

## COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**PRESENT:** Councillor Rashid (the Mayor in the Chair); Councillors Ali Ahmed, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shakil Ahmed, Daalat Ali, Sultan Ali, Bamford, Besford, Beswick, Blundell, Brett, Burke, Cocks, Dale, Davidson, Dearnley, Neil Emmott, Susan Emmott, Emsley, Faisal, James Gartside, Hartley, Heakin, Hussain, Kelly, Martin, Massey, Massey, McCarthy, Meredith, Nolan, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Paolucci, Rana, Rashid, Rowbotham, Rush, Sheerin, Smith, Smith, Smith, Sullivan, Wardle, Wazir, West, Williams, Winkler, Wraighte, Zaheer and Zaman

**OFFICERS:** S. Rumbelow (Chief Executive), A. Ibrahim (Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Workforce/Monitoring Officer), K. Gee (Neighbourhoods Directorate), M. Garraway, A. James and M. Taylor (Resources Directorate)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** 6 Members of the public.

#### 13 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anstee, Dutton, Holly, Hornby, Joinson, Mir, Nickson, Robinson, Taylor and Donna Williams.

#### 14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 15 MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

#### 16 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

There were no submitted questions or petitions.

#### 17 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule CP2, the Mayor advised that Agenda Item 7, Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document, would be considered first on the Agenda.

#### 18 PLACES FOR EVERYONE JOINT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT, 27/07/2021 CABINET

The Council was informed that following the withdrawal of Stockport Council from the production of the Greater Manchester Plan for Jobs, Homes & the Environment, the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, the AGMA Executive Board agreed to consider producing a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) of the nine remaining Greater Manchester (GM) districts.

Earlier this year, the 9 Councils approved the setting up of a Joint Committee

to progress the Joint Development Plan document, to be known as 'Places for Everyone'.

The report sets out the process that had been undertaken to date, the content of the plan and the next steps. Specifically the report sought approval to undertake a Regulation 19 consultation on the plan and, following that consultation, approval to submit the plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

The Motion as moved and seconded was then voted upon by means of a recorded vote.

Voting for the motion: Councillors Ali Ahmed, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shakil Ahmed, Daalat Ali, Sultan Ali, Blundell, Brett, Burke, Cocks, Dale, Neil Emmott, Susan Emmott, Faisal, Heakin, Hussain, Martin, Rachel Massey, Philip Massey, Meredith, Nolan, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Rana, Rowbotham, Rush, Susan Smith, Terry Smith, Wardle, West, Wazir, Peter Williams, Wraighte, Zaheer and Zaman.

Voting against the motion: Councillors Bamford, Besford, Beswick, Davidson, Dearnley, Emsley, Gartside, Hartley, Kelly McCarthy, Paolucci, Sheerin, Angela Smith, Sullivan, Winkler and Rashid.

Resolved:

That the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021 be approved for submission to the Secretary of State for examination following the period for representation

## 19 NOTICES OF MOTION

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Meredith and seconded by Councillor Nolan that:

"This Council is requested to send its thanks to the England team for bringing hope and unity to the Borough during Euro 2020 in what has been a tough year for everyone.

The Council recognises not only the achievement of this England team, performing better than any other men's football team since 1966, but we also recognise the professionalism and inclusivity of this squad of players, many of whom have shown their dedication to Britain through their personal charity work. Their actions on and off the pitch, have inspired millions across the nation.

The Council is in complete solidarity with those players facing abuse and discrimination, and utterly condemns any form of racism.

Rochdale is a borough that is known historically for its inclusivity and diversity and we are proud of this."

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

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Wraighte and seconded by Councillor Zaheer that:

“The Council is asked to note that women in public life - and especially women of colour - are routinely the targets of unacceptable behaviour and abuse, which is often aimed at silencing women's voices. The violence is never acceptable, and that those who serve the public should not have to carry out their work while being intimidated by thugs.

The Council is therefore asked to resolve:-

- i) To condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the recent arson attack on the Leader of Oldham Council, Councillor Arooj Shah.
- ii) To continue to work alongside the police and criminal justice system, in our own Borough, to protect victims and prevent violence and harassment.
- iii) To instruct the Chief Executive of Rochdale Council to see what more we can do, as a Council, to tackle attitudes that foster gender based abuse and violence and to write to the Chief Executive and Leader of Oldham Council to make clear that we stand in solidarity with them against this attack, and that we will fully support Oldham Council and its Leader on this issue in any way we can.”

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

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Dale that:

“This Council notes that there is overwhelming scientific evidence that masks help prevent the spread of Covid-19. The council also notes the 'Delta' variant of Covid-19 is currently increasing across the country.

In light of this, the council urges the government to reverse its decision to drop the mandatory mask mandate that has kept the public safe for the last year.

The council is requested to authorise the Chief Executive to write to the government to make this position clear.”

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

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Dearnley and seconded by Councillor Sullivan that:

“This council believes that planning works best for local residents when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes and related infrastructure. It therefore supports the right of communities to be able to engage easily in the planning process by:

- i) The full use of digital technology.
- ii) Participation in the making of neighbourhood plans.

iii) Maintaining the rights to object to individual planning applications and where they meet the threshold, their concerns to be heard at the relevant planning committee to ensure we continue with a fair and democratic process.”

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Davidson and in accordance with Procedure Rule CP12 this was accepted by Councillor Dearnley and Councillor Sullivan.

Therefore, the substantive motion became:

“This Council notes:

The publication by Government of the White Paper, ‘Planning for the Future’ on 6 August 2020, which set out proposals on reforms to the planning process for the future.

That the vast majority of planning applications are given the go ahead by local authority planning committees, with permission granted to around 9 out of 10 applications.

That research by the Local Government Association has said that there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.

This Council is concerned that the proposals seek to:

1. Reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them.
2. Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as ‘for growth’.
3. Remove section 106 payments for infrastructure and their replacement with a national levy.

This Council Believes:

That existing planning procedures, as currently administered by our own team in Rochdale, allow for local democratic control over future development, and give local people a say in planning proposals that affect them.

That proposals for automatic rights to build in ‘growth’ areas, and increased permitted development rights, risk unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.

That local communities must be in the driving seat on shaping the future of their communities, and local determination of the planning framework and planning applications play an important part in this process.

That existing planning procedures, as currently administered by our own team in Rochdale, allow for local democratic control over future development, and give local people a say in planning proposals that affect them.

That proposals for automatic rights to build in 'growth' areas, and increased permitted development rights, risk unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.

That Local communities must be in the driving seat on shaping the future of their communities, and local determination of the planning framework and planning applications play an important part in this process.

That planning works best for local residents when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes and related infrastructure. It therefore supports the right of communities to be able to engage easily in the planning process by:

- i) The full use of digital technology.
- ii) Participation in the making of neighbourhood plans.
- iii) Maintaining the rights to object to individual planning applications and where they meet the threshold, their concerns to be heard at the relevant planning committee to ensure we continue with a fair and democratic process.

This Council resolves to:

Write to and lobby both of our Members of Parliament, urging them to oppose these proposals and to circulate their replies to members.

Highlight its concerns over these proposals with the public and local residents.”

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

## **20 MEMBER APPOINTMENTS**

The Council was informed of the results of a review of the political balance of the Council and advised of the necessary changes to the appointments to committees.

Resolved:

1. That Councillor McCarthy be appointed to the Planning and Licencing Committee in place of Councillor Nolan;
2. That the amendments to appointments to Committees, shadow Portfolio's and outside bodies be noted.

## **21 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The Council were informed that the current Director of Children's Services will be retiring from the Council at the end of July 2021. The role also incorporates the statutory function of the Director of Children's Services. The Council was required to appoint a Council officer to discharge this statutory function.

Resolved:

1. That Sharon Hubber be appointed as the Council's Director of Children's Services in accordance with Section 6 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 with effect from 23rd August 2021;

2. That Julia Hassall (Assistant Director Children's Social Care) be appointed as Interim Director of Children's Services between 1st August and the date of Sharon Hubber's appointment.

## **22 MEMBERS' QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Members presented their Quarterly Reports responding to questions and remarks from Members of the Council:-

- The Leader of the Council;
- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health;
- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability;
- Cabinet Member for Economy and Communications;
- Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate;
- Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Wellbeing;
- Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education;
- Cabinet Member for Communities and Cooperation;
- Cabinet Member for Environment and Facilities;
- Cabinet Member for Highways and Housing;

Resolved:

That the reports be noted.