

Minutes of: THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BURY

Date of Meeting: 17 December 2008

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor P Ashworth) in the Chair;
Councillors I Ahmed, D M Ashworth, K Audin, R L Baum, C A Berry, R A Bibby, D B Bigg, D Boden, K S Briggs, R C A Brown, J Byrne, W A Campbell, D M Cassidy, S Cohen, M Connolly, S Costello, Y Creswell, A J Cummings, M D'Albert, V D D'Albert, W J Davison, A S Garner, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, M Hankey, J Harris, D M Higgin, T Holt, S Hurst, A Isherwood, S P Mangnall, A K Matthews, D O'Hanlon, S P Penketh, T D Pickstone, P H Redstone, K Rothwell, J Smith, B J Sullivan, J W H Taylor, B Theckston, B Vincent, R E Walker, J F Walton, M J Wiseman, S D Wright and Y S Wright

Apologies for absence: Councillors F A Chaudhry and A J Garner

Public attendance: 24 members of the public attended the meeting

C.519 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) Councillor Holt declared a personal interest in the Notice of Motion relating to the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, as an employee of Royal Mail. (Minute C.526(A) below).
- (b) Councillors Ahmed, Bigg, Cummings, Harris and Hurst all declared personal interests as Governors of schools included in the consultations on the 'Future of Secondary Learning – Strategy for Change.' (Minute C.522 below).

C.520 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C.521 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Worshipful the Mayor informed the Council of the recent death of former Councillor Donal Hamer. Mr Hamer had served on the Bury County Borough Council during the late 1960s and early 1970s representing Elton Ward. The condolences of the Council had been sent to his family.

The Council stood in silence in remembrance of former Councillor Hamer.

The Mayor also offered his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all those present at the meeting.

C.522 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Written notice had been given of eight questions, seven of which related to the 'Future of Secondary Learning – Strategy for Change' and the implications for future secondary education in Radcliffe. The eighth question related to the regeneration of Radcliffe.

The questions had been received from Gillian Stainthorpe, Andrea Smethurst, Karen Hopwood, Nicole Uren, Barbara Ross, Simon Doodson, Paul Evans and Margaret Wild.

The Leader and the Executive Member for Children and Young People answered the questions.

An undertaking was given that the questioners would be provided with a written version of the answers given at the meeting.

C.523 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

(a) Minute EX.476 of the meeting of the Executive held on 3 December 2008 – Revised Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) Proposal

Councillor Bibby moved and Councillor Creswell seconded that the wishes of the electorate across Greater Manchester as expressed in the Referendum held on 11 December 2008, be honoured.

On being put, with no Councillor voting against, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the motion be approved and adopted.

(b) Minute EX.477 of the meeting of the Executive held on 3 December 2008 – Nomination for the Office of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2009/2010

It was moved by Councillor Bibby and seconded by Councillor Creswell, that Councillor Sheila Magnall be nominated for the Office of Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Bury for the Municipal Year 2009/2010.

On being put, with no Councillor voting against and Councillor Magnall abstaining, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the nomination be approved and adopted.

C.524 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the answering of questions 1 and 2 below from Councillors Campbell and Cummings since the answers contained exempt information.

C.525 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND EXECUTIVE QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R A Bibby, made a statement on the work of the Executive since the date of the last Council meeting.

The Leader and the relevant Executive Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:-

(a) Written Questions (four clear working days' notice given)

No	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Contract for the purchase of the site for Radcliffe Riverside School (EXEMPT INFORMATION)	Councillor Campbell	Councillor Bibby
2.	1. Marketing of sites associated with Radcliffe Riverside School. 2. Land values and resources available for the new school (EXEMPT INFORMATION)	Councillor Cummings	Councillors D Ashworth and Bibby
3.	1. Proposed re-siting of the Derby School – transport for pupils 2. Secondary school places in Bury East	Councillor Smith	Councillor D Ashworth
4.	Provision of public toilets in Radcliffe Town Centre	Councillor Briggs	Councillor Gunther
5.	Quality of recyclable materials in blue bins over last 4 quarters	Councillor S Wright	Councillor Gunther
6.	1. Winter road gritting policy – reduction in vehicle useage 2. Compacted snow on pavements	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Gunther

No	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
7.	1. Capacity of the Council to keep traffic flowing after snowfalls 2. View of the Economy, Environment and Transport Scrutiny Commission	Councillor Costello	Councillor Gunther
8.	Council's policy on replying to correspondence from the public	Councillor Baum	Councillor Creswell
9.	Attendance of a representative of Six Town Housing at Prestwich LAP meetings	Councillor V D'Albert	Councillor Gartside
10.	Former Council houses being considered for re-acquisition	Councillor Boden	Councillor Gartside
11.	Expenditure on external consultants	Councillor M D'Albert	Councillor Redstone
12.	Staffing levels – Child Psychologists	Councillor A S Garner	Councillor D Ashworth
13.	Management of trees in the Borough	Councillor O'Hanlon	Councillor Gunther
14.	Postponement of the Employee Achievement Awards 2009	Councillor Holt	Councillor Walton
15.	Safeguarding of Vulnerable Children in the Borough	Councillor Boden	Councillor D Ashworth
16.	Staffing levels – Child Protection Officers and Education Welfare Officers	Councillor Rothwell	Councillor D Ashworth
17.	Progress of the Pimhole Regeneration Scheme	Councillor Byrne	Councillor Gartside
18.	Redevelopment of Radcliffe Town Centre	Councillor Isherwood	Councillor Gartside
19.	Additional car parking in Whitefield Town Centre	Councillor Audin	Councillor Gunther
20.	Disposal of Huntley House	Councillor Cassidy	Councillor Gartside
21.	Introduction of residents only parking – Mosses area	Councillor Connolly	Councillor Gunther
22.	Use of Croft Lane, Hollins by heavy goods vehicles	Councillor Grimshaw	Councillor Gunther

Due to a lack of time to answer questions 8 to 22 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of the answers would be circulated to all Councillors

(b) Oral Questions on the work of the Executive since the last Council meeting (Without Notice)

No	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
23.	Revised TIF Proposal – expenditure on ‘Yes’ campaign in the Referendum	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Bibby
24.	Review of Residential Accommodation – Reason for consultations	Councillor Smith	Councillor Bibby
25.	Pay and Grading Review – Lack of Government funding	Councillor Baum	Councillor Bibby
26.	Projected overspend on Adult Care Services	Councillor Connolly	Councillor Bibby
27.	Pay and Grading Review – Trauma caused to staff	Councillor V D’Albert	Councillor Bibby
28.	Pay and Grading Review – Support for affected employees	Councillor Holt	Councillor Bibby
29.	Child Protection – Attendance at recent Conference	Councillor Byrne	Councillor Bibby

C.526 NOTICES OF MOTION

Two Notices of Motion had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12. A further Motion had been submitted by Councillors Byrne and Creswell relating to the decision of Newsquest to close down its facilities in Bury, which the Mayor agreed could be considered at this meeting as urgent business.

(A) Sustainable Communities Act 2007

It was moved by Councillor Boden and seconded by Councillor Matthews that the following Motion be approved:-

“That this Council:

- 1(a) Having consistently supported the Local Sustainable Communities Bill on its passage through Parliament
 - (b) And noting that the Sustainable Communities Act is now on the Statute Book and that the Act’s processes have now been activated
 - (c) Noting also that, in order to use the processes of the Act to defend local community resources such as post offices, it is necessary for the Council to formally resolve to use the process and to submit proposals to do so to Government via the Local Government Association.
2. Accordingly resolves:
To use the Sustainable Communities Act Process, submitting proposals to do so to Government via the Local Government Association in accordance with the invitation to do so from the Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 14 October 2008.
 3. And is minded to:
Consider how the processes of the Act might be used in the first instance to sustain the local post office network.”

In the names of Councillors Campbell, Isherwood, Cummings, Grimshaw, Holt, Matthews, Briggs, Cassidy, Boden, Rothwell, Audin, Chaudhry, Connolly, Byrne.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Bibby and seconded by Councillor Creswell to the effect that:-

Paragraphs 1a and 1b remain unchanged.

Paragraph 1c – delete the reference to Post Offices

Paragraph 2 remains unchanged.

Paragraph 3 – delete and replace with:

“That this Council, in accordance with the principles and spirit of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, undertakes a public consultation through Local Area Partnerships to develop proposals that can be adopted by the Council and sent to the Local Government Association in good time to meet the July 2009 deadline for responses.”

The amendment, on being put, 33 voted for, 14 against with the Mayor and Councillor Holt abstaining, was declared carried.

The substantive Motion on being put, 47 voted for, none against, with the Mayor and Councillor Holt abstaining, was declared carried.

(b) Local Government Settlement

It was moved by Councillor Baum and seconded by Councillor Pickstone that the following Motion be approved:-

“This Council notes that the Formula Grant Settlement given to Bury Council from the government is below 2.6% this year.

Council further notes that this figure is below the average for all-England (2.84%), and below the average for Metropolitan Areas (2.88%). It is significantly below the average for the North West (3%).

Council recognises the fact that this below-average settlement will further widen the gap between the resources and services available for the people of Bury, and those available elsewhere in the country.

Council deplores the fact that such a settlement will increase the chances of further cuts in services or increases in Council Tax, at a time of economic hardship for our citizens and after years of service cuts and tax rises.

Council resolves to ask all Group Leaders and local MPs to join in an all-party approach to Government urging them to give the people of Bury a fair deal by giving a share of the Formula Grant at least equal to comparable Authorities”.

In the names of Councillors Baum, M D’Albert, V D’Albert, Davison, A J Garner, A S Garner, O’Hanlon, Pickstone and S Wright.

On being put, 49 voted for, none against with no abstentions, the Motion was declared carried.

(c) Urgent Business – Newsquest decision to close down the Bury Times and relocate to Bolton

It was moved by Councillor Byrne and seconded by Councillor Creswell that the following Motion be approved:-

“This Council expresses its anger and dismay at the decision by Newsquest to close down its facilities in Bury. An operation based in Bolton will not give proper respect and coverage to events and issues relative to the people of Bury. Furthermore, this Council records its disgust at the haste of this decision and Newsquest’s contempt for any meaningful discussion or consultation with its employees and other concerned parties.”

On being put, 49 voted for, none against and with no abstentions, the Motion was declared carried.

C.527 SCRUTINY REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS ‘CALLED IN’ BY SCRUTINY COMMISSIONS

There were no Scrutiny Review Reports or specific items ‘called in’ by Scrutiny Commissions to be considered at this Council meeting.

C.528 JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS

- (a) Councillor Creswell, the Council’s representative on the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority gave a verbal report on the work of that Joint Authority to Members of the Council present at the meeting.
- (b) The nominated Spokespersons, as indicated below, answered the following written questions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2:-

No	Joint Authority and Questioner	Issue	Answered by (and action)
1.	Greater Manchester Police Authority Councillor S Wright	1. Police Authority vehicles allocated to civilian staff members. 2. Risk assessments on Police vehicles use	Councillor Walker
2.	Greater Manchester Police Authority Councillor O’Hanlon	The number of prosecutions and convictions in the last 3 years resulting in fatalities involving Police and non-Police vehicles.	Councillor Walker
3.	Greater Manchester Fire and Civil Defence Authority Councillor O’Hanlon	Effectiveness of arson prevention measures	Councillor Walton

C.529 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no written questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships on which the Council is represented, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

C.530 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no written questions asked on the delegated decisions of the Committees or Scrutiny Commissions contained in the Digest of Decisions 7 (2008/2009).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(NOTES: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 10.10 pm)