

Minutes of: **JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS**

Date of Meeting: 5 February 2025

Present: Councillor G, McGill (in the Chair)
Councillors G McGill, R Bernstein, D Berry, L McBriar,
S Thorpe, D Duncalfe and L Smith

Also in attendance: Dierdre Quayle (NASUWT Representative), Karen Hopwood (NASUWT Representative), Joanne Burns (NASUWT Representative), Helena Thom (NASUWT Representative), Neil Kissock Director of Finance, Stephen Holden Director of Education and Skills, Simon Bagley Head of Human Resources

Public Attendance: No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor J Southworth, Jeanette Richards Executive Director (Children and Young People) Phil Herd (Finance Business Partner CYP) Paula Evans (NEU Representative)

104 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies of absence are listed above.

105 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McGill declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration in view of his wife holding a role as an NEU Trade Union representative in Rochdale.

106 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed:

1. The minutes of the meeting on 11th December 2024 be approved as a correct record.

107 ANNUAL HRA BUDGET 2025/26 & RENT SETTING

Councillor Thorpe gave a brief overview of the Annual Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget. He expressed that this is the first budget to include Six Town Housing back into the council, with a focus on tenant engagement and improving the tenant experience.

There was a discussion which highlighted how the living conditions of students are impacted by these changes and that this budget is looking positive to be able to provide the best conditions for students living and being educated within the borough..

It was agreed that:

- The report be noted

108 THE COUNCIL'S 2025/26 REVENUE BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) FOR 2026/27 THROUGH TO 2027/28

Councillor Thorpe, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation gave an overview of the Council's 2025/26 Revenue Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2026/27 through to 2027/28. Councillor Thorpe, gave thanks to Neil Kissock, Director of Finance and his service for producing the documents presented before the Committee.

Members were advised that the reports are based on many variables including income through Council Tax, Fees and Charges and other Grant monies available. Members were given an overview of budget saving measures, such as the dimming of street lighting and parking charges and Councillor Thorpe gave assurances to members that staff will aim to mitigate challenges as they inevitably arise.

He also discussed the two types of savings: cuts and changes to services, and transformational changes aimed at improving service delivery without negatively impacting residents. The importance of investing in technology and people to achieve these savings was emphasized.

Councillor Thorpe noted that while inflation remains an issue, the demand for services is still high, which affects costs. He stressed the council's focus on improving children's services, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) support, and reducing inequality. He also mentioned the need to tighten financial governance and ensure that planned savings are realized.

Neil Kissock added that the settlement received was better than expected, with additional funding allocated for social care. He mentioned minor changes in grant allocation but noted that these did not significantly impact the overall budget. Neil Kissock expressed concern about the legal budget due to an 11 million structural deficit and outlined a three-year plan to achieve solvency through savings, economies, and transformation. He also mentioned exceptional circumstances grants and ongoing lobbying for a three-year settlement, which has placed the council in a more optimistic position than initially hoped.

Karen Hopwood raised a question around funding options, particularly focusing on car parking in Bury and its impact on revenue for local shops. She enquired whether raising car park charges would increase revenue for the council. The discussion included a review of car parks across the borough and the potential impact of parking charges on economic viability. The possibility of building a new transport hub and whether it should be charged was also debated.

Councillor McGill asked about the adoption of school streets and whether this responsibility falls under the council or Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM). It was noted that this issue was not addressed in the current budget proposals.

It was agreed that:

- The budget report be noted

109 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting to be held on the 27th March 2025 was agreed to be held in person in rooms A&B at Bury Town Hall.

110 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

COUNCILLOR G MCGILL
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.30 pm)

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