



Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 27th January 2010

Present:

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

Councillors Ali, Amesbury, Andrews, Ankers Ashley, Barnes, Barrett, J. Battle, R. Battle, Bethell, Bhatti, Boyes, Bracegirdle, Bridges, Burns, Cameron, Carmody, Chohan, Chowdhury, Clayton, Commons, Cooley, Cooper, Cowan, Cowell, Curley, Dobson, Donaldson, Eakins, Evans, Fairweather, Fender, Fisher, Flanagan, Glover, Grant, Green, 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, Parkinson, Pearcey, Priest, Rahman, Ramsbottom, Royle, Ryan, Sandiford, Shannon, Shaw, Smitheman, Swannick, Tavernor, Walters, Watson, Wheale, Whitmore and Lianne Williams.

Also Present : Honorary Aldermen William Egerton JP and Audrey Jones JP.

CC/10/1 Special Business introduced by the Lord Mayor.

The Lord Mayor reported that she had agreed to the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee held on 27th January, and the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21st January 2010, being submitted and considered as urgent business.

CC/10/2 Mrs Laura Franklin

The Lord Mayor said that it was with great sadness that she reported the death on 7th December 2009 of Mrs Laura Franklin, who served the city as Lady Mayoress in 1976/77, and also in supporting the work of Honorary Alderman Ken Franklin throughout his long service as a councillor over 46 years.

The members of the Council, officers, and visitors present at the meeting then stood briefly in silent reflection to mark her passing.

CC/10/3 National Holocaust Memorial Day

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that since 2001 Holocaust Memorial Day had been observed on this day around the world, and marks the day in 1945 that the concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by the Soviet Army. Council noted that the Deputy Lord Mayor was representing the Council at a Holocaust memorial event in the city. Each year, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust urges everyone in the UK to pause and reflect on what can happen when racism, prejudice and exclusionary behaviour are left unchecked, and to take the time to see how the lessons of the past can play a part in our communities today. On this occasion the Lord Mayor felt that it would be appropriate for her to read the Holocaust Statement of Commitment to remind members of the importance of remembering the victims and condemning persecution, racism and genocide.

Statement of Commitment

1. We recognise that the Holocaust shook the foundations of modern civilization. Its unprecedented character and horror will always hold universal meaning
2. We believe that Holocaust must have a permanent place in our nation's collective memory. We honour the survivors still with us, and reaffirm our shared goals of mutual understanding and justice.
3. We must make sure that future generations understand the causes of the Holocaust and reflect upon its consequences. We vow to remember the victims of Nazi persecutions and of all genocide.
4. We value the sacrifices of those who have risked their lives to protect or rescue victims as a touchstone of the human capacity for good in the face of evil.
5. We recognise that humanity is still scarred by the belief that race or religion or disability or sexuality makes people's lives worth less than others. Genocide, anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and discrimination still continue. We have a shared responsibility to fight these evils.
6. We pledge to strengthen our efforts to promote education and research about the Holocaust and other genocides. We will do our utmost to make sure that the lessons of such events are fully learnt.
7. We will continue to encourage Holocaust remembrance by holding an annual UK Holocaust Memorial Day. We condemn the evils of prejudice, discrimination and racism. We value a free, tolerant and democratic society

CC/10/4 Earthquake in Haiti

The Lord Mayor said that she was sure that all members would have been struck by the scale of human suffering in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti two weeks ago. She said that the death toll was horrendous and the initial humanitarian relief effort to provide the basics of food, clean water, shelter and healthcare for the survivors had tested the resources and capabilities of the international relief organisations to the full. She took the opportunity to express particular gratitude to those officers from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service who were deployed within hours of the earthquake and had worked tirelessly to rescue victims trapped in fallen buildings. The fact that trapped victims have been rescued because of their efforts was the best possible testimony there could be to their professionalism, dedication and bravery. There were of course other people from the city, and from this region, who were working directly for relief and other agencies and who were also playing their part in the aid effort, and she thanked them also and wished them well in their work.

The Leader of the Council endorsed these sentiments, and they were wholeheartedly supported by all members. The Leader referred to the immediate needs of providing urgent relief and assistance to the victims of this human catastrophe, and the longer term need to support the people of Haiti to rebuild their shattered country. He felt that the Disasters Emergency Committee's Appeal represented the best way for ordinary people to make financial donations with confidence that the Committee would ensure that funds raised went to approved agencies that were best placed to deliver effective and timely relief to those most in need.

CC/10/5 New Year's Honours

On a happier note the Lord Mayor said she was pleased to be able to report that a number of Mancunians had received recognition in the Queen's New Year Honours list, and that she had written to each to congratulate them on behalf of the City Council. They were –

As Commanders of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire – Professor Fiona Devine and Professor Maureen Wayman of the University of Manchester

As Members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire – Alan Brocksidge, Frank Hannah, Joan Phillips, Khan Moghal, Brenda Hunt and Kathleen Simpson.

The Lord Mayor said that former councillor Moghal's award was cited as being for services to community relations in Manchester, and those who knew of his commitment to the promotion of community cohesion in the city would know that it was justly deserved.

CC/10/6 Visitors

The Lord Mayor welcomed a group of pupils and staff from St Ambrose, Chorlton Park, Chorlton CoE, Brookburn, Barlow Hall, St John's and Oswald Road primary

schools in Chorlton who were attending the meeting. The Lord Mayor hoped that they had an enjoyable and useful visit.

CC/10/7 Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 2nd December 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor

CC/10/8 Proceedings of the Executive.

The proceedings of the Executive on 16th and 23rd December 2009 and 13th January 2010, were submitted, and the Council considered the following recommendations –

London Road Fire Station

To recommend the Council to increase the capital programme by up to £5.25m to cover the anticipated costs of acquisition including Stamp Duty Land Tax. This sum provides for all relevant costs and fees and assumes that VAT will be recoverable on the purchase price.

Decision

To approve an increase in the capital programme by up to £5.25m to cover the anticipated costs of acquisition including Stamp Duty Land Tax. This sum provides for all relevant costs and fees and assumes that VAT will be recoverable on the purchase price.

Urbis

To recommend to Council to increase the capital programme by £8m to be funded through the Capital Fund, in connection with the relocation of the National Football Museum to Urbis.

Decision

To approve an increase the capital programme by £8m to be funded through the Capital Fund, in connection with the relocation of the National Football Museum to Urbis.

CC/10/9 Questions to Executive Members under Procedural Rule 23.

The Executive Member for Arts and Leisure responded to a question from Councillor Commons regarding parking for visitors to Wythenshawe and Heaton Park.

The Executive Member for Arts and Leisure responded to a question from Councillor Lewis inviting Leisure Services to withdraw its support for the planning application for Chorlton Meadows.

The Leader of the Council then responded to a question from Councillor Ankers about the lodging of objections to the proposed development on or near Lancashire County Cricket Club that includes a supermarket that would be one of the largest in

the country, in view of the potential impact on nearby district centres like Chorlton and Hulme.

The Executive Members for the Arts and Leisure responded to a question from Councillor Ankers as to whether the Council is preparing a strategy or programme to replace Council leisure facilities, such as Chorlton or Levenshulme Leisure Centres, that have low satisfaction ratings and have reached the end of their useful life

CC/10/10 Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Council noted the Minutes of the following Committees –

Children and Young People – 8th December 2009 and 5th January 2010
Citizenship and Inclusion – 9th December 2009 and 6th January 2010
Communities and Neighbourhoods – 8th December 2009 and 5th January 2010
Economy, Employment and Skills – 9th December 2009 and 6th January 2010
Health and Well-being – 10th December 2009 and 21st January 2010
Resources and Governance – 10th December 2009 and 7th January 2010

CC/10/11 Proceedings of Committees.

Decision

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

b) To note the proceedings of the following meetings –

Audit Committee – 3rd December 2009 and 14th January 2010.
Employee Appeals Committee – 17 December 2009.
Licensing and Appeals Committee – 14 December 2009 and 18th January 2010.
Personnel Committee – 16th December 2009 and 13th January 2010.
Planning and Highways Committee – 17th December 2009 and 14th January 2010.
Standards Committee – 11th January 2010.

3 To agree that, for the period April 2010 to April 2011, day time and night time hackney carriage fares be increased by 1.96% in line with the previously agreed Halcrow Manchester Formula.

4 To agree that the night rate be applicable from 10.00 p.m. until 6.00 a.m. and the day rate be applicable from 6.00 a.m. until 10.00 p.m.

5 To refuse the request made by Network Rail to recover within the fare an increase in the barrier charge from 20p to 60p for journeys through Piccadilly station.

6 To agree that the table of fares be varied accordingly.

CC/10/12 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, and (c) Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority.

The Council's spokesperson on the Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority responded to a question put by Councillor Cowell about policies for the transport of bicycles on Metrolink trams. There was then a debate on the issue.

CC/10/13 Key decisions exempted from call-in.

Council noted a report of the City Solicitor.

CC/10/14 Motion – Council's on-going support to our military personnel

Motion made and seconded/-

This Council's support for our armed forces is well known, an example of which is the reception that we will shortly be holding in honour of service personnel in this city. Council would support a review of armed forces pay and conditions, and considers that their package should be comparable to those of other emergency services.

Decision

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CC/10/15 Motion - Manchester Heroes

Motion made and seconded/-

This Council wishes to acknowledge the fantastic efforts made by staff, partners and the local community in ensuring that the City operated as normally as possible throughout the recent cold weather conditions. Manchester people have shown once again that true grit was not only on the roads. At the council award ceremonies where staff and community achievement are celebrated we want to recognise our Manchester Heroes. We ask that nominations for these awards take into account the dedication and commitment shown during this difficult winter period. The Council instructs the Chief Executive to circulate our thanks and appreciation in Council publications including Manchester People and Ward Matters and to staff and our partners.

Amendment moved and seconded /-

This Council regrets the Council Leader's attack on headteachers. His attack was supported by Andrew Grimes but no other council leader in the country. Teachers also made fantastic efforts to reopen their schools in difficult circumstances. The Council notes that 80% of those voting in a MEN poll thought that the Council could have done more, and asks officers to do a full cost benefit analysis of what was done, and what more could be done in future to help Manchester's most vulnerable residents.

The amendment being put, the Council divided –

For the amendment (31)

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

Against the amendment (46)

Councillors, Amesbury, Andrews, Barnes, J. Battle, R. Battle, Bhatti, Bracegirdle, Burns, Carmody, Chohan, Cooper, Cowell, Curley, Evans, Fairweather, Fender, Flanagan, Green, 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, Priest, Rahman, Royle, Smitheman, Swannick, Tavernor, Walters and Watson.

Abstaining: The Lord Mayor.

The Lord Mayor declared that the amendment was lost.

The Motion was then put and carried unanimously.

Decision

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CC/10/16 Motion – High Pay Commission

Motion made and seconded -

This Council notes:

1. The widening gap between the highest paid and the median wage in the UK and Manchester over the past 12 years.
2. That narrowing the gap in Manchester by increasing the average of residents' wages has been and remains a priority for the City Council and the Manchester Partnership.
3. That some Executive remuneration has now reached excessive levels and action is needed to limit excessive pay awards and bonuses that are not based on merit.
4. That the top 0.1% of income earners (enough to fill Manchester City Stadium) have combined earnings of £33bn., or 4% of all UK earnings.
5. In 1997 a 'Low Pay Commission' was set up to tackle the problem of poverty wages to coincide with the introduction of the minimum wage.
6. The wide-ranging work being done in Manchester to improve the well-being of the lowest paid in the city, and, in particular, the introduction of the Manchester Minimum Wage; the support and development of credit unions; the introduction of the Helping Hands campaign to inform and help Manchester residents during the recession, and the ground-breaking Residents' Wages programme.

This Council believes that:

1. Income inequality, linked together with health inequality and poor housing undermines social cohesion and the efforts of the City Council and its partners to achieve the aims and objectives of a city where all citizens benefit from regeneration and have equal access to the wealth, employment and other opportunities which this brings.
2. We need a 'High Pay Commission' to launch a wide-ranging review of pay at the top. It should consider proposals to control the highest levels of remuneration such as maximum wage ratios and bonus taxation to provide the just society and sustainable economy we all want.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the establishment of a UK High Pay Commission as being compatible with the values and aims and objectives of Manchester City Council.
2. To lobby ministers to support the setting up of a UK High Pay Commission to help the Council's aims of improving the health, education, security and quality of life of Manchester residents.

Decision

This Council notes:

7. The widening gap between the highest paid and the median wage in the UK and Manchester over the past 12 years.
8. That narrowing the gap in Manchester by increasing the average of residents' wages has been and remains a priority for the City Council and the Manchester Partnership.

9. That some Executive remuneration has now reached excessive levels and action is needed to limit excessive pay awards and bonuses that are not based on merit.
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CC/10/17 Motion – Police Funding

Motion made and seconded –

Council notes:

1. That this years GMP budget is overspent by £5million. Training, recruitment and overtime budgets are being cut to balance the budget.
2. That 300 police officers will be lost through "natural wastage". The Police Federation are "very concerned" that "these cuts will affect services to the public"
3. That the Government funding formula has resulted in Greater Manchester Police losing £81.2million since 2002. This extra money, which in 2009/10 would amount to £15million, would fund over 500 permanent police officers, and allow positive improvements, like neighbourhood policing, to be rolled out more quickly.
4. During the same period, Surrey police have received an extra £56million from Government through the same funding formula.

Council resolves to lobby every MP in Greater Manchester and the Home Secretary, to support our campaign to change the police funding formula and get GMP's money back.

Amendment moved and seconded –

Delete all and substitute the following -

Council notes the following is inaccurate and misleading:

1. *That this years GMP budget is overspent by £5 million. Training, recruitment and overtime budgets are being cut to balance the budget.*
3. *That the Government funding formula has resulted in Greater Manchester Police losing £81.2 million since 2002. This extra money, which in 2009/10 would amount to £15 million, would fund over 500 permanent police officers, and allow positive improvements, like neighbourhood policing, to be rolled out more quickly.*
4. *During the same period, Surrey police have received an extra £56 million from Government through the same funding formula."*

Council recalls :-

1. The improvements in the effective management of Police Budgets by the Greater Manchester Police Authority and welcomes the more efficient use of financial, staff and other resources in reducing crime in the City. Manchester City Council at the city Region level with the Police Authority has successfully agreed with all Greater Manchester authorities, irrespective of political composition, a pioneering funding arrangement that has ensured that neighbourhood policing has been increased across Greater Manchester.
2. The success of the Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Partnerships in Manchester and notes the continuing commitment to neighbourhood policing. Whilst taking account of the concerns raised by the Manchester Police Federation we support the Chief Constable in his bid to reduce police red tape and bring more officers on to the front line which would bring an extra 200 officers to neighbourhood policing over and above the increases already made.
3. That the Manchester Liberal Democrats have constantly; a) opposed and criticised new legislation aimed at reducing crime and anti social behaviour in our communities, and b) failed to understand the budget processes of the Police authority, City Council and other local authorities in Greater Manchester

Council resolves to :-

1. Ask the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to take as an item the 2010/11 Greater Manchester Police Budget at their next meeting and invite the Chief Constable, his staff and members of the Police Authority to attend the meeting.
2. Continue, along with the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities and the Police Authority to make the case to Government for new and additional funding for policing in the city.

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

The amendment was then put and carried as the substantive motion.

Decision

Council notes the following is inaccurate and misleading:

1. *“That this years GMP budget is overspent by £5 million. Training, recruitment and overtime budgets are being cut to balance the budget.*
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City Solicitor

Lord Mayor
Chair of the meeting of the City Council