

# AGENDA PAPERS FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, 10 November 2021

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Place: Committee Rooms 2 & 3, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford

M32 0TH

A G E N D A PART I Pages

## 1. ATTENDANCES

To note attendances, including Officers, and any apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES 1 - 6

To receive and, if so determined, to agree as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2021.

## 3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members to give notice of any interest and the nature of that interest relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct.

## 4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A maximum of 15 minutes will be allocated to public questions submitted in writing to Democratic Services (<a href="mailto:democratic.services@trafford.gov.uk">democratic.services@trafford.gov.uk</a>) by 4 p.m. on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must be relevant to items appearing on the agenda and will be submitted in the order in which they were received.

## 5. HOMELESSNESS IN TRAFFORD

An Officer will be in attendance to provide responses to questions posed by the Committee.

## Scrutiny Committee - Wednesday, 10 November 2021

## 6. HIGH RISE CLADDING UPDATE

Verbal Report

To receive an update from Trafford Housing Trust.

## 7. DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2021/22

7 - 18

To receive a presentation from the Executive Member for Finance and Governance.

## 8. USE OF LAND FOR SPORTING FACILITIES

To Follow

To receive a report from the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure.

## 9. **WORK PROGRAMME**

19 - 24

To note the current work programme and discuss topics for future meetings.

## 10. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

Any other item or items which, by reason of special circumstances (to be specified), the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

## 11. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION (REMAINING ITEMS)

Motion (Which may be amended as Members think fit):

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, because of the likelihood of disclosure of "exempt information" which falls within one or more descriptive category or categories of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and specified on the agenda item or report relating to each such item respectively.

## **SARA SALEH**

Deputy Chief Executive

## Membership of the Committee

Councillors D. Acton (Chair), R. Chilton (Vice-Chair), J.M. Axford, D. Butt, G. Carter, L. Dagnall, M. Mirza, J.D. Newgrosh, K. Procter, R. Thompson, B.G. Winstanley, Dr. K. Barclay (ex-Officio) and D. Western (ex-Officio).

## Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact:

Alexander Murray, Governance Officer,

## Scrutiny Committee - Wednesday, 10 November 2021

Tel: 0161 912 4250

Email: <u>alexander.murray@trafford.gov.uk</u>

This agenda was issued on **Thursday**, **4 November 2021** by the Legal and Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall; Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0TH

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## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **23 SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor D. Acton (in the Chair). Councillors J.M. Axford, D. Butt, G. Carter, L. Dagnall, K. Procter, R. Thompson and B.G. Winstanley

## In attendance

Councillor Freeman Executive Member for Covid-19 Recovery and Reform Councillor Adshead Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory

Services

Adrian Fisher Director of Growth and Regulatory Services
Caroline Siddall Housing Strategy and Growth Manager

Alexander Murray Governance Officer

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Chilton, M. Mirza, J.D. Newgrosh, Dr. K. Barclay and D. Western

## 10. MINUTES

RSOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held 30 June 2021 be agreed as an accurate record.

## 11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

## 12. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions were received.

## 13. HOMELESSNESS IN TRAFFORD

The Housing Strategy and Growth Manager provided responses to the questions that had been received in advance. The Committee were informed that it was difficult for Trafford Council to be certain whether people placed within the borough by other authorities were receiving all the necessary support. However, Trafford did conduct visits to the accommodation and asked those placed what support they were receiving. All the support that Trafford was aware of was being provided.

In response to the question on how many people were placed in the Travel lodge in Sale the Committee were told that Manchester had two people placed their as of the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021. Since of 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2021 Trafford had received ninety nine Section 208 notices with ninety eight coming from Manchester and one from Cheshire East.

The Chair noted that a recommendation had been made by the Pandemic Scrutiny Committee to improve the Section 208 notice process between Greater Manchester authorities. The Chair then asked whether any improvement had been achieved. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded that a lot of work had been done with Greater Manchester authorities to improve the timing of the Section 208 notices and there had been a marked improvement. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services added that people could be placed in Trafford for a number of reasons other than housing which would not be picked up by the notices and he assured the Committee that the service were working to ensure that Trafford were aware of all people were placed within the borough.

Councillor Carter asked whether Trafford was a net importer or exporter. The Housing Strategy and Growth Manager responded that Trafford were a net importer with thirty people placed with Section 208 notices compared to the ninety nine that had been received.

Councillor Dagnall asked whether there were any advantages to people being moved outside of the borough. The Housing Strategy and Growth Manager responded that there were instances when people are placed out of borough for their safety especially connected to Domestic Abuse as there aren't any refuges in the borough.

Councillor Butt asked whether there was an even spread of placements across Greater Manchester authorities. The Housing Strategy and Growth Manager responded that lower cost placements in areas like Rochdale and Oldham were used more than Trafford due to the high rental costs in the borough.

Councillor Dagnall asked whether it was the Council's housing stock or privately owned. CS responded Trafford is not a stock holding authority with the main provider being Trafford Housing Trust.

Councillor Procter asked about the rise seen nationally in women becoming homeless, whether this had been seen within Trafford, and whether that had started to decrease. The Housing Strategy and Growth Manager responded that Trafford hadn't seen any particular increase with women and assured the Committee that the service would continue to monitor the numbers.

The Housing Strategy and Growth Manager informed the Committee that there was a lot of data available, which would be sent to the Committee after the meeting.

Councillor Dagnall asked about the availability of properties in Trafford. The Housing Strategy and Growth Manager responded that only five properties had become available in the last quarter and there was a large number of people who had been on the waiting list for a long time, especially those in the higher bands.

Councillor Dagnall asked how any issues identified were fed back to the Council or the Executive. The Housing Strategy and Growth Manager explained the monitoring and escalation process within the service. Councillor Dagnall then

asked if any actions had been taken to resolve the issues flagged. The Housing Strategy and Growth Manager responded that some COVID funding had been received and the service had used it to hire an additional officer to improve prevention by working with people who were at risk of being evicted or becoming homeless.

#### RESOLVED:

- 1) That the responses to the Committee's questions be noted.
- 2) That additional information be provided by email after the meeting.

## 14. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER VISITS

The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services gave an overview of the presentation that had been circulated to the Committee with the agenda. The presentation covered the complex situation with the communities in question, the makeup of those communities, and how they identified themselves.

During the summer there had been fourteen visits in Trafford compared to three or four in previous years. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services described some of the issues that Travellers and Gypsies faced when camping on sites, such as sanitation, and within the communities themselves including having access to education, health, and social care support. The Committee were informed of the process taken by the Council once notification of a Traveller or Gypsy visit was received. The process involved visits from regulatory services and the police to establish the needs of the people on the site. The Council then looked to provide facilities at the site and the police took steps to evict them from the land, which generally took about a week.

The main challenge regulatory services faced was getting facilities in place in a timely manner to improve sanitation and reduce the clean-up cost after they had moved on. The Committee were informed that part of the local plan looked to identify the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities in Trafford with a view to have a site available to use during the winter months and to have transitive sites for those looking to stay for a short period of time. Once these areas were set up it would allow people who settled on other sites to be moved onto those specific sites. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services concluded the presentation with the recent review by the government and the proposals that had come from the review.

Following the presentation Councillor Winstanley noted the high number of instances and asked if it was many different groups or one group moving from site to site. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded that it was a mixture of the two as there were not fourteen separate groups, but it was difficult to identify the exact number of groups as there was a lot of movement of and between them.

Councillor Winstanley asked how far Trafford were along with plans to provide that support. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded that Trafford

had struggled to get facilities in place during the summer but were looking at improving response times.

Councillor Dagnall welcomed the approach that was being taken by the Council and the plans to provide better support to those groups. Noted that the Council's attitude in general was very positive towards Travellers and Gypsies and asked if there were any sites in Trafford already. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded that there was a permanent site in Trafford where as those who came through in the summer had been groups who were in transit and only stayed for a short period of time.

Councillor Carter asked whether Trafford welcomed gypsies and Travellers. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded that it was a political question as to the Council's attitude towards the communities but the Council had an obligation to provide provision for sites once they were established. Councillor Carter then asked what the needs were. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded that the needs had not yet been identified but it was part of the local plan work to do so.

Councillor Carter asked about how the Council was able to get environmental health and enforcement offices to the site in timely manner but not facilities. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded that the officers were internal resources whereas the sanitary facilities were an external resource which the Council had to secure.

Councillor Carter asked if that would be in place for the following summer. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded that it would be if it were made a priority.

Councillor Axford asked whether there was a need for Trafford to have transient sites as it seemed like a good solution. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded that if it was based on historic levels then it may not be required but if what was seen over the summer was the new normal then sites would be required.

Councillor Thompson asked whether any grants were available. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded that there had been some funding from Homes England but none was available at the moment.

Councillor Dagnall informed the committee that Leeds Council had a policy of negotiated stopping in place that may be of interest to the Council. Councillor Dagnall then asked whether the Council communicated with those groups. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services noted that there were a number of authorities which had regular visits with support in place. The difficulty in Trafford was identifying the needs of groups who the Council had limited amount of involvement with as this had been the first year they had come to the borough.

Councillor Dagnall asked whether the Council could do anything to prevent the media from producing negative pieces about the visits. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded that the Council and police had powers to combat

racism or hate speech against groups but there was very little that could be done regarding the press. The Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services added that the Council had been asked for comment by papers and in such situations they gave positive comments. However, the Council did not provide comments to the press if not approached as to not exacerbate the issue or cause more coverage.

The Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services informed the Committee that the Council were looking at measures to make some sites less attractive so that other sites were used, but those measures would also reduce residents' access to green spaces.

The Chair noted the discussions and supported the suggestion to communicate with Gypsies and Travellers. The Chair added that while the regular volume of visits in Trafford may not have been enough to set up sites it was worth raising at a Greater Manchester level to have a number of sites set up across conurbation for Gypsies and Travellers.

## **RESOLVED:**

1) That the presentation be noted.

## 15. ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Chair introduced the item and explained that Officers were not able to attend the meeting to deliver the item but any questions would be passed on and answers provided by email.

Councillor Carter raised a question around Tranche 6 in respect to residents parking on the pavements and how this was being taken into account. Councillor Carter also asked about the justification for the continuation of the schemes on Edge Lane.

## **RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the update be noted.
- 2) That the questions raised at the meeting be passed onto officers for response.

## 16. TRAFFORD ECONOMIC AND RECOVERY PLAN

The Executive Member for Covid-19 Recovery and Reform provided a brief overview to the report. Pointed out that Trafford could not deliver the plan by themselves and that the Council had been looking to work with partners to deliver the plan. The Executive Member for Covid-19 Recovery and Reform drew the Committee's attention to a number of initiatives that the Council were undertaking including the adult learning guide produced by the Council and the kick starter scheme, with twelve kick starters already placed by the Council. The Council were also working with Trafford Housing Trust to deliver the working wardrobe to help people access clothes to help them gain employment.

Following the overview the Chair asked if any work was ongoing to bring together businesses based in Trafford park and if there was a group of providers that the Council were working with. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services informed the Committee that there was a group of providers in Trafford Park but they had not met frequently during the pandemic. The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services offered to provide an update to the Committee via email setting out the different initiatives ongoing within Trafford Park. Councillor Axford asked for the work around having a low carbon Trafford Park to be included within the update.

Councillor Carter Asked about the shortage of long haul lorry drivers and whether Trafford was looking to do anything to improve those conditions. Councillor Freeman noted Councillor Carter's comments and how unfortunately it did not appear to be something that the government was looking to address.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That an update on the initiatives within Trafford Park be provided to Committee.

The meeting commenced at 6.32 pm and finished at 8.02 pm

# Scrutiny Committee Update 10 November 2021

# DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2021/22

## Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022/23 to 2026/27

Cummons of the Budget Bronocole	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Summary of the Budget Proposals	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Gross Budget Gap (Oct 21)	21,752	11,334	10,529	9,320	8,572	61,507
Policy Choice Funding Proposals						
General Increase in basic Council Tax to 1.99%	(2,183)	(2,289)	(2,400)	(2,520)	(2,647)	(12,039)
Reinstate Social Care Precept increase 2.0%	(2,296)	(2,356)	(2,412)	(2,533)	(2,661)	(12,258)
Contribution from Budget Support Reserve to Support COVID-19 Pressures	(7,097)	7,097	0	0	0	0
Total Policy Choice Funding	(11,576)	2,452	(4,812)	(5,053)	(5,308)	(24,297)
Savings and Income proposals	(5,523)	(2,836)	(1,796)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(12,155)
Revised Budget Gap (Oct 21)	4,653	10,950	3,921	3,267	2,264	25,055



## **Examples of components of the Gross Gap 2022/23**

## Expenditure examples :-

- Pay Award (+2% plus catch-up from 21/22) £2.4m
- National Living Wage £1.5m
- Loss of Strategic Income from Manchester Airport £5.6m (budget in 2019/20)
- Temporary increase to general contingency £1.5m
- Contractual Inflation £2.3m
- Demand and cost pressures Adults and Children's £4.5m
- Income from Asset Investment Strategy dropping out £1.1m
- Budget gap from 21/22 which was met from reserves £2.8m

## **Key Budget Assumptions**

- Position includes for a 3.99% increase in council tax (1.99% base, 2% ASC)
- COVID pressures time limited, met from reserves of £7.1m in 2022/23
- Inflation Contractual 2.5% RPI (will RPI be higher for longer ?)
- Pay award impact from 2021/2022 1.75% largely contained within existing MTFP
- National living wage £1.5m if increase to £9.24 from £8.91 (3.7% increase)
- Savings Programme from 2021/22 largely delivered (some realignment and pressure in Adults)
- Investment Programme recycling the fall out
- Increased cost of Council Tax Support in 2021/2022 is only temporary
- D2A Beds revert to the budgeted level of 30 from 31/3/22.
- Impact of social care charging reform not built in (Consultation awaited)
- Service demand pressures in 2021/2022 impact built in:-
  - Children's in year demand 50% increase in referrals and currently projecting £0.8m o/s.
     £1m built in
  - Adults budget in 2021/2022 was one off increase of £1m. Now assumed recurrent.
  - o Children's demographic growth in future will be absorbed through equal savings
  - Ongoing impact on income streams in Place to be considered

# Savings and Income Proposals

Theme/Title	Service Area	Description of Saving	2022/23 £000's
Targeted savings on Children Placements (absorb demographic growth)	Children's	A review of demand and placements for looked after children.	(1,358)
Staffing Efficiencies	Children's	Review of staffing establishment outside of the main redesign programme.	(110)
Sub-Total Children's			(1,468)
Direct payments	Adults	Boost the uptake in DP usage to reduce commissioned or other expenditure.	(50)
Smoking Cessation	Adults	Reduce prevalence of community smoking and thereby improve long-term individual health and reduce support demand.	(40)
Weight Management	Adults	Address issue of community obesity and reduce long-term health conditions that result.	(16)
Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)/Portal – Reshaping.	Adults	The implementation of the LPS scheme and a whole system portal which will drive through efficiencies and costs savings.	(100)
Learning Disabilities - supported accommodation	Adults	Retender the learning disability supported living accommodation commissioned within Trafford, on a patch basis.	(113)
Sub-Total Adult's			(319)
Review of estates income	Place	Realignment of 21/22 savings assumed in 22/23	(90)
Expand number of EV charging points on a revenue share model	Place	Expand number of EV charging points on a revenue share model	(150)
Recycle Strategic Investment Income Falling Out	Place	To maintain net income at its current level.	(1,040)

# Savings and Income Proposals (cont)

Reduction in Waste Levy and use of smoothing reserve	Place	Savings from GM Waste contract and use of smoothing reserve.	(1,000)
Review of resident parking permits and parking charges	Place	Review of a range of options will be undertaken to ensure charges are suitable whilst also recognising potential impact on users and businesses.	(100)
Safety at Sports Grounds certificates	Place	Increased charge – to better recover costs	(20)
Decarbonisation of Public Sector Buildings	Place	Expected energy savings	(75)
Sub-Total Place			(2,475)
Traded Services	Strategy & Resources	Traded Services income inflation increase	(214)
Flexible use of capital receipts/one off resources to cover transformational activity (phase 1)	Strategy & Resources	To utilise the flexibility in the use of capital receipts to fund transformational activity.	(500)
Sub-Total Strategy & Resources			(714)
Traded Services	Finance & Systems	Traded Services income inflation increase	(72)
Digital Strategy	Finance & Systems	Increased use of digital technology to deliver better and more efficient services.	(100)
Sub-Total Finance & Systems			(172)
Civic function/ Mayoral Attendant/Car	Governance and Community Strategy	A range of temporary measures.	(54)
Sub-Total Governance & Community Strategy			(54)



# Savings and Income Proposals (cont)

Voluntary Redundancy/Severance Scheme	All Services	Introduction of a VR/VS scheme which allows colleagues to apply to leave the Council's employment through voluntary means. Year 2 impact of 2020/21 scheme.	(211)
Additional Savings from Advanced Pension Payment	Council Wide	Realisation of recurrent savings from advance pension payment	(100)
9 day fortnight	Council Wide	Continuation of the voluntary scheme	(10)
Sub-Total Council Wide			(321)
TOTAL SAVINGS AND INCOME PROPOSALS			(5,523)

## Other areas to be considered

- The implementation of integrated care systems and more joined up work with our partner providers will help drive efficiencies and improve the sustainability around the health and social care system and delivery of the Locality Plan priorities of Living Well at Home, Living Well in My Community and Short Stay in Hospital.
- Review the Discharge to Assess System Flow and use of Ascot House jointly with the CCG;
- One Stop Resource Centre and equipment review;
- Use of technology to allow more residents to remain independent in their own home;
- A review of the learning disability service;
- A review of a shared Fostering Service across Greater Manchester;
- Greater collaboration with the rest of GM on the procurement and provision of high cost children's placements'
- A review of allowance payments in Children's social care
- Review short break criteria and smarter commissioning in Children's services;
- A review of property estate and civic buildings;
- Opportunities within Traded Services;
- Review of discretionary council tax reliefs and support;
- Review of procurement savings from large contracts.



# Document Pack Page

## **Next Steps**

## **Draft Budget**

- Draft budget report to Executive 11 October (available on web under Democratic Services)
- Develop Business Cases for Savings identified to date
- Which are subject to consultation and with who (public/staffing/partners)
- Work with CLT/Modernisation Team to identify other areas of potential savings/income

## **Before Final Budget**

- 3 year Comprehensive Spending Review 27 October (broad departmental resource levels)
- Provisional local government settlement mid December (detailed local government level and council tax thresholds)
- Review minimum level of reserve balances to support the range of risks the Council faces.
   Available balances will not be material and nowhere near the level used to support budget in 21/22 or 22/23
- Further review of budget assumptions (pay award, National Living Wage, October inflation, savings targets 21/22)
- Trafford Leisure support currently understanding likely trading position in 2022/23 and into the medium term. Currently reserves of £1.7m earmarked to support trading position in 2021/22.



## **Questions?**

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## **Trafford Scrutiny Committee 2021/22 Work Programme**

## Wednesday 10 November 2021 - 6:30pm, TBC

Report submission deadline – midday on Tuesday 2 November 2021

Item	Information	Executive Member(s)	Lead Officer(s)	Comments
Homelessness in Trafford	To continue to keep updated with the position in Trafford.	Councillor Wright – Executive Members for Housing and Regeneration	Richard Roe	
ACM Cladding	Update on schedule of replacement works due for completion December 2021	Councillor Wright – Executive Members for Housing and Regeneration	Richard Roe	
Budget Proposals	To receive the draft proposals for the 2022/23 budget.	Councillor Ross – Executive Member for Finance and Governance	Graeme Bentley	
Use of Land for Sporting Facilities	To receive a report following on from a residents email.	Councillor Patel – Executive Members for		

		Culture and Leisure	
Work Programme	Committee Members have the opportunity to propose topics for consideration		

## **Budget Scrutiny**

There are two Budget Scrutiny sessions scheduled for the 30 November and 2 December 2021. Discussions at these sessions, will help formulate the Scrutiny Committee's Budget Scrutiny report to the Executive (To be presented to Scrutiny at the 12 January 2022 meeting).

## Wednesday 12 January 2022 - 6:30pm, TBC

Report submission deadline – midday on Tuesday 4 January 2022

Item	Information	Executive Member(s)	Lead Officer(s)	Comments
2020/21 Budget Scrutiny Report	A report produced by the Scrutiny Committee providing its recommendations on the 2022/23 Budget Proposals.	N/A – Report of the Scrutiny Committee	Jane Le Fevre	

Work Programme	Committee Members have the opportunity to propose topics for consideration			
Wednesday 16 March	2022 – 6:30pm, TBC	I	I	<u> </u>
Report submission dea	dline – midday on Tuesday 8 March 2022			
Item	Information	Executive Member(s)	Lead Officer(s)	Comments

Item	Information	Executive Member(s)	Lead Officer(s)	Comments
Amey Contract	Response to the Amey task and Finish group report and update on the performance of services delivered by Amey.	Councillor Adshead – Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services	Richard Roe	
Climate Change	Information to be provided on the Council's efforts to combat Climate Change.	Councillor A Western – Leader of the Council	Richard Roe	
Homelessness in Trafford	To continue to keep updated with the position in Trafford.	Councillor Wright – Executive Members for Housing and Regeneration	Richard Roe	
Gypsies and Travellers in Trafford	To follow up on this item with representatives of the Gypsy and Traveller Community.	Councillor Adshead – Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services	Richard Roe	
				DOCULIE IN ACT

Item	Information	Executive Member(s)	Lead Officer(s)	Comments
Highway Services	To cover how Trafford manages its highways from acquiring funding through to completing works	Councillor Stephen Adshead – Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services	Richard Roe	
Disability Access	To finish the Task and finish group work that had been started prior to the COVID 19 Pandemic.	Councillor Stephen Adshead – Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services	Richard Roe	

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