

## Council

6.00 pm, 7 November 2018

### Present at the meeting

Councillor S J Greensmith (Mayor)	Councillor P T Kenny
Councillor S Dawber (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor Y Klieve
Councillor M L Aldred	Councillor P A Maiden
Councillor K Anderson	Councillor A J Marsh
Councillor P J Blay	Councillor J Marshall
Councillor R Brierley	Councillor M McLoughlin
Councillor J Brown	Councillor C W Morgan
Councillor J Bullen	Councillor M Morgan
Councillor J E Churton	Councillor D T Molyneux
Councillor B Clarke	Councillor J Moodie
Councillor R Clayton	Councillor S Murphy
Councillor P A Collins	Councillor N G Murray
Councillor A F Collinson	Councillor J O'Brien
Councillor R J Conway	Councillor J Prescott
Councillor P Cullen	Councillor P Prescott
Councillor K Cunliffe	Councillor N Rehman
Councillor G Davies	Councillor C Rigby
Councillor P Draper	Councillor W Rotherham
Councillor S Gambles	Councillor J Sharratt
Councillor S Gerrard	Councillor E Smethurst
Councillor T W Halliwell	Councillor M Smethurst
Councillor J Harding	Councillor A Sykes
Councillor S J Hellier	Councillor B J Taylor
Councillor J Hilton	Councillor A Thorpe
Councillor J Hodgkinson	Councillor P Wakefield
Councillor E N Houlton	Councillor D Wailes
Councillor K Houlton	Councillor F B Walker
Councillor L Hunt	Councillor M Whitham
Councillor S Jones	Councillor M J Whiteside
Councillor S Keane	Councillor R Whittingham
Councillor P Kelly	Councillor M W Winstanley

### 31 Apologies for absence::

Councillors Mark Aldred, Carmichael, M Dewhurst, S Dewhurst, Fairhurst, Grundy, Holland, Sam Murphy, Ready, Roberts, Smith, Sweeney and Talbot.

### 32 Minutes::

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 September 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### 33 Announcements from the Mayor::

#### (a) Wigan Young Musician of the Year award - Elizabeth Birch:

The Mayor welcomed Elizabeth Birch to the meeting and congratulated her on receiving the Wigan Young Musician of the Year award for playing the piano.

Elizabeth played a piece of music of her choice entitled 'Rosemary' by Frank Bridge.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor congratulated Elizabeth on her award and thanked her for playing to Council.

**(b) Sporting Achievements:**

The Mayor reported to the Council that Wigan Warriors had won the Super League Grand final on 13 October 2018 at Old Trafford, beating Warrington Wolves in a nail biting final.

This completed a treble of wins for the Wigan Warriors, with the women's team winning their Grand Final earlier that day against Leeds Rhinos, and the Under 19's Academy Team having won their record ninth Grand Final in 11 seasons on Friday 28 September 2018.

She congratulated Mairead Quinn of Leigh Miners Rangers Women's Team on winning the Championship Player of the year in the Final against Stanningley at Manchester Regional Arena.

The Mayor sent the best wishes of the Council to Leigh Miners Men's Team for gaining promotion following a golden point drop goal after the game against Milford Marlins at Featherstone which was tied at Full Time.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated all of the sporting stars.

**(c) Three new Stars for Believe Square:**

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated

Shaun Wane – Coach of Wigan Warriors;  
Duke of Lancaster's Regiment; and  
The Queen's Own Yeomanry

on being awarded stars on Believe Square to celebrate their outstanding services to Wigan.

**(d) School Meals Service Earns National Gong:**

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Metrofresh who provided school meals for 84 schools, on gaining an APSE Annual Service Award for efficiency and transformation.

**(e) Town Twinning - Visit to Angers - September 2018:**

The Mayor placed on record his appreciation to the Officers involved with the arrangements for the Town Twinning visit to Angers in September. She particularly sent her thanks to the translators who assisted throughout the visit to the beautiful city.

**34 Update from Cabinet Portfolio Holders::**

**(a) The Council's Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) final inspection report**

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Families, Councillor Bullen, reported to the Council on a Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) inspection that had been jointly carried out by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in June of this year. The report highlighted the following positive areas:

- Multi agency and partnership working was a strength
- Early identification was good and also worked with the most vulnerable and young offenders
- The delay in diagnosing autism pathways had been dramatically reduced. The wider development of an autism friendly Borough had also supported this well.
- There was improved housing for young adults with SEND and more job opportunities were available to them
- Leaders had an accurate view of strengths and weaknesses
- The inspection confirmed that the Borough placed children and families at the heart of everything

Areas for improvement also identified, namely:

- Ensuring that children and young people with SEND make better progress academically
- Being more consistent in identifying less obvious need particularly young people's social, emotional and mental health needs
- Improving the attendance rates for SEND pupils in our high schools and reducing the number of exclusions
- Strengthening early intervention and prevention in order for the pressure on our special school places to be reduced.

The Portfolio Holder thanked all Officers, health partners, schools and parents who contributed during the inspection.

**(b) G/CSE Results:**

Councillor Bullen reported to the Council on GCSE results and advised that school outcomes in the borough were as follows:

- 90% of schools and settings across Wigan Borough were judged Good or Outstanding compared to 85% nationally;
- 95% of primary age pupils attended G&O schools (86% nationally); and
- 66% of secondary age students attended G&O schools (74% nationally).

Key Stage 1 and 2 children showed slight improvements overall in all subjects but Progress 8 score reflected a slight decline for Key Stage 4 children compared to the national average.

**(c) Early Years Review:**

Councillor Bullen reported that Wigan had agreed to be the first Local Authority to have an Early Years Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review, commissioned by the Department for Education.

The Review was a useful fact finding exercise as the Early Years' service was consistently outperforming other Local Authorities in terms of implementation of the 30 hours childcare, support for speech and language and SEND provision.

The key messages from the Review were very positive:

- The borough had an effective range of practice in early years which was inclusive and successful in reaching out to vulnerable children;
- The Deal was successfully encouraging innovative practice and a positive culture; and
- The borough was successful in drawing on external funding and expertise and were using devolved funding from Greater Manchester well to develop integrated working.

Areas for consideration were also included in the report including tracking an individual child's journey to measure the longitudinal impact and make sure that the input at Early Years was sustained.

She thanked everyone involved in the Review.

**(d) Wigan Youth Zone - Five Years on:**

Councillor Bullen introduced Anthony Ashworth-Steen and Kate Rigby, representatives of the Youth Zone to give an update to Council on The Youth Zone - Five Years On.

The Council received a presentation and was advised of the facilities available to the young people, including a training kitchen, gym, music and media, recreation areas, a girls room, sports halls and pitches etc.

There were now over four thousand members ranging in age from 8 years old to 19 years old (25 years old with a disability). The building was open seven days a week and ran a holiday club during all school holidays. The Youth Zone had some very positive outcomes for young people and reduced anti social behaviour in the Borough. It had its own vision and mission as well as values and goals.

Members were asked to support by visiting, talking about the work being done with their residents and local organisations and by introducing the Youth Zone to businesses or individuals that could support their work to remain sustainable.

**(e) World War 1 Centenary Year:**

The Executive Leader, Councillor Molyneux, reminded the Council that this was the Centenary year of the end of World War One and that everyone should remember the sacrifices made one hundred years ago by attending the Remembrance Sunday parades across the borough.

**35 Constitutional Issues::**

**(a) Local Authority Governors**

The Council considered a report of the Director for Children and Families, James Winterbottom, which gave details of schools within the Borough where appointments and re-appointments of local authority representative Governors were required.

Resolved: The Council:-

- (1) agrees the nominations for the appointment of persons as Local Authority Governors as follows:-

Abram Bryn Gates Primary School, Janette Leyland  
 Cansfield High School, Annette Kerner  
 Leigh St John's CE Primary School, John Sumner  
 Lowton St Mary's C of E Primary School, Victoria Finnigan-Lord  
 Newtown Westpark Primary School, Dane Anderton  
 Rowan Tree Primary School, Iwona Goddard  
 St Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Nik Puttnam  
 St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School, Paul Jenson  
 St William's Catholic Primary School, Kate Power

- (2) agrees the nominations for the re appointment of persons as Local Authority Governors as follows:-

St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, John Monds  
 St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Councillor S Dewhurst  
 XII Apostles Catholic Primary School, Sarah Little

- (2) requests the Director for Children and Families to advise the Local Authority representative governors of their terms of office as set out in the report.

### **36 Policy Framework or Budget Framework items::**

#### **(a) Adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism**

The Council considered a report of the Assistant Director of Legal, Brendan Whitworth, which had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 25 October 2018 (minute 47 refers) which requested that the Council adopted an agreed definition of antisemitism to help ensure that there was clarity around what antisemitism was.

Councillor Marsh moved the following amendment to the report which was seconded by Councillor Winstanley:

That the Council adopts the working definition of antisemitism as follows:  
 'Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.'

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for "why

things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or Exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g. claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.”

This amendment serves to include all of the working examples of the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which, according to experts at the IHRA, is necessary for it to be said that an organisation has adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism. This amendment has been taken verbatim from the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, available at <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/node/196>.

The Executive Leader agreed to the amendment and that became the substantive motion. On the substantive motion being put to the vote, the Mayor declared it carried.

Resolved: The Council adopts the definition of antisemitism as set out above.

**(b) Annual Report From the Chair (Audit, Governance and Standards Committee)**

The Council considered a report of the Chairman of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee, Councillor Rigby, which highlighted the work of the Committee, and how it had contributed to the Council’s overall governance arrangements for 2017/18. The report had been considered by Audit, Governance and Standards Committee at its meeting held on 20 September 2018 (minute 23

refers) and also by Cabinet at its meeting held on 25 October 2018 (minute 48 refers).

Resolved: The Council accepts the report.

**(c) Annual Scrutiny Report 2017/2018**

The Council considered a report of the Assistant Director for Legal, which had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 25 October 2018 (minute 49 refers).

The report provided a brief overview of the role of the Council's Scrutiny Committees whilst providing a snapshot of the areas of scrutiny activity undertaken during the 2017/18 municipal year.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Molyneux and Councillor Winstanley agreed to work together to enhance scrutiny.

Resolved: The Council accepts the Annual Report for 2017/18

**37 Questions and Comments on the Deliberations of Cabinet and Committees (under rule 8(1)(a)(b))::**

There were none.

**38 Notices of Motion::**

The Chief Executive and the Assistant Director for Legal, submitted a joint report on the competence and lawfulness of the motions which had been received.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Molyneux moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Cunliffe:

This Council requests that all members agree to undertake a basic level of DBS check and that the Council request that consideration is also given to standard or enhanced level of DBS check as appropriate.

On the motion being put to the vote, the Mayor declared it carried.

Mayor

The meeting concluded at 7.25 pm