



Tuesday, 26 September 2023

Dear Councillor / Honorary Alderman,

Meeting of the Council – Wednesday, 4th October, 2023

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held at 9.30 am on Wednesday, 4th October, 2023, in The Council Chamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension.

1. The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business

2. Interests

To allow members an opportunity to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax or Council rent arrears. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item

3. Minutes

To submit for approval the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2023.

13 - 34

4. Notice of Motion - Call for a General Election now

Since 2010, Manchester City Council has seen its budget decimated, losing the equivalent of £428 million a year. 13 years of cuts, the most intense and unfair cuts happening to local Government during the Coalition years of 2010-15 have been followed by the Tories mismanagement of the economy. Many local councils across the country are facing the prospect of going bust.

The last 13 years have seen an unprecedented decline in living standards and an increase in the number of children living in poverty. The House of Commons Library cites an increase of over 500,000 children living in poverty between 2011 and 2017/18. This has only got worse through the Cost of Living Crisis with the disastrous freezing of LHA and other benefits.

Public Services have been cut to the bone, and schools and

hospitals are literally crumbling. The Coalition Government of Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, followed by the Conservative Governments short sighted vision for the education of our children, has now 13 years later, to outdated, dilapidated, crumbling and unsafe schools throughout the country. The recent RAAC scandal is one example of the short-sightedness of the Coalition Government's cancellation of the successful Building Schools for the Future, and the Prime Minister further cutting budgets to rebuild schools when he was Chancellor.

We call on every member of the council to condemn the Lib Dem/Tory coalition government for cutting the Building Schools for the Future programme back in 2010.

Therefore this Council resolves to call on the Conservative Government to end 13 years of pain and chaos by calling for a General Election Now.

Proposed by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Karney and supported by Councillors Akbar, Midgley, Rawlins, Reeves and White

5. Notice of Motion - Call on the Council to become a Co-operative

The Council notes that there are nearly 7,000 independent co-operative businesses across the UK, each owned and democratically run by their customers, employees, suppliers or members of their local community.

Today, the co-operative movement is a significant part of the UK's economy, growing by 21% to £33billion, and outperforming the economy as a whole during the recent recession.

The number of people who own and control the UK's co-operatives has grown by to 17.5m - nearly a quarter of the UK's population. From credit unions to community allotments – the rise in co-operative ownership is a significant development for the UK's business sector, meaning that the number of co-op members continues to outstrip the number of shareholders in the UK.

This Council believes:-

- That the co-operative model provides a sustainable way of providing local government services that empower residents, service users and employees, giving them a fair share and an equal say.
- Local Councils up and down the country have already put these values into practice in a number of ways, for example developing the co-operative sector, resident and employee owned companies and co-operative schools and colleges.

Our social value and ethical procurement policies for all of our contracts has been the envy of many other local authorities and a clear co-operative policy. Not least this has been put into place in the contracts we have tendered for, not least the construction of the Coop Live where many local apprentices have been employed.

- That the Council has the opportunity to “choose co-operative” when considering the future of local services, giving residents and communities more of a say in their area.

Therefore, we call on the Council to become a Co-operative Council by:-

- (1) Working to incorporate co-operative values and principles when planning services and in its engagement with local residents.
- (2) Ask the Council's scrutiny function to scrutinise the Council's engagement with the co-operative and mutual sector in Manchester and in doing so look to make further recommendations for its potential growth.
- (3) Requesting that Officers consider how to improve engagement with local cooperatives, for example through stakeholder events.
- (4) Requesting Officers to explore the setting up of a community asset transfer fund, so that local communities can own and protect their own assets.
- (5) Auditing our contractors and suppliers on how many meet the FairTax Mark standards, pay the Living Wage and continue with and expand our social value and ethical procurement policies and meet appropriate standards on apprenticeships.
- (6) Protecting residents by always working hard to connect residents to jobs and opportunities, and through support on help to work schemes and on tackling poverty and the crisis of the cost of living increases.
- (7) Requesting that Officers explore how the Council can support the possibility of supporting a great number of local Co-operatives, social enterprises and credit unions.
- (8) Supporting the announcement that across Greater Manchester £750,000 will be made available to grow the inclusive economy with more co-operatives and social enterprises.

- (9) Setting up a working group with the Executive Member to look at what more we can do.

Proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Reid and supported by Councillors Brickell, Johns, Midgley, Shilton Godwin, Simcock, Rawlins, Whiston and Wills.

6. Notice of Motion - Significantly Expand the use of Selective Licensing

This motion asks Manchester City Council to use the full extent of its powers to improve conditions for renters in Manchester.

In 2020, Manchester City Council launched a revised Private Rented Sector Strategy with aim to see “Manchester’s Private Rented Sector provide a high quality, low carbon, affordable and sustainable offer so that Manchester’s residents have a good choice of quality homes in clean, safe and vibrant neighbourhoods.”

We are midway through the delivery of this ambition and yet across the city in wards from north to south, east to west, we continue to see our residents live in appalling conditions. Overcrowded and in poor state of repair.

One of the actions we have taken is to introduce Selective Licensing.

‘Selective licensing’ is a licence scheme which requires all private landlords operating within a designated area to license any privately rented property within that area.

To date, we have introduced Selective Licensing in small sections of a handful of wards.

Currently only small sections of the following wards are being served:

May 2022 – April 2027

- Ben Street: Clayton and Openshaw
- Hyde Road: Gorton and Abbey Hey
- The Ladders: Gorton and Abbey Hey
- Trinity: Harpurhey

August 2023 – August 2028

- Matthews Lane, Levenshulme
- Great Western Street/Claremont Rd, Moss Side and Whalley Range
- Laindon/Dickenson Rd & Birch Lane, Rusholme
- The Royals, Longsight

Yet some of our residents living within the past schemes reported

long delays in their requests for support, infrequent inspections, and landlords indifferent to the requirements the licences place upon them.

This Council notes:-

That the areas covered by Selective Licensing in the city represent a tiny proportion of the housing in Manchester that could be under the control of the city's Selective Licensing Team.

And

As all the revenue raised by the licences is used to monitor and administrate the scheme, this also represents a tiny proportion of the money that could be available to ensure that this Team has the proper resources to do their job.

This Council is also aware that:-

Liverpool City Council has been able to bring around 80% of its eligible housing into its Selective Licensing Scheme. The money raised means that their Selective Licensing Team is able to offer a robust and effective service to their residents.

This Council therefore resolves to extend the reach of Selective Licensing by:

- (1) Request that the Executive ask national government for permission to extend landlord Licensing city wide.
- (2) Request that the Executive ask for a report ask the officers responsible for the current and past schemes to provide a report to council of its strengths and weaknesses with a summary of the threats and opportunities for expansion.
- (3) Request that the Executive extend the duration of current schemes and revisiting past schemes should evidence emerge that need has not been or is not being met.
- (4) Request that the Executive commit to reaching the target of 100% of properties eligible to have been involved in a Selective Licensing Scheme by 2030.

Proposed by Councillor Bayunu, seconded by Councillor Wiest and supported by Councillors Good, Johnson and Nunney.

7. Notice of Motion - Against the Closure of Staffed Ticket Offices

This Tory Government is again taking action to worsen the lives of ordinary working people already facing a cost-of-living crisis, by denying them widespread and easy access to the purchase of rail

products and best value fares through the proposed closure of ticket offices.

These proposals also place many working people at risk of redundancy and there are no safeguards in place for future job security on our rail networks.

The announcement to carry out a public consultation within such a short time frame was farcical and clearly demonstrates how little interest this government has in the opinions of the majority of people in this country.

This Council is aware that:-

There are a range of products and services available at the ticket office, which may not be available from Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs). This includes refunds, season ticket changes, ranger and rover tickets, bus connections, park and ride, group save, disabled persons discount, season tickets over one month in length, advance fares, rail card purchases, off-peak tickets before 9.30am, changes to ticket classes, seat reservations, cycle reservations, photocards for season tickets, scholar tickets, sleeper bookings and car parking.

Using TVMs is a one-sided process, there is no interaction between customer and retailer like there is in the ticket office. In contrast, ticket office staff can ask customers questions about their journey and requirements to ensure they get the right ticket for their journey and can offer a range of routes and classes.

Many TVMs do not take cash, or permit a part cash, part card payment. Given that people on lower incomes and older and disabled people are more likely to use cash, these groups stand to be disproportionately affected by ticket office closures and may find it difficult to travel as a result.

Unlike ticket office staff, TVMs do not automatically offer passengers the cheapest ticket for their journey, or clearly explain restrictions on certain fares, such as operator-specific tickets.

Ticket Office staff also are best placed to sign post and safeguard facilities and other support for passengers with disabilities/accessibility or other equalities related needs.

Ticket office closures would cause a significant worsening of the facilities and support offered to disabled, Deaf and older people. Already, disabled people face numerous barriers in accessing the rail network and are three times less likely to travel by rail than non-disabled people. Twenty-two percent of the population had a disability in 2020/2 and since 2002/3 the number of people reporting a disability has increased by 3.8million (+35%).

This Council notes: -

That there has been overwhelming opposition to ticket office closures from disabled people's organisations, including Disability Rights UK, National Federation of the Blind UK, Transport for All, RNIB, RNID, Guide Dogs, Scope, Thomas Pocklington Trust, Winvisible, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People and the MS Society.

That disabled people are much less likely than non-disabled people to have access to the internet, and therefore online ticketing is not accessible for many.

That there is substantial demand for the ticket office. While the Government says that 'only' 12% of tickets are sold at ticket offices, in 2022/23, there were 1.5 billion passenger journeys, which equates to around 180 million journeys being facilitated by ticket offices.

The presence of staff is vital for ensuring the railway is accessible to all.

Staffed ticket offices have an important role in supporting passenger safety and security. Ticket offices provide a place of safety for both staff and passengers.

Ticket office staff are trained and experienced in dealing with difficult incidents and the presence of staff deters abusive and anti-social behaviour.

Ticket office staff provide support and assistance to passengers during times of disruption or in response to emergencies and their role often includes carrying out safety and security checks at the station throughout the day.

We further note that:

Passenger watchdogs give us a consistent theme emerging from research, which is that passengers like and value the presence of staff. Having staffed ticket offices supports passenger perceptions and feelings around safety, and closing ticket offices could lead to passengers no longer feeling safe when travelling.

At the House of Commons debate on 6 July, 2023. Our MP, Afzal Khan for Manchester, Gorton gave this plea for our residents.

"The announced closure of 45 railway ticket offices across Greater Manchester, including at Levenshulme and Gorton stations, will be to the detriment of my constituents who depend on them. Just when we should be encouraging travel by rail to reduce our carbon footprint, this measure will push people away from our great British railways. We should be trying to make train

travel easier, cheaper and more accessible, so why are the Government acting against the interests of the public?"

As a Council who declared a climate emergency in 2019 and with a commitment to being Zero Carbon by 2038, this Council expresses gratitude to our local MP for standing up for local people in Parliament and for the climate.

Therefore this Council commits to:-

- (1) Sending a message of solidarity to the RMT, TSSA, and all unions and other organisations who are coordinating action to oppose these measures.
- (2) Thanking all Manchester Councillors who took action coordinated by the unions and other organisations.
- (3) Using all resources at our disposal to raise awareness amongst our residents about how they can continue take action against these measures, including:
- (4) Sending clear messages about the impact of these measures on our city and residents through direct mail, press statements and billboards
- (5) Signposting people to any further online consultations at Libraries and other council owned facilities.
- (6) Working in partnership with all our Manchester MPs and across Greater Manchester, with the GMCA and our GM Mayor, Andy Burnham to oppose these measures.

Proposed by Councillor Bayunu, seconded by Councillor Nunney and supported by Councillors Good, Johnson, Leech and Wiest.

8. Proceedings of the Executive

35 - 60

To submit the minutes of the Executive on 26 July 2023 and 13 September 2023 and in particular to consider:

Exe/23/70 Our Town Hall Project - Progress Update

The Executive recommend to Council approval of a capital budget increase of £29m for the project, funded by borrowing, to maintain progress with the construction works until the end of December 2023.

Exe/23/77 Capital Programme Monitoring P4 2023/24

The Executive recommends that the Council approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme:-

- Aviva Studios, Home of Factory International - a capital budget increase of £22.2m, funded by borrowing.
- Corporate Services - Our New Finance & HRODT System – a revenue budget increase of £17.4m, to be spread across 4 financial years, and funded from the Capital Fund reserve.
- Neighbourhoods – Manchester Aquatic Centre (MAC) – a capital budget increase of £0.640m, funded by borrowing.
- Growth and Development – Piccadilly Garden Design Phase – a capital budget increase of £0.782m, funded by borrowing.

9. Questions to Executive Members and Others under Procedural Rule 23

To receive answers to any questions that councillors have raised in accordance with Procedural Rule 23.

10. Scrutiny Committees

61 - 164

- Economy & Regeneration – 18 July and 5 September 2023 (to follow)
- Communities & Equalities – 18 July and 5 September 2023
- Children & Young People – 19 July and 6 September 2023
- Health – 19 July and 6 September 2023
- Resources & Governance – 20 July, 24 August and 7 September 2023
- Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhoods – 20 July and 7 September 2023

11. Proceedings of Committees

165 - 216

To submit for approval the minutes of the following meetings and consider recommendations made by the committee:

- Audit Committee – 25 July and 19 September 2023
- Planning and Highways Committee – 27 July, 31 August and 21 September 2023 (to follow)
- Personnel Committee – 13 September and in particular, to consider:

PE/23/9 Recruitment to the role of Director of Population Health and Wellbeing

The Committee request Council agree the recruitment for the role to be at its current substantive grading level of SS4 (£105,566 to £116,346), with the optional inclusion of a market rate supplement up to a fixed maximum of £5,000 to be applied at the discretion of the Director of HROD and Transformation (in discussion with the Chief Executive).

- Health and Wellbeing Board – 20 September 2023

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| 12. Review of Members Allowances - GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report of the City Solicitor attached | 217 - 264 |
| 13. Appointment of an additional Independent Person for consideration of complaints against Members
Report of the City Solicitor attached | 265 - 270 |
| 14. Urgent Key Decisions Report
The report of the City Solicitor is attached. | 271 - 276 |
| 15. Change of Council meeting date - March 2024
To agree the change of date of the Council meeting in March 2024, from Wednesday 27 March to Wednesday 20 March 2024 | |

Yours faithfully,



Joanne Roney OBE
Chief Executive

Information about the Council

The Council is composed of 96 councillors with one third elected three years in four. Councillors are democratically accountable to residents of their ward. Their overriding duty is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them.

Six individuals with previous long service as councillors of the city have been appointed Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester and are entitled to attend every Council meeting. They do not however have a vote.

All councillors meet together as the Council under the chairship of the Lord Mayor of Manchester. There are seven meetings of the Council in each municipal year and they are open to the public. Here councillors decide the Council's overall strategic policies and set the budget each year.

Agenda, reports and minutes of all Council meetings can be found on the Council's website www.manchester.gov.uk

Members of the Council

Councillors:-

Y Dar (Chair), Andrews (Deputy Chair), Abdullatif, Akbar, Azra Ali, Ahmed Ali, Nasrin Ali, Shaukat Ali, Alijah, Amin, Appleby, Bano, 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, Karney, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Leech, J Lovecy, Ludford, Lynch, Lyons, Marsh, McCaul, McHale, Midgley, Moran, Muse, Noor, Northwood, Nunney, Ogunbambo, H Priest, Rahman, Rawlins, Rawson, Razaq, Reeves, Reid, Riasat, Richards, I Robinson, T Robinson, Rowles, Sadler, M Sharif Mahamed, Sheikh, Shilton Godwin, Simcock, Stogia, Taylor, Wheeler, Wiest, Whiston, White, Wills, Wilson and Wright

Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester –

Hugh Barrett, Andrew Fender, Paul Murphy OBE, Nilofar Siddiqi and Keith Whitmore.

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the meeting Clerk:

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This agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 26 September 2023** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension (Library Walk Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA