

Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time finished - 8.50 pm

COUNCIL MEETING 19 SEPTEMBER 2012

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Higginbottom) (in the Chair)
Councillors Afzal, Allen, Ashburner, Atwal, Bailey, Banwait, Barker, Bayliss, Bolton, Campbell, Carr, Davis, Dhindsa, Harwood, Hickson, Hillier, Holmes, Hussain, Ingall, Jones, Keith, J Khan, MacDonald, Martin, Naitta, Nawaz, Pegg, Poulter, Radford, Rawson, Redfern, Repton, Roberts, Russell, Sandhu, Shanker, Skelton, Stanton, Tittley, Troup, Turner, Webb, Whitby, F Winter, L Winter, Wood.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jackson, Jennings, S. Khan and Williams

37/12 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Afzal declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 12 (2), the motion on Hackney licensing, as a taxi driver.

38/12 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 18 July 2012, be approved as a correct record, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

39/12 Announcements by the Mayor

The Council stood in silence, as a tribute to the memory of former councillors Tony Weaver and Paul Willetts, who had passed away since the last meeting of the Council – also for two officers of the Greater Manchester Police who had been murdered on duty earlier that week.

The Mayor congratulated the YMCA on the success of their award winning Dance Beats initiative.

Councillors Harwood and Repton made statements congratulating Derbyshire County Cricket Club, on their recent success on becoming champions of the LV Division 2, and local Olympians and Paralympians.

The Mayor introduced Miss Cate Holder to the meeting. Miss Holder told two jokes to Council, in line with the Mayor's stated intention that all meetings during her term would begin with a joke told by a schoolchild.

40/12 Statements by Members of the Council Cabinet

Councillor Bayliss, Leader of the Council, made a statement on recent initiatives and achievements. Councillors Jones responded.

41/12 Public Questions

A full list of questions and prepared responses had been circulated prior to the start of the meeting and each questioner was asked in turn if they had a supplementary question arising from the written response. Questions from members of the public were put as follows:

1. By Tariq Pervaiz – concerning Hackney Carriages, answered by Councillor Dhindsa, Council Cabinet Member for Planning, Environment and Public Protection.

42/12 Written Questions about the Business or Functions of Derbyshire Police Authority, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority and Derby Homes Ltd

There were no written questions about the business or functions of Derbyshire Policy Authority, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority or Derby Homes Ltd.

43/12 Written Questions from Non Council Cabinet Members

Written questions from Non Council Cabinet Members to Members of the Council Cabinet or Committee Chairs were asked as follows:

1. By Councillor Allen – concerning sprinkler systems in council properties, answered by Councillor Bayliss, Leader of the Council
2. By Councillor Jones – concerning Neighbourhood Workers, answered by Councillor Banwait, Council Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Streetpride
3. By Councillor Ashburner – concerning Derbyshire County Cricket Club, answered by Councillor Repton, Council Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture

4. By Councillor Ashburner –concerning the Market Place Waterfall, answered by Councillor Dhindsa, Council Cabinet Member for Planning, Environment and Public Protection.
5. By Councillor Troup – concerning the Green Deal, answered by Councillor Dhindsa, Council Cabinet Member for Planning, Environment and Public Protection.

44/12 Minutes and Recommendations of the Council Cabinet

The Council considered the minutes and recommendations of the Council Cabinet of 15 August 2012 and 12 September 2012 requiring approval of the Council.

50/12 To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2015/16

52/12 To approve additional borrowing for the Leisure Strategy and Regeneration Fund

69/12 To approve additional borrowing to replace equipment at Allestree and Sinfen golf courses

Resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Council Cabinet dated 15 August 2012 and 12 September 2012.

45/12 Annual report of the Standards Committee 2011/12

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr Phillip Sunderland, Chair of the Standards Committee, presented the Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2011/12.

Resolved, on the motion of the Mayor, Councillor Higginbottom, and seconded, to receive the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for the 2011/12 municipal year and to extend the thanks of the Council to the independent members of that Committee.

46/12 Appointment of a Member to the Derbyshire City and County Music Partnership

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director of Resources, which highlighted that although the Council is a contributory partner to the Music Partnership, it had not made an appointment to the board of governors for a number of years.

Resolved on the motion of Councillor Bayliss and seconded, to appoint Councillor Jackson to the Derbyshire City and County Music Partnership.

47/12 Notices of Motion

1) Fair Deal for Derby

Resolved on the motion of Councillor Bayliss and seconded, that

‘Council notes the disproportionate impact that the Government’s austerity programme has had in Derby, compared to other local authority areas. Council is dismayed that the cumulative impact of in-year cuts to funding in 2011-12 and 2012-13 amounts to £75.77 per person, as opposed to a few pounds, or even pence, in other parts of the country.

Council demands a Fair Deal for Derby.

Council agrees to lobby Government to ensure the cumulative impact of cuts is shared across all local authority areas, rather than being based on a postcode lottery.’

2) Hackney Carriages

Having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item, Councillor Afzal left the room and took no part in the debate.

It was moved by Councillor Atwal and seconded that

‘Derby has a good reputation for Hackney taxis being readily available for members of the public. Derby needs to maintain this reputation.

Council believes that good relations with the taxi trade is key to achieving this and calls for –

- the re-instatement of regular trade meetings with the taxi trade, as were held when the Liberal Democrats led the Council
- an attitude of open-minded listening to, and action on, reasonable requests made by the taxi trade
- all members to commit themselves to developing a constructive relationship with the taxi trade, based on mutual respect, openness and transparency.’

It was moved by Councillor Banwait and seconded that the motion be amended, by the deletion of the words ‘and calls for’ in paragraph two, together with all the bullet points that followed and its replacement with the following:

‘however this reputation has been put at risk by Liberal Democrat and Conservative councillors, who ended consultation with representatives of drivers at the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee on 14 March 2012.

The Council commends the new Labour administration in its desire to reverse the damaging policy of the Liberal Democrat and Conservative coalition towards hackney drivers.

Council notes the first Taxi Partnership meeting, held on 11 September, as a positive step towards listening to their concerns and developing an action plan.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member, Councillor Banwait and Councillor Afzal, to continue to develop the Taxi Partnership, as a way of delivering improvements for the trade and their passengers.'

The amendment was carried

Resolved that

'Derby has a good reputation for Hackney taxis being readily available for members of the public. Derby needs to maintain this reputation.

Council believes that good relations with the taxi trade is key to achieving this, however this reputation has been put at risk by Liberal Democrat and Conservative councillors, who ended consultation with representatives of drivers at the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee on 14 March 2012.

The Council commends the new Labour administration in its desire to reverse the damaging policy of the Liberal Democrat and Conservative coalition towards hackney drivers.

Council notes the first Taxi Partnership meeting, held on 11 September, as a positive step towards listening to their concerns and developing an action plan.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member, Councillor Banwait and Councillor Afzal, to continue to develop the Taxi Partnership, as a way of delivering improvements for the trade and their passengers.'

Councillor Afzal returned to the room

3) Council Tax Benefit

It was moved by Councillor Russell and seconded that

'Council notes with grave concern, changes to Council Tax Benefit, which result in local authorities across England being forced to reduce benefit payments by ten per cent, irrespective of demand, from April 2013.

Council strongly opposes the imposition of this draconian change, which pays no regard whatsoever to the needs of claimants, and particularly the impact it will have on society's poorest people, while the Government centrally is offering tax breaks to Britain's highest earners.

Council recognises the efforts of officers to liaise with colleagues across the county, and particularly with Nottingham City Council and Leicester City Council, to develop a proposed scheme that makes the best of a very bad situation.

Council resolves to continue to consult the public and work closely with local authorities across the county and region on this matter, to deliver the fairest scheme possible.'

It was moved by Councillor Ashburner and seconded that the motion be amended to read as follows:

'Council welcomes the opportunity to bring within local control the amendments to Council Tax Benefit payments.

We regret the cuts to this by 10%, due to the financial situation.

Council encourages the liaison with comparable councils such as Stoke and Coventry.

Council resolves to continue the consultation with comparable councils to deliver the best benefits possible'

The amendment was lost

Resolved that

'Council notes with grave concern, changes to Council Tax Benefit, which result in local authorities across England being forced to reduce benefit payments by ten per cent, irrespective of demand, from April 2013.

Council strongly opposes the imposition of this draconian change, which pays no regard whatsoever to the needs of claimants, and particularly the impact it will have on society's poorest people, while the Government centrally is offering tax breaks to Britain's highest earners.

Council recognises the efforts of officers to liaise with colleagues across the county, and particularly with Nottingham City Council and Leicester City Council, to develop a proposed scheme that makes the best of a very bad situation.

Council resolves to continue to consult the public and work closely with local authorities across the county and region on this matter, to deliver the fairest scheme possible.'

4) Remploy

Resolved on the motion of Councillor Dhindsa and seconded, that

‘Council recognises the excellent work undertaken by organisations such as Remploy in supporting disabled workers into employment.

Council recognises its social responsibility towards people with disabilities in our wider communities.

Council resolves to continue to take steps to ensure job opportunities are actively promoted to people with disabilities and that progress is reported back to the Council Cabinet member.’

Mayor