

COUNCIL

4 December 2018

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bailey, Bowerman, B. Holland, Quinn and Whitehead

Councillor Ward, Civic Mayor, in the Chair

53 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor introduced the Mayoral Annual report, copies of which had been distributed, highlighting key events and engagements attended by the Mayor since taking Office.

The Mayor was delighted to report that Mick Nield from Mossley had been awarded an MBE for services to mountain rescue in the Birthday Honours list and received his medal from the Queen at Buckingham Palace on 20 November 2018. The Mayor had recently visited Wigan Town Hall to witness the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Mr Warren Smith, present Kevin Taylor with the British Empire Medal for services to charity.

The Mayor extended her congratulations to Wild Bank Community School, Stalybridge, on becoming the first primary school in Tameside to achieve the AcSEED award. This had been given to the school in recognition of their substantial effort in supporting the mental-health and wellbeing of pupils. Furthermore, it was reported that Russell Scott Primary, Denton, won the School Commitment to PE and Sport Award at the Greater Manchester Sports Awards. Dom Doyle FC of Denton, created following the death of 19-year-old Dominic Doyle in 2015, won club of the year.

The Mayor had attended the Pride of Tameside Business Awards Dinner which was held at Dukinfield Town Hall. The Mayor reported on the amount of work done by the entrants to support the community and make Tameside a more prosperous borough.

Councillor Kitchen in the Chair

54 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 9 October 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair of Council Business as a correct record.

55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

56 COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader took the opportunity to inform Members of key matters, which had arisen within the Borough since the last meeting of Council.

The Executive Leader was delighted to advise that Tameside had received a Silver Award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme which recognised support for the wider principles of the Armed Forces Covenant. The Covenant work was in place across the Authority and partner organisations from health care to education, welfare and community engagement. This work ensured that the armed forces family receives support wherever they may be on their journey and however they make contact. The award was in recognition of many innovative schemes focussing on the covenant and involving ex-forces personnel. A successful Veteran in School programme had resulted in more than 5,000 children achieving the nationally recognised Arts Award qualification.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods updated Members on the introduction of the RingGo scheme within Ashton Town Centre. The new scheme required access to an application for on street parking bays, which had already proved to provide flexible parking solutions for many other Local Authorities within the United Kingdom. Any impact of the introduction of the new technology would be continued to be monitored. Members were advised that there were 2,300 spaces that still took cash payment in Ashton town centre, both council and privately operated. Furthermore, Tameside's car parking charge of £1 for three hours still remained one of the cheapest rates within Greater Manchester.

57 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.

58 EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNUAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Chair of Council Business, Councillor Kitchen, called on the Executive Leader, Councillor Warrington, to deliver her annual keynote address.

The Executive Leader began by reflecting on the unprecedented Saddleworth Moor fires, a natural disaster unlike any in our lifetimes. She paid tribute to the dedication and efforts of the uncounted number of individuals who had come together to support efforts to control the fires.

The Executive Leader stated that the Council had not wavered from its belief in Tameside, and the Council's core principles. Resolve had helped develop an approach that delivered on the vision, aims and priorities of the Council. That approach, as laid out in the new Corporate Plan, sought nothing less than to transform the relationship between public services and residents, communities and businesses. It embedded the importance of well-being, prevention and early intervention to identify and resolve potential issues at the earliest possible stage. It supported the development of new investment and resourcing models to make this a reality despite the continuing financial difficulties faced by all local authorities.

The Executive Leader referred to one of the key priorities of making sure that Tameside was a place where children and young people grow up as part of a safe and nurturing community. Making it a reality goes beyond making sure they are protected from harm, important as that is. Through organisations like the Tameside Youth Council we are making sure that they are also given every opportunity possible to have a voice and engage with the world around them. The Executive Leader made reference to the Greater Manchester-wide *"It's Not Okay"* Week of Action in June which would teach parents about the dangers of child sexual exploitation. Further child safety programmes, including the "Look out for ABC" campaign raising awareness of child abuse, were also ongoing.

During the summer a number of family events had been held within the Borough like Theatre in the Park, living history at Portland Basin Museum and the Summer Reading Challenges in libraries, for which the Council had made sure that every family in Tameside, regardless of their background or income, had the chance to have fun, learn and get involved.

In relation to schools their effort to encourage an active lifestyle had led to more young people engaging in physical activity and a number of successes for Tameside in the Greater Manchester School games. Many schools and Youth Council members had also been involved in delivering on other priorities for Tameside. By way of example Russell Scott and Gorse Hall Primary Schools had organised events through the year where children had campaigned against the dangers of air pollution, especially from idling vehicles at school gates.

There had also been successes in health and social care with plans for Intermediate Care services developing. Key to further success for Tameside and Glossop was empowering residents, giving them the tools to take control of their own health and wellbeing including bringing together all the services and agencies into five defined geographical areas through the Neighbourhoods model.

Reference was made to the Living Well UK programme for which funding had been received via the National Lottery and would see Tameside and Glossop, along with Salford, Edinburgh and Luton join the programme. Over the next three years, Tameside and Glossop Strategic Commission and other partners would develop a world-leading model of mental health care, supporting early intervention and allowing users to have a say on how their care is designed.

In November the first ever Tameside Green Summit had been held which was the first step in the process of generating real collective action and meaningful change on the issue. One of the council's own pledges at the Green Summit was to continue with tree planting in the borough. On top of the annual tree planting and maintenance programmes, commitment was made to plant an additional 3,500 trees in Tameside by the end of next year.

The Executive Leader referred to progress on improving the digital literacy of residents, and growing space for creative and technology companies within the Borough, highlighting in particular the Tameside Hack events for young people. The events would continue alongside the opening of the new Tameside College's Advanced Skills Centre which would provide state-of-the-art learning spaces for students to study and hone a wide range of vocational and technical skills. The Skills Centre will be within the new Tameside One building which was due to open in the coming months. This was in addition to the investment at Ashton Old Baths which had already created over 70 jobs in event management, graphic design and a number of other sectors. Supported by a dark fibre network unlike anything else currently running in Greater Manchester, the Ashton Old Bath redevelopment had been such a success that the Council had recently approved funding for both a redevelopment of the building's annex, creating space for even more businesses and entrepreneurs and a new state-of-the-art data centre, which would eventually host the Council and NHS IT systems.

The Executive Leader concluded by highlighting key opportunities to create better places to live and work including with the Greater Manchester Town Centre Challenge and the Greater Manchester Cycling and Walking network, the continued development of Vision Tameside, building of the Denton Wellness Centre and plans for Care Together by transforming the way services are delivered them in Tameside and Glossop.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Chair of Council Business called upon the Leader of the Main Opposition Group, Councillor Bell, who responded by expressing his Group's views on the matters raised.

59 MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 24 October 2018 and 28 November 2018.

It was moved by Councillor Warrington and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull that the recommendations of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 24 October 2018 and 24 November 2018 be approved.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the minutes of the Executive Cabinet meetings held on 24 October 2018 and 28 November 2018 be received.**
- (ii) That the revised form of indemnity for Officers and Members be adopted.**
- (iii) That the Council Tax discount for care leavers aged between 21 and 25 be amended to:**
 - a. Award a Council Tax discount of up to 100% of the Council Tax due up to a care leavers 25th birthday.**
 - b. If the care leaver is joint and severally liable for the Council Tax that is due or becomes a member of a household where a previous exemption or disregard is in place, such as a Single Person Discount or Student Exemption, the care leaver should be ignored for the purposes of retaining the Council Tax exemption/disregard.**
 - c. Care leavers up to aged 25 to be included as a specific vulnerable group in the Council's discretionary financial support policies including the Welfare Provision Scheme, the Discretionary Council Tax Support Scheme and the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme.**
 - d. A care leaver is defined as an individual whom a Council has Corporate Parent responsibilities for. This includes a person who is currently resident in the Greater Manchester area and has been in the care of a local authority (looked after) for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who was in care on their 16th birthday.**
 - e. That the revised policy be effective from the beginning of the 2018/19 financial year and, as such, any awards would be backdated to 1 April 2018 where appropriate.**

60 MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 6 November 2018. It was moved by Councillor M. Smith and seconded by Councillor J. Lane that he minutes be received.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 6 November 2018 be received.

61 MEETING OF OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Overview (Audit) Panel held on 12 November 2018. It was moved by Councillor Ricci and seconded by Councillor Homer that he minutes be received.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview (Audit) Panel held on 12 November 2018 be received.

62 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES

The Executive Leader moved and the Deputy Executive Leader seconded amendments to Council Body membership and nominations to outside bodies.

RESOLVED

- (i) That Councillor Buglass replace Councillor Robinson on the Education Attainment Board;**

- (ii) That Margaret Fulham and Pat McDonagh replace Mo Baines and Kevin Allsop as UNISON members on the Greater Manchester Pension Fund Management/Advisory Panel;
- (iii) That it be noted that Councillor Cooney has been appointed as representative on Jigsaw Housing Group and that Councillor Ryan has been appointed as representative on New Charter Homes.

63 HONORARY ALDERMAN

It was moved by the Executive Leader seconded by the Deputy Executive Leader that Councillor John Bell be made an Honorary Alderman of the Borough at the Annual Meeting of Council on 21 May 2019

RESOLVED

That in recognition of his eminent service that he has rendered to the Borough of Tameside, Councillor John Bell be made an Honorary Alderman of the Borough at the Annual Meeting of Council on 21 May 2019.

64 NOTICES OF MOTION

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

That the Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1950, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

This Council notes that hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same age. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

The Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6 April 1950, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.

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

RESOLVED

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65 QUESTIONS

Councillor Billington submitted a question in accordance with Standing Order 17.2, in relation to the introduction of the RingGO parking application introduced within Aston Town Centre. In responding the Executive Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods referred to the statement provider earlier in the meeting (minute 56 refers).

66 URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR