

ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the St Helens Borough Council held on
10 July 2019

- (Present)** **The Mayor (Councillor Johnson) (Chairman)**
Councillors Baines, Banks, Bell, Bond, Burns, Charlton, Clarke,
Fulham, Gill, Gomez-Aspron, Greaves, Groucutt, Grunewald,
Hattersley, Haw, Howard, J Jackson, P Jackson, Jones, D Long,
T Long, Maloney, McCauley, McDonnell, Murphy, Mussell, Neal,
O’Keefe, Osundeko, Pearl, Pearson, Pritchard, Quinn,
Reynolds, Smith, Sweeney, Tasker, Uddin, van der Burg and
Wiseman.
- (Not Present)** **Councillors Bowden, Cunliffe, Lynch, McQuade, C Preston,**
L Preston and Sims

14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bowden, Cunliffe, Lynch, McQuade, C Preston, L Preston and Sims.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No declarations of interest were made.

16 MINUTES

- * **Resolved that the Minutes of Annual Council held on 22 May 2019 be approved.**

17 THE MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor congratulated the following residents who received awards in the recent Queen’s Birthday Honours:

John Lewis received an MBE for Services to Business in Liverpool;
Andrew Reid received an MBE for Voluntary Service to Veterans and People with Disabilities in St Helens;
Enid Hales received a British Empire Medal for Services to the Community in Newton-le-Willows; and
Yelèna Travis-Powell received a British Empire Medal for Services to Law Enforcement and Diversity.

18 TO HEAR AND RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9

The Mayor reported that there were no questions submitted in accordance with this Procedure Rule.

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19 TO HEAR AND RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10

The Mayor reported that there were no questions submitted in accordance with this Procedure Rule.

20 TO HEAR ANY DEPUTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

The Mayor reported that no requests to hear a deputation had been received in accordance with this Council Procedure Rule.

21 REPORT OF CABINET – CORPORATE FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT

A report was submitted which informed Council that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 12 June 2019 recommended that Council approve certain matters in respect of the corporate finances of the Council. A copy of the report was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The main elements of the report are contained in the attached commentary on the Council's Financial Position.

Section	Content
1	Capital Programme Outturn 2018/19
2	Revenue Budget Outturn 2018/19
3	Reserves and Balances
4	Revenue Budget 2019/20
5	Treasury Management Outturn Report 2018/19

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) **the 2018/19 Capital Programme Outturn position (subject to audit) as summarised in Section 1 and detailed at Annex A be noted;**
- (2) **the carry forward and acceleration of budget provision for continuing earmarked reserve funded schemes, as detailed in Annex B be noted;**
- (3) **the requests for carry forwards as outlined in Section 2.2.10 be approved;**
- (4) **the Revenue Outturn position (subject to audit) for 2018/19 as detailed in Section 2.1.2 be noted;**
- (5) **it be approved that there will be no reductions to any Directorate budgets in 2019/20 arising from the outturn position for 2018/19, as detailed in Section 3.1.4;**
- (6) **the latest reserves and balances position as outlined in Section 3 be noted;**

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- (7) the revised Revenue Budget for 2019/20 as outlined in Section 4 be approved; and
- (8) the Treasury Management Outturn Report 2018/19 as included in Section 5 be noted.

22 REPORT OF THE CABINET – FOOD AND FEED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN 2019/20

A report was submitted which informed Council that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 12 June 2019, recommended that the Council approve the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2019/20.

A copy of the report was attached at Appendix 1.

- * **Resolved that the Food and Feed Law Enforcement Service Plan 2019/20 for St Helens be adopted.**

23 REPORT OF THE LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE – ADOPTION OF STREET COLLECTION POLICY

A report was submitted which informed Council that the Licensing and Environmental Protection Committee at its meeting held on 24 April 2019 considered the Street Collection Policy and Model Street Collection Regulations and sought approval for their adoption.

The report of the Committee was attached at Appendix 1.

- * **Resolved that the Street Collection Policy and Model Street Collection Regulations be adopted.**

24 URGENT MATTERS – DECISIONS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE THREE GROUP LEADERS, MADE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

A report was submitted on one Urgent Decision made in respect of a Decision taken by the Chief Executive or their representative, in consultation with the three Group Leaders, made under Delegated Powers, with regard to a change of polling station required for the European Parliamentary Election.

- * **Resolved that the Decision of the Chief Executive or their representative in consultation with the three Group Leaders made under Delegated Powers be noted.**

25 NOTICES OF MOTION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Bond and seconded by Councillor Howard:

“St Helens Council is concerned and disappointed by the previous Home Secretary’s rejection on the 31st October 2016 of calls for an Inquiry into the policing of events at Orgreave coking plant on the 18th June 1984.

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St Helens Council is pleased to note the decision by the Scottish Parliament on 7th June 2018 to order an independent review to investigate and subsequently report on the impact of policing on affected communities in Scotland during the period of the miners' strike from March 1984- March 1985.

St Helens Council further praises the decision of the Welsh Assembly on 12th June 2018 to write to the Home Secretary to ask for an independent review into policing in England and Wales during the miners' strike. Further the Welsh Assembly wrote again on the 13th June 2018 requesting the Home Secretary orders an inquiry specifically into the policing at Orgreave

St Helens Council notes that 95 miners were arrested and charged with offences but were all later acquitted. Miners and their families were adversely affected by the events of that day in terms of wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, ill-health, family breakdown and termination of employment, as a direct result of policing tactics at Orgreave. A full investigation into the policing on that day is long overdue and only a full public inquiry can fully investigate this.

St Helens Council observes that the Independent Police Complaints Commission commented in a report released in June 2015 that "there was evidence of excessive violence by police officers, and a false narrative from police exaggerating violence by miners, perjury by officers giving evidence to prosecute the arrested men, and an apparent cover-up of that perjury by senior officers".

St Helens Council is of the view that the Home Secretary needs to acknowledge the actions of the Scottish parliament and the call from the Welsh assembly.

St Helens Council will write to the Home Secretary and ask that he/she acknowledges the response of the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, explains what action has been taken in response, takes into account the opinion of St Helens Council, accepts that there is widespread public concern about events at Orgreave and calls for him/her to order a full public enquiry into the events of the 18th June 1984.

* **Resolved that the Motion be approved.**

The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor Sweeney:

Domestic abuse occurs throughout the UK and can affect anyone at any life stage. It does not discriminate and whilst it affects mainly women, children and men of all backgrounds, age, race, gender, sexuality or socio-economic status can be affected. National statistics for levels of domestic abuse have not changed for decades.

As an authority, the Council recognises the importance of people coming forward to report domestic abuse and wants to provide a safe environment in which victims and survivors can come forward to receive the help they need in a non-judgmental and supportive way.

The Council also notes the importance of providing emergency accommodation for those in need who are fleeing abusing relationships.

This Council resolves to make a stand against domestic abuse and agrees to –

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- Write to the Home Secretary to demand additional funding for Local Authorities to support essential housing provision for victims of Domestic Abuse;
 - Work to deliver a comprehensive, whole Council approach to Domestic Abuse;
 - Work with all communities to make clear that domestic abuse in all its forms is not acceptable and to do all we can to encourage people to report domestic abuse;
 - Treat victims of domestic abuse with dignity and provide a safe environment in which to report domestic abuse of all types.
- * **Resolved that the Motion be approved.**

The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Uddin and seconded by Councillor Clarke:

Tackling the Climate Change Emergency

This council notes:

That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing damaging effects across the globe.

That the contents of the 'Special Report on Global Warming' published by the intergovernmental panel on Climate Change in October 2018 wherein they outline the enormous harm that a 2°C rise in global temperature is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise. Nevertheless, they say that with ambitious action, it may be possible to limit global warming to the 1.5°C rise.

That the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has set out how it plans to tackle the Climate Emergency and approved the development of a full climate action plan by December 2019.

Given that it is Liverpool City Region's 'Year of the Environment' and that the UK has contributed significantly to global warming, this council commits to:

Aiming to be zero-carbon by 2040.

Taking action towards increasing recycling and reducing landfill waste.

Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2040.

Ensure that all decisions, budgets, and approaches to planning decisions are balanced and in line with achieving the zero-carbon target.

Request that scrutiny panels consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing council policies.

Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency;

Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible.

Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and

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encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings, in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice.

* **Resolved that the Motion be approved.**

The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor Baines:

COUNCIL MOTION ON HIGH-STAKES TESTING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St Helens Council welcomes the commitment of the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party to abolish SATs and other high-stakes testing in primary schools.

It notes that:

- 1) Statutory testing in primary schools has increased since 2010 and is increasing further: by 2020, children will be tested in Reception (the Baseline Assessment), Year 1 (the Phonics Screening Check), Year 2 (SATs), Year 4 (the Multiplication Tables Check) and Year 6 (SATs);
- 2) The pressures of statutory assessment contribute to the crisis of teacher morale, workload, recruitment and retention;
- 3) Tests are focussed on the requirements of school accountability rather than on support for children's learning;
- 4) The pressures of testing in primary schools have a detrimental effect on children's mental health;
- 5) Educational research has demonstrated repeatedly that teaching to the test narrows the curriculum and the educational experience of children, focussing on labelling not learning; and
- 6) The National Education Union has agreed to carry out an indicative ballot of its members to ask for their views about the campaign to abolish high-stakes primary testing and whether they would be prepared to boycott statutory high-stakes tests in primary schools.

This council believes that campaigning, by those who work in primary schools, parents and academics, to end the current high-stakes system of primary assessment should be welcomed, in particular the More Than A Score campaign.

St Helens Council resolves:

- 1) To express its support for campaigns against the current system of primary assessment, including those organised by teacher unions and More Than A Score;
- 2) To call a meeting of trade unions, parents and school governors to discuss the council's position on these matters and to coordinate a response;
- 3) To lobby the Secretary of State for Education to listen to the growing number of voices who are calling for the abolition of high-stakes testing in primary schools; and
- 4) To offer support to schools within the area which adopt an alternative approach to assessment (for example by taking the More Than A Score pledge).

* **Resolved that the Motion be approved.**

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Councillor Groucutt left the meeting during discussion on the following Motion.

The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor O'Keefe and seconded by Councillor van der Burg:

To declare a Climate Emergency

This Council notes that:

1. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;
2. In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible;
3. Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;
4. Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;
5. Bristol City Council has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, having met its corporate carbon reduction target three years early, published the City Leap prospectus and committed to making the city carbon neutral by 2050;
6. Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050;
7. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report: "Global Warming of 1.5°C", published last month, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities; and
8. Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.

This Council believes that:

1. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of St.Helens and the UK that towns and cities commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;
2. Urban areas are uniquely placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, as they are in many ways easier to decarbonise than rural areas – for example because of their capacity for heat networks and mass transit;
3. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority; and,
4. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).
5. By setting an agenda to reduce its carbon emissions to the extent proposed and being seen to achieve its targets, Council will set an example which the public can follow.

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This Council resolves to:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Pledge to make St Helens Borough carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol);
3. Call on Parliament to provide the powers and resources to make the achievement of the 2030 target possible;
4. Work with other local government authorities (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
5. To work with other local authorities in the NW Region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans; and
6. Require the Chief Executive to report to Council within six months to give an account of the actions Council should take to address this emergency.

* **Resolved that the Motion be lost.**

At the conclusion of the meeting the Mayor thanked Jan Bakewell, Deputy Director, Legal and Governance, who was leaving the Authority to take on a new post, for all her hard work and wished her well in her new job.

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