

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

20 JANUARY 2016

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor John Holden), in the Chair.

J. Lloyd	R. Chilton	P. Myers
D. Acton	M. Cordingley	D. O'Sullivan
S. Adshead	M. Cornes	K. Procter
S.B. Anstee	J. Coupe	Mrs J. Reilly
S.K. Anstee	Mrs. P. Dixon	T. Ross
Dr. K. Barclay	Mrs. L. Evans	M. Sephton
J. Baugh	N. Evans	B. Sharp
J. Bennett	T. Fishwick	B. Shaw
Miss L. Blackburn	M. Freeman	J. Smith
R. Bowker	P. Gratrix	S. Taylor
C. Boyes	J. Harding	L. Walsh
Mrs. A. Bruer-Morris	D. Hopps	Mrs. V. Ward
Mrs. J.E. Brophy	M. Hyman	A. Western
B. Brotherton	C. Hynes	D. Western
D. Bunting	D. Jarman	M. Whetton
D. Butt	P. Lally	A. Williams
C. Candish	J. Lamb	M. Young
K. Carter	E. Malik	Mrs. P. Young
M. Cawdrey	A. Mitchell	

In attendance

Chief Executive	Ms. T. Grant
Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director Economic Growth, Environment and Infrastructure	Mrs. H. Jones
Acting Corporate Director, Children, Families and Wellbeing	Mr. J. Pearce
Acting Corporate Director Transformation and Resources	Ms. J. Hyde
Director of Finance	Mr. I. Duncan
Director of Legal and Democratic Services	Ms. J. Le Fevre
Acting Director of Human Resources	Ms. L. Hooley
Democratic and Performance Services Manager	Mr. P. Forrester
Public Relations Manager	Mrs. K. Dooley
Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer	Mr. I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Dagnall, A. Duffield, I. Platt, J.R. Reilly, B. Rigby and E.W. Stennett.

Members joined with the Mayor in conveying their best wishes to Councillor Dagnall for a speedy recovery after recently undergoing major surgery.

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55. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 November 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

56. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Her Majesty the Queen's New Year's Honours

The Council joined the Mayor in congratulating those residents who had received recognition in the Queen's New Year Honours List, namely:

Mr. Denis Law of Bowdon awarded the citation of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to football and charity;

Ms. Jean Oglesby of Bowdon awarded the CBE for services to Philanthropy in the North West;

Mr. Andrew Scallan of Sale awarded the CBE for services to electoral democracy;

Mr. Mark Cueto of Altrincham awarded the citation of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to Rugby Union;

Mr. John Howe of Urmston awarded the MBE for services to Diabetes UK and the community in Trafford;

Miss Jody Louisa Green of Stretford awarded the citation of Medallist of the Order of the British Empire (BEM) for services to Community Sport in Trafford; and

Ms. Rita Janet Jones of Stretford awarded the BEM for services to the community in Stretford.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor had written to convey congratulations for their achievements.

(b) Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January 2016

The Mayor informed Members that Trafford Council was supporting the annual Holocaust Memorial Day, on 27 January 2016. Schools, along with representatives from faith and other community groups had been invited to participate in a two hour event at the Robert Bolt theatre in Sale with the theme being "Don't stand by".

(c) Scrutiny Committee Update

Councillor Coupe, Chairman of Scrutiny Committee informed Council that Budget Scrutiny sessions had been held on 2 December and 8 December

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2015 and that the Committee had prepared a review of the Executive's draft budget proposals which would be submitted to the Executive on 25 January 2016.

The Chairman also advised that the 'Closing the Gap' Task and Finish Group; investigating education inequalities within the Borough, had now split into four smaller sub-topic groups to focus on areas agreed upon at the initial meetings in more detail. It was anticipated that the final report on the Group's findings and recommendations would be submitted to the Executive in March 2016.

(d) Health Scrutiny Committee Update

Councillor Lloyd, Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee provided an update on the Committee's focus since the last meeting of Council.

The Care Quality Commission had conducted an inspection of Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CMFT) in December 2015 and would be conducting an inspection of the University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust (UHSM) week commencing 25 January 2016.

The Chairman informed the Council that along with the Vice-Chairman, she had met with Matthew Colledge, the recently appointed Chairman of Trafford Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) Governing Body, and Silas Nichols, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive of Wythenshawe Hospital, to discuss how Health Scrutiny could work with their respective organisations going forward.

Councillor Lloyd referred to a Manchester Evening News report that Trafford General was to be downgraded, which had been picked up by other news organisations, and stated that the downgrading from an Urgent Care Centre to a Minor Injuries Unit had always been a part of the New Health Deal for Trafford and had been through a full consultation process. Disappointed to hear from the press before officially being notified, the Chairman reiterated that assurances were sought by the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee at the end of the consultation process and that alongside the Vice-Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee, she would work with NHS England, CMFT, UHSM and Trafford CCG to ensure these assurances were met before any further changes were implemented.

The Leader of the Council shared Councillor Lloyd's concerns about publication of the article and indicated that representations had been made to CMFT, though it was unsure of the source. Councillor Anstee repeated that the Council had been united in its response to the New Health Deal and would work to ensure that the conditions were met, with appropriate steps being taken to determine the Council's next action.

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57. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 5 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

- (a) Councillor Smith asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Might the Executive Member tell us, considering the changes, both existing and aspirant to the whole gamut of small community grant funding, particularly those envisaged from Trafford Housing Trust, if he is satisfied they will sustain, or indeed improve their equitability and remain true to all principles stated at their inception and also re-assure the chamber that any implementation of revisions will be a matter for full council and not the Executive in isolation?”

(Note: Before responding, Councillor Lamb declared a personal interest in this matter as one of the Council’s nominated Non-Executive Directors of the Trafford Housing Trust (THT).)

Councillor Lamb, Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships reported that THT was currently reviewing its arrangements for the distribution of community grants, which was an aspect of the obligations that the Council placed on THT at the time of transfer back in 2003. The review was being carried out to ensure transparent accountability and strengthen community engagement. At this stage no proposals had been put to the Council as THT would carry out a consultation exercise about any proposed changes. All Members of Council would have the opportunity to comment on the proposals but the advice received at this stage, in terms of the potential level of change to be proposed, would indicate that a formal response to THT by the Executive would be required on behalf of the Council. Should, following consultation, proposals be received that were broader reaching than was currently suggested, advice would then be sought to confirm that this was still the most appropriate approval mechanism.

Thanking Councillor Lamb for his response, Councillor Smith sought clarity through a supplementary question, as to whether the Council would or would not have THT maintain the obligations that had been given to tenants?

The Executive Member acknowledged the importance and substantial nature of the obligations placed upon THT and that it was working to make the process more transparent. At the moment it was envisaged that the Executive will take the decision, though it was waiting what proposals came forward. Until that time, Councillor Lamb urged all Members to engage with the consultation process.

- (b) Councillor Freeman asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“How confident is the Executive Member for Stronger Communities that the New Trafford Partnership Strategy will deliver the building of strong communities across all of Trafford?”

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Councillor Lamb, Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships thanked Councillor Freeman for his question since it gave him the opportunity to update the Council on some important changes to the operation of the Trafford Partnership. For the past several months a review of the effectiveness of the Partnership had been undertaken to ensure that it was operating at its most effective in terms of the Trafford and Greater Manchester (GM) focus on economic growth and public sector reform. The Trafford Partnership would provide strategic direction and oversight of the activities designed to deliver economic growth and redesign of public services. The Partnership was also the body that links activity in Trafford with the wider GM devolution agenda.

Key to the arrangements were Trafford's 4 Locality Partnerships, overseen by the Stronger Communities Board and an integral part of the Trafford Partnership. Over the past year, the Board had reviewed the work of and the effectiveness of the 4 Locality Partnerships and had championed Asset Based Community Development, which aimed to encourage groups of residents to identify what was strong about a community and work with that to bring about changes that make a real difference to people's lives. The 'Be Bold' campaign was similarly aimed at encouraging Trafford residents to engage in activity that improved the wellbeing of neighbours and improve neighbourhoods. It was an open invitation to all Trafford residents and the Council's Communities and Partnership Team respond to numerous requests for assistance and guidance.

The Executive Member concluded that the new Partnership arrangements would place a focus on community work and look for linkages to the work of our public, private and voluntary sector partners. He believed that GM had some of the most developed approaches to ensuring that our communities were strong and resilient and was confident that the new Trafford Partnership arrangements, together with the work of the Locality Partnerships would deliver strong communities across all of Trafford.

Asking a supplementary question, Councillor Freeman quoted from the new Trafford Partnership Strategy and enquired whether the Executive Member could please translate what the jargon meant and what guarantees could he give that charities and organisations that had previously been partly funded by the Council would continue to flourish under the new framework?

Councillor Lamb clarified that essentially the statement explained bringing public and voluntary sector partners together to jointly deliver more effective services. Partnership was a key central aspect for developing the Strategy as was the link to the devolution agenda.

(c) Councillor Baugh asked the following question for which she had given notice:

"A number of serious anti-social behaviour incidents involving young people have occurred across parts of Trafford in recent times which are causing a great deal of concern in our communities.

One such incident happened in my own Ward at Sale Water Park involving a

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large group of young people .We were not notified of this incident until a letter was sent out to all Councillors recently seven months after the incident. I understand other serious incidents have occurred in other areas of the Borough, including Urmston and the Trafford centre.

There appears to be a worrying trend developing and I am sure you would agree that Councillors should be kept fully briefed on such events.

I would like to know what action is being taken to tackle this problem, what action is being taken to reassure residents and how you intend to improve communication with Ward Councillors?"

Firstly, dealing with the issue of communication, Councillor Lamb, Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships agreed that Councillors should be kept informed of significant community safety issues. Residents would often ask Members for details of the more serious incidents and often Members can assist the Police by assuring the community of steps that are being taken to deal with incidents. Councillor Lamb accepted that the Sale Water Park incident should have been notified to the relevant ward Members and once the oversight was discovered an apology was emailed to Councillor Baugh on 22 December 2015.

Since the summer of 2015 there have been a series of incidents involving young people involved in violent assault in various parts of the borough. However, it only became apparent to the Police late in 2015 that the incidents were linked through the involvement of the same youngsters and was the reason why briefings for relevant ward Members were arranged before Christmas. Furthermore, another briefing had taken place within the previous 24 hours, therefore, believing that communications with ward Members on community safety issues was good, the Executive Member assured Members of the Council that he remained committed to sharing as much information as possible related to the more serious incidents.

Turning to the second aspect of the question, Councillor Lamb advised that the seriousness of the incidents had prompted, so far, two multi agency review meetings. A wide range of measures were being taken to protect the public and specifically the youngsters involved. The measures included:

- For the more serious offenders, Court Injunctions were sought under new 'civil' legislation which could be progressed quickly, whilst further criminal investigation /evidence gathering continued, which gave some immediate impact. In addition Court appearances to answer formal criminal charges had already taken place with some sentencing issued and adjournments until that day.
- Home visits to key offenders in an attempt to disrupt any further incidents. Also to give advice on consequences relating to any further disorderly behaviour.
- Extra Police visits and patrols at the schools most affected
- A joint letter from the Safer Trafford Partnership team sent to all parents of secondary school children, highlighting current issues and how they were being dealt with. The letter also included how parents / pupils / teachers could report incidents and intelligence anonymously and what the general

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youth offer was across Trafford. The letter has also been circulated to all Members.

- The Community Change Foundation had been commissioned to prevent other young people from being dragged into anti-social behaviour and criminality and to effect behaviour change for those already involved.
- Manchester Young Lives had been commissioned to ascertain locations of all incidents and deliver further outreach engagement with youth and deliver diversionary activities to prevent anti-social behaviour and effect behaviour change.

The Executive Member was sure Members could detect from the actions, not only a robust approach through the Courts to deal with the few persistent offenders but also an approach to those youngsters on the periphery which involved bringing about behaviour change through the commissioning of specialist interventions. He hoped that the approach in dealing with the series of incidents was reassuring to the Council and Trafford residents.

Suggesting that anti-social behaviour incidents had increased since the introduction of funding changes within youth and leisure services and the loss of police officers, Councillor Baugh asked as a supplementary question, whether the Executive Member agreed that this was due to cutbacks by his administration?

Councillor Lamb disagreed that any increase was as a result of any changes to the delivery of services and referring to the response he had just provided, emphasised there had been direct intervention. There had not been an intention to keep things from Members, with an apology being given and he asserted that throughout, the seriousness of the assaults had been the greatest concern.

- (d) Councillor Mrs. Brophy asked the following question, the first of two questions for which she had given notice:

“I have been contacted by many residents over the lack of street cleaning during the Christmas and New Year period.

I am also aware that many residents have reported a perceived degrading of street cleaning services with Amey including daily emptying of street bins.

Will street cleaning services be maintained at the next public holiday. Can the Executive Member provide Service Level Agreements with Amey for street cleaning during holiday periods such as Easter and Christmas?”

In the absence of the Executive Member for Environment and Operations, the Leader of the Council confirmed that not only would street cleaning services be maintained on the next public holiday but every day up to then, since there had been no change to service delivery. Councillor Sean Anstee also confirmed that the One Trafford Partnership operated services every day of the year, except for Christmas Day and that this year resources were deployed on New Year's Day. Reporting that performance figures for the last quarter exceeded the 80% target, the Leader indicated that the Executive Member would be happy to share operational data with Councillor Mrs. Brophy.

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Councillor Mrs. Brophy mentioned reports of leaves blocking drains and as a supplementary question asked if the Leader was aware of such instances? In response, Councillor Sean Anstee advised that he would ask the Executive Member to ensure a reply was provided to Councillor Mrs. Brophy outside of the meeting.

- (e) Councillor Mrs. Brophy asked the following question, the second of two questions for which she had given notice:

“In February 2014 I asked the Executive Member what is Trafford Council doing to mitigate against increased risk of flooding due to climate change in Trafford and across Greater Manchester. This was building on a previous question about changing weather and climate change in October 2009.

Most parts of Trafford were spared the extreme flooding in some areas of the county but we can't be complacent in our duties to our residents. What areas in Trafford are at increased risk of flooding?

Many areas in the country and across the North West and locally in Trafford we had severe weather, particularly increased rainfall and it is predicted that we could have more storms and other unsettled weather.

What is Trafford Council doing to continue to ensure that our residents are protected and warned about flooding and other forms of extreme weather, as climate change starts to impact on all our lives?

On behalf of the Executive Member for Environment and Operations, the Leader of the Council informed the Council of the locations within the Borough at risk of flooding and advised that the Environment Agency had confirmed that there had been no significant changes to flood risk in Trafford since 2009. Advice regarding the risks was available on the Council's website with the ability to search by postcode and location and emergency flooding procedures were maintained by the Council's strategic planning section.

Councillor Mrs. Brophy mentioned that the Council had a lower target for carbon dioxide levels and gave notice of a future question on this issue. Councillor Anstee confirmed the question could be considered at a future Council Meeting and a response be provided.

58. NEW REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TRAFFORD HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Corporate Director Children's, Families and Wellbeing submitted a report outlining recommendations made by the Health and Wellbeing Board to adopt new Terms of Reference following a review of the Board and its place within the new Trafford Partnership structures.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted and that the new revised Terms of Reference and membership for the Health and Wellbeing Board, be approved by the Council.

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59. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION

The Executive Member for Finance and Director of Finance submitted a joint report outlining the recent review undertaken of the Council's annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charge to the revenue budget in respect of capital expenditure financed by borrowing. The report had been recommended to the Council by the Executive on 16 November 2015 and the Accounts and Audit Committee on 25 November 2015.

RESOLVED: That with effect from 1 April 2015:

- (a) the Council's MRP policy, paragraph (a) only, be amended to, "For capital expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008: MRP will be calculated on a straight line basis over the expected average useful life of the assets"
- (b) the annual Public Finance Initiative lease charge be financed from the provision currently set-up to cover the final bullet payment and that capital receipts be used to replenish this provision to ensure this can still be made in 2028/29.

60. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 2016/17

The Executive Member for Finance and the Director of Finance submitted a joint report seeking approval of the Council's local Council Tax Support Scheme for the 2016/17 financial year. The report proposed minor amendments to reflect national changes to income related benefits and had been recommended to Council from the Executive Meeting held earlier that day.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the inclusion of the following amendments, the Council Tax Support scheme currently in operation, be adopted for 2016/17:

- (a) Applicable amounts for working age claimants are frozen in line with the national income related benefit rates (state pension age rates are contained within the prescribed regulations);
- (b) That the remaining funding allocated to the Council Tax Support discretionary fund from when it was first introduced in April 2013, be rolled over into 2016/17. This is estimated to be approximately £17,000 by the end of the financial year.

61. CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVOLUTION BILL 2015/16

The Leader of the Council provided an update on progress with the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill and circulated a report outlining the timetable for implementation of the Orders required. The Leader also advised that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority would also require the ability to exercise health related functions from April 2016 to enable it to play a full part in health and social care devolution.

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In accordance with a previous decision of the Council, the Chief Executive, in consultation, with the Leader of the Council would respond to any Orders regarding the establishment of the GMCA and report to Council on progress at appropriate times.

RESOLVED: That the Leader's report and the approach being taken be noted.

62. 6-MONTH CORPORATE REPORT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY - 1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

The Corporate Director Resources submitted a report providing information on council-wide health and safety performance and trends in workplace accidents. The report also provided a summary of other key developments in health and safety for the six month period 1 April to 30 September 2015.

Further to Minute No. 49 of the previous meeting, Councillor Mrs. Evans, Executive Member for Transformation and Resources, indicated that she would obtain a response for Councillor Baugh from the Council's partner Amey regarding the statistical reporting of incidents involving its staff.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

63. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - POST-16 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT - BRENTWOOD SCHOOL

(Note: The Mayor, Councillor Holden declared a personal interest in this item since he was a Governor of Brentwood School and remained in the meeting during consideration of the matter.)

It was moved and seconded that:

"This Council notes the Home to School Transport Policy for Special Needs Children and in particular Annex A; Transport Guidance for young people aged 16-18 in Further Education and Continuing Students aged 19 – May 2011.

Council notes the withdrawal of School Transport to some of the 16 plus special needs teenage cohort attending Brentwood School in September this year, and further notes under the existing policy that this is the first year that the parents and carers of 16 plus teenagers attending Brentwood have had to apply for continuing transport. Indeed up until the Review of Transport Provision undertaken in May 2015 the parents and carers of pupils reaching the age of 16 were not asked to re-apply for travel assistance as long as they had been deemed eligible when starting school. This measure has caused considerable distress to the teenagers and families concerned, who are the parents of some of our most vulnerable children.

This Council notes the lack of meaningful consultation that has taken place with those affected by this policy change and therefore resolves with

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immediate effect to reinstate Transport to all the teenagers from whom the service has been withdrawn, and enter into meaningful consultation with Parents and Carers over future provision in a wholly open and transparent manner.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

“This Council notes the Home to School Transport Policy for Special Needs Children and in particular Annex A; Transport Guidance for young people aged 16-18 in Further Education and Continuing Students aged 19 – May 2011.

Council notes the changes to provision outlined for the cohort attending Brentwood School, including withdrawal of transport for a small number of pupils aged post 16 no longer eligible under the revised policy and the need to re-apply for transport provision annually.

The Council is aware that changes to provision of this nature may cause distress to families and young people who previously accessed the service however continues to target its reducing resources as best it can to support those who are eligible for transport provision across the Borough.

This Council is presently consulting on an All Age Travel Assistance policy as part of the 2016/17 budget round, and recognises that some concern has been raised on previous consultation.

The Council resolves to consider carefully all responses received in a wholly open and transparent manner, including consideration on the merits or otherwise of reinstatement of transport provision.”

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and in accordance with Procedure Rule 16.5 a recorded vote was called for. This resulted as follows:

Those in favour of the amendment: Councillors S.A. Anstee, S.K. Anstee, Dr. Barclay, Miss Blackburn, Boyes, Mrs. Bruer-Morris, Bunting, Butt, Candish, Cawdrey, Chilton, Cornes, Coupe, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Evans, N. Evans, Holden (the Mayor), Hopps, Hyman, Lally, Lamb, Mitchell, Myers, Mrs. Reilly, Sephton, Sharp, Shaw, Mrs. Ward, Whetton, Williams M. Young and Mrs. Young.

Those against the amendment: Councillors Acton, Adshead, Baugh, Bennett, Bowker, Mrs. Brophy, Brotherton, Carter, Cordingley, Fishwick, Freeman, Gratrix, Harding, Hynes, Jarman, Lloyd, Malik, O’Sullivan, Procter, Ross, Smith, Taylor, Walsh, A. Western and D. Western.

With the result of the vote being 32 in favour and 25 against, with 0 abstentions, the amendment was declared carried. The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and declared carried.

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RESOLVED: That this Council notes the Home to School Transport Policy for Special Needs Children and in particular Annex A; Transport Guidance for young people aged 16-18 in Further Education and Continuing Students aged 19 – May 2011.

Council notes the changes to provision outlined for the cohort attending Brentwood School, including withdrawal of transport for a small number of pupils aged post 16 no longer eligible under the revised policy and the need to re-apply for transport provision annually.

The Council is aware that changes to provision of this nature may cause distress to families and young people who previously accessed the service however continues to target its reducing resources as best it can to support those who are eligible for transport provision across the Borough.

This Council is presently consulting on an All Age Travel Assistance policy as part of the 2016/17 budget round, and recognises that some concern has been raised on previous consultation.

The Council resolves to consider carefully all responses received in a wholly open and transparent manner, including consideration on the merits or otherwise of reinstatement of transport provision.

64. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - FRACKING IN TRAFFORD

It was moved and seconded that:

“This Council is deeply concerned by the announcement on the 17 December 2015 that the Conservative Government's Oil and Gas Authority has awarded a Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence (PEDL) to the company Ineos covering an area incorporating much of the south of Trafford. This is the first stage in a process that could ultimately lead to 'fracking' taking place in Trafford.

Council condemns the decision to award this licence and reaffirms its previous statement, as agreed by all parties on the 12 November 2014, that “The Council is opposed to ‘fracking’ until such time as it can be proved to be safe.” In light of this statement of opposition to hydraulic fracturing in Trafford, Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, and to the Oil and Gas Authority directly, outlining our concerns and asking that the decision to award this licence be reconsidered.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

“This Council notes the announcement of the 17 December 2015 that the Oil and Gas Authority has awarded a Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence (PEDL) to the company Ineos covering an area incorporating much of the south of Trafford. This is the first stage in a process that could ultimately lead to 'fracking' taking place in Trafford.

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Council is concerned by the decision to award this licence and reaffirms its previous statement, as agreed by all parties on the 12 November 2014, that "The Council is opposed to 'fracking' until such time as it can be proved to be safe." In light of this statement of opposition to hydraulic fracturing in Trafford, Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, and to the Oil and Gas Authority directly, outlining our concerns and asking that the decision to award this licence be reconsidered."

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council. Consequently, the substantive Motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED: That this Council notes the announcement of the 17 December 2015 that the Oil and Gas Authority has awarded a Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence (PEDL) to the company Ineos covering an area incorporating much of the south of Trafford. This is the first stage in a process that could ultimately lead to 'fracking' taking place in Trafford.

Council is concerned by the decision to award this licence and reaffirms its previous statement, as agreed by all parties on the 12 November 2014, that "The Council is opposed to 'fracking' until such time as it can be proved to be safe." In light of this statement of opposition to hydraulic fracturing in Trafford, Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, and to the Oil and Gas Authority directly, outlining our concerns and asking that the decision to award this licence be reconsidered.

65. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

(Note: As Council representatives on the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Councillor Acton who was also its Chair and Councillor Whetton, each declared a personal interest in this item and remained in the meeting during consideration of the matter.)

It was moved and seconded that:

"The recent severe weather conditions and floods across Greater Manchester, in Salford, Rochdale, Littleborough, Bury, Manchester, and across the North West and elsewhere has highlighted the frontline role Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) plays in times of severe local and national crises.

GMFRS budgets have been cut by £28 million over the last five years resulting in the loss of 450 firefighter posts and 10 fire engines being taken off the run, as well as significantly cutting "back office" and management. This has left Greater Manchester stretched to the limit in terms of its resilience to be able to tackle local and national crises such as those which have taken place recently and to keep our communities safe.

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The recent Comprehensive Spending Review announcement has meant a further cut to GMFRS of £15.8 million over the next 4 years which will seriously reduce further the resilience of GMFRS to be able to respond effectively to such crises in the future, which inevitably will put Greater Manchester residents, including Trafford residents, at further risk.

As the country's second largest fire and rescue service GMFRS plays a pivotal role in our local and national security and resilience, protecting homes and businesses, saving lives, and helping those in times of crises.

In light of the above Trafford MBC calls on the Government to reconsider their announcement to cut further GMFRS' budget at the level they propose, and consider offering similar protection to that rightly granted to the Police in the recent spending review, in recognition of the key role in local and national resilience provided by our superb fire and rescue service in Greater Manchester.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

“Council recognises the vital role Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) plays in time of severe local and national emergency situations and places on record its appreciation for the front line role firefighters hold in keeping residents and businesses safe.

Since 2010, GMFRS has seen a reduction in Government grant funding of £28 million, and has responded locally by reducing the number of firefighter posts by 450, the number of fire engines by 10 and service efficiencies in back office and management costs.

The recent Comprehensive Spending Review announcement details a reduction, in core spending power available to GMFRS of £3.72 million over the next 4 four years, which may impact further the resilience of GMFRS to be able to respond effectively to emergency situations in the future.

As the country's second largest fire and rescue service, GMFRS plays a pivotal role in our local and national security and resilience, protecting homes and businesses, saving lives, and helping those in times of crises.

Council notes the forthcoming governance changes to GMFRS to bring the service under the authority of the Elected Mayor which will help to ensure a co-ordinated and efficient blue light operation with other emergency services.

In light of the above, the Council calls on the Government to consider the consultation response from GMFRS, in recognition of the key role in local and national resilience provided by our superb fire and rescue service in Greater Manchester.”

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and declared carried. The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and declared carried.

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RESOLVED: That Council recognises the vital role Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) plays in time of severe local and national emergency situations and places on record its appreciation for the front line role firefighters hold in keeping residents and businesses safe.

Since 2010, GMFRS has seen a reduction in Government grant funding of £28 million, and has responded locally by reducing the number of firefighter posts by 450, the number of fire engines by 10 and service efficiencies in back office and management costs.

The recent Comprehensive Spending Review announcement details a reduction, in core spending power available to GMFRS of £3.72 million over the next 4 four years, which may impact further the resilience of GMFRS to be able to respond effectively to emergency situations in the future.

As the country's second largest fire and rescue service, GMFRS plays a pivotal role in our local and national security and resilience, protecting homes and businesses, saving lives, and helping those in times of crises.

Council notes the forthcoming governance changes to GMFRS to bring the service under the authority of the Elected Mayor which will help to ensure a co-ordinated and efficient blue light operation with other emergency services.

In light of the above, the Council calls on the Government to consider the consultation response from GMFRS, in recognition of the key role in local and national resilience provided by our superb fire and rescue service in Greater Manchester.

66. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - POLITICAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

(Note: Prior to the debate on this item, the time being 9.22 p.m., the Mayor indicated that all speeches would be limited to a maximum of one minute per speaker.)

It was moved and seconded that:

“This Council recognises the concerns raised by the young people of Trafford and supports their campaign and the petition to introduce basic political education in to the education system. They believe that there is still a large proportion of young people who do not hold the basic knowledge of politics and that if we want to engage more people and address the disengagement we need to appropriately educate them.”

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was put to the vote and in accordance with Procedure Rule 16.5 a recorded vote was called for. This resulted as follows:

**Meeting of the Council
20 January 2016**

Those in favour of the Motion: Councillors Acton, Adshead, Baugh, Bennett, Bowker, Mrs. Brophy, Brotherton, Carter, Cordingley, Fishwick, Freeman, Gratrix, Harding, Hynes, Jarman, Lloyd, Malik, O'Sullivan, Procter, Ross, Smith, Taylor, Walsh, A. Western and D. Western.

Those against the Motion: Councillors S.A. Anstee, S.K. Anstee, Dr. Barclay, Miss Blackburn, Boyes, Mrs. Bruer-Morris, Bunting, Butt, Candish, Cawdrey, Chilton, Cornes, Coupe, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Evans, N. Evans, Holden (the Mayor), Hopps, Hyman, Lally, Lamb, Mitchell, Myers, Mrs. Reilly, Sephton, Sharp, Shaw, Mrs. Ward, Whetton, Williams M. Young and Mrs. Young.

With the result of the vote being 25 in favour and 32 against, with 0 abstentions, the Motion was declared lost.

67. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - NORTHERN RAIL FRANCHISE

RESOLVED: That, the time being 9.30 p.m., consideration of this Motion be deferred to the Council meeting scheduled to be held on 23 March 2016.

The meeting commenced at 7.03 p.m. and finished at 9.30 p.m.