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**TRAFFORD  
COUNCIL**

## **AGENDA PAPERS FOR EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**Date: Monday, 18 March 2024**

**Time: 6.30 pm**

**Place: Committee Rooms 2 and 3, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford  
M32 0TH**

<b>A G E N D A</b>	<b>PART I</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1.	<b>ATTENDANCES</b>  To note attendances, including officers, and any apologies for absence.	
2.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>  Members to give notice of any interest and the nature of that interest relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct.	
3.	<b>MINUTES</b>  To receive and, if so determined, to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 29.01.24 and 21.02.24.	1 - 30
4.	<b>QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC</b>  A maximum of 15 minutes will be allocated to public questions submitted in writing to Democratic Services (democratic.services@trafford.gov.uk) by 4 p.m. on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must be relevant to items appearing on the agenda and will be submitted in the order in which they were received.	
5.	<b>MATTERS FROM COUNCIL OR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (IF ANY)</b>  To consider any matters referred by the Council or by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.	

6. **PLACES FOR EVERYONE** 31 - 58  
To receive a report from the Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration on Places for Everyone.
7. **UPDATE ON DELIVERY OF THE TRAFFORD VCFSE STRATEGY 2022-27** 59 - 66  
To consider a report of the Executive Member for Communities and Safety.
8. **WASTE COLLECTION DAY CHANGES** 67 - 70  
To receive a report from the Executive Member for Highways, Environmental and Traded Services.
9. **REVIEW OF S75 FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES (TLCO)** 71 - 76  
To consider a report from the Executive Member for Health and Care.
10. **COUNCIL TAX DISCRETIONARY COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM EXEMPTION POLICY** 77 - 86  
To consider a report from the Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems.
11. **TRAFFORD ASSIST (LOCAL WELFARE ASSISTANCE SCHEME)** To Follow  
To consider a report from the Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems.
12. **FAIR PRICE FOR CARE** To Follow  
To consider a report on Fair Price for Care.
13. **BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 PERIOD 10** 87 - 106  
To consider a report from the Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems.
14. **URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**  
Any other item or items which by reason of: -
- (a) Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the Chairman of the meeting, with the agreement of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman, is of the opinion should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency as it relates to a key decision; or
  - (b) special circumstances (to be specified) the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

**15. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION**

Motion (Which may be amended as Members think fit):

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, because of the likelihood of disclosure of “exempt information” which falls within one or more descriptive category or categories of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and specified on the agenda item or report relating to each such item respectively.

**16. LLP PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

To consider a report from the Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems. Para. 3      107 - 120

**SARA TODD**  
Chief Executive

**COUNCILLOR TOM ROSS**  
Leader of the Council

Membership of the Committee

Councillors T. Ross (Chair), C. Hynes (Deputy Leader), S. Adshead, K.G. Carter, J. Harding, E. Patel, J. Slater, R. Thompson, A.J. Williams and J.A. Wright

Further Information

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

Paul Rogers, Governance Officer  
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This agenda was issued on **8<sup>th</sup> March 2024** by the Legal and Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford M32 0TH.

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## **Executive - Monday, 18 March 2024**

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## EXECUTIVE

29 JANUARY 2024

## PRESENT

Councillor T. Ross (in the Chair).

Councillors C. Hynes (Deputy Leader), S. Adshead, K.G. Carter, E. Patel, J. Slater, R. Thompson, A.J. Williams and J.A. Wright

### In attendance

Paul Rogers	Governance Officer
Nathan Atkinson	Corporate Director Adults and Wellbeing
Graeme Bentley	Director Finance and Systems
Emma Malpas	Head of Legal Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Jill McGregor	Corporate Director of Children's Services
Richard Roe	Corporate Director of Place
Sara Saleh	Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Strategy and Resources
Sara Todd	Chief Executive

### Also Present

Councillors Acton, Butt, Evans, Ennis, Holden, Lepori and Welton.

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## 71. ATTENDANCES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Harding

## 72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

## 73. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

## 74. MATTERS FROM COUNCIL OR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (IF ANY)

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny presented a report on Events at Old Trafford. In 2022 the Scrutiny Committee agreed to form a Task and Finish Group to look at the impact of Events at Old Trafford Football Ground upon the local Community and to look at ways that impact could be reduced. This report focuses upon the issues faced regarding Traffic and puts forward recommendations to alleviate the issues faced.

The Chair made reference to the survey which had been sent out with 438 responses received, paragraph 2 of the report refers. Traffic and anti social parking were the main problems. As a result the report was produced with recommendations. He drew attention to plans to classify certain roads around Manchester United on match days as red routes. Also need to encourage the club to provide secure bike storage at the stadium to increase the use of bicycles as an option to driving and the expansion of TFGM shuttle service to the ground.

The Leader informed the Executive that beyond the Task and Finish Group the Ward Councillors have secured some good relationships with the club and some positive actions have already been achieved. He was of the view that there were good suggestions arising from the report to take away and work with.

RESOLVED: That the Executive

1. Support plans to classify certain roads around Manchester United as red routes.
2. Work with Manchester United over time to reduce the number of spectators arriving by car, noting that there are currently around 16,000 cars not able to park at Old Trafford.
3. Work with TFGM to extend the Shuttle service and the possibility of providing car parks further away from the ground, for example within Trafford Park.
4. Request Manchester United to provide a list of all genuine car parking facilities to fans they have.
5. Work with Manchester United and TFGM to see whether car parking facilities for games are highlighted on Google Maps, Waze, or other mapping apps.
6. Look to link to TFGM's live Traffic Data and Manchester United information from the Council website and social media accounts.
7. Spread awareness of the monthly newsletter to ensure people are made aware of when matches are being held.
8. Look at the option to run a secure bike storage trial with Manchester United to see if it increases cycling to matches, and if positive, encourage Manchester United to commit to further provision of safe, secure cycle parking facilities on site.
9. Work with TFGM and the Trafford Centre with a view to utilising the parking spaces at the Trafford Centre for Match Day Parking.
10. Ensure that the monitoring data from Manchester United Traffic Management Plan be shared with Ward Councillors.
11. Support the continuation of the regular meetings between Manchester United and ward Councillors and that performance data from the Traffic Management Plan be shared at those meetings.
12. Support the reforming of the task and finish group to look at significant issues by residents if they occur.

The Chair of Health Scrutiny informed the Executive that an informal meeting of Health Scrutiny had been held with representatives of GM NHS as a workshop on 24 January 2024 to discuss the NHS initial findings on Urgent Care in Trafford. Views from the Workshop would be taken away and fed into the GM NHS review.

## **75. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 15 November 2023, 27 November 2023 and 11 December 2023 be approved as an accurate record.

## **76. INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT IN NEW CARRINGTON**

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration & the Executive Member for Climate Change presented a report which provides an overview of the current progress with development and supporting Infrastructure around Carrington and Partington – known as ‘New Carrington’. It also explains, principally, the necessity of transport improvements to the future growth in the area – and how this inter-dependency will be managed.

The Places for Everyone Plan (DfE) provides the context for future homes and employment development in this locality – an area currently constrained by poor accessibility and limited transport infrastructure. Master planning required by DfE is now underway and will help provide a detailed framework for future development and the transport, physical, green and social infrastructure needed to underpin it.

Alongside this a transport strategy for the area has been prepared and this will help guide the detailed design of measures such as the Carrington Relief Road – the main highway and active travel artery for the area.

This report sets out the current programme and costings for this route – and options for future funding. As a major brownfield site, the former Carrington refinery is subject to contamination which complicates both development and the provision of future infrastructure.

Finally given ongoing constraints on the Highway Network, the report considers how planning applications for new development should be managed in the short term, pending implementation of planned transport improvements.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration summarised the background to the Plan as referred to in paragraph 1 to the report. As well as highlighting the Places for Everyone Plan which includes future homes and employment development in the Carrington and Partington locality, the Carrington Relief Road was highlighted as an integral part of the Plan to support the housing and employment growth. Members attention was drawn to The Carrington Transport Strategy where the overall goal is to develop a new sustainable community in the Carrington area (Carrington, Partington and Sale West), with high levels of internal walking and cycling connectivity, provision of internal

facilities and good public transport connections, including to the wider Greater Manchester network. The Carrington Relief Road Programme and Funding is set out in Paragraph 6 to the report.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration underlined the following conclusions in the report –

- (i) New Carrington will be the main growth point in Trafford for the next decade or more; as a consequence it will require ongoing effort to ensure development is coordinated with necessary infrastructure – and that there is effective place-making to bequeath successful communities to future generations.
- (ii) The first step is to ensure the timely delivery of the Carrington Relief Road, as this will underpin key developments and facilitate other transport improvements. The new route sits on the context of a wider Transport Strategy for Carrington & Partington – an approach fully aligned with the rapidly evolving Greater Manchester Bee Network. Every effort must now be made to secure the detailed design of the route and the funding for its delivery. Joint working with the GMCA, TFGM and other partners will be essential to secure this outcome.
- (iii) The Road will only be delivered with the aid of proportionate developer contributions. However such contributions will only be forthcoming if planning applications for development are approved. If all development is delayed because of the lack of infrastructure, then this of itself may undermine the funding of the road. In order to break this potentially negative cycle, it is proposed that a planning strategy be employed that enables some development to proceed, especially where appropriate infrastructure contributions are made.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration thanked the officers for their work in producing a very complex and ambitious report and marks an important milestone in the project.

Councillor Ennis referred to the ever increasing costs of the project and took the view that there may be a need to revisit the viability of the Project. The Member further questioned how a temporary 106 Agreement allow a developer to budget properly when costs are constantly changing. The Member also made reference to the fact that the hydrology for Timperly Wedge is totally unknown and the flooding at Timperley Wedge affects many parts of South Trafford and the flooding transfers to Carrington. The Member asked when will the hydrology reports be available for the New Carrington Project.

The Leader informed the Councillor Ennis that from a Greater Manchester perspective we will be working with the Environment Agency and United Utilities around the Integrated Water Course Management Plan which looks at new developments and the impacts of developments when water is drained. He would get back to Councillor Ennis regarding the hydrology reports.



The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration that the new viability work is most welcome and we the most confident as we have ever been about the actual costs involved. Previously this work did not take into account our ambitions in terms of the breadth of the highway for active travel etc so a lot of the costs has gone into that aspect. The design of this has moved forward and that has gone into the viability. New Carrington in a GM capacity will be one of GM's six Growth Zones so to command a five per cent budget of a transport allocation which has not been allocated yet but will be a significant amount. Paragraph 8 of the report highlights a potted history of Section 106 Agreement contributions that has been secured previously. So the report provides developers with some certainty about contributions and we will do this in discussion with landowners and the Council's Planning Committee. The issue is not flooding but contamination and this is clearly set out in the report.

Councillor Welton applauds the reports commitment to the twenty minute neighbourhood model in Carrington itself but the reports highlights the car dependency and even with the raft of measures proposed in his view barely moves the dial. It may well be that moving further to include a tram link connection and this may well be the fate unless the a reach for Scenario 3 – Most Sustainable, GM Policy objectives fully achieved. Re paragraph 1.1 of the report, he notes the issue of induced demand is acknowledged so the New Carrington project will put more pressure on the existing roads across Trafford. Why is there no analysis of achieving the costs in Scenario 3 so not achieving this Scenario will cost us more in terms of carbon emissions, public health outcomes regarding obesity, increased rates of collisions, costs of congestion and higher costs of road maintenance, all these costs should be considered against the costs of infrastructure when planning for the very long term. There is no mention of demand regarding bus traffic should have a place in the Plan. As far as he is aware Carrington Green Line is still officially a live train line, so what is the likely approval for its conversion as a walking and cycling route as is indicated by the Plan.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration responded saying that the report is open and honest and we are not trying to achieve the ultimate goal in sustainability. It's a realistic and ambitious project, it does not rule out the possibility of improving the offer in front of Members, this is a project that will come out over decades and over time there will be great advances in transport. Regarding the demand on the bus network this will be based on the Bee transport. Planning decisions are a balance between economic social and environmental and this a fair and realistic appraisal of where we are. Regarding the Carrington Green line route this is something that needs investigating.

Adrian Fisher, Director of Growth and Regulatory Services, if Carrington Green Line is a live railway it is owned by Network Rail. It is very heavily overgrown. There are examples elsewhere where they have been converted to a walking cycle route that is something which we wish to develop. In terms of Scenario 3 that is the most sustainable option but it is about moulding something which is realistic with the resources that are available so the infrastructure design is built around the funding world we are in. Therefore Scenario 2 is the best and most sustainable

and reasonably achievable within the available resources and that's where the balance lies.

Councillor Williams, Executive Member for Climate Change, emphasised that we are at the start of gaining full public control of our buses back and we need to wait and see over the coming months and years what new bus services so he can take away a discussion on demand responsive bus servicing at the Greater Manchester level he would be happy to do so and get back to him.

Councillor Ennis referred to the disused Carrington railway and informed Members that has not been a previously popular suggestion to bring it back into use but as far as he is aware active travel money has been allocated there and parties and parish councils are keen to bring it back in a more active travel way and does the Executive support that approach and might that be rolled into the report presented. The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration advised that the active travel approach regarding reopening the Carrington Green Line will be investigated and reported back.

Councillor Holden referred to the mention in the report about new primary schools and thousands of houses but only one mention of a secondary school in the Partington area. Many of the residents are forced to send their children to the School in Cil west because of lack of space. Has any consideration been given to those standards when Broadoak fills up.

Councillor Duncan informed Members that the residents he represents are feeling frustrated and angry that the Council are neglecting their wishes and to consider environmental devastation. So the question is in relation to the deep peat deposits on Carrington Moss the report states in paragraph 7.7 'As a consequence, peat is not considered to be a significant constraint on future infrastructure provision.' This shows a huge lack of understanding on the impact of drainage on the main body of peat which covers around 335 hectares. Trafford Councils seems willingly to disregard Natural England's guidance.

Councillor Paul spoke for Manor Ward and drew attention to residents concerns about the xxx Allotments and she shares their concerns. This allotments is opposed by the majority of residents. Can the report into the investigation of peat be made available.

The Executive Member for Children and Young People advised that one of the requests for approval is the expansion of Broad Oak school. So we are hoping that it will go from four form entry to six form entry and we will be requesting nearly £2 million in 106 Agreement money to fund that school.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration advised that on the question of peat this report covers it. The peat question draws into a wider discussion on the New Carrington allocation. The public examination dedicated two full days and all the documentation and survey results were made public through that process. The Inprint of this entire area is full of deep peat is incorrect and the discussion about opposition to this piece of work is not reflected in the response we have received form the consultation. People want new roads and

houses and they are happy for that to progress. With regard to the Masterplan we are engaging with landowners and statutory bodies and we are undertaking a series of detailed environmental surveys on the land and the nature and extent of peat deposits will be known before any development takes place.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the approach to Master Planning for New Carrington be noted.
- (2) the Transport Strategy for Carrington set out at Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed.
- (3) the resolution in September 2021 to progress the planning application for the Carrington Relief Road be noted and that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Place to carry out all necessary steps to secure funding for the route and, in consultation with the Director of Legal & Governance, to conclude any appropriate agreements in principle for securing the land necessary for the route and its related infrastructure.
- (4) the planning strategy set out in Section 8 of the report be endorsed and the Planning & Development Committee be invited to consider and approve a detailed formula for interim infrastructure contributions.

## **77. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE EXECUTIVE'S DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2024-2025**

The Scrutiny Committee Chair presented The Overview and Scrutiny Review of the Executive's Draft Budget proposals for 2024-25. The Executive's Draft Budget Proposals for 2024-2025 were agreed at its meeting held on 15th November 2023.

Two Budget Scrutiny Working Group sessions were held on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 with the relevant Executive Members and Senior Officers in attendance to address Members questions. Members were also provided with background information on the budget proposals.

This report reflects the outcome of those discussions, summarises areas, and provides recommendations for the Executive to consider in developing its final budget proposals and response to the Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair of Scrutiny acknowledged that Trafford are finding it difficult to balance the budget like many Councils and underlined the point that as a result of 14 years of austerity approximately £300 Million has been taken out of the budget since these measures had been put in place, the covering Forward of the report refers. Scrutiny is supportive of the Executive to lobby the government for improved funding. He wanted to put on record his thanks to the Executive and Corporate Leadership Team and staff for the work they do in these difficult times.

The Leader thanked Scrutiny for the report and advised that the Executive would take away the suggestions and recommendations and we will report back at the Executive Budget meeting in a few weeks time.

RESOLVED: That the Executive notes the following Scrutiny Committee recommendations to be considered at the Executive Budget meeting –

1. that the Executive keep all Councillors informed of the Council's full lobbying plans and for Scrutiny to have input to those plans.
2. that the Executive Member for Finance and Governance continue to lobby the Government over support to Local Authorities and where possible work with other local authorities in doing so.
3. that the Executive provide the Scrutiny Committee with further information on how the savings listed within the savings plan would be achieved and provide the plans that support their success.
4. that Scrutiny support the Executive producing a communications strategy which can inform residents of the financial restraints of the Council and reasons behind any service changes provided by the Council.
5. that the Executive explores the closure of Trafford Town Hall once a week and provides Scrutiny with any negative impacts that are found from this change if they occur.
6. the Executive continue to monitor reserves closely and inform the Scrutiny Committee if further concerns are raised around the Council's levels of reserves.
7. the Executive be requested to continue to monitor increased income and opportunities for income generated through contract changes with Amey and keep Scrutiny updated on results of this.
8. the Executive look to increase transparency on the service management process in both Children and Adults services and highlight these changes to a future meeting of Scrutiny for comment.

## **78. BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 PERIOD 8**

The Leader presented the Budget Monitoring 2023-24 Period 8 (April 2023 to November 2023). He emphasised the challenging financial environment he informed the Executive that it is encouraging to see the outturn forecast has improved from Period 6 £0.51m overspend to Period 8 £0.59m underspend. This is positive news which reflects the effectiveness of our financial management practices and those additional controls put in place to contain the forecast adverse outturn anticipated earlier in the year. The report sets out the variances from budget of each directorate and gives an update on the capital programme progress set out in Section 6 and Annex 3 of the report.

The Director of Finance and Systems reiterated the Leader's presentation that the movement from Period 6 is positive particularly that if the position can be maintained then no unplanned use of reserves would be necessary in year. The demand pressures being felt in the current year are reflected in the 2024-25 Budget planning. He also referred to Contingencies which for this year which was also positive even though there was a little way to go.

The Leader thanked the Director of Finance and Systems and his colleagues for all the work they do in supporting the finances.

Councillor Evans raised a number of questions on the content and format of the report for which answers were provided.

Councillor Ennis referred to the need for improved funding and drew attention to the government's recent announcement.

Councillor Butt made reference to the Variances in Table 1, page 220, and in particular the Legal and Governance costs and Finance and Systems and what has caused the increases.

The Head of Legal and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that this has been discussed within the Employment Committee. The Legal and Governance have been carrying a significant number of vacancies over a number of years which has resulted in an increase in Agency spend. There has been a redesigned service which was implemented on 1 January this year so we hope to be able to recruit to permanent posts to reduce the spend pressures.

The Leader advised that in terms of the Finance and Systems, Trafford Assist has been the pressure point with people approaching the Council for help and that is why there is an increase in that budget area.

Councillor Welton referred to the cost of the delayed opening of the Regent Road Car Park and asked is there a point where it would become more cost effective for the Council to get involved to finish the project or can we push the developer to finish it.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration advised that the Council is not at the point where it would be cost effective for the Council to finish the work. The car park was inspected in January and there were 180 snags which impacted on the structure. We are considering all avenues to get the work completed as soon as possible.

Councillor Evans asked could the developer be pursued for the Council's loss.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration is not aware of the legal implications but the Council is running of patience with the developer.

RESOLVED: That the Executive

- a) note the report and the estimated revenue outturn position showing a budget underspend of £0.59m a positive movement of £1.09m since Period 6;
- b) note the update on the Capital Programme as detailed in Section 6 and Annex 3;
- c) note that due to the positive movements in the estimated outturn since Period 6, that no new management actions are required at this point in 2023/24.

**79. BUSINESS RATES RELIEF (AUTUMN BUDGET MEASURES) AND NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATING DISCRETIONARY POLICY CHANGES 2024/25**

The Leader presented the Business Rates Reliefs (Autumn Budget Measures) and National Non-Domestic Rating Discretionary Policy Changes 2024-25 report.

This report sets out an extension to the 75% Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) Business Rates Reliefs scheme to eligible businesses in 2024-25, delivered via local authority discretionary powers. The cost of the scheme will be fully funded through a Section 31 grant.

It also sets out the impact of existing legislation in relation to Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief which is being revoked with effect from 1 April 2024. This follows the Government's Business Rates (Technical Consultation) Review in relation to the constraints on local authorities' ability to backdate awards of relief and the required notice period to reduce or remove awards of relief. Local Authorities need to decide if they want to include any of the revoked matters into their local discretionary schemes.

Trafford is proposing to include in its National Non-Domestic Rating Discretionary Policy the same backdating provisions that currently exist in the legislation.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the extension to the 75% RHL Business Rates Relief Scheme in 2024-25, be approved in line with the government guidance.
- 2) the amendment to the Council's National Non-Domestic Rating Discretionary Policy from 1 April 2024 to include backdating time limits for granting awards in line with the current legislative wording which is being revoked, be approved.

**80. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2024-25**

The Leader presented the Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme for 2024-25.

The Council's CTS Scheme sets out the basis on which the Council will carry out assessments to establish eligibility for CTS, which is a means tested financial support award designed to help residents on a low income to pay their Council Tax.

There is a legal requirement to formally approve the Council's CTS scheme before the start of each financial year. It is proposed that the CTS Scheme for 2024/25 be worded in accordance with the decision made by the Executive on 27 November 2023, and that claims will be operationally assessed on the basis set out in that decision.

RESOLVED: That the Executive approves the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024-25 and recommends the approval and adoption of the Scheme to Council as part of the budget setting process.

**81. COUNCIL TAX EMPTY HOMES AND SECOND HOMES PREMIUM -  
INTRODUCTION AND PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON EXEMPT CATEGORIES**

The Leader presented Council Tax Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium – Introduction and Proposal to Consult on Exempt Categories report.

The Council has the discretion to amend the council tax premium to 100% (200% in total) for properties empty between one and five years (currently between two and five years) from 1 April 2024.

The Council has the discretion to charge an additional 100% (200% in total) on all second homes from 1 April 2025.

Executive approval was sought in October 2022 to align future long term empty home premiums with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill changes once the Bill received Royal Assent, which it did on 26 October 2023.

This report seeks final approval to implement these premiums as well as to consult on a proposed Exemption Policy in line with the national consultation.

Councillor Evans asked what happens to Air Bed and Breakfast homes.

The Director of Finance and Systems advised that they are categorised as second homes in accordance with legislation.

Councillor Butt asked what form the consultation will take.

The Director of Finance and Systems informed Members that it would be a public consultation but couldn't give an answer on the timespan of the Consultation. He would inform Councillor Butt of the specific details when they are available.

Councillor Ennis referred to Exemptions and asked if the armed services covenant can be reviewed as it may have changed since it was previously looked at in 2019.

The Leader acknowledged the point raised and that this would be reviewed.

Councillor Lepori in supporting the report will there be safeguarding in place where building work is taking place and not moving forward for various reasons.

The Leader acknowledged the point raised and assured the Member that this will be looked at together with any further issues raised in the consultations period.

RESOLVED: That the Executive gives approval to:

- Consult on the proposed Council Tax Discretionary Council Tax Premium Exemption Policy;
- Note that the Council Tax Discretionary Council Tax Premiums Exemption Policy will be presented to the Executive for consideration and approval following conclusion of the consultation exercise;
- Increase the council tax empty homes premium to 100% (200% in total) for properties empty between one and five years (currently between two and five years) from 1 April 2024; and
- Implement the discretionary 100% second homes council tax premium (200% in total) from 1 April 2025.

## **82. TRAFFORD COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE UPDATE**

The Executive Member for Communities and Safety presented presented an Update report on the Trafford Community Collective.

Trafford Community Collective (TCC), a registered charity since March 2021, was established to support, promote, and connect the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Trafford. The Collective is a membership organisation for VCFSE organisations with the aim of organisations working together to increase opportunities for the sector to develop its role as a strategic partner and support the development of community-based, holistic, person centred, services at a neighbourhood level. This report provides an update on the activity and outcomes of the Collective in 2022/23.

The report shows the Collective's development from 2019 to the present day and it now works across Trafford's community hubs and has a growing membership in the voluntary sector groups and is becoming a key strategic voice of the sector. In March 2023 Trafford Council and NHS Trafford committed £130,000 to continue its work until 2025.

Trafford Community Collective (the "Collective") is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation that represents the VCSFE sector in Trafford. The organisation became a registered charity in March 2021 following two years of consultation and engagement with VCFSE organisations, Trafford Council, Trafford CCG (as known in 2021), and other key statutory partners.



The Collective recognised the increased opportunities for the VCFSE sector to develop its role as a strategic partner in Trafford. As a strategic partner, the Collective aims to:

- Support the development of community-based services at a neighbourhood level.
- Effectively communicate, engage, and involve individuals, families, and communities at a local level.
- Effectively communicate, engage, and involve communities of interest at a local level and across Trafford.
- Provide a focus on the wider determinants of health and new ways of working designed to reduce health inequalities.

Throughout the period of development, Thrive Trafford, the Local Infrastructure Organisation for Trafford provided significant support to establish the Collective. In April 2022 Thrive and the Collective submitted a successful partnership application for the infrastructure contract for the period 2022 – 2025.

This briefing provides an update on the activity and outcomes of the Collective in 2022/23 and outlines the plans for the future. The Executive Member for Communities and Safety drew attention to the Background and Context to the report as set out on pages 322- 328 of the report and more specially set out on pages 329-340 to the report.

The Leader thanked the Executive Member for the report and added his thanks to George Devlin for his work with the Community Collective and Voluntary and Community Sector. He also thanked everyone at the Community Collective for all the work they have done.

Councillor Slater acknowledged the work that the Community Collective has done and welcomed the report.

Councillor Williams welcomed the funding that has been put in place for an additional School Streets officer and welcomes that VCFSE sector is showing an interest in supporting our school streets.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration welcomed the report which is very informative at a time of such limited resources and growing need. She drew attention to the working partnership with primary care and in Sale Moor we were one of the successful areas to operate test and learn a really worth while cause.

Councillor Lepori echoed everyone's comments in welcoming the report. His only concern moving forward was about focusing in on those areas of deprivation and where people are struggling and in moving forward doesn't want to see a lag where people have suffered financially over the past few years and are still struggling even though they may not look as if they are.

The Executive Member for Communities and Safety took the view that Councillor Lepori's point was a concern and would tailor the services around that awareness.

Councillor Welton advised that he had attended a meeting with Councillor Lepori towards the end of last year and he was very impressed by the number of people there and the connections made between the various organisations.

The Leader advised that we are seeking to find any funding streams available to extend the project.

RESOLVE: That the Executive

1. notes the content of the report; and
2. approves the proposal that a further progress report on the delivery of the VCFSE Strategy is presented in 2024 at the Executive.

The Leader on behalf of the Executive thanked George Devlin for all his time with the Community Collective and wish him well for the future.

### **83. RIGHT TO THE STREETS UPDATE**

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration presented a report regarding Right of Streets – End of Project. The report provides an end of project report on the Right to the Streets, a Home Office-funded gender-based violence street safety project. The Right to the Streets project commenced in Trafford in September 2022 and completed in September 2023.

This innovative project has combined community activity, policy work, podcasting, visuals campaign, social media, artwork and communities grants to build a wide reaching, impactful grassroots project.

The project focussed on North Trafford, Gorsehill, Old Trafford and Stretford areas and was shaped using a co design process using local data, engagement Events and Art projects. Local partners in the area, including Trafford Council, were keen to kickstart a successful place-based approach to addressing this complex issue of physical inactivity and community exclusion caused by fear of and experience of male violence against women and girls.

Our Safer Streets project, 'Right to the Streets', explored ways to make streets and public spaces safer and more welcoming for women and girls so they feel a sense of belonging in their community and are able to live active lives.

The Right to the Streets project was delivered in a partnership consisting of a variety of key organisations that have taken responsibility for certain elements; partners, page 301 refers.

As a strategic partner, Trafford Council have supported Right to the Streets through building networks and making connections. Our role has been to support

the project with expertise, networking, focusing on the local area, embedding in local plans and with local data and insight.

The legacy of the project has been varied and this includes the opportunity of Rights to the Streets. Council has secured £20,000 funding from the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network to deliver a Policy Lab on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls working with 8 other Councils in the UK. The evidence and knowledge from this project will be used to share approaches from councils across the UK. This work will continue during 2023/24, will be reported back on the Network regularly and will be evaluated in Summer 2024.

That as part of the Legislative theatre commitments, Executive Member for Communities and Safety and the Policy Team continue to engage with GM contacts to be involved in key work in this area going forward. Trafford Council will be working with GMCA on their new GBV strategy delivery plan in 2024.

The Executive Member highlighted how Rights to the Street has helped with Trafford Council's thinking when developing and moving forward in priority areas. This is through understanding the localities and issues with them. This has been particularly see across Partington and the Levelling Up Fund project at Partington Sports Village and Trafford Council has shown that women's safety from male violence was considered throughout the evidence of the project.

Councillor Slater thanked the Executive Member for an excellent report and the work that has been done and that the Rights to the Streets should be part of the fundamentals when dealing with planning, opening up cycleways as examples.

Councillor Lepori asked if something similar can be put in place at Altricham where problematic behaviour is in evidence including women and girls and police are struggling to deal with those problems.

The Leader informed Members that the Altricham issue would be get taken away and would be considered.

Councillor Welton took the view that there is potential for a cross Borough project if the funding could be found. He made reference to the need for appropriately lit and safe cycling routes.

The Leader acknowledged that this is something the Council can explore other parts of Trafford as well subject to funding.

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive notes the contents of the report.

## **84. EDUCATION AND EARLY NEEDS CAPITAL**

The Executive Member for Children's Services presented a report regarding Education and Early Years Basic Need and High Needs Capital. The report sets out to address the shortfall in school places and for Trafford to meet the needs of children and young people with people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Trafford is a popular authority due to its excellent educational provision and the DfE values the Council for managing provisions for places. Since 2010 an additional 4646 places have been created and the report details the rise of applications for both primary and high schools and schools have been expanded to meet the unprecedented demand for places. The report also mentions about the efforts of officers, local Councillors and the two MPs for the Altrincham and Sale area to secure a new school in this area but this was rejected by the DfE. The Member referred to Section 4 of the report discusses the Free Early Education Places, a government initiative. This has been beset with practical issues in Trafford as we are not sure Trafford will have the numbers of staff to be able to provide the free childcare that is being offered. There is a sufficiency exercise underway to see if it is sustainable. We are waiting for funding details from the government. Section 5 details School Places Demand for SEND and about increasing the number of places at schools which is part of the Council's Strategic Initiative. Our strategic priorities are to increase capacity within local specialist provision, including small specialist classes and resourced provision within mainstream schools, to meet the increasing demands for places.

The Leader emphasised that the report demonstrates how the Council plans school places as and when demographics change, property numbers so its important that this is looked at on a regular basis.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration echoed Council Carter's thanks to officers and the DfE recognition for Trafford's good approach to school applications faced with significant demand and need changes and the calm approach to those challenges.

Councillor Ennis referred to regeneration works and increasing demand if there is an increasing demand in the Waterside development what are the reasons behind DfE rejecting the need for a new school in the south Trafford area. On SEND where a child is without a SEND place how often should Trafford be touching base with that family.

The Executive Member for Children's Services the government sets sizes of schools which is currently 750 pupils. Trafford does not have 750 families without a place. It was averaging around 90 in Sale and Altrincham. With the schools around Trafford showing places available, on paper we have enough provision in the Borough and that is how the government makes its decision. All the high schools in the Sale and Altrincham area are on tight sites and not able to expand.

Councillor Ennis further queried that given the new development proposed at Timperley Wedge how will this development support the additional school need.

The Executive Member for Children's Services responded informing that the government have a formulae they use for when houses are built so we can only go forward on what we currently know.

The Corporate Director for Children's Services added that Section 3 in the report sets the reasons are for building new schools and echoed the Executive Member for Children's Services comments regarding Government's formulae on new schools and the demand does not outweigh the number of school places available in the Borough so there is not sufficient demand to warrant the building of a new school.

With regard to the SEND question the Executive Member for Children's Services we are limited by the consent of parents in what we can do. Regarding the Council's ability to meet placements. The overspend on higher needs suggest that the Council is working hard to make sure for parental requests to meet the needs in terms of children with SEND regardless of whether it is inside or outside the Borough.

Councillor Evans referred to Section 2.6 in the report, the table ratings, he would like to see this expanded when this updated at a future meeting to see where these places are.

The Executive Member for Children's Services advised that the detail the Councillor refers to is available. Realistically parental choice is limited dependent on where you live. Unless parents live close to a school that choice is not available.

The Corporate Director for Children's Services referred to Section 2 of the report which shows that 99 per cent of primary school parental allocations have been allocated as per their three choices. So there is a good level of compliance in the primary sector on choice.

Councillor Ennis further added that his worry is for the deprived child in Partington who as a result of where they are is never going to see an opportunity to have any choice of school. He will approach Dfe about the problem.

Councillor Butt welcomes the development at Altrincham College.

The Executive Member for Children's Services advised that it's a complex project for Sport England who could be more helpful but we will deliver another 300 places which has now been pushed back to 2026.

Councillor Welton has sympathy for officers working on this. He made reference to those schools who have unhelpful selection policies which could be amended to help include those 90 places that Trafford are looking to place.

**Executive  
29 January 2024**

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RESOLVED: That the Executive agrees the proposals contained within this report as the detailed capital programme for 2024/25, specifically:

- (i) Note the demand for primary and secondary school places as set out in sections 2 and 3 of the report.
- (ii) Note the demand for free early years provision as set out in section 4 of the report.
- (iii) Note the demand for SEND school places as set out in section 5 of the report.
- (iv) Approve the proposals detailed in sections 6.2 and 6.4 of the report to create the following additional school places:
- (v) Stretford High School – increase the Published Admission Number (PAN, the maximum number of pupils that the admission authority will admit to each year group) by 10 places from September 2023.
- (vi) Sale High School – bulge class of 30 places for September 2023 (funded from existing budgets).
- (vii) Park Road Primary, Sale – accessibility works for a pupil placed at school via the Fair Access Protocol.
- (viii) The Orchards – increase of 10 places through creation of a Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) suite.
- (ix) Approve the Secondary School expansion proposals detailed in section 6.3 of the report:
- (x) Altrincham College (6FE to 8FE) 60 places – additional funding.
- (xi) Broadoak School (4FE to 6FE) 60 places
- (xii) Approve the High Needs (SEND) capital proposal detailed in section 6.5 of this report:
- (xiii) Brentwood School (increase from 45 places to 80 places including individual learning spaces) – additional funding.
- (xiv) Approve the allocation of Basic Need capital funding and High Needs Capital Provision to carry out work to improve the facilities and expand provision for pupils detailed in Appendix A: Proposed Capital Projects, Basic Need Capital Programme, Table 1 and High Needs (SEND) Capital Provision Programme, Table 2.
- (xv) Note the completion of previous SEND / High Needs Capital schemes in Appendix B.

**85. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

There were no items of Urgent Business to consider.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.07 pm

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## **EXECUTIVE**

**21 FEBRUARY 2024**

## **PRESENT**

Councillor T. Ross (in the Chair).

Councillors C. Hynes (Deputy Leader), S. Adshead, K.G. Carter, E. Patel, J. Slater, R. Thompson, A.J. Williams and J.A. Wright

### In attendance

Paul Rogers	Governance Officer
Graeme Bentley	Director Finance and Systems
Emma Malpas	Head of Legal Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer
Jill McGregor	Corporate Director of Children's Services
Richard Roe	Corporate Director of Place
Sara Saleh	Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Strategy and Resources
Sara Todd	Chief Executive

### Also Present

Councillors Acton, Butt, Evans, Ennis, Holden, Newgrosh, Lepori and Welton

## **86. ATTENDANCES**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

## **88. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Question

Given that members Allowances were increased by around 40% at the start of the current year, 2023 - 2024, was the Mayoral Allowance increased by a similar percentage, it being little more than 50% of the lowest of any of the other GM Boroughs, and were an increase overlooked has an increase now been incorporated into the 2024 - 2025 budget and if so of what amount ?

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration responded as follows –

‘The review of Civic Allowances which are paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are undertaken separately to the general review of Members allowances. During the review of members allowances in early 2023 it was agreed by Members and Officers that once the Independent Remuneration Panel had delivered its recommendations that the Civic Allowance would also be looked to be reviewed as it had been at least 10 years since they were last reviewed.

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This was subsequently done with the results reported and approved by Council in November 2023. It was agreed to increase the mayoral allowance from £6,000 to £10,000 and the deputy mayor from £2,000 to £2,500 and the increase would apply from the 2023 Municipal Year.

These amounts will be indexed each year from 2024/25.'

## **89. STRATEGIC LAND REVIEW LAND PROGRAMME UPDATE - PART 1**

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration presented the Strategic Land Review Programme Update report.

The report set out a list of land and buildings that the Council intends to either sell, develop in partnership or self-develop in the forthcoming year(s) together with a summary of the previous year's outturn.

The Strategic Land Review Programme is an integral part of the Council's Estates Strategy and is the conclusion of a corporate process of identification of surplus assets linked to service planning and an options appraisal process.

Councillor Evans asked what was the grant amount for Merry House (no.21 table 1 on page 5 refers) and is the whole grant repayable when we sell it.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration informed the Member that she was not aware of the grant figure but advised that the Council is not obliged to repay any of the grant. She would inform the Member of the grant figure by written response following the meeting.

Councillor Newgrosh referred to line 27, in table 1 of the report and expressed his hope that the land at Vale Road, Timperley is not Green Space.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration advised that she would provide a written response to his question following the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive

1. Notes the outcome of the 2023/24 Land Sales Programme.
2. Approves the Disposal Programme for 2024/25 as set out in the report and note the sites that have been earmarked for disposal / development.
3. Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Place to:
  - a. Negotiate and accept bids in consultation with the Director of Finance and Systems and the Director of Legal and Governance for all sites listed on the Disposal Programme.
  - b. Engage external resources where this will assist in implementing the programme, including a professional team where reasonably required to support a development project.

*Executive (21.2.24)*

- c. Commission, submit and/or authorise as appropriate:
  - i) any applications for planning permission on any properties included in the programme where this will assist in marketing and/or add value, or in any case where the Council is proposing to redevelop the site whether directly or in partnership with another party.
  - ii) any surveys/investigations where such surveys will reduce the risks associated with redevelopment, add value to the capital receipt /revenue return and/or assist with the preparation, submission and resolution of any planning permission application, or any other usual pre-development survey or investigation.
  - iii) any feasibility study or design for the site and or premises in association with either obtaining a planning consent or as part of options appraisal.
  - iv) any demolitions or physical alterations that will either reduce the risks associated with holding the premises or accelerate the sale/redevelopment and/or add value to the capital receipt/revenue return.
- d. Offset eligible disposal costs against capital receipts in accordance with capital regulations.
- e. Advertise the intention to dispose of a site in the event that it comprises open space as defined by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, in accordance with the relevant statutory procedure, and if any objections are received, to refer to the relevant portfolio holder for consideration in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Regulatory Services.
- f. Acquire adjacent land or property where the acquisition will either add value to the overall development or de-risk the disposal/development of the Council asset.
- g. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration and the Director of Finance and Systems, to add or substitute sites into the programme during the year including sites with a value of over £499,999.
- h. Transfer sites from Category 1 to Category 2, and vice versa
- i. Commission security services.
- j. Authorise alternative methods of disposal where appropriate.
- k. Authorise community engagement and consultations where the Corporate Director of Place deems it necessary or advantageous.
- l. In relation to any site currently in development or any site which commences development during this programme, agree any licence or approve the grant of any easement or lease or any other disposal, including where that disposal taken in isolation would constitute a disposal at undervalue, which is designed or intended to implement or facilitate the development.
- m. Authorise marketing, pricing and disposal strategies and authorise the sale of plots, either individually or in blocks, including where the anticipated or actual capital receipt exceeds £499,999.

4. Delegate authority to the Director of Legal and Governance in consultation with the Corporate Director of Place and, where appropriate, the Director for Finance and Systems, to finalise and enter into all legal agreements required to implement the Disposal Programme for 2024/25

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**90. EXECUTIVE'S REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2024/25 AND MTFS 2025/26 - 2026/27**

The Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems presented a report which sets out the Executive's updated 3 year budget strategy, detailed revenue budget proposals for 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2025/26 - 2026/27.

RESOLVED: That the Executive recommends the Council to that it

- 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.
- 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 the updated 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 MTFS to increase Council Tax by
  - An increase in the 'relevant basic amount' of 1.99% in 2025/26 and 2026/27, and
  - 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.

*Executive (21.2.24)*

- 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 (incl an updated Appendix 2).
- 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 and confirms that in recommending approval of the above, it has taken into consideration:
  - r) The objective assessment by the Director of Finance and Systems of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of the financial reserves (Section 1 and 6).
  - s) The Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations to the budget proposals as included in a separate report on the agenda.

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t) The Council's Public Sector Equality duty.

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

**In addition, the Executive recommends that 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).

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.

## **91. CAPITAL STRATEGY, ASSET INVESTMENT STRATEGY, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL & LOCAL INDICATORS 2024/27**

The Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems presented a report which highlights the Council's investment plans for the next three years taking into account the estimated resources to be made available from Government as well as the Council's own resources.

Resolved: That Executive approves the: -

1. Capital Programme as detailed in Section 2 and Appendix 1.
2. Schemes to be undertaken from the "block" budget allocations reported in paragraph 14 and detailed in the updated Appendix 2.

That Executive recommends the Council to approve:-

3. The Capital Strategy including Prudential and Local Indicators in Section 1.
4. The overall Capital Programme in the sum of £413.15m for the period 2024/27 comprising £154.56m in respect of the General Capital

*Executive (21.2.24)*

Programm (as detailed in Section 2) and an Asset Investment Strategy Gross expenditure budget of £258.59m for the period 2024/27 and continues to work within the previously approved budget envelope of £500m.

5. The continuation of the existing Asset Investment Strategy included in Appendix 3.
6. The flexible use of capital receipts as detailed in Capital Strategy (Section 2 paragraph 9).

## **92. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/25 - 2026/27**

The Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems presented a report regarding the Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 – 2026-27.

RESOLVED: That the Executive notes the report and recommends that Council approves:

- the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 – 2026/27 including the:
- policy on debt strategy as set out in section 4;
- the updated policy on Minimum Revenue Provision in section 5;
- Investment Strategy as set out in section 6;
- Prudential Indicators and limits including the Authorised Limit (as required by section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003), Operational Boundary, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and Investment criteria as detailed in Appendix 2.

## **93. FEES CHARGES AND ALLOWANCES 2024/25**

The Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems presented a report which summarises the salient features of the annual review and pricing of the Council's main fees and charges.

RESOLVED: That the Executive recommends that Council approves the following:

- 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 booklet available on the Council's web site;
- The joint delegation of authority to each Corporate Director and the 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 the rate of VAT, as appropriate;

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- The joint delegation of authority to each Corporate Director and the 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.

**94. EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2024/25**

The Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance presented a report which contains a detailed response to each of the points raised by the Scrutiny Committee in their report to the Executive of 29 January 2023.

The Leader placed on record his thanks to the Scrutiny Committee for the work engagement over the last few months around the budget process and the suggestions put forward in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee be approved.

**95. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and finished at 6.12 pm



## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Executive

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Report for:** Information

**Report of:** Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration

### Report Title

**Places for Everyone Plan: A Joint Development Plan Document for nine Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) 2022-2039 (The Places for Everyone Plan).**

### Summary

**This report provides details of the proposed Places for Everyone Plan - incorporating the Main Modifications, amendments to the Policies Map and Additional Modifications - in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ("2012 Regulations") and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ("2004 Act").**

### Recommendation(s)

**It is recommended that the Executive:**

- (i) Notes the findings of the Inspectors' Report and the Main Modifications to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document proposed by the independent Inspectors, as set out in Appendix 1.1 and 1.2 to this report, for incorporation into the final version of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.
- (ii) Notes the amendments to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document Policies Map, as set out in Appendix 2 to this report, for incorporation of all the changes which relate to Trafford's administrative area into the Composite Policies Map.
- (iii) Notes the Additional Modifications to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document, as set out in Appendix 3 to this report, for incorporation into the final version of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.

- (iv) Recommends that Council adopt the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document 2022 – 2039 (provided in Appendix 4), with effect from 21 March 2024 – incorporating the Main Modifications and Additional Modifications – as part of the Development Plan for Trafford, in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)
- (v) Recommends that Council adopt the Policies Map (Appendix 5) which incorporates the Modifications to it (Appendix 2) and is necessary to give effect to the policies of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.
- (vi) Notes that delegated authority will be given to the Corporate Director of Place to make any minor non material editorial amendments to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document and Policies Map ahead of its final publication, subject to consultation and agreement with the eight other Places for Everyone authorities. These amendments will be limited to correcting minor errors and formatting text.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Adrian Fisher (Director of Regulatory Services) 0161 912 2000

Stephen James (Head of Growth, Communities & Housing) x 4330

Caroline Wright (Strategic Planning and Growth Manager) 07890 032576

#### Appendices:

Due to the large sizes of the various appendices these will be viewable on the [GMCA website](#).

- Appendix 1.1: Inspectors' Report (Document 1 of 2)
- Appendix 1.2: Inspectors' Report Appendix - Main Modifications to the Plan (Document 2 of 2)
- Appendix 2: Schedule of Policies Map changes
- Appendix 3: Consultation Report into the Additional Modifications incorporating the Schedule of Additional Modifications
- Appendix 4: Places for Everyone Plan for Adoption
- Appendix 5: Places for Everyone Policies Map

- Appendix 6: Correspondence between the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Secretary of State
- Appendix 7: Schedule of Policy number changes between the Submitted PfE Plan (SD1) and the PfE Plan being presented for Adoption
- Council Report Appendix A: Trafford Council Approvals Chronology Prior to Regulation 19 (July 2021)
- Council Report Appendix B: Inspection Locations in Trafford

Background Papers:

None.

Implications:

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The Places for Everyone Joint Local Plan (PfE) will provide the overall strategic planning context for Development Management and the Trafford Local Plan, which will contribute to all of the Council's Corporate Priorities, in particular addressing our climate crisis.
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	PfE is being produced in partnership with the GMCA and nine GM LA's (excluding Stockport) and will be one the key strategic policy documents produced at the GM level.
Financial	<p>The costs of the preparation and examination of the Places for Everyone Plan 2021 are being shared by GMCA and the nine districts within the plan area. A substantial evidence base was assembled to support the plan which involved the commissioning of specialist and independent experts. Following the submission of PfE to the Secretary of State, the independent examination began. Further revenue costs associated with the examination process included the appointment of Programme Officers, the cost of the examination itself, including the procurement of the venue, Planning Inspectors and legal advice/representation. Following adoption, further costs may be incurred in relation to the monitoring of the plan and also should the decision to adopt the Plan be legally challenged. For Trafford, any new costs are expected to be covered from Reserves that have been specifically earmarked.</p> <p>There are no current revenue implications.</p> <p>There are no capital consequences identified.</p>
Legal Implications	The legislative and constitutional requirements for the preparation of a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ("2004 Act") and

	<p>the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (“2012 Regulations”) have been complied with.</p> <p>The joint DPD was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination (s20 of the 2004 Act) along with the documents prescribed by Regulation 22 of the 2012 Regulations. Prior to its submission to the Secretary of State, the joint DPD was published and representations were invited, pursuant to Regulation 19 and Regulation 20 of the 2012 Regulations. Following Submission, the Joint DPD was subject to independent examination, as prescribed by section 20 of the Act; the modifications consultation stage which took place between October and December 2023 fell within that stage of the plan preparation process. The Inspectors issued their report on 14 February 2024 which signals the end of the examination stage. It is now the case that the nine districts must either accept in full the recommendations in their report or reject them in full.</p> <p>In accordance with section 23 of the 2004 Act, the Places for Everyone Joint Local Plan must be adopted by a resolution of the full Council.</p> <p>As with all Local Plans, there is a risk that a legal challenge to the adoption of the PfE Plan will be lodged. The council cannot prevent a person or organisation lodging such a legal challenge, but (with GMCA and the other eight authorities) it has mitigated for this possibility to reduce the risk of a successful challenge significantly by ensuring that all proper legal powers and procedures associated with the preparation of a Joint Local Plan have been followed.</p>
Equality/Diversity Implications	The Places for Everyone Plan is a statutory plan which seeks to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, delivering economic, social and environmental benefits together in a mutually reinforcing way. It is informed by an Integrated Appraisal which includes an Equalities assessment.
Sustainability Implications	The Places for Everyone Plan is supported by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which assessed the plan against a number of economic, social and environmental indicators to ensure that future development will be sustainable.
Carbon Reduction	The Places for Everyone Plan will provide the strategic planning policy framework to support the nine districts in meeting Greater Manchester’s ambition to be carbon neutral by 2038. The PfE plan chapter dedicated to Sustainable and Resilient Places contains several climate change and carbon reduction policies

	<p>against which all new developments will be assessed and expected to comply with, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy JP-S1: Sustainable Development, containing measures for reducing energy demand and increasing onsite renewable energy generation;</li> <li>• Policy JP-S2 Carbon and Energy, which sets out a range of methods to de-carbonise the city region through new and existing development, effective land management and through the provision of infrastructure and new technologies;</li> <li>• Policy JP-S3 Heat and Energy Networks, which sets out measures to deliver renewable and low carbon heat and energy schemes and identifies ‘Opportunity Areas’;</li> <li>• Policy JP-S4 Flood Risk and the Water Environment, which sets out water-based measures to adapt and reduce the impacts of climate change;</li> <li>• Policy JP-S5 Clean Air, which sets out a comprehensive range of measures to support improvements in air quality; and</li> <li>• Policy JP-S6 Resource Efficiency, which sets out measures to help achieve a circular and zero-waste economy.</li> </ul> <p>The Trafford allocations could also provide opportunities for decentralised, low carbon heat and energy networks. The PfE policies link to the Trafford Carbon Neutral Action Plan.</p>
Resource Implications e.g., Staffing / ICT / Assets	The Places for Everyone Plan is in part being produced by staff from within the Council’s Growth, Communities & Housing Service. The documents will be available to view electronically via the web. A small part of the allocations are on land or property owned by the Council.
Risk Management Implications	The Places for Everyone Plan is a key strategic planning document that will provide the context for the Trafford Local Plan. If it is not adopted it will impact on the scope and delivery of the Trafford Local Plan.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	The Places for Everyone Plan includes a number of policies which will encourage more people to make healthier choices in life, including promoting cycling and walking. It will therefore contribute towards improving the health and wellbeing of Trafford’s residents.
Health and Safety Implications	Not applicable

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Every Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Plan, with a requirement set in law that planning decisions must be taken in line with the Local Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Indeed, in a recent letter to the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Secretary of State has reaffirmed his Government's dedication to a plan-led system and its role in ensuring housing requirements are planned for appropriately (Appendix 6). The Places for Everyone Plan: A Joint Development Plan Document for nine Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) 2022-2039 (PfE) is the strategic spatial plan for the nine constituent boroughs and as such sets out a collective planning policy framework. All policies within the plan are "strategic policies". It is being prepared as a Joint Development Plan Document of the nine local planning authorities. Once the PfE Plan is adopted it will form part of Trafford's development plan and will be used to assess individual planning applications. As such Trafford's Local Plan will need to be consistent with it and neighbourhood plans will need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies.
- 1.2 The PfE Plan is a strategic plan, and it does not cover everything that Trafford's local plan would. Therefore, Trafford's Local Plan will set out more detailed policies including both strategic and non-strategic policies, as appropriate, reflecting local circumstances. Appendix A of the PfE Plan sets out the policies in the relevant adopted GM district local plans which will be replaced by the Places for Everyone Plan.
- 1.3 Trafford's Local Plan will be expected to look ahead a minimum period from its adoption, in line with national policy. In amending the plan period from 2020 to 2037 to 2022 to 2039 the PfE Plan will provide an appropriate strategic policy framework for 1.3 Trafford's Local Plan which will be produced, following its adoption.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 In 2014 the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities resolved to prepare a joint development plan, known as Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF). Following the decision of Stockport council to withdraw from the GMSF, the remaining nine GM authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) decided to progress a joint plan of the nine and this became known as “Places for Everyone” (PfE). Before “submission” the PfE Plan had been the subject of various consultations<sup>1</sup> since its inception in 2014:

- November 2014 - Scope of the plan and the initial evidence base (Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations)
- November 2015 - Vision, strategy and strategic growth options (Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations)
- October 2016 –Draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations)
- The Greater Manchester Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment: the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Revised Draft 2019 (GMSF 2019) (Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations)
- Publication version of Places for Everyone (Pre-Submission Consultation) 2021 (Regulation 19 of the 2012 Regulations)

2.2 Full details of the consultation undertaken, the key issues raised at each stage of consultation and how these issues have been taken into account in the plan making process up until submission, are set out in the Statement of Consultation 2022 which is available to view on the GMCA web site.

2.3 The PfE Plan was submitted to the to the Secretary of State on February 14, 2022, pursuant to Reg. 22 of the Local Planning Regulations (‘Submission stage’). This marked the beginning of the independent examination into the plan, the final stage in the plan making process. Three Inspectors were appointed to examine whether the submitted plan met the tests of soundness

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<sup>1</sup> [Places For Everyone - Documentation](#)

defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>2</sup> and met all the relevant legislative requirements, including the duty to co-operate<sup>3</sup>.

2.4 The public hearing sessions started at the beginning of November 2022 and sat for 12 weeks in total, including a final session at the beginning of July 2023.

2.5 The Inspectors' post hearing note (IN39) was published on the examination website<sup>4</sup> on 11th August 2023, setting out their conclusions on the key issues of soundness and the Main Modifications that would be required to ensure the Plan was sound. A consultation on the Main Modifications was carried out for a period of 8 weeks, between 11 October and 6 December 2023. More detail on this consultation is provided in Section 3 below.

2.6 Having considered the consultation responses to the Main Modifications, the Inspectors' Report was published by the GMCA on behalf of the nine local authorities on 15 February 2024. The Report concludes that subject to inclusion of the Main Modifications, the Plan is sound, complies with all relevant legal requirements and provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the nine boroughs. The Inspectors are satisfied that where necessary the local planning authorities engaged constructively, actively and on an on-going basis in the preparation of the Plan and that the duty to co-operate has been met.

2.7 It should be noted that the Council can only adopt the PfE Joint Development Plan Document if it incorporates all the Main Modifications as recommended by the independent Inspectors.

### **3.0 MAIN MODIFICATIONS**

3.1 The Inspectors' post hearing note (IN39) set out their conclusions on the key issues of soundness. In summary the Inspectors concluded that:

- No significant changes were required to the spatial strategy policies.

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<sup>2</sup> The tests of soundness in paragraph 35 of the NPPF require that the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 24 of the NPPF requires that local planning authorities cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.

<sup>4</sup> [Places For Everyone Joint DPD Examination Website](#)



- No significant changes were required in relation to the scale of distribution of employment and housing.
- Exceptional circumstances case was not made for release of Green Belt sites JPA10 (Global Logistics) and JPA28 (North of Irlam Station).
- Exceptional circumstances case was not made for 31 of the 49 proposed Green Belt Additions.
- Some Modifications were required to policy wording to ensure that they were consistent, removed duplication and were therefore effective.

- 3.2 A schedule of Main Modifications was prepared and agreed with the Inspectors. A schedule of 'Additional Modifications' was also prepared. These were amendments which were not required to address issues of soundness, for example typographical issues, but were included for completeness. The Inspectors have not considered the responses to the additional modifications, this is a role for the districts and a report summarising the responses is attached (Appendix 3). The additional modifications (taken together) do not materially affect the policies set out in the PfE Plan if it is adopted with the Main Modifications. A composite plan was prepared which showed the Main Modifications and Additional Modifications to help people understand the proposed changes and help them to respond to the consultation.
- 3.3 The Main Modifications underwent further Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment, which were consulted on, alongside the modifications themselves. All of the Main Modifications consultation documents are available to view on the GMCA website.
- 3.4 Following approval by all nine PfE authorities, (details of the individual meetings can be found on the GMCA website), the Modifications were published for a period of public consultation which ran for 8 weeks, from 11 October – 6 December 2023. 177 representations were received in total. A list of respondents is published on the examination website (see Examination document RMM1). All of the responses are available on the GMCA website.
- 3.5 A report listing all of the representations, a summary of the main issues raised and a brief response to those main issues was prepared and published on the examination website (see Examination document RMM2).
- 3.6 A 'Summary of Key Issues' report was also prepared and is available on the examination website (see Examination document RMM3). The main issues raised related to:
- Extension of the plan period
  - Relationship to district local plans
  - Cancellation of HS2

- Implications of proposed changes to National Planning Policy Framework
- Approach to Brownfield Land in Sustainable Development policy (JP-S1)
- Modifications to the Carbon and Energy policy (JP-S2)
- Modifications to the Affordable Housing policy (JP-H2)
- Retention of the Walshaw (JPA9) site
- Approach to streamlining allocation policies
- Inadequacy of Integrated Assessment
- Inadequacy of consultation

3.7 It was not considered that any new substantive issues were raised during the consultation which required further work and/or further hearing sessions, however a small number of further Main Modifications were identified which were considered necessary to make the plan sound, particularly in relation to HS2. A schedule of these further main modifications was submitted to the Inspectors and is published on the examination website (see Examination document RMM4).

#### **4.0 CHANGES TO NATIONAL POLICY**

4.1 Following the closure of the Modifications consultation, Government published two documents which had potential implications for PfE.

4.2 Government published a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) on energy efficiency on 13 December 2023, alongside a consultation on the Future Homes and Buildings Standard. It states that “the Government does not expect plan-makers to set local energy efficiency standards for buildings that go beyond current or planned buildings regulations”. The WMS goes on to clarify that:

“Any planning policies that propose local energy efficiency standards for buildings that go beyond current or planned buildings regulation should be rejected at examination if they do not have a well-reasoned and robustly costed rationale that ensures:

- That development remains viable, and the impact on housing supply and affordability is considered in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

- The additional requirement is expressed as a percentage uplift of a dwelling’s Target Emissions Rate (TER) calculated using a specified version of the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP).”
- 4.3 A further main modification was proposed to policy JP-S2 to reflect this statement (see Examination document RMM4).
- 4.4 A revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 19 December 2023 (as amended). In terms of PfE, the most significant section is the provision in Annex 1, paragraph 230 (‘transitional arrangements’):
- “The policies in this Framework (published on 19 December 2023) will apply for the purpose of examining plans, where those plans reach regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (pre-submission) stage after 19 March 2024. Plans that reach pre-submission consultation on or before this date will be examined under the relevant previous version of the Framework ....”
- 4.5 The ‘pre-submission’ stage referred to is the Regulation 19 or ‘Publication’ stage. The Publication stage consultation on the PfE plan took place in August 2021, therefore it will continue to be examined under the relevant previous version of the Framework and is unaffected by the changes in the December 2023 version in relation to plan-making.
- 4.6 Once the PfE plan is adopted, the policies in NPPF December 2023 will apply until such time as it is superseded.
- 4.7 A further Main Modification was proposed in relation to Policy JP-H1 to reflect the proposed changes to the requirement for local authorities to maintain a 5-year supply of housing sites.

## **5.0 THE INSPECTOR’S REPORT**

- 5.1 The Inspectors’ Report<sup>5</sup> was published by the GMCA on behalf of the nine local authorities on 15 February 2024. The report concludes “that all legal

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<sup>5</sup> Please note that PfE Plan policy and paragraph numbers referenced in the Inspectors’ Report, relate to the Submission version of the Plan – Examination document reference [SD1](#) (For reference, a schedule of current and submitted plan policy numbers is provided in Appendix 7).

requirements have been met and that with the recommended main modifications set out in the Appendix the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document for Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan satisfies the requirements referred to in Section 20(5)(a) of the 2004 Act and is sound” (paragraph 938).

5.2 The main modifications can be summarised as follows:

- Various changes to clarify the relationship between, and relative roles of, the Plan, and individual local plans, and to clarify that the Plan does not apply to the parts of Oldham that are within the Peak District National Park.
- Extension of the plan period to look ahead to 2039 (rather than 2037), and updates to the housing and employment land supply information to 2022 (rather than 2021).
- Clarifications to spatial strategy policies JP-Strat1 to JP-Strat11 and associated diagrammatic maps, and deletion of High Crompton Broad Location from policy JP-Strat7.
- Extensive changes to the detailed wording of site allocation policies JPA1 to JPA37 to ensure they are consistent with national policy, justified, internally consistent and effective in achieving sustainable development having regard to relevant site-specific issues.
- Deletion of allocation JPA10 Global Logistics and retention of parts of the site in the Green Belt.
- Deletion of allocation JPA28 North of Irlam Station and retention of the site in the Green Belt.
- Amendments to the site boundaries of allocations JPA1.2 Simister and Bowlee; JPA3.2 Timperley Wedge; JPA14 Broadbent Moss; JPA18 South of Rosary Road; JPA26 Hazelhurst Farm; and JPA32 South of Hyde.
- Modifications to policies JP-S1 to JP-S7 to ensure consistency with national policy and effectiveness, including deletion of policy JP-S4 Resilience as it serves no decision-making purpose.
- Modifications to policies JP-J1 to JP-J4 to reflect changes to the plan period, and to remove unnecessary or inconsistent requirements.

- Clarifications to policies JP-H1 to JP-H4 relating to housing development, and changes to the approaches to phasing and five-year supply to ensure consistency with national policy and that housing needs are met as soon as possible.
- Modifications to policies JP-G1 to JP-G7 to ensure consistency with national policy and effectiveness.
- Changes to JP-G5, JP-G9, JP-C7 and relevant site allocation policies relating to the South Pennine Moors, Rochdale Canal and Manchester Mosses protected habitats having regard to the habitat regulations assessment.
- Changes to policies JP-G9 and site allocation policies relating to biodiversity including any irreplaceable habitats on sites containing peat.
- Changes to JP-G2 and site allocation policies to secure compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt.
- Deletion of policy JP-G8 relating to green space standards.
- Deletion of policy JP-G11 relating to safeguarded land.
- Modifications to policies JP-Strat12, JP-P1 to JP-P7 to ensure consistency with national policy and effectiveness.
- Inclusion of an additional policy in chapter 10 relating to the strategic road network.
- Various changes to the transport improvements referred to in the Plan, and addition of Appendix D setting out indicative transport mitigations for each allocation.
- Deletion of 30 of the 49 Green Belt additions proposed in the Plan.
- A number of other modifications to ensure that the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

5.3 The Inspectors did not consider that the further main modification to Policy JP-S2 referred to in Section 4 above, was necessary to make the plan sound. Their reasons are set out in paragraph 721-724 of their Report.

5.4 The Inspectors accepted the proposed further modification to Policy JP-H1 referred to in Section 4 above and proposed some further wording to the

reasoned justification. There is a typographical error in the Main Modifications schedule in relation to MM7.2 at paragraph 7.19. This should read Table 7.2 not Table 7.1.

## **6.0 POLICIES MAP**

- 6.1 The Policies Map is not defined in legislation as a development plan document. This means it is not formally part of the PfE Plan that it is intended will be adopted, nor was it within the Planning Inspectors' remit to recommend main modifications to it. However, local planning authorities must maintain an adopted Policies Map which illustrates geographically the application of the policies in the adopted development plan.
- 6.2 When the PfE Plan was submitted for examination, the PfE authorities were required to provide a Submission Policies Map showing the changes to the adopted Policies Maps within the PfE authorities, that would result from the proposals in the submitted PfE Plan. Subsequent to this, a number of modifications to the Policies Map were proposed during the plan's examination and these were consulted upon alongside the Main and Additional Modifications.
- 6.3 The Council will adopt the Policies Map (Appendix 5) incorporating the changes in so far as they relate to Trafford's administrative area into the Composite Policies Map.

## **7.0 FORMAL GOVERNANCE AND APPROVALS PROCESS FOR THE PFE PLAN**

- 7.1 For clarification and brevity, the chronology and brief description of relevant approvals and previous reports pertaining to the Places for Everyone Plan following the withdrawal Stockport from the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) in December 2020 are set out below. A chronology of approvals prior to this stage is provided in Council Report Appendix A.

- [Report to AGMA Executive Board - December 2020](#) - Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment: Greater

Manchester Spatial Framework Publication Plan 2020 - Next Steps following withdrawal of Stockport

- [Report to AGMA Executive Board February 2021](#) – set out the further details on the next steps to prepare a Joint Plan of the 9 GM districts to be known as ‘Places for Everyone.’
- [Trafford Executive March 2021](#) – agreement given to Trafford establishing a Joint Committee of the nine Greater Manchester Councils together with Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, and Wigan; and to delegate the formulation and preparation of the Joint Development Plan document to cover housing and employment land requirements including, as appropriate, strategic site allocations and Green Belt boundary amendments and associated infrastructure across the nine Greater Manchester LAs to that Committee
- [Report to Places for Everyone Joint Committee - July 2021](#) – agreed that the PfE Publication plan had substantially the same effect as the GMSF 2020 plan, approved the Regulation 19 consultation of the PfE 2021 Publication Plan and approved submission of the PfE Publication Plan 2021 to the Secretary of State following consultation
- [Trafford Executive July 2021](#) – approved the Regulation 19 consultation of the PfE 2021 Publication Plan and delegated authority to approve relevant Statements of Common Ground
- [Trafford Council July 2021](#) – approved the submission of the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021 to the Secretary of State
- [District Governance Meetings - July 2021](#) – all districts approvals for submission of the Places for Everyone 2021 for to the Secretary of State
- [Trafford Executive July 2022](#) – approval of delegated authority to agree modifications to the Plan that arise throughout the Examination in Public
- [Trafford Executive September 2023](#) – approval of consultation on Main and Additional Modifications to the PfE Plan
- [District Governance Meetings - Sept/Oct 2023](#) – all districts’ approvals of consultation on Main and Additional Modifications to the Plan



## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR TRAFFORD OF THE PFE PLAN AS MODIFIED**

- 8.1 Section 3 of this report provides a summary of the modifications proposed to the plan as a whole, which principally comprises strategic, thematic and allocation policies.
- 8.2 All of the thematic policies and relevant strategic policies in the Plan will be applicable to Trafford and will be used in the determination of planning applications from the point of adoption, alongside the remaining Core Strategy and UDP policies.
- 8.3 A number of modifications were proposed to the Trafford allocation policies for Timperley Wedge and New Carrington, which were set out and summarised in the September 2023 Executive report, and subject to the Main Modifications consultation. For ease, these are set out in brief detail in the following paragraphs.
- 8.4 The overall amount of development proposed for each allocation remains unchanged from that contained in the submitted plan, as reported to Council in July 2021. Any amendments to the figures are a consequence of the required plan period change from 2020 – 2037 to 2022 - 2039.
- 8.5 For Timperley Wedge this means that the allocation policy (JPA 3.2) identifies development of 1,700 homes and 15,000 sqm of employment land in Plan period to 2039, and 2,500 residential units and 60,000 sqm of employment land in total extending beyond the plan period. A minimum of 45% of the homes will be affordable.
- 8.6 For New Carrington, the allocation policy (JPA 33) identifies 4,300 homes to be delivered in the Plan period to 2039, and 5,000 homes in total beyond the Plan period; as well as around 350,000 sqm employment floorspace for industry and warehousing. A minimum of 15% of the homes will be affordable.

Other proposed modifications to Trafford's allocation policies included:

- Timperley Wedge - one minor modification to the Green Belt boundary to include all of the ponds at the Davenport Green Site of Biological Interest

(SBI) within the Green Belt rather than within the developable area, for clarity and accuracy.

- New Carrington - additional policy requirements in relation to peat, following the specific hearing session on 5 July 2023. These relate to a need for hydrological and ground investigation studies to inform the masterplan, as well as suitable compensation strategies (where appropriate).
- Removal of generic policy criteria to avoid repetition and/or inconsistency with other policies in the Plan. The policy requirements have not been deleted but are covered by other policies in the Plan. This approach was applied to all proposed site allocations in in the Plan.

8.7 The Plan still maintains the requirement for development of both allocations to be in accordance with a Masterplan approved by the Local Planning Authority.

8.8 Masterplans for both of Trafford's allocations are in the early stages of preparation. The Council is preparing the masterplan for New Carrington whilst the masterplan for Timperley Wedge is being prepared by the landowners. Further detail and information on the masterplans such as papers, relevant evidence and timetables are/ will be publicly available on the dedicated masterplan webpages on the Council website.

8.9 Both masterplans will be the subject of future public consultation and further reports to the Executive and/or Council as appropriate.

#### **New Modifications following Main Modifications Consultation**

8.10 Following the Government's announcement on 4 October 2023 that High-Speed 2 (HS2) Phases 2a and 2b be cancelled, it has been necessary to propose a number of further Main Modifications to update the references to HS2 in the Plan, including within the Timperley Wedge allocation policy.

8.11 The corresponding publication of the Government's 'Network North – Transforming British Transport' on 4 October 2023, maintains the intention to deliver Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) "as previously planned, including high-speed lines" along with a commitment to work with local leaders to agree

how this can be achieved. Consequently, and with the HS2 Phase 2b safeguarding direction still in place, the Timperley Wedge policy has been amended to broadly replace 'HS2' with 'NPR' and to remove specific references to the proposed HS2 scheme design and mitigations. Additionally, the word 'new' has been added before 'Airport Station' in paragraph 11.88 of the

reasoned justification. This minor amendment is considered to be non-material but is helpful to clarify what is meant.

- 8.12 One further Main Modification has been made to the New Carrington allocation policy, through the addition of the word 'New' before 'Carrington' under one of the policy criteria, to ensure it is clear that the requirement applies across the whole of the site.

## **9.0 RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TRAFFORD LOCAL PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

- 9.1 The Places for Everyone Plan is the strategic spatial plan for the nine constituent boroughs and as such sets out a collective planning policy framework. Once the Places for Everyone Plan is adopted it will form part of Trafford Council's Development Plan and will replace some of the policies (fully or in part) in the adopted Core Strategy.

- 9.2 A schedule of the policies within Trafford's adopted Core Strategy (2012) which will be replaced by the Places for Everyone Plan is set out in Appendix A of the Plan.

- 9.3 Going forwards, under the current planning system, Trafford's new Local Plan will need to be consistent with the Places for Everyone Plan, and neighbourhood plans will need to be in general conformity with PfE's strategic policies.

- 9.4 The evidence that underpins the Places for Everyone Plan will also inform Trafford's new Local Plan but, as a strategic plan, it does not cover everything that the new Local Plan would. Therefore, Trafford's new Local Plan will set out more detailed policies including both strategic and non-strategic policies, as appropriate, reflecting local circumstances.

- 9.5 Trafford's new Local Plan will be expected to look ahead a minimum period from its adoption, in line with national policy. In amending the plan period from 2020 to 2037 to 2022 to 2039 the PfE Plan should provide an appropriate strategic policy framework for Trafford's new Local Plan which will be produced, following its adoption. However, in the event that Trafford's Local Plan looks

beyond 2039, the minimum requirement figures set out in Policies JP-J3, JP-J4 and JP-H1 should be used to inform Local Plan target(s).

## **10.0 INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT**

10.1 The Integrated Assessment (IA) has contributed to the development of the PfE through an iterative assessment, which reviewed the draft policies and the discrete site allocations against the IA framework. This has ensured the full range of environmental impacts have been assessed and appropriate mitigation measures included, where necessary. The IA documentation can be found in documents SD8 to SD17 and MDC6 to MDC12.

## **11.0 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT**

11.1 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to several distinct stages of Assessment which must be undertaken in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) to determine if a plan or project may affect the protected features of a habitats site before deciding whether to undertake, permit or authorise it.

11.2 The PfE2021 was assessed as a Plan which was considered likely to have significant effect on one or more European protected site and was therefore informed (and accompanied) by an HRA (November 2022) with mitigation measures identified as appropriate, as set out in the HRA of PfE, November 2022. The outcome of the screening assessment of the Main Modifications to the PfE was that none of them would have a Likely Significant Effect on European designated sites and therefore do not change the findings of the HRA of the PfE, November 2022.

11.3 In November 2022 the HRA concluded that traffic levels resulting from a combined impact of development proposed in both the PfE Plan and Warrington's local plan could create an adverse air quality impact on the Holcroft Moss compartment of the Manchester Mosses SAC. Consequently, air quality mitigation is proposed in both the PfE Plan and the Warrington Local Plan for the Holcroft Moss site, in the form of a developer contribution towards a Habitat Mitigation Plan and the provision of measures to reduce reliance of cars, reduce trip generation and promote ultra-low vehicle emissions. The

details of the developer contribution will be set out in district supplementary planning documents following adoption of the PfE plan.

11.4 The HRA of the PfE, November 2022 also identified an adverse impact on the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPAs as a result of increased recreation pressure arising out of development levels proposed in the PfE. Consequently, the PfE Plan proposes recreation disturbance mitigation in the form of a development exclusion zone within 400m of the Moors, a requirement to assess and mitigate land for functionally linked habitats within 2.5km of the Moors and a requirement for development to provide or contribute towards the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace and a Strategic Access, Monitoring and Management Strategy within 7km of the Moors remains a suitable mitigation package. Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside councils will set out details of the developer contribution in district supplementary planning documents.

## **12.0 NEXT STEPS**

12.1 Subject to and following Council's decision, officers will complete the final tasks that need to be undertaken in order to meet the requirements of the relevant regulations. This includes preparing an Adoption Statement and making the following documents available on the council's website and at the Council's inspection locations<sup>6</sup>.

- Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document (PfE Plan)
- Places for Everyone Policies Map
- Integrated Appraisal Reports (including Sustainability Appraisal Report)
- Adoption Statement
- Details of where the PfE Plan is available for inspection and the times at which the document can be inspected.

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<sup>6</sup> The inspection points in Trafford are detailed in Appendix B of this Council report.

- 12.2 The council will issue the Adoption Statement in line with the relevant regulations.
- 12.3 In addition to these documents, in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the council will publish a Sustainability Appraisal post adoption statement, which explains how the sustainability appraisal reports undertaken at various stages during the preparation of the PfE Plan meet the requirements of these regulations.
- 12.4 Once the PfE Plan has been adopted, it will become part of the statutory development plan for Trafford with immediate effect. This means that it will have full weight in the determination of planning applications in Trafford. Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 12.5 If the council adopts the PfE Plan, in accordance with section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), any person aggrieved by the adoption of the PfE Plan can only challenge this by making an application to the High Court on one of two grounds; that the PfE Plan is not within the appropriate power, i.e. any action that went further than the powers that are authorised under Part 2 of the Act, or a procedural requirement has not been complied with (these are terms cited within the Act). An application for leave to challenge must be made before the end of the period of six weeks beginning with the day after the relevant date, which for the purposes of the PfE Plan, begins on 22 March 2024 (the day after adoption of the plan comes into effect) and runs until 2 May 2024.
- 12.6 The High Court may make an interim order suspending the operation of the relevant development plan document or quash the plan wholly or in part. The purpose of this provision is to provide certainty as to the legal validity of the PfE Plan and to prevent later challenges.
- 12.7 The PfE Plan contains a monitoring framework with targets and indicators which will be used to monitor the achievement of the policies and reported on. Although the plan covers the period to 2039, in accordance with paragraph 33 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the policies in local plans

should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary. The review process is a method to ensure that a plan and the policies within it remain effective. As explained in chapter 12 of the PfE Plan, the outcomes of PfE monitoring will form part of each PfE district's Local Plan Authority Monitoring Reports.

### **13.0 OTHER OPTIONS**

13.1 The alternative option is to not adopt the PfE Plan. This would have significant implications for each of the nine districts who have worked collaboratively on the preparation of the plan for around 10 years and would reduce the ability of the constituent districts to manage development under the plan-led system, undermining the Government's aim for each local planning authority to have an up-to-date adopted plan.

13.2 The Places for Everyone document is a key document setting out where potential development is likely in the future. As such, there are significant risks to the council if the PfE Plan is not adopted. These include:

- reputational damage (having invested significantly in the preparation of a Joint Plan, only then to not adopt and use a Plan found sound by independent planning inspectors);
- reduced ability to access funding associated with new development to provide essential infrastructure and to facilitate investment in the economy and communities of Trafford;
- not having an up-to-date Development Plan and, associated with this, not having up-to-date policies for the supply of housing, meaning that the council has less control on planning decisions for new housing in the borough;
- failure to provide relevant planning policies to guide development that would be essential to meet the Council's Corporate Priorities; and
- potential intervention by the Secretary of State.

13.3 Not adopting the PfE Plan would also likely require Trafford to deliver a higher amount of housing, requiring the release of more Green Belt land and would



also incur substantial additional costs which cannot be recovered from the time and resources expended to date on PfE.

13.4 There are, therefore, no realistic alternative options available that would be in the best interests of Trafford's residents, businesses, communities, or environments. The PfE Plan ensures that development in the Plan area and Trafford can come forward in a sustainable manner giving developers, investors, communities, and the Council certainty in decisions on planning matters.

#### **14.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

14.1 The PfE Plan enables a strategic approach to delivering growth and housing needs in the Plan area and in Trafford, and it sets the strategic framework for the Local Plan. Adopting the PfE Plan will provide Trafford with an up-to-date Development Plan and enable the Local Plan to be progressed, which will set out more detailed policies reflecting local circumstances for other places and communities of the borough.

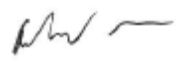
**Key Decision** (as defined in the Constitution): No

**If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given?** N/A

**Finance Officer Clearance**      **PC**

**Legal Officer Clearance**      **DS**

**[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE**



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

## **Council Report Appendix A: Trafford Council Approvals Chronology Prior to Regulation 19 (July 2021)**

### **Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF)**

1. [Greater Manchester Combined Authority/ AGMA Executive Board August 2014](#) - agreed that the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) should be progressed as a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) and approval of public consultation.
2. [Trafford Special Executive March 2015](#) – recommendation to Council that responsibility for production of all stages of the GMSF Development Plan Document (DPD) other than publication, submission and adoption be delegated to the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Executive Board (Joint Committee)
3. [Trafford Council March 2015](#) – approval of delegated responsibility for production of all stages of the GMSF Development Plan Document (DPD) other than publication, submission and adoption to the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Executive Board (Joint Committee)
4. [Greater Manchester Combined Authority/ AGMA Executive Board October 2015](#) – approval for public consultation on strategic growth options
5. [Greater Manchester Combined Authority/ AGMA Executive Board October 2016](#) – approval for six weeks of public consultation on Draft GMSF
6. [Greater Manchester Combined Authority/ AGMA Executive Board January 2019](#) – approval for public consultation on GMSF: Revised Draft 2019
7. [Trafford Executive November 2020](#) – approval for the Regulation 19 consultation of the GMSF 2020 Publication Plan and delegated authority to approve relevant Statements of Common Ground

## **Council Report Appendix B: Inspection Locations in Trafford**

<b>Inspection Location</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Trafford Town Hall Library, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0TH	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	Closed	Closed
Sale Library, Sale Waterside, Sale, M33 7ZF	10am – 7pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 7pm	10am - 4pm	Closed
Hale Library, 25 Cecil Road, Hale, Altrincham, WA15 9SD	10am - 5pm	10am – 7pm	Closed	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 4pm	Closed
Altrincham Library, 2 Pott Street, Altrincham, WA14 1AH	9am – 8:30pm*	9am – 8:30pm*	9am – 8:30pm*	9am – 8:30pm*	9am – 8:30pm*	10am - 4pm*	Closed
Timperley Library, 405 Stockport, Timperley, Altrincham, WA15 7XR	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	Closed	10am – 7pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 4pm	Closed
Partington Library, Partington Library and Wellbeing Centre, 91 Central Road, Partington, Manchester, M31 4FL	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	Closed	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 4pm	Closed
Coppice Library, Coppice Library and Wellbeing Centre, Coppice Avenue, Sale, M33 4N	8am - 8pm*	8am - 8pm*	8am - 7pm*	8am - 7pm*	8am - 7pm*	10am - 5:30pm*	Closed
*Open+ access: <a href="https://www.trafford.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-lifestyle/libraries/open-libraries.aspx">https://www.trafford.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-lifestyle/libraries/open-libraries.aspx</a>							

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## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Executive  
**Date:** 18 March 2024  
**Report for:** Information  
**Report of:** Executive Member for Communities and Safety

### Report Title

**Update on delivery of the Trafford VCFSE Strategy 2022-27**

### Summary

The Trafford VCFSE Strategy 2022-27 was published as a 5-year strategy to strengthen and create a foundation for a sustainable Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise sector in Trafford. This report summarises the highlights for the VCFSE sector since the publication of the strategy.

### Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Executive:

1. Notes the content and progress to date.
2. Agrees for the strategy to be reflected upon to determine next steps and agree the actions required to achieve the deliverables of the strategy.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Sarah Grant

Contact: [sarah.grant@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.grant@trafford.gov.uk)

*Implications:*

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	<i>The VCSFE Strategy will help to deliver on the Council's corporate priorities: reducing health inequalities, supporting people out of poverty, and addressing the climate crisis.</i>
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	<i>The VCSFE Strategy is in line with GM and national strategies and frameworks</i>
Financial	<i>There are no direct financial implications arising from this report</i>
Legal Implications:	<i>Any legal implications will be outlined within the report</i>
Equality/Diversity Implications	<i>The VCSFE strategy supports the equality duty on the Council</i>
Sustainability Implications	<i>The VCSFE Strategy supports sustainability</i>
Carbon Reduction	<i>The VCSFE Strategy outlines how the VCFSE sector can support carbon reduction</i>
Resource Implications e.g., Staffing/ICT /Assets	<i>No direct impact on the Council staffing nor asset budgets</i>
Risk Management Implications	<i>Challenges and mitigations are identified in the report</i>
Health & Wellbeing Implications	<i>Health and wellbeing will be improved through the implementation of this VCSFE Strategy through improved access to services and opportunities</i>
Health and Safety Implications	<i>No direct impact</i>

**1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Trafford VCFSE Strategy 2022-27 is a 5-year strategy jointly developed by partners to strengthen and create a foundation for a sustainable Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise sector in Trafford.
- 1.2 The strategy was approved and published in July 2022 following engagement with the VCFSE sector and relevant boards and partnerships. Oversight of the strategy originally sat with the Living Well in my Community Strategic Coordination Group.
- 1.3 Previous to this current strategy, the Trafford Partnership had published a Strategy for Building Strong Communities in 2015 which focused on the role of the VCFSE sector.
- 1.4 The four lead organisations involved in the development of the current strategy were Trafford Community Collective, L&Q (previously Trafford Housing Trust), Pulse Regeneration (Thrive Trafford) and Trafford Council. Public services and VCFSE organisations contributed to the content and development of the strategy through several workshops.
- 1.5 Oversight of the Trafford VCFSE Strategy sits with the Policy Team at Trafford Council, working in partnership with Trafford Community Collective, L&Q and Thrive Trafford, who are collectively responsible for the deliverables alongside the Council.
- 1.6 The strategy aligns with the GM VCFSE Accord published in October 2021.

1.7 This is the first time that progress of the Trafford VCFSE Strategy has been reported to the Executive since the publication of the strategy in July 2022.

## 2.0 Strategy Overview

2.1 The strategy recognises the strength and value of the VCFSE sector in our borough. The importance of the sector has become more evident in recent years where VCFSE organisations have shown great leadership in responding to the Covid pandemic and supporting communities. The VCFSE sector in Trafford contributes an estimated £139 million to the economy.

2.2 In Trafford, it is estimated there are over 1,622 voluntary and community organisations and 71% of these are micro-organisations working directly with local communities. There are an estimated 34,062 volunteers supporting our VCFSE sector.

2.3 The Trafford VCFSE Strategy highlights 5 strategic aims:

1. For the VCFSE sector in Trafford to grow and become more **resilient and sustainable**.
2. To embed the VCFSE sector in Trafford as a **strategic and influential partner**.
3. To support the VCFSE sector in Trafford to offer **meaningful volunteering** opportunities and pathways to employment.
4. To learn from best practice within the VCFSE sector on **effective community engagement**.
5. To enable local businesses, the VCFSE sector and public sector partners to work in collaboration and **deliver social value**.

2.4 This report summarises the highlights for the VCFSE sector since the publication of the strategy and the next steps for the VCFSE Strategy.

## 3.0 Trafford Community Hubs

Initially established in response to the Covid pandemic, the Trafford Community Hubs are providing valuable support for residents in their communities. A total of 9,330 Trafford residents were directly supported by the Community Hubs in 2023 and 2,301 residents received emergency support.

During the pandemic, funding was available to support the operational costs of the Community Hubs and to develop an enhanced volunteering service including the employment of Volunteer Coordinators within the Hubs. The Inclusive Neighbourhood Grants scheme has since been re-directed to fund the core services of the Community Hubs.

In 2023, the Trafford Community Collective (with the application led by Stretford Public Hall) secured £340,000 from the National Lottery Communities Fund to enable the continued employment of these Volunteer Coordinators in each of the six Community Hubs. The Volunteer Coordinators recruit and support volunteers across the VCFSE sector in their area, providing a more community based, coordinated approach to volunteering. This funding runs until August 2026.

One key deliverable of the strategy is for the VCFSE sector in Trafford to grow and become more resilient and sustainable. A working group has been established with the Community Hub leads and the Exec Member for Communities and Safety, to start these discussions and a range of partners are attending as required. This is a key piece of work for 2024.

#### **4.0 Coordinated Volunteering Support**

In 2023, an average of 327 active volunteers each month assisted the Community Hubs in engaging with communities; many of these volunteers have received support from the Hubs themselves in the past.

Alongside recruitment of Volunteer Coordinators at the Community Hubs during the pandemic, Trafford Council recruited a Volunteer Coordinator to manage the recruitment and training of volunteers for the Council as well as working alongside the VCFSE sector.

Thrive Trafford are part of the volunteering coordination infrastructure in the borough alongside the Community Hubs and Trafford Council. Thrive's annual target is to support 100 people in to volunteering opportunities and facilitate quarterly Volunteer Managers Network meetings which are well attended.

In summary, several organisations in Trafford provide resource in the coordination and recruitment of volunteers:

- Trafford Council: Volunteer Coordinator (full time)
- Thrive Trafford: Volunteer Coordinator (part-time) as part of the VCFSE infrastructure contract
- Trafford Community Collective: Volunteer Coordinator/Project Delivery Officer (one day per week)
- Trafford Community Hubs: Volunteer Coordinators (part-time) within each of the six Community Hubs funded by the National Lottery

The Council's Inclusive Economy and Communities Team are also working with the Council's Volunteer Coordinator and the Community Hubs to develop a volunteer programme providing support and training for people who wish to volunteer as a route to employment.

The Council's Strategic Partnerships and Policy Team and Inclusive Economy and Communities Team are working together to deliver the Trafford Community Awards Scheme in Autumn 2024; an event is planned to acknowledge the contribution of volunteers and VCFSE organisations in Trafford. The Awards will be hosted by Trafford College.

#### **5.0 Trafford Community Collective**

Trafford Council and NHS GM (Trafford) have contributed £225,000 to the development and sustainability of the Trafford Community Collective since 2020/21.

The Collective is a membership-based organisation representing the VCFSE sector in the borough. The most recent funding allocated to TCC will support the work of the lead partners, administration costs, marketing and to continue the post of Chief Officer/Strategic Lead at the Collective. This core funding has enabled the Collective to generate inward investment into Trafford, enabling the



organisation to expand its current deliverables and enable growth and aid sustainability.

Representatives of the Collective sit on several boards as a strategic partner to ensure representation of the VCFSE Sector and has been instrumental in the development of the new Integrated Care System for Greater Manchester, with representation on the Trafford Locality Board and Trafford Provider Collaborative Board.

In collaboration with Public Health and Trafford Local Care Organisation the Collective have led on the neighbourhood planning workstream; a key area of this work has been the development and delivery of neighbourhood workshops to support the development of integrated community-based services.

Workshops have been led by the Collective in all four neighbourhoods across Trafford which has led to the development of regular Neighbourhood Network meetings. The Collective have been integral to the development of the four Neighbourhood Plans, which identify priorities to be addressed over the life course of the Trafford Locality Plan.

The Collective operate three reference groups: the Children's Service Reference Group, Mental Health Reference Group and Diverse Communities Group. These reference groups have drawn in funding and enabled positive work to take place across the borough including the creation of a Children's Mental Health Link Worker.

## **6.0 Thrive Trafford: VCFSE Infrastructure Service**

Trafford Council continues to fund Thrive Trafford; our borough's VCFSE infrastructure service. The contract value is £110,000 per annum (October 2022 – September 2025), currently delivered by Pulse Regeneration Ltd and branded as Thrive Trafford.

Thrive Trafford provides opportunities for the sector to collaborate, signposts to funding and training resources, and supports residents looking for volunteering opportunities. Thrive also represents Trafford's VCFSE sector at a Greater Manchester level; attending several networks to collaborate with other boroughs and access wider opportunities.

Thrive Trafford provide quarterly reports detailing the outcomes of the infrastructure service. In 2023 Q2, the service supported 28 organisations with capacity building, supported 10 funding applications, delivered a VCFSE Strategic Forum attended by over 100 people, supported 30 people to find volunteering opportunities and published 205 social media posts raising awareness of opportunities for VCFSE organisations and volunteers.

Thrive Trafford represent our borough at a Greater Manchester level, opening new collaboration and funding opportunities for our VCFSE sector. Our borough is represented by Thrive Trafford at the GM VCFSE Leadership Group and GM LIO (Local Infrastructure Organisation) Group, working alongside the VCFSE infrastructure organisations from the other nine GM authorities.

Examples of accessing opportunities through the GM VCFSE ecosystem include:

- Discussions on the Live Well Joint Investment Fund; a new funding opportunity to enable VCFSE organisations to grow stronger healthier communities. Conversations with GM Integrated Care Partnership, Thrive Trafford, Trafford Community Collective, GM NHS Trafford and Trafford Council have taken place to co-produce how this project will be delivered.
- Involvement in GM Workforce Development and the creation of a central online GM hub and a shared HR support service for VCFSE organisations.
- GM Violence Reduction Alliance: support with the establishment of this GM funded programme and monthly partnership meetings between Trafford Council's Violence Reduction Officer, GM VRU lead, Trafford Community Collective and the new Trafford based Violence Reduction Alliance Facilitator (VRAF).
- GM Childhood Obesity Campaign: Thrive was commissioned to deliver focus group sessions and launch 'The Real Picture' survey.

Thrive Trafford and Trafford Community Collective work collaboratively to ensure VCFSE organisations know how and where to access the right support. VCFSE organisations are signposted between the two organisations depending on the need and support required; with Thrive Trafford providing infrastructure support and the Trafford Community Collective providing an opportunity for organisations to be part of a wider network and collaborate.

Thrive Trafford organise three VCFSE Strategic Forums per annum, bringing VCFSE organisations together with cross sector partners to codesign strategies, policies, and services. The Forums are regularly attended by over 60 VCFSE organisations and this was a key engagement forum in the development of the Trafford VCFSE Strategy.

Trafford Council representatives from the Strategic Partnerships and Policy Team attend the bi-monthly GM Local Authorities VCFSE Lead Officers meetings to collaborate with other local authorities on VCFSE strategy and infrastructure support.

## 7.0 **Commissioning Opportunities**

Trafford Council continues to commission a range of VCFSE organisations; recognising that they are often best placed to engage with and support communities.

Council teams commissioning programmes of work proactively identify where projects could be better delivered by VCFSE organisations in the borough. A recent example is the current tender for a new smoking cessation service; £140,000 is available for the service and applications are specifically open to VCFSE organisations with the knowledge that they are best placed to support residents within their own communities.

## 8.0 **Social Value / Climate Change**

Trafford Council has recently recruited a Social Value Coordinator in the Inclusive Economy and Communities Team. This Coordinator oversees Trafford's Social Value Charter and leads on the Trafford Social Value Action Plan, working in partnership with the business sector, public services and the VCFSE sector. The Social Value Steering Group brings together cross-sector partners working strategically around social value including the VCFSE sector.

The Social Value Coordinator is working with a range of VCFSE organisations and networks to look at leveraging in business skills and investment through social value. Work has also been undertaken with STAR Procurement and Trafford's Neighbourhood Leads to map out key social value TOMs (themes, outcomes, and measures) in line with key priorities for each Locality area to maximise social impact.

The VCFSE infrastructure contract with Thrive Trafford also includes a limited social value remit; proactively matching businesses offering support with VCFSE organisations who can benefit.

Thrive Trafford and Trafford Community Collective attend the Trafford Social Value Steering Group and the Trafford Community Climate Action Steering Group, enabling the VCFSE sector in Trafford to have a key role in contributing towards net zero/climate change targets.

The Trafford Community Climate Action Steering Group conducted community consultation in 2023 on climate change and an additional survey aimed at VCFSE organisations will be disseminated in March.

The Collective engaged the Trafford Local Care Organisation to include Climate Change in Neighbourhood Delivery Plans. Groundwork will be attending bi-monthly Neighbourhood meetings to engage groups and the VCFSE sector attendees. Trafford Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Service endeavour to work with Trafford Community Climate Action Steering Group towards securing funding for Trafford's Community Hubs to run workshops for VCFSE organisations.

## 9.0 Summary

The role of Trafford's VCFSE sector in strategic meetings and decision making has transformed since the Covid pandemic, following recognition and appreciation of the sector's significant contribution to our borough. The VCFSE sector is represented on a range of partnerships, groups and boards in Trafford and our borough is well represented within the GM ecosystem leading to improved access to opportunities.

Challenges to ensure the sustainability of the VCFSE sector in Trafford have been recognised and implementations in place to mitigate potential impacts:

- Continued coordination of the volunteering offer in Trafford and ensuring a clear pathway for residents wishing to volunteer; partners are working collaboratively.
- The sustainability of the core services offered by the Trafford Community Hubs; a working group attended by a range of partners has been established.

## 10.0 Conclusion

Support for the VCFSE sector and the sector itself has evolved in recent years with substantial activity at Greater Manchester level. Progress has been made in representation of the sector in Trafford and new challenges have arisen; it would be beneficial for the strategy to be reflected upon via a workshop to determine next steps (i.e., continuation of the strategy until 2027 or a refresh of

the strategy) and agree the actions required to achieve the deliverables of the strategy.

Governance of the Trafford VCFSE Strategy will be reviewed. Oversight of the strategy can remain with the Strategic Partnerships and Policy Team at Trafford Council; however, the Living Well in my Community Strategic Coordination Group has now disbanded and a new board or partnership to govern the delivery of the strategy must be agreed.

#### 11.0 Recommendations:

11.1 It is recommended that Executive:

1. Notes the content and progress to date.
2. Agrees for the strategy to be reflected upon to determine next steps and agree the actions required to achieve the deliverables of the strategy.

#### 12.0 Reasons for Recommendations:

12.1 It is recommended that the Executive approve the VCFSE highlight report and share progress on the performance of the Council's VCFSE strategy.

**Key Decision:** No

**If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given?** N/A

**Finance Officer Clearance:** GB

**Legal Officer Clearance:** DS

**DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE:** Sara Saleh

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



## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Executive  
**Date:** March 2024  
**Report for:** Decision  
**Report of:** Executive Member for Highways, Environmental and Traded Services

### Report Title

Waste Collection Day Changes to Accommodate Property Growth in Partington

### Summary

This report seeks approval to make changes to waste collection days, affecting approximately 300 properties, in Partington and Dunham to accommodate property growth in Partington.

### Recommendation(s)

That the Executive:

- Approve the changes to the waste collection zones to be implemented in May 2024.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Helen Ashcroft  
Email: [helen.ashcroft@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:helen.ashcroft@trafford.gov.uk)

Background Papers:

### **Implications:**

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	Service improvement.
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	None arising out of this report.
Financial	None arising out of this report.
Legal Implications:	None arising out of this report.
Equality/Diversity Implications	None arising out of this report.
Sustainability Implications	None arising out of this report.

Resource Implications e.g., Staffing / ICT / Assets	Amey are the lead on this project, the Council's involvement is purely from a Governance perspective.
Risk Management Implications	The risks of not implementing the proposed changes are that at a future date the waste collection service will reach the point where it cannot empty all of the bins on collection day.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	None arising out of this report.
Health and Safety Implications	None arising out of this report.
Carbon Reduction	None arising out of this report.

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The waste collection service operates a zonal model, with a collection zone for each day of the week. This means that all of the refuse collection vehicles are in the same area on collection day and provides resilience to the service to allow for minor service disruption such as vehicle breakdowns.
- 1.2 This method of working was implemented in 2019, and following a minor reorganisation of the rounds in 2023 has worked well with refuse and recycling rounds largely completing their work on the scheduled day with minimal disruption. This method of working is seen as best practice.
- 1.3 The service has seen a reduction in missed bin collections over the last twelve months. As the crews are working in a zonal area, if they experience issues such as a breakdown, the neighbouring rounds are on hand to complete the collections.
- 1.4 There is significant property growth in the Partington area, some developments are already occupied and there are further developments with planning permissions that are due to be completed within the next twelve months.
- 1.5 The proposal is to keep the integrity of the zones with a redefined boundary for the Tuesday and Friday zones to accommodate the property growth and enable this model to continue.
- 1.6 Each zonal day is split into two halves, e.g. Tuesday A and Tuesday B. When refuse is collected in Tuesday A, the Tuesday B zone has a recycling collection. This allows a consistent stream of materials to be collected and delivered to the waste management facilities.

## 2.0 Proposed Changes

- 2.1 The proposal is to move some Tuesday B Zone collections to Friday B Zone, meaning that their new collection day will fall in the same schedule of collections but four days later.
- 2.2 A smaller number of properties will move from a Tuesday A Zone to a Friday B Zone collection which means that both their collection day and pattern of collections will change. See table below.

Current Collection Day	New Collection Day	Number of properties affected	Ward
Tuesday B	Friday B	286	Bucklow St Martins
Tuesday A	Friday B	53	Bowdon

- 2.3 The proposed changes have been planned so that there are minimum changes for households.
- 2.4 The properties moving from a Tuesday A to Friday B collection will receive some additional collections to align them with the new collection schedule. They will be provided with the collection schedule in their information pack advising them of the collection changes.
- 2.5 The properties moving from a Tuesday B collection to a Friday B collection will be able to present one additional bag of refuse on their first Friday collection to allow for the additional waste generated between Tuesday and Friday.

### **3.0 Timescales for changes**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the changes are implemented from Tuesday 4th June 2024.
- 3.2 Affected households will receive a letter and new bin calendar by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024. This will be sent by Royal Mail in a branded envelope with “Important information about your bin collection” on the front.
- 3.3 When refuse collection days are changed, there is a period of time over which residents adjust to the new arrangements. To support those residents effected, Officers will visit the streets that are subject to a change of collection day and if households have presented their bin on their old collection day, the Officers will leave a calling card or sticker on the bin to remind them that their collection has moved. This will support residents in a proactive way and minimise any disruption to effected households.
- 3.4 The changes will also be communicated to the crews that work in these areas so that when the new calendars are received, if residents have any questions and ask the crew they understand the changes and can explain them to the residents.

### **4.0 Consultation**

- 4.1 Consultation will be local and with only those ward Councillors and residents effected. Councillors in the relevant wards will receive an information pack relevant to their ward.
- 4.2 Households affected by the changes will receive an information pack approximately 14 days prior to the changes.

### **5.0 Other Options**

- 5.1 Do nothing – this risks the service being unable to accommodate the property growth in the Partington area, leading to an increase in service failures and missed bin collections.

**6.0 Reasons for Recommendation**

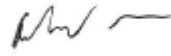
- 6.1 Approval is sought to proceed with the changes to the waste collection zones to enable the service to continue to absorb the property growth in Partington and reduce the risk of service disruption.

**Key Decision** (as defined in the Constitution): No

**If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given?** N/A

Finance Officer Clearance PC  
Legal Officer Clearance EM

**[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE** (electronic)



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



## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Executive  
**Date:** 18 March 2024  
**Report for:** Decision  
**Report of:** Executive Member for Health and Care

### Report Title

Section 75 Strategic Partnership Agreement for the integrated delivery of health and social care services in Trafford 2024/25

### Summary

The original Section 75 partnership agreement has been in place since 1 October 2019. Trafford Council and Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) made a commitment to periodically review and revise the partnership agreement to ensure the viability of the delivery of health and social care integrated services through the legal framework of a Section 75 under the National Health Service Act, 2006.

There is now a requirement to renew the Section 75 effective from 1 April 2024 for a period of 12 months with a more holistic review to be undertaken when an agreed target operating model is developed during 2024/25. There is broad provision made within the Section 75 partnership agreement to enable this to happen and work will be undertaken to ascertain whether further changes will be required over the course of the next 12 months.

### Recommendation(s)

#### **It is recommended that the Executive:**

- Approve the proposal to enter into a Section 75 Strategic Partnership Agreement for the integrated delivery of Health and Social Care services with Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust for 2024/25 as detailed in the report;
- Delegate authority to the Executive Member for Health and Care, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Adults & Wellbeing and the Director of Legal and Governance to agree the revised terms and conditions of the Section 75 partnership agreement for 2024/25;
- Note the proposal to undertake a detailed holistic review of Section 75 arrangements during 2024/25;
- Note that the renewal of the Section 75 is a key enabling and strategic tool to develop closer working arrangement through 2024/25 and beyond.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Nathan Atkinson, Corporate Director, Adults & Wellbeing  
Extension:1901

Background Papers:

Section 75 Strategic Partnership Agreement for the integrated delivery of health and social care services in Trafford 2023/24 – Executive 13 March 2023



Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The Section 75 Partnership Agreement will support the delivery of the following corporate priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing Health Inequalities</li> <li>• Supporting people out of poverty</li> <li>• Addressing Climate crisis</li> </ul>
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	The Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership has been developed to build on previous work across Greater Manchester (GM) to support the integration of care and support ensuring a seamless and holistic approach to improving support to residents across GM.
Financial	Partner Agencies will retain budgetary responsibility for core functions and no financial implications have been identified. Integration including co-location is evidenced to lead to more efficient use of resources.
Legal Implications:	Legal framework for the proposed agreement is set out in Section 2 of this report and legal advice and guidance will be sought in respect of the terms and conditions of the agreement.
Equality/Diversity Implications	Equality and Diversity implications are considered at individual service level with EIA's completed as appropriate.
Sustainability Implications	Not Applicable
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	Not Applicable for refreshed agreement
Risk Management Implications	Not Applicable for refreshed agreement
Health & Wellbeing Implications	Not Applicable
Health and Safety Implications	Not Applicable

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 This paper provides an update on the current Section 75 partnership agreement that exists between Trafford Council and Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT). As the Executive will be aware Trafford CCG, now NHS Greater Manchester - Trafford, in conjunction with Trafford Council undertook a thorough and robust commissioning process and MFT was successfully awarded the contract to deliver community health services in Trafford from 1 October 2019; it was at this point Trafford Local Care Organisation was created.
- 1.2 Under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006, local authorities and NHS bodies can enter into partnership arrangements for the exercise of certain NHS functions by NHS bodies and certain health-related functions of local authorities. Section 75 provides for three flexibilities that NHS Bodies and local authorities can use: pooled budgets, lead commissioning and integrated provision.
- 1.3 As part of achieving formal integration a Section 75 partnership agreement was entered into between the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) and Trafford Council to facilitate the effective delivery of integrated health and adult social care. The Section 75 partnership agreement delegated certain functions to MFT as the host body of TLCO, to facilitate integrated service delivery and joint working across the borough.

- 1.4 There is now a requirement to renew the Section 75 effective from 1 April 2024 for a period of 12 months with a more holistic review to be undertaken during 2024/25. There is broad provision made within the Section 75 partnership agreement to enable this to happen and work will be undertaken to ascertain whether further changes will be required over the course of the next 12 months.

## **2.0 Schedules to the Section 75 partnership agreement**

- 2.1 The Section 75 partnership agreement is accompanied by a suite of schedules that support the operationalisation of the agreement and it should be noted that several schedules will require minor update especially those that are time limited in nature; this work is ongoing and will be complete where possible in advance of 1 April 2024. It should be noted that some schedules will have existing programmes of work aligned to them that mean that they will not be completed by that point.
- 2.2 Several of the schedules will have minor amends made to them to bring them up to date or they may be removed where deemed to be superfluous.
- 2.3 Due to nature of the Section 75 and its practical execution neither party is exposed to any risk as a result of renewing the agreement but that the agreement is a core enabler to joint and integrated working within Trafford.
- 2.4 Details of the Section 75 partnership agreement schedules are below:

Schedule Category	Schedule Name
<b>List of services with indicative budgets</b>	In Scope Services
	Out of scope services
	MFT Health Budget
	Trafford Council Budget
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	* TLCO Exec * IMM * Neighbourhood Meeting
<b>Information Sharing</b>	Info Sharing Statement of Intent
<b>Management, Clinical &amp; Professional Governance</b>	Electronic Case file recording and record audit policy
	Adult Services supervision policy
	Trafford Governance Handbook
<b>Risk Management</b>	Trafford Council Risk Management Framework
	Trafford Council Risk Management Policy Statement
	LCO Risk Management Strategy
<b>Strategies</b>	TLCO Operating Plan
	Trafford Locality Plan
<b>Schemes of Delegation</b>	Corporate Director of CFW's Delegated Powers
	MFT Scheme of Delegation
<b>Policies/Procedures</b>	Trafford and MFT Policies and Procedures
	Policy & Procedure Change Mechanism
<b>Performance Management</b>	Joint Service Plans & monitoring framework

### 3.0 Governance Arrangements

3.1 The main vehicle for the oversight of the implementation of the 2024/25 Section 75 agreement and the delivery of safe and effective services will be the Trafford Integrated Management Board. This Board will be accountable via the Corporate Director of Adults & Wellbeing and via the Managing Director to Chief Executive of Trafford Local Care Organisation and Chief Executive of Trafford Council.

3.2 The Section 75 Partnership Agreement 2024/25 and the governance structures outlined in it will enable three levels of decision making:

- decisions that statutorily can only be made by one of the partner organisations for decisions that each of the bodies wish to reserve to themselves;
- decisions that can be made 'jointly' through 'joint governance bodies' whereby the representatives of each of the partner agencies are delegated to make such

decisions, which will need to be made by consensus between the representatives of each agency; and

- decisions delegated to the Corporate Director for Adults & Wellbeing and managing Director to enable the efficient day to day management of the integrated service.

**Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the Executive:**

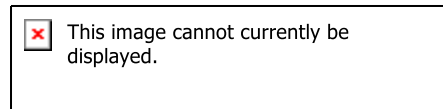
- Approve the proposal to enter into a Section 75 Strategic Partnership Agreement for the integrated delivery of Health and Social Care services with Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust for 2024/25 as detailed in the report;
- Delegate authority to the Executive Member for Health and Care, in consultation with the Corporate Director Adults & Wellbeing and the Director of Legal and Governance to agree the revised terms and conditions of the Section 75 partnership agreement for 2024/25;
- Note the proposal to undertake a detailed holistic review of s75 arrangements during 2024/25;
- Note that the renewal of the Section 75 partnership agreement is a key enabling and strategic tool to develop closer working arrangement through 2024/25 and beyond.

**Key Decision** (as defined in the Constitution):

**If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given?**

**Finance Officer Clearance** GB

**Legal Officer Clearance** EM



**CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE** (electronic)...

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

## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Executive  
**Date:** 18 March 2024  
**Report for:** Decision  
**Report of:** Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems

### Report Title

**Discretionary Council Tax Premium Exemptions Policy**

### Summary

In January 2024 the Executive agreed to:-

- Increase the council tax premium to 100% (200% in total) for properties empty between one and five years (currently between two and five years) from 1 April 2024; and
- Implement the discretionary 100% second homes council tax premium (200% in total) from 1 April 2025.

The Executive also agreed to consult on a proposed Exemption Policy in line with the national consultation.

The consultation responses have been analysed and a final Discretionary Council Tax Premium Exemptions Policy is recommended for approval.

### Recommendation(s)

That the Executive gives approval to:

- Implement the Discretionary Council Tax Premium Exemptions Policy from 1 April 2024 for empty homes and 1 April 2025 for second homes.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Louise Shaw  
Contact Number: 07815 699615

Background Papers: [Decision - COUNCIL TAX EMPTY HOMES AND SECOND HOMES PREMIUM - INTRODUCTION AND PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON EXEMPT CATEGORIES \(trafford.gov.uk\)](#)

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The Council's Empty Homes Strategy priority is to improve our neighbourhoods by addressing long term empty homes and working with owners to bring them back in to use.
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	The GM Housing Strategy includes bringing empty properties back in to use.
Financial	Although the primary purpose of this policy is to bring empty properties back in to use, it will also generate net income from Council Tax estimated at c£300k in 2024-25
Legal Implications:	The setting of Council Tax and any discounts or premiums are a matter for Council in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.  New laws came into force on 26 October 2023: <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk">Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (legislation.gov.uk)</a>
Equality/Diversity Implications	The Corporate Equality Strategy 2021-2025 includes a housing strategy.
Sustainability Implications	Not Applicable
Carbon Reduction	Not Applicable
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	Staffing increases will be required to deliver the exemptions policy due to the anticipated number of requests. These are accounted for in the financial costs.
Risk Management Implications	Not Applicable
Health & Wellbeing Implications	Not Applicable
Health and Safety Implications	Not Applicable

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 On the 29 January 2024, Executive approved the implementation of additional Council Tax premiums as detailed in Paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 in line with the powers included within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.
- 1.2 Long-term empty homes are dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a defined period. The current approved Trafford premium rates, which is additional to the 100% Council Tax charge, are as follows:
- Properties empty for more than 1 year (from 1 April 2024) but less than 5 years – 100%
  - Properties empty for between 5 and 10 years – 200%
  - Properties empty for 10 years or more – 300%
- 1.3 Second Homes are currently charged 100% Council Tax, with an option to request a discount of 50% if the second home is needed under a contract of employment. From the 1 April 2025, a premium of 100% will be charged, which is additional to the 100% Council Tax charge.



- 1.4 Although the Council can charge an empty home and second home premium, there are circumstances where owners can apply for a reduction of this charge because of their circumstances. This mainly is for circumstances where an owner can request an exemption from the premium where they can demonstrate, and evidence, that it is beyond their control to bring the property back in to use.
- 1.5 In recognition of this, an exemptions policy has been developed and which has now been consulted on. This is the Discretionary Council Tax Premium Exemptions policy which will be effective from 1 April 2024.
- 1.6 The Council's system will automatically apply the relevant premium and issue an updated bill to the owner which will clearly detail the council tax premium being applied. Information on the exemptions will be detailed on the Council's relevant webpage with a link to apply for an application form to apply for an exemption.
- 1.7 The exemption is not an automatic award as the Council will have no details on the reasons why a property is empty. The Council will need accompanying evidence to be provided in support of the application for an exemption to be considered.

## 2.0 Public Consultation

- 2.1 The Council consulted on the proposed policy – see Appendix A - between 8 February and 3 March 2024 on the following exemptions:
- Empty properties undergoing probate.
  - Empty properties being actively marketed for sale or let.
  - New owners of empty properties undergoing major repairs.
  - Second homes annexes that form part of, or being treated as part of, the main dwelling.
  - Second homes job related dwelling.
  - Properties subject to legal, technical or complex planning issues.
- 2.2 There were 15 responses to the public consultation which overall were supportive of the proposed policy including both the types of exemptions and accompanying evidence required to support an application for an exemption.
- 2.3 The main areas where there was not overall support were as follows:
- **Empty properties being actively marketed for sale** - in relation to the 6 month time limit on properties – the comments made were that the property market at the time should be a consideration and therefore a 12 month limit might be more appropriate.
  - **New owners of properties undergoing repair** – in relation to the 6 month time limit - it was again felt that a longer period of time of 12 months might be required for works to be undertaken and also if the exemption should also apply more widely to second homes or existing owners.

- 2.4 The Council has carefully considered the comments made in response to the public consultation but feel that the totality of time across the exemptions is sufficient for a property to be brought back in to use in most circumstances. Exemptions to the rule can still be considered under the general discretionary powers the Council has if there are reasons beyond an owner's control for bringing a property back in to use once the timescales, which are over and above the legislative requirements, are exceeded.
- 2.5 It is recommended, therefore, that the Council's proposed Exemptions Policy as per the consultation – Appendix A - is introduced from the 1 April 2024.

**3.0 Recommendation**

That the Executive gives approval to:

- Implementing the Discretionary Council Tax Premium Exemptions Policy from 1 April 2024 for empty homes and 1 April 2025 for second homes.

**Other Options**

The Council could decide to not introduce an exemptions policy and charge the maximum premium allowed in the legislation in all eligible cases, however, the Council do not want to financially penalise property owners who are either actively seeking to bring their property back in to use or where a delay in doing so is outside of their control. It also provides transparency to Trafford residents as to in what circumstances an exemption can be applied, and therefore in which circumstances they will be charged the premium.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

The recommendations are set out at the start of this report.

**Key Decision:** Yes

**If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given?** Yes

**Finance Officer Clearance**            **GB**  
**Legal Officer Clearance**            **EM**

*G. Bentley*

**DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE** ... ..

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

## Appendix A - Discretionary Council Tax Premium Exemptions Policy (Long-Term Empties and/or Second Homes)

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council will automatically apply a long-term empty homes Council Tax premium at the following rates:
- Properties empty for more than 1 year but less than 5 years – 100%
  - Properties empty for between 5 and 10 years – 200%
  - Properties empty for 10 years or more – 300%
- 1.2 The Council will, from 1 April 2025, automatically apply a council tax second homes premium of 100% on unoccupied second homes.
- 1.3 There may be circumstances where an owner of a property is unable to bring their property back in to use for reasons outside of their control. Those owners can apply for an exemption in accordance with this Exemptions Policy.
- 1.4 An application **must** be made in writing either through the approved application form or to the council tax department.
- 1.5 Additional information and evidence requested must be provided within 1 calendar month from the date of the request.

### 2.0 Empty Properties undergoing probate

- 2.1 The Council recognises that the period after someone passes away is very challenging for their relatives and friends, especially for those managing the estate.
- 2.2 Unoccupied properties which have become vacant due to the death of the owner or tenant and where no one is liable for council tax except an executor or administrator, are exempt from council tax until probate is granted. Following a grant of probate (or the issue of letters of administration) a further period of exemption of up to 6 months is possible (Class F exemption), as long as the property remains unoccupied and has not been sold or transferred to someone else.
- 2.3 If the property remains unoccupied following the end of the Class F exemption period, normal rules on the application of council tax to empty properties apply. This means that where a property has been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for at least one year, it may become liable for the **long-term empty homes council tax premium** immediately. The liability for the empty homes premium is determined by the length of time that the property has been empty. Depending on the circumstances, this one-year period could start prior to the passing of the previous owner.
- 2.4 Alternatively, if such a property has been unoccupied since the passing of the previous owner and is substantially furnished, it could become liable for the **council tax second homes premium** immediately after the Class F exemption period has ended.

- 2.5 The Council recognises that it may take some time to determine the future use of a property that has been left unoccupied or has no resident following the death of its owner or tenant. The Council does not consider it appropriate that such properties should become subject to either the second homes or long-term empty property premiums immediately following the grant of probate.
- 2.6 The Council will therefore consider an application requesting the granting of an exemption to both the second homes and empty homes premiums for a maximum of 12 months from the date probate has been granted. This does not affect the Class F exemption or the ability for the Council to charge the normal rate of council tax following the expiry of the Class F exemption.
- 2.7 What this means is that the first 6 months of the exemption to the premium would run alongside the Class F exemption, meaning there would be no Council Tax charge or premium during this time if granted. After the Class F has expired the property would be subject to a 100% Council Tax charge plus the premium if the property has been empty for more than 12 months.
- 2.8 In most circumstances, the property is brought back in to use or has a new owner within the Class F exemption period. However, if there are reasons why the owner has been unable to do this, they will be able to apply for an exemption from the premium of up to a maximum of 12 months from the date probate was granted.
- 2.9 If the property is then put on the market for sale or let, the owner of the property would be able to apply for the 'sales or let' exemption (see below). This would provide the owner an additional 6 months exemption period. As such, where both exemptions are granted, the maximum exemption period would be up to 18 months.
- 2.10 In order to ensure the Council's Empty Homes Strategy is not detrimentally impacted in terms of the length of time a property remains empty, where there is a delay in grant of probate **being applied for** during the Class F exemption period that results in the total period of non-payment of Council Tax exceeding 12 months then the exemption period will be adjusted accordingly to ensure an unjust favourable financial position is not gained though avoidable delays.
- 2.11 Applications for this exemption, therefore, will require evidence to be provided of the date probate has been applied for.

### **3.0 Empty Properties being actively marketed for sale or let**

- 3.1 The [government published guidance](#) is clear that the decision to provide local authorities with the power to charge a premium was not to penalise owners of property that is genuinely on the housing market for sale or rent.
- 3.2 The Council will therefore grant an exemption to the council tax premiums of up to a maximum of 6 months from the date that active marketing commenced, or until the property has been sold or rented, whichever is the sooner. This exemption will also apply to second homes where the property is being actively marketed for sale or rent of tenancies with a length of 6 months or more.

3.3 In order to qualify for an exemption to the premiums, the owner (of either a long-term empty home, or a second home) will be expected to demonstrate they are actively marketing the property for sale or let at a reasonable price on the open market (i.e., an offer to purchase at that price would be accepted by the owner or an offer to pay rent at that level would be accepted). Examples of evidence to be provided is:

- Evidence that the property is being actively marketed by an agent.
- Evidence that the property is being actively marketed by a sale or letting website.
- Evidence that the property has recently been sold subject to contract or rented out subject to tenancy agreement but is still vacant because the sale or rental agreement is taking time to complete because it is part of a chain.

3.4 The maximum period of 6 months exemption will be considered once the evidence has been provided. The exemption will be available only once to the same owner of a property, the exemption may apply again if the property has new owners, and they begin the process of marketing for sale or rent.

#### **4.0 New owners of empty properties undergoing major repairs**

4.1 Homes that have remained empty for long periods may require extensive repair work. In situations where a new owner of an empty property is undertaking major repair work or structural alterations to make it habitable, the Council believes that it is not appropriate for a premium to be charged as soon as the property has been empty for one year as this could be a disincentive for a potential purchaser.

4.2 The Council will therefore grant an exemption for up to 6 months from the date major repair works and/or structural alterations commences until the 6 month exemption end date or when the work has been completed, whichever is the sooner. The exemption could be applied at any time after the property has been purchased and empty for at least 12 months, as long as the Council is satisfied that the necessary repair work is being undertaken. This could mean, for example, that a premium is applied once a property has been empty for more than 12 months, but will be removed if and when the Council is satisfied that the conditions for the exemption are met. Examples of evidence to be provided is:

- Schedule of works
- Builders estimates and receipts
- Photographs of property before and during work
- Access to visit the property if required

4.3 New owners using this exemption could also potentially benefit from the proposed exemption for properties being actively marketed for sale or rent, as set out in section 2. As long as the criteria for both exemptions are met, then a potential total exemption of up to 12 months may be available in circumstances where a new owner has carried out major repair works and is then carrying out active marketing of the property for sale or rent.

#### **5.0 Second home annexes that form part of, or being treated as part of, the main dwelling**

5.1 For the purposes of council tax, parts of a dwelling constructed or adapted for separate occupation (e.g., an annex) are generally treated as separate dwellings for

the purposes of council tax. Each dwelling could, therefore, be potentially liable for the second homes premium.

5.2 Certain annexes are exempt from council tax altogether and will therefore be exempt from the premium. These are:

- An unoccupied annexe which forms part of a single property which includes another dwelling and may not be let separately from that dwelling without a breach of planning control (Class T); and
- An annexe which is the sole or main residence of a dependent relative (a relative who is aged 65 or older, or is severely mentally impaired, or is substantially and permanently disabled) (Class W).

5.3 Separately, a 50% council tax discount may be available if the annexe is being occupied as a sole or main residence by a relative of the council taxpayer of the main home. This discount will continue where the annexe meets the relevant criteria to be eligible for it. As the annexe will be a sole or main residence, it will not be subject to a second homes premium. Where the council has determined that such a discount is appropriate, then a second homes premium would not apply.

5.4 A 50% council tax discount is also available for an annexe that is being used as part of the sole or main residence. There will be no change to this discount, and therefore the Council will treat such annexes as an exemption to the council tax premium on second homes.

## **6.0 Second homes job-related dwellings**

6.1 Currently, there is a council tax discount of up to 50% for properties which are unoccupied because the owner is required to live elsewhere for employment purposes

6.2 In order to be considered as residing in a job-related accommodation, a job-related dwelling is prescribed as job-related if it is provided by reason of a person's employment or for the person's spouse or civil partner by reason of their employment including in any of the following cases (subject to some exemptions):

- a) Where it is necessary for the proper performance of the duties of the employment;
- b) Where the dwelling is provided for the better performance of the duties of the employment, and it is one of the kinds of employment in the case of which it is customary for employers to provide dwellings for employees;
- c) Where it is contractually obligated to be resident at that property and to carry on a trade or profession at that address;

6.3 It is for the local authority, in the first instance, to determine application of the job-related discount.

6.4 Where a job-related dwelling discount is in place, the Council will also treat as an exemption to the second homes premium. The exemption will not apply to cases where someone chooses to have an additional property to be closer to work while having a family home elsewhere or where an individual is posted to a new location but maintain their previous address.

## **7.0 Properties subject to legal, technical or complex planning issues**

7.1 The Council recognises that there are at times legal, technical and/or planning issues that prevents an owner from being able to bring an empty property back in to use.

7.2 The Council does not intend to penalise owners of property that are genuinely trying to put their property on the housing market for sale or rent, but are legally prevented from doing so. Examples could be where a court order application requesting sale of a property is pending e.g. a court of protection matter or planning delays due to complexity issues such as a listed building or restrictions.

7.3 The owner will be expected to demonstrate and provide supporting documentation clearly showing the reason why they are prevented from actively marketing the property for sale or let and also the intention is to do so as soon as they are able. Examples of evidence to be provided is:

- Letters or Orders from the court detailing the legal reasons preventing sale or let
- Planning department correspondence explaining complexities outside of the usual planning process
- Solicitors and/or other Legal correspondence explaining the legalities preventing sale or let

7.4 A maximum period of 12 months exemption will be considered once the evidence has been provided. The exemption will be available only once to the same owner of a property, the exemption may apply again if the property has new owners.

## **8.0 CHANGES OF CIRCUMSTANCES**

8.1 The Council may need to revise the decision to grant an exemption to the premiums if it becomes aware that the applicant's circumstances have materially changed. Individuals must advise the Council of any change in circumstances affecting the decision, within 21 days of the change. Failure to do so may result in the exemption being revoked in full.

## **9.0 NOTIFICATION**

9.1 The Council will inform the applicant in writing of the outcome of their application within 28 days of receipt, or as soon as practicable thereafter. Where the application is unsuccessful, the Council will set out the reasons why this decision was made and explain the right of review.

## **10.0 THE RIGHT TO SEEK A REVIEW**

10.1 As the exemptions to the premiums in this policy are determined locally, any decisions are not subject to a statutory appeals mechanism. The Council will

therefore operate its own procedures for dealing with appeals against a refusal to award an exemption to the premiums.

- 10.2 Decisions will be determined at management level by a Revenues Officer.
- 10.3 An applicant (or their appointee or agent) who disagrees with a decision not to award an exemption may dispute the decision. A request for a review must be made in writing to the Revenues Manager within one calendar month of the written decision being issued.
- 10.4 The Revenues Manager will review all the evidence held and may ask for further clarification to be provided. A decision will be made within 28 days of the request for a review or as soon as practicable thereafter. The decision will be notified to the claimant in writing, setting out the reasons for the decision.
- 10.5 There is no further right of appeal following this review, and a refusal will not be considered as a complaint under the Council's Complaints policy.

## **11.0 FRAUD**

- 11.1 The Council is committed to the fight against fraud in all its forms and has a zero tolerance fraud policy. An applicant (or their appointee or agent) who tries to fraudulently claim an exemption from the council tax premiums by falsely declaring their circumstances, providing a false statement or evidence in support of their application, may have committed a criminal offence. Where fraud is suspected, the Council will investigate and this may lead to criminal proceedings.
- 11.2 Trafford Council reserve the right to remove the exemption and seek recovery of the premium even in cases where the property is no longer owned via all the recovery methods available to them.



**TRAFFORD COUNCIL**

**Report to: Executive**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Report for: Information**

**Report of: Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems**

**Report Title:**

**Budget Monitoring 2023/24 Period 10 (April 2023 to January 2024)**

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the 2023/24 projected outturn figures relating to both Revenue and Capital budgets. It also summarises the projected outturn position for Council Tax and Business Rates.

The outturn forecast has improved from Period 8 £0.59m underspend to Period 10 £1.60m underspend, a positive movement of £1.01m, in part, because of the management actions introduced during the year to control expenditure.

**Recommendation(s)**

**It is recommended that the Executive:**

- a) Note the updated summary positions on the revenue budget and capital programme.

**Contact person for access to background papers and further information:**

David Muggeridge, Head of Financial Management      Extension: 4534

Background Papers: None

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	Value for Money
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	Expenditure is aligned to meet the priorities with the Corporate Plan which is aligned to the GM policy and strategy where required.
Financial	It is the responsibility of the Executive to operate within the budgetary framework

	<p>set by the Council when it agreed the budget for 2023/24 at the Council Meeting on 15 February 2023.</p> <p>Revenue and capital expenditure to be contained within available resources in 2023/24.</p>
Legal Implications:	None arising out of this report
Equality/Diversity Implications	None arising out of this report
Sustainability Implications	None arising out of this report
Resource Implications e.g Staffing / ICT / Assets	Not applicable
Risk Management Implications	Not applicable
Carbon Reduction	Not applicable
Health & Wellbeing Implications	Not applicable
Health and Safety Implications	Not applicable

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. In a change from previous detailed monitoring reports, this Period 10 report focuses on a high level summary of the estimated outturn and significant changes from the Period 8 monitor. A detailed report will resume for the final outturn position.
- 1.2. There is a net projected outturn underspend of £1.60m and a favourable movement of £1.01m from Period 8, largely because of management action plans to control in year spending (see section 1.9 for more detail). Detail of the net revenue outturn is displayed in Table 1 below. An analysis of the net service budget is shown in Table 2 with further details included in Annex 1.

<b>Table 1 – Net Revenue Outturn</b>				
<b>Service Directorate</b>	<b>2023/2024 Budget £000</b>	<b>Outturn £000</b>	<b>Full Year Variance £000</b>	<b>Change from Prior Period £000</b>
Children's Services	49,056	52,232	3,176	(12)
Adult Services	60,855	58,728	(2,127)	(415)
Public Health	13,374	13,052	(322)	(147)
Place	38,356	38,287	(69)	14
Strategy & Resources	10,605	10,187	(418)	(147)
Finance & Systems	9,671	9,750	79	(70)
Legal & Governance	3,575	3,837	262	10
<b>Total Directorate Budgets</b>	<b>185,492</b>	<b>186,073</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>(767)</b>
Council-wide budgets	24,314	20,632	(3,682)	(248)
<b>Net Service Budgets</b>	<b>209,806</b>	<b>206,705</b>	<b>(3,101)</b>	<b>(1,015)</b>
General Fund Financing	(209,806)	(208,306)	1,500	0
<b>Net Revenue Outturn</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,601)</b>	<b>(1,601)</b>	<b>(1,015)</b>

**Table 2 – Analysis of Net Service Budget**

	Variance £000	Movement from Prior Period £000
<b>Directorate Budgets</b>		
Children's placements	2,110	174
Children's Home to School Transport	1,012	7
Running costs – S17 payments (Childrens)	839	46
Adult Social Care demand	(638)	(116)
Foster Parents Inflation pressures	252	0
Contribution from Inflation Risk Reserve Foster Parents Inflation	(252)	0
Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund (Adults)	(1,088)	0
Staffing (Children's, Adults, Public Health)	(914)	(353)
Staffing (all other areas)	(1,629)	(235)
Strategic Property	246	98
Energy Costs	(1,286)	(300)
Planning Income	683	75
Other	1,246	(163)
<b>Directorate Budget Sub-Total</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>(767)</b>
<b>Council Wide</b>		
Treasury Management	(3,406)	(330)
Inflation 23/24 pay award	700	0
Contribution from Inflation Risk Reserve	(700)	0
Housing Benefit	612	122
Contribution from Housing Benefit Risk Reserve	(612)	(122)
Release of general contingency	(350)	0
Council Wide Other	74	82
<b>Council Wide Sub-Total</b>	<b>(3,682)</b>	<b>(248)</b>
<b>Net Service Budgets</b>	<b>(3,101)</b>	<b>(1,015)</b>

1.3. The areas below have significantly contributed to the favourable movement of £1.01m from Period 8 to Period 10:

- **Staffing - £2.54m favourable outturn forecast, £588k favourable movement -** Due to delays in recruitment, service restructures and management action to control in-year spend.
- **Energy - £1.29m favourable outturn forecast, £300k favourable movement -** The property energy budget was increased by 200% in 2023/24 to address the escalating costs of inflation. The current position demonstrates how the new contract for purchasing energy has been able to take advantage of the reductions in energy costs during the year and has also been supplemented by energy saving measures.
- **Treasury management - £3.41m favourable outturn forecast, £330k favourable movement -** Due to the high interest environment and the way the Council has

managed its cash balances to limit costly borrowing and effective management of surplus cash to generate investment income. Higher cash volumes due, in part to the repayment of investments, has contributed to the movement this period.

- **Children's Services - £3.94m adverse outturn, £227k adverse movement** – pressures caused across Placements, Home to School Transport and Section 17 payments, reflecting patterns in demand and complexity of cases as previously reported.

#### 1.4. **General Fund Financing (Funding)**

- **Council Tax** – In Period 10 the outturn forecast is £0.92m surplus which has slightly deteriorated by £36k, mostly due to an increase in the number of exemption and disregard cases.
- **Business Rates** - Period 10 has seen an adverse net outturn of £2.08m, a favourable movement of £100k since Period 8. The overall shortfall is due to a number of flagship stores at the Trafford Centre being empty whilst refurbishment works are undertaken. This shortfall will need to be met from the Business Rate Risk Reserve.

1.5. **Earmarked Reserves** – There has been no significant change in the estimated balance of earmarked reserves as estimated at 31 March 2024, as reported in the Final Budget Report for 2024/25.

1.6. **Savings** - A forecast outturn of £11.73m, with only 3 schemes forecasting a shortfall of £135k. Mitigating action has been identified on 1 scheme of £100k reducing the net shortfall to £35k.

1.7. **Capital Programme** – Minor changes to the capital programme budget as a result of an increase in funding in year of £430k which is comprised of £60k grant received for Network Improvements and £370k Highway Maintenance Grant. A full update will be given at Period 12.

1.8. **Dedicated Schools Grant** – Period 10 outturn forecast is £7.17m adverse, which is a £200k adverse movement from Period 8. The DSG Reserve is estimated to have a combined deficit at year end is £10.0m.

1.9. **Management Action plans** – the reported underspend has been influenced because of management action plans to control the in-year spend. The following are some of the measures undertaken:

- **Children** – A monthly high-cost placement panel is already in place and well established, however its Terms of Reference have been refreshed to incorporate a multi-agency approach. Revisiting all options for home to school transport. Regarding Section 17 an exercise to analyse all increases and the reasons. Subsistence payments are now authorised by a Head of Service. Reviewing delegated decision making in respect of entry into care - preventative panel has been established.
- **Adults** - All Exceptional top ups and 24hr care placements of £850+ per week are managed by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Any Discharge to Assess placements outside of Block booking and/or one to one support is

discussed/agreed by SLT daily. Non-traditional ways of meeting need are considered by SLT rather than direct teams. Service managers will continue to review care required/level of need.

- **Place** – Rent reviews on some commercial property. Review of all uncommitted spend. Review of Regent Road car park. A review of planning income charges and in-year increases made effective from January 2024.
- **Council-wide** - The current management action, which included a policy on vacancy management and a review of all non-essential spend will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

1.10. The scale of the challenge faced in the medium term means that the Council must continue to, identify significant permanent savings, lobby the Government to address the unfairness of the funding formula and maintain prudent financial management.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Note the updated summary positions on the revenue budget and capital programme.

**Other Options**

No Applicable.

**Consultation**

Not Applicable

**Reasons for Recommendation**

To inform Members of the 2023/24 projected outturn figures relating to both Revenue and Capital budgets and summarise the projected outturn position for Council Tax and Business Rates.

**Finance Officer Clearance**      ...DM.....

**Legal Officer Clearance**      ..... DS .....



**DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE** .....      ...

### Main variances, changes to budget assumptions and key risks

The main variances contributing to the projected underspend of £1.60m, any changes to budget assumptions and associated key risks are highlighted below:

Table : Main variances	Forecast Variance (£000's)	Explanation/Risks
Children's Services	3,176	<p><b>Projected outturn variance £3.176m adverse, favourable variance of £12k.</b></p> <p>Below is the projected position on children's placements and other budget areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £2.110m over budget on Children's placements (note 1);</li> <li>• £767k under budget on staffing (note 2);</li> <li>• £1.012m over budget on home to school transport (note 3).</li> <li>• £821k over budget on other running costs and income across the service (note 4);</li> </ul> <p><b>Note 1</b> Children's placements are expected to overspend by £2.110m. This is an adverse movement of £174k. The reasons for this movement are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £497k new placements</li> <li>• £18k new step ups</li> <li>• £205k delayed step downs</li> <li>• £214k price increases</li> </ul> <p>These are offset by £760k of step downs, children leaving care and contingency being utilised. There is £137k of contingency remaining for new placements between now and the end of the year.</p> <p>This overspend assumes that the £1m savings target will be met. 26 children who are expected to be stepped down have been identified and are being closely monitored.</p> <p>The numbers of children as at the end of January compared to those at the end of November are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children in care 377, an increase of 6</li> <li>• child protection 223, a decrease of 6</li> <li>• children in need 624, a decrease of 80</li> </ul> <p><b>Note 2</b> The favourable variance in staffing is £767k. This is a favourable movement of £233k from P8 due to the further delay of the Intensive</p>

		<p>Family Support, Trafford Team Together and Family Hubs restructure and a number of unfilled vacancies across the service. The service continues with its redesign and recruitment drive during 2023/24 and it has been assumed in the projections that this will be complete in the following financial year.</p> <p><b><u>Note 3</u></b></p> <p>The projected overspend on Home to School Transport is £1.012m, this is an adverse movement of £7k from P8.</p> <p>Savings have been realised on a couple of the runs due to the use of Q-routes, a system which helps automate route planning, resulting in reducing passenger mileage and travel time. This is a part of the new system that has been implemented to manage school runs from September. It is hoped that once the system is fully implemented, further efficiencies will be made.</p> <p><b><u>Note 4</u></b></p> <p>The adverse variance in running costs and income across the service is £821k, an adverse movement of £40k, as outlined below:</p> <p>-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £133k adverse variance on Partington &amp; Sanyu nurseries, an adverse movement of £8k;</li> <li>• £688k adverse variance in running costs, income and minor variances, an adverse movement of £32k due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ S17 – There has been an adverse movement of £46k within the s17 spend, the adverse variance is now £839k. Managers have been instructed to ensure that authorisation is sought for essential spend only within this area of the budget and close analysis of the spend continues.</li> <li>➤ £151k favourable variance on other running costs and income, a favourable variance of £14k.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>At present, there is a grant for Supporting Families (SF) of £811k within the Children’s Services budget of which £701k has been allocated. The payment of this grant depends on meeting clear performance measures against 10 outcomes and 34 criteria being implemented alongside regression checks. Grant funding for future years is reliant on the achievement of outcomes and is therefore not guaranteed. Rigorous monitoring against the measures is in place.</p>
Adult Services	(2,127)	<p>Projected outturn £2.172m favourable variation a favourable movement of £415k from period 8.</p> <p>Below is the projected position on Adult clients and other budget areas.</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £638k favourable variance on Adults Clients a favourable movement of £116k from period 8 (note 1);</li> <li>• £401k favourable variance on staffing and running costs, a £299k favourable movement (note 2);</li> <li>• Other Risks (note 3)</li> <li>• Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund £1.088m favourable variance nil movement from P8 (note 4).</li> </ul> <p><u>Note 1</u> Adults Clients projected £638k favourable variation.</p> <p>This budget remains high in complexity and volatility as it is in part driven by wider system pressures in health in addition to direct adult social care demands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supporting the NHS with rapid discharges from hospitals as they deal with the backlog of patients waiting treatments</li> <li>• increased mental health support</li> <li>• assessing the impact of the cost of living and inflationary pressures on client contributions.</li> <li>• an aging population within the borough and demographic pressures</li> <li>• workforce pressures across the health and social care system.</li> </ul> <p>Packages of Care – The projected outturn position is a £638k favourable variance, a favourable movement of £116k from P8. The favourable movement is due to a lower impact on projections from demand and costs increases than anticipated. Within this projection is a remaining contingency of £94k.</p> <p>Savings – The savings target for 23/24 is £1.131m and £943k have been achieved to date. It is assumed that the savings target will be achieved in full by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Discharge to Assess –The government announced additional funding with effect from 1 April 2023 for Adult Social Care to enable local authorities to continue to expediate hospital discharges, the Trafford locality received an allocation of £2.197m to be utilised to maintain capacity in Discharge to Assess Beds and temporary homecare until the 31 March 2024. In addition, the Council has elected to direct a further £1.289m of funding towards this programme meaning the total budget for 23/24 amounts to £3.486m. It is anticipated that this budget will be utilised in full by the end of the financial year.</p>
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Note 2

The projected outturn position for staffing and running costs is a £401k favourable variance, a favourable movement of £299k from period 8.

The £401k favourable variance is made up of:-

- £171k adverse variance in the DOLS service due to forecasted expenditure above budget on external DOLS assessments.
- £231k projected favourable variance on Assistive Technology and equipment based upon year to date activity.
- £395k favourable variance on staffing costs with the majority of this being realised across the Mental Health teams due to significant issues with recruitment and retention.
- £54k adverse variance on running costs and other minor variations.

Also included within the £401k net variance is £130k of funding from Homes for Ukraine, a £392k contribution from reserves in the Internal supported living service and £59k funding from the Urgent and Emergency Care Fund.

Savings – The savings target for 23/24 is £50k. It is assumed that the savings target will be achieved in full by the end of the financial year.

Internal Supported Living Service – Work to assess the cost of a safe staffing establishment aligned with the individual needs of the whole cohort for 2023/24 and future years has now been completed and the estimated financial envelope required has been included within the Medium Term Financial Plan from the 24/25 financial year. As at period 10 the service is forecasting an overspend of £392k this is mitigated by a planned contribution from reserves in this financial year.

Note 3

Ascot House is a Council owned building that is currently dual purpose. The Council operates a 9 bedded Discharge to Assess unit within the building, in addition to this there is a 36 bedded Intermediate care service operated by Manchester Foundation Trust and Commissioned by NHS Trafford Integrated Care Board.

The Intermediate Care service is operated on a pass through arrangement, whereby a large proportion of the overall staffing costs are recharged to Manchester Foundation Trust (MFT) by the Council. Due to significant financial pressures MFT have signalled their intention to limit pass through costs from the Council to £1.854m in this financial year. Projections suggest that the Council

		<p>will incur £2.267m in costs relating to the service leaving a pressure of £413k.</p> <p>There has been no resolution to this matter and therefore the Council has been forced to reduce funding available to support Hospital discharge capacity to mitigate the pressure in this financial year.</p> <p><u>Note 4</u> £1.088m favourable variance.</p> <p>The government announced the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (workforce) on the 28 July 2023. The announcement confirmed an additional allocation of £1.438m for the Council. The grant has target areas as part of the fund conditions, at least one of which must be identified for use of the funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increasing fee rates paid to adult social care providers in local areas</li> <li>• increasing adult social care workforce capacity and retention</li> <li>• reducing adult social care waiting times</li> </ul> <p>The Council will apply the fund to partially offset costs of uplifts confirmed in the Fair Price for Care and to support pressures on Mental Health and Learning Disability providers, to enhance the Council's Social Care and Commissioning workforce. In addition, following successful implementation of an overtime scheme for social workers to reduce waiting times, this will be further continued. £350k has been allocated to new commitments with the remaining £1.088m being used to offset the costs of provider uplifts applied at the start of the financial year. All of this supports the three target areas.</p>
Public Health	(322)	Public Health is forecasting a £322k favourable variance as at period 10 a favourable movement of £147k from period 8. This is due to projected expenditure on staffing below budget of £147k and £175k below budget on running costs and activity related budgets.
Place	(69)	<p><b>Total forecast outturn variance £(69)k favourable, an adverse movement of £14k.</b></p> <p><b>Place Revenue Budget £(315)k favourable, a favourable movement of £(85)k:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy costs are £1.286m below the figure predicted when the budget was set in February 2023. This underspend is £300k higher than last reported following ongoing analysis of bills from the Council's new energy contracts since April, and in particular bills from the winter period. The new contracts includes a flexible buying strategy to take advantage of favourable market fluctuations across the year. There are</li> </ul>

		<p>also the effects of energy saving measures to reduce consumption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are increased property running costs of £62k (increased by £11k) including Sale Waterside and Trafford Town Hall security. All other running costs are £70k above budget (increased by £31k).</li> <li>• There are projected shortfalls in income of £423k in Parking Services, in particular due to the delayed opening of Regent Road car park (increased by £98k), £354k Building Control (increased by £173k due to market conditions) and £63k from rental income at Altrincham Market and operational buildings (unchanged).</li> <li>• Estates savings have now exceeded expectations by £150k due to a number of successful business rate appeals and backdated (improved by £1k). There is a £60k saving shortfall from the installation of EV points which has now been rephased to later years.</li> <li>• Additional projected income above budget includes Altair £120k, Manchester Airport £75k (increased by £24k) and other let estate £19k. Outdoor media advertising is forecast to be £128k above budget (increased by £106k based on contract returns over the pre-Christmas period).</li> <li>• Staff vacancies for the year are currently estimated at £463k (excluding the ringfenced Planning account) (increased by £34k), which is approximately 5.4% of the staffing budget. This is offset by a Directorate-wide efficiency saving of £346k.</li> <li>• The Planning service is a ringfenced account and has a shortfall in income of £683k, which is offset by an underspend of £135k in staffing, running costs and reserve contributions. This is a forecast net overspend of £548k for the year (increased by £68k).</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Investment Programme £246k adverse, adverse movement of £98k;</b></p> <p>The forecast net outturn forecast is £5.84m, which is a shortfall of £246k against the net budget of £6.09m. This is an adverse change from the previous period of £98k which is mainly attributable to a slower than anticipated usage of agreed debt facilities in 2023/24, with income hence being rephased into 2024/25.</p>
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Strategy & Resources	(418)	<p><b>Total forecast outturn variance £(418)k favourable, a favourable movement of £(147)k.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff costs are estimated to be £686k less than budget across the Directorate based on actual and forecast vacancies across the whole year, which is 6.8% of the total staffing budget. This is £98k higher than last reported.</li> <li>• Running costs are forecast to be £8k underspent, which is an adverse movement of £14k.</li> <li>• Income is projected to be £138k above budget and has increased by £63k. The overall projection includes net £181k additional income from Bereavement Services (increased by £123k), £11k from Flixton House (reduced by £4k) and £83k from the Music Service trading account (reduced by £25k). These are offset by shortfalls of £19k in Catering and Cleaning trading services (reduced by £36k), £74k Waterside Arts Centre (increased by £50k), £44k SLA and other income (increased by £17k).</li> </ul> <p>These are offset by the budgeted Directorate-wide efficiency saving target of £414k.</p>
Finance & Systems	79	<p><b>Total forecast outturn variance £79k adverse, a favourable movement of £(70)k.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff costs are estimated to be £357k less than budget across the Directorate based on actual and forecast vacancies for the whole year, which is 3.6% of the total staffing budget. This is a favourable movement of £100k.</li> <li>• Running costs are forecast to be overspent by £268k across all services (increased by £32k including Exchequer legal fees). The overspend includes £200k relating to Trafford Assist, as reported previously, which is due to continuing additional uptake in demand. Other running cost increases include for ICT system contract extensions.</li> <li>• Income is projected to be £81k above budget (increased by £2k). The additional income includes £100k confirmed from CCG for ICT services which had been expected to reduce in the budget.</li> </ul> <p>These are offset by the budgeted Directorate-wide efficiency saving target of £249k.</p>

Legal and Governance	262	<p><b>Total forecast outturn variance £262k adverse, an adverse movement of £10k.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff costs are estimated to be £123k below budget (increased by £3k) and includes for agency costs covering vacancies and service demand.</li> <li>• Running costs are projected to be overspent by £350k (increased by £5k) which includes for additional court costs and legal fees based on updated forecasts of demand, particularly in social care. The overall overspend includes local election costs being £89k higher than expected associated with additional workload demand from the “all out” election in May 2023.</li> <li>• There is a projected shortfall in income of £35k compared to budget, which has increased by £8k. The overall shortfall includes £68k in land charges and £22k in capital fee income which is related to staff vacancies. This is offset by SLA and other income of £36k above budget assumptions and £19k from Registration Services.</li> </ul>
Council-wide	(3,682)	<p><b>Projected Outturn variance, £3.682m favourable, a favourable movement of £248k since period 8.</b></p> <p><b>Pay Award</b></p> <p>The 2023/24 Local Government pay award has been agreed. As previously reported this has resulted in an additional pressure of £0.7m which will be neutralised by a draw down from the Inflation Risk Reserve.</p> <p><b>Treasury Management</b></p> <p>Due to the continuing high interest environment, the Council has managed its cash balances to limit costly borrowing while investing any surplus cash to generate investment income to support the revenue budget. This careful cash management has allowed a saving of £3.406m in financing costs in 2023/24, a £330k favourable variance from period 8. This movement from the previous period is due to improved investment forecasts relating to higher cash balances in the final quarter of the year.</p> <p><b>Housing Benefit</b></p> <p>The Housing Benefit budget has a projected Outturn overspend (payments made, less subsidy and overpayment recovery) of £612k, an adverse movement of £122k since period 8.</p> <p>Work is now complete on the 2022/23 Subsidy claim where ‘Technical errors’ had been misclassified as ‘LA Errors’ and this has generated a small increase in Subsidy.</p> <p>However, the current Housing Benefit Subsidy budget pressures being felt across all local authorities is having a significant impact within Trafford. As the percentage of emergency/temporary</p>

		<p>accommodation cases increase, and in particular within the Private Rented Sector, rents are significantly higher than the Governments Local Housing Allowance rate. This can lead to significant losses as these rents attract less subsidy.</p> <p>In recognition of this national issue, an additional £400k was transferred to the Housing Benefit Overpayments Reserve at the end of 2022/23 to cover this, giving a total reserve of £900k to cover any pressure in the 2023/24 budget. Therefore, no impact on the Council-wide projected outturn figure above.</p> <p>The on-going impact on future budgets has been included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/25.</p> <p><b>Audit Fees £140k</b></p> <p>Additional ‘fee variations’ above budget have already been incurred by the Council following a number of recent ‘extended’ audits, in particular the 2021/22 Statutory Statement of Accounts and the Housing Benefit Subsidy claims relating to 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.</p> <p>Due to the delay in the completion of these audits it has also been necessary to estimate the likely ‘fee variations’ on subsequent audits up to and including 2023/24.</p> <p>The impact on the 2023/24 budget is therefore a total worst case scenario estimated at £140k.</p> <p>The on-going impact on future budgets has been included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/25.</p> <p><b>Coroner’s Budget</b></p> <p>The projected costs of Trafford’s share of the South Manchester Coroners’ service is currently expected to be £41k higher than budget, no change since period 8.</p> <p><b>Contingencies</b></p> <p>The Council-wide budget currently includes a general contingency of £2.33m. There are currently a number of commitments totalling £1.87m plus a £0.35m saving was released in period 6, leaving an uncommitted balance of £110k, a decrease of £0.6m since period 8.</p> <p><b>Enhanced Pension payments</b></p> <p>Recurrent savings relating to enhanced pension costs were previously highlighted in the 2022/23 Outturn report. And these savings have been included in our budget plans for 2024/25.</p> <p>Estimated savings for 2023/24 of £150k are included in the Council-wide figures above, no change since period 8.</p> <p><b>Government Grants</b></p>
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		<p>The final announcement for the 2023/24 Services Grant was received in June 2023 at £1.47m, which is £58k above budget, no change since period 8.</p> <p><b>Savings</b></p> <p>The Council-wide budget includes a saving of £200k for Digital Strategy, which includes £100k not achieved in 2022/23. Timescales for the Council's Digital Strategy programme have been delayed pending further development of the platform. Mitigating savings have been identified within the CRM licenses budget and will be used to offset the savings shortfall in the current year.</p> <p>Other minor adverse variations of £101k.</p>
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Dedicated Schools Budget	7,166	<b>Projected Outturn variance, £7.166m adverse, an adverse movement of £20k since period 8.</b>																							
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>P10 monitoring</b></th> <th><b>Grant £000</b></th> <th><b>Forecast outturn £000</b></th> <th><b>P10 variance £000</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Schools Block</b></td> <td>109,149</td> <td>109,109</td> <td>(40)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Central Schools Services Block</b></td> <td>1,495</td> <td>1,430</td> <td>(65)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>High Needs Block</b></td> <td>34,428</td> <td>41,699</td> <td>7,271</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Early Years Block</b></td> <td>17,848</td> <td>17,848</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL DSG</b></td> <td><b>162,920</b></td> <td><b>170,086</b></td> <td><b>7,166</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>P10 monitoring</b>	<b>Grant £000</b>	<b>Forecast outturn £000</b>	<b>P10 variance £000</b>	<b>Schools Block</b>	109,149	109,109	(40)	<b>Central Schools Services Block</b>	1,495	1,430	(65)	<b>High Needs Block</b>	34,428	41,699	7,271	<b>Early Years Block</b>	17,848	17,848	0	<b>TOTAL DSG</b>	<b>162,920</b>	<b>170,086</b>
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There was a negative HNB reserve of £4.138m at the start of the financial year and this is forecast to rise to £11.409m by 31/3/24.

<b>DSG Reserve</b>	<b>1 April 2023 £000's</b>	<b>P10 Forecast outturn £000's</b>	<b>31 March 2024 Projection £000's</b>
<b>Schools Block (SB)*</b>	(2,329)	1,316	(1,013)
<b>Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)</b>	(335)	(65)	(400)
<b>High Needs Block (HNB)</b>	4,138	7,271	11,409
<b>Early Years Block (EYB)</b>	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL DSG Reserve (surplus)/deficit</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>8,522</b>	<b>9,997</b>

\* £772k is being utilised from the Growth Fund reserve as agreed by Schools Funding Forum to fund 23/24 school budgets, a further £397k from the Growth Fund reserve is being used for Growth in 23/24, £174k has been drawn down for Trafford Alternative Education Provision (TAEP), £13k is required from the Redundancy reserve offset by a contribution to the Maternity reserve of £40k.

The size of the “deficit reserve” is now a material balance and is impacting on both the levels of cash balances the Council has and overall investment returns; the opportunity cost of this is estimated to be £498k in 2023/24.

There is the risk that the number of EHCPs will continue to grow and dependence on costly out of borough places will increase as capacity in borough isn't sufficient, which will impact on our ability to reduce the deficit.

Work continues to take place on the DSG deficit management plan with proposals and options being discussed with the DfE. The plan has been scrutinised by the SEND Board and has been presented to Funding Forum.

The statutory override for the DSG ends in 2025/26 which means that if this is not extended, the deficit will transfer back to the

		Council's total Earmarked Reserves, which has serious financial implications for the authority.
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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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