

COUNCIL

Tuesday, 29 September, 2015

Dukinfield Town Hall

Commenced: 5.00 pm

Finished: 6.50 pm

Present:

Councillors Kitchen (Chair), Ricci (Civic Mayor), Affleck, Ballagher, Beeley, Bell, Bowden, Bowerman, Bray, Buckley, Cartey, Cooney, Cooper, Dickinson, Drennan, Fairfoull, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, Fowler, Glover, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, Jackson, Kinsey, McNally, Middleton, Patrick, Pearce, Piddington, K Quinn, S Quinn, Reynolds, Robinson, Shember-Critchley, Sidebottom, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, F Travis, L Travis, Ward, Welsh, Whitehead and Wild.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bailey, Downs, Francis, D Lane, J Lane, I Miah, R Miah, Peet, Ryan, Warrington and White.

Civic Mayor (Councillor V Ricci) in the Chair

1 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor announced, with great sadness, the recent death of Mrs Lena Eason JP, Honorary Alderman of the Borough and former Mayor and Mayoress of Tameside. He added that Mrs Eason was highly respected by all her friends and former colleagues on the Council and would be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Those present stood and observed a few moments silence as a mark of respect and in memory of Mrs Eason.

Councillor Kitchen, Chair of Council Business, in the Chair

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 14 July 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair of Council Business.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4 COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader announced that, since 2010, the Government had reduced the money it provided for council services by £104 million. Over the next five years it was expected that Government would cut a further £90 million.

He explained that difficult decisions were required to ensure the Council met its obligations under the law, and its responsibilities to the community. The Executive Leader highlighted the severity of

the cuts faced by the Council and the need to examine all services and ways of working in order to deliver a balanced budget. He made particular reference to the roll out of the bin swap scheme, which was on target to save approximately £3 million each year through avoided landfill costs.

The Executive Leader made reference to the launch last year of the on-line Budget Consultation with residents and businesses to hear their views on how the Council should address the budget cuts. He explained that, last year, the on-line consultation had received over 3,000 engagements and 1,004 responses through the online budget simulator, and announced the launch of the second budget consultation, which would run until 22 December 2015.

The Executive Leader also commented on the current crisis in Syria and the number of refugees which would be allowed into Britain over the coming 5 years and pledged Tameside's support to those fleeing war and desperation.

Councillor Cooney, Executive Member, Learning Skills and Economic Growth, made reference to recently published GCSE results, with the Borough seeing a rise to 58% of students achieving 5 A* - C grades including English and Mathematics, the Borough's best ever results. This was a 4% improvement on last year's results, with three schools improved performance by over 10% – St. Damian's, Longdendale and Copley. Councillor Cooney congratulated everyone involved. The Council also had the most improved results in Greater Manchester.

Councillor Cooney also announced the forthcoming retirement of Heather Loveridge, Assistant Executive Director, Learning. He thanked Heather for all her hard work and wished her well for the future.

Councillor Travis, Executive Member, Health and Neighbourhoods, announced the launch of 'Live Active' – a new service aimed at helping people with long term health conditions. She explained that referrals were through G.P's and clinics.

5 COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION

The Chair reported that no questions had been received for this meeting.

6 MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 26 August 2015. It was moved by Councillor K. Quinn, seconded by Councillor Taylor and:

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Executive Cabinet held on 26 August 2015 be received.

7 MEETING OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 8 September 2015.

It was moved by Councillor M. Smith and seconded by Councillor S. Quinn and:

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 8 September 2015 be received.

8 MEETING OF OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meetings of the Overview (Audit) Panel held on 27 July and 21 September 2015.

It was moved by Councillor Ricci and seconded by Councillor J Fitzpatrick and:

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Overview (Audit) Panels held on 27 July and 21 September 2015 be received.

9 MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 27 July 2015.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 27 July 2015 be received.

10 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES

It was moved by Councillor K Quinn, seconded by Councillor Taylor and:

RESOLVED

- (i) That Catherine Lloyd (UNISON) and Chris Goodwin (UNITE) be appointed as employee representatives on the Local Pensions Board in addition to David Schofield (GMB) and Mark Rayner (UNISON);**
- (ii) That Councillor Janet Cooper be appointed as an employer representative on the Local Pensions Board; and**
- (iii) That Jayne Hammond, Monitoring Officer for Bury MBC, be appointed to the Local Pensions Board.**

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was proposed by Councillor M. Smith and seconded by Councillor Bell:

“That this Council recognises the hazards caused by Sky Lanterns (also known as Chinese Lanterns).

Once released, there is no control over the flight path a Sky Lantern takes whilst airborne, or the place it lands when it has burnt out. Sky Lanterns have therefore given rise to a number of serious safety concerns including:

- Risks to pets, livestock and wildlife.*
- Dangers posed to aircraft.*
- Fires and damage to property and vehicles.*
- The impact on the environment, including littering.*

Nationally, several significant fires have been caused by Sky Lanterns; perhaps the most notable of which was a fire at Smethwick recycling plant in the West Midlands that caused damage totaling an estimated £6m. In Greater Manchester alone they are thought to be responsible for more than 60 fires in the last 5 years.

Council notes that, in response to the dangers posed by the lanterns, a number of Countries including Australia, Spain and Germany have banned their use. However, despite acknowledging these dangers, DEFRA have ruled out a ban on Sky Lanterns.

This Council therefore resolves to ban the sale and use of Sky Lanterns on any Council owned property or premises”.

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Motion B

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

“That this Council notes with disappointment the passing of the Trade Union Bill at its second reading in parliament on 14 September 2015.

This Council believes that the Bill represents the most vicious attack on Trade Unions in over 30 years by introducing measures that will make it more difficult for employees to stand up for and defend their rights at work.

Amongst other things the passing of the Bill will introduce:

- *The removal of the ability of public sector employees to have Trade Union subscriptions deducted from their salaries.*
- *A requirement for unions to notify police if they intend to discuss a strike on social media.*
- *A requirement for police to be notified 14 days in advance of a strike if striking workers intend to use placards or loudspeakers on a picket line.*

- *The appointment of a 'picket supervisor' for each picket who will be required to wear an armband and give their name and contact details to the police and their employer.*
- *A minimum turnout threshold of 50% in ballots for strike action.*

This Council further notes that human rights groups Liberty, Amnesty International and the British Institute of Human Rights have all condemned the Bill as an attack on the basic right to protest.

Council therefore resolves to:

- *Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Sajid Javid MP on behalf of the Council setting out our opposition to the Bill.*

Ask the Chief Executive to write on behalf of the Council to our 3 local MPs setting out our opposition to the Bill and requesting that they use all means available during the Committee stage of the Bill to prevent it from being enacted in its current form”.

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12 QUESTIONS

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

13 URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR