

COUNCIL

4 JANUARY 2023

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Chris Boyes), in the Chair.

D.C. O'Sullivan	S. J. Haughey	S. Procter
D. Acton	J. Holden	T. Ross
S. Adshead	F. Hornby	J. Slater
A. Akinola	C. Hynes	S. Taylor
J.M. Axford	D. Jarman	S. Thomas
Miss L. Blackburn	D. Jerrome	L. Walsh
J. E. Brophy	W. Jones	M.J. Welton
B. Brotherton	J. Leicester	A. Western
D. Butt	J. Lloyd	D. Western
G. Carter	S. Maitland	M.P. Whetton
K.G. Carter	M. Minnis	G. Whitham
D.N. Chalkin	D. Morgan	A.M. Whyte
G. Coggins	P. Myers	A.J. Williams
S. G. Ennis	A. New	B.G. Winstanley
W. Frass	J.D. Newgrosh	Mrs. P. Young
S.J. Gilbert	T. O'Brien	S. Zhi
B. Hartley	E. Patel	
W. Hassan	K. Procter	

In attendance

Sara Todd	Chief Executive
Dominique Sykes	Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer
John Addison	Governance Manager
Alexander Murray	Governance Officer

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bennett, D. Bunting, Dr S. Carr, L. Dagnall, R. Duncan, M. Freeman, J. Harding, M. Mirza, R. Thompson, and J.A. Wright

46. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Mayor congratulated the Leader on being recently elected as the Member of Parliament for the Stretford and Urmston Constituency and stated that the report before Members outlined the impact of the appointment upon the Council.

The Leader introduced the report and spoke of his time as both the Leader and as a Councillor for Trafford Council. The Leader spoke of the challenges faced during that time, those who he had worked with and who had shaped his career including the late Councillor Bowker and all the group leaders during his tenure. The Leader also thanked the current Corporate Leadership Team along with former members

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of the team who had since moved on or retired. The Leader gave special thanks to the Chief Executive Officer and Councillor Hynes for their support. The Leader thanked all the current and past Councillors who had been in place during his tenure, especially those within the Labour Group.

The Leader then spoke of how he would continue to work on behalf of the people of Trafford as a Member of Parliament to tackle the challenges faced by the people of the borough.

The Leader spoke of how Councillor Ross was well prepared to take over as Leader of Trafford Council and how his experience as an Executive Member and as a past Mayor made him an excellent choice. The Leader then moved the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Hynes.

Councillor Hynes thanked the Leader for the time he had spent as Leader and recognised the challenges, most notably the pandemic, the Leader had led the Council through. Councillor Hynes spoke of the work that the Council had done under the Leader's guidance to support the most vulnerable through the pandemic and had continued to do so through the cost-of-living crisis. Councillor Hynes spoke of the Leader's commitment and dedication to the people of Trafford and she was sure that he would continue to do so in his new role.

Councillor Hynes then spoke of Councillor Ross and how she felt that he was an excellent Candidate for Leader and that it was her pleasure to second the motion.

The Mayor asked if there were any other nominations but none were received.

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak, multiple Councillors indicated that they would, and the Mayor asked Councillor Blackburn to speak first as Leader of the Opposition.

Councillor Blackburn thanked the Leader for his work for residents of the borough and gave a brief Summary of his time as a Councillor and Leader of the Council. Councillor Blackburn then welcomed Councillor Ross as the new Leader of the Council and gave a brief overview of the highlights of his career and expressed that she looked forward to working with him as Leader.

Councillor Jerrome thanked the Leader for the work he had done with and support he had provided for the Green Party as Leader of the Council. Councillor Jerrome welcomed Councillor Ross as Leader of the Council and recognised Councillor Ross' excellent tenure as Mayor in 2018/19 and noted how his experience made him an excellent candidate to be Leader of the Council.

Councillor Jerrome added that the green party would continue to put pressure on the Council to meet the climate challenges faced within the borough which they felt had not moved fast enough. Councillor Jerrome then announced that, due to the slow progress to tackle climate change, the Green Party would abstain from the vote.

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Councillor Newgrosh thanked the Leader for the work that he had done and welcomed Councillor Ross as Leader of the Council.

Councillor Acton spoke of the work the Leader had done as Leader of the Labour Group and Council over the previous 8 years. Councillor Acton listed some of the achievements and programmes that had been set in motion during the Leader's time in office.

Councillor Taylor passed on her congratulations to the Leader for being elected to as the MP for the Stretford and Urmston Parliamentary Constituency and recognised the excellent work he had done as Leader of the Council. Councillor Taylor welcomed the appointment of Councillor Ross and gave a summary of his qualifications for the role and spoke of how he would lead to further unification across the parties in addressing the challenges the Council faced.

Councillor Coggins thanked the Leader for the work he had done during his time as Leader of the Council from 2018, especially the decision to work with all the political parties during the pandemic.

Councillor Brotherton thanked the Leader for his work as Leader and congratulated him on his appointment. Councillor Brotherton then endorsed Councillor Ross as Leader and spoke of his eligibility for the role.

Councillor Brophy congratulated the Leader on his appointment and spoke of the work they had done together over the years. Councillor Brophy then welcomed Councillor Ross as Leader of the Council.

Following the statements, the Mayor asked if the Council agreed to the appointment and it was agreed.

The Mayor then gave Councillor Ross as the newly appointed Leader of the Council opportunity to say a few words.

The Leader stated how it was an honour and a privilege to be appointed as Leader of the Council. He thanked Councillor Western for all his work as Leader and wished him all the best in his new position. The Leader thanked Councillor Hynes for agreeing to stay on as Deputy Leader with all of her experience in the role. The Leader further thanked all of the colleagues he had worked with over the years and finally thanked all of the Officers within the Council and spoke of how he looked forward to visiting different departments and meeting with them.

The Leader then spoke of children and young people in Trafford and how they had seen a large impact through the cuts in local budgets and the problems brought about by the pandemic. The Leader spoke of his commitment to support young people going forwards. He then spoke of the rich heritage of the borough in arts, culture, and sports and how he was committed to see that legacy continue. The Leader stated that he wanted to see increased level of social housing and that it would be a priority for the Council going forward to address the housing shortage and reduce the waiting lists for housing within the borough.

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The Leader spoke of the Council's carbon neutral action plan and stated that the borough would be carbon neutral by 2038. The Leader talked of the unique opportunity the Council had to shape the national picture in tackling climate change due to Trafford Park Industrial Estate falling within its boundary. The Leader recognised the need to tackling health inequalities across the borough and to celebrate the diversity within the borough.

The Leader thanked all those who had spoken at the meeting for their comments and concluded by stating he would work very hard in the role for all of the residents within Trafford.

RESOLVED:

1. That the nomination of Councillor Ross be accepted;
2. That Councillor Ross be Elected as Leader of the Council.
3. That the term of office for the Leader of the Council be noted;
4. It be noted that the Leader re-affirms that the Executive shall be comprised of the Leader of the Council plus 9 councillors;
5. That the Director of Legal and Governance be authorised to make any necessary amendments to the Constitution arising as a result of the new arrangements.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 7.50 p.m.