

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED FOR
COUNCIL**

Date: Wednesday, 13 October 2021

3. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

This is an opportunity for Members of Council to ask the Mayor, Members of the Executive or the Chairs of any Committee or Sub-Committee a question on notice under Procedure Rule 10.2.

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Question 1 - Submitted by Councillor Butt

“Can the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure tell me which parks have damaged play equipment, what items are damaged and when will the equipment be repaired?”

Response from Councillor Patel, Executive Member for Culture and Leisure

There are currently 66 play areas across a number of our parks that have equipment and associated parts that are damaged or suffering from wear and tear and hence are in need of some form of repair and maintenance or replacement.

The play areas are inspected annually on a rolling basis by independent ROSPA qualified specialists to ensure the long term safety of the equipment and ancillary items and these inspections identify wear and tear, small scale damage and repairs and also major concerns. In addition damage or concerns to play equipment including vandalism does get reported by users and the general public and hence the list of damage, deterioration and hence suitable repairs and suggested replacement of items can be quite extensive and can change on a daily basis.

As a result of these inspections and reports of damage a rolling list of issues is kept and monitored throughout the year on an ongoing basis. Currently there are over 400 individual items ranging from general wear and tear including worn chains, replacement bolts and painting up to worn surfacing, swing seats in need of replacement, decay to timber components and gate repairs.

Small scale replacement, damage and repairs can be fixed in year with budget allocated and stock items administered by the One Trafford Partnership. Larger scale repairs and replacement of equipment is however, built into the rolling programme of capital replacement which is updated and identified annually.

Often repeat vandalism of equipment or sudden unforeseen failure can mean that an item of play equipment has to be fenced off or removed and may not be able to be replaced within current year's capital allocations and hence may have to put on a waiting list.

Capital allocation for play equipment is circa £140k in 20/21 and a rolling programme of repairs and replacement of play equipment in 12 parks was approved. A capital bid is currently being worked on for consideration in the 2022/23 budget that will include a bid for replacement play equipment that is identified on the rolling list of issues that is identified from the above inspections and reports.

Question 2 - Submitted by Councillor Morgan

“Recently, some Trafford households received a letter with a Trafford Council logo on it in a GMCA envelope telling the householder that they may be eligible for a government backed Green Homes Grant. Can the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services, whose name was on the letter tell me how much it cost to design and deliver the letter, who funded it and how was it decided which homes received the letter?”

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Response from Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services

The letter was organised by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in collaboration with Trafford Council and was intended to promote the take up of Government funded grants for energy-saving home improvements.

The GMCA has secured £10.3 million of funding to run the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme in Greater Manchester in partnership with major utility provider E.ON.

The letter was delivered to 1,449 homes in Trafford and cost £444.94 to print and post, which was funded by the GMCA using the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme administration budget awarded by the Government.

The addresses were identified by a GMCA data analyst using the eligibility criteria for the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme (homes with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of band E, F or G occupied by residents with a combined gross annual household income of less than £30,000)

Question 3 - Submitted by Councillor Mirza

“The Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) visa opened on 31 January 2021 and delivers on the UK Government’s historic and moral commitment to the people of Hong Kong. As Many families from Hong Kong have settled in Trafford through the visa programme we have as Conservatives councillors reached out to them and welcomed them but it is vital we get it right as a council. Specifically relating to accessing English courses (ESOL), can the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships tell me what the timeline and plan is to make new arrivals from Hong Kong aware of the language courses available?”

Response from Councillor Whitham, Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships

The Council has already commenced work on how the needs of the Hongkongers can be met across a variety of its Council services and is also engaged in partnership activities with the GMCA ensure a joined up approach to provide help and support is taken.

The Council’s ESOL co-ordinator has already arranged over one hundred language assessments for our new Hong Kong residents and has also arranged conversation clubs to help improve language abilities. The assessments will provide information on the level of assistance needed and the Council has also commenced investigating what additional resources may be required to provide additional learning provision alongside training providers for ESOL courses.

In addition to ESOL requirements which have been highlighted as a priority need by the new Hong Kong residents, the Council has also written to representatives of the Hong Kong Residents setting out help an assistance in the following areas:

- Employment support available*
- Wellbeing of the elderly*
- Support for people who are destitute*
- Voter Registration*

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- *Property Rental and housing options*
- *Education information*

The Council is in regular contact with the Hong Kong residents group and is able to make them aware of ESOL courses and a range of other useful information. It is the intention to keep communications channels open and active to ensure information is shared in the most appropriate and efficient way possible.

Question 4 – Submitted by Councillor Morgan

“Can I ask the Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Children’s Services what plans the Council have to support the National Adoption Week beginning next Monday?”

Response from Councillor Hynes, Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Children’s Services

I can advise as follows:

The campaign and publicity in respect of National Adoption week is being led through our Regional Adoption agency – Adoption Counts (which is our statutory a partnership arrangement). The theme of the campaign is modern adoption and raising awareness, generating a better understanding of the different experiences in the adoption process.

The campaign includes:

- *Social media – Adoption Counts pages posts – 1 or 2 posts per day, including a video clip message from the RAA head of service*
- *Sharing of other social media adoption services posts, e.g. #YouCanAdopt, Adoption, etc. – the national campaign*
- *Sharing of quotes from both social workers and*
- *Creation of a new page on Adoption Counts website that will feature anonymised children’s profiles to be shared via social media to generate awareness*
- *The Local authorities within the RAA including Trafford will post or share posts on social media*
- *Outdoor advertising – bus rear adverts (already running)*
- *Outdoor advertising – billboards, including a very large digital display advert on the border Manchester/Salford/Trafford*
- *Gaydio – radio adverts*
- *We’re holding an information event on Wednesday evening (these are held every Wednesday)*
- *Manchester Evening News advertising print/online*

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