

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

31 January 2018

Commenced: 6.00 pm

Terminated: 6.50 pm

Present: Councillors Kitchen (Chair), Bowerman (Civic Mayor), Bailey, Beeley, Bell, Bowden, Bray, Buckley, Buglass, Cartey, Cooney, Cooper, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, Fowler, Glover, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, Homer, Jackson, Kinsey, D Lane, J Lane, McNally, Mills, Pearce, Peet, Piddington, Reid, Robinson, Ryan, Sharif, Sidebottom, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, F Travis, L Travis, Ward, Warrington, K Welsh, R Welsh, Wild and Wills.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Affleck, Dickinson, Newton, Patrick, Quinn, Ricci and Whitehead.

(Councillor Kitchen, Chair of Council Business, in the Chair)

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

57. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER

RESOLVED

That Councillor Brenda Warrington be appointed as the Executive Leader of the Council.

58. EXECUTIVE MEMBER PORTFOLIOS

The Executive Leader stated that given the circumstances, it would not be appropriate for her to set out her vision today, and how she intended to align the cabinet portfolios because she wanted to take time to meet with colleagues to understand and hear their views on the way forward.

However, the Executive Leader was mindful that there were a significant number of challenges to be faced which needed to be addressed so it was her intention to strengthen the Cabinet in the interim. The Executive Leader would continue to hold the adult and social care brief that she would look to hand over in due course and also advised that:

- a) **Councillor Bill Fairfoull** would be the Executive Member for Finance and Performance and would also have responsibility for land sales and communications – this role would no longer be known as First Deputy;
- b) **Councillor Jim Fitzpatrick** would continue undertaking the Children's brief and be titled as the Executive Member for Children's, to ensure constancy of purpose as the Council continued to undertake its Ofsted journey;
- c) **Councillor Allison Gwynne** as the Executive Member for Clean and Green would include in her portfolio, responsibility for planning and all enforcement matters;
- d) **Councillor Gerald Cooney** would be appointed as Vice Deputy of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund to support Councillor Mike Smith as Deputy. This was in recognition of the significant work that needed to be undertaken by Tameside in its role as administering

Authority for the Fund, which had increased to £23 billion and to assist the Executive Leader in Chairing particularly with representation on the Northern Pool, which Tameside administered.

All other roles and positions remained the same subject to review and the Executive Leader gave her commitment to reporting back to this Council any proposed changes, if not sooner, at the latest at the Annual General meeting in May 2018.

Additionally, she advised as newly appointed leader that a by-election in the Droylsden East Ward would be called with the intention that it would be held on Thursday 8 March 2018.

58 TRIBUTES TO KIERAN QUINN RIP

The Chair of Council Business asked those present to stand for a moments silence out of respect to Kieran's memory and his family.

In leading the tributes to Kieran Quinn RIP, the Executive Leader said that her thoughts and those of the Full Council, went out to Kieran's wife Susan and their sons Matthew and Liam. The enormous number of people from a range of different backgrounds who attended the funeral last week, and the many hundreds of tributes, were a testament to how many lives Kieran's work touched and how well he was respected. She hoped that knowledge has been some comfort to Sue, the boys and their wider family at this difficult time.

In a time when people were often cynical about politics and politicians, the way Kieran conducted himself and interacted with people did so much to counteract that view. In all his roles he worked tirelessly for everyone in the community, especially those most vulnerable and in greatest need of a helping hand. When we look back on his time in public service – not just as a councillor but as a community leader – it is that which we see as his legacy.

From an early age Kieran was active in local politics and the trades unions, particularly the Communication Workers Union through his work with the Post Office. He first came onto the Council in 1994 and had left a near quarter century legacy of ambition and achievement. That was the thing about Kieran he didn't just 'say' he 'did', putting in place what was needed to support people to grow, thrive and better themselves. He was ambitious for local people and passionate about his community. He had a strong vision and a clear strategy as to how to make Tameside a better place for everyone and a determination to make that happen – despite austerity and the inordinate budgets cuts the Borough faced.

On becoming the Executive Leader of the Council, he led the authority through the most challenging period in its history and yet achieved so much. He had a strategic mind and possessed the natural leadership skills and integrity to bring people together to achieve the best outcomes for all. His legacy was truly transformational, he led major redevelopment of town centres – including new opportunities for education, business, transport and leisure – that would improve the life chances for residents for generations to come.

Kieran was a key architect behind Greater Manchester rediscovering its voice through the Combined Authority, the new Mayor and the ground breaking devolution deals.

He was Chair of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund which under his leadership experienced record growth and was now the biggest Local Government Pension Scheme in the UK. He led the way on the national debate about pension fund and using investment to drive growth.

Kieran had been at the forefront of the Council's work to integrate health and care services so that local people are able to access the support they need, when they need it and in the most appropriate setting for them, often in their own home – completely changing the way we think about health and care services.

These were just a few examples of the wide range of areas in which Kieran led from the front. They highlighted the full extent of his knowledge of public service and his recognition that to improve we had to change. He understood and fought for investment in public services, alongside that the necessary reforms needed to ensure there was maximum impact for every penny invested. It was that tough, pragmatic approach founded on the principle of care and concern that set Kieran apart as a true visionary and an inspirational leader.

It was no coincidence that during Kieran's time as Leader of the Council and Chair of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund, both organisations won prestigious awards – Council of the Year and Pension Fund of the Decade. But awards, titles and buildings would not be how Kieran would be remembered. He would be remembered for his humour, his integrity, his passion and his unending belief that we must do everything we can to enable people of all ages and from all backgrounds achieve their potential.

The Executive Leader stated that over the years many Members of the Council would have worked with Kieran directly, and for some he would have become a friend not just a colleague. In the time she worked with him in the Cabinet we did not always agree on everything. But Kieran had the intellect that meant he did not shy away from hearing different viewpoints and letting a lively discussion take place and in those discussions he ensured everyone treated each other with the greatest respect so that we could come together to a collective agreement. That was a measure of both the man and the politician.

In conclusion, the Executive Leader said that Kieran was an absolutely superb leader of the Council, the pension fund and the community of Tameside. He was full of energy and good ideas, was innovative, passionate and a hard worker. He was the ultimate politician and an exceptional man. She believed he would expect us to follow his example and continue his good work and do the very best for Tameside.

The Chair of Council Business then invited other Members of the Council to pay tribute to Kieran sharing their personal memories and stories of how Kieran had touched their lives. He would be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues at Tameside Council.

59. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR