

## COUNCIL

9 October 2018

**Present:** Councillor Kitchen (Chair), Councillors: Affleck, Billington Bowden, Bowerman, L Boyle, Bray, Buglass, Cartey, Chadwick, Choksi, Cooney, Cooper, Dickinson, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, Fowler, Glover, Gosling, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, Hollinshead J Homer, S Homer, Jackson, D Lane, J Lane, Lewis, Mills, Newton, Patrick, Pearce, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Robinson, Ryan, Sharif, Sidebottom, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, Warrington, Welsh, Wild and Wills

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Bailey, Bell, McNally, Peet, Ward and Whitehead

*Councillor Drennan, Deputy Civic Mayor, in the Chair*

### 41 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Civic Mayor was delighted to report three Tameside based organisations, had recently received the very prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. The Civic Mayor was fortunate to join representatives of these groups the Grafton Centre, Cash Box Credit Union and the East Manchester Community Boat Project, at a special award's ceremony at Gorton Monastery hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.

The Civic Mayor reported on attending Hilda Eden's 100th birthday celebration which was held at Pendle House in Denton where she got to meet Hilda and her lovely family and friends.

Members were updated on the Civic Mayor's Charity Curry Night fundraiser which was held on the 1 October, which raised £4,020 for the Civic Mayor's chosen charities.

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

### 42 MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 24 July 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair of Council Business as a correct record.**

### 43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 44 COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader took the opportunity to update those in attendance on the progress made on the Council's key priorities including updating Members on the latest feedback letter from Ofsted, following their monitoring visit of our services for looked after children.

The Executive Leader expressed her gratitude to Officers in Children's Service who had made progression to where real and lasting change was possible whilst acknowledging the significant work to be done to ensure that children in Tameside were supported in the best way possible. One of the most important steps towards delivering on this was to recruit and retain permanent staff with the relevant skills and experiences. Difficulties in recruitment were a regional and national

challenge, as opposed to a challenge that was unique to Tameside. However, it was recognised that the Council was making every effort in this area, and that the positive results of that effort were beginning to be felt.

The Executive Leader made reference to two new Directors taking posts since the last meeting of Council, with Richard Hancock starting as the Director of Children's Services and Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy as the Director of Population Health.

Council were informed that around 25,000 more people nationally died over the course of each winter compared to other times of the year most of which were caused by cold weather exacerbating existing conditions such as dementia or circulatory and respiratory diseases. For every drop of one degree centigrade below five degrees, there was more than a 10% increase in older people visiting their GP for breathing problems, a 0.8% increase in emergency hospital admissions and a 3.4% increase in deaths. The Executive Leader highlighted the support that was in place for elderly and vulnerable in Tameside through the coming winter months. Hand-in-hand with this was one of the Council's key objectives for the next twelve months, improving the quality of care homes in Tameside. A range of teams, including the members of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Panel, were spearheading this work.

The Executive Leader referred to a number of Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) initiatives of which Tameside Borough would be at the forefront, including the C40 Fossil Fuel-Free Streets Declaration, which aimed to increase the number of zero-emissions vehicles on the roads and increase the rates of cycling, walking and public transport. Further progress was being made in Stalybridge with the Greater Manchester Town Centre Challenge. As the Age Friendly Greater Manchester and Equalities Lead for GMCA, the Leader had helped launch the new "Please Offer Me a Seat" scheme to widen access to public transport for disabled or elderly residents. Furthermore, in close partnership with Carl Austin-Behan and the GM LGBT Advisory Panel, the Council was also protecting and expanding the rights of the 215,000 LGBT individuals who today call Greater Manchester their home.

The Executive Leader referred to plans within the Borough to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. Tameside would be playing its part in this national commemoration. A number of events had been confirmed, including 10 figures of British soldiers as part of the national "There But Not There" campaign.

Councillor Ryan provided details of the sixth Children's Services monitoring visit by Ofsted. The monitoring visit focused upon services to Looked After Children following the previous two monitoring visits at which Ofsted commented upon "the early signs of success" in January with a focus upon the Hub and Duty, and an accelerated pace of improvement and positive outcomes for children in April with a focus upon Early Help. It was reported that Ofsted found all children were appropriately safeguarded, that all were appropriately in care and that the Council had significantly strengthened its' corporate parenting.

## **45 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.

## **46 MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 29 August 2018 and 19 September 2018.

It was moved by Councillor Warrington and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull that the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 29 August 2018 and 19 September 2018 be received.

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 29 August 2018 and 19 September 2018 be received.**

**47 MEETING OF OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Overview (Audit) Panel meetings held on 30 July 2018 and 10 September 2018.

It was proposed by Councillor Ricci and seconded by Councillor J. Homer that the minutes of the Overview (Audit) Panel meetings held on 30 July 2018 and 10 September 2018, be received.

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the Overview (Audit) Panel meetings held on 30 July 2018 and 10 September 2018, be received.**

**48 MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Democratic Processes Working Group held on 1 October 2018. It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Warrington that the Minutes of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 1 October 2018 be received.

In considering the minutes, Member of Council referred to previously issued guidance on Councillors use of social media.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 1 October 2018 be received.**
- 2. That the Standards Committee give consideration to cross party guidance on the use of social media.**

**49 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES**

The Chair reported that there were no changes to membership of Council bodies.

**50 NOTICES OF MOTION**

**a Definition of anti-Semitism**

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

*That this Council believes that:*

- *Everyone is equal irrespective of their race or religion;*
- *That all forms of hate crime must be condemned; and*
- *Cross-party support for combating anti-Semitism in all its forms is to be welcomed;*

*Council subsequently notes with great concern the rise in anti-Semitism in recent years across the UK.*

*In recognising that anti-Semitism continues to be a problem in our Country, Council agrees to formally adopt the working definition of anti-Semitism agreed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and adopted by the UK Government, the Labour Party, Scottish and Welsh Governments, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and numerous other Councils across the country.*

*This Council therefore agrees to adopt the following definition of anti-Semitism:*

*“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”*

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was carried and it was therefore –

## **RESOLVED**

**That this Council believes that:**

- **Everyone is equal irrespective of their race or religion;**
- **That all forms of hate crime must be condemned; and**
- **Cross-party support for combating anti-Semitism in all its forms is to be welcomed;**

**Council subsequently notes with great concern the rise in anti-Semitism in recent years across the UK.**

**In recognising that anti-Semitism continues to be a problem in our Country, Council agrees to formally adopt the working definition of anti-Semitism agreed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and adopted by the UK Government, the Labour Party, Scottish and Welsh Governments, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and numerous other Councils across the country.**

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**“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”**

## **b Modern Slavery**

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

*That this Council notes although Slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour. There were 3805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.*

*Modern Slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhuman treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.*

*This Council believes that action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK. That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government. That Councils have an important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.*

*Tameside Council will:*

- 1. Ensure those involved in corporate procurement understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.*
- 2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.*
- 3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.*
- 4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.*
- 5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.*
- 6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.*
- 7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.*
- 8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.*
- 9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.*
- 10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.*

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was carried and it was therefore –

## **RESOLVED**

**That this Council notes although Slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour. There were 3805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.**

**Modern Slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhuman treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.**

**This Council believes that action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK. That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government. That Councils have an**

important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.

The Council resolves to:

1. Ensure those involved in corporate procurement understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

**c Use of Plastic**

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was proposed by Councillor Buglass and seconded by Councillor Mills.

*That this Council resolves to:*

1. *Incorporate the issue of use of plastics by contractors, suppliers and third parties, into existing environmental considerations for the decision making process regarding the granting or renewing of contracts, in particular working with Authorities involved in the STAR procurement scheme to incorporate that consideration into that procurement policy.*
2. *Pledge to end council use of single use and non-recyclable plastics by identifying existing plastic use and switching to alternatives either as soon as possible or when contracts come up for renewal.*
3. *Work with and lobby local manufacturers, retailers and supermarkets with a view to encouraging them to reduce and ideally eliminate their use of single use and non-recyclable plastics including with a media campaign, working closely with the Artisan markets and promoting a water bottle refill scheme.*
4. *Promote an education drive for residents that promotes the primacy of individual responsibility for reducing residual (in particular plastic) waste including:*
  - a. *The pivotal role and effectiveness of consumer power and advice on changing purchasing habits to reduce household plastic waste and put pressure on manufacturers/retailers.*
  - b. *The importance to the environment of reducing plastic waste.*
  - c. *The importance to council taxpayers of reducing residual/plastic waste*
  - d. *Tips for reducing the volume of household residual waste (reduce,*

*reuse, crush etc.) to help families who find it harder to fit their waste into the residual bin.*

5. *Write to the Environment Secretary acknowledging policy changes in regard to banning microbeads in cosmetics, proposals to ban plastic straws and the creation of the UK Plastics Pact as steps forward, but stating that much more must be done including:*
  - a. *introducing a nationwide ban on single use plastics and non-recyclable packaging by 2025.*
  - b. *further commitments to tackle microplastic pollution in UK waterways including:*
    - i. *Regular monitoring of microplastic levels in UK waterways.*
    - ii. *New regulation to end microplastics in effluent from industrial sources.*
    - iii. *Action to reduce microfibrils from clothing entering waterways including improving wastewater treatment, introducing filters on washing machines and banning clothing materials that generate the most plastic fibres.*
    - iv. *Using new technology to clean up existing microplastic pollution in UK waterways.*
    - v. *Exploring ways to reduce the generation of microplastics from vehicle tyres.*

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was carried and it was therefore –

#### **RESOLVED**

**That this council resolves to:**

1. **Incorporate the issue of use of plastics by contractors, suppliers and third parties, into existing environmental considerations for the decision making process regarding the granting or renewing of contracts, in particular working with Authorities involved in the STAR procurement scheme to incorporate that consideration into that procurement policy.**
2. **Pledge to end council use of single use and non-recyclable plastics by identifying existing plastic use and switching to alternatives either as soon as possible or when contracts come up for renewal.**
3. **Work with and lobby local manufacturers, retailers and supermarkets with a view to encouraging them to reduce and ideally eliminate their use of single use and non-recyclable plastics including with a media campaign, working closely with the Artisan markets and promoting a water bottle refill scheme.**
4. **Promote an education drive for residents that promotes the primacy of individual responsibility for reducing residual (in particular plastic) waste including:**
  - a. **The pivotal role and effectiveness of consumer power and advice on changing purchasing habits to reduce household plastic waste and put pressure on manufacturers/retailers.**
  - b. **The importance to the environment of reducing plastic waste.**
  - c. **The importance to council taxpayers of reducing residual/plastic waste**
  - d. **Tips for reducing the volume of household residual waste (reduce, reuse, crush etc.) to help families who find it harder to fit their waste into the residual bin.**
5. **Write to the Environment Secretary acknowledging policy changes in regard to banning microbeads in cosmetics, proposals to ban plastic straws and the creation of the UK Plastics Pact as steps forward, but stating that much more must be done including:**
  - a. **introducing a nationwide ban on single use plastics and non-**

**recyclable packaging by 2025.**

**b. further commitments to tackle microplastic pollution in UK waterways including:**

- i. Regular monitoring of microplastic levels in UK waterways.**
- ii. New regulation to end microplastics in effluent from industrial sources.**
- iii. Action to reduce microfibrils from clothing entering waterways including improving wastewater treatment, introducing filters on washing machines and banning clothing materials that generate the most plastic fibres.**
- iv. Using new technology to clean up existing microplastic pollution in UK waterways.**
- v. Exploring ways to reduce the generation of microplastics from vehicle tyres.**

**d Closure of High Street Banks**

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was proposed by Councillor A. Holland and seconded by Councillor Boyle.

*That this Council states its opposition to the closure of high-street banks throughout the UK and especially in Tameside. Last month, the Royal Bank of Scotland announced the closure of 54 branches in January, 2019, with the loss of 258 jobs. This news came only months after RBS said it would shut 162 banks and shed 792 jobs. In Tameside, it means there will be no RBS presence on our high streets after the Droylsden branch closes next year. Across the country, nearly 3,000 banks and building society branches have shut since 2015 – a rate of almost 60 a month.*

*The banking corporations need to understand the importance banks play within our communities. It is unrealistic to ask traders to travel to neighbouring towns to deposit their takings. Many people, especially the elderly, are uncomfortable with internet banking. There are times when face-to-face meetings are necessary for advice or to carry out business.*

*This Council calls on the banks to end their programme of branch closures and to reinvest in the communities they are supposed to serve. It also calls on them to recognise the limitations of online banking, especially in light of scams and well-publicised systems failures.*

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was carried and it was therefore –

**RESOLVED**

**That this Council states its opposition to the closure of high-street banks throughout the UK and especially in Tameside. Last month, the Royal Bank of Scotland announced the closure of 54 branches in January, 2019, with the loss of 258 jobs. This news came only months after RBS said it would shut 162 banks and shed 792 jobs. In Tameside, it means there will be no RBS presence on our high streets after the Droylsden branch closes next year. Across the country, nearly 3,000 banks and building society branches have shut since 2015 – a rate of almost 60 a month.**

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**face-to-face meetings are necessary for advice or to carry out business.**

**This Council calls on the banks to end their programme of branch closures and to reinvest in the communities they are supposed to serve. It also calls on them to recognise the limitations of online banking, especially in light of scams and well-publicised systems failures.**

## **11 QUESTIONS**

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

## **12 URGENT ITEMS**

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

**CHAIR**