
OFFICERS: S. Rumbelow (Chief Executive), G. Hopper (Director of Children’s Services), D. Wilcock (Assistant Director – Legal, Governance, & Workforce), E. Newsome (Head of Governance), D. Brierley (Head of Communications), J. Francis (Neighbourhoods Directorate) and A. James (Resources Directorate)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 15 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Ali Ahmed, Shakil Ahmed, Boriss, Dale, Farnell, Holly, Meredith, Wazir and Zaman

MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS
11 The Mayor welcomed Councillors Besford, Massey and Wraighte to their first ordinary meeting of Council.

The Mayor informed Council that the partner of Councillor Meredith had given birth to a son, both mum and baby were doing well and the best wishes of Council were sent to the family.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
12 Declarations of interest were made as follows:-

Councillors Cocks, Dearnley, Massey, Rana and Taylor declared personal interests in the submitted Motion 3b).

Councillor Wraighte declared a pecuniary interest in the submitted motion 3c). She took no part in the debate or vote on the item.

MINUTES
13 The Mayor informed the Council that Minutes from the meeting held on 22nd May 2019 had been circulated and included within the Agenda pack for the meeting.
RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22nd May 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS
14 A question had been submitted by Mr Tony Heaford as detailed in the Agenda papers.

The Leader of the Council responded to the question and also provided Mr Heaford with a written answer.

NOTICES OF MOTION
15 a) It was moved by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Bamford that:

This Council notes that:
- on 8th October 2018, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emissions;
- the report warned that the risk of catastrophic climate change including extreme heat, drought, flooding and climate-related poverty would significantly increase unless global warming could be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C;
- the report authors found that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate and say that urgent and unprecedented action is required to meet the target.

Council recognises that the scale of the challenge is unprecedented. Approximately 97.5% of emissions within the borough are beyond the Council’s direct control, so everyone within the borough has a role to play if we are to successfully reduce emissions. Tackling climate change can only be a common endeavour and will require residents, businesses and other organisations to play their part.

This Council resolves to:
- declare a climate emergency;
- work towards ensuring that the borough is carbon neutral by 2050, in line with the Mayor and the Government’s targets. Achieving this will require significant investment and policy initiatives from the Government, and Council hopes it would be achieved earlier than 2050;
- work towards ensuring that the Council is carbon neutral by 2030, recognising the leadership role it has in the borough;
- develop a working group to support the Council move from declaration to delivery drawing in cross sector expertise, capacity and capability. The working group should draw on existing expertise within the
 borough as well as including residents who are representative of the borough as a whole;
• set in place a process of engagement and collaborative action that enables an action plan to be considered by Cabinet and Council in early 2020, based on achieving the aforementioned targets.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Blundell proposing an amendment to the target date for being carbon neutral to 2038.

The amendment to the motion was accepted by Councillor Kelly and Councillor Bamford and on being put to the vote, the motion as amended was declared to be carried and it was RESOLVED accordingly.

b) It was moved by Councillor Daalat Ali and seconded by Councillor Robinson that:

Due to high house prices and the lack of sufficient social housing, the proportion of people renting privately has doubled since 2004; half of 18-35s, 1 in 4 families with children, and growing numbers of older people now live in privately rented homes.

Most of England’s 11 million renters are on tenancies with fixed terms of six months or a year; after this period has ended, landlords can evict their tenants with just two months’ notice, without giving them a reason. These ‘no fault evictions’ were introduced under section 21 of the 1988 Housing Act; before this, renters had much greater security and it was difficult for landlords to evict tenants who paid the rent on time and looked after the property.

Evictions are the number one cause of homelessness. 80% of evictions are on no-fault grounds, and 63% of private renters who were forced to move in 2016 were evicted not due to any fault of their own but because the landlord wanted to sell or use the property.

Insecurity harms quality of life for tenants, with private renters less likely than either owners or people in council housing to say they know lots of people in their local area, but more worried that they will have to move within the next year. The threat of being evicted also gives landlords huge power over tenants, who may decide not to complain about disrepair, big rent increases or other problems in case they are kicked out.

In Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden (among other countries), tenancies are indefinite, meaning blameless tenants cannot be evicted from their homes.

In 2017, the Scottish government made tenancies indefinite and banned no-fault evictions under the terms of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016.
This council believes:

Abolishing section 21 would help to make renting more secure, improve standards, increase tenant confidence and ultimately contribute towards making renting a viable long-term alternative to home ownership or social rent for the millions who currently cannot access either.

Since insecure tenancies make it difficult for renters to complain and organise for their rights, removing section 21 would make it easier for new renter unions like the London Renters Union and ACORN to organise to defend their members.

This council resolves to:

Work with the Unfair Evictions Campaign led by Generation Rent, the New Economics Foundation, ACORN and the London Renters Union.

Requests that the Chief Executive write to our Members of Parliament requesting them to publicly state their support for the abolition of section 21 and make it a manifesto commitment.

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared to be carried and it was RESOLVED accordingly.

c) It was moved by Councillor Burke and seconded by Councillor O'Rourke that:

This Council believes buses are hugely important to accessing work, our communities, the services we need, and to a sustainable and environmentally healthy city.

Background:

- 80% of public transport journeys in Greater Manchester are done by bus;
- Bus deregulation happened in most places in the UK in the 1980s. It means that bus companies run whatever routes they like, charging what they like, with various ticketing structures. 140 types of tickets are available in Greater Manchester;
- A regulated network is how buses are in London and Jersey. In these cities a local transport authority sets prices, routes and develops standard ticketing systems. In London, Transport for London puts all bus routes out to tender and buys the service from a company;
- Regulation mean profits can be used to subsidise socially necessary services. It also allows a simple smart ticket system, with an automatic daily cap of spend, like the oyster card in London. Without regulation, a simple and single area-wide zonal ticket, with an automatic cap on spend (examples include London’s oyster card), is impossible;
- 76% of people in Greater Manchester want buses to be regulated, according to new polling;
• Bus journeys has declined by 40% in Greater Manchester since deregulation, while in London bus use has doubled since then. In Jersey, bus ridership has gone up by 32% in the last five years alone.

The alternative to bus regulation is ‘partnership’ which are voluntary agreements between bus companies and the local authorities.

This council believes that local government should have the ability to plan, join up and design the bus network in Greater Manchester, and compel bus companies to deliver certain standards. Our current bus network is far too vulnerable to instabilities as we have seen.

Therefore, this Council resolves to support the Better Buses for Greater Manchester campaign, which is calling for better, regulated buses.

This Council further requests the Chief Executive to write to Mayor Andy Burnham on the matter, expressing support for the campaign and welcome his and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority’s move towards creating a properly regulated system of busses in Greater Manchester.

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared to be carried and it was RESOLVED accordingly.

MEMBERS’ QUARTERLY REPORTS
16 Members presented their Quarterly Reports responding to questions and remarks from Members of the Council:-
• The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance;
• Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources;
• Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing;
• Cabinet Member for Planning, Development and Housing;
• Cabinet Member for Environment;
• Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business, Skills and Employment;
• Cabinet Member for Children’s Services;
• Cabinet Member for Adult Care;
• Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Community and Culture;
• Chair of Heywood Township Committee;
• Chair of Middleton Township Committee;
• Chair of Pennines Township Committee;
• Chair of Rochdale North Township Committee;
• Chair of Rochdale South Township Committee;
• Overview and Scrutiny Committees – Report of the Chairs;
• Update on the work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority;

RESOLVED:

1. That the reports be noted.
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

RESOLVED:

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2018-2019 be noted.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19
18 The Council considered the Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2018/19.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2018/19 be noted.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS
19 The Council considered the introduction of new values and behaviours. The Council recently commissioned the Local Government Association (LGA) to conduct a review of the current Values and Behaviours, contained within the ‘Rochdale Way’. Between November and December the LGA conducted a number of focus groups and one-to-one interviews and met with over 100 people including staff from across the Council & CGG, Elected Members, senior managers and Trade Union representatives. On the basis of this review, the LGA are recommending replacing the Rochdale Way with three new Values and associated Behaviours. The proposed values are: Proud, Passionate, Pioneering & Open.

The LGA have made some recommendations re ensuring these new values are implemented and embedded across the organisation which include communication, embedding into recruitment, induction, Personal Development Review (PDR), and training and development processes.

RESOLVED:

1. That the new values and behaviours be approved;

2. That the implementation suggestions from the LGA be accepted subject to some additional focus on implementing and embedding the new values, for example training on diversity and equalities.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER
20 The Council considered the appointment of the Chief Finance/Section 151 Officer.

RESOLVED:

1. That Julie Murphy be appointed as the Council’s Chief Finance/Section 151 Officer with effect from 18 July 2019.
AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION
21 The Council considered amendments to the Council Constitution following the Public Protection function and associated staff resource being transferred from the Public Health and Wellbeing Directorate to the Neighbourhoods Directorate.

The Council Constitution needs to reflect those changes to ensure that appropriate individuals have the relevant authority to act.

RESOLVED:

1. That the amendments to Part 3 of the Council Constitution (as highlighted in red in the appendix to the submitted report) be approved.

REVIEW OF AGMA CONSTITUTION
22 The Council considered a review of the AGMA Constitution. The GMCA Monitoring Officer has reviewed the AGMA Constitution following the changes to the GM Transport Governance arrangements and is recommending a series of associated changes to reflect the required revisions.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council notes the AGMA Executive Board & GMCA have agreed the amendments to the AGMA Constitution.

2. That the revised AGMA Constitution be approved.

3. That the GMCA substitute member (Councillor Rowbotham) be appointed as the substitute member for the AGMA Executive Board.