

## **COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, 24 January 2017**

**Commenced:** 5.00 pm

**Terminated:** 6.55 pm

**Present:**

Councillors Kitchen (Chair), P Fitzpatrick (Civic Mayor), Affleck, Bailey, Beeley, Bell, Bowden, Bowerman, Bray, Buckley, Buglass, Cartey, Cooney, Cooper, Dickinson, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, J Fitzpatrick, Fowler, Glover, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, Homer, Jackson, D Lane, J Lane, McNally, Middleton, Newton, Patrick, Pearce, Peet, Piddington, K Quinn, S Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Robinson, Ryan, Sharif, Sidebottom, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, F Travis, L Travis, Ward, Warrington, Whitehead, Wild and Wills

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Kinsey, K Welsh and R Welsh

***Civic Mayor (Councillor P Fitzpatrick) in the Chair***

**56. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

As this was the first Council meeting of the new Calendar year, the Civic Mayor took the opportunity to extend his best wishes to all for a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

He was delighted to report on the success of two Tameside citizens who had been recognised in the 2017 New Year's Honours List. Mr Harry Twamley, Chairman of Curzon Ashton Football Club had been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to amateur football and Mrs Indu Popat, a Hindu Priest in Ashton-under-Lyne, had also been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to Asian women in the North West. In addition, Mr Ian Munro, Group Chief Executive of the New Charter Group and former Director of Housing at Tameside Council, had been awarded the OBE for services to Housing.

This was wonderful news for the borough and recognition that was fully deserved and sincere congratulations was extended to them all.

***Councillor Kitchen, Chair of Council Business, in the Chair***

**57. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 29 November 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair of Council Business.**

**58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members at this meeting of the Council.

**59. COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Executive Leader provided an update on the recent Ofsted assessment of Children's Services in Tameside. He expressed his disappointment with the outcome but advised that Tameside was amongst almost 90% of the North West population who lived in an area judged under Ofsted's new tougher framework to need improvement in its children's service. Keeping vulnerable children safe

was the Council's number one priority and new, innovative and financially sustainable ways to deliver better services would be found.

Improvement work, which had already been undertaken, had been acknowledged by Ofsted and informal feedback had been positive. Work had also begun on the response to Ofsted and planning had started on an improvement journey with advice sought from the Local Government Association and other Council's. An external independent Chair had been appointed to lead an improvement board, which would include senior leaders from across the public, community and voluntary sectors.

He further stated that additional resources had been provided to ensure the service had sufficient experienced staff and appropriate caseloads to deal with the increasing demand for services whilst making improvements to make the service more effective and sustainable. The workforce were engaged in the improvement process and open and positive dialogue was ongoing with staff to develop ideas. A more streamlined referral process with the Police had been agreed, care leavers were no longer in B&B accommodation and support to young people at risk of dropping out of education or training was having a very positive impact.

He concluded by advising that this improvement journey was happening in the context of reduced money whilst the demand for services continued to grow. The financial challenges facing public services in Tameside were unprecedented. Over the ten year period from 2010-2020 almost £200 million would have been taken out of Tameside Council's budget. By 2020 a £70 million funding gap was forecast in the Tameside and Glossop health and social care economy if major changes were not delivered. Partnerships between public services, partners, the community and families were key.

Members of the Chamber gave their support to the proposed way forward.

Councillor J Fitzpatrick, First Deputy (Performance and Finance), announced that there would be no change to the Council Tax Support Scheme for the forthcoming year.

Councillor L Travis, Executive Member (Lifelong Learning), was pleased to report on the latest validated figures for education achievement in the Borough. The 2016 GCSE results showed that 63.5% of pupils achieved grades A – C in English and Mathematics. This placed Tameside as the third highest local authority in Greater Manchester and ninth in the North West.

Councillor Cooney, Executive Member (Healthy and Working), invited Councillor F Travis to speak on a Royal British Legion campaign, 'Count Them In'. The campaign called for additional questions in the 2021 Census to help identify members of the Armed Forces Community. It was explained that the Legion's 2014 household survey showed that there were 2.8 million veterans living in the UK, with 2.1 million dependent adults and 1 million dependent children. Despite an estimated 1 in 10 people being either serving or ex-members of the armed forces, there was currently little information about where they lived or what their needs might be. If armed forces questions were to be incorporated in the census it would help local Councils and other organisations better plan support services for veterans. Councillor F Travis was pleased to announce that the Leader of the Council had signed a letter confirming the Council's full support for the campaign.

## **60. COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION**

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

#### **61. JOINT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET AND AUDIT PANEL**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Joint Meeting of Executive Cabinet and Audit Panel held on 14 December 2016. It was moved by Councillor K Quinn, seconded by Councillor Taylor and -

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Minutes of the joint meeting of Executive Cabinet and Audit Panel held on 14 December 2016 be received.**

#### **62. MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 12 December 2016. It was moved by Councillor Cooney, seconded by Councillor K. Quinn and -

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 12 December 2016 be received.**

#### **63. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**

It was moved by Councillor K Quinn and seconded by Councillor Taylor that an amendment to the Constitution as set out below be agreed.

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That in order to facilitate the conduct of business the quorum for meetings of the Local Pensions Board be amended from the current 50% of members to four members, of which two must be member representatives and two must be employer representatives.**

#### **64. MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES**

It was moved by Councillor K Quinn and seconded by Councillor Taylor, that the following changes to the membership of Council bodies be approved.

##### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That Councillor Frank Travis be appointed as substitute member on the Greater Manchester Statutory Functions Committee.**
- (ii) That Mark Tweedie, Chief Executive of Active Tameside; Paul Starling, Borough Commander GM Fire and Rescue Service; Chief Superintendent Neil Evans, Greater Manchester Police and Julie Price, Department for Work and Pensions be added to the additional membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board.**

#### **65. NOTICES OF MOTION**

##### **Motion A**

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

*That this Council notes:*

- *That Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt has presided over declining standards and increased private sector involvement in the NHS since his appointment in 2012.*
- *That earlier this month Tameside Hospital was forced to issue a warning and advise patients to seek treatment elsewhere due to 'serious pressures' in our local A+E department.*
- *The extensive coverage in the press of the crisis in the National Health Service and Social Care nationally due to underfunding by the Conservative Government.*
- *The failure of the Chancellor Phillip Hammond MP to pledge any money, or even mention, health and social care in his Autumn Statement last November.*
- *The estimated funding gap for health and social care services in the UK is £3.8 billion.*
- *That the Government has already cut corporation tax from 28% to 20% since 2010, costing tax payers an estimated £10.8 billion every year.*
- *That the government plans to cut corporation tax further to 15% by 2020, less than the basic rate of income tax.*

In the light of the above Tameside Council calls on the government to scrap the planned cuts to corporation tax and instead use the money to ensure that the NHS and social care services have the money they require to cater for their patients.

Following consideration of the Motion it was -

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That this Council notes:**

- **That Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt has presided over declining standards and increased private sector involvement in the NHS since his appointment in 2012.**
- **That earlier this month Tameside Hospital was forced to issue a warning and advise patients to seek treatment elsewhere due to 'serious pressures' in our local A+E department.**
- **The extensive coverage in the press of the crisis in the National Health Service and Social Care nationally due to underfunding by the Conservative Government.**
- **The failure of the Chancellor Phillip Hammond MP to pledge any money, or even mention, health and social care in his Autumn Statement last November.**
- **The estimated funding gap for health and social care services in the UK is £3.8 billion.**
- **That the Government has already cut corporation tax from 28% to 20% since 2010, costing tax payers an estimated £10.8 billion every year.**
- **That the government plans to cut corporation tax further to 15% by 2020, less than the basic rate of income tax.**

**That in the light of the above Tameside Council calls on the government to scrap the planned cuts to corporation tax and instead use the money to ensure that the NHS and social care services have the money they require to cater for their patients.**

#### **Motion B**

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was proposed by Councillor S Quinn and seconded by Councillor Ryan:-

*This Council aims to treat staff members who receive a terminal ill health diagnosis with dignity, and to make adjustments to ensure that they are able to stay in work as long as they are able to.*

*However, this Council notes that terminally ill employees are not currently protected under national disability legislation and inevitably within the law can therefore be dismissed if they are no longer able to conduct their role with reasonable adjustments. This can mean that terminally ill people can be subjected to stressful assessments, subsequent dismissal and the loss of death in-service benefits - all following the diagnosis of a terminal illness.*

*This Council believes in the dignity of work, and that those receiving a terminal diagnosis should not be forced out of work.*

*That Tameside Council believes that there should be additional Government protection for terminally ill employees, from the point of diagnosis and calls on the government to put the necessary legal protections in place.*

Following consideration of the Motion it was -

**RESOLVED:**

**That this Council aims to treat staff members who receive a terminal ill health diagnosis with dignity, and to make adjustments to ensure that they are able to stay in work as long as they are able to.**

**However, this Council notes that terminally ill employees are not currently protected under national disability legislation and inevitably within the law can therefore be dismissed if they are no longer able to conduct their role with reasonable adjustments. This can mean that terminally ill people can be subjected to stressful assessments, subsequent dismissal and the loss of death in-service benefits - all following the diagnosis of a terminal illness.**

**This Council believes in the dignity of work, and that those receiving a terminal diagnosis should not be forced out of work.**

**That Tameside Council believes that there should be additional Government protection for terminally ill employees, from the point of diagnosis and calls on the government to put the necessary legal protections in place.**

**Motion C**

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was proposed by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor B Holland:-

That this Council notes that:

The Government has recently changed the guidance to Building Regulations whereby they do not require the installation of Fire Suppression Systems to be fitted into new schools.

There has been no advanced notice of this change, which is opposed by The Fire Sector Federation, the Fire Protection Association and the Arson Prevention Bureau.

There were more than 600 fires in British schools last year.

This change only applies to England. New schools in Scotland and Wales remain required to have sprinkler systems.

Council believes that:

- This change of policy is a false economy. The money saved by not installing sprinklers will be offset by higher insurance premiums and the cost of repairing damage caused by fire.

Council resolves to:

- Call on the Government to scrap this change to building regulations and continue to require the installation of sprinkler systems in new schools.
- Join other local authorities in lobbying the government for the abandonment of this change.

Following consideration of the Motion it was -

**RESOLVED:**

**That this Council notes that:**

**The Government has recently changed the guidance to Building Regulations whereby they do not require the installation of Fire Suppression Systems to be fitted into new schools.**

**There has been no advanced notice of this change, which is opposed by The Fire Sector Federation, the Fire Protection Association and the Arson Prevention Bureau.**

**There were more than 600 fires in British schools last year.**

**This change only applies to England. New schools in Scotland and Wales remain required to have sprinkler systems.**

**Council believes that:**

- **This change of policy is a false economy. The money saved by not installing sprinklers will be offset by higher insurance premiums and the cost of repairing damage caused by fire.**

**Council resolves to:**

- **Call on the Government to scrap this change to building regulations and continue to require the installation of sprinkler systems in new schools.**
- **Join other local authorities in lobbying the government for the abandonment of this change.**

**66. QUESTIONS**

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

**67. URGENT ITEMS**

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

**CHAIR**