

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday, 15th July 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Sheerin (the Mayor in the Chair); Councillors Ali Ahmed, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shakil Ahmed, Daalat Ali, Bamford, Besford, Beswick, Blundell, Boriss, Brett, Burke, Cocks, Dale, Davidson, Dearnley, Dutton, Susan Emmott, Emsley, Gartside, Hartley, Heakin, Holly, Howard, Hussain, Joinson, Kelly, Malcolm, Martin, Massey, McCarthy, Meredith, Mir, Nolan, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Paolucci, Rana, Rashid, Robinson, Rowbotham, Rush, Angela Smith, Susan Smith, Sullivan, Taylor, Wardle, Wazir, West, Donna Williams, Peter Williams, Winkler, Wraighte, Zaheer and Zaman.

OFFICERS: S. Rumbelow (Chief Executive), D. Wilcock (Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Workforce/Monitoring Officer), M. Garraway, A. James, N. Suleman and P. Thompson (Resources Directorate).

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sultan Ali, Neil Emmott, Farnell, Hornby and Nickson.

2 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reminded the Council of the recent death of former Mayor and Freeman of the Borough Brian Ashworth who passed away in April 2020. Members of the Council observed a period of silence in honour of his memory.

The Mayor also reminded the Council that Members, at a previous meeting, had debated Rochdale Boroughwide Housing's proposals for the 'Seven Sisters' high rise flats and the Lower Falinge housing schemes in central Rochdale. In this regard Members of the Council had signed a letter to Rochdale Boroughwide Housing on those proposals.

Resolved:

That a further report besubmitted to a future meeting of the Council updating members on Rochdale Boroughwide Housing's proposals for the 'Seven Sisters' high rise flats and the 'Lower Falinge' housing schemes in central Rochdale.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

4 MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of Council held 26th February 2020 and 18th March 2020 be approved and signed by the Mayor as correct records.

5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

There were no submitted questions or petitions.

6 NOTICES OF MOTION

- a. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Dearnley that:

“The Council expresses its sincere condolences to the families and friends of all those residents of the borough who have lost their lives to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Council agrees to investigate the creation of a permanent memorial to the victims in each of the borough's Townships. The Council also pays tribute to all those dedicated health workers, carers, council and emergency staff who have put their lives on the line protecting others. The Council also offers its heartfelt thanks to every volunteer across the borough who has supported the community response to the crisis and assisted our most vulnerable residents. Council also expresses its appreciation to all citizens of the borough for their sustained support for the various measures to prevent the spread of the virus.”

On being put the vote, the motion was carried and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

- b. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Malcolm and seconded by Councillor Blundell, that:

“This council recognises the unselfish actions of professional footballer Marcus Rashford. During the lockdown period this high profile 22 year old footballer supported a national charity Fareshare and supported them in fundraising.’

‘He raised £20 million which is a significant sum of money. Not content this was enough Marcus engaged with the Prime Minister and Parliament to continue the free school meals voucher scheme throughout the summer school holidays.

But what is more striking is that this has to happen in the first place. The Tory government, since taking office in 2010, has seen child poverty levels sky rocket. In 2020 Britain celebrities shouldn't have to put the government on the spot to ensure children are fed and healthy. In Rochdale we have been pioneers in this area through our Fit, Feed and Read scheme which gives access to a healthy meal, exercise and books in disadvantaged areas.’

‘Therefore, this council deplores the Tory government's record on child poverty and applauds Marcus Rashford's actions which will support children through this difficult period. We instruct the Chief Executive Officer to work with Councillor Malcolm and Councillor Blundell to engage with the Mayor of Greater Manchester to help roll out the borough's Fit, Feed and Read Scheme across Greater Manchester. We also instruct him to write to Marcus Rashford expressing the council's gratitude for his actions and to invite him to Rochdale to promote our scheme.”

On being put the vote, the motion was carried and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

- c. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Rana and seconded by Councillor Susan Smith, that:

“The Council demands that the Government fulfils its promise to fully reimburse the Authority its cost in fighting the Coronavirus pandemic, without which the Council's budget will be £26M overspent and our ability to provide mandatory education and essential social services in the future will be seriously impacted. The Council also calls on the Government to establish a full Public Inquiry into the UK response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Its terms of reference will inevitably be wide, covering such issues as the high incidence of deaths in care homes, the supply of essential PPE and the timing of the lockdown and it's easing. However, as Rochdale has a large minority ethnic population, the Inquiry must include the disproportionate impact the virus has had on the BAME population, the reasons and, more importantly, the actions required to remove the causes of this inequality.”

On being put the vote, the motion was carried and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

7 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Council was informed that the Monitoring Officer undertook regular reviews of its own Constitution to ensure that the content remained appropriate and any changes arising from organisational or legislative requirements were properly captured. Members of the Council had also identified a number of areas to be addressed as part of the review.

Changes relating to the Council's Executive (Cabinet) functions were able to be made by the Leader at any point in the year but changes to non-Executive functions could only be made following a resolution by the Council.

The current review looked at all elements of the Constitution and particular sections had been highlighted for a more in-depth review, the outcome of which would be reported to a future meeting of the Council.

Resolved:

1. That the Council adopts the following definition for Key Decisions:
An executive decision which, is likely –
 - a. To result in the local authority incurring expenditure over £500,000 which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates.
 - b. To be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority.

2. That Health and Wellbeing Board be disestablished to be replaced by the Strategic Place Board and the terms of reference be approved, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the submitted report.
3. That the revised terms of reference for the Integrated Commissioning Board be approved, as detailed at Appendix 3 of the submitted report.
4. That Tameside MBC be added to the Contract Procedure Rules within Part 4H of the Council's Constitution and following their joining STAR.

8 WAIVER OF SIX MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE (SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972)

The Council was required to consider and authorise any absence of Members from attendance at meetings in accordance with S85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Where a Member was unable to attend any meeting of the authority for a period of six consecutive months following the date of their last attendance, they automatically ceased to be a Member of the authority, unless Council has resolved to approve a reason for an extended absence.

Resolved:

That until 14th October 2020, Council agrees to waive the requirements for a Member to attend a council meeting under Sections 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 (including, in the case of members of the Executive, non-attendance at meetings of the Executive), on the grounds of the protection of the health of the residents of the borough or the health of the individual Members.

9 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMISSIONING

The Council was informed that the post of the Director of Strategic Commissioning will fall vacant in December 2020, following the retirement of the incumbent. Authority was therefore sought to appoint a replacement.

Resolved:

That the Council grants approval to the recruitment to the post of Director of Commissioning, within the existing Directors salary range of £100,004 to £128,686 per annum.

10 CABINET PORTFOLIO'S

The Mayor informed the Council that this item of business was to be withdrawn from the agenda.