

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

22 NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Dolores O'Sullivan), in the Chair.

A.M. Whyte (Deputy Mayor)	N. Evans	E.R. Parker
D. Acton	W. Frass	E. Patel
S. Adshead	J. Harding	R. Paul
J.M. Axford	B. Hartley	K. Procter
Babar	W. Hassan	S. Procter
O.J. Baskerville	S. J. Haughey	T. Ross
J. Bennett	E.L. Hirst	J. Slater
J. Brophy	J. Holden	H. K. Spencer
B. Brotherton	F. Hornby	O. Sutton
D. Butt	C. Hynes	M.J. Taylor
G. Carter	D. Jarman	S. Taylor
K.G. Carter	D. Jerrome	S. Thomas
K. Chakraborty	W. Jones	R. Thompson
G. Coggins	J. Leicester	L. Walsh
M. Cordingley	S.E. Lepori	M.J. Welton
F. Cosby	J. Lloyd	D. Western
Z.C. Deakin	S. Maitland	M.P. Whetton
R. Duncan	M. Minnis	A.J. Williams
P. Eckersley	J.D. Newgrosh	B.G. Winstanley
S. G. Ennis	T. O'Brien	S. Zhi

In attendance

Chief Executive	S. Todd
Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	D. Sykes
Governance Manager	J. Addison
Senior Governance Officer	I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S.J. Gilbert and J.A. Wright.

32. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19 July 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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33. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (a) Honorary Alderman, Former Councillor and Past Mayor Mrs. Pamela Dixon MBE and Former Mayoress Mrs. Wendy Higgins.

It was with regret that the Mayor referred to the recent passing of former Councillor Mrs. Pamela Dixon MBE and Honorary Alderman who was Mayor of Trafford in 2004/05. Mrs. Dixon represented the Brooklands Ward and served on the Council for 27 years between 1990 and 2018.

The Mayor also advised the Council of the sad passing of the former Mayoress, Mrs. Wendy Higgins, who was Mayoress to her husband David in his Mayoral year 2009/10.

As a mark of respect to its former colleagues, the Council stood for a moments silence in reflection of in their memory.

- (b) Israel and Gaza

The Mayor referred to the terrible events which were unfolding in Israel and Gaza and conveyed the Council's thoughts and prayers to those impacted and the people caught up in the ongoing conflict.

The Council paused and took a moment to reflect on the many innocent people who had lost their lives or who had lost loved ones.

- (c) His Majesty the King's Birthday Honours

The Mayor took the opportunity to recognise those citizens and persons connected with Trafford who were named in His Majesty the King's Birthday Honours List, namely:

Ms Hayley Karen Citrine from Sale, awarded the citation of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to Nursing;

Mr Jonathan Grant Evans from Hale, awarded the MBE for services to Association Football in Northern Ireland;

Mrs Zoe Branka Holland from Sale, awarded the MBE for Charitable Service, particularly during Covid 19; and

Dr Rosemary McCarthy from Hale, awarded the MBE for services to Midwifery and Maternity Healthcare.

The Council joined with the Mayor in conveying the Council's congratulations for their achievements and richly deserved recognition.

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(d) The Leader of the Council's Announcements

Councillor Ross provided a summary of the following Council activities since the previous meeting.

- In July, eleven of Trafford's parks and greenspaces were awarded Green Flag status. Thanks went to the Friends of Parks Groups and officers from the Council and Amey.
- In partnership with L&Q, the Council had started the regeneration of several properties in Sale Moor to bring them back into use as affordable homes.
- In early September, thousands welcomed the tour of Britain cycling race to Altrincham.
- Council had received funding of almost £2 million to support the building of new homes on the Lacy Street site in Stretford.
- Longford Park awarded £3million from the heritage lottery fund with thanks to the Friends of Longford Park, Ward Councillors, Executive Members and officers.
- Congratulations to Altrincham Bid for their successful Purple Flag award.
- The opening of Hale Library.
- The Council looked forward to the next stages of the levelling-up bid for leisure development in Partington and to the engagement with residents.
- Congratulations to Trafford Veterans and the Special Educational Needs Family Support Group on receiving the King's Award for Voluntary Service.

(e) Budget Scrutiny

Councillor Acton, Chair of Scrutiny Committee advised the Council that the Budget Scrutiny sessions were to take place on 28 and 30 November 2023 to which all Members were invited.

(f) Health Scrutiny

Councillor Butt, Chair of Health Scrutiny updated the Council on the Task and Finish Group's meeting with local social prescribers and the Committee's work programme to date in respect of Altrincham Minor Injuries Unit, Aids and Adaptations and the Integrated Care Board's governance structure. The forthcoming meeting will explore Health Social Care Winter Plans, Dental Access and Cancer Diagnosis and Prevention as well as reviewing performance during the pandemic.

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34. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 12 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

On the basis that the Mayor had asked for the responses to be circulated to all Councillors and published on the website, the Council consented to taking both the question and response as read and noted and where a response was yet to be provided, they would be circulated after the meeting.

The Mayor invited any supplementary questions to be submitted in writing after the meeting. Any supplementary question received, together with the answer to that question, would also be published on the Council's website.

RESOLVED: That the Council notes the questions submitted for the meeting and the responses provided so far and notes the process by which outstanding responses and supplementary questions and their responses will be dealt with.

35. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: That Council notes that:

- (a) Councillor New resigned her position as a Member of the Council, with effect from 20 September 2023.
- (b) Councillor Frances Cosby was elected as a Member of the Council following the Poll held on 2 November 2023 for the Bucklow St. Martins Ward and will hold office until 2027.
- (c) Councillor G. Carter replaced Cllr K. Procter on Licensing Committee for the period 8 August 2023 to 17 August 2023.
- (d) Councillor Patel was appointed to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Employment Skills and Work Executive Member Forum and Councillor Ged Carter appointed as the substitute Member with effect from 16 October 2023 and 8 November 2023, respectively.

36. PETITION - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON PARK ROAD, TIMPERLEY

Lead Petitioner, Helen Orme introduced the following petition which had received 615 signatures in support:

"We petition the Council to provide a pedestrian crossing on Park Road, Timperley in the vicinity of Heyes Lane and Stoney Bridge Lane junction.

Many people cross Park Road, Timperley near to the junction of Heyes Lane to access Stoney Bridge Lane. In particular it is used by many school children walking to Wellington School. It is also used as foot access to other schools, tennis club, allotments, dog walking and a route to Timperley

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village. There have been several accidents at this junction including a recent accident where a child was hit by a car. It can take several minutes to wait for a safe opportunity to cross plus there is a blind spot to pedestrians when crossing at the bottom of Stoney Bridge Lane making it very difficult for pedestrians to cross safely.”

The lead petitioner outlined the main reasons for the petitions ask, namely, it was impracticable to use the next nearest crossing; school children were at risk having to make judgements about when to cross: statistically, six serious accidents on Park Road recently did not prove the junction was safe; and morally the safety imperative outweighed any budgetary concerns.

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Highways, Environmental and Traded Services responded to the petition on behalf of the controlling group advising that all requests were fully accessed and outlined the potential costs which were dependant on Transport for Greater Manchester funding. He thanked the petitioner for bringing the issue to the Council and indicated that road safety and highway officers would consider the request and provide a response directly.

Councillors Evans, Minnis and Jerrome responded to the petition on behalf of the opposition political parties and recognising that there was not any safety features in the vicinity were supportive of the petition’s ask and urged the Council to find the necessary funding.

In summary, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ross advised that there was a political will to support Active Travel Routes where possible and he would speak to the Executive Members to look at what the Council could do to liaise with Transport for Greater Manchester and Ward Councillors to see if progress can be made with the petitions’ request.

37. STREET TRADING POLICY, DESIGNATED STREETS AND FEES 2023

The Executive Member for Communities and Safety submitted a report outlining the current position of street trading within Trafford and detailing a number of proposals and the consultation undertaken. The report had been considered by the Executive on 18 September 2023 and Council was recommended to:

- (i) designate streets in the Borough as licence, consent or prohibited;
- (ii) agree a new policy (including recommendations for a consent to be obtained for the sale of articles from private land where the public have access without payment); and
- (iii) agree revised fees.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Council notes the recommendations of the Executive on the 18 September 2023 and the content of the report.
- (2) That the Street Trading Policy, Designation of Streets and the new fees and charges, be approved as set out in Appendix A to the report.

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38. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY 2023

The Executive Member for Communities and Safety submitted a report proposing the Council adopts a new overarching Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy to be effective from the 1 December 2023, and to be reviewed every five years. The recommendations of the report had been agreed by the Executive on 15 November 2023.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Council note the recommendations of the Executive on the 15 November 2023.
- (2) That the proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, be approved which includes the amendments set out at 3.19 in the report.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Communities and Safety, to bring the implementation date for vehicle age and emission standards (for existing licensed vehicles) forward from 1 April 2026 should it be deemed appropriate in support of the Clean Air agenda.

39. A REVIEW OF THE CIVIC ALLOWANCES FOR THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR OF TRAFFORD COUNCIL

The Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer submitted a report advise the Council of the recommendations of an independent review of Trafford's Civic allowances.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Council agrees to accept the recommendations in full, as set out in the appendix to the report, namely:
 - (i) that the Civic Allowance for the Mayor of Trafford Council is reset at £10,000 per year.
 - (ii) that the Civic Allowance for the Deputy Mayor should be reset at £2,500.
 - (iii) that the Civic Allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Trafford Council are indexed to the annual percentage salary increase for local government staff (*at spinal column point 43*) as agreed each year by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services and applicable to the same year it applies to Officers and applicable for as long as the main allowances are indexed. The indexation for the Civic Allowances should commence from the start of the 2024/25 municipal year.
 - (iv) that the recommendations contained in this report are adopted from the date of the Annual Council meeting 24 May 2023.

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- (2) That the Council's thanks be conveyed to Dr Declan Hall for the work undertaken and report produced.

40. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE GREEN PARTY GROUP (DEFERRED FROM COUNCIL 19 JULY 2023) - SUPPORT THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding Support the Climate and Ecology Bill was moved and seconded.

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

RESOLVED: That:

Preamble

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK, and around the world. The global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and—alongside this—the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. In fact, the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

Climate change remains a major concern for voters with 66% of people (according to YouGov) expressing they are 'worried about climate change and its effects'. Alongside this, the popularity of Sir David Attenborough's Save Our Wild Isles initiative demonstrates public concern that UK wildlife is being destroyed at terrifying speed.

Climate and Ecology Bill

The Climate and Ecology Bill, a private member's bill currently before the House of Commons, seeks to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

Based on the latest science, the Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was a goal agreed to at COP15, via the Kunming-Montreal Framework (22 December 2022); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with a fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21, via the Paris Agreement (12 December 2015).

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and reduced energy bills; and boosting the UK's food and energy security.

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Trafford Council notes that:

The Climate and Ecology Bill, which has been introduced in the UK Parliament on four occasions since 2020, including most recently in the House of Commons 10 May 2023. The Bill is backed by 168 cross-party MPs and Peers and 237 local authorities, alongside the support of eminent scientists, such as Sir David King; environmental non-governmental organizations, such as The Wildlife Trusts and CPRE; businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank; and 30,000 members of the public.

The Bill would require the UK Government to develop and deliver a new environmental strategy, which would include:

1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, requiring a plan that considers both together;
2. Reducing emissions in line with 1.5°C, ensure emissions are reduced rapidly, for the best chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C;
3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;
4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;
5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;
6. Ensuring that no-one is left behind, by providing for retraining for people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
7. Giving people a say in finding a fair way forward through an independent and temporary Climate and Nature Assembly, representative of the UK population, an essential tool for bringing public opinion along with the unprecedented pace of change required.

Trafford Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;
2. Inform local residents, and local press/media of this decision;
3. Write to Trafford's MPs, Andrew Western, Sir Graham Brady and Mike Kane, to inform them that this motion has been passed, urging them to sign up to support the Climate and Ecology Bill, or thanking them for already doing so;

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4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the Climate and Ecology Bill, expressing its support (campaign@zerohour.uk).

41. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP - ALTERNATING THE WEED SPRAYING PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: That the Motion be withdrawn.

42. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP - A FAIR DEAL ON BUSINESS RATES RETENTION

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding A Fair Deal on Business Rates Retention was moved and seconded.

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

43. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - VAPING

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding Vaping was moved and seconded.

The first proposed Amendment which had been set out and published, was withdrawn.

The second proposed Amendment was moved and seconded, as set out and published.

Following a debate on the matter, the Amendment was put to the vote and was unanimously carried. The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and was also carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That over the last few years, vaping among our young people has risen sharply, both nationally and locally.

In Trafford our Public Health team undertook a Young People's Trading Standards Survey 2022 which told us:

- 10% of young people who completed the survey claimed to vape occasionally or regularly compared to the GM average of 22%;
- 77% answered that they had never tried a vape, which is higher than the GM average of 59%.

However, our Voice of the Child Champions group told us in February 2023 that they felt the prevalence estimated in this survey are inaccurate, and the number of young people vaping was higher and that most people who vaped had not smoked before.

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Also, some data we have accessed from Action on Smoking Health (ASH) shows that 8.6% of 11- to 18-year-olds in England vaped in 2022, compared with 4% in 2021.

Further data from ASH shows that single-use vapes are the chosen product for the vast majority of young people who have started using e-cigarettes (69% in 2023).

Some health groups are calling for single-use vapes to be banned completely. Unscrupulous retailers who sell vapes to children, often stock illegal products, containing high levels of toxic elements like chromium and lead.

Single-use vapes are detrimental to the environment, with over a million single-use plastic vapes and associated batteries going to landfill or littering the streets each week.

Recent Chartered Trading Standards Institute research found that 60% of local trading standards services report high street shops selling vapes or vaping products to children. Trading standards teams reported a significant rise in underage vape sales last year, with more than a fifth of youngsters buying vaping products from newsagents while 16.3% buying them from a supermarket. Schools in Trafford are mirroring this trend with secondary schools now having to confiscate vaping products on school premises.

The effects of e-cigarettes and vaping are still not yet fully understood - which is especially important in the context of young people, as their lungs are still developing. There is growing evidence that e-cigarettes can help people manage their nicotine cravings – but this isn't without risk. While research has shown vaping poses a small fraction of the risks of smoking, it is deeply worrying that more and more children – who have never smoked – are starting vaping.

The LGA has called on its members to step up enforcement to deal with growing numbers of shops selling vapes to children despite the 18-age limit, with many “especially concerned” by child-friendly marketing, including colourful packages and different flavours. We are aware of the anti-social aspects of vaping and the environmental problems that are also associated; however, this motion is concentrating on our young people's health and what we do to prevent ill health for them in the future.

This Council asks the following:

- that the Leader writes to the Secretary of state for tighter regulations on the marketing of vape products, including a ban on brightly colour packaging and a review of the flavours vape companies use which are likely to appeal to children.
- that all parties across the chamber lobby the government and their local MPs for extra funding for councils for education and support to deliver

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to our young people the real health issues that vaping causes in the long term and the short term around popcorn lung and more.

- Call for harsher punishments for companies which flout advertising rules to promote their products on social media, and for more licensing powers to allow local authorities to ban the sale of e-cigarettes in shops near schools.
- that all parties across the chamber lobby the government and their local MPs to support a ban on single-use vapes.

Also resolves that the Councils Trading standards team continue working with Public Health to:

- Carry out regular test purchases and seize products and issued fixed penalty notices when a business has been found to be in breach of the law.
- Implement mandatory age-of-sale signage on vaping products.
- Implement sanctions for breaching these rules should also be the same as penalties handed out under tobacco display regulations.

44. CROSS-PARTY MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP AND CONSERVATIVE GROUP - SUPPORT FOR A GREATER MANCHESTER-WIDE TRIAL OF THE BABY-BOX

With the consent of the Council, the Motion set out on the Summons regarding Support for a Greater Manchester-wide Trial of the Baby-box was altered, as set out and published before being moved and seconded.

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion, as altered was put to the vote which was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That this Council notes:

- Across Greater Manchester, more than one in every three children grow up in poverty. Three of the 20 local authorities with the highest levels of child poverty nationally, are in Greater Manchester.
- As many as 10 children in every classroom of 30, are not getting the start in life that they deserve.
- The pandemic has compounded this situation, leading to a spike in child poverty rates of approximately 6% during the 'pandemic years' – 2020 and 2021.

This Council believes in the power of early intervention and in the positive difference that can be made when health services provide meaningful support to families and children from birth.

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The Baby Box scheme is a care package which is delivered to expectant parents, carers and guardians in the early stages of a child's life. It is loaded with essentials such as clothing, reusable nappies, maternity pads, blankets, wraps and slings, as well as books, vouchers and advice for new parents. The box itself doubles as a small cot.

The principle behind the Baby Box is that every child should be offered the best possible start in life.

Finland and Scotland have long since adopted the Baby Box. Each have seen this contributing to a steady and sustained positive impact on child poverty rates, as well as on infant mortality rates and rates of post-natal depression, among other positive health impacts.

The universal nature of the baby box in both countries means that no stigma is placed on families for receiving support.

Whilst a universally implemented Baby Box could deliver positive outcomes for children and families across Greater Manchester, this council recognises the current strain on public sector finance and therefore advocates for a proportionate universal approach to be explored in developing a Greater Manchester-wide trial of the Baby Box.

This Council also acknowledges and values the support already offered to new parents in Trafford by community and voluntary services such as The Little Green Sock Project and our Trafford Community Hubs, as well as the role of businesses in driving positive health outcomes for the people of Greater Manchester. We would seek to engage with such communities when exploring options for a Baby Box scheme.

This Council resolves:

- that the Leader of the Council, the Executive Member for Health and Care and Executive Member for Children and Young People engage with Council Officers and Children's Scrutiny committee to explore the feasibility of introducing a Baby Box scheme in Trafford, comparing this with other assistance already in place, in alignment with our existing strategies to tackle poverty.
- If it is assessed that a Baby Box offer is feasible in Trafford, report our findings to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Deputy Mayor for Health, calling for the exploration of sources of funding and options for the delivery of an ethical and sustainable Baby Box trial in Greater Manchester.

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**45. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - ALTRINCHAM
MINOR INJURIES UNIT**

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding Altrincham Minor Injuries Unit was moved and seconded.

An Amendment was moved and seconded, as set out and published.

Following a debate on the matter, the Amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

A second Amendment was moved and seconded, as set out and published.

Following a debate on the matter, the second Amendment was put to the vote and declared lost. The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and declared lost.

**46. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - FREE AFTER
THREE PARKING SCHEME**

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding a Free After Three Parking Scheme was moved and seconded.

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.23 p.m.