

## COUNCIL

8 December 2015

Commenced: 5.00 pm

Terminated: 7.10 pm

**Present:** Councillors Kitchen (Chair), Ricci (Civic Mayor), Affleck, Bailey, Ballagher, Beeley, Bell, Bowden, Bowerman, Buckley, Cartey, Cooney, Cooper, Dickinson, Downs, Drennan, Fairfoull, JM Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, Fowler, Glover, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, Jackson, Kinsey, D Lane, J Lane, McNally, I Miah, R Miah, Middleton, Pearce, Peet, Piddington, K Quinn, S Quinn, Reid, Reynolds, Robinson, Shember-Critchley, Sidebottom, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, F Travis, L Travis, Ward, Warrington, White (part meeting) and Whitehead.

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Bray, Patrick, Ryan, Welsh and Wild.

*Civic Mayor (Councillor Ricci) in the Chair*

### 14. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor was pleased to report on the recent marriage of Councillor Claire Francis and Members joined with him in extending sincere congratulations to Claire and her husband Paul and wished them every happiness in their new life together.

He also made reference to his Annual Report sharing some of the highlights from the last six months and briefly outlining his work programme for the remainder of his term of office.

In conclusion, as this was the last Council meeting of the calendar year, the Civic Mayor took the opportunity to wish all those present a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

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

### 15. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 29 September 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair of Council Business.

### 16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 17. COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair of Council Business introduced Chris Bird from Sports Tours International, the organisers of the Tour of Tameside, who presented memorabilia from the 2015 event to the Executive Leader of the Council in recognition of the successful return of the Tour of Tameside after a 14 year absence. The Executive Leader commented on the success of the event and the opportunity it provided to increase health and wellbeing in the borough.

Councillor Taylor was pleased to announce the start of the process towards the launch of the Youth Council and welcomed a number of young people present at the meeting. He congratulated

them for the work they had undertaken so far and looked forward to their future contribution as the Youth Council evolved. Youth Councils were forums that represented the views of young people on a local level. Their role was to give a voice to young people and enable them to make their voices heard in the decision-making process.

Councillor Robinson advised on the recently published interim report for the Trans-Pennine tunnel strategic study outlining the high level case for the Trans-Pennine tunnel road scheme and feasibility of constructing a new road link. He also made reference to the installation of road safety measures on Clarence Street, Dukinfield / Stalybridge crossroads.

## **18. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S EMERGENCY BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chair of Council Business, Councillor Kitchen, called on the Executive Leader, Councillor K Quinn, to deliver his annual keynote address and budget statement.

The Executive Leader outlined the difficult choices facing the Council, explaining that it could expect a further £94 million reduction in its funding over the next four years, despite £104 million cut from the Council's budget since 2010. The inescapable fact was that in the very near future the Council would be struggling to provide anything but the most basic of statutory services. Already, around 75% of the Council's controllable spend was now used to fund adult social care alone.

There would be an emergency savings plan in light of the Comprehensive Spending Review taking into account the new financial pressures the Council will face and also incorporating residents' views from the online budget simulator. This would be presented at the next Full Council meeting in February 2016.

The Council would continue to fight to secure a fair funding settlement for local government; a settlement that accounted for the needs of every area and stopped the creation of a postcode lottery in council services. It was estimated that Tameside would be £14 million better off if government funding truly reflected the demand for council services.

He outlined the work with neighbouring councils and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to bring forward the devolution agenda ensuring that the social and economic benefits of devolution in health care, in business rate pooling, in investment and in affordable housing were shared for the benefit of all.

He intended that the Council would continue to work with its partners such as Active Tameside, the Citizens Advice Bureau and New Charter to discuss what needed to be done to maintain the services that the most vulnerable residents depended on.

He was pleased to report on the opening of the new Greater Manchester Pension Fund headquarter buildings, Guardsman Tony Downes House, in Droylsden securing the future of the pension fund and the employment and investment it provided for the benefit of Tameside.

This year also saw the opening of the Inspire Academy, the first wholly-new school to be built in Tameside since the formation of the Borough in 1974 and he was looking forward to the opening of a second school, the Discovery Academy, in autumn 2016. In addition, the first phase of the Vision Tameside project had delivered a new state of the art campus on Camp Street, Ashton, and the steel exterior of the new Advanced Technologies Centre in Stamford Street was now a fixture in Ashton's skyline. The facility would be welcoming its first cohort of students in Spring 2016.

He made reference to the announcement by Councillor Taylor on the setting up of a Youth Council, giving young people a platform not only to get their opinions heard, but taken seriously by decision-makers in the Council and other organisations in the Borough. Through initiatives such as the Tameside Jobs Pledge and Vision Tameside Apprenticeships the Council was supporting its partners and local business in giving young people a helping hand into employment.

He concluded by stating that the task ahead for next year had been set and the Council would continue to deliver investment for all residents, protect the vulnerable and those in need and preserve Tameside as a place to live, work and do business in.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Chair of Council Business called upon the Leader of the Main Opposition Group, Councillor Bell, to respond. Councillor Bell stated that he did not intend to respond.

## **19. COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION**

There had been two questions submitted by members of the public. The first question was from Charlotte Hughes:

*"Does the Leader of the Council share the concerns which have been expressed by a significant number of politicians, regarding the lack of information and democratically accountable process, in relation to the so called 'devolution deal for Greater Manchester', which have been most recently reflected in the columns of the Manchester Evening News in relation to the visit of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee to Manchester?"*

*Does he furthermore recognise that, if politicians are complaining about being kept in the dark about changes which will have a massive impact on our NHS, housing and other vital public services, then the problem is exponentially greater in degree for members of the public?"*

*And will he take steps to rectify the democratic deficit in the Borough of Tameside by arranging, with due urgency, public meetings designed to drag this issue into the light of day."*

The Executive Leader responded that he did not agree that there was a democratic deficit around devolution, which was dealt with by the 10 democratically elected Greater Manchester Leaders at the Association of Greater Manchester meetings held in public and streamed over the internet - the process overall was highly transparent. There were issues related to devolution where he would have welcomed a public vote but unfortunately this was not within his gift. Overall, he felt that devolution, which would see the significant transfer of power from Whitehall to the local communities was a significant step forward for democracy in this country and consultation and engagement had already taken place around key developments.

The second question was from Ram Nathoo, representing Peace Talks Tameside:

*"Oldham Council has recently become the first local authority in the UK to become a signatory to the European Parliament's Pledge to Peace.*

*The Pledge of Peace was established at the European Parliament in Brussels on 28 November 2011. Its purpose is to create a 'culture of peace' in Europe by establishing a network of signatory organisations with a shared vision of value of peace, carrying out tangible projects to help promote peace at every level in their communities.*

*At its Brussel launch, the initiative's primary sponsor, the Honorable Gianna Pittella, First Vice-President of the European Parliament stated that in his view "peace is not a goal attainable by a few great men, but a task entrusted to the contribution of each one of us".*

*Becoming a signatory to the Pledge need not cost anything but it does demonstrate that an organisation wants to make a contribution towards creating a culture of peace in Europe.*

*My question therefore tonight is will the relevant Executive member or members agreed to meet with representatives from Peace Talks Tameside to discuss how the Council can make that contribution by becoming the UK's second local authority to sign up to the Pledge to Peace?"*

The Executive Leader responded that arrangements would be made for a meeting to take place with representatives from Peace Talks Tameside in the New Year.

## **20. MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 21 October 2015. It was moved by Councillor K Quinn, seconded by Councillor Taylor and –

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Executive Cabinet held on 21 October 2015 be received.**

## **21. MEETING OF THE SENIOR STAFFING PANEL**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Senior Staffing Panel held on 16 November 2015. It was moved by Councillor K Quinn, seconded by Councillor Taylor and –

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Senior Staffing Panel held on 16 November 2015 be received and it be agreed that Peter Timmins, Interim Assistant Executive Director, be appointed as the Section 151 Officer from 23 November 2015 for 6 to 12 months to enable the recruitment and successful appointment of a permanent Section 151 Officer.**

## **22. MEETING OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 26 October 2015. It was moved by Councillor Cooney, seconded by Councillor J Fitzpatrick and –

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 26 October 2015 be received.**

## **23. EXECUTIVE MEMBER PORTFOLIOS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader setting out revised Executive Member portfolios.

It explained that Councils could organise their decision-making processes in different ways although the majority of Councils operated a leader and cabinet model rather than an elected mayor. Under the leader and cabinet model, the full council elected a leader, who in turn appointed the cabinet. Each cabinet member had a specific area of responsibility as determined by the Leader to cover all the executive functions of the Council.

Councils across the country had undergone major changes in the last couple of years to address the budget reductions and this was set to continue for the foreseeable future and at least until 2020. The Executive Cabinet was legally charged with the responsibility to drive the change to deliver a balanced budget in the face of the immediacy of the budget reductions.

The Executive Leader determined the portfolios of the Cabinet and the purpose of the report was to ensure there was transparency as to the areas of responsibility and accountability. He stated that the Cabinet portfolios had remained consistent since 2010 apart from reductions in membership from the statutory maximum of 10 to a current 8 portfolios and this constancy of leadership and purpose had assisted the Council in delivering over £110 million budget reductions

to date. However, given the significant challenges being faced, he felt it was an expedient time to review the portfolios to ensure they reflected the shape of the authority going forward and more importantly to provide fresh eyes and approach. In addition, he made reference to the need to provide leadership in the integration of health and social care and constancy of purpose to progress the Integrated Care Organisation

The revised portfolios were appended to the report together with the Cabinet Members currently holding these posts. It was intended that the new roles would take effect from Monday 11 January 2016 to ensure an effective and efficient handover whilst ensuring appropriate arrangements were in place during the Christmas closure.

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

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the revised Executive Member portfolios, determined by the Executive Leader in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, to take effect from Monday 11 January 2016, be noted.**
- (ii) That to provide constancy of purpose to progress the Integrated Care Organisation, a Special Council meeting would take place on 21 January 2016 in order that the Council could put in place the necessary governance arrangement for a single commissioning function managed by the Chief Executive with appropriate democratic oversight determined by the Council.**
- (iii) That where appointments to Council and outside bodies were a specific Executive Member, the appointments be amended to reflect the revised portfolios.**

#### **24. MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES**

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

#### **RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Drennan be removed from the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel.**

#### **25. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION – PROCUREMENT STANDING ORDER**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader informing Members of a review of the Procurement Standing Orders contained within Part 4 (Procedural Rules) of the Constitution and to seek approval to amend the Procurement Standing orders.

The review and subsequent updates to the Procurement Standing Orders had been led by Legal Services in conjunction with the Corporate Procurement Team and other key stakeholders from across the organisation including Audit. Overall, it was felt that the Procurement Standing Orders were working well and that where changes were required, these were minimal and for the purpose of ensuring that the Procurement Standing Orders complied with recent regulation changes and the recent technological advances that had been made in procurement. The key findings of the review and proposed changes were highlighted.

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

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Council's Procurement Standing Orders be amended as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.**
- (ii) That the Council adopts the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Social Value Policy and Framework detailed in Appendix 2 to the report and continues to work with colleagues from across the region to fully implement the requirements of the Social Value Act 2012.**

## 26. NOTICE OF MOTION

### Motion A

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

*“That this Council notes that on 4 November 2015, the Department of Health confirmed that it would be reducing its spending on public health grants to local authorities by £200 million this financial year.*

*This is part of the further £3 billion of spending cuts to the current financial year announced by the Government in June this year, and follows a consultation in which Tameside Council, AGMA, and national health and social care leaders all appealed against the cut, pointing out the short sightedness of cutting cost effective interventions with clear long term benefits to health and prosperity.*

*The decision to reduce funding for public health has come as a big disappointment, and confirmation of 6.2% in year reduction so far through the financial year is badly planned, ill-timed and potentially life-threatening.*

*For Tameside this cut means an in-year reduction in funding for preventive services of approximately £1M, and will inevitably result in greater demand for health and social care services in the future.*

*NHS commissioned services including Health Visiting and School Nursing will inevitably be hit by these cuts.*

*These cuts are surprising given the Government’s commitment to the NHS Five Year Forward View, which has prevention as a key element. Drawing back on prevention locally risks jeopardising the realisation of the vision and benefits of the local health and social care programme Care Together. Our aim to achieve sustainable reductions in health inequalities and improvement in life expectancy will be compromised. Rebalancing investment and activity within a sustainable and cost effective model of collaborative working will be slowed down.*

*This Council firmly believes that it is more important than ever that the distribution of available resources reflects the assessed needs of areas – which means their levels of deprivation - and their ability to raise resources. Unfortunately, the latest announcement follows the same approach as those of the past four years, and will mean that the greatest impact of the cuts will be on the most deprived authorities, such as Tameside.*

*Given the recent announcement, Tameside Council is extremely concerned about how the Public Health grant will be treated in any future allocation formula.*

*This Council therefore calls upon the Government to:-*

- (i) Abandon its short-sighted and contradictory approach to cuts in public health funding, when in actual fact it should invest more in prevention and health improvement, with allocations based upon need; and*
- (ii) Honour its previous commitments to public health funding as set out in the local government finance settlement in March 2015.”*

Following consideration of the Motion it was:

## **RESOLVED**

**“That this Council notes that on 4 November 2015, the Department of Health confirmed that it would be reducing its spending on public health grants to local authorities by £200 million this financial year.**

**This is part of the further £3 billion of spending cuts to the current financial year announced by the Government in June this year, and follows a consultation in which Tameside Council, AGMA, and national health and social care leaders all appealed against the cut, pointing out the short sightedness of cutting cost effective interventions with clear long term benefits to health and prosperity.**

**The decision to reduce funding for public health has come as a big disappointment, and confirmation of 6.2% in year reduction so far through the financial year is badly planned, ill-timed and potentially life-threatening.**

**For Tameside this cut means an in-year reduction in funding for preventive services of approximately £1M, and will inevitably result in greater demand for health and social care services in the future.**

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**This Council therefore calls upon the Government to:-**

- (i) Abandon its short-sighted and contradictory approach to cuts in public health funding, when in actual fact it should invest more in prevention and health improvement, with allocations based upon need; and**
- (ii) Honour its previous commitments to public health funding as set out in the local government finance settlement in March 2015.”**

## **Motion B**

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

***“That this Council recalls the 2010 pledge by the Prime Minister, David Cameron MP, to lead the ‘Greenest Government Ever’.***

*This Council is therefore surprised by the proposals put forward by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to further cut the feed in tariff (FIT) payable for electricity generated by Solar Photovoltaic (PV) cells.*

*The DECC is proposing to reduce the rate paid per kilowatt hour of electricity exported to the grid by up to 98%. This will increase the return period for those who choose to invest in solar PV to a point where installation will become financially unviable for many.*

*Research by the Solar Trade Association has found that, of the 35,000 jobs in the UK solar industry, 27,000 will be under threat as a result of the reduced deployment of solar energy following these cuts. Their research also found that, as costs continue to fall, the government is predicted to be able to phase out subsidies altogether by 2020 and these cuts will set that date back by reducing demand in the short term.*

*This Council believes that:*

- *Solar power is a sustainable form of energy generation that should form part of the UK's energy generation mix.*
- *The solar power industry is an industry that the government should support if it is serious about moving to a low carbon economy.*
- *Cuts to feed in tariffs could kill off an industry that is still in its infancy.*

*Council therefore resolves to:*

- *Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Amber Rudd MP, setting out our opposition to the FIT cuts.*
- *Ask the Chief Executive to write to our three local MPs to notify them of our position and call on them to lobby the government to protect the solar industry."*

Following consideration of the Motion it was:

## **RESOLVED**

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**The DECC is proposing to reduce the rate paid per kilowatt hour of electricity exported to the grid by up to 98%. This will increase the return period for those who choose to invest in solar PV to a point where installation will become financially unviable for many.**

**Research by the Solar Trade Association has found that, of the 35,000 jobs in the UK solar industry, 27,000 will be under threat as a result of the reduced deployment of solar energy following these cuts. Their research also found that, as costs continue to fall, the government is predicted to be able to phase out subsidies altogether by 2020 and these cuts will set that date back by reducing demand in the short term.**

**This Council believes that:**

- **Solar power is a sustainable form of energy generation that should form part of the UK's energy generation mix.**
- **The solar power industry is an industry that the government should support if it is serious about moving to a low carbon economy.**
- **Cuts to feed in tariffs could kill off an industry that is still in its infancy.**



**Council therefore resolves to:**

- **Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Amber Rudd MP, setting out our opposition to the FIT cuts.**
- **Ask the Chief Executive to write to our three local MPs to notify them of our position and call on them to lobby the government to protect the solar industry.”**

### **Motion C**

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

*“That this Council believes that the heritage of the nine towns of Tameside should be cherished and nurtured, and, where possible, strengthened.*

*We recognise that Tameside is strongest when it is a borough of nine towns coming together with their individual identities, building on the history of each town.*

*Granted a Royal Charter in 1414, Ashton-under-Lyne also bares evidence of activity in the area predating the Middle Ages. It is noted with sadness, therefore, that the new bus station in Ashton-under-Lyne should lose the name of the town and be called Tameside Interchange.*

*In order to preserve the heritage of the town, prevent confusion to visitors and to keep Ashton-under-Lyne on the map, this Council resolves to write to the Chief Executive of Transport for Greater Manchester and state that the Council’s considered view is that the new bus station in the town should be called ‘Ashton-under-Lyne Bus Interchange’.”*

In accordance with Standing Order 22 it was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull that the motion be amended to read:

*“That this Council believes that the heritage of the nine towns of Tameside, Ashton-under-Lyne, Denton, Droylsden, Dukinfield, Hyde, Longdendale, Mossley and Stalybridge, should be cherished and nurtured, and, where possible, strengthened.*

*We recognise that Tameside is strongest when it is a borough of nine towns coming together with their individual identities, building on the history of each town.*

*This Council believes that the continuing budget cuts imposed on our Borough by the Conservative Government are a threat to the resilience of our communities and to the ability of the Council to celebrate the heritage and individuality of each of our towns.*

*The Council therefore resolves to ensure that all nine of Tameside’s towns are identified and recognised in a prominent way in all future Council publications and on the new design for our Council website.”*

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was declared carried whereupon the substantive motion was put to the Council and it was:

### **RESOLVED**

**That this Council believes that the heritage of the nine towns of Tameside, Ashton-under-Lyne, Denton, Droylsden, Dukinfield, Hyde, Longdendale, Mossley and Stalybridge, should be cherished and nurtured, and, where possible, strengthened.**

**We recognise that Tameside is strongest when it is a borough of nine towns coming together with their individual identities, building on the history of each town.**

**This Council believes that the continuing budget cuts imposed on our Borough by the Conservative Government are a threat to the resilience of our communities and to the ability of the Council to celebrate the heritage and individuality of each of our towns.**

**The Council therefore resolves to ensure that all nine of Tameside's towns are identified and recognised in a prominent way in all future Council publications and on the new design for our Council website.**

## **27. QUESTIONS**

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

## **28. URGENT ITEMS**

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

**CHAIR**