



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Wednesday, 2 October 2024

Trafford Town Hall
Talbot Road
Stretford
M32 0TH

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Trafford on **WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2024**, at **7.00 P.M.** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, TRAFFORD TOWN HALL, TALBOT ROAD, STRETFORD**, for the transaction of the business set out below:

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| 1. Minutes | |
| To approve as a correct record the Minutes of both the Extraordinary and Ordinary Meetings of the Council held on 17 July 2024, for signature by the Mayor as Chair of the Council. | 1 - 10 |
| 2. Announcements | |
| To receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader of the Council, Members of the Executive, Chairs of Scrutiny Committees and the Head of Paid Service. | |
| 3. Questions By Members | |
| This is an opportunity for Members of Council to ask the Mayor, Members of the Executive or the Chairs of any Committee or Sub-Committee a question on notice under Procedure Rule 10.2. | |
| 4. Membership of Committees and Outside Bodies | |
| To note the following changes approved under delegated authority: | |
| (a) Councillor Butt was appointed as a Substitute Member of Planning and Development Management Committee, effective from 6 August 2024. | |
| (b) Councillor Devlin replaced Councillor S. Taylor as the Council's representative on GMCA Health Scrutiny Committee, with Councillor S. Taylor continuing as Deputy, effective from 2 October 2024. | |

5. Motions

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

(a) Motion Submitted by the Conservative Group - Winter Fuel

Council notes:

- The Labour Government's recent decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit, as announced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves.
- There are more than 41,450 people over age of 65 in Trafford, 17.6% of the population, and most of these residents will be pensioners.
- The estimated impact of this decision, which Age UK says will mean 2 million pensioners who badly need the money to stay warm this winter will not receive it.
- The significant role that Winter Fuel Payments play in helping older residents of Trafford and across the UK afford heating during the coldest months, thereby preventing 'heat or eat' dilemmas and safeguarding health.
- The criticism from Age UK, the Countryside Alliance and other charities, highlighting the social injustice and potential health risks posed by this sudden policy change.
- The additional strain this decision will place on vulnerable pensioners, many of whom do not claim Pension Credit despite being eligible, further exacerbating their financial hardship.

Council believes:

- That the Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across the UK and that restricting its availability solely to those on Pension Credit risks leaving many pensioners in financial hardship as many thousands across Trafford sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance.
- The decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of our poorest older residents.
- The government's approach fails to consider the administrative barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

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Therefore, Council:

- Requests that the Council Leader and the Chief Executive write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.
- Will commence a Communications Campaign to encourage greater awareness and uptake of Pension Credits including targeted letters to those who may be eligible.
- Will sign the Age UK petition to save the Winter Fuel Payment for struggling pensioners and will encourage all members to do the same.

(b) Motion Submitted by the Labour Group - Bike Library

Physical inactivity is the fourth leading risk factor for global mortality accounting for 6% of deaths globally. People who have a physically active lifestyle have a 20-35% lower risk of cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease and stroke compared to those who have a sedentary lifestyle.

Regular physical activity is also associated with a reduced risk of diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis and colon/breast cancer and with improved mental health.

In older adults, physical activity is associated with increased functional capacities.

Because of these many positive outcomes reduction in physical inactivity is one of Trafford Council's 5 Priorities for Public Health.

Multiple studies have shown that one of the best ways to achieve this is to build physical activity into people's everyday lives – for example by enabling people to increase their opportunities for cycling.

An excellent way of increasing cycling opportunities is the provision of Bike Libraries – i.e. a library which allows people to borrow a bicycle, as they would a book. Their aim is to boost access to cycles and allow people a chance to give cycling a go.

With this in mind, a Bike Library has been established in 'Woodsend Library' in Davyhulme.

The establishment of the 'Woodsend Bike Library' has been a true example of multi-agency co-operation and working across the Public and Private Sector to improve Public Health by allowing residents, who otherwise would have been unable to do so, to access cycling.

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The Davyhulme Ward Councillors, who volunteer at the bike library in an apolitical capacity, therefore asks this Council to propose a motion of thanks to the following organisations/people for their part in this partnership project:

- 'Transport for Greater Manchester' for start up funding provision
- Trafford Council's Wheeling and Cycling Team for their expertise and guidance
- Trafford Council's Libraries Team for systems integration
- 'One Trafford Amey' for groundworks
- 'SUEZ' for sourcing bikes
- 'Manchester Bike Kitchen' for their advice, bike sourcing and ongoing technical expertise

(c) **Motion Submitted by the Labour Group - The Protection and Support of Children by Trafford Council**

This Council notes:

- A motion recognising care experience as a protected characteristic was passed in this Council chamber in March 2023:
 - The Council acknowledges its duty to prioritise the needs of vulnerable people, embedding this in decision-making processes through co-production and collaboration.
 - The Council will champion this principle with our partners and work alongside other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as this may be formalised through legislation.
- Children and young people are one of the five corporate priorities for Trafford Council:
 - We are committed to ensuring that children and young people receive the best possible education and support to help them achieve and thrive.
 - This commitment must be equally applied to our Children in Care. Trafford Council will continue to invest in borough-wide services to support Children in Care, and care-experienced young people and adults, keeping them at the forefront of our ambitions as a Local Authority.
- Councillors are corporate parents to cared-for and care-experienced children and young people, as outlined in the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (2018):

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- This duty is framed by the question, “*Would this be good enough for my child?*”
- Our responsibility extends beyond safeguarding to actively promoting the recovery, resilience, and well-being of these children.
- Elected members must approach the welfare of these children with the same level of concern and commitment as they would for their own.
- All parts of the local authority, not just children’s services, must recognise their role in supporting cared-for children and care-experienced young people and adults.

This Council resolves:

- To include Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) training in the compulsory training suite offered to all councillors.
- All councillors will actively challenge discriminatory language and behaviour relating to cared-for and care-experienced children wherever it is encountered.
- Councillors will follow statutory guidance by remaining deeply concerned about the welfare of cared-for children, treating them with the same consideration and care as they would for their own children.

(d) **Motion Submitted by the Liberal Democrats Group - Winter Fuel Payments**

This Council notes that:

The recent announcement by the Labour Government to end universal Winter Fuel Payments has restricted eligibility to only those in receipt of Pension Credit, excluding too many vulnerable pensioners.

Many pensioners on lower and middle incomes will no longer receive the payments. Across England and Wales the number of people eligible for Winter Fuel Payments will fall by 10 million (from 11.4 million to only 1.5 million).

According to data obtained by the Liberal Democrats from the Department of Work and Pensions, 34,706 pensioners in Trafford will lose out. That means 89% of pensioners currently eligible for Winter Fuel Payments will no longer be able to claim the payment from this winter onwards. There are an estimated 9,766 Trafford pensioners over the age of 80 who are set to lose out.

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A significantly increased communications budget was approved in February, enabling the Council to support residents with the challenges they are facing.

This Council believes that:

The criteria for Winter Fuel Payments that the Labour Government is using will exclude too many pensioners who need help.

Only those receiving a pension of less than £218.15 a week (or £332.95 a week for couples) are eligible for Pension Credit. This is significantly lower than the living wage rate.

Take up of Pension Credit has been worryingly low, more than one in three eligible pensioners are not signed up.

We have a role to play to increase awareness of welfare support such as Pension Credit to ensure people get the help that they need.

This Council further notes that:

The Energy Price Cap is due to rise by 10% in October, which combined with the removal of Winter Fuel Payments will push thousands of local pensioners into fuel poverty.

This Council resolves to:

1. Use the Council's increased communications budget to instruct the Council's Communications Team to urgently commence a significant awareness campaign to maximise uptake of Pension Credit. This should include a dedicated advice line, promotion in the local press as well as targeted letters to those who may be eligible.
2. Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the policy on linking Winter Fuel Payments to Pension Credit receipt to be immediately paused and introduce a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments. Council further requests the Leader of the Council write to all MPs covering Trafford asking them to give their formal support to halting these changes to the Winter Fuel Payment eligibility.

(e) Motion Submitted by the Green Party Group - Divesting the Greater Manchester Pension Fund from Fossil Fuels

This Council notes:

Trafford's Carbon Neutral Action plan states: "The impact of climate change affects us all, but the most disadvantaged communities are often those that are most vulnerable and most severely impacted. We are therefore fully committed to doing our utmost to reduce, adapt to and mitigate the risks and threats posed by climate change..."

That 5 years ago in a previous Green Party motion on 9/10/2019, Trafford council noted that: " That at least 5% of funds of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) are invested in Shell, BP and other fossil fuel companies."

The Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) now has at least £1.3bn of our public sector pension fund money in the fossil fuel industry including Shell, BP, TotalEnergies, Glencore, Legal and General amongst dozens of companies. This constitutes approximately 6% of the GMPF's fund.*

The Greater Manchester Pension Fund has set a goal of 2050 for reaching net zero carbon emissions, even though the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (and Trafford Council) has set a more ambitious goal of 2038 to reach the same target.

The fiduciary duties of the GMPF are compatible with fossil fuel divestment as evidenced by the many public sector and other pension funds, including local government ones, who are performing significantly better than GMPF on reaching zero carbon.

GMPF, one of the largest pension funds in the UK, has one of the highest percentages of its funds in fossil fuels across local government pension funds in England.*

Fossil fuel investments risk becoming stranded assets as decarbonisation efforts intensify.

Unison, the public service union, runs a long standing campaign on fossil fuel divestment from local government pension funds. This year Unison joined the campaign for a new international Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to speed up the move away from fossil fuels.

That fossil fuel investments should be considered as part of the council's "carbon footprint" and divesting our pension fund is one of the most impactful steps we can take to reduce our impact on our community and the world.

* (<https://divest.platformlondon.org/fund/greater-manchester-pension-fund>)

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This Council resolves:

To ask GMPF to develop and implement a clear transition plan that aligns with the 1.5C goal of the Paris agreement, to align with the GMCA target of 2038 for achieving net zero carbon emissions, rather than 2050.

To ask GMPF to implement a robust and transparent reporting mechanism to evidence progress on this plan.

To mandate our representative on the GMPF to call for and work towards divestment.

To acknowledge in future versions of our Carbon Neutral Action Plan, that Trafford's public money is bankrolling the fossil fuel industry through the GMPF, and that this fund is currently not committed to the 2038 target.

To write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the leaders of the other nine Greater Manchester councils to ask them to join us in these calls.

Yours sincerely,



SARA TODD
Chief Executive

Membership of the Council

Councillors A.M. Whyte (Mayor), J. Brophy (Deputy Mayor), D. Acton, S. Adshead, J.M. Axford, Babar, O.J. Baskerville, J. Bennett, B. Brotherton, D. Butt, G. Carter, K.G. Carter, G. Coggins, M. Cordingley, F. Cosby, Z.C. Deakin, G. Devlin, R. Duncan, P. Eckersley, S. G. Ennis, N. Evans, W. Frass, S.J. Gilbert, K Glenton, L. Hancock, J. Harding, B. Hartley, W. Hassan, S. J. Haughey, E.L. Hirst, J. Holden, F. Hornby, C. Hynes, D. Jarman, D. Jerrome, W. Jones, J. Leicester, S.E. Lepori, J. Lloyd, S. Maitland, M. Minnis, J.D. Newgrosh, T. O'Brien, D.C. O'Sullivan, E.R. Parker, E. Patel, K. Procter, S. Procter, T. Ross, U. Savary, J. Slater, H. K. Spencer, O. Sutton, M.J. Taylor, S. Taylor, S. Thomas, R. Thompson, M.J. Welton, D. Western, A.J. Williams, B.G. Winstanley, J.A. Wright and S. Zhi.

Further Information

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

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This Summons was issued on **Wednesday, 2 October 2024** by the Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford M32 0TH.