

Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 27 November 2024

Present:

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor, Councillor Paul Andrews – in the Chair

Councillors:

Grimshaw, Abdullatif, Akbar, Ahmed Ali, Shaukat Ali, Amin, Appleby, Bano, E Bell, L Bell, Benham, Bridges, Chambers, Chohan, Connolly, Cooley, Craig, Curley, Dar, Davies, Doswell, Douglas, Flanagan, Fletcher, Foley, Gartside, Glover, Good, Green, Hacking, Hassan, Hewitson, Hitchen, Hughes, Hussain, Igbon, Ilyas, Iqbal, Johns, Johnson, Judge, Kamal, Karney, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Kirwin-McGinley, Leech, Lovecy, Ludford, Lynch, Lyons, Mandongwe, Marsh, McCaul, Midgley, Moran, Mumtaz, Muse, Noor, Northwood, Nunney, Ogunbambo, Rawlins, Rawson, Razaq, Reeves, Reid, Riasat, Richards, I Robinson, T Robinson, Sadler, Sadiq, Sarwar, M Mahamed, Sheikh, Shilton Godwin, Simcock, Stogia, Taylor, Wheeler, Wiest, Whiston, White, Wills and Wright

CC/24/87 Urgent Business

The Lord Mayor reported that he had agreed to the submission of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee held on 27 November 2024.

CC/24/88 Lord Mayor's Special Business – Cost of Living Update

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Midgley, Angela Harrington (Director of Inclusive Economy, Lisa Vyas (CEO Kingsway Community Trust), Sinead O'Connor (Cheetham Hill Advice Centre) and Lewey Hellewell (Humans Manchester) to address the Council.

Councillor Midgley provided an overview of the work being done by the Council and frontline organisations to support the residents of Manchester to address the cost-of-living crisis. The Anti-Poverty budget for 2024/25 is £41.6m and this has helped to support 13,143 residents, with the Council's Cost of Living Advice line, also providing help with food, benefits, rent payments and advice on debt. Other support listed included the supply of digital devices, provision of food and free school meals, the introduction of a school Anti-Poverty toolkit, Household Support Fund payments, Discretionary Housing Payments, financial support for care leavers and face to face advice services in wards with higher levels of deprivation. The Manchester Communications campaign has increased the awareness and take up of help and support available.

Recognition was given to the vital work of the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise organisations involved. £600,000 was allocated in 2023/24 to 44 VCFSE organisations to help support 34,000 residents and that amount was increased to £1million in 2024/25 for allocation to 70 VCFSE organisations to help

54,000 residents. In addition, £155,000 of grant funding from Our Manchester Food Partnership was allocated to 11 organisations with food and wider support offers.

The Lord Mayor then invited the other guest speakers to address the Council.

Lewey Hellewell spoke on Humans Manchester and the food support to residents of Greater Manchester provided by the organisation and the challenges in providing the service to increasing numbers of people living in poverty.

Sinead O'Connor then addressed the meeting on the work of the Cheetham Hill Advice Centre on support being provided to apply for winter fuel allowance, pension credit and attendance allowance. Also, details were provided on help and support services offered to an increasing number of residents across the city needing support with finance, accessing benefits and provision of debt advise.

Lisa Vyas - CEO Kingsway Community Trust then spoke on the Anti-Poverty toolkit to support children and families.

The Leader responded in acknowledging the vital work to support and help residents across the city.

The Lord Mayor thanked the speakers for their attendance.

CC/24/89 Lord Mayor's Special Business – Save Our Post Office

The Lord Mayor invited Suzanne Russell from the Save Our Post Office to address the Council on concerns regarding the proposed closure of post offices located in Didsbury Village and Barnes Green, Harpurhey. The closure of the post offices would result in the reduction of essential financial services as well as other services that support local communities and which are relied on by local residents following the closure of other community assets.

CC/24/90 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 2 and 29 October 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

CC/24/91 Notice of Motion - Divesting the Greater Manchester Pension Fund from Fossil Fuels and Arms Sales

Councillor Johnson submitted the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Wiest.

On the 10 July 2019, the Council agreed to declare a Climate Emergency and to work with partners across Manchester and GMCA to become a zero-carbon city by 2038. As part of this commitment, the council also agreed to encourage divestment by Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) from fossil fuels as soon as possible.

This motion is calling on the Council to uphold its previous commitment to divest from fossil fuels and is asking for a new commitment by GMPF to divest from weapons

companies. We recognise the inextricable link between war, climate destruction, and human suffering.

Armed conflicts not only result in loss of life, including civilians and children, but also lead to intense environmental destruction; from the first stages of manufacturing and deploying weapons, to the decimation of landscapes and habitats, to carbon intensive post war clean up and reconstruction.

For GMPF, investments in fossil fuel and weapons not only pose ethical questions, but also raise financial risks. Furthermore, investment makes them complicit in human rights violations, destruction of communities and infrastructure, displacement, and economic costs, while undermining sovereignty and misallocating resources.

Likewise, it is globally recognised that we must transition away from fossil fuels to curb the worst impacts of global warming. Continuing to invest in outdated energy technology is simply poor practice.

This council notes:

Approximately 6% of the GMPF fund (equating to £1.5b) is invested in the fossil fuel industry – this represents some of the highest investments across local authority pension funds. These corporations include Shell, BP, TotalEnergies, Glencore, Legal and General and numerous others.

The Labour Party manifesto 2024 stated it would mandate: “UK-regulated financial institutions – including ...pension funds, and insurers... to develop and implement credible transition plans that align with the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement.”

The Greater Manchester Pension Fund has set a goal of 2050 for reaching net zero carbon emissions, even though the Greater Manchester Combined Authority has set a more ambitious goal of 2038 to reach the same target.

The fiduciary duties of the GMPF are compatible with fossil fuel divestment as evidenced by the many public sector and other pension funds, including local government ones, who are performing significantly better than GMPF on reaching zero carbon.

Fossil fuel investments risk becoming stranded assets as global decarbonisation efforts intensify.

Since 2018, UNISON has made the decision to campaign for divestment from these companies because of the devastating impacts of their activities.

Fossil fuel investments should be considered part of the council’s “carbon footprint” and divesting our pension fund is one of the most impactful steps we can take to reduce our impact.

The council notes further:

All the world’s militaries combined, and the industries that provide their equipment, are estimated to create 6% of global emissions.

GMPF currently invests over £241 million in companies such as BAE, Honeywell, Boeing, Caterpillar, Dassault, Rheinmetall etc. These companies profit from arms sales to states that breach international law and carry out human rights abuses, including the ongoing genocide in Palestine, and the conflicts in Lebanon, Congo, Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen.

The GMPF's investments are in direct contravention of their own responsible investment policy. The GMPF states that while investing they ensure: "the environmental and social impact that the investment might have" and "whether those running the company we are investing in are doing a good job".

Pension funds have a duty to consider the material risks of continued investment in violations of international law, including human rights abuses at home and abroad.

Councils like Waltham Forrest, Islington, Liverpool City Council and Inverclyde Council have backed motions calling on pension funds to divest from the arms trade.

This council resolves to:

Ask GMPF to develop and implement a clear fossil fuel divestment transition plan that aligns with the 1.5C goal of the Paris agreement and to have the plan's sign off agreed within the next 12 months.

Ask the GMPF to align with the GMCA target of 2038 for achieving net zero carbon emissions, rather than 2050 and to incorporate a clear medium term 2030 target

Ask GMPF to implement a robust and transparent reporting mechanism to evidence progress on the divestment transition plan.

Recommend our representative on the GMPF to call for and work towards divestment.

Recommend to the Leader of Manchester City Council to write to the GMPF requesting that they submit a report as soon as possible, to list investments in companies who are:

1. associated with breaches of international law or human rights abuses
2. part of the arms industry, or
3. operate within 'occupied territory' as defined by International law
4. Outline engagements history and what their outcomes have been with a view to potential divestment.
5. Outline the impact of potential divestment from fossil fuels and arms companies.
6. To write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the leaders of the other nine Greater Manchester councils to ask them to join us in these calls.

The Lord Mayor informed Council that Councillor Johnson had accepted the amendment submitted by Councillor Green and seconded by Councillor Wright prior to the meeting, and that it now formed part of the substantive motion.

The amended version is as follows:

INSERT - Further to Manchester City Council's Climate Change plans in place since 2009 on the 10 July 2019, the Council agreed to declare a Climate Emergency and to work with partners across Manchester and GMCA to become a zero-carbon city by 2038. As part of this commitment, the council also agreed to encourage divestment by Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) from fossil fuels as soon as possible.

INSERT - Since then Executive Members, Representatives and Leaders have consistently raised divestment with the GMPF.

This motion is calling on the Council to **DELETE** ~~uphold~~ **INSERT** build on its previous commitment to divest from fossil fuels and is asking for a new commitment by GMPF to divest from weapons companies. We recognise the inextricable link between war, climate destruction, and human suffering. Armed conflicts not only result in loss of life, including civilians and children, but also lead to intense environmental destruction; from the first stages of manufacturing and deploying weapons, to the decimation of landscapes and habitats, to carbon intensive post war clean up and reconstruction.

For GMPF, investments in fossil fuel and weapons not only pose ethical questions, but also raise financial risks. **DELETE** ~~Furthermore, investment makes them complicit in human rights violations, destruction of communities and infrastructure, displacement, and economic costs, while undermining sovereignty and misallocating resources. Likewise, it is globally recognised that we must transition away from fossil fuels to curb the worst impacts of global warming. Continuing to invest in outdated energy technology is simply poor practice.~~

This Council notes:

INSERT:

- The Greater Manchester Pension Fund is the largest LGPS in the country at £32billion. It is the statutory responsibility of Tameside Council and is not a function of Manchester City Council or the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and no Council Tax from Manchester is invested in the pension fund.
- Following representations from politicians such as Manchester City Council GMPF reports they been making some progress. The fund's active equity holdings were 20% less carbon intensive than the average pension fund and they are the biggest direct local government pensioner investor in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Approximately 6% of the GMPF fund (equating to £1.5b) is invested in the fossil fuel industry – this represents some of the highest investments across local authority pension funds. These corporations include Shell, BP, TotalEnergies, Glencore, Legal and General and numerous others.
- The Labour Party manifesto 2024 stated it would mandate: "UK-regulated financial

institutions – including ...pension funds, and insurers... to develop and implement credible transition plans that align with the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement.”

· The Greater Manchester Pension Fund has set a goal of 2050 for reaching net zero carbon emissions, even though the Greater Manchester Combined Authority has set a more ambitious target of 2038 to reach the same goal **INSERT** following Manchester City Council’s lead.

~~**DELETE** · The fiduciary duties of the GMPF are compatible with fossil fuel divestment as evidenced by the many public sector and other pension funds, including local government ones, who are performing significantly better than GMPF on reaching zero carbon. · Fossil fuel investments risk becoming stranded assets as global decarbonisation efforts intensify. · Since 2018, UNISON has made the decision to campaign for divestment from these companies because of the devastating impacts of their activities. · Fossil fuel investments should be considered part of the council’s “carbon footprint” and divesting our pension fund is one of the most impactful steps we can take to reduce our impact.~~

The Council notes further:

· All the world’s militaries combined, and the industries that provide their equipment, are estimated to create 6% of global emissions.

· **INSERT**

- That the UK is one of the world’s biggest defence equipment exporters, selling £86 billion of arms between 2010 and 2019 GMPF on their website outlines they hold a range of active and passive investments and GMPF states it has invested £24million.

· ~~**DELETE** GMPF currently invests over £241 million in companies such as BAE, Honeywell, Boeing, Caterpillar, Dassault, Rheinmetall **DELETE** etc. **INSERT** in 2023 through a portfolio fund managed nationally. These companies are well known to have subsidiary arms that are defence manufacturers. **DELETE** These companies profit from arms sales to states that breach international law and carry out human rights abuses, including the ongoing genocide in Palestine, and the conflicts in Lebanon, Congo, Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen. · The GMPF’s investments are in direct contravention of their own responsible investment policy. The GMPF states that while investing they ensure: “the environmental and social impact that the investment might have” and “whether those running the company we are investing in are doing a good job”. · Pension funds have a duty to consider the material risks of continued investment in violations of international law, including human rights abuses at home and abroad.~~

• Councils like Waltham Forrest, Islington, Liverpool City Council and Inverclyde Council have backed motions calling on pension funds to divest from the arms trade. **INSERT** - but are currently held back by national and legal regulations.

• Last Month council passed a motion on banning the export of weapons welcoming that the Labour Government review found a clear risk that items may be used to commit or facilitate violations of International Humanitarian Law and has suspended

export licences. For those items that could be used in the current conflict, the Government have suspended 30 out of a total of approximately 350 licenses in total. These include equipment that have been assessed for use in the current conflict in Gaza such as components for military aircraft and drones, as well as items which facilitate ground targeting. The remaining export licences have been assessed by the Government as not for military use in the current conflict.

This Council resolves to:

(1) **INSERT** Continue to lead the calls for ethical investment in the GMPF AMEND NUMBERING TO REFLECT ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION

(2) Ask GMPF to develop and implement a clear fossil fuel divestment transition plan that aligns with the 1.5C goal of the Paris agreement and to have the plan's sign off agreed within the next 12 months.

(3) Ask the GMPF to align with the GMCA target of 2038 for achieving net zero carbon emissions, rather than 2050 and to incorporate a clear medium term 2030 target.

(4) Ask GMPF to implement a robust and transparent reporting mechanism to evidence progress on the divestment transition plan from fossil fuels and weapons companies.

(5) **DELETE** Mandate our representative on the INSERT Recommend that Manchester City Council call on GMPF to call for and work towards divestment from fossil fuels and weapons companies.

(6) Requests the Leader of the Council to write to the GMPF requesting that they submit a report as soon as possible, to list investments in companies who are:

- associated with breaches of international law or human rights abuses
- part of the arms/weapons industry, or
- operate within 'occupied territory' as defined by international law, and in addition:
- outline engagements history and what their outcomes have been with a view to potential divestment from fossil fuels and weapons companies.
- outline the impact of potential divestment from fossil fuels and arms companies.

(7) Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the leaders of the other nine Greater Manchester councils to ask them to join us in these calls.

(8) **INSERT** - Lobby the new Government on any proposed national pension schemes to bring in regulations to outlaw investment in fossil fuels, arms and munitions and other unethical investments like tobacco and vapes.

Resolution

The amended motion was put to the Council as the substantive motion and the Lord Mayor declared it was carried unanimously.

Decisions

This Council resolves to:

- (1) Continue to lead the calls for ethical investment in the GMPF.
- (2) Ask GMPF to develop and implement a clear fossil fuel divestment transition plan that aligns with the 1.5C goal of the Paris agreement and to have the plan's sign off agreed within the next 12 months.
- (3) Ask the GMPF to align with the GMCA target of 2038 for achieving net zero carbon emissions, rather than 2050 and to incorporate a clear medium term 2030 target.
- (4) Ask GMPF to implement a robust and transparent reporting mechanism to evidence progress on the divestment transition plan from fossil fuels and weapons companies.
- (5) Recommend that Manchester City Council call on GMPF to call for and work towards divestment from fossil fuels and weapons companies.
- (6) Requests the Leader of the Council to write to the GMPF requesting that they submit a report as soon as possible, to list investments in companies who are:
 - associated with breaches of international law or human rights abuses
 - part of the arms/weapons industry, or
 - operate within 'occupied territory' as defined by international law; and in addition:
 - outline engagements history and what their outcomes have been with a view to potential divestment from fossil fuels and weapons companies.
 - outline the impact of potential divestment from fossil fuels and arms companies.
- (7) Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the leaders of the other nine Greater Manchester councils to ask them to join us in these calls.
- (8) Lobby the new Government on any proposed national pension schemes to bring in regulations to outlaw investment in fossil fuels, arms and munitions and other unethical investments like tobacco and vapes.

(Councillors Andrews, Appleby, Benham, Chohan, Johns, Ludford, Marsh, Midgley, Rawlins, Irene Robinson, Stogia, Whiston and Wills each declared a personal interest in the item.)

(Councillors Judge and Wheeler each declared a prejudicial interest in the item and left the meeting taking no part in the consideration or vote.)

(Councillors Connolly, Cooley, Curley, Davies, Karney, Kilpatrick and Rawson each declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the item and left the meeting taking no part in the consideration or vote.)

CC/24/92 Notice of Motion - Post Office closures

Councillor Simcock submitted the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Karney.

The Post Office has announced plans to close three branches across the city in central Manchester, Didsbury Village and Barnes Green in Harpurhey. Post Offices are at the heart of our local communities.

Consequently, we call for Manchester City Council to:-

- (1) Oppose these closures by all means possible.
- (2) Request that the Leader writes to the Post Office and that she and the Interim Chief Executive meets the Post Office CEO to oppose the plans in person and to delay the closures in order to explore all possible alternatives.
- (3) Work with other Councils across Greater Manchester to oppose all proposed closures in the area.
- (4) Contact our Members of Parliament to ask them to involve themselves in the campaign by meeting the Secretary of State for Business to discuss what the Government, as the sole shareholder in the Post Office, can do to halt the closures.
- (5) Recommend that the Executive consider an official City Council petition for concerned residents to sign.
- (6) Work with relevant Trade Unions to oppose the closures
- (7) Involve community groups such as Didsbury Good Neighbours and Harpurhey Together in the campaign focusing on the impact of the closures on older residents.

The motion was then put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it carried unanimously.

Decision

The City Council is called upon to:-

- (1) Oppose these closures by all means possible.
- (2) Request that the Leader writes to the Post Office and that she and the Interim Chief Executive meets the Post Office CEO to oppose the plans in person and to delay the closures in order to explore all possible alternatives.
- (3) Work with other Councils across Greater Manchester to oppose all proposed closures in the area.
- (4) Contact our Members of Parliament to ask them to involve themselves in the campaign by meeting the Secretary of State for Business to discuss what the Government, as the sole shareholder in the Post Office, can do to halt the closures.
- (5) Recommend that the Executive consider an official City Council petition for concerned residents to sign.
- (6) Work with relevant Trade Unions to oppose the closures
- (7) Involve community groups such as Didsbury Good Neighbours and Harpurhey Together in the campaign focusing on the impact of the closures on older residents.

CC/24/93 Notice of Motion - Action on Climate Change

Councillor Rawlins submitted the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Shilton-Godwin.

Manchester City Council has been recognised for its long-standing leadership on climate change, to reduce emissions and working with the community, charities and business to educate and address the serious effects that Climate Change will have for Manchester people. Under a new Government, Manchester will play a leading role in just and fair transition to a net zero economy, that can create new jobs and save Manchester people money while protecting the climate.

Council notes that:-

- We have a long history of action. In 2009 Manchester City Council published a climate change 'call to action', inviting the city to help develop the city's first ever climate change strategy, refreshed in 2013 to work with the new GM strategy and built into a priority of the Our Manchester Strategy in 2016. In 2019, Manchester City Council unanimously declared a 'Climate Emergency' and developed a 5-year Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25, to outline its ambition to tackle climate change and take action to become a zero-carbon organisation by 2038. In 2022, the Council refreshed its Climate Change Action Plan and provides regular updates on its progress to Scrutiny.
- The 2019 motion to council formalised a number of asks from carbon literacy training to decarbonising public transport and included formalising the policy of this Council that we support the decarbonisation of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. Since 2019 successive Executive Members, Leaders and pension fund representatives have taken action to do this.

Council welcomes:-

The new Labour Governments approach to tackling the climate emergency and energy poverty and their leadership in pushing the United Kingdom at the forefront of global leadership.

We welcome the bold action from the new Government since July. Since July the government has:

- lifted the ban on onshore wind in England
- delivered a record number of clean energy projects through its renewables auction
- consented unprecedented amounts of nationally significant solar – 2GW – more than the last 14 years combined
- launched Great British Energy backed by £8.3 billion to speed up the deployment of clean technologies
- Agreed £13.2bn investment over the next five years to insulate and improve 5 million homes to at least the level of EPC C.
- fired the starting gun on the UK's carbon capture, usage and storage industry, with funding agreed for 2 clusters in Teesside and the North West.

At COP29 the UK Labour Government set out new targets to reduce emissions and Keir Starmer called on the global community to join him.

Council resolves to:-

- (1) Remain at the forefront of leading on tackling climate change and for Manchester to show leadership locally, nationally and internationally
- (2) Continue to push for a clear plan and timeline for GM Pension Fund to divest from Fossil Fuels.
- (3) To work with the Government on pension reform to allow more investment in inclusive and sustainable growth.
- (4) Play a leading role as a signatory of the fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and call on the UK Government to do to do the same.
- (5) Write to the United Nations following COP29 and ahead of COP30 to welcome Prime Minister Starmer's Commitments and echo his calls for other nations to follow suit.
- (6) Continue to discuss our progress through the relevant committees.

Councillor Northwood moved an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Good:-

Manchester City Council has been recognised for its long standing leadership on climate change, to reduce emissions and working with the community, charities and business to educate and address the serious effects that Climate Change will have for Manchester people.

Under a new Government, Manchester will play a leading role in just and fair transition to a net zero economy, that can create new jobs and save Manchester people money while protecting the climate.

Council notes that:-

- We have a long history of action. In 2009 Manchester City Council published a climate change 'call to action', inviting the city to help develop the city's first ever climate change strategy, refreshed in 2013 to work with the new GM strategy and built into a priority of the Our Manchester Strategy in 2016. In 2019, Manchester City Council unanimously declared a 'Climate Emergency' and developed a 5-year Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25, to outline its ambition to tackle climate change and take action to become a zero-carbon organisation by 2038. In 2022, the Council refreshed its Climate Change Action Plan, and provides regular updates on its progress to Scrutiny.
- The 2019 motion to council formalised a number of asks from carbon literacy training to decarbonising public transport and included formalising the policy of this Council that we support the decarbonisation of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. Since 2019 successive Executive Members, Leaders and pension fund representatives have taken action to do this.
Add:

- The investment in a new Civic Quarter Heat Network, powered by a fossil fuel powered Combined Heat and Power station failed to meet an ambition of a net zero infrastructure.
- Climate scientists are critical of the use of biofuel and wood pellets as effective towards decarbonisation.

Council welcomes:-

The new Labour Governments approach to tackling the climate emergency and energy poverty and their leadership in pushing the United Kingdom at the forefront of global leadership.

We welcome the bold action from the new Government since July. Since July the government has:

- lifted the ban on onshore wind in England
- delivered a record number of clean energy projects through its renewables auction
- consented unprecedented amounts of nationally significant solar – 2GW – more than the last 14 years combined
- launched Great British Energy backed by £8.3 billion to speed up the deployment of clean technologies
- Agreed £13.2bn investment over the next five years to insulate and improve 5 million homes to at least the level of EPC C.
- fired the starting gun on the UK's carbon capture, usage and storage industry, with funding agreed for 2 clusters in Teesside and the North West

At COP29 the UK Labour Government set out new targets to reduce emissions and Keir Starmer called on the global community to join him.

Council resolves to:-

- (1) Remain at the forefront of leading on tackling climate change and for Manchester to show leadership locally, nationally and internationally
- (2) Continue to push for a clear plan and timeline for GM Pension Fund to divest from Fossil Fuels.
- (3) To work with the Government on pension reform to allow more investment in inclusive and sustainable growth.
- (4) Play a leading role as a signatory of the fossil Fuel Non- Proliferation Treaty and call on the UK Government to do the same.
- (5) Write to the United Nations following COP29 and ahead of COP30 to welcome Prime Minister Starmer's Commitments and echo his calls for other nations to follow suit.
- (6) Continue to discuss our progress through the relevant committees.
Add:
- (7) Recommend that the Executive commission a lessons learned exercise on the failure of the Civic Quarter Heat Network to meet decarbonisation goals
- (8) Recommend that the Executive review and scrutinise the use of biofuel, wood pellets and other fuel sources within the council's energy suppliers to ensure

those suppliers are not “greenwashing” their energy supply, which will result in unexpected costs on the city’s science based carbon budget.

Resolution

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

The substantive motion was then put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it carried.

Decision

Council resolves to:-

- (1) Remain at the forefront of leading on tackling climate change and for Manchester to show leadership locally, nationally and internationally
- (2) Continue to push for a clear plan and timeline for GM Pension Fund to divest from Fossil Fuels.
- (3) To work with the Government on pension reform to allow more investment in inclusive and sustainable growth.
- (4) Play a leading role as a signatory of the fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and call on the UK Government to do to do the same.
- (5) Write to the United Nations following COP29 and ahead of COP30 to welcome Prime Minister Starmer’s Commitments and echo his calls for other nations to follow suit.
- (6) Continue to discuss our progress through the relevant committees.

CC/24/94 Notice of Motion - Caring more for our Carers

Councillor Mandongwe submitted the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Cooley.

Manchester’s unpaid carers are the unsung heroes of our city, supporting family members or friends who due to illness, disability, mental health or an addiction – are not able to cope without their support. They form the backbone of our local communities offering not only their skills and time but also their compassion and dedication, selflessly placing the needs of others above their own. However, this often demands considerable personal sacrifice, subjecting carers to financial strain and employment challenges.

Over recent years Manchester City Council has introduced a number of supportive measures to our unpaid carers – however we know that challenges remain for many and are determined to advance the reach out of our work to those unpaid carers further and faster in the years to come.

Council notes:-

- The Government's recent announcement in the Autumn Statement supporting those with caring responsibilities will be able to earn more without losing government support; with the Carer's Allowance earnings threshold being boosted by £45 a week to £196, benefitting more than 60,000 carers by 2029/30.
- The permanent investment of £1.5 million from Manchester City Council into the Carers Manchester Pathway, of which Gaddum is the commissioned service provider.
- The creation of the Carers Manchester Partnership Board which brings together strategic leads from across the statutory and voluntary sectors, for the commissioning and provision of carer support services.
- The creation of the Manchester Carers respite strategy in 2024 with Carefree, supporting 300 Manchester unpaid carers across the city.
- The second Manchester Carers recognition Award took place in April last year, where 180 residents attended the event where 80 unpaid carers were nominated for an award.

Council however also notes:-

- In the United Kingdom, there are approximately 6.5 million unpaid carers, many of whom grapple with financial challenges due to insufficient support.
- Over 1 million unpaid carers provide in excess of 50 hours of unpaid care each week, thereby impacting their ability to sustain stable employment.
- A survey conducted by Carers UK revealed that 72% of unpaid carers experience workplace discrimination, while 83% report financial struggles.

Council therefore resolves to:-

- (1) To continue to support Manchester's unpaid carers, further developing our respite offer and available support packages through the Carers Manchester Partnership Board.
- (2) To raise awareness of the recent Government changes to financial entitlements and ensure that the Manchester residents who are eligible receive the necessary support and information to access it.
- (3) To further celebrate the work of our unpaid Carers, through a formal award at the Manchester Be Proud awards.

The motion was then put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it carried unanimously.

Decision

Council resolves to:-

- (1) To continue to support Manchester's unpaid carers, further developing our respite offer and available support packages through the Carers Manchester

Partnership Board.

- (2) To raise awareness of the recent Government changes to financial entitlements and ensure that the Manchester residents who are eligible receive the necessary support and information to access it.
- (3) To further celebrate the work of our unpaid Carers, through a formal award at the Manchester Be Proud awards.

CC/24/95 Proceedings of the Executive

The proceedings of the Executive on 16 October 2024 and 13 November 2024 were submitted. The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following recommendations:

Exe/24/83 Our Town Hall Project Update (Part A)

Recommend that the Council approve a capital budget increase of £76m for the Our Town Hall Project funded by borrowing. This will increase the total capital budget for the Our Town Hall Project from £353,836,699 to £429,815,988 to be met from borrowing to ensure that the Council can continue to meet its contractual obligations.

Exe/24/89 Capital Programme P6 2024/25

Recommend that Council approve the budget change to the Council's capital programme detailed as follows:-

- Public Sector Housing – High Rise Fire Safety Work – a capital budget virement of £1.695m, funded from within approved budgets, to develop and plan the delivery of remediation works to 7 high rise and 5 low rise blocks which is part of the Council owned assets.

Exe/24/92 Parental Leave Policy for Members

Recommend that Council endorse the Parental Leave Policy for Members and in doing so agree that, although each case must be considered on its merits, particular consideration will be given to approving the reason for absence under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1985 in the case of approved parental leave taken under this policy

Decisions

1. To receive the minutes submitted.
2. To approve a capital budget increase of £76m for the Our Town Hall Project funded by borrowing. This will increase the total capital budget for the Our Town Hall Project from £353,836,699 to £429,815,988 to be met from borrowing to ensure that the Council can continue to meet its contractual

obligations.

3. To approve the budget change to the Council's capital programme detailed as follows:-

Public Sector Housing – High Rise Fire Safety Work – a capital budget virement of £1.695m, funded from within approved budgets, to develop and plan the delivery of remediation works to 7 high rise and 5 low rise blocks which is part of the Council owned assets.

4. To endorse the Parental Leave Policy for Members and in doing so agree that, although each case must be considered on its merits, particular consideration will be given to approving the reason for absence under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1985 in the case of approved parental leave taken under this policy.

CC/24/96 Questions to Executive Members and Others under Procedural Rule 23

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Marsh seeking an update on a café operator at Wythenshawe Park.

Councillor Tom Robinson responded to a question from Councillor Johns regarding residents' access to better dentistry services.

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding the issue of street trader licences since the change in the definition of street trading was introduced.

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding the Council policy on the storage of commercial waste on the public highway and residential streets.

Councillor Akbar responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding any discussions with the Chancellor and the Treasury on the current state of the Council's finances.

For the next question, the Lord Mayor informed the meeting that Councillor Bridges was not present to respond to a question from Councillor Leech regarding the survey of Public Realm Assets for routine health and safety requirements and to comply with any legal requirements relating listed building status and would provide a written response.

Councillor Rawlins responded to a question from Councillor Shilton-Godwin regarding the Council's arrangements for keeping pavements safe for pedestrians during icy conditions.

For the next question, the Lord Mayor informed the meeting that Councillor Bridges was not present to respond to a question from Councillor Wiest regarding an incident involving GMP officers in the treatment of members of the Romani Gypsy and Irish Traveller communities at Victoria Train Station and would provide a written response.

Councillor Rawlins responded to a question from Councillor Good regarding the timescale for the commissioning and making operational a pedestrian crossing.

CC/24/97 Scrutiny Committees

The minutes of the following Scrutiny Committee meetings were submitted:

- Economy & Regeneration – 8 October and 5 November 2024
- Communities & Equalities – 8 October and 5 November 2024
- Children & Young People – 9 October and 6 November 2024
- Health – 9 October and 6 November 2024
- Resources and Governance – 10 October and 7 November 2024
- Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhoods – 10 October and 7 November 2024

Decision

To receive those minutes submitted.

CC/23/98 Proceedings of Committees

The minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

- Audit Committee – 22 October 2024
- Licensing and Appeals Committee 21 October 2024
- Licensing Committee – 21 October 2024
- Planning and Highways Committee – 26 September and 24 October 2024
- Personnel Committee – 16 October and 13 November 2024
- Standards Committee – 31 October 2024
- Licensing Policy Committee – 8 November 2024

The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following item:-

LPC/24/02 Review of Gambling Policy 2025-28

To recommend to Council to approve the policy for publication, subject to any final changes required by this Committee.

- Health and Wellbeing Board – 20 November 2024
- Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 27 November 2024

The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following item:-

CN/24/18 Appointments and Changes to Council Committee Membership and Outside Bodies

The Council approve the amendments to committee membership, board and outside body as follows:-

Committee	Member(s) to be added	Member(s) to be removed
Executive Standing Consultative Panel	Councillor Anastasia Wiest	Councillor Astrid Johnson
Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee		Councillor Muqaddash Bano
Resource and Governance Scrutiny Committee		Councillor Joan Davies

Outside Body	Member(s) to be added	Member(s) to be removed
Port Health Authority		Councillor Anastasia Wiest

Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Remove: Professor Tony Warne, GMMH
- Appoint: Elizabeth Calder, GMMH.

Decisions

1. To receive those minutes submitted.
2. To approve the Review of Gambling Policy 2025-28 policy for publication.
3. To approve the amendments to committee membership, board and outside body as follows:-

Committee	Member(s) to be added	Member(s) to be removed
Executive Standing Consultative Panel	Councillor Anastasia Wiest	Councillor Astrid Johnson
Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee		Councillor Muqaddash Bano
Resource and Governance Scrutiny Committee		Councillor Joan Davies

Outside Body	Member(s) to be added	Member(s) to be removed
Port Health Authority		Councillor Anastasia Wiest

Health and Wellbeing Board:

Remove: Professor Tony Warne, GMMH
Appoint: Elizabeth Calder, GMMH.

CC/23/99 Appointment of Interim Head of Paid Service

The Council considered a report of the Director of HROD & Transformation and the City Solicitor that sought approval of the Council for the appointment of Paul Marshall as interim Head of Paid Service, for the period 11 January 2025 to 2 February 2025 inclusive. The report also requested that Paul Marshall is appointed as Manchester's Electoral Registration Officer, Returning Officer for the elections of councillors, and Returning Officer for the election of a GMCA mayor, on an interim basis, during that period. It further requests that, during the aforementioned period, the non-executive functions delegated the Chief Executive under the Council's Constitution are temporarily transferred to the Deputy Chief Executive.

Decisions

1. Note that Eamonn Boylan's final day as the Council's Interim Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service will be 10 January 2025 and that, consequently, the designations/appointments made in respect of Eamonn by the Council on 4 September shall terminate with effect from 11 January 2025.
2. Approve the designation of Paul Marshall as Head of Paid Service of Manchester City Council under Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, on an interim basis, for the period 11 January 2025 to 2 February 2025 inclusive.
3. Appoint Paul Marshall as the Electoral Registration Officer for Manchester, on an interim basis, for the period 11 January 2025 to 2 February 2025 inclusive.
4. Appoint Paul Marshall as the Returning Officer for the elections of councillors of the district of Manchester and for elections of councillors of parishes within the district, on an interim basis, for the period 11 January 2025 to 2 February 2025 inclusive.
5. Appoint Paul Marshall as the Returning Officer for the district of Manchester for the election of a Greater Manchester Combined Authority mayor, on an interim basis, for the period 11 January 2025 to 2 February 2025 inclusive.
6. Agree that the non-executive functions delegated to the Chief Executive under the Council's Constitution will be temporarily transferred, for the period 11 January 2025 to 2 February 2025 inclusive, to the Deputy Chief Executive.
7. Note that the Leader has agreed that the executive functions delegated to the Chief Executive under the Council's Constitution will be temporarily transferred, for the period 11 January 2025 to 2 February 2025 inclusive, to the Deputy Chief Executive.

CC/24/100 Key Decisions Report

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

Decision

The Council noted the report.