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TRAFFORD
COUNCIL

AMENDMENTS FOR COUNCIL

Date: Wednesday, 12 October 2022

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Item 8 (a) LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT of the Motion Submitted by the Green Party Group

Vision Zero

This Council notes that 55 people were killed or seriously injured on its roads in 2019 and that this is 25% higher than the number in 2011 (44). In 2020, despite far lower overall traffic due to the pandemic, there were 7 fatalities, the third highest year in the decade 2011-2020. This Council believes that more needs to be done to reduce the number of casualties on its roads.

This Council notes that "Vision Zero" has been successful in many cities, regions and states worldwide. Vision Zero achieves change by combining strong enforcement of traffic law and better roadway engineering, with campaigns to encourage careful life-saving behaviour and to end dangerous anti-social behaviour by road users. This Council notes that Vision Zero not only improves road safety but can also help to tackle:

- high levels of inactivity and poor public health;
- poor air quality;
- rising carbon emissions from road transport;
- congestion; and
- nuisance noise

~~Each of these great road issues is estimated to cost Trafford millions of pounds every year. Reported road casualties in Trafford alone caused societal costs (medical and ambulance, lost output and human cost) of £23.2 million in 2019, according to the Department for Transport's statistics, based on police records.~~

Almost all other forms of transport now have extremely low, or zero levels of casualties associated with their use. This Council believes that, in relation to road transport, the only justifiable target should be that in the longer term no one is killed or seriously injured on the roads that it manages.

This Council notes that Vision Zero requires substantial change over the longer term so that our streets offer a fairer balance between people and motor vehicles. These changes include less traffic, slower speeds, safe street design, safe space for cycling, safe junctions and crossings, safe vehicles and safe behaviour by road users backed up by robust enforcement.

This Council ~~calls on the administration~~ **seeks** to take a bold approach to the safety of those travelling on its roads and especially those who are the most vulnerable – people on foot, people cycling and people on motorcycles. We ~~need~~ **recognise that work to promote Vision Zero is being actively considered by GM directors of public health and therefore resolve that:**

- **The Council should investigate the feasibility of introducing a Vision Zero action plan that drive progress on road safety and that includes an ambitious target to cut road deaths and serious injuries to zero by 2040 – with an interim target of**

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reducing our numbers by 50% by 2030, compared with our average of 46 from 2011-2020.

- ~~— an ambitious target to cut road deaths and serious injuries to zero by 2040 —~~
~~with an interim target of reducing our numbers by 50% by 2030, compared with our average of 46 from 2011-2020.~~
- ~~— a clear Vision Zero action plan (using changes listed above) that drives progress on safety;~~
- effort to secure the necessary funding **is explored** from sources such as grants, **and** section 106 funding **and noting that** revenue raising measures such as taking up the newly available power to enforce against moving traffic offences and issue penalty charge notices for contraventions **are already in motion**;
- ~~a recognition that this can't be done by Trafford Council alone. The council will work with other bodies and authorities, such as the Greater Manchester Police, Transport for Greater Manchester, Highways England and Active Travel England, and ask them to do more to help reach Trafford's Vision Zero goals.~~
- ~~political will to make difficult decisions, and a leadership that is unafraid to communicate its Vision Zero goal and seeks to engage our communities in achieving it.~~

Vision Zero principles will change public perception about road danger, so that death and injury is no longer an inevitable part of our lives as we move around, but something that can be avoided if a serious and sustained effort is made to tackle the causes of the problem.

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Item 8 (b) LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP AMENDMENT of the Motion Submitted by the Labour Group

The Energy and Cost of Living Crises

We have an energy crisis of huge magnitude hanging over our heads and the assistance offered by the government so far is of little help to those already in fuel poverty. The help is not targeted at those who most need it. Businesses and public sector organisations also continue to face uncertainty.

Meantime, energy providers such as BP and Shell continue to make massive profits, and the government is launching a new oil and gas licensing round and lifting the moratorium on UK shale gas production, when there is clear scientific evidence that we must keep fossil fuels in the ground to avert climate breakdown.

Our energy security has been under threat for some time, and not only because of the importance of supporting Ukraine. Climate change, extreme weather conditions and a lack of investment in infrastructure are also impacting this.

It does not need to be like this. Instead of a piece meal approach, a long-term energy plan should have been started years ago.

The government could have reduced our dependency on fossil fuels and the vagaries of the energy market by investing in renewables and green technology, so honouring its commitment to reducing carbon emissions and addressing the climate emergency.

The government could have increased its long duration energy storage capabilities (LDES), thus obviating the wastage of energy from renewables, and could have decided not to close gas storage facilities.

The government could have initiated an immediate accessible insulation programme to ensure that everyone is warm and to reduce energy consumption.

This energy crisis has been one of the main drivers behind our cost of living crisis, a crisis exacerbated in recent weeks by the reckless behaviour demonstrated by the Government in the form of its 'mini-budget', with the threat of further cuts to services. Whilst the richest 5% would have benefited from unfunded tax cuts, many more households face higher mortgage rates and seeing their pensions put at risk as the markets act with alarm in response to the government's irresponsible fiscal policy. A combination of the energy crisis and recent fiscal measures have put many households across Trafford in a precarious position.

Trafford Council has a track record of offering meaningful winter support to vulnerable residents. Last year's winter care package programme, which grant funding allowed the Council to deliver across Borough, made a positive difference to so many of our most vulnerable residents.

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Whilst competition for these type of programmes is fierce, this Council believes that a similar scheme is needed again this winter as even more people are being pushed into Fuel Poverty by the Conservatives' Cost of Living crisis.

The Council - while recognising that these are not measures one of the richest countries in the world should have to consider - resolves to:

- Continue to find ways to support our residents and local businesses in accessing the welfare benefits, grants and payments due to them.
- Provide free accessible friendly Warm Hubs where our residents can stay as long as they like and have access to hot drinks.
- Provide information for residents and local businesses on creative ways to save energy.
- Support local community and co-operative initiatives to deliver investment in renewables, such as the Trafford for Solar Community Benefit Society solar offer.
- **Develop a Winter Care Package programme for vulnerable residents across Trafford – exploring every possible avenue for funding.**

The Council resolves to write to the Government to demand:

- An urgent targeted increased assistance package for those on prepayment meters, low incomes, disabilities.
- The reintroduction of the £20 a week uplift in Universal Credit, extended to all welfare benefits.
- Targeted assistance for small businesses.
- Targeted assistance for schools, hospitals and other public buildings.
- A rapid increased investment in renewables and energy storage (LDES).
- The introduction of an accessible, urgent insulation programme.

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Item 8 (d) CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT of the Motion Submitted by the Labour Group

Fracking

Trafford Council voted in November 2018 to reject Fracking in this borough.

Fracking was suspended in 2019 because of concerns about unpredictability of earth tremors as witnessed in Lancashire and the potential harm it would bring to local communities and the local environment.

Nothing has changed since then except the Conservatives we now have changed their leader and our prime minister. That a Prime Minister now who thinks that Fracking is the an answer to improving the UK's energy crisis security by creating home produced gas and that it will help boost economic growth.

A The founder of Cuadrilla representative Resources has said in a Guardian exclusive on 21 September 2022 that Fracking in the UK is difficult because its geology means it is not suitable harder and more expensive to extract gas in this manner and the population density of the UK is such that commercially viable wells are limited, further putting into question its viability.

The Government have signed up to crucial international commitments on net zero; Fracking potentially undermines these.

The wrong decisions on energy have already been made that mean that UK's commitment to reduce emissions rightly led to a reduction in the use of coal, but that reduction has led to an over 60% of our energy requirements now rely reliance on natural gas. The UK should be taking the opportunity to reduce this reliance on natural gas as we did with coal. Gas should stay in the ground to support our net zero commitments.

Fracking is an industry that has failed in the UK but it keeps getting brought back by Conservative governments being suggested as a silver bullet, despite the mounting evidence it will not be commercially viable or socially acceptable in this country.

Despite the Fracking fantasies of this government fervour of certain national politicians and think tanks and their potential financial incentives to local communities to accept Fracking. We, we call on this Council, its Councillors and the boroughs' MPs to reaffirm their rejection of Fracking in Trafford.

We further call on fellow neighbouring councils to reject Fracking too in Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Lancashire.

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