions to Capital (RCCO) from anticipated future insurance claims.
 - (b) Growth and Neighbourhoods Programme – Civic Quarter Heat Network (CQHN). An increase to the capital budget of £3m in 2018/19, funded by grant funding.
 - (c) Children's Services Programme – Gorton Youth Zone. An increase to the capital budget of £1.2m in 2017/18, funded by borrowing.
2. The following change to Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA) capital programme: GMCA - Housing Investment Fund (HIF). An increase to the capital budget of £93.7m, £13.9m in 2018/19, £69.6m in 2019/20, and £10.2m in 2020/21, funded by borrowing direct from Government, under the HIF agreement.

Exe/18/006 Capital Programme – Proposed Increases Council approve:

The following changes to Manchester City Council's (MCC) capital programme:

Growth and Neighbourhoods Programme – North Manchester New Builds 2. An increase to the capital budget of £11.283m (£40k in 2017/18, £1.0m in 2018/19, £5.121m in 2019/20 and £5.122m in 2020/21), funded by borrowing of £8.433m and HCA grant funding of £2.850m.

Decisions

1. To receive the minutes of the Executive on 13 December 2017 and 10 January 2018.
2. To approve a capital contribution of £1.2m towards the New Manchester Youth Zone project build plus an additional £300k land allowance and a revenue contribution of £200k per year from 2020-2023.
3. To approve the following changes to the Manchester City Council (MCC) capital programme:
 - (a) Growth and Neighbourhoods Programme – Ross Place Refurbishment. An increase to the capital budget of £2.120m, £1.012m in 2017/2018 and £1.108m in 2018/19, funded by Revenue Contributions to Capital (RCCO) from anticipated future insurance claims.
 - (b) Growth and Neighbourhoods Programme – Civic Quarter Heat Network (CQHN). An increase to the capital budget of £3m in 2018/2019, funded by grant funding.
 - (c) Children's Services Programme – Gorton Youth Zone. An increase to the capital budget of £1.2m in 2017/18, funded by borrowing.
 - (d) Growth and Neighbourhoods Programme – North Manchester New Builds 2. An increase to the capital budget of £11.283m (£40k in 2017/2018, £1.0m in 2018/2019, £5.121m in 2019/2020 and £5.122m in 2020/2021), funded by borrowing of £8.433m and HCA grant funding of £2.850m.
4. To approve the following change to Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA) capital programme: GMCA - Housing Investment Fund (HIF). An increase to the capital budget of £93.7m, £13.9m in 2018/2019, £69.6m in 2019/2020, and £10.2m in 2020/2021, funded by borrowing direct from Government, under the HIF agreement.

CC/18/06 Questions to Executive Members under Procedural Rule 23

Councillor Flanagan responded to a question from Councillor Igbon regarding the number of court summons and prosecutions since 2015 relating to council tax that have involved Manchester residents.

Councillor N Murphy responded to a question from Councillor Igbon regarding a youth violence strategy for Manchester.

Councillor Stogia responded to a question from Councillor Leech relating to a request for information on resurfacing schemes.

Councillor Flanagan responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding the number of council tax payers receiving maximum council tax support that are currently in arrears with Council Tax payments.

Councillor Stogia responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding the number of complaints received in respect of work carried out in highways planned maintenance and checks made on the quality of work.

Councillor Stogia responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding the amount of Section 106 money negotiated as part of planning developments over the last 10 years but yet not received by the Council.

Councillor Craig responded to a question from Councillor Midgley regarding the number of Manchester residents requiring a psychiatric bed and were placed out of area in the last year due to unavailability of beds locally and what measures are being taken to reduce and prevent the practice within Manchester.

Councillor Stogia responded to a question from Councillor Shilton Godwin regarding the number of potholes filled and complaints received since regarding the quality of workmanship on the repair.

Councillor Stogia responded to a question from Councillor Shilton Godwin regarding progress to construct the Chorlton cycleway and discussion with the Mayor of Greater Manchester to increase the funding of the project.

CC/18/07 Scrutiny Minutes

The minutes of the following Scrutiny Committee meetings were submitted:

- Children and Young People – 5 December 2017 and 2 January 2018
- Health – 5 December 2017
- Neighbourhoods and Environment – 6 December 2017 and 3 January 2018
- Economy – 6 December 2017 and 3 January 2018
- Communities and Equalities – 7 December 2017 and 4 January 2018
- Resources and Governance – 7 December 2017 and 4 January 2018

Decision

To receive those minutes.

(Councillor S Murphy declared a non-pecuniary prejudicial interest in respect of Economy Scrutiny Committee minutes, 6 December 2017 minute number ESC/17/54 - Learning Training Employment Group Performance Update and Manchester College Estates Programme Update, for the reason that she serves as a member of the Learning Training Employment Group Board of Governors. Councillor S Murphy left the meeting room during consideration of the item.)

CC/18/08 Proceedings of Committees

The minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

- Audit Committee – 30 November 2017
- Health and Wellbeing Board - 17 November 2017
- Licensing Committee – 4 December 2017
- Licensing and Appeals Committee 4 December 2017
- Planning and Highways Committee – 14 December 2017 and 11 January 2018
- Wythenshawe Area Committee – 26 October and 23 November 2017
- Personnel Committee – 13 December and 22 December 2017
- Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 24 January 2018

Councillor Flanagan referred to the departure of the City Solicitor to take up a new role at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in March 2018 and took the opportunity to thank Liz Treacy on behalf of the Council for the exemplary service she has provided to the Council.

Decision

To receive those minutes.

CC/18/09 Business of the Combined Authority, Joint Authorities and Joint Committees

Councillor Leese (Spokesperson for the Combined Authority) responded to a question from Councilor Leech concerning Metrolink fares.

CC/18/10 Urgent Key Decisions

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

Decision

To note the report.

CC/18/11 Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places: Draft Final Proposals

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive which set out the Council's draft final proposals from the interim review of polling districts and polling places. An updated version of Appendix 2D of the report was also received, in which pages 9 to 11 had been revised and updated in relation to the proposed 4DEB and 4DEG polling districts in Didsbury East Ward.

The Constitutional and Nomination Committee at its meeting on 24 January 2018 had referred consideration of the report's recommendations to the Council.

Decisions

1. To agree to the adoption of parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places as set out in the scheme contained in Appendices 1 and 2 and in the maps at Appendix 3 of the report submitted.
2. To agree that the scheme contained in Appendices 1 and 2 and in the maps at Appendix 3 of the report submitted, also be adopted in relation to local government elections.
3. To agree the reasons given in the report for the decisions taken in respect of the designation of parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places.
4. To agree that the Chief Executive is requested to publish such notices and other documentation required by law on completion of the review.
5. To request that the Electoral Registration Officer reflects the approved revised scheme of polling districts in the Electoral Register which is being re-published on 1 February 2018, in preparation for the local elections taking place on 3 May 2018.
6. To note that final proposals have yet to be made in respect of the polling place for the 3LOG polling district in the new Longsight ward and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to designate this polling place, in consultation with relevant ward councillors, group leaders and the Chair of Constitutional and Nomination Committee.
7. To agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place prior to the next full review in consultation with relevant ward councillors, group leaders and the Chair of Constitutional and Nomination Committee.

CC/18/12 Adoption of the Definition of Antisemitism

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive which recommended the Council to adopt the working definition of antisemitism.

The working definition as defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance is as follows:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

The report informed the Council that the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 1 March 2017, had recommended that the Council adopt the working definition. The adoption of the working definition would give assurance to Manchester’s Jewish Communities of the Council’s commitment that anti-Semitic behaviours will not be tolerated. The definition also provides clarity to the Council’s understanding of the term.

The Council noted that Greater Manchester Combined Authority had agreed to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism at its meeting held on 30 March 2017.

Decision

To agree to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism.

CC/18/13 Motion – Abortion Protests

Motion proposed and seconded.

This motion is explicitly not one for or against abortion, which is available in Great Britain in the circumstances laid out in the Abortion Act 1967. It is a motion that seeks to protect the rights of individuals from harassment and intimidation when accessing legally existing health services and of local residents not to be exposed to related disruption and distress on a daily basis.

Many protesters use deliberately disturbing and graphic images and models, including those purporting to be of dismembered fetuses. They also distribute leaflets containing misleading information about abortion, and often follow, record and question women as they enter or leave the centres. Significant numbers of women report feeling intimidated and distressed by this activity as they try to access a lawful healthcare service in confidence.

The right to protest needs to be balanced with the right of pregnant women to choose and to obtain advice and treatment in confidence and free from intimidation. Those who wish to campaign to restrict women’s reproductive choices have plenty of opportunities and locations in which to do so. The area outside a clinic need not and should not be one of them. Equally, local residents who live nearby clinics should not have to be exposed to constant nuisance, disruption and anxiety caused by such protests on a daily basis.

The Council also notes the steps taken by Ealing Council to pursue a Public Space Protection Order to prevent harassment of women accessing pregnancy advice services in their Borough.

This Council commits to fully explore every possible option and will take all necessary actions within its powers, utilising all necessary resources, to prevent anti-abortion protestors from intimidating and harassing women outside the Manchester abortion clinics.

The Council will do this to provide the necessary reassurance and security that all women need and deserve as they access healthcare and to defend the quality of life of those residents living nearby who pass the clinic on a regular basis.

Resolution

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

Decision

This motion is explicitly not one for or against abortion, which is available in Great Britain in the circumstances laid out in the Abortion Act 1967. It is a motion that seeks to protect the rights of individuals from harassment and intimidation when accessing legally existing health services and of local residents not to be exposed to related disruption and distress on a daily basis.

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CC/18/14 Motion – Mental Health

Motion proposed and seconded:

The Council notes that the mental health services are in crisis:

According to recent statistics thirteen people die by suicide every day in England due to mental health issues. Locally mental health services are dealing with approximately 4000 individuals each year seeking help and support. Government cuts mean that referrals to mental health services are taking too long putting people at risk of their condition deteriorating and further and of suicide.

Council believes that one death from suicide is one death too many and notes that we have recently launched our Suicide Prevention Action Plan. We need to ensure that services are local and accessible with good transport links so the most vulnerable people in our wards get the services they deserve.

To this end we note that in January 2017 Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust took over the mental health services in the city and they have been tasked with making sure residents get help much sooner, with a target of no more than 6 weeks to get help with psychological therapies and sooner if needed. As part of Manchester's Locality Plan we will see the induction of 12 neighbourhood hubs to improve access to, along with other facilities, mental health and wellbeing.

In addition we call on the council to:

- Ensure that, despite Government cuts, mental health services in the city are properly funded and that parity of esteem is achieved.
- Publicise what help and support is available for people experiencing mental health issues.
- Reduce waiting times to access help, support and therapy.
- Train all front line staff working with the public in mental health first aid.
- Ensure that all areas of Manchester have equal access to local mental health services.
- Continue to work to reduce stigma around mental health and suicide so that our residents feel able to seek help when they need it.

Resolution

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

Decision

The Council notes that the mental health services are in crisis:

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- Ensure that all areas of Manchester have equal access to local mental health services.
- Continue to work to reduce stigma around mental health and suicide so that our residents feel able to seek help when they need it.