

## Executive meeting 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2015

The meeting was pretty full, Mr Leese was the chair and it was pretty obvious from the start that this meeting was going to be a short one. Mr Leese began the meeting by asking for remembrance for the events of Tunisia.

The first item on the agenda (other than the usual formalities) was the local plan review. This was agreed with no real discussion. The only comments were from the executive and these amounted to a very brief restatement of the policy.

Item 5 was the Green and Blue infrastructure plan. The policy was briefly outlined with Cllr Kate Chappell, who again highlighted the £500,000 investment courtesy of the Clean City Fund. She also stated that as the setting up of 'parklets' in the city was deemed to be impossible, references to them in the report should be struck out. (In my opinion green space in the city isn't feasible when the Council want to cram every speck of the city with expensive apartments and shops.)

Item 6, a report on the Children's Rights service was withdrawn. This report proposes that the Children's Rights service is outsourced.

Item 7 dealt with the Hackney Carriage Fare Review. The decision to approve this was made, subject to the agreement of the Council's Solicitor.

Item 8 was a statement on the Treasury Management strategy. I have included item 9, the Capital Program, in this section as well as the two items ran into each other. Mr Leese was at pains to state that although the accounts gave the appearance of a large surplus, most of this money represents one-time payments from housing schemes or from holding funds which will eventually be transferred to the Greater Manchester accounts. He was also at pains to explain that although a large amount of money was transferred to pay for refuse trucks, this is actually a saving as an extra payment would have had to be paid if the contract had gone its full length. Why the Council agreed to a contract in which an extra payment is demanded at the end of the contract was not raised.

Item 10 was an update on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act and its use. The main comments were again from Mr Leese who wondered why the Council didn't make greater use of its powers.

The meeting moved on to item 11, a report on the Civic Quarter Heat Network. Cllr Chappell welcomed the report and restated her claim that the scheme would reduce the Council's CO2 emissions by 3,500 tons a year.

The next items were approving the decisions and minutes of the latest AGMA meetings. This was done with no discussion.

The final item was on the development of Great Jackson Street. This was agreed with no discussion. This caught me a bit by surprise as it was not included on the original agenda and must have been added at a later date.

Overall the meeting was another rubber-stamping exercise which saw the executive as a whole, and Mr Leese especially, keen to assure everyone that everything the Council is doing is right.

These are my impressions of the meeting and do not form accurate minutes. If you have any questions, contact me at: [mschreibke@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mschreibke@hotmail.co.uk)