

Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 12 July 2023

Present:

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor Councillor Y Dar – in the Chair

Councillors:

Andrews, Abdullatif, Akbar, Azra Ali, Shaukat Ali, Alijah, Amin, Appleby, Baker-Smith, Bayunu, Bell, Benham, Brickell, Bridges, Butt, Chambers, Chohan, Collins, Connolly, Cooley, Craig, Curley, Davies, Doswell, Douglas, Evans, Flanagan, Fletcher, Foley, Gartside, Good, Green, Grimshaw, Hacking, Hassan, Hewitson, Hilal, Hitchen, Holt, Hughes, Hussain, Igbon, Ilyas, Iqbal, Johns, Johnson, T Judge, Kamal, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Leech, Lynch, Lyons, Ludford, McCaul, McHale, Midgley, Moran, Muse, Northwood, Nunney, Ogunbambo, H Priest, Rahman, Rawlins, Rawson, Razaq, Reid, Riasat, Richards, I Robinson, T Robinson, Rowles, Sadler, M Sharif Mahamed, Sheikh, Shilton Godwin, Simcock, Stogia, Taylor, Wiest, White, Wills and Wilson

CC/23/47 Motion without Notice - Withdrawal

The Lord Mayor advised Council that the two notice of motion (Items 4 and 8) on the Council Summons, had been withdrawn by the proposers following the submission of two formal notices to the Chief Executive.

The Lord Mayor announced that a Special Meeting of the Council will be called to consider the conferring the status of Honorary Freeman of the City to Mr Pep Guardiola. The date of the Special Meeting of Council will be advised in due course.

CC/23/48 The Lord Mayors Announcements and Urgent Business

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that she had agreed to the submission of the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee held on 12 July 2023.

CC/23/49 The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business - King's Birthday Honours List and award of the Kings award for Voluntary Service

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that he had written to the following award recipients, who are either Mancunians or live or work in the city to congratulate them on the honour they have received:-

Officer of the Order of the British Empire

Chris Oglesby - Chief Executive Officer at Bruntwood, for services to Charity and to Regeneration in the North West of England.

Member of the Order of the British Empire

Professor Cathy Parker - Chair of the Institute of Place Management at Manchester Metropolitan University, for services to Education and to Place Management.

Professor Robert Charles Pearson - Former Chair, Clinical Ethics Committee, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, for services to Medicine, Medical Education and to Health Research and Innovation.

Andrew Portersmith - Chief Executive of Music Stuff, for services to Young People and to the community in Manchester.

Alison Ross - Operations and Culture Director at Auto Trader, for services to the Digital and Technology Industry.

British Empire Medal

Anthony McAllister - Football Coach, for services to Association Football and to Young People in Manchester.

King's Police Medal

Emily-Jane Higham - Chief Superintendent for Greater Manchester Police, for Distinguished Service.

CC/23/50 The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business - Anniversary of Srebrenica genocide

The Lord Mayor invited those present at the meeting to observe a minute's silence in memory of the lives lost in the Srebrenica genocide which took place in July 1995.

CC/23/51 The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business - Death of former Councillor Abu Chowdhury

The Lord Mayor informed Council of the sad passing of former councillor Abu Chowdhury. Mr Chowdhury was elected to the Council (Rusholme Ward) in 2004 and served in this role until 2011. Mr Chowdhury was also awarded the MBE in 2001.

The Council observed a minute silence in respect of Mr Chowdhury.

CC/23/52 Lord Mayor's Special Business

The Lord Mayor welcomed representatives of the charity, City of Sanctuary to address the Council about its work. Councillor Midgley addressed the Council and introduced Liz Hibberd (Manager of City of Sanctuary Charity), Tandrima Muzundar (trustee of the charity) and Andrew Muzondiwa (charity service user), Manitia Raqmani (charity service user) and Maria (charity service user) to talk about their personal experiences and the positive impact the City of Sanctuary Charity has made on their lives. The City of Sanctuary Charity is a charity based within Manchester.

The work of the charity is to create a culture of welcome and hospitality for those seeking sanctuary in the city and in doing so to help establish connections, partnerships and create community to promote health and wellbeing. Volunteering at local organisations for those involved has proven to be a successful way of helping sanctuary seekers to connect and become more involved.

The Leader of Council thanked the speakers for their attendance and sharing their experiences and acknowledged the important work of the City of Sanctuary charity in conjunction with the City Council to provide those seeking sanctuary a safe place to help to rebuild their lives.

CC/23/53 Motion without Notice

A motion without notice to under Procedure Rule 19.1(K) for the suspension of Procedure Rule 14.1, was proposed by Councillor Bayunu and seconded by Councillor Good.

The Lord Mayor put the proposal to the vote. On being put to the vote the Lord Mayor declared that the proposal was lost.

CC/23/54 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

CC/23/55 Notice of Motion - Introduction of capped fees on public transport

Councillor Rawlins submitted the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Taylor:-

The recent global Pandemic served as a stark reminder of the growing inequalities in our society under this Conservative Government. A recent report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that the average person needs to spend £35 a week more than the Universal Credit allowance to stay alive. For disabled people these costs are higher.

This Council recognises that disabled people have been impacted disproportionately by The Pandemic and by the on-going Cost of Living Crisis.

This Council notes that the Government has given little recognition to the added pressure placed upon budgets for disabled people.

This Council further notes the work of Greater Manchester Combined Authority to lessen the burden of public transport costs by introducing capped fares of a maximum of £2 across the region and supporting concessionary travel passes across the network.

This Council resolves:-

To call upon GM Mayor Andy Burnham to reiterate that fares are capped at a maximum of £2 and not a flat fee of £2 and extend concessionary travel to include carers to ensure a public transport network that is inclusive and accessible to all.

On the motion being put to the vote, the Lord Mayor declared it unanimously carried.

Resolution

This Council resolves to call upon GM Mayor Andy Burnham to reiterate that fares are capped at a maximum of £2 and not a flat fee of £2 and extend concessionary travel to include carers to ensure a public transport network that is inclusive and accessible to all.

CC/23/56 Notice of Motion - Local Authority of Sanctuary

Councillor Midgley submitted the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Sharif Mahamed:-

This Council notes that:-

Manchester is a proudly diverse city that speaks over 200 languages and has over many generations, drawn people from across the world to call Manchester home. For hundreds of years Manchester has been a city of sanctuary for those fleeing persecution and building for a better life. We recognise the valuable contribution that all these communities have made to our economic, social and cultural life over many years

We have a proud record in this city of fighting for a compassionate and fair Asylum system and Manchester has played a full and active part in supporting government schemes to host and support people seeking asylum and refugees including the Afghan Resettlement Programme, Homes For Ukraine and Asylum Contingency Hotels and dispersed accommodation.

Manchester Libraries gained Libraries of Sanctuary status in June 2021 in recognition of the warm welcome and volunteering opportunities they offer to asylum seekers and refugees and the commitment to celebrating diversity and spreading understanding of their lives.

We have a range of voluntary, community and faith groups who work tirelessly to support the needs of asylum seekers and refugees in our city and build community cohesion and we value and support their endeavours.

The government has created an ever-increasing hostile environment for refugees and people seeking asylum. The 'Illegal Migration Bill' epitomizes this and will make migrants criminals for simply landing on our shores.

People seeking asylum are not allowed to work. This is a waste of talent and skills and leads to loneliness and isolation. They are prevented from supporting themselves and their families and making an economic contribution. Recent research

suggests that lifting this ban could save the UK billions of pounds per year and add to tax revenue.

The impact of the asylum system on unaccompanied children and young people devastates lives. Long waits to get access to legal representation and an asylum decision affects their mental health, education and sense of hope for the future.

In June 2023 Cllr Bev Craig, alongside Andy Burnham and the other 9 GM Council Leaders wrote to The Home Secretary Suella Braverman to express concerns about asylum and immigration and set out a series of calls for change in national policy.

Thirteen years of unfair Conservative and Coalition government cuts and austerity have had a huge impact on all our communities and our ability as a council to provide fully funded services for all who need them.

This Council resolves to:

- (1) Continue to provide welcome and support to refugees and migrant communities who have fled violence and persecution to seek safety in Manchester.
- (2) Join the network of towns and cities which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution to become a recognised 'Local Authority of Sanctuary'
- (3) As leaders of the city, we will challenge anti migrant rhetoric and attitudes and continue to promote the wonderful diversity of our city and communities. We will also work to strengthen links between refugees, those seeking asylum and local communities.
- (4) Celebrate the contribution of asylum seekers, migrants and refugees to our city through events like Refugee Week and Windrush Day.
- (5) Continue to work with organisations in the city who provide support to asylum seekers and refugees and nurture and grow these vital partnerships.
- (6) Support the campaign to 'Lift The Ban' so that asylum seekers are allowed to work and put their skills and talents to good use whilst awaiting their asylum decision.
- (7) Call on the government to:
 - Adopt and implement all of the policy recommendations listed in the Joint Greater Manchester letter in June 2023 to the Home Secretary as ways to improve the ability to support all of our communities and halt the Illegal Migration Bill
 - Improve and make fairer the asylum system and work harder to clear the backlog of asylum claims that are causing so many people to live in uncertainty and fear.

- Reform the No Recourse to Public Funds condition which causes destitution and misery for so many
 - Increase funding to local authorities so that we can provide properly funded support services and invest in projects that improve community cohesion
 - Ensure that children in the asylum system are treated as children and that their wellbeing is paramount. That they have legal representation and that decisions on children's asylum claims are made within six months
- (8) Write to our local MPs to ask for their support in this lobbying and to make the case to the government in Parliament.

The Lord Mayor reported that the amendment submitted by Councillor Johnson had been received and was accepted by Councillor Midgley.

The amended motion is as follows:

This Council notes that:

Manchester is a proudly diverse city that speaks over 200 languages and has over many generations, drawn people from across the world to call Manchester home. For hundreds of years Manchester has been a city of sanctuary for those fleeing persecution and building for a better life. We recognise the valuable contribution that all these communities have made to our economic, social and cultural life over many years

We have a proud record in this city of fighting for a compassionate and fair Asylum system and Manchester has played a full and active part in supporting government schemes to host and support people seeking asylum and refugees including the Afghan Resettlement Programme, Homes For Ukraine and Asylum Contingency Hotels and dispersed accommodation.

Manchester Libraries gained Libraries of Sanctuary status in June 2021 in recognition of the warm welcome and volunteering opportunities they offer to asylum seekers and refugees and the commitment to celebrating diversity and spreading understanding of their lives.

We have a range of voluntary, community and faith groups who work tirelessly to support the needs of asylum seekers and refugees in our city and build community cohesion and we value and support their endeavours.

The government has created an ever-increasing hostile environment for refugees and people seeking asylum. The 'Illegal Migration Bill' epitomizes this and will make migrants criminals for simply landing on our shores.

People seeking asylum are not allowed to work. This is a waste of talent and skills and leads to loneliness and isolation. They are prevented from supporting

themselves and their families and making an economic contribution. Recent research suggests that lifting this ban could save the UK billions of pounds per year and add to tax revenue.

The impact of the asylum system on unaccompanied children and young people devastates lives. Long waits to get access to legal representation and an asylum decision affects their mental health, education and sense of hope for the future.

In June 2023 Councillor Bev Craig, alongside Andy Burnham and the other 9 GM Council Leaders wrote to the Home Secretary Suella Braverman MP to express concerns about asylum and immigration and set out a series of calls for change in national policy.

Thirteen years of unfair Conservative and Coalition government cuts and austerity have had a huge impact on all our communities and our ability as a council to provide fully funded services for all who need them.

This Council resolves to:

- (1) Continue to provide welcome and support to refugees and migrant communities who have fled violence and persecution to seek safety in Manchester.
- (2) Join the network of towns and cities which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution to become a recognised 'Local Authority of Sanctuary'
- (3) As leaders of the city, we will challenge anti migrant rhetoric and attitudes and continue to promote the wonderful diversity of our city and communities. We will also work to strengthen links between refugees, those seeking asylum and local communities.
- (4) Celebrate the contribution of asylum seekers, migrants and refugees to our city through events like Refugee Week and Windrush Day.
- (5) Continue to work with organisations in the city who provide support to asylum seekers and refugees and nurture and grow these vital partnerships.
- (6) Support the campaign to 'Lift The Ban' so that asylum seekers are allowed to work and put their skills and talents to good use whilst awaiting their asylum decision.
- (7) Call on the government to:

- Adopt and implement all of the policy recommendations listed in the Joint Greater Manchester letter in June 2023 to the Home Secretary as ways to improve the ability to support all of our communities and halt the Illegal Migration Bill;
- Improve and make fairer the asylum system and work harder to clear the backlog of asylum claims that are causing so many people to live in uncertainty and fear;

- Reform the No Recourse to Public Funds condition which causes destitution and misery for so many;
- Cooperate closely with local authorities including providing advance notice about incoming refugees and asylum seekers, so adequate and timely preparations can be made by the authority to meet their needs upon arrival;
- Increase funding to local authorities so that we can provide properly funded council support services and local third sector organisations that focus on asylum seekers and refugees, as well as invest in projects that improve community cohesion;
- Ensure that children in the asylum system are treated as children and that their wellbeing is paramount. That they have legal representation and that decisions on children's asylum claims are made within six months.

(8) Write to our local MPs to ask for their support in this lobbying and to make the case to the government in Parliament.

On the motion being put to the vote, the Lord Mayor declared it unanimously carried.

Resolution

This Council resolves to:

- (1) Continue to provide welcome and support to refugees and migrant communities who have fled violence and persecution to seek safety in Manchester.
- (2) Join the network of towns and cities which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution to become a recognised 'Local Authority of Sanctuary'
- (3) As leaders of the city, we will challenge anti migrant rhetoric and attitudes and continue to promote the wonderful diversity of our city and communities. We will also work to strengthen links between refugees, those seeking asylum and local communities.
- (4) Celebrate the contribution of asylum seekers, migrants and refugees to our city through events like Refugee Week and Windrush Day.
- (5) Continue to work with organisations in the city who provide support to asylum seekers and refugees and nurture and grow these vital partnerships.
- (6) Support the campaign to 'Lift The Ban' so that asylum seekers are allowed to work and put their skills and talents to good use whilst awaiting their asylum decision.
- (7) Call on the government to:

- Adopt and implement all of the policy recommendations listed in the Joint Greater Manchester letter in June 2023 to the Home Secretary as ways to improve the ability to support all of our communities and halt the Illegal Migration Bill;
- Improve and make fairer the asylum system and work harder to clear the backlog of asylum claims that are causing so many people to live in uncertainty and fear;
- Reform the No Recourse to Public Funds condition which causes destitution and misery for so many;
- Cooperate closely with local authorities including providing advance notice about incoming refugees and asylum seekers, so adequate and timely preparations can be made by the authority to meet their needs upon arrival;
- Increase funding to local authorities so that we can provide properly funded council support services and local third sector organisations that focus on asylum seekers and refugees, as well as invest in projects that improve community cohesion;
- Ensure that children in the asylum system are treated as children and that their wellbeing is paramount. That they have legal representation and that decisions on children's asylum claims are made within six months.

(8) Write to our local MPs to ask for their support in this lobbying and to make the case to the government in Parliament.

CC/23/57 Notice of Motion - Daring more democracy: A Greater Manchester Assembly

Councillor Johnson submitted the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Wiest:-

This motion is put forward in the context of the so-called 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal between the UK Government and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

Now that we have such an extended deal, which explicitly addresses issues of governance and accountability alongside 'new levers, functions and responsibilities' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Policy Paper March), it is the right time to address the democracy implications of devolution for Manchester within the Greater Manchester structures.

Objectives

To replace the Greater Manchester Combined Authority with a new devolved Greater Manchester Authority, which will include a directly-elected assembly. The role and function of the new authority and assembly will be comparable to that of Greater London Authority (GLA) and London Assembly (LA), and will have similar power to scrutinise and challenge decisions made by the mayor. Funding for this more substantial authority and these expanded powers will be made available by central government. Election of the assembly will be by a mixed-member proportional

system, similar to that used in London, the exact details of which will be established by a government commission.

Council notes that:

- The population of Greater Manchester is substantial: half that of Norway, over half that of Ireland, and is almost as large as that of Wales.
- Although directly elected, the metropolitan mayor is answerable to ten local authority leaders who are not directly elected but appointed as group leader by their own party processes. This creates a clear deficit of democracy. This is not only because of direct election through a First Past the Post (FPTP) system in the local authority but also because of possible post-electoral arrangements affecting the leadership of a given local authority. The ten party-elected leaders cannot be expected to fully represent the range of views of almost three million people. An Assembly such as GLA's will allow for a fuller say for voters.
- The Mayor of Greater Manchester has himself publicly called both for more devolution of powers from Westminster England-wide, and for electoral reform away from FPTP representation.
- The Deeper Devolution Deal brings GMCA closer into alignment with the GLA in questions of powers, responsibilities and priorities – if not in terms of per capita funding – but makes no suggestion for concomitant structural change in relation to representation.
- The GMCA is now in receipt of a single funding settlement.
- GDP per capita across Greater Manchester is approximately half that of Greater London.

Council resolves:

- (1) To request that the council leader will write to the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, calling for:
 - A government commission to establish the exact makeup of a new Greater Manchester Authority and Greater Manchester Assembly, under instruction to use the London Assembly and its mixed-member electoral system as a guiding model. This would include powers given to the Assembly similar to those of the London Assembly, to scrutinise and challenge the mayor's decisions, and (with a supermajority vote) to amend the mayor's budget or to reject strategic decisions.

- Legislation for the findings of the commission to be put to a legally binding confirmatory referendum across Greater Manchester, which (if successful) would establish the new authority and assembly, replacing the GMCA and existing devolution settlements.
 - Due to the economic imbalance between the two city regions, the legislation would include requirement for central government to provide sufficient annual funding via an increased single funding settlement, so that the GMA has a comparable per-capita budget to the GLA while keeping council tax precepts at a similar rate to those for the GMCA.
- (2) To request that the council leader will write to leaders of the other nine Greater Manchester councils and to the Mayor of Greater Manchester, asking for them to publicly support this call.

Resolution

The motion was put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it lost.

CC/23/58 Notice of Motion - People at the Heart, delivering a park for Ancoats and New Islington

Councillor Good submitted the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Northwood:-

- The importance of publicly owned parks which allow kids to play, dogs to run around, and for all residents to be able to enjoy, and recognising the vital importance of public parks in the city centre for our mental and physical health.
- That the City Centre population is expected to shortly hit 100,000 people up from 17,000 in 2011.
- That the pollution across the City Centre is regularly above WHO safe limits. Central parks also help reduce the impacts of urban heat islands by offering shade. Unfortunately the Council has approved decisions that rip up well-used green spaces such as New Islington Green. Although the development of Mayfield Park is welcomed, this isn't sufficient and isn't a publicly owned park.

In just six weeks in January and February 2023 nearly 600 local residents responded to the 'Former Central Retail Park Consultation 2023' in good faith with the legitimate expectation of being listened to.

A Council that is serious about tackling the Climate Emergency, that proudly follows the Our Manchester approach to engaging with the public, and who is led by a local Labour Party promising to put "people at the heart of everything we do" should support building a public park on the largest derelict publicly owned plot of land in the city centre, putting public resources to the best public use.

Although a precise breakdown of respondents has – unusually – not been provided, it is clear from the SRF Update report published on the 21st March 2023 that the overwhelming majority of respondents wanted to either a) include a proper park on this publicly owned land or b) at least significantly increase the size of the green space in the SRF.

The SRF Update report was published late and on Tuesday 21st March just ahead of the Executive Meeting. Until this was published there was no indication that the Council would fail to listen to the consultation feedback about incorporating a proper park as part of the updated plans.

On Wednesday 22nd March the Council Executive agreed to minor amendment of other parts of the SRF - but refused to actually respond to or address concerns of the overwhelming majority of respondents on the need to incorporate a proper park in the plans. Until this decision there was no indication that the Executive would ignore and fail to act on the very clear consultation feedback.

Accordingly the Council Resolves to:

- (1) Act on the clear feedback provided by nearly 600 residents to the Former Central Retail Park SRF and request that the Executive consider including provision to build the first publicly owned park in the city centre in over a hundred years within the Updated SRF and note that the park should indicatively consist of a contiguous 20% of the available site excluding hard landscaping proposals.
- (2) Request the Leader and relevant Officers to include proposals for the new park in any conversations with interested developers including the Government Development Agency who have reportedly expressed interest in the site.
- (3) Note that the above proposed motion does not entail any direct costs and has no immediate budgetary implications. As asserted by the Leader Bev Craig any final determination of the scale or scope of the green space will be determined through the planning process. This aims to guide that process to better deliver on the priorities expressed by residents through the formal mechanisms to influence such decisions but which have hitherto been ignored.

Councillor White submitted the following amendment to the motion which was seconded by Councillor Irene Robinson:-

This Council recognises:

- The importance of publicly owned parks which allow kids to play, dogs to run around, and for all residents to be able to enjoy, and recognising the vital importance of public parks in the city centre for our mental and physical health
- *Manchester has 154 council parks across the city, including Heaton Park as one of the largest municipal parks in Europe - the majority of our residents can walk to a council owned park in their community within 15 minutes*

- *Over the last 30 years, Manchester has become an even more desirable and popular place to live, work and visit, and the wider City Centre population is expected to shortly hit 100,000 people up from 17,000 in 2011*

~~That the pollution across the City Centre is regularly above WHO safe limits. Central parks also help reduce the impacts of urban heat islands by offering shade. Unfortunately the Council has approved decisions that rip up well-used green spaces such as New Islington Green. Although the development of Mayfield Park is welcomed, this isn't sufficient and isn't a publicly owned park.~~

~~In just 6 weeks in January and February 2023 nearly 600 local residents responded to the 'Former Central Retail Park Consultation 2023' in good faith with the legitimate expectation of being listened to.~~

~~A Council that is serious about tackling the Climate Emergency, that proudly follows the Our Manchester approach to engaging with the public, and who is led by a local Labour Party promising to put "people at the heart of everything we do" should support building a public park on the largest derelict publicly owned plot of land in the city centre, putting public resources to the best public use.~~

~~Although a precise breakdown of respondents has — unusually — not been provided, it is clear from the SRF Update report published on the 21st March 2023 that the overwhelming majority of respondents wanted to either a) include a proper park on this publicly owned land or b) at least significantly increase the size of the green space in the SRF.~~

~~The SRF Update report was published late and on Tuesday 21st March just ahead of the Executive Meeting. Until this was published there was no indication that the Council would fail to listen to the consultation feedback about incorporating a proper park as part of the updated plans.~~

~~On Wednesday 22nd March the Council's Executive agreed to minor amendments of other parts of the *Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF)*— *There have been a number of extensive consultations with local residents about the future use of this site over the last few years – there has been significant response to these consultations that have helped shape the current plans and refreshed, amended and updated SRF that was agreed at the Executive in March 2023.*~~

~~but refused to actually respond to or address concerns of the overwhelming majority of respondents on the need to incorporate a proper park in the plans. Until this decision there was no indication that the Executive would ignore and fail to act on the very clear consultation feedback.~~

In September 2022, the 6.5 acre park and green space at Mayfield opened on a former brownfield site opening up the River Medlock – the new park has been a great success over the last year and hosted the opening event of the

Manchester International Festival at the end of June. Parks and green spaces help to reduce the urban heat island effect, and provide shade.

- *Manchester has over 1.25 million trees – and over 1,000 new trees a year are being planted across the city (7,861 trees in 2022/23) in parks and on grass verges to help improve our environment and reduce air pollution.*
- *The former Central Retail Park in Ancoats was purchased by the City Council in 2017 as a key strategic site for jobs and other strategic objectives on the edge of the City Centre. The site was used as a testing centre curing Covid-19 whilst a SRF was further developed.*
- *Following the latest consultation, the amount of green space and public realm in the plans were significantly increased, and further work was done to link the site in with Cotton Field Park and the Marina at New Islington too – these areas of park and public space are vital elements of an area that has been voted one of the best areas to live and one of the worlds ‘coolest’ neighbourhoods. According to The Sunday Times’ official ‘Best Places To Live’ guide for 2023, Manchester neighbourhood, Ancoats, has been named the ‘best place to live’ in Manchester after dethroning Altrincham which has held the top spot for years.*
- *There is also wider investment in green space in other parts of Ancoats with work starting soon on an expanded Ancoats Green near to the Poland Street area with a new play park for families, and further investment in green streets, trees and other measures to make the wider area of Ancoats, a safer and even more attractive place to live, and walk around too.*

Accordingly the Council Resolves to:

This council resolves to:

- ~~(1) Act on the clear feedback provided by nearly 600 residents to the Former Central Retail Park SRF and include provision to build the first publicly owned park in the city centre in over a hundred years within the Updated SRF and note that the park should indicatively consist of a contiguous 20% of the available site excluding hard landscaping proposals.~~
-
- (1) *Support a wider commitment to listening to feedback through our consultation processes and will also continue to advocate for good quality green space and public realm in the development proposals being brought forward for the Central Retail Park site, that link in with Cotton Field Park and the New Islington Marina.*

Support further work and investment to ensure all Mancunians have good quality and accessible green space and parks close to where they live – and help improve our extensive city-wide network of parks and green spaces, including in Ancoats and Beswick, for the wellbeing and health of all our residents.

- ~~(2) Request the Leader and relevant Officers to include proposals for the new park in any conversations with interested developers including the Government Development Agency who have reportedly expressed interest in the site.~~
- (2) *In addition to continuing to advocate for good quality green space and public realm in the development proposals being brought forward for the Central Retail Park site, welcome the recent planning permission for the new play park and the investment in, and expansion of Ancoats Green, and also welcomes the 2 acres of public realm and green space at the Electric Park development between the Ashton Canal and Metrolink Line too in New Islington, in addition to new Mayfield Park too in the wider local area.*
- ~~(3) Note that the above proposed motion does not entail any direct costs and has no immediate budgetary implications. As asserted by the Leader, Councillor Craig, any final determination of the scale or scope of the green space will be determined through the planning process. This aims to guide that process to better deliver on the priorities expressed by residents through the formal mechanisms to influence such decisions but which have hitherto been ignored.~~
- (3) *Welcome the 1,000s of high quality, well-paid jobs this site will bring into the City for local Mancunian workers – ensuring that our ‘people at the heart of everything we do’ manifesto pledge is fulfilled by providing more work and aspirational opportunities for local people.*
- (4) *Champion, invest and support all measures to increase sustainable and active forms of travel that will help to reduce congestion and lower air pollution in this part of the city, and continue to support tree planting in the area to help improve air quality too.*

On the amendment being put to the vote, the Lord mayor declared it carried and subsequently, the amendment became the substantive motion.

On the substantive motion being put to the vote, the Lord Mayor declared it carried

Resolution

This council resolves to:

- (1) Support a wider commitment to listening to feedback through our consultation processes and will also continue to advocate for good quality green space and public realm in the development proposals being brought forward for the Central Retail Park site, that link in with Cotton Field Park and the New Islington Marina.

Support further work and investment to ensure all Mancunians have good quality and accessible green space and parks close to where they live – and help improve our extensive city-wide network of parks and green spaces, including in Ancoats and Beswick, for the wellbeing and health of all our residents.

- (2) In addition to continuing to advocate for good quality green space and public realm in the development proposals being brought forward for the Central Retail Park site, welcome the recent planning permission for the new play park and the investment in, and expansion of Ancoats Green, and also welcomes the 2 acres of public realm and green space at the Electric Park development between the Ashton Canal and Metrolink Line too in New Islington, in addition to new Mayfield Park too in the wider local area.
- (3) Welcome the 1,000s of high quality, well-paid jobs this site will bring into the City for local Mancunium workers – ensuring that our ‘people at the heart of everything we do’ manifesto pledge is fulfilled by providing more work and aspirational opportunities for local people.
- (4) Champion, invest and support all measures to increase sustainable and active forms of travel that will help to reduce congestion and lower air pollution in this part of the city, and continue to support tree planting in the area to help improve air quality too.

CC/23/59 Notice of Motion - Fair Tax Declaration

Councillor Wills submitted the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Oganbambo:-

Under this Conservative Government tax avoidance has increased, meaning less tax raised to help our vital public services rebuild out of the pandemic and the subsequent global energy crisis. Shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves MP, estimates that this gifts the biggest multinationals £131m per week that could be spent on the NHS. The demand on organisations to pay the right amount of tax in the right place at the right time has never been greater. Last year, data from the Institute for Business Ethics saw 'corporate tax avoidance' topping the UK public's list of concerns around business conduct for a tenth successive year. Pursuing better tax conduct benefits everyone by strengthening public services. It is a common-sense agenda since tax receipts help fund vital public services like education, health and social care and policing, making our society fairer, safer and more resilient. We can't build back better, let alone face the challenges of the future, without a properly funded public sector.

Manchester's Labour Council has led the way through its progressive Ethical Procurement Policy for many years, becoming national best practice for how to do business to maximise social value. The Council became an accredited Living Wage Employer in 2019. It already endorses several causes/initiatives within the Ethical Procurement Policy including the Care Leavers Covenant, the Armed Forces Covenant and the Fair Payments through the supply chain.

The Council has also signed up to various employment charters including the Unison Living Wage for Social Care, the Unite the Union Construction Charter, and the Co-

op's calls to end modern slavery. We have been in discussions with the Fair Tax Foundation and this motion confirms our support of the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.

The Council resolves to:

- (1) lead by example and demonstrating good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities;
- (2) ensure contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay a fair share of employment taxes;
- (3) avoid offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty;
- (4) undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates;
- (5) demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit and loss position;
- (6) promote the Fair Tax Mark certification for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due;
- (7) ask the Leader of the Council to work with the LGA to lobby government to amend the legislation to allow council's the ability to either penalise poor tax conduct or reward good tax conduct;
- (8) call on the government to close the loopholes on tax avoidance.

By adopting these, Manchester plans to continue to lead by example.

On the motion being put to the vote, the lord Mayor declared it carried

Resolution

The Council resolves to:

- (1) lead by example and demonstrating good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities;
- (2) ensure contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay a fair share of employment taxes;
- (3) avoid offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty;

- (4) undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates;
- (5) demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit and loss position;
- (6) promote the Fair Tax Mark certification for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due;
- (7) ask the Leader of the Council to work with the LGA to lobby government to amend the legislation to allow council's the ability to either penalise poor tax conduct or reward good tax conduct;
- (8) call on the government to close the loopholes on tax avoidance.

CC/23/60 Proceedings of the Executive

The proceedings of the Executive on 31 May and 28 June 2023 were submitted. The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following recommendations:

Exe/23/52 Capital Programme Update

To recommend that Council approve the following changes to Manchester City Council's capital programme:

- Public Sector Housing – Social Housing Decarbonisation Boiler Replacement. A capital budget increase of £14.095m, funded by HRA Reserve.
- Public Sector Housing – Operational Housing Programme 2023-24. A capital budget increase of £16.769m, funded by HRA Reserve.

Exe/23/56 Capital Outturn 2022/23 and Capital Programme Update

To recommend that the Council approve the virements over £0.5m between capital schemes to maximise use of funding resources available to the City Council as set out in Appendix C.

To recommend that Council approve the following changes to Manchester City Council's capital programme

- ICT - Council Chamber AV Equipment. A capital budget increase of £0.520m, funded by borrowing.
- Contingency – Inflation. An increase to the inflation contingency by £22.4m, funded by borrowing.

Decisions

- (1) To receive the minutes of the Executive held on 31 May and 28 June 2023.

- (2) To approve the virements over £0.5m between capital schemes to maximise use of funding resources available to the City Council
- (3) To approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme:
- Public Sector Housing – Social Housing Decarbonisation Boiler Replacement. A capital budget increase of £14.095m, funded by HRA Reserve.
 - Public Sector Housing – Operational Housing Programme 2023-24. A capital budget increase of £16.769m, funded by HRA Reserve.
 - ICT - Council Chamber AV Equipment. A capital budget increase of £0.520m, funded by borrowing.
 - Contingency – Inflation. An increase to the inflation contingency by £22.4m, funded by borrowing.

CC/23/61 Questions to Executive Members and Others under Procedural Rule 23

Councillor White responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding the completion date for the review of conservation areas.

Councillor Rawlins responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding a response on trip claims and the highways inspection regime.

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding annual expenditure in the past five years on repairs and cleaning up open spaces in parks following the eviction of travellers.

Councillor Rahman responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding an update on action taken to provide crime statistics on the GMP website.

Councillor Rawlins responded to a question from Councillor Weist regarding work on reducing high emissions advertising methods, products and services.

Councillor Rawlins responded to a question from Councillor Johnson regarding plans to address issues raised in the Clean Cities Campaign technical report on Greater Manchester.

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Johnson regarding the clearing of litter prior to grass cutting public spaces within Woodhouse Park.

Councillor Craig responded to a question from Councillor Kilpatrick regarding the revised location of the West Didsbury vent under proposed changes to the HS2 Crewe to Manchester Bill.

Councillor Rawlins responded to a question from Councillor Kilpatrick regarding the protection of trees across the city.

Councillor Bridges responded to a question from Councillor Kilpatrick regarding school admission criteria and checks made to confirm the address used in the school application.

CC/23/62 Scrutiny Committees

The minutes of the following Scrutiny Committee meetings were submitted:

- Economy and Regeneration – 23 May and 20 June 2023
- Communities and Equalities – 23 May and 20 June 2023
- Children and Young People – 24 May and 21 June 2023
- Health – 24 May and 21 June 2023
- Resources and Governance – 25 May and 22 June 2023
- Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods – 25 May and 22 June 2023

Decision

To receive those minutes submitted

CC/23/63 Proceedings of Committees

The minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

- Personnel Committee – 31 May 2023
The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following recommendation from the minutes:

PE/23/6 Creation of a new post - Director of Communities

The Committee recommends to Council the creation of new post, Director of Communities grade SS4 Grade (£101,996 to £112,411).

- Planning and Highways Committee – 13 April and 1 June 2023
- Health and Wellbeing Board – 7 June 2023
- Audit Committee – 13 June 2023
- Standards Committee – 15 June 2023

The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following recommendation from the minutes:

ST/23/14 Review of the Operation and Efficacy of the Use of Resources Guidance for Members

The Committee Recommends to full Council the adoption of the revised guidance

- Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 12 July 2023
The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following recommendations from the minutes:

CN/23/16 Appointments and Changes to Council Committee Membership

- (1) Recommend Council approve the amendments to committee appointments as follows:-

Committee	Member(s) to be added	Member(s) to be removed
Resources and Governance Scrutiny		Councillor Abdullatif
Children and Young People Scrutiny	Councillor Bano Councillor Muse Councillor Sharif Mahamed	Councillor Cooley
Economy and Regeneration	Councillor Abdullatif Councillor Shilton Godwin	Councillor Bano Councillor Sharif Mahamed
Health	Councillor Cooley	
Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods		Councillor Doswell
Communities and Equalities	Councillor Doswell	
Licensing		Councillor Abdullatif Councillor Davies Councillor Muse
Licensing and Appeals		Councillor Abdullatif Councillor Davies Councillor Muse
Audit		Councillor Wheeler

- (2) Recommend that Council agree the appointment of Councillors Bell and Chohan to the Council's Adoption Panel.

Decisions

1. To receive those minutes submitted.
2. To approve the creation of new post, Director of Communities at grade SS4 Grade (£101,996 to £112,411).
3. To agree the adoption of the revised guidance in respect of the Operation and Efficacy of the Use of Resources Guidance for Members

4. To approve the changes in appointments to Committees and panels of the Council, as detailed above.

CC/23/64 Key Decisions Report

The Council considered the report of the City Solicitor on key decisions that have been taken in accordance with the urgency provisions in the Council's Constitution.

Decision

To note the report.