

Council Meeting 23/09/15

The meeting began with the approval of the minutes and decisions of the constitutional and nominations committee.

Lord Mayor's special business

The Lord Mayor gave his congratulations to Mancunians receiving Honours.

Manchester Trading Council was given an award by the British Hallmark Council. A representative of the British Hallmark Council gave a speech.

Manchester Airport Transformation Programme report was presented by representatives from the airport. It outlined plans for the airport over the next ten years. The representatives stated that the plan was not about spending new money. They argued that long term economic and aviation infrastructure growth are correlated. It was said that there are constraints at the site which will disrupt further growth unless they are dealt with and that there is a strong financial case to deal with the challenges outlined over the next ten years. It was stated that as the work wasn't structured as a single project, financial risks could be minimised.

Stated goals of the project include: higher passenger volumes, higher prices to airlines, cost savings, indirect benefits for the region.

The response by Councillors is noted below.

Cllr Gillard said he was a big fan of the airport. He asked: how will the airport mitigate the environmental cost? He said he was asking as he got queries from constituents about this. Answer from Airport reps: they are consulting on sustainable development, do not anticipate carbon or noise increase, and carbon neutrality is the aim in the long run.

Cllr O'Neil asked: where's the commitment to local communities? He has heard the promise of jobs before, without it being realised. He said he was disgusted about the low percentage of local people employed there. He stated that car parking increases the pollution in and around Woodhouse Park. The Lord Mayor then made light of his questions for being overly long. Answer: out of 2,000 people employed directly by the Airport, 666 have Manchester postcodes. 6,000 to 7,000 overall at the Airport are believed to live in Manchester out of a total of 20,000. He said that as passenger numbers increased, so would car parks but added that public transport use was also projected to increase. (MS: I will look into this point. Clearly, Manchester postcodes are not confined to the MCC area. It could be that the Airport representative merely used an unclear phrase. I think that it was poor that he didn't answer the question, which was about specifically about Woodhouse Park and not the broader area.)

Cllr Curley said that if the community approach was correct, local people would be able to make the most of the job opportunities. Answer: recently, recruiting 700 new staff was a challenge. Transport and access to the Airport was an issue in recruitment.

Cllr Barrat stated that unlike his colleagues he had an actual question to ask; it was, "what will you do to make sure duty-free at the airport is charged at the correct price?" Answer:

duty-free doesn't exist in intra-Europe travel any more. Action has already been taken on the companies which were doing this at the site.

Cllr Trotman asked: "what will you do to improve disabled access outside the airport?"

Answer: current infrastructure makes these things more difficult, it will improve during the building work. (MS: I'm sceptical about this as he didn't go into any detail.)

Cllr Simcock noted that Manchester Airport have been highly supportive of HS2. He asked if they would push Westminster politicians, including newly elected leaders, to back HS2?

Answer: the Government needs to make sure it gets the maximum benefit from the Airport. One that is connected will be successful. (MS: yet another example of the row within Labour resulting from the Corbyn victory.)

Cllr Chappell was keen to see the Airport's environmental plans go in front of the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee. She then proceeded to say that the total carbon footprint of the City was important. She continued by saying that of the 7 million tons emitted by the City, 1 million is from air travel. She reminded councillors that the Council's target was to cut carbon emissions by 40% by 2020. Answer: minimise impact. In terms of airlines, the Airport is a member of the sustainable aviation group and encourages its partners to join as well. (MS: basically no answer, but then again the question was buried under everything else.)

Cllr Webb asked: will flight paths remain the same? Answer: no planned change, but European regulations might change in the future.

Cllr Cookson: are there plans to mitigate congestion in Terminal One? Answer: Terminal One will be knocked down in the long run. Security performance over the last 6 months has been outstanding.

Cllr Peel: the Airport has lost a fair amount of long-haul traffic since 2008. What plans are there to increase this? Answer: 40% of traffic is long-haul. Airports are only as strong and as good as their catchment.

Cllr Ahmed Ali: can you outline what the planned US security point at the Airport will mean? Answer: this will allow passengers to clear immigration on the UK rather than US side. This will make Manchester more attractive to US airlines.

Cllr Richards said she welcomed the relationship with the Airport, particularly dividend. She went onto ask: "what are you doing on the living wage and zero-hour contracts". Answer: the Airport doesn't employ anyone on zero-hour contracts. He said he would take the matter up with its partners.

Cllr Swannick asked what climate change adaptation was planned? Answer: the Airport is interested in this area.

There was then an announcement from Cllr Andrews on the **refugee crisis**.

Questions to the Executive were then taken. Cllr Craig to Cllr Nigel Murphy: burglaries are down by a third from Project Arc, do you still support it? Nigel Murphy: yes, even though the Arc team from the Police will go back.

Cllr Craig: Greater Manchester Police (GMP) cuts. Will you raise with GMP the need for neighbourhood teams? Nigel Murphy: agreed.

Cllr Watson for Cllr Andrews: an overview of the Chorlton Good Neighbours group was given. Will this group be seen as an intrinsic as part of Living Longer Living Better? Cllr Andrews: fully supports this. It is paramount for groups like this to be involved in Living Longer Living Better. This might be hard as the department has been given an in-year cut of £3 million from Public Health England. The Belief is that this will have an impact on this scheme.

Cllr Watson asked more on the same, and Cllr Andrews agreed.

Proceedings of scrutiny: reports from the Committees were received.

Northwood Solar Panels motion moved.

Cllr Ludford introduced the notice of motion: **Healthy Schools Team**. She said that the subject close to heart as she was brought up in care and had personal experience of CSE (child sexual exploitation). She told the meeting that she didn't know what was happening at the time and that the whole situation seemed to be out of control. She welcomed the issue being spoken about in school and believed that this was an important way tackling child sexual exploitation.

Cllr Battle spoke about the work done by the youth organised Unity Radio project which she described as being seen as popular and credible. She informed the Council that the station's NGY show aimed at young people was covering the issue of CSE. She also told the Council that investment in this is important.

Cllr Sameem Ali said that most children affected by this issue will suffer in silence. Society calls them "hard to reach". One thing they wanted was to be safe. Society should be talking about reaching out.

Cllr Adams told the Council that it was important to mitigate against the government's ideological targeting against women and others. She went onto say that Labour had always supported a broad curriculum.

Cllr Shelia Newman stated that it was important to work closely with schools on this issue.

Cllr Sue Murphy told the council that she was proud that they had not cut services related to CSE.

Cllr Reed raised the point that often schools don't have specialists in this area. She said that she was concerned that Academy schools were harder to engage with on this issue than LEA schools.

Protect the Human Rights Act.

Cllr Stone: has worked with Amnesty International. The "protect the human" slogan should be noted. The Councillor gave an outline of the act and Human Rights in general.

Cllr Sildon-Godwin seconded the motion.

Cllr Wilson also spoke on the motion and continued the attack on the Tories and the media.

Cllr Ahmed Ali also spoke on the motion. His contribution was more of the same. His views were echoed by Cllr Rahman.

A motion on the **EU referendum** was the final item on the agenda. Cllr Peel introduced the motion, his speech outlining his pro-EU view point and urged the Council to do more to advertise the work the EU does. He mentioned that some members of his party are now calling for an exit, but he said that anything Mr Farage wanted to do he was against.

Cllr Richards seconded the motion. Her speech was dominated by a discussion of the EU's impact on marketising Graphene. Cllr Stogia also supported the motion. Cllr E Newman echoed the views of his fellow councillors. He outlined his move from being anti- to pro-EU. He was the first Councillor to note that the EU has faults as well as strengths. No one voted against the motion.

I apologise for the length of this document. I do try to keep things as brief as possible, but on this occasion I decided to leave more detail in to provide an overview of some of the thoughts of councillors. Not all Labour councillors have the same opinion, and Manchester Green Party's approach should reflect this.

The above is an abridged impression of the meeting. For more detail please contact me at: mschreibke@hotmail.co.uk

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