

Public Document Pack



Tuesday, 4 October 2022

Trafford Town Hall
Talbot Road
Stretford
M32 0TH

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Trafford on **WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2022, at 7.00 P.M.** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, TRAFFORD TOWN HALL, TALBOT ROAD, STRETFORD**, for the transaction of the business set out below:

Member Briefing – United Utilities (5.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.)

NOTE: All Members of Council are invited to attend before the Council Meeting to receive an update from United Utilities on the Wastewater network, including investment and drainage actions to reduce flooding in the Borough.

	Pages
1. Minutes	
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27 July 2022, for signature by the Mayor as Chair of the Council.	1 - 22
2. Announcements	
To receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader of the Council, Members of the Executive, Chairs of Scrutiny Committees and the Head of Paid Service.	
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.	

4. Membership of Committees

To note Councillor Newgrosh replaced Councillor Brophy as a reserve Member of Planning and Development Management Committee with effect from 30 August 2022.

5. Petition - Road Safety and Traffic Management, South Downs Road

To consider the following petition requiring debate:

We the undersigned (517 signatories) petition the council to create a 20mph zone around South Downs Road, from Langham Road and including Grange and Marlborough Roads. We also request visible signage, traffic calming measures and wider pathways.

This is a key route to Bowdon Church School, the Bollin School and Altrincham Grammar School for Boys. Few people walk or cycle along the road as the pavement is too narrow for pushchairs and speeding traffic means it is perceived by parents as too busy to cycle safely.

A 20mph limit would create greater safety for our children and benefit the whole community. It would alleviate parking issues, congestion and standing traffic as more pupils will be able to get to school by foot or bike.

Please reduce the speed limit, introduce appropriate signage warning drivers and implement traffic calming measures. This would create a more accessible link between Bowdon and Hale.

Note: In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, a petition containing more than 500 signatures will be debated by the Council. The petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition and then it will be discussed by the Council for a maximum of 15 minutes.

6. Publication of Members' Addresses on the Declaration of Interests Register

To consider a report of the Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer following recommendation from the Standards Committee on 22 September 2022.

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7. Treasury Management Annual Performance 2021/22 Report

To note a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Governance further to consideration by Accounts and Audit Committee on 20 July 2022 and the Executive on 25 July 2022.

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8. Motions

To consider the following motions submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 11:

(a) 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.

Continued ...

This Council calls on the administration 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:

- 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 from sources such as grants, section 106 funding and revenue raising measures such as taking up the newly available power to enforce against moving traffic offences and issue penalty charge notices for contraventions;
- 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.

(b) 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.

Continued ...

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.

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.

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.

Continued ...

- 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.

(c) Motion Submitted by the Labour Group - Asbestos

This motion asks the Ministers for Health and Environment to create an Asbestos Register of Public Buildings containing Asbestos and provide financial support in removing Asbestos from both public buildings and workplaces to eradicate Mesothelioma and other asbestos related diseases.

Asbestos use has been banned from use in buildings since 1999, but there is little action in removing the substance from buildings built pre-1999, many thousands of workplaces, public buildings and education facilities.

1. These older buildings have varying amounts of asbestos and any form of disturbance can cause strands to become airborne, potentially being inhaled and causing disease.
2. Asbestos has been used in Water Heaters, Air Conditioning, Ducting, Boilers, Paint, Ceilings, Drywalls and even carpet underlay.
3. This is an invisible killer and those affected receive diagnosis at the end of the 30 plus year incubation period, and way past any treatment other than palliative care. The concerns around the use of Asbestos were first raised in 1898 by HM Chief Inspector of Factories, and 97 years later Blue and Brown Asbestos imports were banned, followed 14 years later in 1999. Yet in 2019 there were 5000 deaths from Asbestos related diseases of which 2340 were from Mesothelioma.
4. The HSE recognises that workers within the building trade, demolition, facilities management and Fire Fighters are most at risk and some of these workers could be exposed, unknowingly, up to 100 times per year.

This Council resolves that the CEO of the Council writes to the above ministers to highlight the need of a register and asking them to develop a plan to facilitate removal of Asbestos from buildings to protect the workforce and provide financial support to remove this dangerous substance and allow safe working spaces for all.

(d) 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.

Nothing has changed since then except the Conservatives have changed their leader and our prime minister. That Prime Minister now thinks that Fracking is the answer to the energy crisis by creating home produced gas and it will help economic growth.

A Cuadrilla representative has said in a Guardian exclusive on 21 September 2022 that Fracking in the UK is difficult because its geology is not suitable, 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 over 60% of our energy requirements now rely on gas. The UK should be taking the opportunity to reduce reliance on 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 despite the mounting evidence.

Despite the Fracking fantasies of this government and their potential financial incentives to local communities to accept Fracking. 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.

Yours sincerely,



SARA TODD
Chief Executive

Membership of the Council

Councillors C. Boyes (Mayor), D.C. O'Sullivan (Deputy Mayor), D. Acton, S. Adshead, A. Akinola, J.M. Axford, J. Bennett, Miss L. Blackburn, J. E. Brophy, B. Brotherton, D. Bunting, D. Butt, Dr. S. Carr, G. Carter, K.G. Carter, D.N. Chalkin, G. Coggins, L. Dagnall, R. Duncan, S. G. Ennis, W. Frass, M. Freeman, S.J. Gilbert, J. Harding, B. Hartley, W. Hassan, S. J. Haughey, J. Holden, F. Hornby, C. Hynes, D. Jarman, D. Jerrome, W. Jones, J. Leicester, J. Lloyd, S. Maitland, M. Minnis, M. Mirza, D. Morgan, P. Myers, A. New, J.D. Newgrosh, T. O'Brien, E. Patel, K. Procter, S. Procter, T. Ross, J. Slater, S. Taylor, S. Thomas, R. Thompson, L. Walsh, M.J. Welton, A. Western, D. Western, M.P. Whetton, G. Whitham, A.M. Whyte, A.J. Williams, B.G. Winstanley, J.A. Wright, Mrs. P. Young and S. Zhi.

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact:

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This Summons was issued on **Tuesday, 4 October 2022** by the Governance Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford M32 0TH.

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

27 JULY 2022

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Chris Boyes), in the Chair.

D. Acton	J. Harding	E. Patel
S. Adshead	W. Hassan	T. Ross
A. Akinola	S. J. Haughey	J. Slater
J.M. Axford	J. Holden	S. Taylor
Miss L. Blackburn	F. Hornby	S. Thomas
J. E. Brophy	D. Jarman	R. Thompson
B. Brotherton	D. Jerrome	M.J. Welton
D. Bunting	W. Jones	A. Western
D. Butt	J. Leicester	D. Western
Dr. S. Carr	J. Lloyd	M.P. Whetton
D.N. Chalkin	S. Maitland	G. Whitham
G. Coggins	M. Minnis	A.M. Whyte
L. Dagnall	M. Mirza	A.J. Williams
R. Duncan	D. Morgan	B.G. Winstanley
S. G. Ennis	P. Myers	J.A. Wright
W. Frass	A. New	Mrs. P. Young
M. Freeman	J.D. Newgrosh	S. Zhi
S.J. Gilbert	T. O'Brien	

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.C. O'Sullivan, J. Bennett, G. Carter, K.G. Carter, B. Hartley, C. Hynes, K. Procter, S. Procter and L. Walsh.

16. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 25th May 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (a) Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours. The Mayor took the opportunity to recognise those citizens and persons connected with Trafford who had been named in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours List, namely:

Mr. Richard Bevan of Hale, awarded the citation of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to association football;

Mrs. Lora Fachie and Mr. Neil Fachie of Altrincham, awarded the OBE for services to cycling;

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Professor Samia Nefti-Meziani of Altrincham, awarded the OBE for services to robotics.

Mrs. Rebecca Goodrich of Urmston, awarded the citation of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to Education and the Community in Manchester;

Mr. Gary Hall of Altrincham, awarded the MBE for services to taekwondo;

Mr. Sanjaykumar Vadera of Altrincham, awarded the MBE for services to international trade.

Mrs. Helen Bedford-Gay of Sale, awarded the British Empire Medal for services to People Living with Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva and their Families; and

Ms Michelle McHale of Old Trafford, awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Trafford and Manchester, particularly during Covid-19.

- (b) The Mayor announced that LimeTree Primary Academy was shortlisted in two categories in the Times Educational Supplement awards and had won the award for 'S E N D provision in a mainstream setting'. One of the judges commented that a unique element of the school was the manner in which it built partnerships to reach and wrap around both child and family.
- (c) Councillor Acton, Chair of Scrutiny, announced the outcome of the submission of the Scrutiny Task and Finish group report on Disability Access to the Executive. Councillor Acton welcomed the Executives response and the acceptance of the recommendations and gave special thanks to the work of Councillor Barry Winstanley. Councillor Acton concluded by speaking of the valuable contributions of the staff disability group to the work of the Task and Finish Group and noting the changes that had already been seen within the Council.

18. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 9 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2. Due to the amount of business to be considered at the meeting the Mayor informed questioners that their questions would be taken as read.

Question 1 - Submitted by Councillor Thompson

"Could the Executive Member for Finance and Governance set out what in-year action officers are taking to mitigate the impact of growing inflationary pressures on our budget?"

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Councillor Ross, Executive Member for Finance and Governance, thanked Cllr Thompson for the question and stated that from previous exchanges they had he knew she had followed the impact inflation was having on council finances closely. After a long period of stability, inflation had become an issue for the first time in a generation, particularly with respect to rising fuel and energy prices.

Councillor Ross added that without support from central government, the year's pay award would have an impact on the budget. From a financial perspective, and in response to pressures emerging during this year's budget, he had announced the creation of an Inflation Risk Reserve in June, which held £6m. In respect of energy, which cost the Council £1.6m in a normal year, it was expected that the cost would double and an energy saving scheme was about to be launched across council buildings. The Council were pre-purchasing materials where possible to maintain supply and avoid increasing costs. The Council were promoting green travel and electric bikes were starting to be used by social workers.

Councillor Thompson asked a supplementary question of what assistance the Council could expect from Central Government. Councillor Ross responded that there was no indication of support to be provided by Central Government as of the time of the meeting and he would write to the Government expressing his concerns.

Question 2 - Submitted by Councillor Chalkin

"The recent record temperatures have reinforced the need to change how we impact the environment. In the UK, the built environment is one of the sectors that has the biggest impact, but the way Landlord and Tenant law is currently written means that landowners, more often than not, do not have the ability to influence change on their buildings or within their portfolios. Will the Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration commit to having Green Leases at all properties owned and rented out by Trafford, inserting clauses that give Trafford the ability, as a property owner, to influence the necessary changes needed during the term of a lease wherever possible?"

Councillor Patel, Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration, responded that the Council was committed to including green clauses within new leases and lease renewals that were appropriate/proportionate to each property, where possible. For existing leases, the Council was committed to holding discussions with tenants, where possible, and at the appropriate time noting that any changes to existing leases would have to be by mutual agreement.

Councillor Patel added that the Council was reviewing its estate and decarbonisation programme to look at all elements of its property portfolio to identify where green measures could be applied. The Council was preparing a 10-year Estates Strategy which would incorporate plans and include a programme for decarbonisation/green measures across the whole estate.

Question 3 - Submitted by Councillor Brophy

"Please can I ask the relevant Executive Member about the issue of hedge cutting and the Amey contract. Residents in my ward are fed up with hedges that grow into the pavements in Timperley. A particular example is on Grove Lane, where

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the pavement is no longer safe to walk on due to a hedge that expands year by year. The hedge is cut in the appropriate season, only always leaving it slightly wider than it was the previous year.

My newly elected colleague Councillor Will Frass has persuaded Amey to do a site visit to see how dangerous this stretch of hedge has become and now they are going to “flail” the hedge to reduce its width so residents can use the pavement safely once again. I am certain that similar hedge issues impact on pavements all over Trafford causing a safety hazard and inconvenience for our residents.

Can I ask why the trimming back to maintain the line of the hedge at the original width isn’t part of the regular contract with Amey? And why this “flailing” of hedges is such a difficult ask (since I have had no response from Amey after raising this issue over many years and only the site visit after weeks of Councillor Frass asking has got the issue addressed)?”

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental Services, responded that the task of maintaining hedges could be challenging, with over 200 individual sites across Trafford which required hedge cutting each season. Some of the hedges in the borough surrounded council land but many other hedges across the Borough were privately owned and it was the responsibility of the adjacent landowner to prune. Where private hedges were overhanging Trafford via One Trafford (Amey) as the Highway Authority served notice on owners to ensure that they did not cause obstruction to the highway. Sometimes the time that the owners took to prune was longer than anticipated.

Hedge maintenance could be a time-consuming process which needed to consider ground conditions, wildlife and highway safety. Where road safety was not jeopardised, hedge maintenance would be carried out during January to March for the following reasons:

- It reduced the chance of disturbance to breeding birds.
- Nesting birds had legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

One Trafford / AMEY’s grounds maintenance teams were adapting their operations to accommodate and support wildlife within Trafford while taking account of the growing hedgerows that required regular maintenance. Part of the adaptation had been to introduce a Tractor side arm flail, which allowed for a firm cutting back on sites that were identified as potentially causing obstruction to the highway. Officers from the grounds maintenance team had met with Councillor Frass and Councillor Minis at the Grove Lane site and agreed a date for the hedge to be cut back using the new tractor mounted flail.

The challenge for the team was allowing for none cutting of these hedges during the months March – September (nesting season). The challenge was that hedges experienced their main growth during those months and striking the right balance and achieving sufficient cut back with handheld hedge cutters had caused problems, but with tractor mounted side arm flail the teams were confident they could deliver a better service.

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Councillor Brophy asked a supplementary question of what the criteria was for flailing to be used and whether it would have widespread use across Trafford on a regular basis or if it was a one-off usage. Councillor Adshead responded that the device would be used regularly across the borough and that usage of the device would be decided following site visits by Amey. Councillor Adshead encouraged Members to contact him if they wished to arrange a site visit.

Question 4 - Submitted by Councillor Duncan

“Since the recent encouragement to residents in June 2021 to submit their requests for reduced speed limits in residential areas how many requests have been received and how many have been implemented and is there a plan to publish the proposed matrix of priorities?”

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental Services responded that since June 2021 77 requests had been received for 20mph speed limits across Trafford. Investigation of the top 10 schemes that met the matrix of priorities was underway and suitable measures would be designed and consulted upon following assessment of speed surveys being undertaken by TfGM.

Design would be involved in the main lining and signing with potential physical measures if needed with consultation on the proposals and Traffic Regulation Order needed for each location thereafter. The process could take 6 – 9 months or longer to complete if there were objections.

The list of proposals was to be published on the web site following the completion of the speed survey assessments. It was likely that 4 or 5 smaller schemes would be undertaken each year depending upon the size of the scheme and design requirements and hence there will need to be a rolling programme of schemes going forward.

Councillor Duncan thanked the Councillor Adshead for his response and asked as supplementary question about a crossing on Norwich Road. Councillor Adshead suggested that this should be raised with officers to review whether a 20-mph zone would be the correct response to the issues on Norwich Road.

Question 5 - Submitted by Councillor Ennis

“Can the Executive Member for Housing confirm how many people are currently on social housing waiting lists in Trafford?”

Councillor Wright, Executive Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods, responded that the number of people at the Housing Register for rehousing as of 30th June was 7,092.

Councillor Ennis asked Councillor Wright to answer in writing how many social housing properties had been sold through the policy of selling properties privately when a vacant property required structural work or if there were prohibitive costs in reletting the property within the last year.

Councillor Wright said he would be happy to provide a response in writing and added that he would also provide details of the empty homes strategy, which had made some significant progress, to Councillor Ennis.

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Question 6 - Submitted by Councillor Whetton

“Given that we have just had national Cut the Clutter week where Councils have been asked to visit the whole issue of items such as A boards, overgrown hedges, pavement parking, etc which cause obstruction and unnecessary difficulties to pedestrians, wheelchairs users and the visually challenged will the Council consider implementing the six recommendations to Clear the Clutter published recently by Living Streets?”

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental Services responded that with reference to the 6 recommendations offered by Living Streets, Trafford were currently supporting those priorities to assist with clearing clutter from the highway by applying the minimum clearway widths of 1.8m in footways.

This width was being used in design and placement of any new street furniture such as EV charge points, signs and street lighting columns. The guidance included in any licences for placement of any table and chairs also used the 1.8m minimum width.

E-Scooters were not currently within Trafford however, the Bike Hire Scheme and any future E-scooter agreements would have to work to a minimum of 1.8m but most areas chosen for bike hire were placed in locations that had more than 1.8m and avoided high footfall areas.

Trafford were also looking to declutter the highway at every opportunity during design and maintenance of the highway to ensure pedestrian access was prioritised and to reduce additional maintenance costs. Examples of practice included removal of redundant signs and the relocation of lamp columns to the rear of footways.

The trees and hedges that had the potential to overhang were monitored during routine highway safety inspections and enforcement action was taken where there was overhanging and encroachment onto pavements. Coupled with routine hedge pruning undertaken on council owned perimeters with the newly purchased flail ensured that the footways were clear from obstructions.

Banning of A boards would need to be considered as part of a policy agreement relating to obstructions. The use of A boards was a long-standing practice that was difficult to enforce in some locations due to shared land ownership in front of business premises. Within the highway the requirement was to ensure a minimum of 1.8m was available for pedestrians on public footways.

Councillor Whetton asked as supplementary question as to whether the Council would take steps to remove banners placed illegally on railings within the area. Councillor Adshead responded that Officers would act where appropriate and asked for people to report these incidents to enable enforcement.

Question 7 - Submitted by Councillor Holden

“How many appeals against secondary school allocations have been lodged this year in Trafford?”

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Councillor New, Lead Member for Education, responded that the Figures she had were obtained from Democratic services who supported appeals for schools who bought their services.

It was important to note that the figures provided did give a complete picture, as 11 of the 19 secondary schools in Trafford administered their own appeals. Councillor New added that some of the numbers might have been duplicates as some pupils submitted appeals to multiple grammar schools and some of the grammar school appeals were for children that had not qualified and were appealing against the assessment outcome.

Numbers of appeals from September 1st, 2021, until the 27th of July were:

Appeals for year 7 places: 185

Appeals for in year places: 91 and these include applications for 6th form places.

Councillor Holden noted that 55 appeals were for one school in his ward. Councillor Holden spoke of the distress children in these appeals faced and asked what plans the Council had to improve the situation. Councillor New responded that she would provide a full response of the steps being taken to address the issues around the number of school places in writing on the following day.

Question 8 - Submitted by Councillor Holden

“When will the weed spraying programme, recently delayed for two weeks, be completed?”

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental Services responded that the weed spray programme ordinarily took 8 weeks to complete, however, the contractor was looking to bring in additional resources to accelerate the programme to ensure it was on track to meet the original completion date. All being well with the weather the programme was due to be completed by the end of September.

Councillor Holden asked supplementary question as to whether there would be additional spraying across the borough. Councillor Adshead responded that the spraying programme had been delayed and that it was a priority for the Council's partner organisation to complete the single spraying programme agreed by Council. Councillor Adshead assured Councillor Holden that the spraying programme would address the issues raised. Councillor Adshead added that the council were looking at many ways to deal with the issues across the borough and the spraying programme only formed part of the Council's approach.

Question 9 - Submitted by Councillor Taylor

“In light of the cost-of-living crisis, please can the lead member for education tell council what provision has been put in place to support families over the summer holiday period?”

Councillor New, Lead Member for Education, responded that the Council had received further funding via the Household Support Fund (HSF) to support vulnerable families and had extended the £15 per week, per child, award over the

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summer holidays to families in receipt of free school meals and/or council tax support.

The funding had been extended to 31st of March 2023 and therefore, support was to continue during the October, December, and February holidays. In addition, there was a school holidays activities and food programme, also known as HAF, and this was shared through the family information service and Trafford directory.

For the DFE funded Holiday Activity Programme (HAF) 21 providers had been commissioned to deliver holiday activities for school age children, it was anticipated to provide approximately 2500 places, which included some SEND provision.

The provision was primarily for children in receipt of free school meals. The provision was free at the point of entry and all participants were to receive a meal as part of their attendance.

19. PETITION - CREATE A 20 MPH ZONE IN NEW STREET, ALTRINCHAM

Lead Petitioners, Mr Moberly and Mrs Padmore, introduced the following petition which had received 519 signatures from addresses within the Borough.

“We petition the council to create a 20mph zone for the whole of New Street, between the junctions with Regent Road and The Downs. Residents and pedestrian users of New Street (including visitors to the town centre and Altrincham Grammar School girls) feel strongly that the speed limit needs to be reduced on New Street to keep children and adults safe.

There is likely to be an increase of traffic at the bottom of New Street when the new carpark on the corner of Regent Road / New Street will open next year and the two housing schemes either side of New Street will be occupied.

The upper part of New Street is a very narrow residential street with houses on both sides. Pedestrians use both sides of the street (and often walk in the centre of the road), though a raised pavement exists on only one side, and the Council has recognised this special nature by installing speed restriction measures (bollards, and speed hump).

A 20 mph zone is a logical extension to this restriction to enforce the intent of the measures already taken – which continue to be ignored by drivers who use New Street as a rat run through to The Downs and towards Hale. 30 mph, as per the current speed limit, is too fast for a road of this nature, and more often than not drivers go at a higher speed. Over the years there have been multiple near collisions between cars and pedestrians, and leaving the driveways of the houses on the left in the upper part where cars regularly drive on the pavement at speed is extremely dangerous.

Please reduce the speed limit and implement appropriate signage warning drivers.”

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In presenting the petition, Mr Moberly spoke about how despite the road being C19 width road much of the Traffic was C21 (heavy vehicles). Mr Moberly drew Council Member's attention to a photograph provided, which was to demonstrate that the road's infrastructure was not adequate to deal with C21 vehicles travelling at 30mph or more. Mr Moberly noted the Council's actions so far and stated that a 20mph was the logical extension to the existing restrictions.

Mr Moberly spoke of many near collisions on the unraised side of the road and the risks residents faced when exiting their driveways, which would increase as developments in the surrounding area would lead to an increased level of traffic on the road. Mr Moberly concluded by stating that the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on the road would have environmental as well as public safety benefits, noting the national trend towards introducing 20mph zones, and asking that New Street have a 20mph speed limit.

Mrs Padmore spoke of the experience of her and her family and the risks they faced when using their car or when they entered/exited their property on foot. Mrs Padmore informed Council Members of the panic and anxiety caused by the speed of traffic traveling down New Street. Mrs Padmore concluded by informing Council Members that children used the street on their route to and from school each day and of the other vulnerable groups who were put at risk due to the speed of traffic on the road.

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental Services, thanked the petitioners for attending the meeting and for submitting the petition. Councillor Adshead stated that a written copy of the full response would be provided following the meeting. Councillor Adshead was aware that an assessment of the road had been carried out and the outcomes of the review would be used when considering what actions to be taken going forward.

Councillor Adshead added that many applications were received annually and measures would be implemented in the areas where the greatest benefits for public safety were identified. Councillor Adshead then gave an overview of the assessment criteria used and the various actions which could be taken, including the introduction of 20mph zones. The review had shown that the average speed of vehicles on New Street and the surrounding area was around 20mph. Councillor Adshead concluded by stating that New Street had been added to the list of areas to be considered for a 20mph speed limit as part of the capital programme.

Councillor Morgan welcomed the petition and thanked the petitioners on behalf of the Conservative group and asked that the Executive to go further and implement a 20mph assumption on all residential streets within the Borough.

Councillor Newgrosh welcomed the petition and thanked the petitioners on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group. Councillor Newgrosh was also in favour of having a 20mph speed limit for all residential roads in the borough and reminded Council Members that the Liberal Democrats had raised a motion previously to do so.

Councillor Coggins spoke on behalf of the Green Party and welcomed the petition and sympathised with the lead petitioners about the issues faced on New Street.

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Councillor Coggins stated there were many people across the borough who wanted a 20mph speed limit in their areas. Councillor Coggins brought the costs of the current solutions on New Street to Council Members attention. Councillor Coggins concluded by stating the Green Party's support bring in a blanket 20mph speed limit in all residential areas across the boroughs rather than performing 4-5 reviews annually.

The Leader thanked the lead petitioners for submitting the petition. The Leader echoed the Executive Member for Environmental Services point that New Street would be considered as part of the Council's works as part of the capital programme each year. The Leader noted that the average speed when the road had been surveyed was just over 20 mph. The Leader stated that the changes brought in could not stop those who ignored them and a 20 MPH speed limit would also not stop those individuals from breaking the law. This was not to say that New Street would not be selected to have a 20mph speed limit but that the measures taken had to be part of a wider approach to traffic management by the Council. The Leader concluded by asking the petitioners to contact him if there was an identification that many people were driving above the speed limit on New Street so he could address it with GMP.

20. PETITION - NEW TRAFFORD CYCLE ROUTE

Lead Petitioners, Mr Denshum, introduced the following petition which had received 519 signatures from addresses within the Borough.

"We the undersigned (637 signatories) petition the council to investigate and create with TfGM a new cycle route using the redundant rail tracks 3 and 4 between Sale Britannia Road and Trafford Bar Talbot Road. The current transport routes from Sale to Trafford Bar capacity would be increased by creating a new dedicated cycle way using the redundant rail tracks. A new route for cyclists would ease the pressure on the A56 and the canal towpath creating a safer environment for all users including drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. The additional traffic created by the housing and business expansion forming part of Places For Everyone will increase the pressure on existing transport routes.

Upcycling a piece of redundant Victorian transport infrastructure which has been disused since 1963 would provide a 4.6km cycle highway. Access ramps would be needed at each of the crossing points. The North end would merge into Talbot Road. The South end could lead into Hope Road. The project would require fencing, lighting, access ramps, management at the Old Trafford station, CCTV and other items. However, there is a firm trackbed (after 60 years of running heavy trains) and little more than a top surface would be required to provide a cycle quality route. Please create this new cycle route."

In presenting the petition, Mr Denshum spoke about the issues of having multiple forms of transport and dogs using the same route. Mr Denshum believed that the old tracks three and four which ran from Britannia Road in Sale to Talbot Road in Trafford Bar offered a possible option for a dedicated cycle route. Mr Denshum listed some of the challenges in creating the route which included management of Old Trafford Metrolink Station (due to the volume of users), Metrolink substations

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narrowing the route at points, security (particularly at night), and the route having a limited number of access points.

Mr Denshum then provided a list of advantages which included having a straight route 4.6km long, the route being a long way from cars and pollution, the route being ideal for a dedicated cycle route, and the limited number of crossing points with other user types. Mr Denshum concluded his introduction by noting Manchester's track record of repurposing of old Victorian infrastructure for modern use and stating that this was another opportunity to do so.

Councillor Williams, Executive Member for Climate Change and Transport Strategy, welcomed Mr Denshum's petition and the increase in public interaction. Councillor Williams spoke of the Council's active travel strategy and confirmed that the routes proposed would be added to the programme of routes for consideration. The active transport plan was to align with the Greater Manchester Mayors Cycling Challenge and Councillor Williams encouraged Mr Denshum to be involved with the scheme. Councillor Williams then provided an update on the Council's current programmes to encourage cycling across the Borough.

Councillor Blackburn welcomed the petition and thanked the petitioners on behalf of the Conservative Group. Councillor Blackburn noted how the cycle lane on the A56 was not a popular choice due to its impact on Traffic and stated that it would be better to utilise unused rail lines, which would be safer for cyclists while having less of an impact upon other road users.

Councillor Brophy welcomed the petition and thanked the petitioners on behalf of the Liberal Democrats who had looked at the proposal and believed the route could be viable. Councillor Brophy asked for the proposal to be put forward to the Mayors challenge fund and the Bee Network.

Councillor Welton welcomed the petition and thanked the petitioners on behalf of the Green Party. The Green Party were in support of the petition and the demand within Trafford residents for additional safe cycling infrastructure which it displayed. Councillor Welton noted the scheme had potential to be part of the borough's active transport solution, but a feasibility study was required before going ahead.

The Leader agreed with the points made by Councillor Welton about the petition scheme and confirmed that the proposed route would be put forward for consideration. The Leader agreed with Mr Denshum about his concerns around security for the route and the lack of access points. The route would be considered alongside the other schemes already identified across the area and the Leader expressed his interest in seeing the outcome of the work of Transport for Greater Manchester.

21. ASSET INVESTMENT STRATEGY - 2022 UPDATE

Councillor Patel, Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration, introduced the report and informed Members that the strategy had been updated several times since its inception. Councillor Patel noted the changes made to the strategy

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in recent years which moved towards investment in developments to increase the revenues for the Council to support the delivery of services. The changes proposed within the report would provide the Investment Management Board with more flexibility in the type of investment opportunities they could consider without increasing the Council's level of risk.

Councillor Mirza spoke about the principles of investment and how the Council was not an investment body and raised concerns that the Council was investing public money. Councillor Mirza felt that the parameters set within the original strategy were already broad enough and urged Members not to agree the proposed changes.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the updated Asset Investment Strategy included at Appendix 1 be approved.

22. UPDATED PLANNING COMMITTEE CODE OF PRACTICE

Councillor Patel, Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration, introduced the report and informed the Council that Trafford's planning Committee was one of the busiest in Greater Manchester. The proposed changes had been approved by the Planning Committee and sought to reflect changes to the Committee since the code was first introduced in 2017 and formalise some of the Committee's common practice. The code was relevant for Planning Officers, Planning Committee Members, and all Councillors involved in the planning process. Councillor Patel concluded the introduction by taking the opportunity to thank the planning team for all their efforts, especially during the pandemic, as well as the Members of the planning Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the updated Planning Committee Code of Practice be adopted and replace the existing code contained in Part 5 of the Constitution.

23. GREATER MANCHESTER'S CLEAN AIR PLAN - JULY 2022 UPDATE

Councillor Williams, Executive Member for Climate Change and Transport Strategy, introduced the report and informed Members that the report gave an update on recent developments within the clean air plan, which was led by the GMCA. The previous plan had included a charging element, which had been removed in the updated version.

Councillor Coggins spoke about how the government had faced a number of legal cases around the high levels of emissions. Councillor Coggins noted that while the plan made some positive steps it did not go far enough to bring about the change required as it did not go beyond the legal minimum requirements. Councillor Coggins felt that the government suggested that they could either support people through the cost-of-living crisis or have clean air, but the Green party believed that both could be done and asked that the Council looked to strengthen what was proposed within the plan.

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The Leader responded that the Council had a very limited scope within the clean air plan. However, the Council had a much larger suite of work ongoing to improve the air quality across the Borough and Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

**24. ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL
2021/22**

Councillor Brotherton, Chair of the Accounts and Audit Committee, moved the report and thanked the Members of the Accounts and Audit Committee and the supporting officers for their work over the course of the year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

**25. YEAR END CORPORATE REPORT ON HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING -
1 APRIL 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2022**

Councillor Ross, Executive Member for Finance and Governance, gave a short introduction to Members informing them that the report covered work undertaken during the pandemic, an overview of incidents, and ongoing health and safety activity. Incident data was shown in table 5 and 6 of the report with the number of incidents having risen from 69 up to 158, which was comparable to 2019/20. Violence and aggression were the highest form of incident, most noticeably within schools when dealing with challenging behaviour.

Councillor Myers stated that the 32 incidents in community schools was of concern and asked what would be done to address this for schools without an SLA with the Council. Councillor Ross thanked Councillor Myers for the question and responded that this would be addressed by a further report to come to the Council.

Councillor Blackburn asked whether the 52 incidents in special schools included those that happened in home to school transport. Councillor Ross responded that he thought the figures did include home to school transport and would provide clarity in writing to Councillor Blackburn after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That clarification on whether the incidents in schools included home to school transport be provided in writing to Councillor Blackburn.

26. MOTIONS

The Mayor informed Members that 3 Motions had been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.

**27. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP - SAVE OUR
RIVERS**

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It was moved and seconded that:

Our local rivers, brooks and watercourses are invaluable assets to our borough. They make up a vital part of our natural ecosystem, providing habitat for bird, fish and insect life as well as being sites for recreation for Trafford residents. Flash flooding is an increasingly prevalent issue in Trafford and this is likely to continue in the years ahead as a direct result of the climate emergency.

This Council gives thanks to its officers and environment agency workers who go above and beyond the call of duty, to offer support to our residents during instances of severe weather. Local waterways are also subject to harmful sewage dumping practices, which damage ecosystems and pose a significant public health risk, especially in the context of flash flooding.

This Council notes that:

- Every river in England is now polluted beyond legal limits; with the Environment Agency rating only 14% as Good in 2019.
- This chemical pollution is mostly caused by sewage discharges from water companies and the run-offs of nutrients from farms.
- Government funding to the Environment Agency to monitor river quality and regulate farms and water companies has dropped 75% over the last 10 years and as a result, farms are now almost never inspected, water quality is rarely tested, and water companies can pump raw sewage into rivers with virtual impunity.
- In recent years, flash flooding has been a growing issue across Trafford, with many residents facing risks to their homes during severe weather.
- That councillors, residents and the Environment Agency are required to work together towards flooding resilience goals, in line with resolutions passed by this Council.
- That whilst residents wait for long-term flood mitigation schemes, the issue of contaminated water from sewage dumping poses a potentially serious health and environmental risk - especially if homes flood during severe weather.
- At a local taskforce meeting, The Environment Agency only committed to clearing the brooks that flow through Timperley twice a year, which repeated late-night emergency call outs have shown to be insufficient to avoid flooding.
- That in October 2021, 265 Conservative MPs - including Altrincham and Sale West MP Sir Graham Brady – voted against provisions in Lords Amendment 45 to the Environment Bill which would have curtailed sewage dumping, removing proposals that would have placed a legal duty on water companies to “take all reasonable steps to ensure untreated sewage is not discharged from storm overflows.”

This Council believes that the UK Government should commit to:

- Restoring Environment Agency budgets for river quality monitoring.
- Increasing inspections of water companies and farms, and prosecuting offenders.

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- Funding local and highways authorities to introduce treatment systems to prevent road pollutants from entering our water courses.
- Implementing a 'Sewage Tax' on water companies and other industries who persist in knowingly polluting our rivers and waterways
- This Council resolves to:
- Ask the Flood Resilience Working Group created in March 2021 to support the Environment Agency to inspect and clear Fairywell Brook more frequently. Reducing the build-up of debris that causes the Brook to flood and sewage-contaminated water to enter residents' homes during flash floods.
- This Council resolves to ask the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for the Environment to write to:
- The Environment Minister calling for the Government to adopt the four commitments outlined above.
- The Chief Executive of United Utilities calling for further urgent action to address the impact of waste-water discharges on our local rivers.
- The charity 'River Action' expressing this Council's support for their campaign to restore the health of Britain's rivers.

This Council also calls upon the three Members of Parliament who represent Trafford to support the resolutions of this motion and advocate for a 'Sewage Tax' in Parliament.

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was passed with 41 in favour and 12 abstentions.

RESOLVED:

That this Council gives thanks to its officers and environment agency workers who go above and beyond the call of duty, to offer support to our residents during instances of severe weather. Local waterways are also subject to harmful sewage dumping practices, which damage ecosystems and pose a significant public health risk, especially in the context of flash flooding.

That this Council notes that:

- Every river in England is now polluted beyond legal limits; with the Environment Agency rating only 14% as Good in 2019.
- This chemical pollution is mostly caused by sewage discharges from water companies and the run-offs of nutrients from farms.
- Government funding to the Environment Agency to monitor river quality and regulate farms and water companies has dropped 75% over the last 10 years and as a result, farms are now almost never inspected, water quality is rarely tested, and water companies can pump raw sewage into rivers with virtual impunity.
- In recent years, flash flooding has been a growing issue across Trafford, with many residents facing risks to their homes during severe weather.

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- That councillors, residents and the Environment Agency are required to work together towards flooding resilience goals, in line with resolutions passed by this Council.
- That whilst residents wait for long-term flood mitigation schemes, the issue of contaminated water from sewage dumping poses a potentially serious health and environmental risk - especially if homes flood during severe weather.
- At a local taskforce meeting, The Environment Agency only committed to clearing the brooks that flow through Timperley twice a year, which repeated late-night emergency call outs have shown to be insufficient to avoid flooding.
- That in October 2021, 265 Conservative MPs - including Altrincham and Sale West MP Sir Graham Brady – voted against provisions in Lords Amendment 45 to the Environment Bill which would have curtailed sewage dumping, removing proposals that would have placed a legal duty on water companies to “take all reasonable steps to ensure untreated sewage is not discharged from storm overflows.”
- That this Council believes that the UK Government should commit to:
 - Restoring Environment Agency budgets for river quality monitoring.
 - Increasing inspections of water companies and farms, and prosecuting offenders.
 - Funding local and highways authorities to introduce treatment systems to prevent road pollutants from entering our water courses.
 - Implementing a ‘Sewage Tax’ on water companies and other industries who persist in knowingly polluting our rivers and waterways

That this Council resolves to:

- Ask the Flood Resilience Working Group created in March 2021 to support the Environment Agency to inspect and clear Fairywell Brook more frequently. Reducing the build-up of debris that causes the Brook to flood and sewage-contaminated water to enter residents’ homes during flash floods.
- This Council resolves to ask the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for the Environment to write to:
 - The Environment Minister calling for the Government to adopt the four commitments outlined above.
 - The Chief Executive of United Utilities calling for further urgent action to address the impact of waste-water discharges on our local rivers.
 - The charity ‘River Action’ expressing this Council’s support for their campaign to restore the health of Britain’s rivers.

That this Council also calls upon the three Members of Parliament who represent Trafford to support the resolutions of this motion and advocate for a ‘Sewage Tax’ in Parliament.

28. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY: A FULLY FUNDED, PROPER PAY RISE FOR COUNCIL AND SCHOOL WORKERS

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It was moved and seconded that:

This Council notes:

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. UNISON research found that councils in England had to fill a combined funding gap of £3 billion when setting budgets for 2022/23.

Over the last two years, councils have led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we emerge from the pandemic, local authorities and schools need far more support from Westminster.

Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 9% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.

There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2022 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This Council believes:

Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

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Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

This Council resolves to:

Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of £2,000 or the current RPI rate, whichever is the greater (along with the various conditions claims proposed).

Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim.

Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.

Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the Council can support the campaign.

Following a debate on the issue, the Motion was passed with 41 in favour and 12 abstentions.

RESOLVED:

That this Council notes:

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. UNISON research found that councils in England had to fill a combined funding gap of £3 billion when setting budgets for 2022/23.

Over the last two years, councils have led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we emerge from the pandemic, local authorities and schools need far more support from Westminster.

Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 9% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

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There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2022 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

That this Council believes:

Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

That this Council resolves to:

Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of £2,000 or the current RPI rate, whichever is the greater (along with the various conditions claims proposed).

Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim.

Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.

Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the Council can support the campaign.

**29. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - MANCHESTER
AIRPORT PASSENGER EXPERIENCE**

With the consent of the Council to a proposed alteration to the Motion that had been submitted, the Substantive motion became a Labour motion; and
With the consent of the Council to a proposed alteration to the Labour Motion, it was moved and seconded that:

This Council notes that:

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- Situated adjacent to Trafford, Manchester Airport is a major international airport. It was the fourth busiest airport in the UK in 2021 in terms of terminal passengers and is the global gateway to and from the North of England;
- Trafford Council is a shareholder in the airport, along with the 9 other Greater Manchester districts and Australian investment fund IFM Investors. The holding has regularly returned a dividend which has been used to support the council's Revenue Budget;
- Since the airport started to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, travellers including Trafford residents have experienced delays, large queues and abandoned flights;
- Britain's withdrawal from the European Union has had implications on the staffing of UK airports – in the year before the pandemic, more than a quarter of a million EU citizens left the United Kingdom, mostly working age citizens in sectors that involve public-facing jobs;
- With a reduced pool of applicants for jobs, many sectors including aviation are finding recruitment more difficult as a result of Brexit;
- Britain is projected to endure the worst economic recovery in the G7;
- Britain's employment laws allowed British airlines and airports to cut workforces earlier and deeper than European counterparts during the pandemic and as demand for travel has resumed, British passengers are uniquely positioned to suffer long airport delays as a result;
- This Council has declared a Climate Emergency. There is an onus on central government, airlines, airports and their stakeholders to ensure that the sector works towards our environmental targets;
- Civil Aviation Authority data shows that in the first three months of 2022 Manchester Airport had 72.3% of its flights leave on time. This was the lowest percentage across the 26 airports in the UK which are included in the statistics; and
- Manchester Airport has commenced an extensive staff recruitment campaign, supported by partners including Trafford Council.

This Council believes that:

- Whilst the current situation at Manchester Airport is of great concern to the borough, especially as the council has a financial holding in the airport and many Trafford citizens work at the airport and rely on it on a regular basis the Government's response to the crisis in the aviation sector and at airports has been lamentable;
- The 22-point plan announced by the Government at the end of June 2022 to tackle aviation disruption was a result of pressure brought to bear by the aviation sector, it came far too late to prevent the disruptions experienced at the beginning of the year and in April and May;
- That whilst improvements have been made since the beginning of the year to the security operation at Manchester Airport much of the chaos experienced as we approach the summer holiday season is the responsibility of airlines and private baggage handling companies. Many of these operators made huge numbers of their employees redundant instead

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of accepting extended furlough arrangements whilst continuing to sell holidays and flights they could never hope to fully resource; and

- That arrangements at the UK Border where long queues to re-enter the UK have been experienced are due to the resourcing decisions of the UK Border Agency which ultimately is the responsibility of the UK Government.

This Council resolves:

- To ask the Chief Executive to write to Chris Woodroffe the new Managing Director of Manchester Airport to invite him to meet with Trafford Elected Members to set out the airport's plan to improve the airport's performance in conjunction with the airport operators and airlines they work with.

Following debate on the matter, the Motion was passed with 41 in favour and 12 abstentions.

RESOLVED:

That this Council notes that:

- Situated adjacent to Trafford, Manchester Airport is a major international airport. It was the fourth busiest airport in the UK in 2021 in terms of terminal passengers and is the global gateway to and from the North of England;
- Trafford Council is a shareholder in the airport, along with the 9 other Greater Manchester districts and Australian investment fund IFM Investors. The holding has regularly returned a dividend which has been used to support the council's Revenue Budget;
- Since the airport started to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, travellers including Trafford residents have experienced delays, large queues and abandoned flights;
- Britain's withdrawal from the European Union has had implications on the staffing of UK airports – in the year before the pandemic, more than a quarter of a million EU citizens left the United Kingdom, mostly working age citizens in sectors that involve public-facing jobs;
- With a reduced pool of applicants for jobs, many sectors including aviation are finding recruitment more difficult as a result of Brexit;
- Britain is projected to endure the worst economic recovery in the G7;
- Britain's employment laws allowed British airlines and airports to cut workforces earlier and deeper than European counterparts during the pandemic and as demand for travel has resumed, British passengers are uniquely positioned to suffer long airport delays as a result;
- This Council has declared a Climate Emergency. There is an onus on central government, airlines, airports and their stakeholders to ensure that the sector works towards our environmental targets;
- Civil Aviation Authority data shows that in the first three months of 2022 Manchester Airport had 72.3% of its flights leave on time. This was the lowest percentage across the 26 airports in the UK which are included in the statistics; and
- Manchester Airport has commenced an extensive staff recruitment campaign, supported by partners including Trafford Council.

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That this Council believes that:

- Whilst the current situation at Manchester Airport is of great concern to the borough, especially as the council has a financial holding in the airport and many Trafford citizens work at the airport and rely on it on a regular basis the Government's response to the crisis in the aviation sector and at airports has been lamentable;
- The 22-point plan announced by the Government at the end of June 2022 to tackle aviation disruption was a result of pressure brought to bear by the aviation sector, it came far too late to prevent the disruptions experienced at the beginning of the year and in April and May;
- That whilst improvements have been made since the beginning of the year to the security operation at Manchester Airport much of the chaos experienced as we approach the summer holiday season is the responsibility of airlines and private baggage handling companies. Many of these operators made huge numbers of their employees redundant instead of accepting extended furlough arrangements whilst continuing to sell holidays and flights they could never hope to fully resource; and
- That arrangements at the UK Border where long queues to re-enter the UK have been experienced are due to the resourcing decisions of the UK Border Agency which ultimately is the responsibility of the UK Government.

That this Council resolves:

- To ask the Chief Executive to write to Chris Woodroffe the new Managing Director of Manchester Airport to invite him to meet with Trafford Elected Members to set out the airport's plan to improve the airport's performance in conjunction with the airport operators and airlines they work with.

The meeting commenced at 7.02 p.m. and finished at 9.30 p.m.

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Council
Date: 12 October 2022
Report for: Decision
Report of: Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Report Title

Publication of Members' Addresses on the Declaration of Interests Register

Summary

To receive Standards Committee's recommendation in respect of the publication of members' addresses on the public register of Members' Interests.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- (a) the reports, investigations and consultation undertaken by the Standards Committee be noted and:
- (b) Council determines whether Standards Committee's preferred proposal to apply a blanket policy whereby all Members' addresses are treated as sensitive interests and not made publicly available, should be adopted by the Council.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Ian Cockill
Phone: 1387

Background Papers:

None

Implications

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	N/A
Financial	There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.
Legal Implications:	The proposal is concerned with Section 32 of the Localism Act 2011 and is deemed not to infringe the need for actual disclosure of an interest. It does, however, remove the Monitoring Officer discretion under the Act exercised in withholding publication presently.
Equality/Diversity Implications	None
Sustainability Implications	None
Carbon Reduction	None
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	None
Risk Management Implications	None
Health and Safety Implications	None

1.0 Background

- 1.1** The Standards Committee received a report on the 22 September 2022 (attached) regarding the publication of members' addresses on the published Declarations of Interest pages within Trafford and advising on the outcome of a consultation exercise carried out amongst Elected Members.
- 1.2** Current practice is for the member concerned to request the Monitoring Officer to determine whether to treat an interest as a sensitive interest on a case-by-case basis (under section 32 (1) (b) of the Localism Act 2011).

2.0 Proposal from Standards Committee

- 2.1** The Standards Committee was presented with 3 options which could be applied regarding the requirement to register members' addresses and after careful deliberation decided that Council be recommended:
- To apply a blanket policy whereby all Members' addresses are treated as sensitive interests and not made publicly available.
- 2.2** Safety, not only of Members but family was of primary importance to the Committee and it considered that disclosure of the residential property could lead to the member or co-opted member, or a person connected with the member or co-opted member, being subject to violence or intimidation.
- 2.3** The recommended action would mirror the approach already taken by a few authorities including City of Westminster Council.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that:

- (c) the reports, investigations and consultation undertaken by the Standards Committee be noted and:
- (d) Council determines whether Standards Committee's preferred proposal to apply a blanket policy whereby all Members' addresses are treated as sensitive interests and not made publicly available, should be adopted by the Council.

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TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Standards Committee
Date: 22 September 2022
Report for: Decision
Report of: Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Report Title

Publication of Members' Addresses on the Declaration of Interests Register

Summary

This report follows on from the earlier report which the Committee received in December 2021 (Appendix 2). Since that meeting a report has gone been taken to the Executive and a consultation exercise has been carried out amongst Elected Members. The report now presents the outcomes of the consultation along with three proposals for how the Council may choose to proceed.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Standards Committee;

- a) Note the content of the report and;
- b) Select a preferred proposal from those identified in this report for the Council to adopt taking into consideration the information received through the consultation.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Alexander Murray
Phone: Ext 4250

1.0 Background Information

- 1.1** The Standards Committee received a report on the 15th of December 2021 (appendix 2). In that report the Committee was informed of the current position regarding the publication of members' addresses on the published Declarations of Interest pages within Trafford, the statutory requirements, the views of the Committee for Standards in Public Life, and approaches adopted by other Local Authorities. The report also contained three proposals on how Trafford could choose to proceed in this area.
- 1.2** As it is normally a matter for the member concerned and the Monitoring Officer to determine whether to treat an interest as a sensitive interest on a case-by-case basis (under section 32 (1) (b) of the Localism Act 2011; the Committee agreed that a consultation on publication of councillor addresses be conducted to inform the selection of which proposal to approve.

2.0 Options for consideration

- 2.1** There are effectively three potential options which could be applied regarding the requirement to register members' addresses: -
- Make no changes to the way the Council approaches the disclosure of Members' addresses on the public register - Trafford's current approach is in keeping with the rest of the Greater Manchester Authorities and most Authorities across the country;
 - Remind all members about the possibility of applying for their details to be considered as sensitive interests and then apply a dispensation in respect of any and all members who request that the details of their address are not made publicly available. This is in line with the recommendations of the CSPL in their 2017 report;
 - To apply a blanket policy whereby all Members' addresses are treated as sensitive interests and not made publicly available - This would mirror the approach already taken by a few authorities including City of Westminster Council.

3.0 Consultation outcomes

- 3.1** Appendix 1 contains the responses received to a survey sent to all Councillors on the subject of Councillor Addresses. The survey contained a series of questions which related to Councillor's feelings of safety in carrying out their role and the impact having their address being publicly available had upon their feelings of safety. The survey was completed by 41 Councillors, which represents a 65% return rate.
- 3.2** The survey raised several points and replies which are anonymised show the views of those who responded. The issues discussed related to Councillors feeling at risk, their protection by the Council, abuse and intimidation, safety, awareness of addresses being made available to the public, and the process for omission of that information.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Standards Committee;

- a) Note the content of the report and;
- b) Select a preferred proposal from those identified in this report for the Council to adopt taking into consideration the information received through the consultation.

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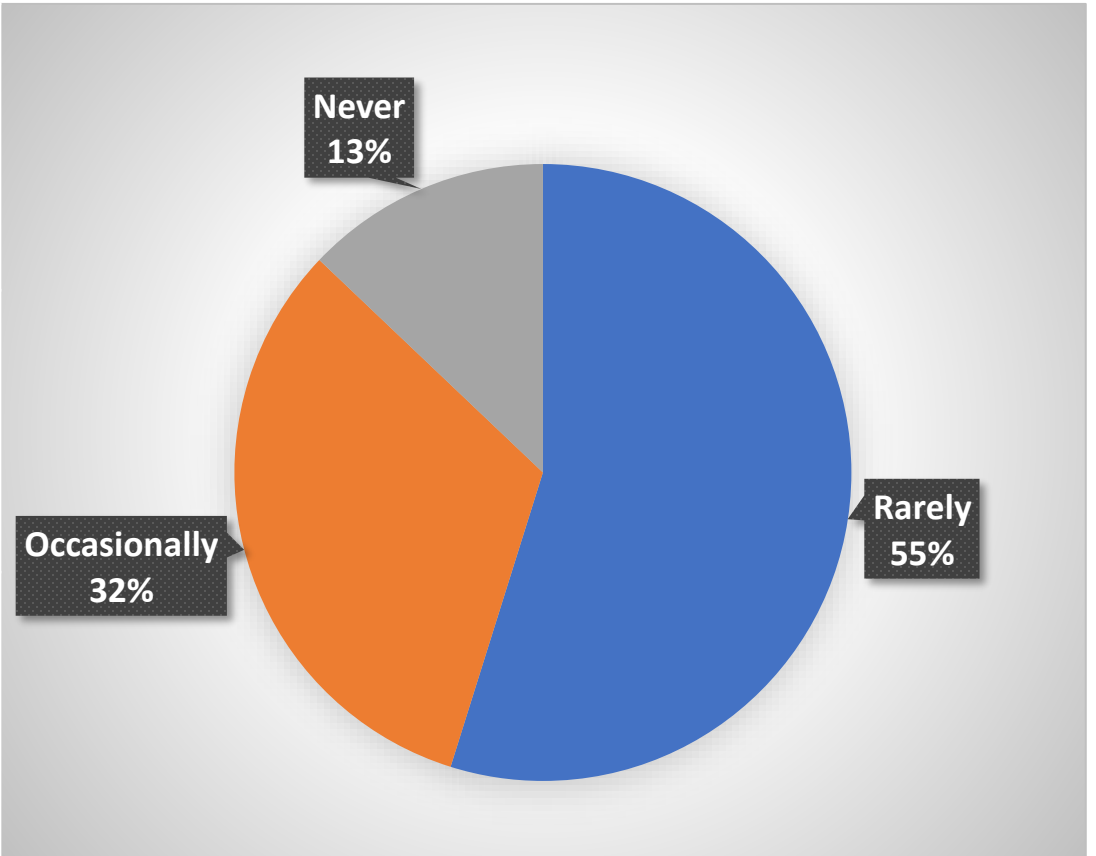
Councillor Address Survey results

By Alexander Murray

How often, if at all, do you feel at risk personally when fulfilling your role as a councillor?

Page 32

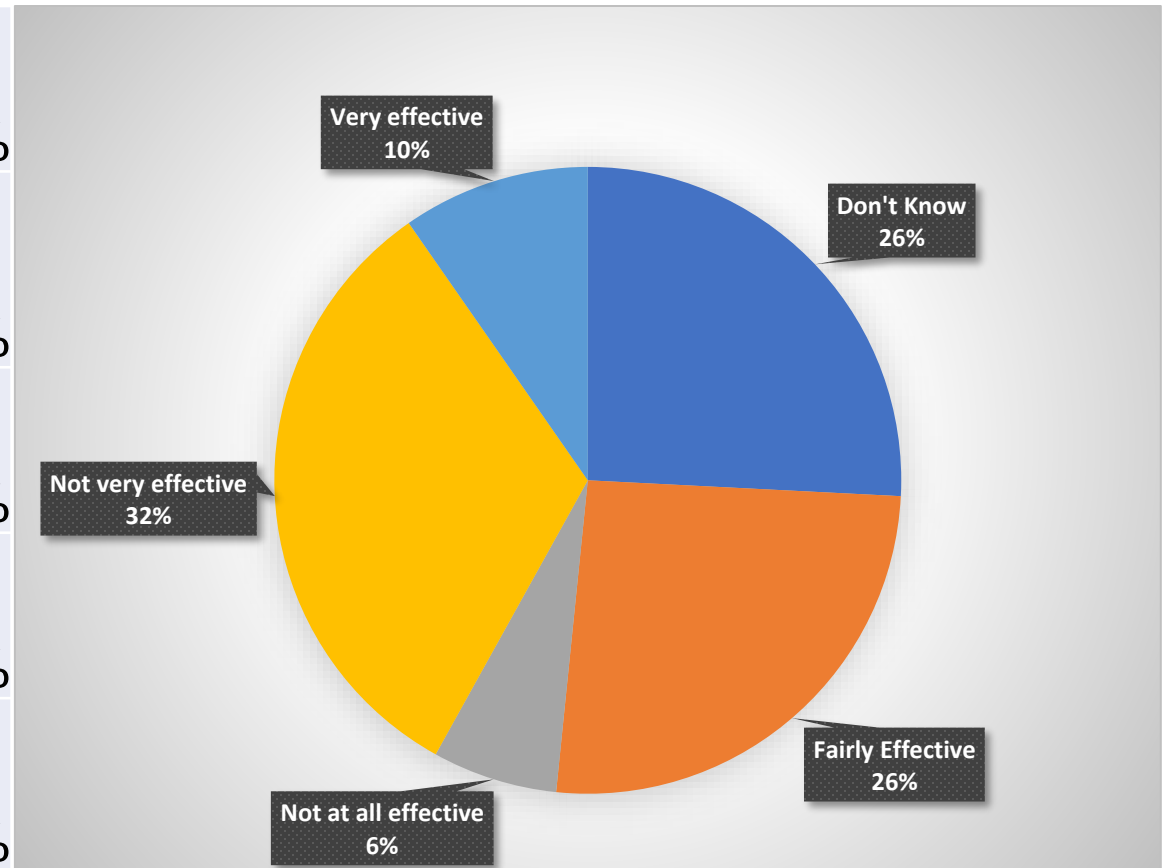
Rarely	17	55%
Occasionally	10	32%
Never	4	13%



How effective or not do you find the authority's arrangements for protecting you personally as you fulfil your role as a councillor?

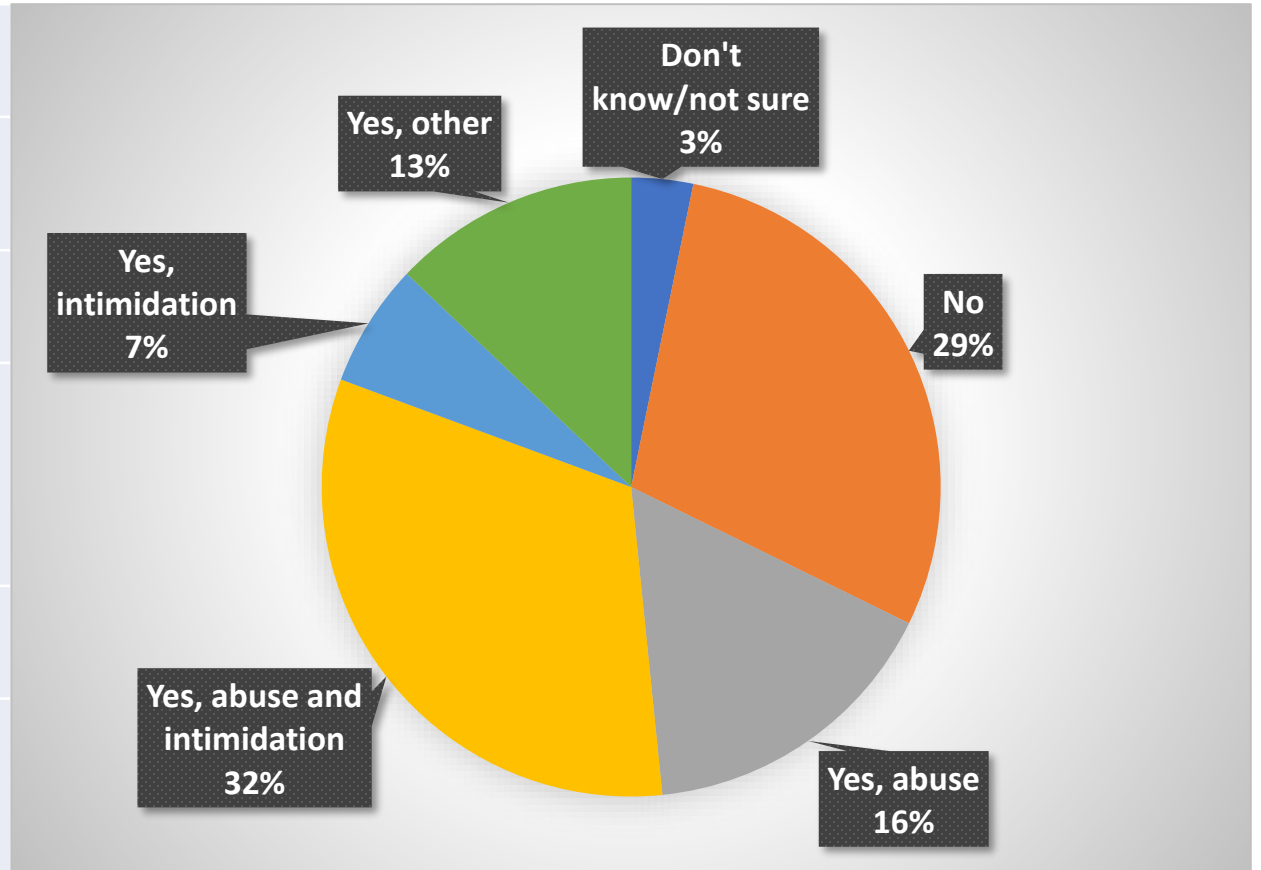
Page 33

Don't Know	8	26%
Fairly Effective	8	26%
Not at all effective	2	6%
Not very effective	10	32%
Very effective	3	10%



Have you ever experienced abuse and/or intimidation, directed at you personally, from a member of the public, or persons unknown, as a result of, or in relation to your role as a councillor?

Don't know/not sure	1	3%
No	9	29%
Yes, abuse	5	16%
Yes, abuse and intimidation	10	32%
Yes, intimidation	2	7%
Yes, other	4	13%



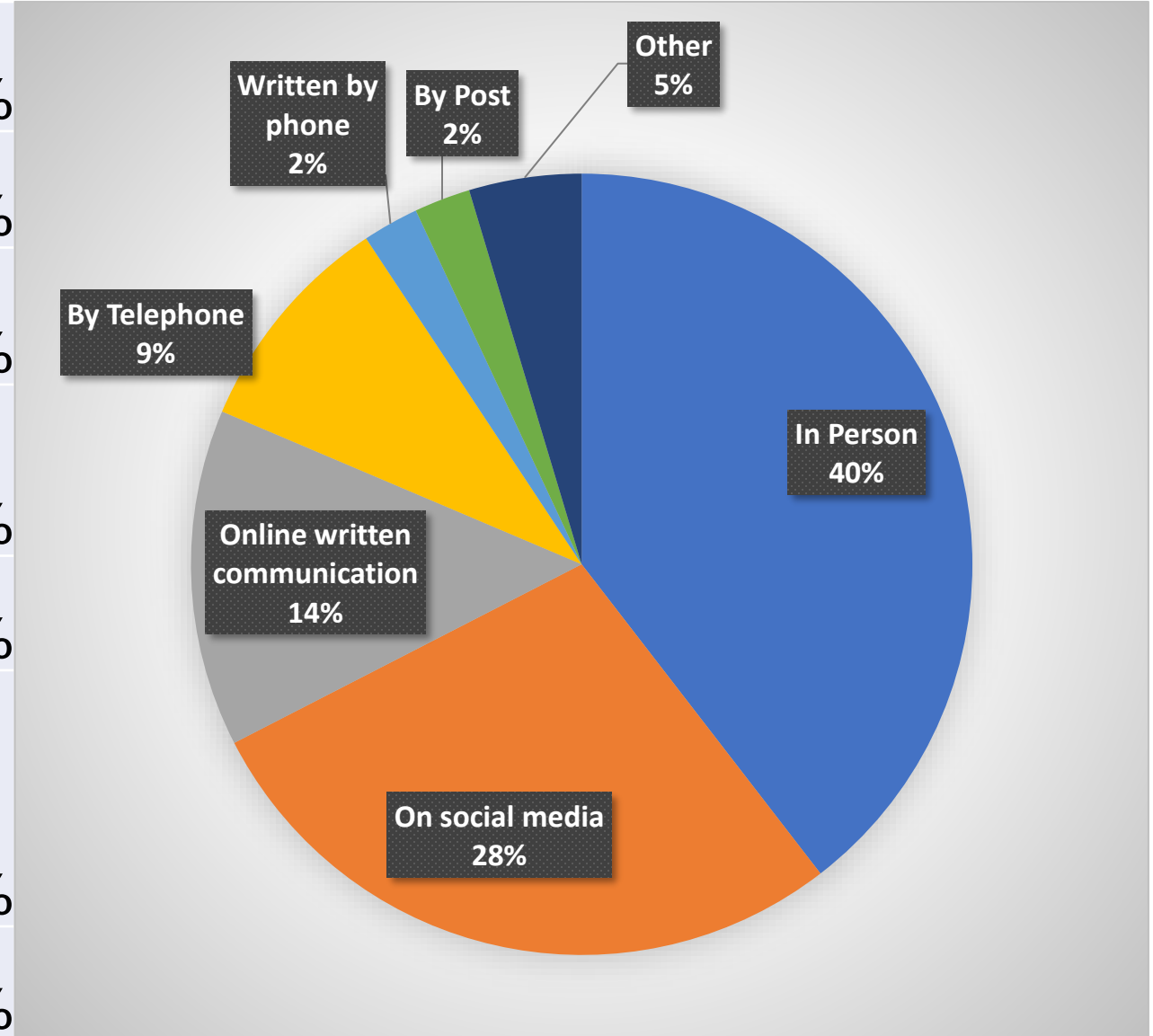
Have you ever experienced abuse and/or intimidation, directed at you personally, from a member of the public, or persons unknown, as a result of, or in relation to your role as a councillor?

- Details provided

- Targeted abuse which resulted in police and community safety action
- verbally shouting and finger pointing in an aggressive tone, telling me to get the job done, (potholes in the road that were not meeting the criteria).
- I have been shouted at on the doorstep by residents, and years ago a resident followed/ stalked me online and in person and the police had to be involved. I have had people 'shout' at me on Twitter and occasionally get unpleasant emails.
- Very aggressive
- Very aggressive
- Whilst out campaigning occasionally receive angry comments by residents
- "Just on one occasion, low level abuse (shouting not swearing) in the street. Sometimes I have experienced comments on social media which have been borderline abuse."

Where did the abuse and/or intimidation occur? (Please tick all that apply)

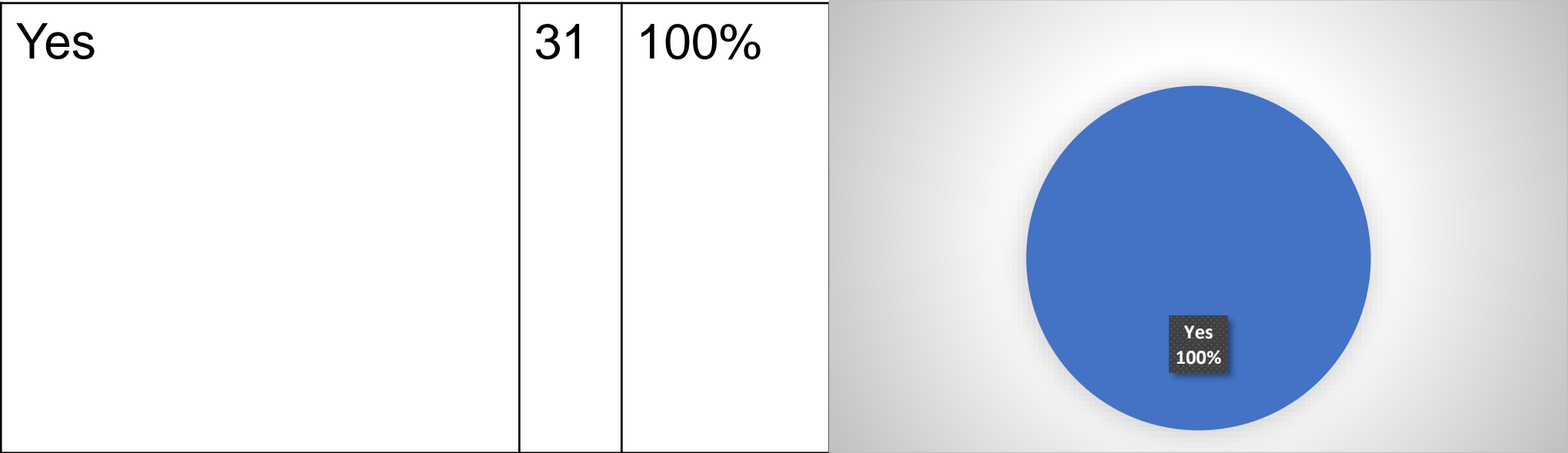
In Person	17	40%
On social media	12	28%
Online written communication	6	14%
Oral by telephone including voicemail	4	9%
Written by telephone e.g. text	1	2%
By post, including messages and/or articles put through letterbox	1	2%
Other	2	5%



Where did the abuse and/or intimidation occur? - Details Provided

- direct messages on social media and sometimes face to face when out in the wards

Are you aware that your home address is publicly available under your register of disclosable interests?



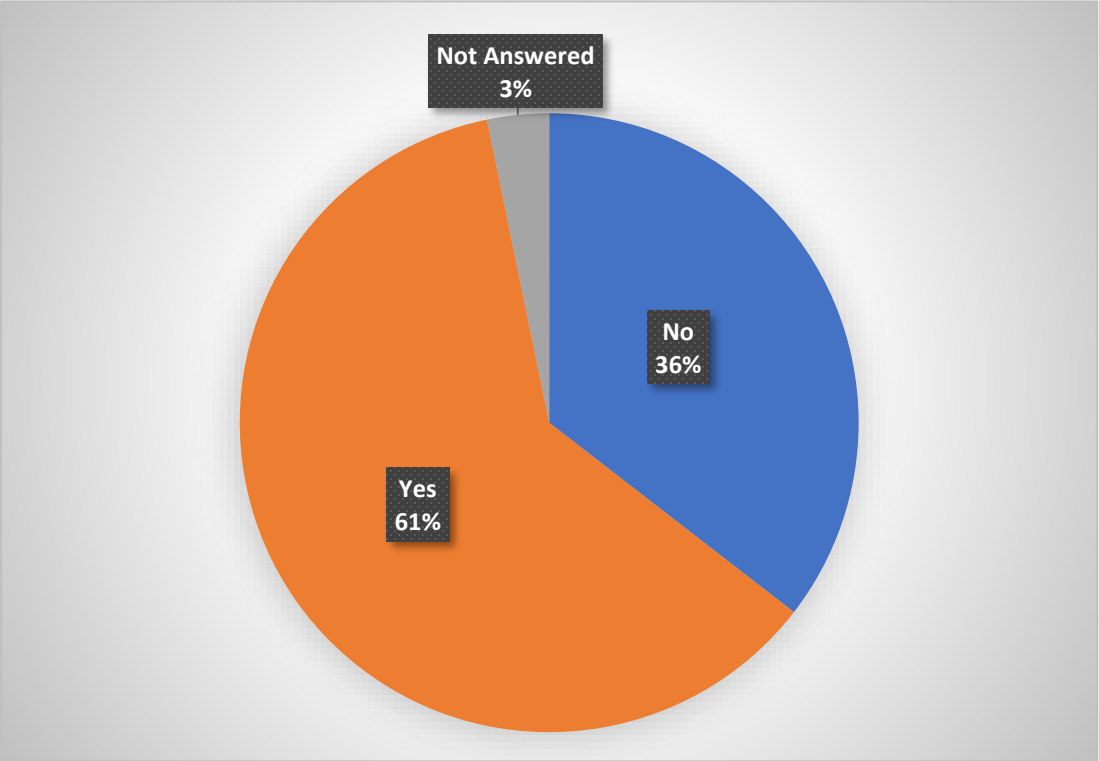
Are you aware that your home address is publicly available under your register of disclosable interests? - Details Provided

- though at the moment mine is not publicly available, at my request
- Yes and I am not happy about it, I'd rather it wasn't. I did consider not standing because of the potential risk to my daughters.

Are you aware that your address can be made unavailable to the public if you believe that it being available puts you or your family at risk?

Page 40

No	11	36%
Yes	19	61%
Not Answered	1	3%

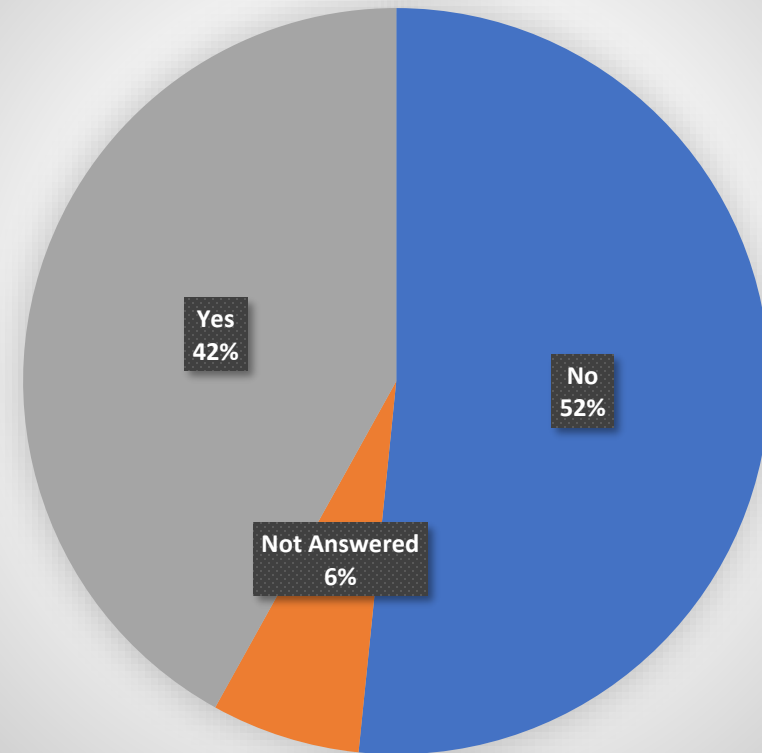


Are you aware that your address can be made unavailable to the public if you believe that it being available puts you or your family at risk? - Details Provided

- I asked for it not to be published last year and was told that I had to have very particular reason. I don't have a particular reason other than I do not want unknown members of the public to know my home address and would be extremely unhappy if they called at my home. I also received unwanted mail eg from SPUC last time I was a Cllr which was unpleasant.
- Have always been told it has to be on the Register of Business Interests. I can see other councils redact this, but have not seen this available in Trafford.
- I didn't know this was an option. I'd like to take this up please.
- I raised this shortly after being elected when the glass in my front door was smashed. However, I was told that publication of home addresses was the norm and if I wanted to opt out of this I would need to make a specific request to the monitoring officer. As a new councillor I didn't want to do this, but it should be made much easier to opt out of this.

Do you feel the availability of Councillor addresses is adequately expressed to Councillors?

No	16	52%
Not Answered	2	6%
Yes	13	42%

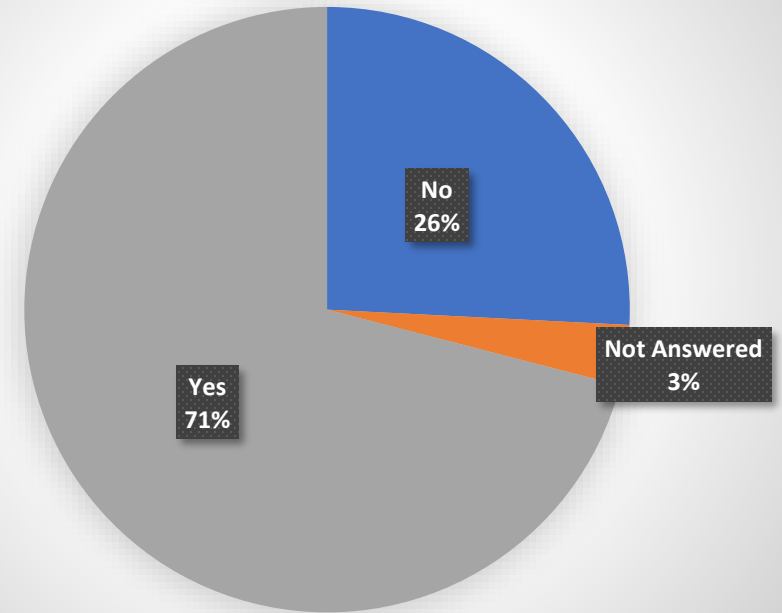


Do you feel the availability of Councillor addresses is adequately expressed to Councillors? - Details provided

- It is referred to when we are first elected, however the true implications only become apparent when an incident occurs.
- Didn't initially realise they were so readily accessible.
- Nobody asked me if I wanted it to be made public or not.
- I didn't know I could ask for it to be hidden from public view. I'm surprised this has not been made clear.
- Although councillors provide details of their interest including any property they own, I don't think it's made clear that their home address will be published as a result.
- I think that some Councillors are not aware of this.

Do you feel that Councillors should be reminded on a regular basis of their ability make their address unavailable to the Public?

No	8	26%
Not Answered	1	3%
Yes	22	71%



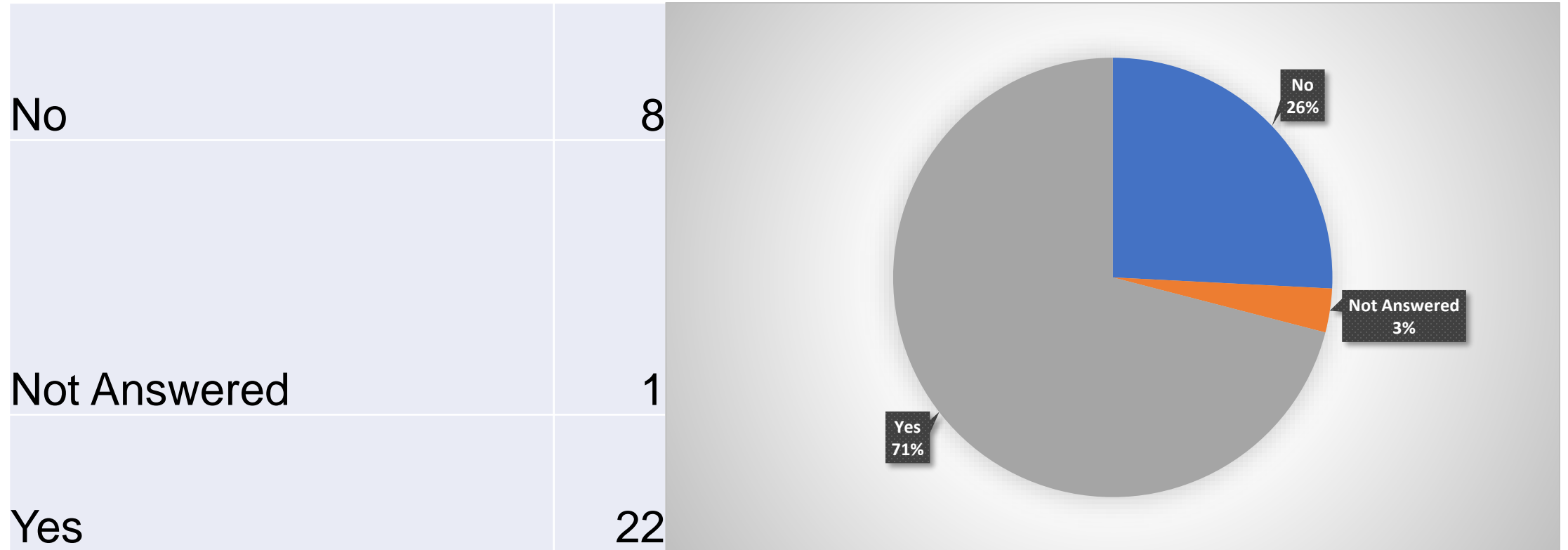
Do you feel that Councillors should be reminded on a regular basis of their ability make their address unavailable to the Public?

- Details Provided

- I would certainly do it if it were possible. Previously when I was a councillor with the stalker, my husband worked away a lot, so I was often in the house with my children and it would cause me great anxiety that he could find out where I lived. I would constantly keep the front curtains closed, and wouldn't go out after dark. At the time this wasn't taken seriously (my colleague had a death threat by phone at the same time), so I am glad to see it is now.
- to be honest, I think the default should be that home addresses are not published.

Do you feel that the public availability of your address compromises your safety and/or the safety of your family?

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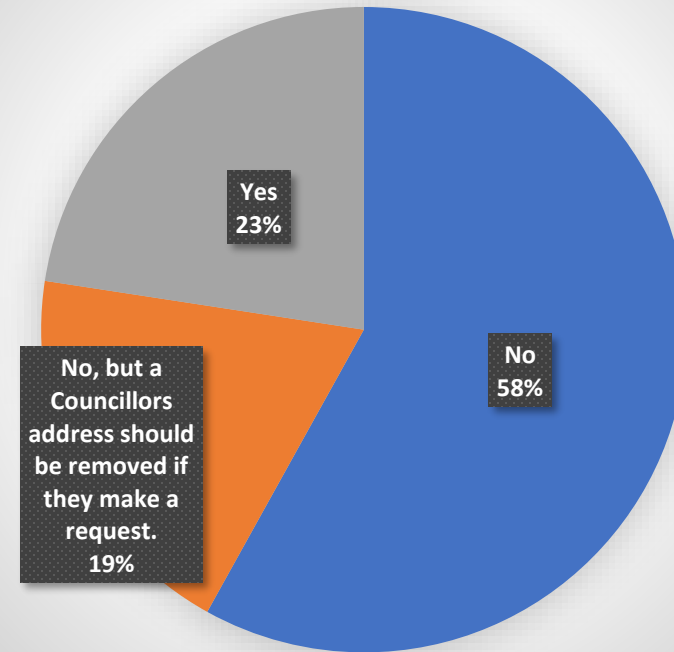
Do you feel that the public availability of your address compromises your safety and/or the safety of your family? - Details provided

- Not for any specific reason, but I'd rather it wasn't out there, rather than waiting for there to be a specific cause for concern.
- I don't see why my home and my families home is of any importance to anyone.
- Many of us live in our wards and so ourselves and our families are often recognised when going about our day to day non-cllr business. This is quite worrying in its own right. The fact that our addresses are also known adds another layer of concern.
- Potentially. People seem a lot more angry of late and it would be easy to target Cllrs with a public address
- Unfortunately, in this day and age its appears to be getting more likely.

- Absolutely it does. My colleagues have received threatening mail in the post.
- Elected politicians have been attacked before. I know of a Trafford Member who has been stalked in the past.
- I can see no need to provide a private address.
- As mentioned, the day after I was first elected, the glass in my front door was smashed. The police came and said it probably was linked to my election. At the time my daughter was very ill and it did worry my family and we didn't imagine I would be target of something like that
- I am a woman and live on my own
- It can do - I have had a few occasions when uninvited residents have called at my home. There was no safety concerns, but there could have been problems.

Do you feel that your address should be available to the public?

No	18	58%
No, but a Councillors address should be removed if they make a request.	6	19%
Yes	7	23%

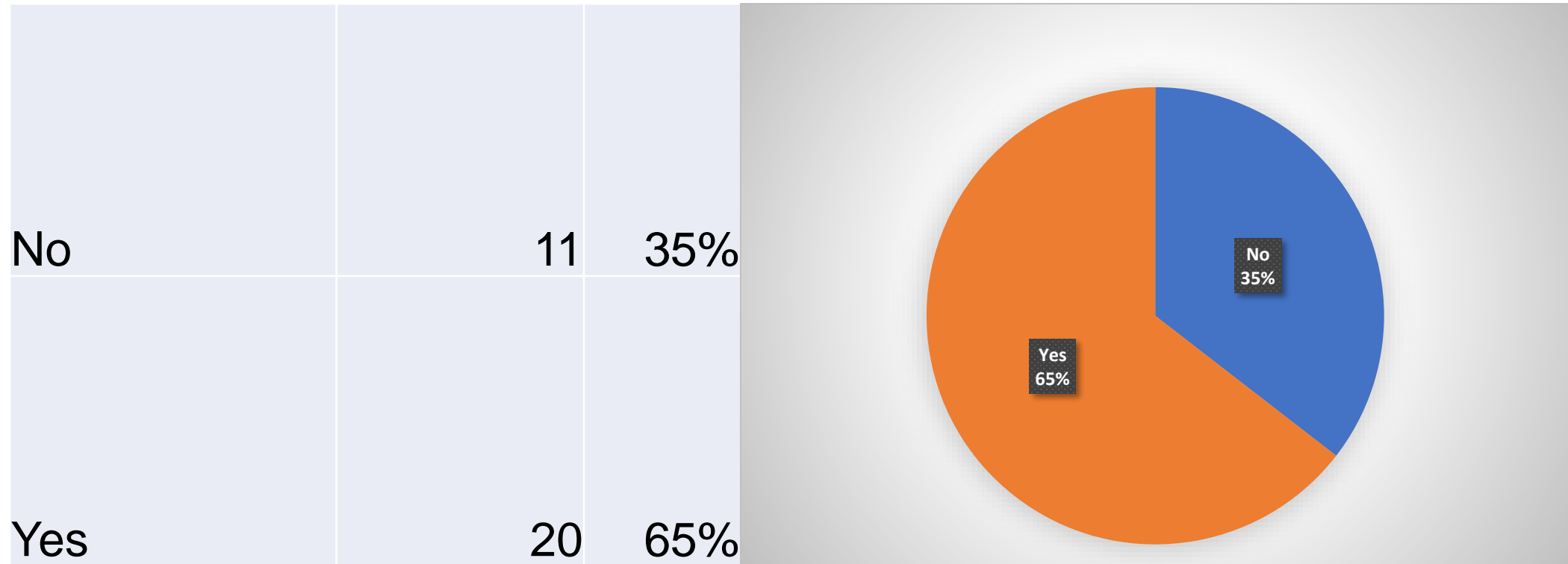


Do you feel that your address should be available to the public? -
Details provided

- Before modern communications were available - e-mail, WhatsApp mobile phones etc then I think knowing a Cllr's address was important - it made them contactable. I don't think it is necessary anymore, given the many other ways we can be contacted.
- As a councillor that lives in the area that I represent, many local people do know where I live, but to have my address publicly accessible to anyone who may decide to start a vendetta for whatever reason against me either personally or politically is concerning.

Do you believe that Councillor addresses should not be publicly available?

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Do you believe that Councillor addresses should not be publicly available? - Details provided

- Before modern communications were available - e-mail, WhatsApp mobile phones etc then I think knowing a Cllr's address was important - it made them contactable. I don't think it is necessary anymore, given the many other ways we can be contacted.
- It can leave one open to threat or abuse.
- I can see no need. we can be contacted using the town hall address.
- There is no specific reason for the public to be made aware of the Councillor address - there are many other ways for them to contact us if required.

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Standards Committee
Date: 15 December 2021
Report for: Decision
Report of: Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy & Monitoring Officer

Report Title

Publication of Members' Addresses

Summary

This report is brought to Committee in the light of a number concerns raised by Members in relation to the requirements relating to the publication of Member's addresses on the Declaration of Interests Register. The report considers the current position and sets out a number of options as to how such matters could be dealt with in future.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Standards Committee;

- a) Note the content of the report and;
- b) Agree to consult Members on the options

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Alexander Murray and Fabiola Fuschi

1.0 Background Information

- 1.1 The Standards Committee has considered various aspects in relation to the safety of Councillors several times in recent years and guidance being provided to support all Members to conduct their roles as safely as possible. One area of contention which has arisen time and again is in relation to the public disclosure of Councillors' addresses and the associated safety concerns.
- 1.2 Members are required to notify the Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests which they might have. Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of those interests. The Register is a public document and as such the Council is required to both make the register available for inspection and to publish the register on its website.
- 1.3 The legislation requires members to notify any disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of being elected as a member. The definition of disclosable pecuniary interests includes any beneficial interest they may have in any land within the Borough. This will necessarily require them to disclose the address of any property they occupy as their residence, where that property is owned or rented by them. The fact that these details will then be published and available to members of the public has given rise to safety concerns amongst some Members.
- 1.4 The Committee for Standards in Public Life have also raised concerns around the publication of Members' addresses within two reports detailed below. Section 32 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a mechanism for the granting of a dispensation to exclude sensitive interests from the authority's register where the Elected Member and the Monitoring Officer consider such disclosure could lead to the Elected Member, or someone connected with them, being subject to violence or intimidation. Trafford Council's Constitution refers to this dispensation within the Code of Conduct.
- 1.5 There are several Local Authorities across the Country who already use the dispensation within the Localism Act 2011 to not publicly publish the addresses of any Members. In each of those authorities a record of the sensitive interest is held by the Monitoring Officer and any resulting pecuniary interest is declared publicly but the details of the interest are not.
- 1.6 In light of the views expressed by the Committee on Standards in Public life and recent events highlighting the safety risks that Members face, it is felt the Council's approach to the disclosure of Councillor's home addresses should be considered by the Standards Committee. The report provides a list of options for the Committee's consideration to this effect.

2.0 Committee for Standards in Public Life

- 2.1 The Committee for Standards in Public Life ("CSPL") have published two reports in the last four years which consider the concerns related to the publication of Members' addresses:
 - 2.1.1 The first report was on Intimidation in Public Life which was published in December 2017. Recommendations 20 and 21 both related to the disclosure of Elected Members' addresses. Recommendation 20 requested that the

government remove the requirement for candidates standing as local councillors to have their home addresses published on the ballot paper. Recommendation 21 stated that Monitoring Officers are to ensure members are aware of the sensitive interests provisions in the Localism Act 2011. Recommendation 20 eventually led to the passing of the Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) 2018 which came into effect on the 2nd May 2019 and gave candidates the right to choose that the Council area that they live appear on the ballot in place of their home address.

- 2.1.2 The second report, on Local Government Ethical Standards published in January 2019 went further than the previous report with recommendation 2:

“the government should ensure that candidates standing for or accepting public offices are not required publicly to disclose their home address. The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) Regulations 2012 should be amended to clarify that a councillor does not need to register their home address on an authority’s register of interests.”

- 2.3 CSPL, in their Ethics in Local Government report, suggest that the current measures provide scope for Councils to not publish Member addresses but that this cannot be utilised without demonstrating evidence of intimidation or violence, which outlines the limitations of this measure in terms of protection “...We received evidence, however, that often these provisions (for not publishing sensitive information) would only be invoked after a councillor had experienced intimidation or harassment, in which case their address was already publicly available”.

- 2.4 The 2019 report references that there are authorities which have applied a blanket dispensation which allows them to record Member’s home addresses on the register of interests but omit them from the published version. The named example provided within the 2019 report is the City of Westminster’s guidance notes for members on the register of interests which are:

“In accordance with the arrangements for the placing of Register of Interests on the City Council’s website agreed by the Standards Committee details of members’ home addresses will be omitted from the version placed on the website.”

- 2.5 Since the publication of the 2019 report there has not been any action from the government to enact any of the recommendations and it is unknown if or when they are likely to be addressed.

3.0 Options for consideration

- 3.1 There are effectively three potential options which could be applied to the matter of the requirement to register members’ addresses: -

- Make no changes to the way the Council approaches the disclosure of Members’ addresses on the public register - Trafford’s current approach is in keeping with the rest of the Greater Manchester Authorities and most Authorities across the country;
- Remind all members about the possibility of applying for their details to be considered as sensitive interests and then apply a dispensation in respect of any and all members who request that the details of their address are not made

publicly available. This is in line with the recommendations of the CSPL in their 2017 report;

- To apply a blanket policy whereby all Members' addresses are treated as sensitive interests and not made publicly available - This would mirror the approach already taken by some authorities including City of Westminster Council; or

3.2 Ultimately, whether to treat an interest as a sensitive interest is a matter for the member concerned and the Monitoring Officer to determine (S32(1)(b) Localism Act 2011). It is therefore suggested that it would be appropriate to consult with members generally in relation to the proposed options in order to inform a decision on this, which could then be recommended to Council by the Monitoring Officer.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Standards Committee;

- a) Note the content of the report and;
- b) Agree to consult Members on the options

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Accounts & Audit Committee 20th July 2022
Executive 25th July 2022
Council Meeting 12th October 2022
Report for: Information
Report of: The Executive Member for Finance and Governance
and the Director of Finance and Systems

Treasury Management Annual Performance 2021/22 Report

Summary

This report outlines the main treasury management activities undertaken during 2021/22 as follows:

- All legislative and regulatory requirements, including all treasury management prudential indicators have been complied with;
- The average level of external debt and interest rate payable for 2021/22 was £332.8m and 2.82% and this compares to £385.5m & 2.57% in 2020/21;
- The average level of treasury investments for 2021/22 was £122.0m with a rate of return of 0.35% compared with 2020/21 when the equivalent figures was £76.9m and 0.76% respectively;
- The outturn position for the Council's Treasury Management function is a net overspend of £927k and more detail is included in Section 10 of the report. The key variances relate mainly to the levels of income the Council received from Manchester Airport Holdings Ltd (MAH) due to the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. .

Recommendations

That the Accounts & Audit Committee note the treasury management activities undertaken in 2021/22 and recommend that both Executive and Council also note the report.

Contact person for background papers:
Mark Hughes – Finance and Treasury Manager - Extension: 2072

Background papers: None

Relationship Corporate Priorities	Value for Money
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	Not applicable
Financial	The net outturn for treasury management was an adverse movement of £0.93m and details of this are provided at paragraph 10.1.
Legal Implications:	Treasury Management activities are subject to requirements detailed in legislation, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code of Practice. The report sets out details of compliance in respect of these requirements.
Equality/Diversity Implications	All treasury management transactions undertaken by the Council are carried out with institutions with no known direct links to any illegal regimes or which promote the use of forced labour.
Sustainability Implications	The Council, when undertaking any treasury management investment fully supports the ethos of socially responsible investments and will avoid direct investment in institutions with material links to environmentally harmful activities. Opportunities to invest monies in products which both supports sustainable assets and complies with the Council's investment strategy will continue to be explored as and when they become available.
Carbon Reduction	Not directly applicable – See above
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	Not applicable
Risk Management Implications	The monitoring and control of risk underpins all treasury management activities and these factors have been incorporated into the systems and procedures for this function which are independently tested on a regular basis. Failure to properly manage and monitor the Council's loans and investments could lead to service failure and a loss of reputation. No Treasury Management activity is without risk and the Council's in-house team continually monitor risks to ensure that security of capital sums is maintained at all times and adverse fluctuations in interest rates are avoided.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	Not applicable
Health and Safety Implications	Not applicable

Executive Summary

During 2021/22, the Council achieved compliance of its legislative and regulatory requirements via the following activities:

Economic position (Section 2)

- Over the last two years, the coronavirus outbreak has done huge economic damage to the UK and to economies around the world. After the Bank of England took emergency action in March 2020 to cut the Bank Rate to 0.10%, it remained unchanged at its subsequent meetings until raising it to 0.25% at its meeting on 16th December 2021, 0.50% at its meeting of 4th February 2022 and then to 0.75% in March 2022. Since the end of 2021/22, the rate has risen to 1.25%, following 0.25% increases in both May and June 2022.
- Huge financial support to businesses was given by Government in the form of cheap loans, grants, rate reliefs and furlough payments.

Debt (Section 5)

- Total loan debt fell from £380.1m as at 31.03.2021 to £322.4m by 31.03.2022, the decrease of £57.7m comprises of:
 - Repayment of loans of which £26.7m was short term, £0.5m Salix and £30.5m PWLB (£27.8m of that being early repayments)
 - Statutory borrowing limits (the authorised limit and operational boundary), were not breached.
- Loan interest totalling £9.3m was paid of which £4.5m was wholly funded from rental income received from the Council's regeneration programme.
- Average rate of interest payable was 2.82% in 2021/22 and compared to 2.57% in 2020/21 a rise of 0.25%.
- Level of under-borrowing was £53.9m at 31.03.2022 which represents an increase of £10.5m from the 31.03.2021 closing position of £43.4m.

Investments (Section 6)

- 2021/22 continued the challenging investment environment of previous years, namely low investment returns.
- Total level of investments rose from £97.3m at 31.03.2021 to £130.6m at 31.03.2022 a movement of £33.3m due to grant monies being received in advance of spend.
- The rate of return for all investments in 2021/22 was 0.35% which is £0.1m above budget and 0.39% or £0.5m above the recognised performance indicator of 7-day LIBID which was -0.04%.
- Weighted average life of investments at 31.03.2022 was 101 days or 3.32 months excluding all long-term investments.
- All investments were repaid on time without issue and undertaken in accordance with the approved strategy.

Prudential Indicators and limits (Section 8 and Appendix E)

- No breaches to any of these limits occurred.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2021/22. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code), and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code).
- 1.2 For the financial year 2021/22, the Accounts & Audit Committee together with the Executive and Council received the following three reports:
 - annual treasury management strategy for the year ahead (issued February 2021);
 - mid-year update report (issued November / December 2021);
 - annual outturn report describing the activity undertaken (July 2022 this report).
- 1.3 The regulatory environment places responsibility on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is, therefore, important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members.
- 1.4 It is confirmed that in accordance with the requirement of the Code, prior scrutiny of all the above treasury management reports has been undertaken by the Accounts & Audit Committee before they were reported to the Executive and Council.
- 1.5 Figures in this report are based on the actual amounts borrowed and invested and as such will differ from those stated in the final accounts which are shown in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards.
- 1.6 For reference a list of abbreviations used within the report has been provided and can be found in Appendix F.
- 1.7 This report comprises of the following sections:
 - Major Economic Headlines (Section 2);
 - Interest Rates (Section 3);
 - Treasury Position (Section 4);
 - Borrowing Position (Section 5);
 - Investment Position (Section 6);
 - Related Treasury Issues (Section 7);
 - Prudential and Performance indicators (Section 8);
 - Outlook 2022/23 (Section 9);
 - 2021/22 Summary Outturn position (Section 10);
 - Appendices including details of abbreviations used in the report.

2. MAJOR ECONOMIC HEADLINES

- 2.1 A brief summary of the main events which occurred during 2021/22 are highlighted below for reference;

General

- During 2021 the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic compounded by the outbreak of Russian hostilities in Ukraine has meant that world growth has not recovered from the 2020 levels. Increases in government debt levels have been incurred as a result of massive fiscal support being provided to their respective economies. It remains, therefore, very important that bond yields (interest rates) stay low while debt to GDP ratios slowly subside under the impact of economic growth thereby ensuring that debt servicing costs remain manageable.
- As a result of the conflict in the Ukraine and the sanctions placed on Russia the effect on western economies, which rely predominantly on Russia for their oil and gas supplies, all point to inflation being at elevated levels until well into 2023.
- In order to try to control inflation the Bank of England raised the Bank Rate three times during 2021/22 from 0.10% to 0.75%.
- World growth is estimated to have expanded 8.9% in 2021/22 following a contraction of 6.6% in 2020/21.

UK

- Over the last two years, the coronavirus outbreak has done huge economic damage to the UK and to economies around the world. After the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) took emergency action in March 2020 to cut Bank Rate to 0.10%, it left the rate unchanged at its subsequent meetings until raising it to 0.25% at its meeting on 16 December 2021, 0.50% at its meeting of 4 February 2022 and then to 0.75% in March 2022. Since the end of 2021/22, the rate has risen to 1.25%, following 0.25% increases in both May and June 2022.
- The UK economy has endured several false dawns through 2021/22, but with most of the economy now opened up and nearly back to business-as-usual, the GDP numbers have been robust (9% y/y Q1 2022) which is sufficient enough for the MPC to focus on tackling the second-round effects of inflation, as the CPI measure has risen to 6.2% by the end of 2021/22, and has exceeded 9% since.
- Gilt yields fell towards the back end of 2021 but, despite the war in Ukraine, have risen in early 2022. At 1.38%, 2-year yields remain close to their recent 11-year high and 10-year yields of 1.65% are close to their recent six-year high. These rises have been part of a global trend as central banks have suggested they will continue to raise interest rates to contain inflation.
- The squeeze on real household disposable incomes arising from the 54% increase in utilities prices in April, as well as rises in council tax, water prices and many phone contract prices, are strong headwinds for any economy to deal with. In addition, from 1 April 2022, employees also pay 1.25% more in National Insurance tax. Consequently, inflation will have a bigger impact on real incomes in 2022 than in any year since records began in 1955.

3. INTEREST RATES

- 3.1 Within the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy, a forecast for interest rates was provided which indicated that minor increases in rates would occur during the year. Actual interest rates seen in the period have risen above this forecast, with the growth in the rates seen across all markers from April 2021 to March 2022, as shown in the table below.

	2021/22	1 April 2021	31 March 2022	2021/22
	Forecast Average	Actual	Actual	Actual Average
	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	0.10	0.10	0.75	0.26
Investment Rates				
3 month	0.10	0.03	0.14	0.02
1 Year	0.20	0.12	0.69	0.34
Loan Rates				
5 Year	0.80	1.20	2.25	1.45
25 Year	1.60	2.22	2.64	2.10
50 Year	1.40	2.03	2.39	1.85

- 3.2 The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2021/22 was that the Bank Rate would remain at 0.1% until it was clear to the Bank of England that the emergency level of rates introduced at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic were no longer required. The Bank Rate remained unchanged until the MPC raised it to 0.25% at its meeting on 16 December 2021, to counter rising inflation. The rate was increased again to 0.50% at the MPC's meeting of 4 February 2022 and then to 0.75% in March 2022. Since the end of 2021/22, the rate has risen to 1.25%, following 0.25% raises in both May and June 2022. Further rate rises are expected in 2022/23, potentially to a rate of 2.75% by March 2023.
- 3.3 During 2021/22, the Bank of England and the Government maintained various monetary and fiscal measures, supplying the banking system and the economy with large amounts of cheap credit to support the economy. The Government also supplied large amounts of finance to local authorities to pass on to businesses. This meant that for most of the year there was much more liquidity in financial markets than there was demand to borrow, with the consequent effect that investment earnings rates remained low until towards the turn of the year when inflation concerns indicated central banks, not just the Bank of England, would need to lift interest rates to combat the second-round effects of growing levels of inflation.

4. TREASURY POSITION

- 4.1 The Council's Treasury Management in-house team actively ensure that:
- All transactions are carried out in accordance with the current Scheme of Delegation,
 - All borrowing has been carried out in accordance with the Council's current Debt Strategy and Prudential Indicators,
 - All investments placed have been done so in accordance with the criteria stipulated within the current Investment strategy,
 - Security for investments and the management of risks within all treasury management activities is maintained,
 - Access to funds is available at all times enabling all payments to be made on time preserving the Council's reputation and
 - Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are in place and that these are reported to members as detailed in the background section and through officer activity as highlighted in the annual Audit and Assurance report.
- 4.2 The table below shows the loan and investment positions at the beginning and end of 2021/22 for reference:

	31 March 2022		31 March 2021	
	Principal (£m)	Avg. Int. Rate %	Principal (£m)	Avg. Int. Rate %
DEBT				
- PWLB	286.2	2.44	316.6	2.51
- Government Loans - Salix	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.0
- Market	36.0	4.56	62.7	2.65
Total debt	322.4	2.68	380.1	2.53
CFR (to finance past capital expenditure)	376.3		423.5	
Over/ (under) borrowing	(53.9)		(43.4)	
INVESTMENTS				
- Instant access	30.7	0.52	25.0	0.03
- Call account	0.4	0.10	10.4	0.03
- Term deposit	76.2	0.75	39.5	0.17
- CCLA	5.7	4.33	4.8	4.51
- Asset Investment Programme (AIP)	17.6	n/a	17.6	n/a
Total investments	130.6	1.24	97.3	0.99

- 4.3 Whilst the table at paragraph 4.2 details the position as at the beginning and end of 2021/22 the average position for 2021/22 and 2020/21 was as follows:

	2021/22		2020/21	
	Principal	Interest Rate	Principal	Interest Rate
Average Debt	£332.8m	2.82%	£385.5m	2.57%
Average Investment *	£122.0m	0.35%	£76.9m	0.76%

* Excludes Strategic Asset Investments

5. BORROWING POSITION

- 5.1 As highlighted in paragraph 4.1 above, part of the Council's treasury management remit is to address any potential borrowing needed to be taken in order to fund the capital expenditure programme. This may result in funds being borrowed by the in-house treasury management team from external bodies, such as the Government, through the PWLB, the money markets or utilising temporary cash resources which the Council may have.
- 5.2 The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This represents capital spend, not yet paid for by revenue or other capital resources, incurred from current and prior years' activities reflecting the level of the Council's indebtedness.
- 5.3 During 2021/22, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position as highlighted in the table at paragraph 4.2 which means that the capital borrowing needed was not fully funded with new loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as investment returns maintained low levels, and minimising counterparty risk on placing investments also needed to be considered.
- 5.4 To safeguard the Council's finances, the level of CFR is not allowed to rise indefinitely and statutory controls are in place to ensure that any borrowing costs incurred are charged to revenue over the useful life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and this reduces the CFR and effectively is a repayment of borrowing. External debt can also be borrowed or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.
- 5.5 The total CFR can also be reduced by:
- the application of additional capital financing resources, (such as unapplied capital receipts) or
 - charging more than the statutory revenue charge MRP each year through a Voluntary Repayment Provision (VRP).
- 5.6 The Council's 2021/22 MRP Policy, (as required by DLUHC Guidance), was approved by Members as part of the Treasury Management Strategy report for 2021/22 in February 2021.
- 5.7 The Council's CFR includes PFI and any leasing schemes held on the balance sheet, which increase the overall borrowing need. No borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included in the contract.
- 5.8 During 2021/22 the Council did not undertake any new borrowing. During the year the Council undertook early repayment of loans to ensure that it was not in an over-borrowing position. On 31 March 2022 the Council repaid three PWLB Loans totalling £27.8m at an average rate of 2.55% with breakage costs of £5.76m.
- 5.9 As at 1 April 2021 short term debt of £26.7m was outstanding, this was fully repaid by the due date of 30 September 2021. Whilst the use of an overdraft facility provided by the Council's bank is available this is an expensive form of borrowing at 4% over bank rate and would have resulted in interest costs of £1.18m, an increase of £1.02m, had this option been used instead of short-term borrowing.
- 5.10 As a result of the action outlined in paragraphs 5.8 and 5.9, the policy adopted in previous years of applying cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was also applied in 2021/22 and as a consequence of this, the level of under borrowing rose from £43.4m as at 31 March 2021 to £53.9m at 31 March 2022. This action was undertaken in conjunction with advice obtained from LG,

the treasury management advisors, and offers a prudent approach due to the low level of investment returns available when compared to borrowing rates.

- 5.11 The Director of Finance and Systems can confirm that during 2021/22 the Council's level of gross external borrowing did not exceed its CFR thereby ensuring its long term borrowing levels are prudent, only taken for capital purposes and not used to support revenue expenditure.
- 5.12 From the table at paragraph 4.2 it can be seen that the level of external debt decreased during 2021/22 from the opening position of £380.1m to close at £322.4m and this was as a result of the following transactions;-

Lender	Principal – New	Principal – (Repayment)	Average Interest rate	Notes
Long Term				
PWLB		£(27.8m)	2.55%	Early Repayment
PWLB		£(2.7)m	9.13%	Natural maturity
SALIX Finance		£(0.5)m	0.00%	Loan used to part fund the LED Street Lighting Programme.
Sub total	£0m	£(31.0)m		
Short Term				
Various Local Authorities		£(26.7)m	0.07%	Natural maturity
Sub total	£0m	£(26.7)m		
Grand total	£0m	£(57.7)m		

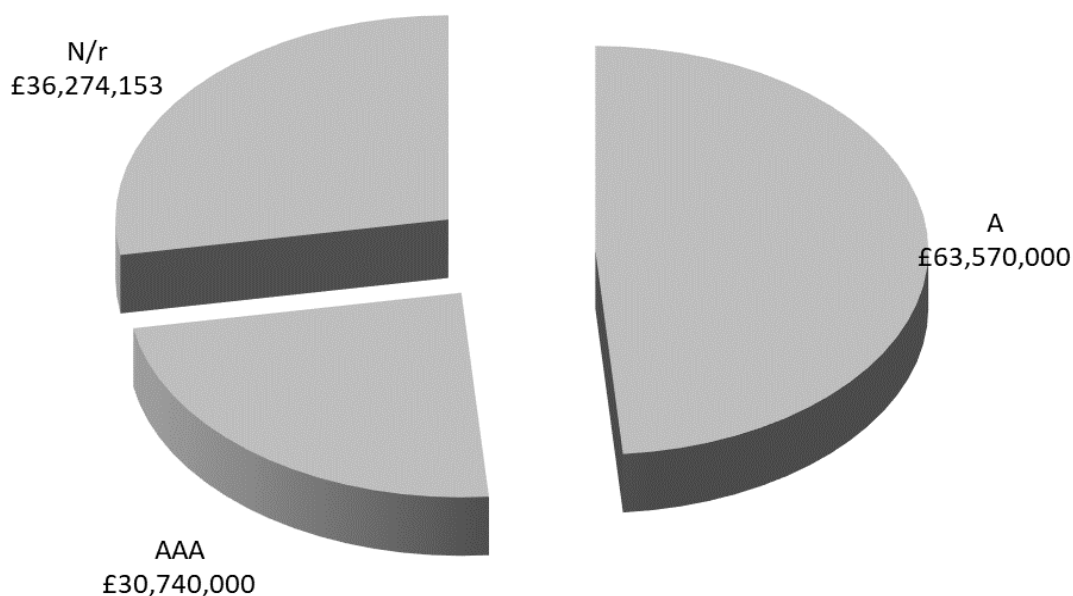
- 5.13 From the total debt outstanding of £322.4m, £0.6m is administered on behalf of Greater Manchester Probation Service which leaves £321.8m in respect of the Council's own long term requirement and a maturity profile of the Council's debt can be found at Appendix B & C for reference.
- 5.14 Gross loan interest paid during 2021/22 totalled £9.3m and of this £4.5m was funded from applying a proportion of the Council's regeneration programme rental income. The balance of £4.8m was incurred within the MTFP budget provision.
- 5.15 During 2021/22 the Director of Finance and Systems continued to monitor interest rate movements in the financial markets and caution was adopted with the treasury operations.
- 5.16 At the end of November 2021 the DLUHC published a consultation document on proposed changes to the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) concerning the application of future potential capital receipts instead of setting aside annual MRP on any Council investment asset or capital loan which it may hold. This consultation has now concluded, with changes to be made to ensure that Local Authorities make adequate MRP payments in regard to property acquisitions. The updated regulations will not apply to capital loans, which Local Authorities can continue not to apply MRP to if they consider it prudent.

6. INVESTMENT POSITION

- 6.1 The Council's investment policy is governed by the DLUHC guidance which has been implemented within the annual investment strategy approved by Council in February 2022. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies supplemented by additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).
- 6.2 Using this information the Council's in-house treasury management team is able to produce an approved lending list in order to ensure investments are only placed with low risk institutions. Funds are invested for a range of periods reflecting cash flow requirements together with counterparty limits as set out in the approved investment strategy ensuring that an excessive level of funds are not placed in a single counterparty.
- 6.3 The Director of Finance and Systems can confirm that;
- during the year all investment activity conformed to the approved strategy,
 - the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached,
 - the Council had no liquidity difficulties and
 - in-line with previous years, security and liquidity of its investments remained the overall priorities followed by optimum return (yield) consummate with this approach.
- 6.4 In 2021/22 the Council maintained an average balance of £116.8m of internally managed funds (this figure excludes £5m placed in the Property Fund managed externally by CCLA group) earning an average rate of return of 0.16% which generated £205k in investment interest. This return was £153k above the agreed budget figure of £52k and 0.21% or £249k above the performance indicator of the average 7-day LIBID rate of -0.04%.
- 6.5 With regards to the Council's long term investments, in 2015, £5m was placed into the CCLA Property Fund for a minimum period of 5 years which after entry costs had been deducted of £0.3m, enabled 1,643,872 units to be purchased in the fund. At 31 March 2021 the value of these units, were £4.83m due to the impact COVID-19 had on the UK commercial property market. Since this the fund has seen a steady recovery over the last 12 months with a value of £5.67m at 31 March 2022.
- 6.6 The outlook for this fund is that the steady growth in value is set to continue in 2022/23. The commercial property sector has had a strong start to the year with transaction volumes significantly above trend levels and yields across the majority of sub-sectors lower than at the same time in 2021, with the biggest gains in industrial and distribution properties. There is concern, however, around the impact rising inflation may have.

- 6.7 In response to the implementation in 2018/19 of IFRS 9 into the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, any movement in valuation would normally have to be taken and reflected in full to the Council's revenue account. As a consequence of this change to the CIPFA Code of Practice DLUHC put in place a 5 year statutory override effective from 1 April 2018. The Council will use this override facility to account for any changes in the value of this investment during this period thereby avoiding any adverse movements being taken to the revenue account in full during the year they occurred.
- 6.8 After the expiry of this override any fall in valuation beneath £5m could place a burden on the Council's revenue account. The value of this investment will be closely monitored to ensure that the likelihood of this happening is minimised.
- 6.9 Annualised returns generated from the CCLA property fund in 2021/22 (gross of fees on the original value invested) were 4.35% and this compares with that achieved in 2020/21 of 4.71%.
- 6.10 When the rates of return for both short and long term investments are combined, this produces an average level invested of £122.0m, generating a rate of return of 0.35% worth £0.42m which is £0.1m above budget and 0.39% or £0.5m above the performance indicator of the average 7-day LIBID rate of -0.04%.
- 6.11 In addition to the £5m CCLA investment, the Council in August 2019 undertook a further long term investment when it entered into a £17.6m 5 year loan facility agreement with Queens Holding Limited secured on 4 prominent income producing properties known as Albert Estate within Manchester City Centre. A sale of part of the estate resulted in a partial early repayment to the Council of £5.6m, reducing the facility to £12.0m. This repayment occurred in April 2022, and so did have an impact on the figures reported in the 2021/22 financial year.
- 6.12 During the climate of extremely low investment interest rates the ability to generate a significant level of return without exposing the Council's funds to high levels of risk remains challenging. Whenever new opportunities to generate additional investment income become known, these are thoroughly investigated in order to ensure that they will be suitable for the Council to pursue without committing it to any unnecessary risk.
- 6.13 The Council's main bank account with Barclays, is non-interest bearing and consequently if no investments were undertaken by the in-house team, the Council would lose the opportunity to generate £205k of income.
- 6.14 Levels of funds available to be invested on a daily temporary basis are subject to a number of factors such as timing in the form of monies being received ahead of spend requirements and progress on the Capital Programme.
- 6.15 The graph below provides a breakdown of the Council's investments placed as at 31 March 2022 by long term credit rating and further information detailing the make-up of this can be found at Appendix C & D

Rating Exposure



7. RELATED TREASURY ISSUES

- 7.1 Member training – In accordance with the Code, Members are responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies takes place. In order to be able to do so effectively a member training session was provided by the Council's advisors LG and in-house staff to members of the Accounts and Audit Committee on 27 January 2022 via the Teams facility.
- 7.2 Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) - During April 2020, the Council along with several other Greater Manchester councils paid over to GMPF a discounted advance equivalent to 3 years of employer pension contributions in order to take advantage of the pension fund's wider investment powers. This initial payment will have run its course by 31 March 2023. A further payment is planned to be made in April 2023.
- 7.3 Asset Investment Strategy - During 2017/18 the Council introduced a programme to acquire and invest in suitable assets which will help deliver corporate objectives and priorities. Any transactions made under this strategy are made to support policy related activities. These transactions are therefore considered outside the treasury management of purely financial investments however their implementation will have an impact on the Council's cash flow.

8. PRUDENTIAL AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- 8.1 It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the Council's Prudential Indicators as approved within the Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22.
- 8.2 During the year ended 31 March 2022, the Council operated within these indicators and these are shown in Appendix E for reference.

9. OUTLOOK 2022/23

- 9.1 The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine will continue to be felt for a while as the increased costs of oil and gas impacts on prices for goods and services across the world and pushes inflation up to levels not seen for many years. In the UK, real economic growth is slowing rather than collapsing in the face of the twin drags of higher inflation and higher interest rates, the OECD projects UK GDP to increase by 3.6% in 2022 but would fall to nil in 2023.
- 9.2 The conflict in the Ukraine and the sanctions imposed on Russia has seen a sharp rise in the costs of goods as a result of an increase in oil and gas prices, and the need to find alternative supply. This has increased inflation levels in the UK to above 9% and as a result the Bank Rate is forecast to rise from 1.25% in June 2022 to 2.75% by March 2023.
- 9.3 The growth in the Bank Rate will push-up interest rates which will in turn will increase the cost to the Council to borrow but will also increase the return on any investments undertaken. The Treasury team will look to manage cash flows to minimise the need for borrowing and maximise any investment return.

10. 2021/22 SUMMARY OUTTURN POSITION

- 10.1 Activities undertaken as part of the treasury management function are subject to many factors beyond the control of the Council impacting on actual performance e.g. worldwide economic, political and health (COVID-19) events and interest rate movements. The table below reflects the summarised outturn position compared to that originally forecasted for reference;

Treasury	Budget £000	Outturn £000	Variance £000
DEBT			
Loan Interest	4,791	4,773	(18)
MRP	5,834	5,620	(214)
PFI Interest & Premium	907	908	1
Other Costs (see Note)		175	175
Sub-total	11,532	11,476	(56)
INVESTMENTS			
Investment Interest & other net interest receipts	(293)	(470)	(177)
MAH Ltd – Main Share dividend	0	0	0
Loan interest and car park dividend	(3,528)	(3,290)	238
Sub-total	(3,821)	(3,760)	61
RESERVES			
Contribution to / (from) Interest Smoothing Reserve	(729)	193	922
Sub-total	(729)	193	922
TOTAL	6,982	7,908	927

Non-Treasury items	Budget £000	Outturn £000	Variance £000
EXPENDITURE			
Loan Interest	4.654	4,525	-129
Loss of Investment interest	51	99	48
MRP	2,124	2,252	128
Sub-total	6,829	6,877	48
RECHARGES			
Sub-total	(6,829)	(6,877)	(48)
TOTAL	0	0	0

Note: The above figures reflect;

- All associated debt servicing costs in respect to the Council's Asset Investment Programme are self-financing i.e. paid for from the income stream generated from the investment;
- Other Costs relate to an accrual for fees relating to technical advice from our treasury management advisers.

10.2 The application of the Interest Smoothing Reserve will, should it be needed over the forthcoming years, be applied to finance future cash implications arising from:-

- Potential adverse changes in investment interest rates,
- Short term temporary borrowing funding requirements and
- Non-treasury management activities which have an impact on cash flows.

Other Options

This report is a mandatory report which has been produced in order to comply with Financial Regulations and relevant legislation and provides an overview of transactions undertaken during 2021/22. There are no other options to consider.

Consultation

There are no consultation requirements in respect of this report.

Reasons for Recommendation

The report is a mandatory report which has been produced in order to comply with the requirements of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules which incorporate the requirements of both the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance and the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

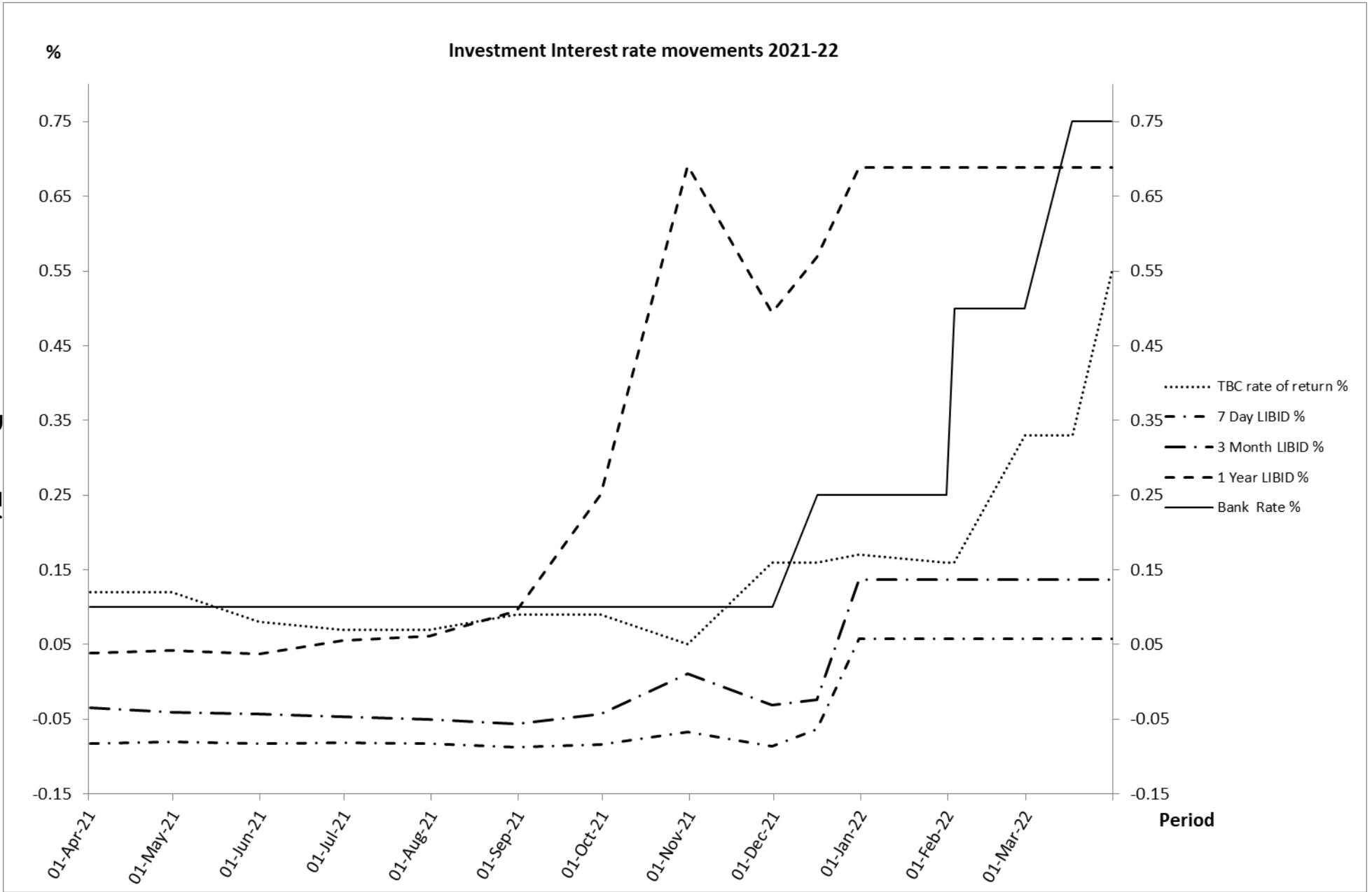
Finance Officer Clearance PC

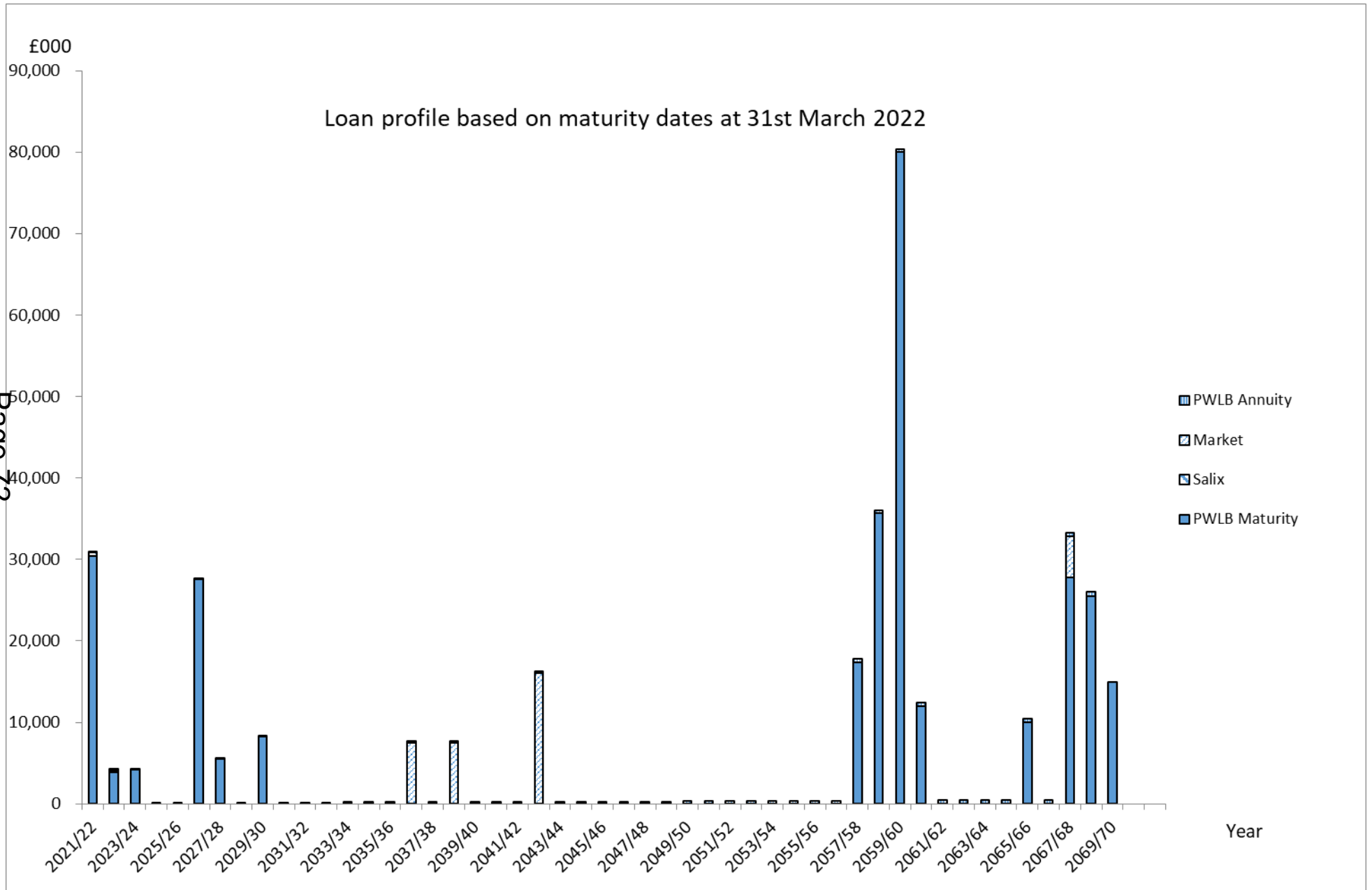
Legal Officer Clearance DS

G. Bentley

DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.





Maturity Profile

Debt portfolio:

	31 March 2022 (£m)	31 March 2021 (£m)
Under 12 months	19.2	29.9
12 months and within 24 months	4.3	4.3
24 months and within 5 years	28.0	21.6
5 years and within 10 years	14.6	42.1
10 years and above	256.3	282.2
Total	322.4	380.1

Investment portfolio:

	31 March 2022 (£m)	31 March 2021 (£m)
Instant Access	30.7	25.0
Up to 3 Months	22.7	31.5
3 to 6 Months	27.9	13.4
6 to 9 Months	18.5	0
9 to 12 months	7.5	5.0
Over 1 year	23.3	22.4
Total	130.6	97.3

Breakdown of Investments

Counterparty	Amount (30 Sept 2021) £	Amount (31 March 2022) £	Long Term Credit Rating
<i>Money Market Fund</i>			
Aberdeen	2,550,000	5,000,000	AAA
CCLA	5,000,000	6,000,000	AAA
Federated Investors	14,010,000	4,800,000	AAA
Insight	0	4,500,000	AAA
Invesco Aim	2,850,000	4,900,000	AAA
Morgan Stanley	6,000,000	5,540,000	AAA
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>20,410,000</i>	<i>30,740,000</i>	
<i>Notice Accounts</i>			
Lloyds 95	370,000	370,000	A
Federated T+1	10,000,000	0	
Abu Dhabi T+1	10,000,000	0	
ANZ 31	10,000,000	0	
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>30,370,000</i>	<i>370,000</i>	
<i>Term Deposit</i>			
Australia and New Zealand Bank	10,500,000	20,500,000	A
Brentwood Council	5,000,000	0	AA
Monmouthshire County Council	5,000,000	0	AA
Development Bank of Singapore	5,200,000	5,200,000	A
First Abu Dhabi Bank	5,000,000	16,000,000	A
National Bank of Kuwait	10,000,000	10,000,000	A
West Bromwich Building Society	5,000,000	0	Not rated
Newcastle Building Society	3,000,000	3,000,000	Not rated
Principality Building Society	5,000,000	5,000,000	Not rated
Yorkshire Building Society	0	5,000,000	Not rated
Nationwide Building Society	0	3,000,000	A
Santander	0	8,500,000	A
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>53,700,000</i>	<i>76,200,000</i>	
<i>Property Funds</i>			
Church Commissioners Local Authority	5,163,566	5,674,153	Not rated
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>5,163,566</i>	<i>5,674,153</i>	
<i>Other</i>			
Asset Investment Programme	17,600,000	17,600,000	Not rated
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>17,600,000</i>	<i>17,600,000</i>	
Total	127,243,566	130,584,153	

The above table shows the level of investments placed as at 31 March 2022 and 30 September 2021, the last time Members were provided with this information.

Appendix E

Prudential Indicators for 2021/22

Indicator	Indicator set by Council	Actual
Authorised Borrowing Limit Maximum level of external debt, including other long term liabilities (PFI & leases) undertaken by the authority including any temporary borrowing - this is a statutory limit under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003.	£629.5m	£326.3m
Operational Boundary Calculated on a similar basis as the authorised limit but represents the expected level of external debt & other long term liabilities (PFI & leases) excluding any temporary borrowing – this is not a limit.	£609.5m	£326.3m
Upper limits on fixed interest rates Maximum limit of net fixed interest rate exposure - debt less investment	£9.5m	£8.5m
Upper limits on variable interest rates Maximum limit of net variable interest rate exposure – debt less investment	£1.0m	£0.6m
Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement – this reflects that over the medium term, debt will only be taken for capital purposes. During 2020/21 the Director of Finance and Systems can confirm that this indicator was complied with.		
Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing These gross limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing and are required for upper and lower limits.		
Under 1 year (this includes the next call date for Market loans)	40%	6%
1 year to 2 years	40%	1%
2 years to 5 years	40%	9%
5 years to 10 years	40%	5%
10 years to 20 years	40%	1%
20 years to 30 years	40%	6%
30 years to 40 years	70%	46%
40 years and above	90%	27%
Upper Limit for sums invested for over 1 year – these limits are set with regard to the Council's liquidity requirements and to reduce the need for early sale of an investment.	£100m	£60.3m

Performance Indicators for 2021/22

Indicator	Target	Actual
Security – potential default rate of the Council's investment portfolio based on default rates from the 3 main credit rating agencies – inclusion is recommended by CIPFA.	Max 0.05%	Max 0.018% (31 March 2022)
Liquidity – investments available within 1 week notice	£5m min.	Achieved
Liquidity – Weighted Average Life of investments	6 months	3.32 months (31 March 2022)
Yield – Investment interest return to exceed 7 day London Interbank BID rate (exclude CCLA)	Average 7 day LIBID -0.04%	Average rate of return for 2021/22 was 0.17%
Origin of investments placed - maximum investments to be directly placed with non-UK counterparties.	UK institutions 100% Non UK institutions 40%	Min 63% Max 37%

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

CFR: capital financing requirement - the council's annual underlying borrowing need to finance capital expenditure and a measure of the council's total outstanding indebtedness.

CCLA: Church Commissioners Local Authority - manage investments for charities, religious organisations and the public sector

CIPFA: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy – the professional accounting body that oversees and sets standards in local authority finance and treasury management.

CPI: consumer price index – the official measure of inflation adopted as a common standard by countries in the EU. It is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food and medical care. It is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and averaging them.

DLUHC: the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - the Government department that directs local authorities in England.

ECB: European Central Bank - the central bank for the Eurozone

EU: European Union

Fed: the Federal Reserve System, often referred to simply as "the Fed," is the central bank of the United States. It was created by the Congress to provide the nation with a stable monetary and financial system.

GDP: gross domestic product – a measure of the growth and total size of the economy.

G7: the group of seven countries that form an informal bloc of industrialised democracies which meet annually to discuss issues such as global economic governance, international security and energy policy consisting of United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Gilts: gilts are bonds issued by the UK Government to borrow money on the financial markets.

IFRS 9: is an International Financial Reporting Standard (**IFRS**) published by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). It addresses the accounting for financial instruments and contains three main topics: classification and measurement of financial instruments, impairment of financial assets and hedge accounting.

LG: Link Group – independent organisation which provides advice and guidance on all treasury matters including government legislation.

LIBID: the London Interbank Bid Rate is the rate bid by banks on deposits i.e., the rate at which a bank is willing to borrow from other banks. It is the "other end" of the LIBOR (an offered, hence "ask" rate, the rate at which a bank will lend).

MAH Ltd: Manchester Airport Holdings Limited - is a holding company which is owned by the ten metropolitan borough councils of Greater Manchester and an Australian investment fund IFM Investors.

MPC: the Monetary Policy Committee is a committee of the Bank of England, which meets for one and a half days, eight times a year, to determine monetary policy by setting

the official interest rate in the United Kingdom, (the Bank of England Base Rate, commonly called Bank Rate), and by making decisions on quantitative easing.

MRP: minimum revenue provision -a statutory annual minimum revenue charge to reduce the total outstanding CFR, (the total indebtedness of a local authority).

MTFP: A Medium Term Financial Plan is a key part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework and sets out the strategic approach to the management of its finances.

OBR: Office for Budget Responsibility is a non-departmental public body funded by the UK Treasury that the UK government established to provide independent economic forecasts and independent analysis of the public finances

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 37 member countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade

PEPP: Pandemic emergency purchase programme is the ECB's monetary policy measure initiated in March 2020 which is a temporary asset purchase programme of private and public sector securities.

PFI: Private Finance Initiative is a way of financing public sector projects through the private sector.

PWLB: Public Works Loan Board – this is the part of H.M. Treasury which provides loans to local authorities to finance capital expenditure.

QE: Quantitative Easing - is a monetary policy whereby a central bank (e.g. Bank of England) buys government bonds or other financial assets in order to inject money into the economy to expand economic activity.

SONIA: the Sterling Overnight Index Average. Generally, a replacement set of indices (for LIBID) for those benchmarking their investments. The benchmarking options include using a forward-looking (term) set of reference rates and/or a backward-looking set of reference rates that reflect the investment yield curve at the time an investment decision was taken.

UK: United Kingdom.

US: United States of America.

VRP: a voluntary revenue provision to repay debt, in the annual budget, which is additional to the annual MRP charge, (see above definition)