

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

21 FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT

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

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

In attendance

Chief Executive	S. Todd
Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	D. Sykes
Head of Legal and Governance	E. Malpas
Senior Governance Officer	I. Cockill
Governance Officer	H. Callaghan

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Brophy, J. Lloyd and B.G. Winstanley

56. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced the passing of former Councillor Alan Mitchell, who represented the Hale Central Ward for 18 years between 2004 and 2022, and during his time was an Executive Member, Chair of Accounts and Audit Committee and was also a long serving member of the Greater Manchester Pensions Committee.

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The Mayor requested that Members stand to observe a moments silence as a mark of respect. The Council passed its condolences on to the family and friends of former Councillor Mitchell.

57. BUDGET 2024/25

(Note: PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS - In respect of the main item of business on the agenda, the Mayor announced that the Leader of the Council (or his nominee) would have a maximum of 15 minutes to make the initial speech and a further maximum of 15 minutes to summarise the debate. The Leader of the Main Opposition Group (or her nominee) would have a maximum of 15 minutes, whereas, the Leaders of the Minority Opposition Groups (or their respective nominees) would each have a maximum of 10 minutes to make their initial speeches. Each Opposition Group Leader (or their respective nominees) would each have a further maximum of 5 minutes to summarise on behalf of their respective Groups. Time for all other speeches would be restricted to a maximum of 3 minutes.)

The portfolio holder for Finance and Governance presented a number of reports setting out the proposed budget for the forthcoming year which had been recommended by the Executive at its meeting held earlier that evening.

It was moved and seconded that the Executive's recommendations set out in each of the following reports be approved:

- (a) Executive's Revenue Budget Proposals 2024/25 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 – 2026/27;
- (b) Capital Strategy, Asset Investment Strategy, Capital Programme and Prudential and Local Indicators 2024-2027;
- (c) Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 – 2026/27; and
- (d) Fees, Charges and Allowances 2024/25,

and that the Council sets and approves the amounts as the amounts of the Council Tax for the year 2024/2025, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, for each of the categories of dwellings included in the respective valuation bands A to H.

The Mayor announced that 3 amendments had been received from the Conservative Group, Green Group and Liberal Democratic Group. It was noted that the Director of Finance and Systems had reviewed the proposed amendments and concluded that none would undermine the adequacy of the Council's overall financial robustness and reserves if approved.

Councillor Evans responded to the Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group. Councillor Ennis responded to the Motion on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group

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and Councillor Welton responded to the Motion on behalf of the Green Party Group. Each Member gave notice of an amendment from their party.

The Conservative amendment regarding new capital investment for highways was moved and seconded. Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

The Council proceeded to the Green amendment.

The Green amendment regarding new capital expenditure for School Street programme was moved and seconded. Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

The Council proceeded to the Liberal democrat amendment.

The Liberal democrat amendment regarding removing parking fees at Thorley Lane was moved and seconded. Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and declared lost

The Council proceeded to debate the substantive Motion.

In accordance with procedures agreed at the outset of the debate, the Political Group Leaders summarised the essential views of their respective group and responded to some of the issues that had arisen from the debate.

The Substantive Motion was then put to a recorded vote, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014. The result was as follows:

Those in favour of the substantive Motion: Councillors Acton, Adshead, Axford, Babar, Baskerville, Bennett, Brotherton, Carter G, Carter K, Cordingley, Cosby, Deakin, Gilbert, Harding, Hartley, Hassan, Haughey, Hirst, Hornby, Hynes, Jarman, Jones, Maitland, O'Brien, Patel, Parker, Procter K, Procter S, Ross, Slater, Taylor S, Thomas, Thompson, Walsh, Western, Whyte, Williams A and Wright.

Those against the substantive Motion: Councillors Butt, Chakraborty, Duncan, Eckersley, Evans, Holden, Paul, Taylor M, Whetton, Zhi, Ennis, Frass, Lepori, Minnis, Newgrosh, Coggins, Jerrome, Leicester, Spencer, Sutton and Welton

Those choosing to abstain: None.

With the result of the vote being 38 in favour and 21 against, with no abstentions and the Mayor choosing not to vote. The Substantive Motion was declared carried.

Resolved

a) Approves the 2024/25 net Revenue Budget of £217.83m.

b) Approves the 2025/26 to 2026/27 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) including the income and savings proposals.

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c) Notes the continued arrangements in relation to an enhanced Finance and Change Programme and the role of the Finance and Change Board who will continue to work with the Executive on the development of sustainable budget plans to support the Council in meeting the financial challenges from 2025/26 onwards

d) Approves the calculation of the Council Tax Requirement as summarised in Section 8.1 and set out in the Formal Council Tax Resolution in Annex J (any update for changes in Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner or Mayoral General (incl. Fire Services) Precepts, if any, will be tabled at the Council Meeting);

e) Approves the proposal to increase Council Tax by 4.99% in 2024/25:

- 2.99% general increase in the 'relevant basic amount' in 2024/25, and
- 2.00% for the 'Adult Social Care' precept in 2024/25.

f) Notes the assumptions in the MTF5 to increase Council Tax by o An increase in the 'relevant basic amount' of 1.99% in 2025/26 and 2026/27, and o for the 'Adult Social Care' precept in 1% in 2025/26 and 2026/27.

g) Approves the planned application of earmarked reserves as detailed in Section 6.

h) Approves the Fees and Charges for 2024/25 and those relating to Registration of Births, Death & Marriages and Allotments also shown for 2025/26, as set out in the Fees & Charges booklet.

i) Delegates authority jointly to each Corporate Director in consultation with the Council's Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges which are within their respective delegated powers during 2024/25 in the event of any change in VAT rate, as appropriate.

j) Delegates authority jointly to each Corporate Director in consultation with the Council's Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges during 2024/25 which are within their respective delegated powers where the economics of the charge levels have changed (e.g. costs have risen unexpectedly), or for commercial reasons.

k) Approves the proposal to set the minimum level of General Reserve for 2024/25 at £10.5m (Section 6).

l) Approves the Capital Strategy, Prudential and Local Indicators and overall level of the Capital Programme and Asset Investment Fund of £413.15m (as detailed in the Capital Strategy, Capital Programme & Prudential Indicators 2024/27) of which £152.20m relates to 2024/25.

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m) Approves the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27, including the Debt Strategy (Section 4), the policy on Minimum Revenue Provision (Section 5) the Treasury Investment Strategy (Section 6) and the Prudential Indicators, including the Authorised Limit (as required by Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003, Operational Boundary, Minimum Revenue Provision and investment criteria as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

n) Approves the flexible use of capital receipts of up to £0.85m in 2024/2025 to support the cost of the Modernisation Team in developing the Council's Finance and Change Programme.

o) Approves the proposed distribution of Dedicated Schools Grant as recommended by the School Funding Forum and Executive as summarised in Section 7 and detailed in Annex I.

p) In the event the outcome of the secondary consultation relating to the Fair Price of Care changes the proposed budget assumptions, delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Systems, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance, to vary the net Revenue Budget for 2024/25, with any shortfall being met from the Budget Support Reserve.

q) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Systems, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance, to vary the net Revenue Budget for 2024/25, once the Baseline Funding has been updated to reflect the changes in Public Health Grant.

That in recommending approval of the above, the Council confirms that it has taken into consideration:

q) The objective assessment by the Director of Finance and Systems of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of the financial reserves (Sections 1 and 6 of the Revenue Budget Proposals report).

s) The Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations to the budget proposals as included in a separate report on the agenda.

t) The Council's Public Sector Equality duty.

u) The results of the consultation on the budget proposals where required.

That in addition, the Council notes the following:

v) The approval on 4 January 2024 under delegated powers by the Director of Finance and Systems of the Council Tax Base for 2024/25 at 79,362 Band D equivalents.

w) The estimated Council Tax surplus for 2023/24 has been calculated at £0.953m, sufficient to release £0.775m to support the Council's budget plans and a distribution of £0.124m and £0.055m representing the respective shares of the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services).

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x) The base budget assumptions as set out in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as detailed in Annex A.

y) The budget gap for the two years 2025/26, £15.39m and 2026/27, £14.22m.

z) That the Capital Programme for 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 is to be set at an indicative £152.20m, £231.48m and £29.48m respectively (indicative at this stage as a number of capital grants are not yet known).

aa) That the Council Tax figures included in the report for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) are the recommended provisional amounts pending their formal approval.

1. It be noted that on 4th January 2024 the Council calculated

- (a) the Council Tax Base 2024/25 for the whole Council area as 79,362 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and;
- (b) 1,915 for dwellings in the Parish of Partington;
- (c) 148 for dwellings in the Parish of Carrington;
- (d) 167 for dwellings in the Parish of Warburton;

to which Parish Precepts relate.

2. That the Council approve the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding Parish precepts) as £127,108,560.

3. That the Council agrees the calculation of the Aggregate Amounts for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

- (a) £608,277,734 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- (b) £481,031,813 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £127,245,921 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
- (d) £1,603.36 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with

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Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

(e) £137,361 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

(f) £1,601.63 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

(g) £1,666.68 **Parish of Partington**

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h) £1,631.63 **Parish of Carrington**

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

(i) £1,651.63 **Parish of Warburton**

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

4. The council tax set by Trafford Council includes a 2.0% increase to be spent exclusively on supporting the delivery of adult social care services.

5. That it be noted that for the year 2024/25 the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner and the Mayoral General (including Fire Services) have issued

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precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

6. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands

Council Tax Schedule 2024/25	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Trafford Council (including Adult Social Care Precept)	1,067.74	1,245.71	1,423.65	1,601.63	1,957.54	2,313.46	2,669.37	3,203.26
Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	170.86	199.34	227.82	256.30	313.25	370.21	427.16	512.60
Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)	75.30	87.85	100.40	112.95	138.05	163.15	188.25	225.90
Sub total	1,313.90	1,532.90	1,751.87	1,970.88	2,408.84	2,846.82	3,284.78	<u>3,941.76</u>

Partington								
Parish only	43.37	50.59	57.82	65.05	79.51	93.96	108.42	130.10
Parish & District only	1,111.11	1,296.30	1,481.47	1,666.68	2,037.05	2,407.42	2,777.79	3,333.36
Aggregate of Council Tax requirements (incl. – Mayoral Precepts)	1,357.27	1,583.49	1,809.69	2,035.93	2,488.35	2,940.78	3,393.20	<u>4,071.86</u>
Carrington								
Parish only	20.00	23.33	26.67	30.00	36.67	43.33	50.00	60.00
Parish & District only	1,087.74	1,269.04	1,450.32	1,631.63	1,994.21	2,356.79	2,719.37	3,263.26
Aggregate of Council Tax requirements (incl. – Mayoral Precepts)	1,333.90	1,556.23	1,778.54	2,000.88	2,445.51	2,890.15	3,334.78	<u>4,001.76</u>
Warburton								
Parish only	33.33	38.89	44.44	50.00	61.11	72.22	83.33	100.00
Parish & District only	1,101.07	1,284.60	1,468.09	1,651.63	2,018.65	2,385.68	2,752.70	3,303.26
Aggregate of Council Tax requirements (incl. – Mayoral Precepts)	1,347.23	1,571.79	1,796.31	2,020.88	2,469.95	2,919.04	3,368.11	<u>4,041.76</u>

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PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS

Parish/Town Council	2023/24			2024/25			C Tax Increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	
Partington	1,745	90,810	52.04	1,915	124,571	65.05	25.0%
Carrington	148	4,440	30.00	148	4,440	30.00	0.0%
Warburton	170	8,500		167	8,350		0.0%
TOTAL	2,063	103,750		2,230	137,361		

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.16 p.m.

(Note: At the conclusion of the formal meeting of the Council, an informal meeting was held to extend an invitation to:

Councillor Amy Whyte to be the Mayor of the Borough of Trafford for 2024/25;

and

Councillor Jane Brophy to be the Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Trafford for 2024/25.