

COUNCIL

10 October 2017

Commenced: 5.00 pm

Terminated: 6.30 pm

Present: Councillors Kitchen (Chair), Bowerman (Civic Mayor), Bailey, Bell, Bowden, Bray, Buckley, Buglass, Cartey, Cooney, Cooper, Dickinson, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, P Fitzpatrick, Fowler, Glover, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, Homer, Kinsey, D Lane, J Lane, Newton, Patrick, Pearce, Piddington, K Quinn, S Quinn, Ricci, Ryan, Sharif, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, F Travis, L Travis, Warrington, R Welsh and Wild.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Affleck, Beeley, J Fitzpatrick, Jackson, McNally, Peet, Reid, Robinson, Sidebottom, Ward, K Welsh, Whitehead and Wills.

Civic Mayor (Councillor Bowerman) in the Chair

29. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor expressed sincere congratulations to Councillor Eleanor Wills and her husband David on the birth of their baby girl, Enid Lilly. On behalf of all Members, the Civic Mayor extended best wishes to Councillor Wills, David and their family on this very happy occasion.

Councillor Kitchen, Chair of Council Business, in the Chair

30. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Extra Ordinary and Ordinary meetings of the Council held on 25 July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair of Council Business.

31. COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor K Quinn made reference to the visit of HRH Prince Harry to the Manchester Resilience Hub in Ashton Old Baths, on 4 September 2017. Councillor Quinn explained that the Hub provided a central point for mental health advice and support for those affected by the terrorist attacks in Manchester in May 2017.

Councillor Quinn paid tribute to Councillor Jim Middleton, who had recently retired as a Councillor for health reasons, following 27 years of service. He thanked Councillor Middleton for his long service, dedication and tireless work in the Borough and particularly for the people of Droylsden.

Councillor Quinn then referred to a recent Ipsos Mori report into the attitudes of 18-30 year olds. They found many were concerned about the future. Many believed that their opportunities were constrained when compared with previous generations. He further highlighted the importance of securing the necessary funding to build more affordable homes, improve the standard of education and building safer and stronger communities.

Councillor Quinn made reference to the outcome of the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services in September 2016 and subsequent monitoring visits. He explained that a lot of hard work had been undertaken since the initial findings and that Ofsted had acknowledged progress and had highly rated Tameside's adoption service and children's homes. A recent monitoring visit confirmed sustained improvement at the Hub, improved partnership working, caseloads had started to fall

and timeliness of plans and assessments had improved. Ofsted were also impressed with levels of commitment from social care staff.

It was further explained that it had been recognised that more pace in the improvement journey was required and a number of changes had been made:

- In Councillor Robinson's absence, Councillor J Fitzpatrick had taken a lead role on Children's Services supported by Councillor Taylor and Councillor Gwynne;
- Managerial leadership had been strengthened with the roles of Director of Adults and Children being split into two roles and a new Interim Director of Children's Services had been appointed. Councillor Quinn introduced James Thomas, who had a long and successful career leading excellent children's services and delivering improvement across a range of councils; and
- It was also the intention to further strengthen the Children's Management Team as a means of increasing the pace of the improvement journey.

Councillor Quinn informed Members that 2018 would mark the one hundred year anniversary of the beginning of women in Britain being granted the right to vote. Suffragist Millicent Fawcett called for women to be included in the Bill that would extend voting rights to all men over 21. A significant part of the suffrage movement had its roots in Manchester, with Ashton-under-Lyne MP Hugh Mason, a Stalybridge born mill owner and politician introducing motions supporting the suffrage movement in its earlier days. The Leader announced that a cross party working group would be established, chaired by Councillor Feeley, to look at how Tameside could commemorate the 100 year anniversary and the suffragette movement.

Councillor Warrington informed Members of a recent inspection of Tameside's Learning Disability Service by the Care Quality Commission. They inspected the Supported Housing Service and all areas of the Service received a 'Good' rating with Service Response receiving an 'Outstanding' rating. Councillor Warrington congratulated officers, managers and staff within the Learning Disability Service for their hard work.

Councillor Cooney reported, with sadness, that there had been two fatal road traffic accidents in the Borough recently. He made particular reference to the incident in Droylsden and the very sad loss of the son of a member of Council staff. Councillor Cooney stressed that speed was a key factor in both incidents and stated that the Council were committed to working with partner agencies in order to improve road safety and address the issue of speeding.

Councillor L Travis was pleased to announce that Cromwell School had now re-opened, following a massive fire at the site last year.

Councillor Travis further reported on primary and secondary school results in 2017. In respect of Early Years Foundation Stage, she explained that Tameside had seen an increase of 3% in the percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development. Tameside was 7th in Greater Manchester for the percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development. 79% of pupils achieved the expected standard in phonics, which was the biggest increase across Greater Manchester. At Key Stage 1, 72% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading (7th in Greater Manchester), 65% of pupils achieved the expected standard in writing (8th in Greater Manchester) and 72% achieved the expected standard in maths (6th in Greater Manchester). Despite the improved performance at SK1, the Borough remained below national averages, which in 2017 increased by 2% in reading and writing and 3% in maths. At Key Stage 2, 60% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at the end of KS2, an increase of 5% on the previous year. Tameside was in line with both national and regional averages and the borough was 6th in Greater Manchester.

32. COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION

The Chair reported that one question had been received in accordance with Standing Orders 31.12 and 31.13, from Mr Paul Broadhurst as follows:

'Will the community of Tameside see an increase in Council Tax re: the dire situation that the Hospital Trust find themselves in, after it was reported in the media that the Council was to bail out the Trust'?

Councillor K Quinn, in his response, explained that integrated care was about making changes that improved services and saved money at the same time. The key to achieving this was making sure that every organisation responsible for health and social care in Tameside was working to one plan, and knew their role in that plan. Taking health out of hospitals and into homes, giving people the resources and support they needed to stay well and remain independent. Those basic principles had led to new ways of working and better outcomes. He gave an example of the Digital Health Centre, which had saved £100,000 to date.

33. MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 30 August 2017. It was moved by Councillor K. Quinn, seconded by Councillor Taylor and –

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 30 August 2017 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

34. OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview (Audit) Panel held on 11 September 2017. It was moved by Councillor Ricci and seconded by Councillor Taylor and –

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview (Audit) Panel held on 11 September 2017 be received.

35. LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014 – APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

The Director of Finance submitted a report providing an update on the appointment of the Council's External Auditors following the decision in February 2017 to opt into the Sector Led Procurement for External Auditors arranged by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA).

It was moved by Councillor K Quinn and seconded by Councillor Warrington and -

RESOLVED

- (i) That Council agrees that it is satisfied with the appointment of Mazars LLP to audit the accounts of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council for five years from 2018/19 following the procurement process undertaken by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) and in line with the approval given by Council on the 28 February 2017; and**
- (ii) That Council agrees the appointment of Mazars LLP subject to the conclusion of the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) process outlined in 4.5 of the report.**

36. TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH – INCORPORATION AS A SUB-NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY

A report was submitted by the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer explaining that Transport for the North was making the case for pan-Northern strategic transport improvements, which were needed to support transformational economic growth. This would allow the North to increase its productivity, create more job opportunities and make a greater contribution to the UK economy. It required the delivery of a sustained investment programme across the North to build infrastructure, strengthen skills, harness innovation and encourage smart technology.

It was further explained that Transport for the North was a partnership, bringing together local and combined authorities and business leaders from across the North with Central Government. This body allowed the region to speak with one voice on the transport infrastructure investment needed to boost the North's economy.

In 2016, the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review, commissioned by Transport for the North on behalf of Northern partners, demonstrated how unique capabilities which were present across the north could be harnessed to transform the region, adding almost £97 billion to the UK economy and creating up to 850,000 jobs by 2050.

It was moved by Councillor K Quinn and seconded by Councillor Cooney and –

RESOLVED

That the Council approves:

- (i) The making by the Secretary of State of Regulations under Section 102E of the Local Transport Act 2008 to establish Transport for the North as a Sub-National Transport Body; and**
- (ii) That where the regulations propose to confer on TfN local transport functions consent to include such concurrent powers be agreed subject to the consent of the council as set out in Section 2 of the report.**

37. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

(a) Statutory and Proper Officer Appointments

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Paid Service and Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer detailing the Statutory and Proper Officer appointments that had been amended to reflect changes to the Council's Senior Management Structure and explained changes within the leadership team to create additional capacity.

(b) Request for the Council's constitution to be amended to adopt new powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Assistant Director, Environmental Services, submitted a report providing an update on the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and sought support for new powers contained under the Act to be adopted within the Council's Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation.

It was moved by Councillor K Quinn and seconded by Councillor Glover and –

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Council agrees the changes to the Statutory and Proper Officer appointments as set out on the attached document to reflect changes to the Council's senior management team.**
- (b) That the Council agrees to adopt new powers contained under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 into the Council's Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation.**

38. NOTICE OF MOTION

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was proposed by Councillor Sweeton and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull:

'That this Council notes the announcement on 20 July 2017 by Conservative Transport Secretary Chris Grayling MP that the electrification of the Sheffield, Kettering, Oxenholme-Windermere and Cardiff-Swansea railway lines will not take place and the Transport Secretary's comments as part of this announcement that full electrification of the Manchester-Leeds railway line may be too difficult.

Council further notes the announcement on 24 July 2017 of the approval of the £30 billion Crossrail 2 scheme in London.

Northern Powerhouse rail, an investment programme which included the now cancelled electrifications and the electrification of the Manchester-Leeds line, was pledged on page 24 of the Conservative Party manifesto for the 2017 General Election. Crossrail was not featured at all in the Conservative Party manifesto.

This Council supports the electrification of the east-west transpennine railway between Manchester and Leeds. Council recognises the benefits that the electrification of this line, which passes through the Borough of Tameside, would deliver for local people.

This Council is further asked to note that whilst Chancellor Phillip Hammond's has announced at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester this week that an allocation of £300m of investment will be made in Northern rail connectivity he failed to recommit to the electrification across the Pennines, which was originally promised in 2011 and the travelling public in the North is having to put up with sub-standard rail services right now and deserve a better answer on when Manchester to Leeds services will improve.

Council resolves to:

- (i) Ask the Chief Executive to write to Transport Secretary Chris Grayling setting out our support for the full electrification of this line; and*
- (ii) Call on our three MPs to lobby the government to deliver the planned electrification as promised.'*

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was carried and it was therefore –

RESOLVED

That this Council notes the announcement on 20 July 2017 by Conservative Transport Secretary Chris Grayling MP that the electrification of the Sheffield, Kettering, Oxenholme-Windermere and Cardiff-Swansea railway lines will not take place and the Transport Secretary's comments as part of this announcement that full electrification of the Manchester-Leeds railway line may be too difficult.

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- (ii) Call on our three MPs to lobby the government to deliver the planned electrification as promised.**

39. QUESTIONS

The Chair reported no questions had been received in accordance with Standing Order 17.2.

40. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items of business for consideration at this meeting.

CHAIR