

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 25 November 2020

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor T Pickstone, in the Chair) Councillors J Black, S Briggs, R Caserta, R.Cathcart, P Cropper, T Cummings, C Cummins, J Daly, I Gartside, R Gold, J Grimshaw, D Gunther, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, T Holt, S Hurst, K Hussain, D Jones, N Jones, G Keeley, O Kersh, K Leach, J Mason, G McGill, A McKay, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, M Powell, A Quinn, T Rafiq, I Schofield, D Silbiger, A Simpson, L Smith, M Smith, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, C Tegolo, D.Vernon, R Walker, S Walmsley, C Walsh, M Whitby, S Wright and Y Wright

Apologies for Absence K Thomas

Public Attendance: Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and government guidance in respect of social distancing the meeting was held virtually and streamed live on the Council's website.

C. 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made at the meeting in relation to items on the agenda:

1. Councillor Quinn declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as his son and daughter work for the NHS, CAB and he is a member of the Trade Union, Unite.
2. Councillor Simpson declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as an NHS employee.
3. Councillor S. Wright declared a personal interest all matters under consideration as his wife works for a school in the Borough.
4. Councillor Leach declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as an NHS employee.
5. Councillor Tariq declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as he is an employee of Healthwatch and a Member of Unite the Union.
6. Councillor Y Wright declared a personal interest in the item relating to GMSF as she is a member of Bury Folk.
7. Councillor I Gartside declared a personal interest in the item relating to GMSF as he is a member of Bury Folk.

8. Councillor Gold declared a personal interest in any item relating to business grants as he is the sole company director and also has a part time business. Neither of which qualify for support.

9. Councillor Cathcart declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as a member of Unite the Union.

10. Councillor McGill declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as a member of Unite the Union.

11. Councillor L Smith declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as her partner is employed by the NHS.

C. 2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 9 September 2020 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C. 3 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Worshipful the Mayor reported that two of the Towns' residents had been awarded honours in the Queens' Birthday Honours list;

Peter John Harding from Whitefield awarded an MBE for services in his role as a Team Member at TalkTalk to Critical National Infrastructure during the Covid 19 response;

Vajid Mahmood from Bury awarded an MBE for services to the NHS during Covid 19 as PPM Strategy and Implementation Lead at NHS England and NHS Improvement.

The Mayor reported that the 4 December 2020 is Dementia Awareness Day organised by the Alzheimer's Society which is better known as 'Elf Day'. Officers from the Older Adults Staying Well Team will be walking from Ramsbottom to Prestwich to raise awareness and funds.

The Mayor expressed his honour in laying a wreath at both Bury and Prestwich Cenotaphs and thanked those Councillors and other organisations that laid their own wreaths as a mark of respect for the fallen.

The Mayor advised that item 8 on the agenda relating to GMSF would not be moved by the Leader at this meeting and that consideration of the GMSF will be deferred to a future meeting of the Council.

C. 4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of the following 26 questions:

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1.	GMSF	Ms H Lees	Councillor E O'Brien

2.	GMSF	Mr P Rochford	Councillor E O'Brien
3.	GMSF	Ms L Holland	Councillor E O'Brien
4.	GMSF	Mr A Gildea	Councillor E O'Brien
5.	GMSF	Mr A Cross	Councillor E O'Brien
6.	GMSF	Mr M Williams	Councillor E O'Brien
7.	GMSF	Ms R Fallon	Councillor E O'Brien
8.	GMSF	Ms C Birchmore	Councillor E O'Brien
9.	GMSF	Mr G Staple-Jones	Councillor E O'Brien
10.	GMSF	Mr S Cluer	Councillor E O'Brien
11.	GMSF	Ms J Sheppard	Councillor E O'Brien
12.	GMSF	Mr C Smith	Councillor E O'Brien
13.	GMSF	Mr C Heaton	Councillor E O'Brien
14.	GMSF	Mr A Drury	Councillor E O'Brien
15.	GMSF	Ms B Wilkinson	Councillor E O'Brien
16.	GMSF	Ms K Cameron	Councillor E O'Brien
17.	GMSF	Mr G Booth	Councillor E O'Brien
18.	GMSF	Ms L Swyers	Councillor E O'Brien
19.	GMSF	Ms C Bowdler	Councillor E O'Brien
20.	GMSF	Ms J Darbyshire	Councillor E O'Brien
21.	GMSF	Ms A Daisley	Councillor E O'Brien
22.	GMSF	Mr P Cooke	Councillor E O'Brien
23.	GMSF	Ms J Duckworth	Councillor E O'Brien
24.	GMSF	Ms M Holder	Councillor E O'Brien
25.	GMSF	Ms J Holt	Councillor E O'Brien
26.	GMSF	Ms M Walsh	Councillor E O'Brien

C. 5 BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Tariq and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Council's response, as part of the preliminary period reviewing the number of councillors, to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed;

That authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive to submit the response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, making any minor amendments as required for submission.

C. 6 BURY CONSTITUTION AND MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That: Council notes the:

1. Work of the Democratic Arrangements Forum in reviewing the Constitution and proposing revisions in line with the Technical Review to ensure legal compliance;
2. Member Survey results set out at section 4 of this report;
3. Work of the Member Development Group in recommending a new Member Development Strategy.
4. Work to update Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules and Council to agree to delegate authority to agree future revisions to the Audit Committee.
5. New Part 3 Section 6 – Additional Arrangements which sets out the role of the DAF and the Independent Remuneration Panel.
6. New Part 7 – Cabinet Portfolios, membership of committees and the Council's Management Structure which will be a useful guide to who does what.

That: Council agrees to adopt the:

7. Contents and Part 1 - Introduction to the Constitution at Annex 1;
8. Revised Part 2 - Articles at Annex 2;
9. Revised Part 3 Section 1 Council Functions at Annex 3 and the Local Choice Functions described at paragraph 12.1 of this report;
10. Revised Part 3 (Sections 3, 4 and 5) Responsibility for Committee, Cabinet and Scrutiny Functions at Annex 4 including a new definition of key decision; a new Employment Panel, Licensing Hearings Sub-Committee and Safeguarding Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
11. Proposal that Committees comprise 9 (Audit and Standards) or 11 members.
12. Revised Part 3 - Officer Scheme of Delegation at Annex 5;
13. Revised Part 4 - Council Procedure Rules (Standing Orders) at Annex 6;
14. Revised Part 4 - Cabinet Procedure Rules at Annex 7;
15. Revised Part 4 - Scrutiny Procedure Rules at Annex 8;
16. New Part 5 - Public Guidance Protocol at Annex 9;
17. Covid-19 Interim Arrangements at Annex 10;
18. Member Development Strategy 2020/23 set out at Annex 11 ;

That Council agrees to:

19. Implement the proposed changes to the Constitution in two phases with Parts 1,2 4,5 and 7 coming in to force on 1 January 2021 and changes to Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions (Committee Terms of Reference) save for new Audit Committee terms of reference , coming into force at the annual council meeting in May 2021.
20. Authorise the Interim Monitoring Officer to publish a final version of the Constitution (removing track changes, correct numbering, editing or formatting errors) and including the minor updates to Part 3: Council and Local Functions described at paragraph 12.1 and the Access to Information Rules described in paragraphs 13.6 and 13.9, with a version history, Glossary and Index.
21. Request a DAF review of the Overview and Scrutiny function in early 2021 to ensure better alignment with corporate priorities and partnership arrangements.

C. 7 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Meeting of Licensing and Safety Panel 15 October 2020 – Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy

It was moved by Councillor Walmsley and it was seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was;

RESOLVED:

That Council agree to adopt the Licensing Policy as outlined in the report

Meeting of Cabinet – October 2020 – Corporate Plan

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and it was seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was;

RESOLVED:

That Council agree to adopt the Corporate Plan as outlined in the report.

C. 8 GMSF

Not moved

C. 9 JOINT AUTHORITIES - REPORT BY THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS

- (a) The Council received a report from Councillor Gold on the work of TFGM.
- (b) The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure rules 11.2

NO	ISSUE	QUESTIONER	ANSWERED BY
1	Wi-fi provision on the Metrolink	Cllr Powell	Cllr Gold

2	Suspension of the no 90 Bus	Cllr S Wright	Cllr Gold
3	Effect of lockdown restrictions on recycling and waste disposal rates	Cllr Tegolo	Cllr Quinn

C. 10 UPDATE ON COMBINED AUTHORITY ACTIVITY

The Council received a report from Councillor O'Brien providing details of the work of the Combined Authority.

C. 11 REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY

The Council received a report providing details of decisions made using the Council's Constitutional urgency provisions.

C. 12 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No questions were asked on the delegated decisions made by the Regulatory Committees and Scrutiny Committees published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council.

C. 13 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

No questions were asked on the work of Outside Bodies or Partnerships since the last ordinary meeting of the Council.

C. 14 LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written questions (Notice given)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor O'Brien made a statement on the work undertaken by him since the date of the last Council meeting.

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

NO	ISSUE	QUESTIONER	ANSWERED BY
1	Ramsbottom Town Plan	Cllr Gold	Cllr O'Brien
2	Pop up cycle lane in Prestwich	Cllr S Wright	Cllr L Smith
3	Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework	Cllr Cathcart	Cllr O'Brien
4	Residents' parking schemes	Cllr Powell	Cllr L Smith
5	Brownfield First	Cllr Hayes	Cllr O'Brien
7	Business grants	Cllr Walmsley	Cllr Black
8	School closures since September	Cllr Powell	Cllr Tariq
9	Support for Rough Sleepers	Cllr McGill	Cllr Cummins
10	Greenbelt loss relating to GMSF	Cllr S Wright	Cllr O'Brien

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 6, and 11 to 14 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be available on the Council Web Site.

(b) Verbal questions

NO	ISSUE	QUESTIONER	ANSWERED BY
1	High School in Radcliffe	Cllr Cathcart	Cllr Tariq
2	Effect of Council budget savings on front line service provision	Cllr Powell	Cllr O'Brien
3	Thanks for Young Peoples' support during pandemic	Cllr Holt	Cllr O'Brien
4	Vacant commercial units across the Borough	Cllr Y Wright	Cllr E O'Brien
5	Implications of Covid on Council Tax Bills	Cllr Morris	Cllr O'Brien
7	Closure of the Borough's Civic Suites	Cllr S Wright	Cllr O'Brien
8	Additional Restrictions Grant for small businesses	Cllr Vernon	Cllr O'Brien

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Notes: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.30 pm)