



# STOCKPORT

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Stockport on 4 October 2023 at 6.00 pm.

## PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Graham Greenhalgh) in the chair; Deputy Mayor ( ); Councillors David Wilson, Geoff Abell, Shan Alexander, Jake Austin, Joe Barratt, Rosemary Barratt, Grace Baynham, Christine Carrigan, Asa Caton, Anna Charles-Jones, Angie Clark, Laura Clingan, Liz Crix, Dickie Davies, Will Dawson, Dean Fitzpatrick, Colin Foster, Helen Foster-Grime, James Frizzell, Steve Gribbon, Yvonne Guariento, Dominic Hardwick, Hibbert, Keith Holloway, Ian Hunter, Mark Hunter, Dallas Jones, Mark Jones, Jilly Julian, Gary Lawson, Colin MacAlister, Carole McCann, Holly McCormack, Jeremy Meal, Wendy Meikle, David Meller, Janet Mobbs, Tom Morrison, Ian Powney, Mark Roberts, Dena Ryness, David Sedgwick, Becky Senior, Will Sharp, Frankie Singleton, Lisa Smart, Charlie Stewart, Catherine Stuart, John Taylor, Aron Thornley, Sue Thorpe, Claire Vibert, Karl Wardlaw, Kerry Waters, Pete West, Wendy Wild, Rachel Wise, Suzanne Wyatt and Matt Wynne.

## **1. FORMALITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### (i) Minutes

The minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting of the Council held on 13 July 2023 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 reported that, since the commencement of his term of office, he had attended many varied events across the borough. The Mayor stated that each of the events had been interesting, enlightening, and an honour to attend. In particular, he noted the enthusiasm of the young people and staff involved in projects across the borough, for the betterment of the borough.

- It was also reported that the 'Frogtastic Great Invention Train' had been launched in July and saw Stockport's famous frogs around the town.
- The Mayor had had the pleasure of helping to present the Long Service Awards at the Annual Foster Carers Dinner, and heard their many inspirational and moving stories of their service to others.
- On Thursday 28 September 2023, a reception was hosted by the Mayor for the Friends of Heilbronn. Heilbronn, in Germany, was Stockport's twinned town. During the visit, the Mayor also met with representatives of Mayors for Peace. Stockport had been a member of Mayors for Peace since 2006, following a decision by Council. It was noted

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that Mayors for Peace was founded by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and aimed to contribute to the attainment of lasting world peace by calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. They sought to achieve this aim through close solidarity among member cities, and by striving to solve vital problems for the human race such as starvation and poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation.

- Members were encouraged to frequent visits the Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery, given that the exhibitions changed on a regular basis.

Members were also notified of several events due to take place in the coming months:

- Trafalgar Day Service, 2:00pm, at St Georges Church, Buxton Road, Heaviley, on 22 October 2023.
- Armistice Day would be commemorated at Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery, between 10.30am and 11.30am, on 11 November 2023.
- Hazel Grove War Memorial Centenary Service, 2:30pm, Remembrance Gardens, Hazel Grove, on 11 November 2023.
- The Stockport Civic Act of Remembrance service would take place from 11:00am at the Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery on 12 November 2023, with members assembling at the Town Hall from 10:00am.
- Act of Remembrance (South Reddish), 12.40pm, at the Cenotaph, Reddish Road, South Reddish, on 12 November 2023.
- The Normandy Veterans Legacy Remembrance Event, 2.20pm, at the Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery, on 12 November 2023.

Councillor Steve Gribbon was congratulated for raising in excess of £100,000 for charity over the years for his annual charity bike rides. Councillor Gribbon expressed thanks to members for their support over the years in helping to achieve this milestone.

### (iv) Declarations of Interest

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

The following interests were declared:

#### Personal interests

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Councillor Mark Hunter	Summons item 5(i) 'Cabinet Business' as his son was employed by HS2 Ltd. HS2 Ltd was referenced within an oral report provided by a Cabinet Member during this item.
Councillor Lisa Smart	Summons item 5(i) 'Cabinet Business' as she undertook paid work for HS2 Ltd. HS2 Ltd was referenced within an oral report provided by a Cabinet Member during this item.
Councillor Matt Wynne	Summon item 8(iii) 'Motion - Restore acceptable living conditions in properties managed by Stockport Homes in Lancashire Hill' as a Stockport Homes shared ownership

tenant.

## **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.

Five public questions were submitted as follows:

- Relating to the progress towards enhanced biodiversity in the borough.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment (Councillor Mark Roberts) responded that the council's Local Nature Recovery Group had met, and at its last meeting on 25 September 2023, had discussed the matter of biodiversity in Stockport. It was confirmed that ecologists were involved in the council's work to increase biodiversity in the borough. It was advised that a report on Biodiversity Net Gain was scheduled to be considered at the Economy, Regeneration and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee at their meeting 12 October 2023. Stockport sought to 'go further' than neighbouring authorities and was expected to seek locations across the borough to establish as biodiversity 'habitat banks', establishing at least one for each Area Committee area. It was noted that government was asking local authorities to increase biodiversity in their areas by 10%. The council's ambition was to see biodiversity increase by 20% in the borough, and increasing biodiversity was one of the council's key aims in supporting action against climate change. It was noted that the council were awaiting the release of secondary legislation from government as part of their new national legislation relating to Biodiversity Net Gain.

- Relating to the lack of housing provision in Stockport.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Mark Hunter) agreed that Stockport was facing an unprecedented demand for housing and that housing need was higher than housing provision available. The Leader gave assurance that the council was committed to tackling the national crisis, and that transformative change was taking place in the town centre to increase housing provision in Stockport. It was noted that the council also had a strong focus in developing affordable housing provision, and that most of the housing to be delivered in the town centre was expected to be affordable homes. The council had continued to deliver housing in the face of a number of challenges which included but was not limited to, the covid-19 pandemic and inflation. It was noted that an excellent housing options service was available to support families.

Councillor David Meller further responded that housing, including family homes, were needed across the borough, and new provision should not solely be concentrated within the town centre.

- Relating to the live transport of endangered macaque monkeys through Manchester Airport.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Mark Hunter) responded that the council had written to Manchester Airport some months ago about the matter and had not received a

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satisfactory response. Councillor Hunter stated that he would welcome working with the other Greater Manchester local authority shareholders to put pressure on Manchester airport to put an end to this practice.

- Relating to representation by ward councillors.

Councillor Angie Clark responded that she took her responsibility to represent all residents in the ward seriously.

- Relating to lack of involvement in a public debate to counter the argument asserting that Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) was not the cause for warming events.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Mark Hunter) stated that he did not consider it appropriate for the council to provide a platform for climate change denial. Councillor Hunter further stated that there were a number of assertions within the question that were not correct.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment (Councillor Mark Roberts) concurred and advised that Stockport councillors had discussed climate change in the chamber for many years, and were proud of the work going on at Stockport Council to support action against climate change.

A further public question was submitted where the questioner was not in attendance at the meeting, and in accordance with the Code of Practice, the Chief Executive was requested to respond to the questioner in writing.

### (ii) Petitions and Presentations

There were no petitions or presentations.

### (iii) Joint Authorities

#### (a) Greater Manchester Police, Crime & Fire Panel

Councillor Tom Morrison responded to a question in relation to the business of the Greater Manchester Police, Crime & Fire Panel.

#### (b) Greater Manchester Combined Authority

There were no questions in relation to the business of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority or the Greater Manchester Waste & Recycling Committee.

Councillor Grace Baynham responded to a question in relation to the business of the Greater Manchester Bee Network Committee.

## **3. POLICY FRAMEWORK AND BUDGET**

### (i) Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the annual treasury report reviewing

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treasury management activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2022/23.

RESOLVED - (1) That the actual 2022/23 prudential and treasury indicators in the report be approved.

(2) That the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2022/23 be noted.

### **4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### (i) Business Programme 2024/25

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) which set out the proposed Business Programme for 2024/25.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the Business Programme for 2024/25.

### **5. LEADER'S REPORT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME**

#### (i) Cabinet Business

The Leader of the Council; the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment; and the Cabinet Members for Communities, Culture & Sport; Economy, Regeneration & Housing; Finance & Resources; and Parks, Highways & Transport Services made a report on the conduct of Cabinet business since the last Council Meeting.

#### (ii) Questions

The Leader of the Council; the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment; and the Cabinet Members for Communities, Culture & Sport; Economy, Regeneration & Housing; Finance & Resources; and Parks, Highways & Transport Services answered questions and responded to comments relating to the business of the Cabinet in accordance with Council Meeting Procedure Rule 11.

### **6. MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE**

*RESOLVED – That in accordance with the provisions of Council Meeting Procedure Rule 13(g), approval be given to the withdrawal of the motion submitted as part of Summons Item 8(iii) – ‘Motion - Restore acceptable living conditions in properties managed by Stockport Homes in Lancashire Hill (see Minute 10(iii) below)’.*

### **7. LEADER'S REPORT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME (CONTINUED)**

#### (i) Minutes

The Mayor declared the Minutes of the Cabinet held 19 September 2023 and the record of executive decisions taken (copies of which were circulated) since the last meeting of the Council to be duly received.

## **8. SCRUTINY**

### (i) Scrutiny Business

There were no reports from the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees on the conduct of their business since the last Council Meeting.

### (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 – 7 September 2023

Children & Families – 6 September 2023

Communities & Transport – 4 September 2023

Corporate, Resource Management & Governance – 6 September 2023

Economy, Regeneration & Climate Change – 7 September 2023

Scrutiny Co-ordination – 25 September 2023

## **9. 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

Appointments – 18 July 2023

Audit – 19 July 2023

Employment Appeals – 7 September 2023

Health & Wellbeing Board – 14 June and 6 September 2023

Licensing, Environment & Safety – 5 July 2023

Licensing, Environment & Safety Sub – 23 and 29 August 2023

Planning & Highways Regulation – 6 July and 17 August 2023

Standards – 18 September 2023

Area Committees

Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South – 3 August and 14 September 2023

Central Stockport – 3 August and 14 September 2023

Cheadle – 1 August and 12 September 2023

Heatons & Reddish – 31 July and 11 September 2023

Marple – 2 August and 13 September 2023

Stepping Hill – 1 August and 12 September 2023

Werneth – 31 July and 11 September 2023

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

(i) Anti-Poverty Motion

MOVED AND SECONDED - This council notes:

- Creating a fair and inclusive Stockport is a key part of the One Stockport Borough Plan and the One Stockport Economic Plan.
- Stockport is in the top ten most polarised boroughs in the country in terms of wealth and deprivation.
- There are parts of Stockport that rank within the most deprived 10% of areas in the country. These areas are concentrated around Brinnington, Central Stockport and Reddish.
- Even in the wealthier parts of the borough there are pockets of deprivation that can go unnoticed.
- The impact of poverty on people's lives is drastic, for example:
  - Food insecurity: households receiving Universal Credit are almost four times as likely to experience food insecurity than all households. In May this year there were 21,635 people in Stockport claiming Universal Credit.
  - Child poverty: Children who are eligible for Free School Meals do not achieve as well as their counterparts who are not eligible: nationally only 41% of those eligible for Free School Meals achieve good GCSEs in English and maths; compared to 69% of all other pupils. In Stockport, 20%, or 8,773 children are eligible for Free School Meals.
  - Health inequalities: 50% of people in the most deprived areas of the country report poor health by age 55-59, over two decades earlier than those in the least deprived areas. Brinnington is the area of Greater Manchester with the shortest life expectancy for women at 75.2 years, in Bramhall West, women can expect to live to 91.

This council believes:

- Facts and figures only tell part of the story. Behind every statistic is a person unable to live life to the full because of the impact of poverty.
- Every resident of Stockport should be valued and given the opportunity to thrive, not just survive.

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- Those residents with lived experience of poverty are best placed to shape the solutions to the problems they face.
- Tackling poverty should be at the heart of everything we do as a council and as a borough.

This council calls on the Cabinet:

- To produce an anti-poverty strategy by March 2024 that sets out how we will work to alleviate and tackle poverty in Stockport over the next five years.
- As part of developing the anti-poverty strategy, work to establish a Poverty Truth Commission that puts the voices of those with lived experience of poverty at the heart of the strategy.
- To immediately adopt the socio-economic duty in order to ensure that all the council's work takes into account socio-economic status, and actively works to create opportunities for the most disadvantaged in our borough.

AMENDMENT MOVED AND SECONDED – This council notes:

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This council calls on the Cabinet:

- To support the Poverty Action work already underway;
- As part of this, explore the experience of other councils, including those who have undertaken a Poverty Truth Commission, and consider the most effective, useful and appropriate ways for Stockport to empower the voices of Stockport residents with real experience of living in poverty; and
- Consider the benefits of adopting the socio-economic duty.

For the amendment 29, against 28, abstentions 3.

### AMENDMENT CARRIED

The motion as amended was then put as the substantive motion and it was

RESOLVED - This council notes:

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This council calls on the Cabinet:

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- Consider the benefits of adopting the socio-economic duty.

(ii) Condemning the watering down of our country's ambition to tackle Climate Change

RESOLVED - This council meeting condemns the statement by Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on the 20th Sept 2023 and the watering down of our country's ambition to tackle Climate Change.

(iii) Restore acceptable living conditions in properties managed by Stockport Homes in Lancashire Hill

With the consent of the Council Meeting, this item was withdrawn (see Minute 6 above).

The meeting closed at 9.51 pm