

COUNCIL

19 July 2022

Commenced: 5.00pm

Terminated: 6.10pm

Present:

Councillors Affleck, Alam, Billington, Bowden, Bowerman, Bray, Cartey, Chadwick, Colbourne, Cooney, Cooper, Costello, Dickinson, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, Glover, Gwynne, J Homer, S Homer, Huntbach, Jackson, Lane, Martin, McNally, Mills, Naylor, Newton, North, Owen, Patel, Patrick, Quinn, Reid, Robinson, Roderick, N Sharif, T Sharif, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, Turner, Ward, Warrington and Welsh

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Boyle, Choksi, Gosling, A Holland, B Holland, Jones, Kitchen, Pearce, Ricci, Ryan and Wills

Councillor Naylor in the Chair

25 MINUTES

RESOLVED

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull that the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 24 May and 14 June 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

27 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor began by extending his condolences to Councillor Eleanor Wills, whose mother Sheila Ballagher had recently died. Mrs Ballagher had served the borough as a Mayoress and Deputy Mayoress, representing Ashton Waterloo from 1999 to 2004. The Mayor stated that Mrs Ballagher had shown great dedication in all three roles and would be missed by all.

Since the last meeting of Council in May, the Mayor reported that both he and the Mayoress had undertaken a very busy schedule, with the events being many and varied.

The Civic Mayor participated in a number of events to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, including illuminating the NHS beacon at Tameside Hospital. This was the first beacon to be lit after Windsor, where the Queen started a chain that stretched across the UK and Commonwealth.

The Mayor congratulated two people from Tameside who were named in the honour's list. Betty Jones was awarded an MBE for her long years of service at St Damian's RC Science College in Ashton-under-Lyne and Vince Thompson received the British Empire Medal in recognition of his work with food banks.

In the same vein, the Mayor had been pleased to attend the investiture ceremony of Roy Bate who received the British Empire Medal awarded to him at New Year. The Mayor also welcomed the return of citizenship ceremonies.

Following a hiatus during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Mayor had been pleased to participate in much missed events such as the Whit walks, Armed Forces Day and the Whit Friday band contests.

It was reported that the Tameside Community Recovery Fund events had been highly successful

with more than £60,000 distributed in grants. The Mayor thanked Community Safety for organising the events.

A number of other events were also highlighted, including:

- ☐ The Schools Arts Awards presentations;
- ☐ The Neighbourhood Watch conference;
- ☐ Stalybridge Carnival; and
- ☐ Tameside Pride.

The Mayor concluded by thanking the Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor for their continued support.

28 COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader began by highlighting his recent attendance at the recent 2022 Tameside Pride event. Whilst the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdowns meant that the previous two Tameside Pride events had taken place online, this year gave residents the chance to return to Cheetham Park in Stalybridge for a day of live entertainment, fairground rides, food and drink.

The Executive Leader extended his thanks to all those who had helped organise the event and stressed the importance of celebrating diversity, equality and tolerance with Tameside.

It was highlighted that the Mayor of Greater Manchester had announced proposals to bring back the city region's buses into public hands a year ahead of schedule. This meant that, subject to agreement by the bus companies, residents in Tameside would pay no more than £2 for a single adult ticket, £1 for a single child ticket or £5 for a day ticket wherever they were in Greater Manchester from September.

As the country struggled with both an unprecedented cost of living crisis and record-breaking temperatures brought about by climate change, it was hoped that cheaper bus fares would enable the pound in resident's pockets to go further and help protect the environment.

It was reported that following work with the Poverty Truth Commission, the Council was working to create a number of new one-stop shops, starting at Tameside One. The one-stop shops would be places for residents to access support with a range of issues including debts, benefits, housing and general customer services, as well as mental health, employment and training.

Residents had been requesting an easily accessible, friendly and supportive place to go when they were struggling with an issue and the Executive Leader was pleased that the Council was now able to offer this service.

The Executive Leader reflected upon the retirement of the Director of Place, Ian Saxon. After starting as a trainee in Environmental Health 39 years ago, Ian's career at Tameside had taken him to services as diverse as public protection, waste, bereavement, highways, greenspace, homelessness, youth, culture and community safety.

It was highlighted that there was no single part of the local authority that Ian had not touched during his time and he had even found time to showcase the Council's work to the public as part of the BBC's "Call the Council" programme.

Following his retirement, Ian was undertaking a charity cycle ride from Tameside to Rome in aid of Willow Wood Hospice. On behalf of the Council, the Executive Leader thanked Ian for his decades of unwavering service to Tameside and its residents.

The Executive Leader welcomed Greater Manchester Police's new District Commander for Tameside, Phil Davies, to the meeting. It was explained that the new District Commander would be the face of GMP's efforts to make the borough a safe and welcoming place for all.

Chief Superintendent Phil Davies introduced himself to Members and advised that he had 25 years of policing experience, the last 12 years with GMP and had served at the rank of Chief Superintendent for the last four.

The Chief Superintendent explained that following GMP being placed into special measures in 2020, he and colleagues were working to ensure that the force was disengaged from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies as soon as possible. He advised that the force was making excellent progress and was hopeful of disengagement later in the year provided the trajectory of excellent performance continued in core business areas, notably keeping individuals safe, responding to calls in a timely manner and investigating crimes.

In the longer term, the Chief Superintendent was keen to ensure strong partnership working with his officers, the Council and other local stakeholders.

Councillor Feeley informed Members that the Council had worked with the Tameside Pupil Referral Service (PRS) in Summer 2020 to redesign the headteacher role and recruit Anthony Benedict to the post in November 2020.

Following this, the PRS underwent a full Ofsted inspection in May of this year and had moved from 'requires to improvement' to 'good'. Ofsted commented that teachers had good subject knowledge, behaviour was well managed, there was a culture of support and modelling by staff, and high expectations of pupils. Councillor Feeley thanked the headteacher and all the staff at the PRS as well as all of the borough's headteachers, teachers, teaching assistants and governors for all of their hard work and dedication.

29 COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION

The Council reported that there were no questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with Standing Orders 31.12 and 31.13.

30 MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 22 June 2022.

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and it was:

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 22 June 2022 be received.

31 CLEAN AIR PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Environmental Services outlining the case for a new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan.

Members were informed that the Government had instructed many local authorities across the UK to take quick action to reduce harmful Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels following the Secretary of State issuing a direction under the Environment Act 1995. In Greater Manchester, the 10 local authorities, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) were working together to develop a Clean Air Plan to tackle NO₂ exceedances at the roadside.

The development of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan featured a package of measures to deliver NO₂ reductions to within legal limits within the shortest possible time and by 2026 at the latest.

The Executive Member advised that the original Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan agreed in Summer 2021 had been kept under constant review by the 10 city region authorities. Businesses in

Greater Manchester had expressed concern that the proposals for a Clean Air Zone could cause them great financial hardship, with the pandemic, supply chain issues and the cost of living crisis exacerbating these concerns.

It was stressed that the new plan was designed to be fair to both businesses and residents and rather than imposing daily charges, would use the £120 million of green air funding awarded by the Government to invest in vehicle upgrades and zero emission buses.

Council officers would continue to meet with Government representatives to address the emission exceedances on the A57 and A628 through Hollingworth and Mottram, managed by National Highways.

The Executive Member stressed that engagement would be undertaken with businesses and trade representatives to inform the ongoing plan.

Members were advised that Greater Manchester's local authorities were working with the Government on proposals to remove out-of-area licenced drivers/vehicles. Greater Manchester's local authorities were keen to work with the Department for Transport (DfT) to consider an appropriate regulatory device that would require all private hire journeys within the city region to be undertaken by a driver and vehicle that was licensed by one of the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities. It was explained that this measure would provide local authorities with stronger regulatory tools to improve the emission standards of all private hire vehicles operating in Greater Manchester.

The Executive Member urged fellow Members to support the recommendations so that the Council could tackle harmful emissions without causing financial hardship.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Council notes the 'Case for a new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan' document attached as Appendix 1 to the report and associated appendices A to E submitted to the Secretary of State as a draft document subject to any comments from Tameside Council ahead of the next Air Quality Administration Committee.**
- (ii) That the Council note and agree the terms of reference for the GM Scrutiny Panel at Appendix 2 to the report.**
- (iii) That the Council note that at the Annual meeting Councillor Denise Ward was appointed as Tameside Council's representative on the Air Quality Administration Committee;**
- (iv) That the Council note the initial screening undertaken to assess which predicted characteristics were likely to be impacted by the new GM Clean Air Plan, and in scope for the Equalities Impact Assessment;**
- (v) That the Council note the updated Do Minimum position for 2023 and 2025 and the forecasted points of exceedance in GM in 2023 and 2025;**
- (vi) That the Council note the participatory policy development approach and the next steps for the GM CAP;**
- (vii) That the Council note the new 'ask' from Government to remove out-of-area operation by private hire drivers/vehicles to support the new GM Clean Air Plan;**
- (viii) That the Council note feedback from early engagement activity with vehicle owner representative groups; and**
- (ix) Note the NO₂ monitoring results and the exceedances of the annual mean across sites set up for GM CAP purposes between 2018 and 2021.**

32 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2022

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Town Centres and Communities outlining proposals to enhance the Christmas experience in Ashton and Hyde town centres. It was proposed to do this with additional festoon lighting attached to lamp columns to brighten and create an inviting approach to these town centres.

Members were informed that the Tameside Winter Lantern Parade would be staged in Ashton-under-Lyne on 19 November 2022 and this would also mark the time at which the Ashton Christmas tree was lit. The Christmas light switch on event in Hyde would take place on 26 November 2022.

It was explained that the lamp columns in the respective town centres were not all suitable for the LED illuminated plaques affixed to the lamp columns due to their age and the specifications of the the low energy LED. The cost of replacing the lamp columns, purchasing the lights and their installation was £40,000. Members were informed that the costs would be financed via Council reserves. The funding would be allocated via the business rates 100% retention benefit reserve as this resource was assigned to support schemes that contributed towards the recovery of the borough's economy.

Councillor Alam welcomed the investment in the Christmas lights in Hyde and reflected on the success of the Lantern Parade in the town in 2021.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the additional plans and budget of £40,000 for enhanced festive lighting in Ashton-under-Lyne and Hyde be approved.**
- (ii) That the budget be allocated via the Council's business rates 100% retention benefit reserve.**
- (iii) That taking into account the necessary lead in time to obtain Christmas lights and the inability to acquire the necessary lighting units from suppliers for this year that an appropriate review of Christmas lights across the borough and all towns be undertaken for consideration by Members with an appropriate capital budget bid in 2022/23.**

33 SENIOR STAFFING PANEL

Consideration was to the minutes of the meeting of the Senior Staffing Panel held on 30 June 2022. It was moved by Councillor Cooney, seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and –

RESOLVED

- (i) That interim arrangements to cover the Director of Place role whilst the permanent replacement is secured are put in place from 1 July 2022 for approximately 3 months or until the permanent replacement commences in role, whichever is sooner;**
- (ii) That an additional permanent Assistant Director for Early Help & Prevention at a salary of £96,282 be created within Children's Services;**
- (iii) That joint interim arrangements to cover the Assistant Director (Digital Tameside) are agreed with the Integrated Care Foundation Trust (ICFT) until 31 December 2022 and whilst a full review of service is undertaken to determine the future delivery model;**
- (iv) That following the closure of the CCG and transfer of functions to the Greater Manchester NHS Integrated Care Board, and in light of the size of the responsibilities and the demands of both roles and the needs of the organisation that there be separate Health Delivery Lead and Section 151 Officer posts to be advertised in due course following the appointment of the delivery lead; and**
- (v) That an independent salary review planned to be undertaken during 2022 be delayed to allow for further review of the senior leadership structure to be undertaken.**

34 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES

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

RESOLVED

- (i) That Councillor Mills replace Councillor Bowerman on the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel;**
- (ii) That Councillors Jones, Newton and Pearce replace Councillors Cooper, Gosling and**

Martin on Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group;

- (iii) That Councillor Martin be appointed to the Children's Scrutiny Panel;**
- (iv) That Councillor Gosling replace Councillor Newton on the Speakers Panel (Licensing);**
- (v) That Councillor Warrington replace Councillor Reid on Democratic Processes Working Group;**
- (vi) That Councillor Quinn replace Councillor Bowerman on Speakers Panel (Liquor Licensing);**
- (vii) That Councillor Jackson be replaced on Education Attainment Working Group at the next meeting of Council;**
- (viii) That Councillors Bowden, Cooper, Kitchen, Owen, Robinson, Roderick, Chadwick and Colbourne be appointed to Werneth Low Country Park Joint Management Committee; and**
- (ix) That Councillors Affleck, Alam and Welsh be appointed to Hyde War Memorial Trust.**

35 QUESTIONS

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

36 URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR