

Council

Minutes of the meeting on 21 March 2018

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

Councillors –

Akbar, Ahmed Ali, N. Ali, Alijah, Andrews, Appleby, Austin-Behan, Azra Ali, Barratt, Bridges, Chohan, Collins, Cookson, Connolly, Cooley, Craig, Curley, Davies, Ellison, Evans, Farrell, Fender, Flanagan, Fletcher-Hackwood, Grimshaw, Hacking, Hassan, Hewitson, Hitchen Hughes, Igbon, Ilyas, S. Judge, Kamal, Karney, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Leech, Leese, Longsdon, Loughman, Lovecy, Ludford, Madeleine Monaghan, Mary Monaghan, Manco, Midgley, Moore, N. Murphy, S. Murphy, Noor, Ollerhead, O'Neil, Paul, Pritchard, B. Priest, H. Priest, Rahman, Rawlins, Rawson, Razaq, Reid, Reeves, Richards, Russell, Sadler, Sameen Ali, Shaukut Ali, Sharif Mahamed, Sheikh, Shilton Godwin, A. Simcock, K. Simcock, Stogia, Stone, Taylor, Watson, Webb, Wills and Wilson

Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester –

William Egerton

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

- Death of Former Councillor and Lord Mayor, Hugh Thomas Lee.
- Death of Former Councillor, Sonia Alexander.
- Death of Former Councillor, Rodney Isherwood.

The Lord Mayor invited those present to stand for a minutes silence in memory of:

- Former Councillor, Mr Hugh Thomas Lee who had served on the Council from 1973 to 1986 and had held the office of Lord Mayor of Manchester (1980 - 1981).
- Former Councillor, Mrs Sonia Alexander who served the Council from 1973 to 1979.
- Former Councillor, Mr Rodney Isherwood who served the Council from 2004 to 2010.

CC/18/19 Lord Mayor's Special Business – Retiring Members of the Council

The Lord Mayor informed members that this would be the last council meeting for the following councillors who would not be standing again at the local election:

Carl Austin-Behan
Andrew Fender
Amina Lone
John Longsdon
Mick Loughman

Ollie Manco
Beth Marshall
Kevin Peel
Jon-Leigh Pritchard
Nilofar Siddiqi
Josie Teubler
Chris Webb

The Council thanked the councillors for their contribution and wished them well for the future.

CC/18/20 Motion without Notice – Change of Order of Business

The Leader of the Council moved a motion without notice to change the order of the Council business (Council Procedure Rule 19.1(c)), to allow the two Notices of Motion regarding “Protecting Our National Health Service” and “Greater Manchester Police” to be brought forward and be considered after presentations under the Lord Mayor’s Special Business had been received (Minute numbers CC/18/23 and CC/18/24).

Resolution

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

Decision

That the order of Council business be changed and the Notices of Motion – regarding “Protecting Our National Health Service” and “Greater Manchester Police” be brought forward and be considered following the presentations (Minute numbers CC/18/21 and C/18/22).

CC/18/21 Lord Mayor’s Special Business – Presentation – National Health Service

The Council was addressed by Mr Paddy Clasby (Unison representative) on the National Health Service.

CC/18/22 Lord Mayor’s Special Business – Presentation – Greater Manchester Police

The Council was addressed by Superintendent Chris Hill (City of Manchester Division – Greater Manchester Police (GMP)) on the work of the GMP.

CC/18/23 Motion – Greater Manchester Police

Motion proposed and seconded:

The Council:

- notes the increasing pressures facing Greater Manchester Police (GMP);
- supports the warnings of the Labour party that, nationally, police forces are reaching a breaking point, and completely condemns the Liberal Democrats for their complicity, whilst part of the Coalition Government, in the wide ranging cuts experienced by forces up and down the country and here in Manchester;
- welcomes the announcement by GM Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Police, Bev Hughes for 100 additional officers;
- believes that the Government should rethink their strategy for policing and adopt Labour's 2017 manifesto commitment; pledging to put 10,000 additional police on to the streets of England and Wales, to be paid for by reversing planned cuts to capital gains tax;
- highlights that the seven year pay cap for police officers has seen morale collapse and that officers are £6,000 per year worse off in real terms, with wages failing to keep pace with inflation and believes that lifting the pay cap will help to reward officers fairly, increase morale and officer retention rates and, ultimately, lead to a better standards of policing throughout the country;
- derides the meagre one-off 1% lump sum pay rise being given by the Conservative government to the police for the next year; noting that this one-off rise makes police pay still far below inflation which stands at 2.0% and is well short of the 5% pay increase being asked for by unions to help mitigate the extensive period of real term pay cuts already undertaken;
- supports unions and others who have called the Government's offer 'pathetic' and believes that is a damning indictment for the Conservative Party that they make tax cuts for the very richest whilst failing to give public servants fair pay;
- welcomes the GMP's commitment to neighbourhood policing, with its key emphasis on tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, and focus on problem solving and crime prevention through enhancing local intelligence gathering; it is noted that police officers work collaboratively with partner agencies to provide a bespoke service that best meets the needs of each community, with an increased focus on utilising early partnership based intervention.

Resolution

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

Decision

The Council:

- notes the increasing pressures facing Greater Manchester Police (GMP);
- supports the warnings of the Labour party that, nationally, police forces are reaching a breaking point, and completely condemns the Liberal Democrats for their complicity, whilst part of the Coalition Government, in the wide ranging cuts experienced by forces up and down the country and here in Manchester;
- welcomes the announcement by GM Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Police, Bev Hughes for 100 additional officers;
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- supports unions and others who have called the Government's offer 'pathetic' and believes that is a damning indictment for the Conservative Party that they make tax cuts for the very richest whilst failing to give public servants fair pay;
- welcomes the GMP's commitment to neighbourhood policing, with its key emphasis on tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, and focus on problem solving and crime prevention through enhancing local intelligence gathering; it is noted that police officers work collaboratively with partner agencies to provide a bespoke service that best meets the needs of each community, with an increased focus on utilising early partnership based intervention.

CC/18/24 Motion – Protecting Our National Health Service

Motion proposed and seconded:

This year we celebrate 70 years since the establishment of our National Health Service, a world class public service. Since 2010 we have seen

a crisis grow in our NHS, and by January 2018 experienced the ‘worst winter on record’.

Across the country waiting lists are increasing, routine operations have been cancelled, A&E’s have struggled to hit their 4 hour target, ambulances have been backed up at A&Es and there is a growing shortage of doctors and nurses.

This Council notes:

- Nationally mental health trusts have been left with less funding in real terms than they had in 2012 as experts warn patients with mental illness are “bearing the brunt” of government cuts to the sector;
- Public Health budgets have been cut by approximately 40% since 2010;
- National funding to Mental health Trusts has found to be lower than 2012 levels one inflation has been taken into account;
- The IFS warn that NHS funding increases is at its lowest rate since 1950’s;
- In March The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) found that four out of five doctors are worried about the ability of their service to deliver safe patient care over the next 12 months;
- Funding to social care has been significantly cut, causing pressure on the rest of the health system.

The NHS and social care need proper funding urgently, and after years of attacks since 2010, only Labour can be trusted to protect the NHS for the next 70 years.

Resolution

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

Decision

This year we celebrate 70 years since the establishment of our National Health Service, a world class public service. Since 2010 we have seen a crisis grow in our NHS, and by January 2018 experienced the ‘worst winter on record’.

Across the country waiting lists are increasing, routine operations have been cancelled, A&E’s have struggled to hit their 4 hour target, ambulances have been backed up at A&Es and there is a growing shortage of doctors and nurses.

This Council notes:

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- Public Health budgets have been cut by approximately 40% since 2010;
- National funding to Mental health Trusts has found to be lower than 2012 levels one inflation has been taken into account;
- The IFS warn that NHS funding increases is at its lowest rate since 1950’s;
- In March The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) found that four out of five doctors are worried about the ability of their service to deliver safe patient care over the next 12 months;
- Funding to social care has been significantly cut, causing pressure on the rest of the health system.

The NHS and social care need proper funding urgently, and after years of attacks since 2010, only Labour can be trusted to protect the NHS for the next 70 years.

CC/18/25 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the budget meeting of the Council held on 2 March 2018 as a correct record.

CC/18/26 Urgent Business

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that there was no urgent business to consider.

CC/18/27 Proceedings of the Executive

The proceedings of the Executive on 7 February, 7 March and 21 March 2018 were submitted. The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following recommendations:

Exe/18/033 Capital Programme – Proposed Increases Council to approve:

1. Growth and Neighbourhoods – Parking Improvements. An increase to the capital budget of £0.924M in 2018/19, funded by a revenue contribution to capital outlay from the Parking Reserve.
2. Asset Management Programme – Ross Place Refurbishment. An increase to the capital budget of £0.096M in 2018/19, funded by Capital Fund.

3. Growth and Neighbourhoods – Blackley Crematorium. An increase to the capital budget of £0.115M in 2017/18, funded by capital receipts.

Exe/18/039 Capital Programme – Proposed Increases Council to approve:

1. Growth and Neighbourhoods – Moss Side Leisure Centre. An increase to the capital budget of £0.4m in 2018/19, funded by borrowing.
2. Strategic Development – Heron House. A virement from the Sustaining Key Initiatives programme of £2.6m in 2018/19, funded by borrowing.

Decisions

1. To receive the minutes of the Executive held on 7 February, 7 March and 21 March 2018.
2. To approve the following changes to the Manchester City Council (MCC) capital programme:
 - a) Growth and Neighbourhoods – Parking Improvements. An increase to the capital budget of £0.924M in 2018/19, funded by a revenue contribution to capital outlay from the Parking Reserve.
 - b) Asset Management Programme – Ross Place Refurbishment. An increase to the capital budget of £0.096M in 2018/19, funded by Capital Fund.
 - c) Growth and Neighbourhoods – Blackley Crematorium. An increase to the capital budget of £0.115M in 2017/18, funded by capital receipts.
 - d) Growth and Neighbourhoods – Moss Side Leisure Centre. An increase to the capital budget of £0.4m in 2018/19, funded by borrowing.
 - e) Strategic Development – Heron House. A virement from the Sustaining Key Initiatives programme of £2.6m in 2018/19, funded by borrowing.

CC/18/28 Questions to Executive Members under Procedural Rule 23

Councillor Craig responded to a question from Councillor Webb regarding an update on progress to deliver a real wage for home-care work.

Councillor Stogia responded to a question from Councillor A Simcock in respect of the Wilmslow Road cycle lanes and arrangements for raising awareness of cyclists to the presence of blind and partially sighted pedestrians.

Councillor Stogia responded to a question from Councillor Leech in respect of complaints received regarding P J Developments in Manchester.

Councillors Stogia answered a question from Councillor Shilton Godwin in respect of repairs to potholes on St Werburgh's Road and Nell Lane.

Councillor Bernard Priest responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding the impact on leaseholders in Manchester following the decision of the London residential property first tier tribunal to add the cost of replacement cladding in tower blocks on to service charges.

Councillor Nigel Murphy responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding bowling greens in Didsbury Park.

Councillor Leese responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding response times to enquiries from members of the Council.

Councillor Nigel Murphy answered a question from Councillor Leech regarding the maintenance of open spaces transferred to Southway Housing.

Councillor Bernard Priest responded to a question from Councillor Leech in respect of a review of a policy relating to financial viability statements of developers.

Councillor Stogia responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding the eradication of single use plastic items by businesses in Manchester through the use of more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Councillor Nigel Murphy answered a question from Councillor Shilton Godwin regarding complaints on levels of litter and dirty streets in Chorlton Park.

Councillor Nigel Murphy responded to a question from Councillor Shilton Godwin regarding work to tackle instances of anti-social behavior and criminal activity taking place within Chorlton Park.

Councillor Nigel Murphy responded to a question from Councillor K Simcock regarding the bowling in Didsbury Park.

Councillor Stogia responded to a question from Councillor Midgely regarding safety monitoring on Princess Road following the introduction of a 30mph speed limit.

CC/18/29 Scrutiny Minutes

The minutes of the following Scrutiny Committee meetings were submitted:

Health – 30 January, 6 February and 27 February 2018
Children and Young People – 30 January and 27 February 2018
Neighbourhoods and Environment – 31 January and 28 February 2018
Economy – 31 January and 28 February 2018
Communities and Equalities – 1 February and 1 March 2018
Resources and Governance – 1 February and 1 March 2018

Decision

To receive those minutes.

CC/18/30 Proceedings of Committees

The minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

Audit Committee – 25 January 2018
Health and Wellbeing Board - 14 March 2018
Licensing Committee – 26 February 2018
Licensing and Appeals Committee - 15 January and 26 February 2018
Planning and Highways Committee – 8 February 2018
Standards Committee – 15 March 2018
Wythenshawe Area Committee – 25 January 2018
Personnel Committee – 7 February, 7 March and 21 March 2018

The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following recommendations from the proceedings of the Personnel Committee held on 7 February and 7 March 2018:

PE/18/03 Senior Leadership Arrangements – Council to approve:

To agree to the establishment of a new post of Director of ICT at grade SS4 (£90,419 - £101,826) with an additional market rate supplement of up to £30,000, subject to normal review processes (Personnel Committee 7 February 2018).

PE/18/06 Disciplinary Procedure for the Chief Executive and Certain Statutory Officers - Council to approve:

To agree to amend the Council Constitution in relation to the appointment of Independent Persons to an Independent Panel and in relation to the power to suspend any relevant officer respectively, when it undertakes its annual review of the Constitution incorporating the rules of procedure, as referred to in Part 4, Section F of the Council's Constitution (as appended to the minutes of the (Personnel Committee 7 March 2018) submitted).

Decisions

1. To receive those minutes.
2. To agree to the establishment of a new post of Director of ICT at grade SS4 (£90,419 - £101,826) with an additional market rate supplement of up to £30,000, subject to normal review processes.
3. To agree to amend the Council Constitution in relation to the appointment of Independent Persons to an Independent Panel and in relation to the power to suspend any relevant officer respectively, when it undertakes its annual review of the Constitution incorporating the rules of procedure, as referred to in Part 4, Section F of the Council's Constitution (as appended to the minutes of the (Personnel Committee 7 March 2018) submitted).

CC/18/31 Business of the Combined Authority, Joint Authorities and Joint Committees

The Lord Mayor reported that no questions had been received regarding business of the Combined Authority, Joint Authorities and Joint Committees.

CC/18/32 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/18/33 Annual report of Standards Committee

The Lord Mayor reported that the Annual report of the Standards Committee had been withdrawn following the decision of the Standards Committee on 15 March 2018 (ST/18/03).

CC/18/34 Motion – Marine Litter

Motion proposed and seconded:

It is estimated that over 8 million tons of litter enter the ocean every year.

A multitude of ascending colourful balloons against the backdrop of a bright blue sky may be a brilliant sight to behold, but, as the saying goes, “what goes up must come down” – and when balloons do, the consequences are deadly for wildlife.

Although there is generally good intent behind the practice of releasing balloons such as memorialising an event, showing remembrance for a person, or to symbolically “let something go,” people fail to realise that once released, balloons become nothing more than floating litter.

Latex balloons are often cited as biodegradable. However, in spite of its natural origin, latex does not degrade sufficiently quickly to avoid ingestion by marine wildlife and potential damage to their digestive system. Balloons submerged in saltwater have been shown to remain intact for more than a year. Ingestion of balloon debris poses both a physical and a chemical hazard to marine animals and causes significant harm. Marine animals, notably turtles, dolphins, and whales mistake balloons floating in water for prey and swallow them which can block digestive tracts, causing the animal to slowly starve.

With this, we have seen globally the harm plastic straws are also doing to our marine life – It is estimated that the UK alone uses 8.5 billion straws every year, the plastic takes over 200 years to break down and they are among the top 10 items found in beach clean-ups

I am asking members to support this motion, to ask the executive to take action to tackle balloon releases across the City. To see what actions can be taken to work with all outlets who use single use plastic straws, looking at alternatives so that we can play our part in preserving marine wildlife.

Amendment moved and seconded

Councillor Richards moved

Councillor H Priest Seconded

To add the following words at the end of the final paragraph of the motion: "That Manchester City Council seeks to become single-use plastic free".

Resolution

The amendment to the motion was put to Council and voted on and the Lord Mayor declared that it was carried. The amendment was then put as the substantive motion and this was carried unanimously.

Decision

To ask the Executive to take action to tackle balloon releases across the City. To see what actions can be taken to work with all outlets who use single use plastic straws, looking at alternatives so that we can play our part in preserving marine wildlife. That Manchester City Council seeks to become single-use plastic free.

CC/18/35 Motion – Transparent Viability Assessments

Motion proposed and seconded:

This council notes that, under Labour leadership, Manchester has been one of the fastest growing cities in the UK over the last 20 years and is now generally regarded as the nation's 'second city'. This has meant that property development has become a lucrative industry in Manchester.

This Council notes that there is a housing crisis in the UK which has been made worse by the policies of the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in government since 2010. Not only have they failed to regulate the private-rented sector but the coalition government slashed funding for new social housing and failed to replace homes which were sold off under right-to-buy. In the face of this, the Council has made

great efforts to ensure that ordinary Mancunians have access to affordable housing. There are 548 units of affordable housing currently under construction and 1711 in the pipeline to be delivered in the next 3 years where affordability is based on average income rather than the government's arbitrary measure of 80% of market value.

This Council notes that developers have often used viability assessments to avoid their obligations to provide affordable housing and where this happens, it can damage public confidence in the planning process. Labour Councils in Greenwich, Bristol and Lambeth have improved transparency by making their viability assessments public.

This Council believes that the developers who make money from building in our city have an obligation to make a fair contribution to providing affordable housing.

This Council seeks to amend its planning policy to:

- set out clear viability criteria based on market value compared with land value and construction costs;
- require viability assessments for developments of more than 15 units where less than 20% of the development is affordable housing as part of the planning process and for these to be public
- require all information submitted for the viability assessment (including any which the Council agrees is commercially sensitive) to be made available to members of the planning committee and other relevant members of the Council in advance of determination of the planning decision.

Resolution

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

Decision

This council notes that, under Labour leadership, Manchester has been one of the fastest growing cities in the UK over the last 20 years and is now generally regarded as the nation's 'second city'. This has meant that property development has become a lucrative industry in Manchester.

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- require all information submitted for the viability assessment (including any which the Council agrees is commercially sensitive) to be made available to members of the planning committee and other relevant members of the Council in advance of determination of the planning decision.