

COUNCIL

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY, 2020**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Burns) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Robinson) Vice Chair

Councillors Blackburne, Atkinson, Bennett, Bradshaw, Brennan, Brodie - Browne, Brough, Carr, Carragher, Cluskey, Cummins, Dawson, Dodd, Dowd, Doyle, Dutton, Evans, Fairclough, Friel, Grace, Halsall, Howard, Irving, Keith, John Kelly, John Joseph Kelly, Killen, Lappin, Lewis, Maher, McCann, McGinnity, McKinley, Moncur, Morris, Murphy, Myers, Brenda O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, O'Hanlon, Pugh, Pullin, Roche, Roscoe, Sathiy, John Sayers, Yvonne Sayers, Shaw, Thomas, Anne Thompson, Lynne Thompson, Tweed, Veidman, Waterfield, Sir Ron Watson and Webster

70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Byrom, Hands, Hardy, Gannon, Jones, Marshall, Pitt and Spencer.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests were received.

72. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 November 2019 be approved as a correct record.

73. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor of Sefton Christmas Toy Appeal

The Mayor reported that she was pleased to report that once again, an unbelievable amount of toys and vouchers were donated as part of the annual Christmas Toy Appeal. This enabled the Council to help a great

number of families in Sefton who struggled to provide a memorable Christmas for their children. As well as toys, the Sefton Children's Trust also provided hampers of food to help over the festive period. The Mayor concluded that she would like to thank everyone who helped and supported the annual Christmas Toy Appeal in December.

Mayor of Sefton Charity Events

The Mayor reported that she was really looking forward to the Burns Night that she was hosting this coming Saturday at the Town Hall, Bootle and would like to thank those Members who were joining her.

The Mayor also took the opportunity to remind Members that the tickets for her Gala Charity Ball were now on sale. The Charity Ball would take place on 28 March 2020 and promised to be an excellent night with a meal, refreshments and entertainment. If Members were interested in purchasing tickets they should contact Shaun Pimblett, the Civic and Mayoral Officer.

A special memorial service will take place to remember victims of the Holocaust

The Mayor reminded Members that a special ceremony would be held for Holocaust Memorial Day. The Mayor indicated that she would attend the service, which was open to the public, on Sunday, January 26, at Christ Church, Lord Street, Southport commencing at 1.30pm. The service in Southport was open to everyone, with refreshments served at the end.

74. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

The Mayor reported that no matters had been raised by members of the public.

75. QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council considered a schedule setting out the written questions submitted by:

- (1) Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (2) Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (3) Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and

Safeguarding (Councillor J.J. Kelly)

- (4) Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)
- (5) Councillor Dawson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (6) Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Atkinson)
- (7) Councillor Dawson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (8) Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care (Councillor Cummins)
- (9) Councillor Watson to the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy)

together with the responses given. Supplementary questions to questions 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 were responded to by the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members for Locality Services and Regeneration and Skills.

76. THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2020-2025

Further to Minute No. 88 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9 January 2020 the Council considered the report of the Director of Public Health in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2025 for Sefton, entitled “Living Well in Sefton 2020-2025”. The report set out how the Strategy had been developed, the governance steps taken and how the impact of the Strategy would be measured.

The report indicated that the Strategy and the ambition for the wider system had been developed through a full consultation process and with oversight of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Steering Group; that the Strategy used the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and both local and national evidence to identify key ambition for the system that would improve the health and wellbeing of people in Sefton and would help to reduce health inequalities; and that it was a statutory obligation for the Health and Wellbeing Board to produce a Health Well Being Strategy based on the most recent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

It was moved by Councillor Maher, seconded by Councillor Grace and

RESOLVED:

That the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025 be approved.

77. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS – 2020/21 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Further to Minute No. 78 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 December 2019 the Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer seeking approval of a programme of meetings for the 2020/21 Municipal Year. Approval of the programme of meetings would enable the business of the Council and its various Committees/bodies to be conducted during the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

It was moved by Councillor Maher, seconded by Councillor Grace and

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the Programme of Meetings for the Council, Member Briefing Sessions; Regulatory Committees; and Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2020/21 as set out in Annexes B and C of the report be approved; and
- (2) the Programme of Meetings for the Cabinet, Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, Sefton Safer Communities Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board for 2020/21 as set out in Annexes A and D of the report be noted.

78. SUBMISSION OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Further to Minute No. 27 of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 18 December 2019 the Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer seeking approval of the submission of Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports and recommendations to Cabinet and then Council for final approval.

It was moved by Councillor Sayers, seconded by Councillor Grace and

RESOLVED:

That Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports and recommendations be submitted to Cabinet and then Council for final approval and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

79. SENIOR MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Council considered the joint report of the Chief Executive and the Chief Personnel Officer indicating that the Council's Pay Policy provided that full Council had an opportunity to vote on the proposed remuneration for any posts which had an annual salary of over £100,000; that indicated that Cabinet on 5 December 2019 approved changes in senior management within the Council which provided for the formation of a revised Senior Management structure reporting to the Chief Executive and certain and specific new posts; and that as a result of those changes, approval was sought for remuneration over £100,000 for these new posts as detailed in the report.

The report indicated that as would be expected the demands and challenges faced by local government and Sefton MBC continued to increase and evolve, particularly in respect of Social Care, therefore it was essential that the senior management structure within the Council reflected this; that these proposals also coincided with the recruitment of the new Chief Executive; and that as such this Senior Management Structure would enable the delivery of the Core Purpose and Council objectives at both an operational and strategic level.

The report also indicated that the new posts proposed had been through the recognised Job Evaluation process and this had determined the grade applicable; that as a result, remuneration over £100,000 per annum was provided for three Executive Director posts within the Authority and this would ensure that the Authority recruited and retained an appropriate calibre of individuals in respect of these key posts.

It was moved by Councillor Maher, seconded by Councillor Grace:

That

- (1) the remuneration for the posts of Executive Director Adult Social Care and Health, Executive Director of Children's Social Care, and Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services, all to be at HAY 1 level, be approved; and
- (2) in accordance with the existing Pay Policy, that where required in terms of recruitment, the Chief Executive and Chief Personnel Officer be authorised to provide a market supplement to attract suitable candidates where necessary.

On a show of hands the Mayor declared that the Motion was carried by 42 votes to 14 and it was

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the remuneration for the posts of Executive Director Adult Social Care and Health, Executive Director of Children's Social Care, and Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services, all to be at HAY 1 level, be approved; and

- (2) in accordance with the existing Pay Policy, that where required in terms of recruitment, the Chief Executive and Chief Personnel Officer be authorised to provide a market supplement to attract suitable candidates where necessary.

80. PAY POLICY

Further to Minute No. 4 of the meeting of the Pay and Grading Committee held on 15 January 2020 the Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources that recommended a Pay Policy for the Council as required by the Localism Act 2011.

It was moved by Councillor Lappin, seconded by Councillor Grace and

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposed updates to the Pay Policy as contained in Annex A to the report be approved; and
- (2) the amendment to the Pay Policy at paragraph 54 stipulating (as now) that an individual who has left the Council in receipt of a severance, redundancy and/or pension payment may subsequently be re-employed or engaged under a contract for services; and however stipulating that as part of the business case that a period of time of at least 2 years (in most cases) from the final date of employment should have elapsed before re-employment is considered, be approved. All cases will, in any event, still require justification in the form of a robust business Case.

81. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION (CTR) SCHEME 2020/21, COUNCIL TAX BASE 2020/21 AND CHANGES TO COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS FOR EMPTY HOMES

Further to Minute No. 93 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9 January 2020 the Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources that provided details of the review of the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2019/20 and which recommended that there was no change to the scheme for 2020/21 for working age claimants; that also sought changes to discretionary Council Tax Empty Homes discounts following the outcome of a public consultation, and an additional increase

to the Council Tax long-term Empty Homes Premium following a consultation exercise that took place in 2018; that sought an increase in the Exceptional Hardship Fund (EHF) budget from £150,000 to £170,000 from 2020/21 onwards; and which provided an updated Council Tax Base for Sefton Council and each Parish area for 2020/21.

It was moved by Councillor Maher, seconded by Councillor Grace and

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2019/20 be noted;
- (2) no changes be made to the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2020/21 for working age claimants;
- (3) the outcome of the recent consultation and equality impact assessment on the proposed changes to Council Tax Empty Homes discounts as set out in Annex B be noted;
- (4) the changes to discretionary Council Tax Empty Homes discounts from 1 April 2020 to reduce the discount on uninhabitable properties from 50% to 0%, and to reduce the discount for the first month that a property is empty from 100% to 50% be approved;
- (5) a change to the long-term Empty Homes Premium from 1 April 2020, to increase the premium charged on properties that have been empty for 5 years or more from 100% to 200% be approved;
- (6) the relevant 2020/21 Council Tax Base for Sefton Council and each Parish Area as set out in Annex A be approved; and
- (7) an increase in the Exceptional Hardship Fund budget from £150,000 to £170,000 from 2020/21 onwards be approved.

82. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE - TREASURY MANAGEMENT POSITION TO OCTOBER 2019

The Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources that provided a review of the Treasury Management activities undertaken to 31 October 2019; and indicating that it was the second report of the ongoing quarterly monitoring provided to Audit and Governance Committee and the mid-year report to Cabinet and Council, whose role it was to carry out scrutiny of treasury management policies and practices.

It was moved by Councillor Maher, seconded by Councillor Grace and

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management update to 31 October 2019, to review the effects of decisions taken in pursuit of the Treasury Management Strategy and to consider the implications of changes resulting from regulatory, economic and market factors affecting the Council's treasury management activities be noted.

83. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE - ADDITIONAL CAPITAL ESTIMATES

Further to Minute No. 94 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9 January 2020 the Council considered the joint report of the Executive Director and the Head of Corporate Resources advising that the Council's Capital Investment Programme had been developed to enable the Council to continue to deliver financial sustainability, to stimulate economic growth and strategic investment; and that key to the development of the investment programme was ensuring the best use of existing assets and the generation of council resources to finance upfront capital expenditure.

It was moved by Councillor Maher, seconded by Councillor Grace and

RESOLVED: That

(1) the following supplementary capital estimates be approved:

Investment Programme

- the redevelopment of the Cambridge Road Centre funded by an external contribution of £1.145m from the Combined Authority;
- the Crosby Lakeside Redevelopment Project to be funded by an external contribution of £3.100m from the Combined Authority (Standalone Report submitted to Cabinet on 7th November 2019);

Invest to Save Programme

- the Purchase of the Winter Service Facility funded by £2.632m of prudential borrowing.

Capital Programme Additions

- additions to the Transport Programme of £2.680m funded by capital receipts;
- Essential Maintenance (Victoria Baths) £0.570m funded by

- capital receipts;
 - Essential Maintenance (STCC) £1.244m funded by capital receipts;
 - Council Essential Maintenance (Council wide) £2.834m funded by capital receipts; and
- (2) delegation to the Head of Corporate Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be approved to take any decision to incur short-term borrowing to bridge any funding gap on the basis that the cost of borrowing can be contained within the Growth and Strategic Investment budget and the Council's Prudential Indicators.

84. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2019/20

No changes to membership of Committees were made.

85. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BRENNAN - CLOSURE OF BYNG HOUSE, SOUTHPORT

It was moved by Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Carragher and unanimously

RESOLVED:

Byng House

This Council calls on the Royal British Legion to reconsider its decision to close Byng House in Southport and to retain its home maintenance service.

This Council acknowledges the tremendous work that the Royal British Legion does on behalf of veterans past and present but expresses its concern that the closure will have a detrimental effect on the wellbeing of members of the Sefton veteran's community.

86. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SIR RON WATSON - ADULT SOCIAL CARE

It was moved by Councillor Sir Ron Watson, seconded by Councillor Brough:

Adult Social Care

Sefton Council recognises the commitment made by the new Conservative Government to give priority to dealing with the critically important issues of Adult Social Care.

Council believes that because of its experience in this area it should produce a definitive policy document for formal submission to the Government as part of what will be a National Consultation exercise.

The Council recognises and welcomes the Government's stated objective to approach this issue on an all-party basis and believes that Sefton should do the same.

The Council should therefore set up a working party whose composition should represent all the parties on the Council who reach the normal threshold of members to give detailed consideration to the issue and that their findings should be submitted to the full Council for approval and not just to the Cabinet.

The working party should be focused and comprise of 4 Labour, 2 Lib Dems and 1 Conservative member. The names to be agreed by the Whips of the parties concerned.

Following debate, and on a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the Motion was **lost** by 40 votes to 13 with 4 abstentions and it was

RESOLVED:

That the Motion be not approved.

87. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PUGH - BURSCOUGH CURVES

It was moved by Councillor Pugh, seconded by Councillor Dawson:

Burscough Curves

This Council:

- (1) notes the intention of the incoming Conservative government to establish a £500 million Beeching Reversal Funds;
- (2) recognises the potential economic benefits that could follow from the restoration of the Burscough Curves -particularly to Southport;
- (3) urges the City Region Authority to prioritise the scheme in conjunction with neighbouring authorities in order to draw down

available government funding; and

- (4) will notify the Department of Transport, neighbouring MPs and Network Rail of its support for the restoration of rail links at Burscough that will bind Liverpool City Region, Preston City Region and East Lancashire more closely together and invite their response.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Friel, seconded by Councillor Halsall that the Motion be amended by the addition of the following paragraph:

- (5) Write to West Lancashire Borough Council to advise of our Motion and support the principle outlined by notifying the Department for Transport and the Secretary of State for Transport (Grant Shapps) to that effect.

In accordance with Paragraph 72 in Chapter 4 of the Council's Constitution, Councillor Friel offered the amendment as a 'friendly amendment' and Councillor Pugh accepted it as such.

The Amendment was unanimously agreed and became the Substantive Motion.

Following debate on the Substantive Motion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

Burscough Curves

This Council:

- (1) notes the intention of the incoming Conservative government to establish a £500 million Beeching Reversal Funds;
- (2) recognises the potential economic benefits that could follow from the restoration of the Burscough Curves -particularly to Southport;
- (3) urges the City Region Authority to prioritise the scheme in conjunction with neighbouring authorities in order to draw down available government funding;
- (4) will notify the Department of Transport, neighbouring MPs and Network Rail of its support for the restoration of rail links at Burscough that will bind Liverpool City Region, Preston City Region and East Lancashire more closely together and invite their response; and
- (5) Write to West Lancashire Borough Council to advise of our Motion and support the principle outlined by notifying the Department for Transport and the Secretary of State for Transport (Grant Shapps)

to that effect.