

Council – 29 January 2025

## Liberal Democrat Group Amendment to Motion 5a – New Year's Day Flooding

This Council recognises the devastating impact that the adverse weather and the subsequent flooding has had on residents and businesses in Trafford over the New Year.

It has been widely reported that a months' worth of rainfall fell across Greater Manchester within 48 hours, causing the River Mersey and River Bollin to burst their banks. The weather also caused the Bridgewater Canal to collapse at the Cheshire border for the first time in over 50 years.

This Council recognises, and thanks, Trafford Council officers, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service, One Trafford and other agencies for their initial response to the flooding. We also commend the resilience and community spirit demonstrated by residents and businesses who provided vital support to those in need.

Agencies responsible for flooding resilience have failed to heed warnings and missed opportunities to intervene with targeted investments. The flood risk posed to some communities in Trafford is not accurately monitored and is therefore poorly understood by the Trafford Council, the Environment Agency and emergency responders.

Flooding is much more than just an inconvenience. It disrupts lives and damages property, creating distress, upheaval and danger and, most critically, it poses risk to life and health. A robust and collaborative multi-agency response is not only essential in the immediate aftermath of such events but also in ensuring we learn lessons and implement effective measures for the future.

This Council notes:

1. The recent decision taken by the Environment Agency, citing a lack of data, to withdraw funding for major flooding resilience measures in the vicinity of Fairywell Brook.
2. The inadequate leaf clearance and drainage maintenance works, evident across Trafford Borough this winter.

The Council therefore resolves:

1. To arrange an all-member briefing on the Greater Manchester Integrated Water Management Plan. This is a partnership between Greater Manchester Combined Authority, United Utilities and the Environment Agency that aims to:
  - Accelerate the implementation of natural flood management interventions in key locations identified in the Integrated Water Management Plan. This

will help to reduce carbon emissions, improve our resilience to climate change, benefit nature, and improve the conditions and quality of life for people in towns and cities;

- Reduce the operation of storm overflows so that we can prevent rainwater from entering and polluting the combined sewage system and so improve water quality;
- Create new jobs, developing skills and apprenticeship roles associated with urban drainage that benefit residents in Greater Manchester;
- Ensure new GMCA or TfGM developments are delivered in partnership with United Utilities so that water management measures can be factored in. For example, road or cycle schemes can include solutions to address surface water runoff.

2. To request the Leader follows up letters he wrote to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency regarding water level gauges at Fairywell Brook, with further correspondence regarding the impact of the recent flooding across the Borough on the effectiveness of existing flood management infrastructure.
3. To promote the importance of Blue Spaces (for example, wetlands, culverts and waterways) and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, - while recognising that any Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDS) constructed as part of the new housing developments which are merely designed to maintain current levels of surface water run-off will not address the fact that water run-off already causes flooding
  - provide information on existing schemes in Trafford, and provide information to residents keen to play their part to help slow surface water run-off.
4. To welcome the recent launch of the Greater Manchester Five-Year Environment Plan (2025-30), recognise the number of times flooding risk features in the plan, and work with GMCA to achieve the plan's objectives.
5. To reaffirm that extreme weather events are a consequence of the climate crisis and that Addressing the Climate Crisis is one of our five Corporate Priorities. Therefore council officers and One Trafford Partnership colleagues will continue to work together to prepare for and address the issues that arise from extreme weather events.
6. To ensure that new development comes forward in Trafford in line with planning policy, so that it is designed to promote and address sustainable urban drainage solutions and not exacerbate existing pressures.
7. Remind significant landowners/stakeholders in the Borough of their responsibilities regarding urban drainage and flood management.
8. Reassess the performance of our contractors against KPIs for drain maintenance and leaf clearance; and issue penalties for poor performance.

9. Use this set of penalties to pay for a Fixed-Term of extended operating hours at weekends to clear the back-log of blocked drains in Trafford.
10. Lobby the government and the Environment Agency to get a flooding resilience projects for areas of Trafford that are impacted – including Timperley - back on the table.

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**Conservative Group Amendment to Motion 5a – New Year's Day Flooding**

This Council recognises the devastating impact that the adverse weather and the subsequent flooding has had on residents and businesses in Trafford over the New Year.

It has been widely reported that a months' worth of rainfall fell across Greater Manchester within 48 hours, causing the River Mersey and River Bollin to burst their banks. The weather also caused the Bridgewater Canal to collapse at the Cheshire border for the first time in over 50 years.

This Council recognises, and thanks, Trafford Council officers, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service, One Trafford and other agencies for their initial response to the flooding. We also commend the resilience and community spirit demonstrated by residents and businesses who provided vital support to those in need.

Flooding is much more than just an inconvenience. It disrupts lives and damages property, creating distress, upheaval and danger and, most critically, it poses risk to life and health. A robust and collaborative multi-agency response is not only essential in the immediate aftermath of such events but also in ensuring we learn lessons and implement effective measures for the future.

**This Council also notes that recent flooding did not come without warning, and that a backlog of maintenance work on blocked drains and leaf clearance severely exacerbated the extent of flooding damage.**

The Council therefore resolves:

1. To arrange an all-member briefing on the Greater Manchester Integrated Water Management Plan. This is a partnership between Greater Manchester Combined Authority, United Utilities and the Environment Agency that aims to:
  - Accelerate the implementation of natural flood management interventions in key locations identified in the Integrated Water Management Plan. This will help to reduce carbon emissions, improve our resilience to climate change, benefit nature, and improve the conditions and quality of life for people in towns and cities;
  - Reduce the operation of storm overflows so that we can prevent rainwater from entering and polluting the combined sewage system and so improve water quality;
  - Create new jobs, developing skills and apprenticeship roles associated with urban drainage that benefit residents in Greater Manchester;
  - Ensure new GMCA or TfGM developments are delivered in partnership with United Utilities so that water management measures can be factored

in. For example, road or cycle schemes can include solutions to address surface water runoff.

2. To request the Leader follows up letters he wrote to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency regarding water level gauges at Fairywell Brook, with further correspondence regarding the impact of the recent flooding across the Borough on the effectiveness of existing flood management infrastructure.
3. To promote the importance of Blue Spaces (for example, wetlands, culverts and waterways) and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, provide information on existing schemes in Trafford, and provide information to residents keen to play their part to help slow surface water run-off.
4. To welcome the recent launch of the Greater Manchester Five-Year Environment Plan (2025-30), recognise the number of times flooding risk features in the plan, and work with GMCA to achieve the plan's objectives.
5. ~~To reaffirm that extreme weather events are a consequence of the climate crisis and that Addressing the Climate Crisis is one of our five Corporate Priorities. Therefore council officers and One Trafford Partnership colleagues will continue to work together to prepare for and address the issues that arise from extreme weather events.~~
6. To ensure that new development comes forward in Trafford in line with planning policy, so that it is designed to promote and address sustainable urban drainage solutions and not exacerbate existing pressures, **which will include:**
  - a. ~~A review of all current and future planning applications with an intention to build on existing wetland, insisting on a full environmental assessment on the impact of building on wetlands to future flooding risks.~~
7. Remind significant landowners/stakeholders in the Borough of their responsibilities regarding urban drainage and flood management.
8. ~~To review the Council's current maintenance waiting list and to prioritise any blocked drains currently needing repairs.~~
9. ~~To review the current leaf clearance programme and to ensure that autumn leaf clearance begins in enough time for every ward in Trafford to be cleared before the winter months.~~

**Green Party Group Amendment to Motion 5a – New Year's Day Flooding**

This Council recognises the devastating impact that the adverse weather and the subsequent flooding has had on residents and businesses in Trafford over the New Year.

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This Council recognises, and thanks, Trafford Council officers, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service, One Trafford and other agencies for their initial response to the flooding. We also commend the resilience and community spirit demonstrated by residents and businesses who provided vital support to those in need.

Flooding is much more than just an inconvenience. It disrupts lives and damages property, creating distress, upheaval and danger and, most critically, it poses risk to life and health. A robust and collaborative multi-agency response is not only essential in the immediate aftermath of such events but also in ensuring we learn lessons and implement effective measures for the future.

**These measures must include adequate contingency for the impact of rising temperatures caused by global heating. We understand that warmer air holds more moisture, increasing the risk of extreme rainfall and catastrophic flooding events.**

The Council therefore resolves:

1. To arrange an all-member briefing on the Greater Manchester Integrated Water Management Plan. This is a partnership between Greater Manchester Combined Authority, United Utilities and the Environment Agency that aims to:
  - Accelerate the implementation of natural flood management interventions in key locations identified in the Integrated Water Management Plan. This will help to reduce carbon emissions, improve our resilience to climate change, benefit nature, and improve the conditions and quality of life for people in towns and cities;
  - Reduce the operation of storm overflows so that we can prevent rainwater from entering and polluting the combined sewage system and so improve water quality;
  - Create new jobs, developing skills and apprenticeship roles associated with urban drainage that benefit residents in Greater Manchester;
  - Ensure new GMCA or TfGM developments are delivered in partnership with United Utilities so that water management measures can be factored

in. For example, road or cycle schemes can include solutions to address surface water runoff.

2. To request the Leader follows up letters he wrote to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency regarding water level gauges at Fairywell Brook, with further correspondence regarding the impact of the recent flooding across the Borough on the effectiveness of existing flood management infrastructure.
3. To promote the importance of Blue Spaces (for example, wetlands, culverts and waterways) and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, provide information on existing schemes in Trafford, and provide information to residents keen to play their part to help slow surface water run-off.
4. To welcome the recent launch of the Greater Manchester Five-Year Environment Plan (2025-30), recognise the number of times flooding risk features in the plan, and work with GMCA to achieve the plan's objectives.
5. To reaffirm that extreme weather events are a consequence of the climate crisis and that Addressing the Climate Crisis is one of our five Corporate Priorities. Therefore council officers and One Trafford Partnership colleagues will continue to work together to prepare for and address the issues that arise from extreme weather events.
6. To ensure that new development comes forward in Trafford in line with planning policy, so that it is designed to promote and address sustainable urban drainage solutions and not exacerbate existing pressures.
7. Remind significant landowners/stakeholders in the Borough of their responsibilities regarding urban drainage and flood management.
8. To review and update the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, last published in 2014.  
(<https://www.trafford.gov.uk/planning/strategic-planning/docs/lfrms-trafford-final-2014.pdf>)
9. To create a database of voluntary flood wardens to be alerted by the council when heavy rainfall is expected and provided with guidance on checking and clearing debris from the top of drains and grids, as well as any suitable hi-viz clothing or equipment necessary for safety.
10. To request the Leader write to the Secretary of State and the Independent Commission into the Water Sector and its Regulation calling for water companies to be brought back under public control, so that investment in reducing flooding is put ahead of profit.



Council – 29 January 2025

## Green Party Group Amendment to Motion 5b – Full National Enquiry into the Rape Gang Scandal

This Council notes that:

- In 2013, a Home Affairs Select Committee found that the failure to protect children in Rochdale fell to the police, social workers and Child Prosecution Services (CPS). This is one of multiple examples of findings of institutional failure.
- In October 2022 Alexis Jay published her recommendations following a 7 year review. None of these have been implemented by either the previous Conservative government, or the new Labour government.
- In June 2022, the Greater Manchester Independent Assurance Review in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) published its second report which looked into the effectiveness of safeguarding practice in the borough of Oldham.
- This report was part 2 of a multi-part Assurance Review, with each part covering various areas across Greater Manchester. The first part was published in December 2019 and involved a review of Operation Augusta, a police and social services investigation into CSE in South Manchester following the tragic death of 15-year old Victoria Agoglia.
- It is inaccurate and naïve to describe CSE as an ‘historic’ problem, as the GMP acknowledged in the December 2019 Part 1 Assurance Review:
  - ‘As of March 2019, there are 49 multi-victim or multi-offender live CSE investigations across GMP, where there are multiple suspects/victims, or where there is a single suspect with a number of victims, or a single victim with a number of suspects... Of the 49 live investigations, 31 are recent, 16 are historic, and four investigations are a mix of both recent and historic allegations.’ pp. 143-144
- That Oldham Council have called upon the Home Office to request a further national enquiry into CSE in the borough of Oldham. That a national enquiry was undertaken, authored by Professor Alexis Jay, and published in October 2022, however:
  - this review is intensely focused around a series of victim interviews, which whilst appreciated, consequently it does not cover institutional failings in a particularly detailed manner.
  - the review only covers institutional failings as described by victim interviews, it does not detail any specific institutional failures, nor did it have the power to compel interviews with:
    - Police Officers: who were responsible for a wide variety of Operations involving CSE
    - NHS workers: particularly those working in sexual health clinics as numerous reports have arisen of contraceptive services being issued to underage girls when there were very clear patterns of child sexual abuse however reportedly safeguarding procedures either weren’t followed, were non-existent or reports were ignored

- Social Services: those involved in the care of vulnerable children have not been queried as to the nature of safeguarding procedures at the time or whether these were followed and properly implemented
  - Council Officers: there are no reports from local authorities as to the extent of their response on child sexual exploitation, despite whistleblowing from social workers alleging utterly inadequate responses from local Councils
  - Consequently- the Jay enquiry does not provide a detailed analysis of the precise nature of institutional failings.
- The review does not cover the totality of the 50 towns and cities where we now know there have been reports of grooming gangs in operation

This Council further notes:

- The failure of politicians and institutions to respond to this issue properly. Political parties and public institutions have failed to properly listen to the victims of CSE, and to concerns raised by whistleblowers and at times have acted to play down incidences.
- With the upmost admiration and respect, the following individuals who have tirelessly fought campaigns on CSE, including:
  - Ann Cryer, former Labour MP for Bradford
  - Sarah Champion, Labour MP for Rotherham
  - Councillor Sara Rowbotham, Labour Councillor in Rochdale
  - Jayne Senior MBE, Social Worker Whistleblower
  - Maggie Oliver, GMP Whistleblower
  - Andrew Norfolk, chief investigator at The Times

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Write to the Home Secretary, The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper, to support Oldham Council's call for a National Enquiry into CSE along with the multiple other calls for a National Enquiry into CSE with a widened scope that includes but not limited to:
  - The 50 towns and cities where we now know there have been reports of grooming gang operations.
  - A scoping review into the responses and failings of institutions and individuals that turned a blind eye to these crimes including police forces, but not limited to, the following set of institutions:
    - Local authorities
    - Social services
    - The NHS
    - The Civil Service
- Write to the Home Secretary to ask when exactly the full implementations from the Jay report will be implemented

- Ask the government to immediately make the Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls into a cabinet position, to reflect the seriousness and urgency which is required to tackle this epidemic.

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**Labour Group Amendment to Motion 5b – Full National Enquiry into the Rape Gang Scandal**

This Council notes that:

- In 2013, a Home Affairs Select Committee found that the failure to protect children in Rochdale fell to the police, social workers and **Child Crown** Prosecution Services (CPS). This is one of multiple examples of findings of institutional failure.
- In June 2022, the Greater Manchester Independent Assurance Review in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) published its second report which looked into the effectiveness of safeguarding practice in the borough of Oldham.
- This report was part 2 of a multi-part Assurance Review, with each part covering various areas across Greater Manchester. The first part was published in December 2019 and involved a review of Operation Augusta, a police and social services investigation into CSE in South Manchester following the tragic death of 15-year old Victoria Agoglia.
- It is inaccurate and naïve to describe CSE as an ‘historic’ problem, as the GMP acknowledged in the December 2019 Part 1 Assurance Review:
  - ‘As of March 2019, there are 49 multi-victim or multi-offender live CSE investigations across GMP, where there are multiple suspects/victims, or where there is a single suspect with a number of victims, or a single victim with a number of suspects... Of the 49 live investigations, 31 are recent, 16 are historic, and four investigations are a mix of both recent and historic allegations.’ pp. 143-144
- That Oldham Council have called upon the Home Office to request a further national enquiry into CSE in the borough of Oldham. That a national enquiry was undertaken, authored by Professor Alexis Jay, and published in October 2022, however:
  - this review is intensely focused around a series of victim interviews, which whilst appreciated, consequently it does not cover institutional failings in a particularly detailed manner.
  - the review only covers institutional failings as described by victim interviews, it does not detail any specific institutional failures, nor did it have the power to compel interviews with:
    - Police Officers: who were responsible for a wide variety of Operations involving CSE
    - NHS workers: particularly those working in sexual health clinics as numerous reports have arisen of contraceptive services being issued to underage girls when there were very clear patterns of child sexual abuse however reportedly safeguarding procedures either weren’t followed, were non-existent or reports were ignored
    - **Social Children’s** Services: those involved in the care of vulnerable children have not been queried as to the nature of safeguarding

procedures at the time or whether these were followed and properly implemented

- Council Officers: there are no reports from local authorities as to the extent of their response on child sexual exploitation, despite whistleblowing from social workers alleging utterly inadequate responses from local Councils
  - Consequently- the Jay enquiry does not provide a detailed analysis of the precise nature of institutional failings.
- The review does not cover the totality of the 50 towns and cities where we now know there have been reports of grooming gangs in operation

This Council further notes:

- The recent announcement by the Home Secretary of a number of local inquiries that will be victim-centred, including a local inquiry in Oldham.
- The Home Secretary's announcement of a rapid audit to be led by Dame Louise Casey that will look at ethnicity data and demographics of gangs involved in exploitation and their victims, as well as cultural and societal drivers.
- We do support the recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse published in October 2022 by Baroness Jay in full and wish to see them enacted.
- The failure of politicians and institutions to respond to this issue properly. Political parties and public institutions have failed to properly listen to the victims of CSE, and to concerns raised by whistleblowers and at times have acted to play down incidences.
- With the upmost admiration and respect, ~~the following~~ individuals who have tirelessly fought campaigns on CSE ~~., including:~~
  - ~~Ann Cryer, former Labour MP for Bradford~~
  - ~~Sarah Champion, Labour MP for Rotherham~~
  - ~~Councillor Sara Rowbotham, Labour Councillor in Rochdale~~
  - ~~Jayne Senior MBE, Social Worker Whistleblower~~
  - ~~Maggie Oliver, GMP Whistleblower~~
  - ~~Andrew Norfolk, chief investigator at The Times~~

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Write to the Home Secretary, The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper, ~~acknowledge her statement to the House of Commons on Thursday 16 January and to support liaison with~~ Oldham Council's regarding ~~their previous call~~ for a National Enquiry into CSE. ~~We also acknowledge along with~~ the multiple other calls for a National Enquiry into CSE with a widened scope that includes but not limited to:
  - The 50 towns and cities where we now know there have been reports of grooming gang operations.
  - A scoping review into the responses and failings of institutions and individuals that turned a blind eye to these crimes including police forces, but not limited to, the following set of institutions:

- Local authorities
- **Social Children's** services
- The NHS
- The Civil Service

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**Council – 29 January 2025**

## **Conservative Group Amendment to Motion 5c – Flooding Resilience and Emergency Preparedness**

2025 began with the worst flooding across Trafford for decades. Whilst the events on New Year's Day were unexpected, the risk of severe flooding in Trafford has been increasing in recent years. Agencies responsible for flooding resilience have failed to heed warnings and missed opportunities to intervene with targeted investments. The flood risk posed to some communities in Trafford is not accurately monitored by the Environment Agency and is therefore poorly understood by Trafford Council and emergency responders.

~~Faced with the growing risk posed by climate change extreme weather patterns,~~  
†This Council must work with its partners and the government to secure comprehensive flooding resilience investment across all areas of Trafford affected by flooding. It is clear that without action, things will only get worse.

It is also vitally important that Trafford Council's service provider is robustly held accountable for the lack of basic maintenance of the borough's drains so that gullies and grids are not left completely blocked at high-risk times of the year.

This Council notes:

1. The resolution passed by Council in July 2022, which committed Council to working closely with the Environment Agency and others to mitigate the impact of severe weather.
2. The decision taken by the Environment Agency in 2024, citing a lack of data, to withhold funding for major flooding resilience measures in the vicinity of Fairywell Brook.
3. The inadequate leaf clearance and drainage maintenance works, evident across Trafford Borough this winter.
4. That any Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDS) constructed as part of the new housing developments, which are merely designed to maintain current levels of surface water run-off, will not address the fact that water run-off already causes flooding.

However, this Council further notes:

Despite frequent warnings from the Liberal Democrats ~~and the Conservatives regarding about~~ the scale of flood risk posed to Timperley and South Trafford ~~if the Timperley Wedge is developed coupled with the recent intervention of Network Rail to put in a pumping station to assist with localised flooding~~, this Council and its partners have failed to understand the local risk factors; leading to a complete lack of preparedness for emergencies and a failure to lobby for meaningful flood resilience investment in the area.

This Council resolves to:

1. Reassess the performance of our contractors against KPIs for drain maintenance and leaf clearance; and issue penalties for poor performance.
2. Use this set of ~~penalties~~ fines to pay for a Fixed-Term of extended operating hours at weekends to clear the back-log of blocked drains in Trafford.
3. Publish a plan for flooding emergencies so that everybody is clear about Trafford Council's role in a crisis and explore ways to enhance Trafford's ability to respond in a crisis such as by: purchasing pumps; developing contingency plans for temporary accommodation; and providing advice to residents on how to stay safe in a flooding emergency.
4. Lobby the government and the Environment Agency to get a flooding resilience projects for areas of Trafford that are impacted – including Timperley – back on the table.
5. Compensate any resident that have been flooded due to the negligence of the council failing to properly clear the drains.
6. Have a full audit of the drains and address those that due to poor workmanship have suffered grids being sealed down and are now in need of excavation and thorough gully cleaning.
7. Have an emergency council manned help line when it is clear these kinds of conditions are approaching.