

COUNCIL

5 October 2021

Commenced: 5.00 pm

Terminated: 7.15pm

Present: Councillors Affleck, Alam, ,Billington, Bowden, Boyle, Bray, Cartey, Chadwick, Choksi, Cooney, Costello, Dickinson, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, Glover, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, J Homer, S Homer, Huntbach, Jackson, Jones, Kitchen (Chair), Lane, Lewis, McNally, Martin, Mills, Naylor, Newton, North, Owen, Patel, Patrick, Pearce, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Robinson, Ryan, N Sharif, T Sharif, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, Ward, Warrington, and Wills

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bowerman, Cooper, Gosling, and Welsh

Councillor Kitchen, Chair of Council Business, in the Chair

26 MINUTES

RESOLVED

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 20 July 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, with the amendment that Cllr Patrick voted in favour of the Joint Development Plan Document for 9 Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan).

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Members of the Council.

28 GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Chief Superintendent, Rob Cousen, Greater Manchester Police, delivered a presentation on the Greater Manchester Police Implementation Plan.

Members were informed that the force would be focusing on the basics of policing; fighting, preventing and reducing crime. Greater Manchester Police would be working with the Council and other partners to ensure that everyone within Tameside felt safe. This would include a heightened police presence to achieve its aims, including preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour. The police recognised that trust in the service was at a low ebb and would be working tirelessly to rebuild trust among the public.

A number of commitments were outlined to Members, including:

- Quicker response times to 999 and 101 calls;
- More capacity to report crime online;
- Victims of crime would be kept better updated in line with the Victim's Code;
- Taking positive action at domestic abuse incidents;
- Safeguarding victims and children;
- Conducting high profile operations that targeted offences such as drug dealing, anti-social behaviour and speeding;
- Ring fencing officers and PCSOs to undertake problem solving;

- Ensuring every burglary victim was visited by an officer; and
- Following up all reasonable lines of enquiry.

Members queried what the local police would be doing to ensure safety on the borough's roads and what engagement was being undertaken with active home watch groups within Tameside. The Chief Superintendent advised that further information on collaborative working with the borough's home watch groups would be brought to the upcoming round of Neighbourhood Forums, detailing the work that would be taken in each of the four neighbourhoods.

Regarding traffic and speeding related concerns, Members were assured that the police would be relentlessly pursuing those who broke the speed limit and drove uninsured vehicles. The importance of community involvement and education in reducing road traffic offences was also highlighted.

Ultimately, the Chief Superintendent hoped that with the fulfilment of the commitments detailed, every resident in Tameside would be satisfied with the level of service received from Greater Manchester Police.

29 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Civic Mayor began his announcements by advising Members that the Civic Mayor was unable to attend the meeting as she was unwell. He extended his best wishes to the Civic Mayor and wished her a speedy recovery.

Following the Civic Mayor's announcement that that Dr Ron Hill had passed away earlier in the year, the Deputy Civic Mayor was delighted to announce that Tameside people had followed Dr Hill's fine sporting example at the summer Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo. Georgia Taylor-Brown, a young woman who had grown up in Droylsden, won gold and silver in the triathlon, Jack Carlin, a resident of Stalybridge, achieved a silver and bronze in cycling, and Aileen McGlynn, from Mossley, won a cycling silver medal in the Paralympics.

The Mayor had invited the three athletes to attend the Mayor's Parlour to extend her congratulations to them in person.

The Deputy Civic Mayor announced that the Civic Mayor had recently hosted two events in which she was able to offer the borough's recognition, and thanks, to the long-serving foster carers who did such wonderful work. Each foster carer was presented with a much deserved certificate and gift.

The Deputy Civic Mayor advised that the Civic Mayor had been honoured to open the new Droylsden Library at Guardsman Tony Downes House. It had also been her pleasure to attend the opening of the Active Hyde pool extension and be part of the poignant and moving event to mark the 100th anniversary of Denton war memorial.

Following the easing of coronavirus restrictions, the Civic Mayor had been delighted to be able to invite Lee Hewitt, Anthony Hibbert and Stephen Rhodes, three of the Council's refuse collectors, to the Mayor's Parlour. The men had bravely entered a burning house in Ashton-under-Lyne to rescue a man who had collapsed. They had then called the fire brigade and alerted neighbours to the danger.

The Deputy Civic Mayor explained that charity work had been a key feature of the Civic Mayor's duties, and she had been pleased to visit two causes close to her heart and that had formed part of her appeal fund; Cascade Baby Bundles and Friends of Tameside Young Carers.

As pandemic-related restrictions had eased, the Civic Mayor's diary had become much busier after what had been a difficult twelve months. The Deputy Civic Mayor announced that the Civic Mayor had attended the memorial ceremony to mark the ninth anniversary of the deaths of police officers Nicola Hughes and Fiona Bone. In addition, the Civic Mayor had attended the Royal British Legion

Annual County Service at Albion Church in Ashton-under-Lyne and a party to honour Margaret Downs, a long-serving former member of the Council and a predecessor as Civic Mayor.

30 COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader began by echoing the Deputy Civic Mayor's congratulations to those from Tameside who had participated at the summer Olympic and Paralympic games in Tokyo. On behalf of Tameside, the Executive Leader offered her heartfelt congratulations to all those who had done the borough and the country proud, and wished them every success for the future.

The Executive Leader announced that since the last meeting of Full Council in July 2021, a number of individuals and services across the authority had been nominated for awards and recognition. The LGC Awards 2021 had seen three nominations in Tameside – Dr Jane Harvey for outstanding leadership; the Partnership Engagement Network (PEN) for community involvement; and the vaccination rollout in the public health category. Winners would be announced at a ceremony in November.

Also in November, the Executive Leader advised that an announcement would be made as to whether the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) had won in its three nominated categories at the European Pension Awards 2021 – European Pension Fund of the Year; Pension Fund Communication Award; and Infrastructure Manager of the Year.

Congratulations was extended to the 'Everybody Can' service, run in partnership with Active Tameside, which received the 'Diversity and Inclusion' award for the second time at the national UK Active Awards last month.

Full Council heard that, Philip Woffenden, from the Criminal Justice Mental Health Team had been presented with a Gold Award. The Department of Health and Social Care award recognised outstanding achievements by a nurse or social care worker in their sphere of practice.

The Public Services Managers Association awards in September saw two successes for Tameside. The Council's Recruitment, Payroll and Pensions Team received the Excellence in Service Delivery – Unsung Hero's Award. In addition, Tracy Brennand, Assistant Director of People and Workforce Development, was the winner of the HR Leader of the Year category.

The Executive Leader extended her congratulations to all those who had recently received awards for their hard work and dedicated service.

Following the withdrawal of western forces from Afghanistan in August, the Executive Leader expressed her shock and sadness at the unfolding crisis in the country. Alongside the other leaders of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Executive Leader had signed an official statement pledging that the Council would do its part to help people leave Afghanistan and rebuild their lives in the UK. It was highlighted that the city region had a long and proud history as a safe haven for those fleeing prejudice and persecution.

It was reported that the GMCA had heard from the new Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, Stephen Watson, at a meeting in September. Mr Watson outlined the forces plans to improve the performance, transparency and accountability of the city region's police force. The Executive Leader extended her thanks to the new Chief Superintendent for Tameside for attending the meeting to explain the Chief Constable's plan to all Members.

The Executive Leader stressed that there was no such thing as "low level crime", only crime, and reassured communities within Tameside that were blighted by incidences of anti-social behaviour that their concerns were being listened to and that a clear and swift response would be forthcoming.

The work of all those who had gone above and beyond during the pandemic was recognised, in particular the hard work and dedication of health workers, public sector workers, volunteers and

individuals residents. The work of the borough's 267 Community Champions was commended. These individuals had been vital to getting covid messages out to Tameside's diverse communities and had also provided practical support to keep residents safe and well. It was anticipated that as the pandemic receded, the Community Champions would continue to have a role in caring for Tameside's communities.

Council was updated on the Executive Leader's 2020 pledge to ensure and secure inclusive growth at a local level. Details of what this meant for Tameside and its residents were outlined to Members.

Inclusive growth meant economic growth that created opportunities for all and distributed the benefits of prosperity fairly across society. It was emphasised that housing would be one of the key elements to securing inclusive growth because it was one of the biggest drivers of wealth accumulation as well as the biggest spending item and source of debt for most individuals or families. Housing, and the areas in which people lived, could have drastic implications for health, employment and education.

It was reported that the Godley Green Garden Village would be an important component in ensuring that Tameside built back better from the pandemic by ensuring high quality and sustainable housing. The outline planning permission for the development had recently been submitted and would now need to be validated by the Local Planning Authority before the content was made publically available.

The Executive Leader explained that in line with best practice, community and stakeholder engagement had taken place throughout the entire preparation of the planning process. This began as far back as 2019, and between February and March of this year, it was reported there had a number of stakeholder workshops, online engagement sessions and community meetings allowing people to have their say. In total, some 350 participants attended these events and this was supplemented by the circulation of a community newsletter to over 7,000 houses within a 1.5-mile radius of the proposed site.

Council were informed that the decision to develop the greenfield site at Godley Green had been taken because there was not sufficient brownfield land within the borough to accommodate a project on the scale of the proposed development. It was explained that the current footprint of the development encompassed only 2.5% of Tameside's total greenbelt land and 50% of the proposed site had been earmarked for green infrastructure. By consolidating ownership of the site, the Council would also be able to increase the proportion of publically accessible land from 1%t now to 50% upon completion.

Addressing questions about the infrastructure to support the development, the Executive Leader explained that the Council had undertaken a comprehensive analysis of primary and secondary school capacity in the area. Members were informed that while more secondary school places would be required in the early stages of the development to mitigate the impact of the garden village, additional primary school capacity would not be required until work was near completion. Talks had been held with Alder High School about a significant expansion of their facilities, and an entirely new one-form primary school had been earmarked for construction within the development.

In addition to addressing issues around infrastructure, Members were told that a commitment had been made to retain and enhance Brookfold Wood and Werneth Brook, two sites containing ancient woodland and biological interest within the development site. Reassurance was given that 75 percent of all mature trees across the site would be retained, with no trees identified as Category A being felled, and 92 percent of all Category B trees being preserved. It was also hoped that there would be a 10 percent gain in biodiversity across the area, through measures including installing one bat box for every 10 houses, building two barn owl boxes and protecting eight of the 11 ponds holding water.

It was hoped that the Godley Green Garden Village would stand as an example to other local authorities in Greater Manchester and across the country on how to deliver the right homes, in the right place, using the right methods. Following the recommendations of the Local Planning Authority, the development would be presented to the Secretary of State for the final say on approval or rejection. Following this process, it was anticipated that Godley Green could be turned from ambition into reality.

It was explained that inclusive growth was about more than delivering one major project in a specific area. The Executive Leader highlighted a number of other schemes that were delivering investment in areas as diverse as leisure, retail and public health:

- In Droylsden, the new library opened for business in mid-September;
- The opening of the new state-of-the-art swimming pool at Active Hyde in July; and
- Attracting residents and visitors back to the borough's town centres through events such as the Ashton Artisan Market, Farmer's Market, Craft and Cake Festival and the Stalybridge Street Feast.

Members were informed that the Council continued to work closely with consultants Baker Stuart and Journey4 to redesign and formalise the ways of working that had been adopted during the pandemic into a new "hybrid culture". The Executive Leader explained that it was the hope and expectation that this new hybrid way of working would combine the strengths of home and office working.

The Council recognised that its workforce was large, complex and diverse, and therefore wanted to hear from as many colleagues as possible to ensure that all options and opinions were taken into consideration. Once the feedback had been collated and analysed, the Executive Leader hoped to be able to deliver the results of the work and outline the next steps in the near future.

The Executive Leader concluded by highlighting that as society emerged from the long shadow of the coronavirus pandemic, significant challenges remained. Members, residents and businesses were encouraged to bring their ideas and energy to the table to turn the Council's vision for inclusive growth in Tameside into real progress on the ground.

31 COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION

The Chair reported that in accordance with Standing Orders 31.12 and 31.13 a number of questions had been submitted from residents. Councillor Boyle, as Chair of the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group, Councillor Gwynne as the appropriate Executive Member, and Sandra Stewart, the Monitoring Officer, each provided a response to the questions.

Question 1

"Which of the following bodies/companies/stakeholders/interested parties have been, or will be, formally consulted specifically in connection with the preparation of the Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy and associated Action Plans?"

- *Electricity North West*
- *Other Energy Providers*
- *Tameside residents*
- *Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise Organisations*
- *Social Housing Providers*
- *Other Political Parties in Tameside*
- *City of Trees*
- *Environment Agency*
- *Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership*
- *Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts*
- *Natural England*
- *Royal Horticultural Society*
- *United Utilities*
- *House Builders*
- *Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive*
- *GM Pension Fund*
- *Manchester Airport*
- *Fire Service*
- *NHS Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups*
- *National Rivers Authority"*

Response from Councillor Laura Boyle (Chair, Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group)

The draft Climate Change & Environment Strategy 2021-26 was developed in conjunction with the GMCA 5 year Environment Plan (which included a 12-month GM wide consultation).

There was extensive consultation with stakeholders, including:-

- Friends of the Earth Ashton;
- Elected Members; Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel (now known as Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group);
- Tameside Youth Council; and
- A 4-week online consultation exercise.

Regarding the external bodies specifically referred to in the question: we work with many of those partners on that (out of date) list every day.

Question 2

“The Environment and Climate Change Working Group met on 15 September 2021. The minutes of that meeting stated: The Group received a presentation from the Climate and Energy Manager updating Members on the development of the Council’s Climate Change and Environment Strategy. Members were informed that the Strategy was currently progressing through the Council’s governance process. Following any comments at the Senior Leadership Team meeting in late September, and the adoption of any recommendations, the Strategy would proceed to the Executive Cabinet meeting on 27 October 2021 for formal approval and adoption by the Council.

Assuming no unforeseen problems at the two meetings mentioned, does this mean the strategy AND associated action plans will therefore be presented to full council at the meeting of 7 December 2021?”

Response from Councillor Allison Gwynne (Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment)

The Climate Change and Environmental Strategy entered the governance system in August and has been through a number of the early stages of scrutiny already. It is important that the correct level of attention is given to this wide-ranging strategy which has implications across all operations of the Council. It is therefore critical that at each stage of the governance process, the correct people analyse and feedback on the documents. It is indeed intended that they will be formally adopted by the end of the year.

It is important to highlight that officers, although keen to see this document ratified, are not letting its formal absence detract from any immediate efforts to guide the Council towards meeting our target of net-zero by 2038.

One example of proactive delivery of such work is the £2.3m Public Sector Decarbonisation programme – where in the current phase – eleven Council buildings will receive interventions that will reduce our estate’s carbon emissions by 5000 tonnes. Officers are also working with Transport for Greater Manchester to develop the electric vehicle charging infrastructure in areas where it is most needed across Tameside. Crucially, a communications offer is being explored to build trust and support with stakeholders across the borough to help us work in collaboration.

Question 3

“As Chair of Council Business, you chaired the Full Council meeting of Tuesday 20 July 2021. No transcript, minutes or webcast of this meeting are to be found on the Council’s website. Two-and-a-half months after the event, surely Tameside residents should be kept informed of Council events and discussions as a matter of open democracy? Will you remedy this oversight by ensuring the webcast appears immediately on the website or, if this is not possible, by explaining to residents why this cannot be done?”

Response from Sandra Stewart (Monitoring Officer)

The Legal requirements is to publish Council agenda and minutes five days before the meeting takes place.

We have complied with that.

In addition, the press and public are allowed to have access.

In line with good practice the Council has been streaming all its meetings in order to enable accessibility, particularly during the pandemic, recognising that a significant section of the community have been isolating throughout and still are vulnerable to covid.

There is no legal requirement to save any recordings, although generally we have done so for six months or so subject to capacity on the website.

On this occasion, inadvertently or otherwise potentially defamatory comments were made in the chamber, which were picked up by the mics.

As I have a personal statutory duty to ensure the Council complies with the law, I made the decision not to republish the recording after the meeting had been streamed to the public to ensure the Council was not exposed to any claims or liability.

I understand that our software provider Public-i, who stream and publish over 150 councils meetings, mistakenly published the meeting but removed it when they realised the potential liability issues.

I am confident with the fact we have restored control to the mics to avoid them being left on and picking up private conversations not intended for the chamber that this issue should not happen again.

32 MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meetings of Executive Cabinet held on 28 July and 25 August 2021. It was moved by Councillor Warrington and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull that the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 28 July and 25 August 2021 be received.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 28 July and 25 August 2021 be received.

33 MEETING OF OVERVIEW PANEL

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Overview (Audit) Panel held on 26 July 2021. It moved by Councillor Naylor and seconded by Councillor Owen that the minutes of the Overview (Audit) Panel held on 26 July 2021 be received.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Overview (Audit) Panel held on 26 July 2021 be received.

34 SENIOR STAFFING PANEL

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Senior Staffing Panel held on 29 September 2021. It was moved by Councillor Warrington, seconded by Councillor Kitchen and –

RESOLVED

- (i) That the salary for the permanent recruitment of the Director of Children's Services be set a minima of £120k and maxima of £145k dependent on the skills and experience of the successful candidate;**

- (ii) That it be noted that Tracy Morris be appointed to the position of Interim Director of Children's Services and be paid £120k from 1 October 2021 until such time as the permanent Director of Children's Services was in post;
- (iii) That the roles of Director of Operations & Neighbourhood and Director of Growth be deleted;
- (iv) That the position of Director of Place be created at a salary of £120k with the appointment of Ian Saxon to this post with effect from 1 October 2021;
- (v) That Debbie Watson be appointed to the role of Interim Director of Population Health with effect from 1 October 2021 on the existing agreed salary of £95k and the appointment to this role on a permanent basis in line with Public Health England required processes;
- (vi) That James Mallion be appointed to the role of Interim Assistant Director of Population Health with effect from 1 October 2021 whilst the structure was recruited to on a permanent basis;
- (vii) That the role of Assistant Director (Policy, Performance and Communications) be refocused and expanded with an amended job description and renamed to Director of Transformation at the salary level of £102k with effect from 1 October 2021;
- (viii) That the independent review of all senior officer salaries be revisited and concluded to reflect the changes to the senior leadership team and to ensure the Council is equal pay compliant; and
- (ix) That a further review of the arrangements outlined within the report be undertaken in April 2022, particularly as the forthcoming changes to the Council's health and integration model would necessitate a different managerial model and a further review of the membership of the senior leadership team.

35 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

It was moved by Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Warrington and –

RESOLVED

That the Financial Regulations and Procedures be formally adopted and kept under review.

36 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Warrington, seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and –

RESOLVED

That Councillor Naylor be appointed to the Local Pensions Board and removed from the Pension Fund Management Advisory Panel.

37 NOTICES OF MOTION

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was moved by Councillor Ryan and seconded by Councillor Patel:

"Tameside Metropolitan Council has considered the impact of the Conservative Government's policy proposals on Social Care, National Insurance and Universal Credit on the residents of this borough, alongside the current gas price market volatility and the HGV driver crisis, and calls for urgent and immediate action by Government to protect the incomes and services of the residents of Tameside who are affected by these changes"

This Council therefore notes that –

- *The Conservative Government's planned increase to National Insurance by 1.25% from April 2022 equates to a £200 increase for a Tameside resident earning the borough's median income of £25,643 and takes the average National Insurance bill to over £2,000 per year;*

- *The Conservative Government intends to cut Universal Credit by £20 per week for all 19,460 Tameside households in receipt of it. This cut equates to over £20 million of income removed from the Tameside economy;*
- *Social Care services will not begin to receive the additional funding until 2023 and even then the services will receive less than half of the £12 billion raised by the National Insurance increase, meaning that residents needing to pay for care may still be required to pay up to £86,000 even after these reforms;*
- *Far too many Tameside residents live in fuel poverty and will be hit hard by the current gas price volatility; and also notes the impact that the rise in gas prices will have on Tameside businesses still recovering from the pandemic restrictions and the inevitable increase in the cost of materials and products which will be passed onto the consumer; and*
- *The national HGV driver shortage is leading to fuel shortages and panic buying at petrol stations, disrupting just-in-time food deliveries to shops and supermarkets and adversely affecting the delivery of some public services.”*

Following consideration of the Motion it was:

RESOLVED

- **That the Council expresses its opposition to the Government’s National Insurance tax hike on the borough’s hardworking residents and asks them to consider an alternative, based on taxation of wealth;**
- **That the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the opposition of this Council to the removal of the Universal Credit uplift which will decrease Tameside residents incomes by over £20 million;**
- **That the Chief Executive writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to outline the current financial pressures facing Tameside Council and the local authority’s concern over the amount and distribution of social care funding;**
- **That the Chief Executive notifies the Prime Minister of the Council’s concerns over the gas price volatility and the HGV driver crisis and the negative impact these crises are having on Tameside residents, Tameside businesses and on the delivery of key local public services; and**
- **That the borough’s three Members of Parliament are written to by the Chief Executive to notify them of this Council’s resolution and to urge them to raise these matter urgently in the House of Commons.**

38 QUESTIONS

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

39 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business for consideration at the meeting.

CHAIR