



Meeting of: Council
Date: Wednesday, 14th October, 2020
Time: 6.00 pm.
Venue: Zoom / YouTube

This agenda gives notice of items to be considered in private as required by Regulations 5 (4) and (5) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1	Mayor's Communications The Civic Mayor to make any appropriate announcements.	
2	Declarations of Interest Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary, personal or personal and prejudicial interests they may have and the nature of those interests relating to items on this agenda and/or indicate if S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.	
3	Apologies To receive any apologies for absence.	
4	Minutes To authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 July and 2 September 2020.	6 - 10
5	Public Questions and Petitions To receive petitions and questions from members of the public, where these have been received in accordance with the Petitions Scheme and/or Council Procedure Rules.	

6 Notices of Motion

To consider Motions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.

a) Birthing Unit

To be moved by Councillor Rana, seconded by Councillor Zaheer

Since the closure of the local Maternity Ward mothers from Rochdale have had to travel to Oldham or to North Manchester to give birth unless they opt for a home-birth. Home births are not a viable option for every family. This Council calls for the establishment of a one-bed Midwife-led Birthing Unit in Rochdale to enable a new generation of children to be born in Rochdale. A Midwife-led Birthing Unit for uncomplicated births would meet the needs of the community and go some way towards ensuring that most Rochdale women can give birth in their home town. This model has already been adopted successfully at Ingleside in Salford.

b) Recover, Retrain, Rebuild

To be moved by Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Burke

The Council notes the scheme announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24/09/2020 whereby the Job Retention Scheme in place since March 2020 and October 2020, where the Government covered 80% of wages if workers could not work due to Covid-19 will cease, and a new scheme where 22% of wages will be covered as long as at least one third of normal hours are worked.

The Council believes that while the Job Retention Scheme was a historic investment of taxpayers' money to avert widespread job losses, this massive, unprecedented investment will, essentially, go to waste as millions of people, including thousands in the Borough of Rochdale, who have suffered throughout the Covid-19 crisis, now face the very real prospect of unemployment as their jobs are not viable to return to at this moment in time under Covid-19.

This Council believes we need a strategy that focuses on recovering jobs, retraining workers and rebuilding our country. This strategy must involve:

- 1) A job Recovery Scheme that allows staff to work reduced hours, with the Government subsidising a proportion of wages for the rest of the week. The scheme should be designed to reward

companies who bring back more workers part-time, rather than bringing some back full-time and letting others go.

- 2) A nationwide Retraining Strategy for the unemployed and those facing unemployment. This strategy must help those whose hours have been cut to increase their skills to retrain, and enable people who have lost jobs to transition into new work.
- 3) A business Rebuilding Scheme which must give businesses, who have taken advantage of Government loan schemes, the payments for which start in March, the confidence and security that they will be able to continue operating past March 2021, or else a whole new set of businesses and workers may well be pushed back underneath them. The Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to revisit their scheme, work with business and trade unions and create one that will help our towns, borough and country recover, retrain and rebuild.

c) Council contacts

To be moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Paolucci

That the Council introduce a facility to offer all residents wishing to access the Council's services, the option of doing so by more traditional means, namely via the postal service and the telephone, alongside web access and e-mail links. This would also be included in all of the authority's marketing materials thereby ensuring that no one in the Borough is excluded from accessing Council services, especially the elderly and vulnerable, whose access to and understanding of the Internet may be more limited.

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| 7 | Non-attendance at meetings | 11 - 13 |
| | To consider the attached report seeking approval to temporarily waive the requirements of the 1972 Local Government Act. | |
| 8 | Overview and Scrutiny - Annual Report 2019/2020 | 14 - 22 |
| | To receive the annual report 2019/2020 of the Council's three Overview and Scrutiny Committees. | |

