

Minutes of a meeting of the City Council held on Wednesday 24th March 2010

Present:

The Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor
Councillor Alison Firth – In the Chair

Councillors Ali, Amesbury, Andrews, Ankers Ashley, Barrett, J. Battle, R. Battle, Bhatti, Boyes, Bracegirdle, Bridges, Burns, Carmody, Chohan, Chowdhury, Clayton, Commons, Cooley, Cooper, Cowan, Cowell, Cox, Curley, Dobson, Donaldson, Eakins, Evans, Fairweather, Fender, Fisher, Firth, Flanagan, Glover, Grant, Green, Hackett, Harrison, Hassan, Helsby, Hitchen, Isherwood, Jones, Judge, Karney, Keegan, Keller, A. Khan, M. Khan, Kirkpatrick, Leese, Lewis, Lomax, Longsdon, Loughman, Lyons, McCulley, Morrison, M. Murphy, N. Murphy, P. Murphy, S. Murphy, E. Newman S. Newman, O'Callaghan, O'Connor, Barbara O'Neil, Brian O'Neil, Pagel, Pearcey, Priest, Pritchard, Rahman, Ramsbottom, Royle, Ryan, Sandiford, Shannon, Shaw, Siddiqi, Smith, Smitheman, Stevens, Swannick, Tavernor, Walters, Watson, Wheale, Whitmore, Lianne Williams and Lynn Williams.

CC/10/24 Welcome

The Lord Mayor welcomed her personal guests to the meeting, and also extended a welcome to some of the young people who had recently gained jobs through the Council's Apprenticeship and Future Jobs Fund schemes. She informed the Council that Greater Manchester was aiming to create up to 8000 jobs through the Future Jobs Fund, and the Council was committed to creating up to 1500 of these. She reminded the Council that the focus of her year in office has been on young people, and that building the skills of our young people is absolutely critical as Manchester moves out of recession. She presented to Victoria Madden, who was working in Manchester Museum and was the 250th Future Jobs Fund Trainee, a certificate to mark this milestone, and she wished them all well for the future.

CC/10/25 Retiring members

The Lord Mayor reported that Councillors Alex Cowan, Brian Harrison, Rodney Isherwood, Maryam Khan, Tony Parkinson, Val Stevens and Lynne Williams were to retire from the Council in May, and she thanked each of them for the contribution that they had made to the work of the Council, and in supporting their local communities, over a total of 83 years service as councillors, and she wished them each well for the future.

CC/10/26 National Sing-up Day

The Lord Mayor reminded Council that at its meeting in December the children of St Richard's RC Primary School in Longsight sang to them as part of their preparations for National Sing Up Day that was held on 24th February 2010. She reported that 20,000 pupils from schools across the city joined in the National Sing Up, and all performed well. On that day she had joined the children of St Augustine's CE Primary

School, Monsall to join in with their sing. St Augustine's Primary School and St John Fisher and Thomas More RC Primary School in Wythenshawe were among only a handful of schools nationally to have been awarded Platinum School status by the Sing Up Campaign for their approach to singing in school.

CC/10/27 Urgent Business

The Lord Mayor reported that she had agreed to the submission as urgent business the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee held earlier this morning; the Minutes of the Executive on 10th and 24th March 2010, the Minutes of the Citizenship and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Economy, Employment and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1st March 2010; the Minutes of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2nd March 2010, and the Minutes of the Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th March 2010., and the Minutes of the Audit Committee on 11th March 2010.

CC/10/28 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor

CC/10/29 Proceedings of the Executive.

The proceedings of the Executive on 27th January (part) 10th March and 24th March 2010, were submitted, and the Council considered recommendation that it approve (a) the Greater Manchester Housing Strategy, and (b) the ring-fencing of £573k from the capital receipts arising from the redevelopment of the Bowes Street site in Moss Side, of which £220, 831 will be used to fund increased capital costs, and £352k will be used to fund the additional revenue costs in respect of sales costs.

Decision

1. To note the proceedings of the Executive.
2. To adopt the Greater Manchester Housing Strategy.
3. To approve the ring-fencing of £573k from the capital receipts arising from the redevelopment of the Bowes Street site in Moss Side, of which £220, 831 will be used to fund increased capital costs, and £352k will be used to fund the additional revenue costs in respect of sales costs.

Councillor Burns declared a prejudicial interest in Minute Exe/10/24 and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillors Bracegirdle, Leese, S. Murphy, Shaw and Wheale declared a personal interest as supporters of Manchester City Football Club, and Councillors Jim Battle and Swannick as a director of New East Manchester Ltd in relation to Minute Exe/10/42

Councillor Shannon declared a prejudicial interest in Minute Exe/10/41 and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

CC/10/30 Questions to Executive Members under Procedural Rule 23.

Councillor Fender invited the Leader of the Council to inform the Council of the result of the Monitoring Officer's (City Solicitor's) investigation into allegations made by the Leader of the Opposition in a letter dated 27th January 2010 which was presented to the City Solicitor at the Council meeting on that day. The Leader explained why he could not respond to that question but requested that the City Solicitor do so. The City Solicitor stated that following her enquiries she did not have any prima facie evidence of a breach of the Member's Code of Conduct or the Planning Protocol by any member of the Planning Committee that she should refer to the Standards Committee.

The Executive Member for the Environment responded to a question from Councillor Sandiford concerning the removal of three free parking spaces for the public from the car park behind the Milson Rhodes Public House on School Lane in Didsbury Village that were provided as part of a Section 106 Agreement.

The Executive Member for the Environment undertook to provide Councillor Lewis with written answers to two questions concerning reinstatement works to highways and footpaths.

CC/10/31 Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Council noted the Minutes of the following Committees –
Children and Young People – 2nd February and 2nd March 2010
Citizenship and Inclusion – 3rd February and 1st March 2010
Communities and Neighbourhoods – 2nd February and 2nd March 2010
Economy, Employment and Skills – 3rd February and 1st March 2010
Health and Well-being – 4th February, 16th February and 4th March 2010
Resources and Governance – 4th February and 4th March 2010

CC/10/32 Proceedings of Committees.

Decision

1 To approve the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee on 27th January 2010.

2. To note the proceedings of the following meetings –

Audit Committee – 11 March 2010.

Employee Appeals Committee – 16th February 2010.

Licensing and Appeals Committee – 15th February and 15th March 2010.

Personnel Committee – 10th February and 10th March 2010.

Planning and Highways Committee – 11th February and 11th March 2010.

Wythenshawe Area Committee – 26th January and 26th February 2010.

CC/10/33 Business of the Joint Authorities and Committees.

No questions were raised under Procedural Rule 24 on the business of (a) Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority (b) Greater Manchester Police Authority, (c) Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority, and (d) Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority.

CC/10/34 Council Constitution - proposed changes

A report of the City Solicitor was submitted proposing various revisions to the Constitution of the Council, largely arising as a result of the change in the Council's Executive arrangements under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Decision

1. That the Council adopts the Parts of the Constitution to give effect to changes in the Council's executive arrangements under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, namely –
 - Part 1
 - Part 2
 - Part 3 (Sections A and B)
 - Part 4 (Sections A and B)
2. That these changes take effect on 9 May 2010 (that is three days after the local elections in 2010) in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Health Act, 2007.
3. That the Council notes that the remaining parts of the Constitution remain in force but that the City Solicitor will be bringing forward a further report to the annual meeting of the Council with any amendments.

CC/10/35 Key Decisions

A report of the City Solicitor was noted detailing key decisions that had been exempted from call-in since the last ordinary meeting of the Council.

CC/10/36 Motion – Police performance

Motion made and seconded/-

This Council recognises the importance and significance of recent reports by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary into the performance of Greater Manchester Police. This Council welcomes the response of the Chief Constable, his officers and Greater Manchester Police Authority in facing up to the challenges highlighted in these reports and the commitment to improving police performance for the benefit of Manchester people.

This Council Resolves

1. To continue to work together with the police and our communities through the Manchester Crime Reduction Partnership and Neighbourhood Partnerships.
2. To develop and expand on the achievements of Neighbourhood Policing, proactive Anti Social Behaviour teams and intensive Respect Actions which contribute to building public confidence in the police and further reducing crime and anti social behaviour in our city.
3. To ask the City Council's overview and scrutiny process to investigate and report on good policing practice in Manchester, other Greater Manchester authorities and UK Core Cities, as a contribution towards improving police performance.
4. To request the Chair of the Manchester Crime Reduction Partnership, the Deputy Chief Executive (Performance) to undertake a process, through our Neighbourhood Partnerships, of consulting Manchester residents to assess their views and options on what they feel is needed to be done in order to improve policing in their neighbourhoods.

This Council recognises the hard work and achievements of Greater Manchester Police. We recognise that the Chief Constable, like the City Council, is resolved to reducing the numbers of victims of crime and anti social behaviour by engaging residents and other partners in the drive to improving services and performance.

Amendment moved and seconded /-

To add after "This Council recognises":

The publication in March of an inspection report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) showing that Greater Manchester Police "struggles in some key areas" and is "causing concern".

That the HMIC report shows GMP performs poorly on local crime & policing; poorly on confidence & satisfaction; poorly on solving crimes, with declining prospects of improvement; poorly on the comparative satisfaction of the BME community; and poorly on public confidence overall.

That only one Police Service in the country performed less well than Greater Manchester.

The publication in February of an inspection report by the Audit Commission showing that Greater Manchester Police Authority has failed to scrutinise properly the performance of Greater Manchester Police. When asked to evaluate the effectiveness of the Police Authority in scrutinising and ensuring the force delivers the priority services that matter to local people, the Audit Commission awarded a rating of "1" ("not meeting minimum requirements/ performing poorly").

The "good" rating for GMP on serious crime, and the acknowledged success of Neighbourhood Policing. Nevertheless, the people of Manchester deserve a high-performing Police Service and Police Authority.

The Police Authority's leadership, in dismissing the findings of HMIC's report as "dated," shows complacency and a lack of self-awareness. The improvement agenda for the Police Authority needs to begin with an honest self-assessment of its own very mixed performance.

To add after "This Council resolves 4) ":

To request that the Council's Police Authority representative updates the Council each quarter on progress towards achieving the performance improvement goals set out in the Authority's Action Plan.

To request that the Council's Citizenship & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee investigate the effectiveness of the actions proposed by the Police Authority to address low overall public confidence & satisfaction; and in particular, the lower comparative satisfaction amongst Manchester's BME community.

To ask the Council's Scrutiny process to consider the impact on public safety of no longer having a permanent City Centre custody base, following GMP's regrettable decision to close Manchester's Bootle Street Police station.

To call on the Council's Police Authority Representative to resign if the significant and measurable improvements he has promised are not evidenced in the next independent HMIC or Audit Commission inspections.

The amendment being put, the Council divided –

For the amendment (28)

Councillors Ashley, Boyes, Bridges, Chowdhury, Clayton, Commons, Cowan, Eakins, Dobson, Donaldson, Fisher, Glover, Grant, Helsby, Isherwood, Jones, Lewis, O'Connor, Pearcey, Ramsbottom, Ryan, Sandiford, Shannon, Shaw, Wheale, Whitmore, Lianne Williams and Lynn Williams.

Against the amendment (57)

Councillors Ali, Amesbury, Andrews, Barrett, J. Battle, R. Battle, Bracegirdle, Burns, Carmody, Chohan, Cooley, Cooper, Cowell, Cox, Curley, Evans, Fairweather, Fender, Flanagan, Green, Hackett, Harrison, Hassan, Hitchen, Karney, Keegan, Keller, A. Khan, Kirkpatrick, Leese, Longsdon, Lomax, Loughman, Lyons, McCulley, Morrison, M. Murphy, N. Murphy, P. Murphy, S. Murphy, E. Newman, S. Newman, O'Callaghan, Brian O'Neil, Pagel, Priest, Pritchard, Rahman, Royle, Siddiqi, Smith, Smitheman, Stevens, Swannick, Tavernor, Walters and Watson.

Abstaining (3) The Lord Mayor and Councillors Bhatti and Barbara O'Neil.

The Lord Mayor declared that the amendment was LOST.

The Motion then being put, the Council again divided -

For the Motion (86)

Councillors Ali, Amesbury, Andrews, Ashley, Barrett, J. Battle, R. Battle, Bhatti, Boyes, Bracegirdle, Bridges, Burns, Carmody, Chohan, Chowdhury, Clayton, Commons, Cooley, Cooper, Cowan, Cowell, Cox, Curley, Dobson, Donaldson, Eakins, Evans, Fairweather, Fender, Fisher, Flanagan, Glover, Grant, Green, Hackett, Harrison, Hassan, Helsby, Hitchen, Isherwood, Jones, Karney, Keegan, Keller, A. Khan, Kirkpatrick, Leese, Lewis, Lomax, Longsdon, Loughman, Lyons, McCulley, Morrison, M. Murphy, N. Murphy, P. Murphy, S. Murphy, E. Newman S. Newman, O'Callaghan, O'Connor, Brian O'Neil, Pagel, Pearcey, Priest, Pritchard, Rahman, Ramsbottom, Royle, Ryan, Sandiford, Shannon, Shaw, Siddiqi, Smith, Smitheman, Stevens, Swannick, Tavernor, Walters, Watson, Wheale, Whitmore, Lianne Williams and Lynn Williams.

Against the Motion (0)

Abstaining (2) The Lord Mayor and Councillor Barbara O'Neil

The Lord Mayor declared the Motion to have been CARRIED.

Decision

This Council recognises the importance and significance of recent reports by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary into the performance of Greater Manchester Police. This Council welcomes the response of the Chief Constable, his officers and Greater Manchester Police Authority in facing up to the challenges highlighted in these reports and the commitment to improving police performance for the benefit of Manchester people.

This Council Resolves -

1. To continue to work together with the police and our communities through the Manchester Crime Reduction Partnership and Neighbourhood Partnerships.
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3. To ask the City Council's overview and scrutiny process to investigate and report on good policing practice in Manchester, other Greater Manchester authorities and UK Core Cities, as a contribution towards improving police performance.
4. To request the Chair of the Manchester Crime Reduction Partnership, the Deputy Chief Executive (Performance) to undertake a process, through our Neighbourhood Partnerships, of consulting Manchester residents to assess their views and options on what they feel is needed to be done in order to improve policing in their neighbourhoods.

This Council recognises the hard work and achievements of Greater Manchester Police. We recognise that the Chief Constable, like the City Council, is resolved to reducing the numbers of victims of crime and anti social behaviour by engaging residents and other partners in the drive to improving services and performance.

CC/10/37 Motion – Getting Manchester Working

Motion made and seconded /-

Manchester's Labour Council is committed to Getting Manchester Working. We are determined that on the way out of recession, we will support Manchester residents into jobs and improve their skills to be able to take advantage of job opportunities in the future. Our Skills Pledge for our own staff includes the aim for all employees to have the opportunity to be skilled to level 2 and for 65% to be skilled to level 3 by

2015. As well as this we set a target of 300 apprenticeship post within the Council by the end of March 2010.

This Council notes:-

- 1150 staff are currently training for NVQs, and we are well on the way to achieving our target. We have not just met but have exceeded the apprenticeship target – there are now 484 people enrolled on apprenticeship frameworks within the council.
- Entry level jobs are now ringfenced for workless residents and young people – including young people in care. This is underpinned by pre-employment training and post-employment support to make sure individuals can access these opportunities and succeed in employment.

The Labour Government has prioritised employment for young people by creating the Future Jobs Fund – creating jobs for 18-24 year olds. In Manchester we have exceeded our target of having 200 people in these jobs by the end of March and have 228 people in employment – including 95 working as Public Services Trainees within the City Council.

Manchester City Council resolves to continue to lead by example. We will work with all our partners in the public and private sector to ensure that as many of our residents as possible have the opportunity to work and the support and skills to succeed.

Amendment moved and seconded /-

Add -

This Council further notes:

- . The Liberal Democrats welcome this motion and support the efforts of the Council to boost employment, especially amongst younger people.
- . That these efforts are in the face of a severe recession, where unemployment has risen by over 30% in the City over the last year.
- . That Manchester is severely limited in its available options to stimulate its own economy due to the centralised condition of the British economy.
- . That the vast majority of tax and public spending in Manchester is collected, ring-fenced and sent back to us by Whitehall.
- . That should Manchester have been in control of its own economy, we wouldn't have suffered as much during the recession and would be better placed for recovery.

This Council resolves to:

- . Unite its efforts in arguing for a massive transfer of both economic and political control from the political elite in Whitehall to local communities and authorities, where our taxes and spending decision should be collected and made.

The amendment being put, the Lord Mayor declared that it had been carried.

The substantive motion was then put and carried.

Decision

Manchester's Labour Council is committed to Getting Manchester Working. We are determined that on the way out of recession, we will support Manchester residents into jobs and improve their skills to be able to take advantage of job opportunities in the future. Our Skills Pledge for our own staff includes the aim for all employees to have the opportunity to be skilled to level 2 and for 65% to be skilled to level 3 by 2015. As well as this we set a target of 300 apprenticeship posts within the Council by the end of March 2010.

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This Council resolves to:

- . Unite its efforts in arguing for a massive transfer of both economic and political control from the political elite in Whitehall to local communities and authorities, where our taxes and spending decision should be collected and made.

CC/10/38 Motion – Greater Manchester Police and Police Authority

The Lord Mayor reported that this motion had been withdrawn by the proposer.

City Solicitor

Lord Mayor
Chair of the meeting