Meeting of the Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Stockport on 28 March 2019 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT


1. FORMALITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Minutes

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meetings of the Council held on 17 January and 21 February 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

(ii) Urgent Decisions

No urgent decisions were reported.

(iii) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor invited all those present to stand for a minute's silence in remembrance of those 50 people who lost their lives in the terrorist attack at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand during Friday prayers on the 15 March 2019.

The Mayor then announced that this would be the last meeting of the Council to be attended by Councillors Richard Coaton, Annette Finney, Alex Ganotis, Sylvia Humphreys, Chris Murphy, Paul Porgess and himself following their forthcoming retirement from the Council after the local elections on 2 May 2019.

The Group Leaders and the Deputy Leader of the Council then paid tribute to the retiring councillors.
The Mayor then reported on the recent charity abseil that had taken place from the roof of Stopford House in aid of his charities and extended his thanks to all those who had been involved in the arrangements for this very successful event.

Finally, the Mayor reported that the Mayor’s Charity Dinner would be held on Friday, 10 May 2018 at 7.30 pm.

(iv) Declarations of Interest

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests which they had in any of the items on the Summons.

The following interests were declared:-

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Interest

Lisa Walker Summons Item 7 – ‘The Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan’ as an employee of OVE Arup & Partners Int Ltd.

Councillor Walker left the meeting during the consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion or vote.

2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(i) Public Question Time

Members of the public were invited to put questions to the Mayor and councillors on matters within the powers and duties of the Council.

Eight public questions were submitted as follows:-

- Relating to the progress of plans to close the indoor market and replace it with an ‘Altrincham-style’ food market and the closure and refurbishment of the outdoor market which was scheduled to reopen in March 2019.

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor Kate Butler) responded that one of the first decisions of the Labour administration in May 2016 was to put a stop to the plans to move the market traders out of the indoor market and instead invest in the marketplace, Underbanks and the wider town centre. It was reported that the indoor market now had 100% occupancy and had expert professional market management in place. It was stated that footfall was now rising and traders had been given longer contracts which allowed them to invest in the success of the market. The annual losses that the indoor market were accruing were now reducing and it is planned that by 2020, it should be self-sufficient allowing any future profits to be reinvested. It was further stated that the outdoor market was due to return this year building on the success of Foodie Friday, the maker's market and other specialist markets.

- Relating to recent reports in the national press about the crisis in care home provision and the increased pressure on hospitals and whether older residents of Stockport could
be assured that they can expect an appropriate level of care in terms of dignity and treatment as and if it became necessary and what steps are the Council taking to ensure this.

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care (Councillor Wendy Wild) responded that in February the Council launched the ‘All Age Living’ prospectus for healthy happy homes that demonstrated a great opportunity to truly bring together housing, health and social care into a single vision and programme for change that will co-design the future for all age living in Stockport with a goal for all residents to look forward to a positive older age. It was stated that this meant there would be a wider choice of places and ways to live, providing the right homes and underpinned by the right support.

The Council’s Quality Team had also launched the ‘Dignity in Care Forum’ with representation from external and internal providers and health and social care colleagues. The Forum was held on a quarterly basis and had been extremely well attended.

- Relating to the decision of Vale View Primary School to close early on Fridays and whether the Cabinet Member for Education would work with parents to help ensure that Vale View Primary School remained open five full days a week.

The Cabinet Member for Education (Councillor Dean Fitzpatrick) replied that he would meet with parents along with appropriate officers to ensure that they had all the information they needed to assist them with their case.

Councillor Fitzpatrick stated that he had brought a motion to the Council Meeting in September 2017 calling on the government to increase funding for schools in line with inflation from 2015, to pay for the apprenticeship levy, the costs of the Living Wage, pensions and other associated costs. The response from the Department for Education was that they were already doing more than they were, and enough.

The Council had also worked with the f40 Group to lobby the government which had resulted in an additional £1.2 million being allocated to Stockport, however this amount did not cover the costs of inflation over a single year period.

Councillor Fitzpatrick further stated that with regard to the decision of Vale View Primary School, it was his view that there were other options available to the school and that it needed to stop and listen to the community.

- Relating to what the Council's new relationship is with Stockport Together in the light of the fact that the Council was no longer a member of the Board overseeing Stockport Together and will no longer be making a financial contribution.

The Cabinet Member for Health (Councillor Tom McGee) responded that there wasn't a board that oversees Stockport Together. It was stated that there was a Stockport Health Forum, of which the Council isn't a Member, which had been created in the last few weeks. It was confirmed that the loose alliance board that was previously in place had been stood down and it was agreed that each party to Stockport Together would arrange their own governance arrangements for the work that they were doing across the Foundation Trust, the CCG and the Council.
Councillor McGee stated that the partners remained committed to Stockport Together and each had put £2.4 million into Stockport Together in the 2018/19 financial year, of which only approximately £2.1 million was required. However, the Council would not enter a new risk agreement for 2019/20, however that did not mean that the Council was not committed to Stockport Together. The Foundation Trust and the CCG would be putting £2.5 million each into Stockport Together this year, whereas the Council would focus on making sure that the provision that the Council made through adult social care and related activities for Stockport Together was the best that it could make it.

With regard to the relationship in terms of finance and oversight responsibilities it was reported that the Council had hoped to enter and into an agreement with the CCG that we would have a single accountable officer and that that this would result in joint commissioning. However, the CCG had decided to appoint their own accountable officer. It remained the Council's long-term ambition to have joint commissioning arrangements, however in the interim period work was taking place to ensure that both the Council and the CCG obtained the maximum benefit from the monies both parties were putting in.

- Relating to the current development stage of the proposed A6 to M60 bypass and whether the Council intended to fully assess its environmental impact before or after the Council had committed irrevocably to building the bypass.

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor Kate Butler) responded that following an extensive debate by the Council Meeting, the Council agreed that it would write to the Department for Transport requesting that like to progress with the next stage of the feasibility for the bypass, but that it would require funding from the government to facilitate broader environmental impact assessment and also engage in a wide-scale public consultation. This request was original rejected and the Council was advised to wait for the commencement of the next funding round.

In December 2018, the government announced two new pots of funding, one of which was the ‘large local majors’ into which the A6 to M60 Relief Road would need to bid. However, it was confirmed that the Council would not progress to the construction stage of the proposal until it had first consulted widely, and undertaken a full environmental impact assessment.

The Mayor then reported that the 30 minutes allocated to public question time had since elapsed, and that any remaining questions would receive a written response.

(ii) Petitions and Presentations

Petitions

One petition was submitted requesting that the Council take action to secure the redevelopment of the former Cheadle Royal nursing home site.

RESOLVED – That the petition be referred to the Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration.

Presentations

There were no presentations.
(iii) Joint Authorities

(a) Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel

There were no questions in relation to the business of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel.

(b) Greater Manchester Combined Authority

There were no questions in relation to the business of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee or Greater Manchester Waste Committee.

3. LEADER’S REPORT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(i) Cabinet Business

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Policy, Finance and Devolution (Councillor Alex Ganotis) reported that Stockport was due to host the Greater Manchester Combined Authority the next day at which it would consider the next stages of the Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) for ‘Stockport Town Centre West’. The report sets out the outcome of the public consultation which demonstrated widespread support for the proposed MDC, and the consequent proposal by the Mayor to request that the Secretary of State commences the process for the necessary legislation to bring that about.

It was further reported that at the meeting of the Planning & Highways Regulation Committee that took place on 21 March 2019, unanimous approval had been given to new Stockport Interchange development. It was stated that this development would provide the catalyst for the wider MDC area and the development of up to 3,000 new homes. Councillor Ganotis stated that the ability of Stockport build new homes on brownfield land would reduce the impact of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework on the greenbelt and those sites that would need to be included in the third phase of consultation.

Stockport’s housing target within the GMSF was 20,000 new homes of which 5,000 had been taken up by other boroughs in Greater Manchester. In addition, work had taken place to reduce the number of new homes in the greenbelt from an initial 12,000 down to 3,700 units.

The Cabinet Member for Communities & Housing (Councillor Sheila Bailey) reported on the success of the ‘Bed Every Night’ scheme and that between 1 November 2018 and the 1 March 2019 128 people were accommodated through the scheme in Stockport. It was stated that the placement criteria used by Stockport Homes was not stringent and place people who were at risk of rough sleeping, and not just necessarily already rough sleeping, were assisted by the scheme. Of these, 75 had moved on to confirm positive accommodation arrangements with the remainder leaving of their own accord with four having to be excluded because of behavioural issues. It was reported that there were currently estimated to be seven people rough sleeping in the borough, all of whom Stockport Homes and its partners continued to actively seek to engage with.
With regard to the installation of sprinklers in Stockport’s high-rise accommodation, it was stated that it was previously reported that all 22 tower blocks would be completed over a three to five-year period; however it was now proposed to undertake the work over a two year period which would represent value for money for Stockport Homes and ensure that Stockport's tower-block tenants would have this additional fire safety measure installed in their homes sooner rather than later.

Councillor Bailey also reported on the ongoing investment in Stockport’s parks and formal play provision during 2018/19 with £207,000 being put into grass matt replacement. It was stated that 80% of the borough's grass mat had been upgraded to a synthetic surface where play items have a full height of more than 1.5 metres.

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor Kate Butler) reported that the first soft-launch event for the Produce Hall had taken place the previous evening. It was announced that 50% of the new front of house staff had been recruited through the Council’s pre-employment training initiative that had been run in conjunction with Stockport Homes.

Councillor Butler then referred to the ‘Walk Ride GM’ initiative that aimed to make walking and cycling the natural choice for everyday journeys. The initiative had encouraged the development of hyper-local groups such as ‘Walk Ride Romiley’ and ‘Walk Ride Heatons’. Each of the groups would have a representative on the Walking and Cycling Forum and it was hoped that these could be used to develop future bids for funding rather than being driven wholly by the Council.

The Cabinet Member for Education (Councillor Dean Fitzpatrick) reported that the government had agreed to provide free sanitary products in secondary schools in England. The Council would continue to provide sanitary products in community buildings in recognition of the fact that young people were not in school every week of the year.

Councillor Fitzpatrick also reported that Stockport was ready to deliver the new compulsory relationships education in primary schools and relationships and sex education in the secondary schools beginning in September. The guidance stated that schools should ensure that the needs of pupils were appropriately met and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. Schools should ensure that teaching is sensitive and age appropriate in content and at the point at which schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT they should ensure that this content is fully integrated into their work programmes of study for the area of the curriculum rather than delivered as a standalone unit or lesson.

It was stated that the Council had also commissioned the Proud Trust, an LGBT group who run a young people’s group and deliver training, to work with ten primary schools to perform a play called ‘Happily Ever After’ about same sex marriage which had been well-received.

Finally, Councillor Fitzpatrick stated that in March 2018, the Cabinet had given approval to the development of a new £14 million SEND school in the primary sector which will provide a better learning experience for Stockport’s most vulnerable children and will also save the taxpayer money over the long run. It was confirmed that public consultation was underway which provided an opportunity for people to give their initial views on the proposal.
It was also reported that earlier this month, the Council had been informed by the Department for Education that is expression of interest in the development of a new SEND school in the secondary sector had been approved to move to the next stage. The Council’s proposed location for the new school was on the site of the former Orrishmere Primary School in Cheadle Hulme.

The Cabinet Member for Children & Family Services (Councillor Colin Foster) reported that Ofsted had visited Stockport for a ‘focus visit’ to look at parts of Stockport Family, specifically the MASH and Stockport Families First. The report had identified a number of positives including that there is a strong and well understood early help offer; that professionals understand very clearly how to access early help support for children and their families via the MASH; and children at risk of complex safeguarding receive a good service from a well-informed multidisciplinary team.

A further report was produced by the Care Quality Commission in relation to the Mosaic service. The Mosaic service received an outstanding inspection result, with four out of the five criteria assessed as being outstanding, and the remaining one, good which underpinned the national reputation that Stockport Family had established. Councillor Foster stated that the most important aspect of these two reports was that they demonstrated the excellent work carried out by our dedicated staff and requested that the thanks of the Council be expressed to the staff involved for the excellent work that they had done.

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care (Councillor Wendy Wild) reported that she had attended the launch of the new ‘All Age Living’ prospectus which articulated the vision of all-age housing in Stockport that responded to a growing ageing population and changing expectations. The prospectus responded to the needs of the population and those requiring support to enable them to live well in their own home and was key to delivering a total system that promotes independence, choice and control of where they wish to live.

Councillor Wild reported that in February she had been delighted to see that the Heatons was recognised as one of the Mayor of Greater Manchester’s age-friendly communities in recognition of the work that that had taken place across the community to make it a great place to grow older.

(ii) **Questions**

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Policy, Finance & Devolution and the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care, Economy & Regeneration and Education answered questions and responded to comments relating to the business of the Cabinet in accordance with Council Meeting Procedure Rule 11.

(iii) **Minutes**

The Mayor declared the Minutes of the Cabinet Meetings held on 5 February and 12 March 2019 and the record of executive decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council to be duly received.
4. SCRUTINY

(i) Scrutiny Business

The Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee (Councillor Lisa Smart) expressed her thanks to officers and those councillors who joined with the Scrutiny Co-ordination committee to participate in a review in relation to the way in which scrutiny was conducted in Stockport. Councillor Smart reported that the Review had made a number of recommendations including the appointment of a Statutory Scrutiny Office; the role of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee; a reduction in the number of cycles of scrutiny committees; and the potential to explore alternative ways of undertaking scrutiny. Councillor Smart expressed her hope that the recommendations of the Review would subsequently be adopted by the Council.

(ii) Questions

There were no questions relating to the business of the Scrutiny Committees in accordance with Council Meeting Procedure Rule 11.

(iii) Minutes

The Mayor declared the Minutes of the following Scrutiny Committees (copies of which had been circulated with the Summons) to be duly received:

- Adult Social Care & Health – 15 January 2019
- Children & Families – 23 January and 27 February 2019
- Communities & Housing – 21 January and 25 February 2019
- Corporate, Resource Management & Governance – 22 January and 26 February 2019
- Economy & Regeneration – 24 January and 28 February 2019
- Scrutiny Co-ordination - 4 February 2019

5. ORDINARY AND AREA COMMITTEES

(i) Regulatory Business

There were no reports from the Chairs of the Planning and Highways Regulation, Licensing, Environment and Safety or Audit Committees on the conduct of their business since the last Council Meeting.

(ii) Questions

There were no questions relating to the business of the Ordinary, Area and Ward Committees in accordance with Council Meeting Procedure Rule 11.

(iii) Minutes

The Mayor declared the Minutes of the following Ordinary and Area Committees (copies of which had been circulated with the Summons) to be duly received:
Ordinary Committees

Audit – 13 March 2019
Contributors – 24 January 2019
Employment Appeals – 27 February 2019
Funding – 20 February 2019
Health & Wellbeing Board – 30 January 2019
Health & Wellbeing Board (Better Care Fund) Sub – 22 January 2019
Licensing, Environment & Safety – 9 January and 13 February 2019
Licensing, Environment & Safety Sub – 7 January, 11 February and 28 February 2019
Member – 18 February 2019
Planning & Highways Regulation – 10 January and 14 February 2019
Standards – 11 February 2019

Area Committees

Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South – 31 January and 7 March 2019
Central Stockport – 31 January and 7 March 2019
Cheadle – 29 January and 5 March 2019
Heatons & Reddish – 28 January and 4 March 2019
Marple – 30 January and 6 March 2019
Stepping Hill – 29 January and 5 March 2019
Werneth – 28 January and 4 March 2019

6. MOTIONS - NOTICE OF WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN UNDER COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURE RULE 12

(i) Declaration of a Climate Emergency

RESOLVED - This Council notes:

- The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report ‘Global warming of 1.5°’ published on 8 October 2018, in particular:
- That human activities are estimated to have already caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels;
- That if we continue at the current rate, we are likely to surpass the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C as early as 2030;
- That at the current level of commitments, the world is on course for 3°C of warming with irreversible and catastrophic consequences for humans and the natural world.

The Council believes that:

- The impacts of global temperature rise above 1.5°C, are so severe that governments at all levels must work together and make this their top priority.
- As well as large-scale improvements in health and wellbeing around the world, bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities.
- As urban populations increase, greater consideration of how urban systems can develop sustainability will be required.

Therefore, this Council agrees:
To declare a ‘climate emergency’, and support the Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan launched at 2019’s Green Summit.
To ensure the right resources are in place within the Council to support this work,
To establish a new task and finish group, with a remit to:

(i) Seek advice from experts to develop 5 Year carbon budgets and set a challenging target date of 2038 for carbon neutrality;
(ii) Consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council’s activities;
(iii) Make recommendations and set an ambitious timescale for reducing these impacts in line with wider Greater Manchester ambitions;
(iv) To assess the feasibility of requiring all risk and procurement assessments to include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce emissions wherever possible.
(v) Report to Full Council with the actions the Council needs to take to address this emergency and how it will work with GMCA and other GM Districts to develop a Mission Based Approach to implementation.

To task a director level officer with responsibility for reducing as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council’s activities.
To equip all our staff, particularly those involved with buildings, energy and transport management and procurement of goods and service, with an awareness of the CO2 costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions.
To recognise that the Council has many competing priorities and that any actions arising from this work take account of how they impact from a financial and policy context.
That the Leader will write to the Prime Minister to inform her that this Council has declared a climate emergency and ask her to provide the resources and powers necessary to deal with it.

(ii) Ensuring Stockport gets a fair share of police resources

MOVED AND SECONDED - This council meeting notes with concern:

that Greater Manchester Police’s budget has been cut by £183m over recent years;
recorded crime has risen by 17% over the past 12 months;
earlier in the year the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police warned that police officer numbers could be cut to their lowest level since the 1970s;
this is despite an undertaking by the Conservative Government in their 2015 Spending Review to protect police funding; and
the undertaking has only been met by shifting an increasing part of the burden to council tax funding, which is highly regressive.

This council meeting further notes that:

- the £24 increase at Band D in the mayoral precept for policing is to be used to employ 320 additional officers;
that Stockport residents contribute almost 13% of the funds raised through council tax precepts, second only to Manchester City Council and by far the largest contributor by population;

- of the 320 new officers, 220 will go into neighbourhood policing, 50 will go into a new team to tackle crime on public transport and a further 50 will go into a new ‘floating’ unit, set up to provide pro-active response to local problems and priorities;
- total officer numbers will remain below 7,000;
- fifteen years ago, when officer numbers were above 8,000, the then Chief Constable Mike Todd unsuccessfully called on the then Labour government to fund a total of 11,000 officers;
- there has been no indication how the new officers will be deployed across Greater Manchester, what their priorities will be and what impact this will have on policing levels in Stockport; and
- at a recent meeting with Andy Burnham attended by Cllrs Ganotis and Lloyd, Cllr Hunter pressed the GM Mayor for a guarantee of the minimum increase in police numbers Stockport can expect to ensure that we get our fair share and, for a second time, offered to participate in an all-party delegation to meet the Home Secretary to make the case for better police funding from central government.

Whilst this council meeting welcomes the increase in police officer numbers, it regrets that this is at such a high, direct cost to local residents and notes with disappointment that no information has been received to date about deployment or how we can measure whether Stockport does get its fair share of police resources.

This council meeting resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to:

- the Home Secretary, calling on him to make the case for additional central government funding of our police services to ensure that our streets are safe and our residents feel secure; and
- the Mayor of Greater Manchester, calling on him to confirm that Stockport will get its fair share of new police officers in addition to those currently deployed here and to outline the minimum policing guarantee Stockport can expect in the future.

7. ADJOURNMENT

At 9.45 pm it was

RESOLVED – That the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting reconvened at 9.55 pm

8. MOTIONS - NOTICE OF WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN UNDER COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURE RULE 12 (continued)

(i) Ensuring Stockport gets a fair share of police resources (continued)

AMENDMENT MOVED AND SECONDED – This council meeting notes with concern:

- that Greater Manchester Police’s budget has been cut by £183m over recent years;
that recorded crime across Greater Manchester has risen by 17% over the past 12 months, and crime and antisocial behaviour has risen by 4.4% in Stockport from 2016/17 to 2017/18 according to key indicators monitored by Safer Stockport Partnership;
• that earlier in the year the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police warned that police officer numbers across Greater Manchester could be cut to their lowest level since the 1970s;
• that in their 2015 Spending Review, the Conservative Government committed to protect police funding but that undertaking has only been met by placing an increasing part of the burden onto Council Tax funding which is regressive.

This council meeting further notes that:
• the £24 increase at Band D in the mayoral precept for policing is to be used to employ 320 additional officers across Greater Manchester;
• Stockport residents contribute almost 13% of the funds raised through council tax precepts, second only to Manchester City Council and by far the largest contributor by population;
• of the 320 new officers, 220 will go into neighbourhood policing, 50 will go into a new team to tackle crime on public transport and a further 50 will go into a new ‘floating’ unit, set up to provide pro-active response to local problems and priorities;
• total officer numbers will remain below 7,000;
• fifteen years ago, when officer numbers were above 8,000, the then Chief Constable Mike Todd unsuccessfully called on the then Labour government to fund a total of 11,000 officers;
• there has been no indication how the new officers will be deployed across Greater Manchester, what their priorities will be and what impact this will have on policing levels in Stockport; and
• at a recent meeting with Andy Burnham attended by Cllrs Ganotis and Lloyd, Cllr Hunter pressed the GM Mayor for a guarantee of the minimum increase in police numbers Stockport can expect to ensure that we get our fair share and, for a second time, offered to participate in an all-party delegation to meet the Home Secretary to make the case for better police funding from central government.

Whilst this council meeting welcomes the increase in police officer numbers, it regrets that this is at such a high, direct cost to local residents and notes with disappointment that no information has been received to date about deployment or how we can measure whether Stockport does get its fair share of police resources.

This council meeting resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to:
• the Home Secretary, calling on him to make the case for additional central government funding of our police services to ensure that our streets are safe and our residents feel secure; and
• the Mayor of Greater Manchester, calling on him to publish clear commitments on the share of resources which will be made available for Stockport, and how this translates to new police officers in addition to those currently deployed here, including a minimum policing guarantee for Stockport and a timetable for when these resources can be expected; and in that latter correspondence, further outline this Council’s wish that details are made public on how the additional resources raised by
the 18/19 precept have been used to improve the 101 non-emergency telephone service.

9. COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURE RULE 9 (DURATION OF MEETING)

At this stage in the proceedings (10.00 pm) the Mayor informed the Council Meeting that the provisions of Council Meeting Procedure Rule 9.1 (Duration of Meeting) would be invoked unless the Council Meeting wished the meeting to continue.

It was then

RESOLVED – (35 for, 22 against) That the provisions of Council Meeting Procedure Rule 9.1 (Duration of Meeting) be not invoked and that the Council Meeting continues.

10. MOTIONS - NOTICE OF WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN UNDER COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURE RULE 12 (continued)

(i) Ensuring Stockport gets a fair share of police resources (continued)

Upon the amendment being put to the vote:-

For the amendment 38, against 20.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

The amendment was then put as the substantive motion, and it was

RESOLVED – (55 for) AMENDMENT MOVED AND SECONDED – This council meeting notes with concern:

- that Greater Manchester Police’s budget has been cut by £183m over recent years;
- that recorded crime across Greater Manchester has risen by 17% over the past 12 months, and crime and antisocial behaviour has risen by 4.4% in Stockport from 2016/17 to 2017/18 according to key indicators monitored by Safer Stockport Partnership;
- that earlier in the year the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police warned that police officer numbers across Greater Manchester could be cut to their lowest level since the 1970s;
- that in their 2015 Spending Review, the Conservative Government committed to protect police funding but that undertaking has only been met by placing an increasing part of the burden onto Council Tax funding which is regressive.

This council meeting further notes that:

- the £24 increase at Band D in the mayoral precept for policing is to be used to employ 320 additional officers across Greater Manchester;
- Stockport residents contribute almost 13% of the funds raised through council tax precepts, second only to Manchester City Council and by far the largest contributor by population;
of the 320 new officers, 220 will go into neighbourhood policing, 50 will go into a new team to tackle crime on public transport and a further 50 will go into a new ‘floating’ unit, set up to provide pro-active response to local problems and priorities;
- total officer numbers will remain below 7,000;
- fifteen years ago, when officer numbers were above 8,000, the then Chief Constable Mike Todd unsuccessfully called on the then Labour government to fund a total of 11,000 officers;
- there has been no indication how the new officers will be deployed across Greater Manchester, what their priorities will be and what impact this will have on policing levels in Stockport; and
- at a recent meeting with Andy Burnham attended by Cllrs Ganotis and Lloyd, Cllr Hunter pressed the GM Mayor for a guarantee of the minimum increase in police numbers Stockport can expect to ensure that we get our fair share and, for a second time, offered to participate in an all-party delegation to meet the Home Secretary to make the case for better police funding from central government.

Whilst this council meeting welcomes the increase in police officer numbers, it regrets that this is at such a high, direct cost to local residents and notes with disappointment that no information has been received to date about deployment or how we can measure whether Stockport does get its fair share of police resources.

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- the Mayor of Greater Manchester, calling on him to publish clear commitments on the share of resources which will be made available for Stockport, and how this translates to new police officers in addition to those currently deployed here, including a minimum policing guarantee for Stockport and a timetable for when these resources can be expected; and in that latter correspondence, further outline this Council’s wish that details are made public on how the additional resources raised by the 18/19 precept have been used to improve the 101 non-emergency telephone service.

11. THE GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR PLAN

The Cabinet Member for Communities & Housing (Councillor Sheila Bailey) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Council Meeting to consider an Outline Business Case (OBC) and a suite of supporting documents forming the Council’s proposals to reduce nitrogen dioxide exceedances in Stockport and across Greater Manchester in the shortest possible time. The OBC has been developed by the Council in collaboration with all Greater Manchester local authorities and the GMCA, and coordinated by TfGM in line with Government direction and guidance.

RESOLVED – That the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan be endorsed and that the Cabinet be recommended to give approval to package of resolutions contained in Section 18.1 of the report.
12. ADMISSION APPEALS PANEL

RESOLVED – That Robert Thomas be added to the list of lay members on the Admission Appeals Panel.

The meeting closed at 10.27 pm