

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

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| <u>DATE OF DECISION</u> | Monday, 21 October 2024 | <u>DECISION MAKER</u> |
| <u>DECISION REFERENCE</u> | E.21/10/24.6 | Executive (Councillors Participating: Ross, Adshead, K. Carter, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Thompson Williams, and Wright) |

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Draft Revenue Budget Proposals 2025/26 and MTFS 2026-27- 2027-28

That the Executive:

- (1) Approves the 2025/28 proposed budget strategy, including the 2025/26 draft revenue budget and the 2026/28 MTFS, noting that the draft income and savings proposals are included for the purposes of informing the Executive of the intended consultations which will be undertaken (where necessary and/or required).
- (2) Notes the draft proposal to increase Council Tax by 4.99% in 2025/26 (comprising 2.0% adult social care precept and 2.99% general increase) and by 2.99% (comprising 1% adults social care precept and 1.99% general increase) for the remaining years of the MTFS 2026/28.
- (3) Notes that the draft proposals are subject to various consultation exercises, further analysis of reserves, savings and income including impact assessments, potential future movements in core funding and specific grants, revised costings and robustness assessments and that these proposals will be subject to a future decision making process which will include a referral to the Scrutiny Committee for their consideration.
- (4) Notes the assumptions made in setting the MTFS in Section 4 and the degree of uncertainty as detailed in the report.
- (5) Notes the remaining budget gap for the years 2026/27 to 2027/28 as identified in the report.
- (6) Notes the commentary of the Director of Finance and Systems, the Council's statutory S151 officer, regarding the financial sustainability of the Council contained in Section 1 of the report.
- (7) Notes that the bidding process for Capital Programme is ongoing and the prioritisation process to be undertaken to compile an affordable capital programme 2025/26 to 2027/28.
- (8) Notes the continued use of flexible use of capital receipts to support in part the cost of the Modernisation Team in developing the Council's Finance and Change Programme for 2025/26.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To enable the Council to explore draft proposals in order to develop a balanced, robust budget and Council Tax level to be approved in accordance with statutory requirements.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

The budget proposals included in this report assume an overall increase to the level of council tax of 4.99% in 2025/26 comprising an increase of 2.0% for the 'adult social care precept' to be earmarked for adult social care expenditure and 2.99% general increase in the 'relevant basic amount'. An alternative option could be made to increase its 'relevant basic amount of council tax' above these levels. However, this would exceed the referendum limits, which would mean a local referendum would be required to be held before any such increase could be implemented. Alternatively, not increasing council tax by the level recommended in this report, subject to the final referendum level being notified in December 2024, would increase the overall funding gap by a further £6.4m in 2025/26 which would mean further reductions to expenditure on council services would be necessary.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Tuesday, 29 October 2024
(Decision can be implemented on the next working day, unless called in).

PUBLICATION DATE

Tuesday, 22 October 2024

RECORDED BY:

Director of Legal and Governance

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| <u>DATE OF DECISION</u> | Monday, 21 October 2024 | <u>DECISION MAKER</u> |
| <u>DECISION REFERENCE</u> | E.21/10/24.11 | Executive (Councillors Participating: Ross, Adshead, K. Carter, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Thompson Williams, and Wright) |

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Update on the Redevelopment of the Land at Stokoe Avenue, Altrincham - Part 1

- (1) That the proposals for the Development, be noted.
- (2) That to RIBA Stage 4 design and then the delivery of 9 houses on the site (the Development), be approved.
- (3) That the Corporate Director of Place be delegated authority to:
 - a. Submit a planning application and undertake the Development, subject to the parameters in this report,
 - b. engage external professional resources as required to assist in implementing the Development,
 - c. Negotiate and finalise any agreement contract or other document required to deliver the Development and any associated disposals.
 - d. 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.
 - e. authorise a marketing, pricing and disposal strategy and authorise the sale of plots including where the anticipated or actual capital receipt exceeds £499,999.
- (4) That the Director of Legal and Governance be authorised to enter into all legal agreements required to implement the above decisions.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To deliver new homes as part of the Council's corporate objectives and generate a capital receipt.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Do nothing – The Council can choose to do nothing. The site will remain undeveloped, there will be no capital receipt.

Sell the site – The Council can choose to sell the site; however, this would deliver a reduced receipt to the Council.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None

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| <u>DECISION REFERENCE</u> | E.21/10/24.12 | Executive (Councillors Participating: Ross, Adshead, K. Carter, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Thompson Williams, and Wright) |

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Old Trafford Sports Barn Community Asset Transfer

That the Executive:

- (1) Approves the proposed disposal of the Old Trafford Sports Barn (OTSB) to the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) as a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) by way of two leases, one of the areas shaded red including a hatched blue on the plan and one of the area shaded green on the plan (Appendix 1).
- (2) Approves the full business plan (Part 2) for the future operation of OTSB by SPV.
- (3) Approves the completion of an agreement between the Council, Trafford Leisure Community Interest Company Limited ("Trafford Leisure") and SPV of the transition arrangements detailed in this report ("the Transition Agreement").
- (4) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems and the Director of Legal and Governance to approve minor amendments to the full business plan (Part 2) for the future operation of OTSB by SPV.
- (5) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Systems and the Director of Legal and Governance to agree the final head of terms of the proposed leases to completion including any other documents necessary to implement the decision of the Executive.
- (6) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Place in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems to enter into a funding agreement offered to the project and the terms and conditions associated with receiving a funding offer from Sport England and the Football Foundation.
- (7) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Place to submit planning permission for building works at Old Trafford Sports Barn subject to external funding secured.
- (8) Notes the provision of Early Years childcare provider at OTSB for minimum of 5 years, subject to an alternative site being sourced by either Trafford Council, SPV or the Early Years operator on site.
- (9) Notes Transfer of Undertakings of Pension and Employment rights (TUPE) may apply.

(10) Notes Seymour Park is registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and that the disposal of OTSB will be subject to the requirements for an ACV.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Leisure Assets help support the health and wellbeing of the community helping people to live longer, remain independent and in better health. In turn, reducing the growing burden upon the health and social care system.

Trafford had a declining leisure asset, the Council is currently supporting Trafford Leisure losses from its approved revenue budget, £0.765 in 2024/25. This is not sustainable over the medium term.

With the facilities in decline the strategic importance of this to the Councils aims and corporate priorities is paramount.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Do nothing – Doing nothing means ultimate closure of Old Trafford Sports Barn as usage continues to decline due to the poor condition of the existing facilities. During the decline, the Council will incur increasing annual revenue costs to support Trafford Leisure CIC as a going concern over several years and will still need to undertake significant further essential health and safety capital works during the same period. Strategic outcomes will not be delivered, and this option would directly impact on the Council’s ability to directly address health inequalities and climate crisis.

Continue to undertake short term ongoing maintenance works with associated costs required to ensure the asset can remain open - However, this would not drive key outcomes such as health and wellbeing or provide a revenue opportunity but would provide some maintenance cover for a zero-to-five-year lifespan. This has the same financial pressures as the ‘Do Nothing’ option and would lead to ultimate closure as capital and revenue costs escalate.

Should there be a scenario were the SPV is unable to continue or meet the obligations of the lease and the asset returns to the Council there is scope to consider the other options developed by FMG in the Stage Two report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None

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| <u>DECISION REFERENCE</u> | E.21/10/24.13 | Executive (Councillors Participating: Ross, Adshead, K. Carter, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Thompson Williams, and Wright) |

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Proposed Changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme 2025-26

That the Executive:

- (1) Approves the proposals contained in the report and agrees to the start of a formal consultation exercise to take place between 28 October and 17 November 2024.
- (2) Notes that the outcome of the consultation will be reported back to the Executive in December 2024.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Executive was asked to approve the proposals for the revised CTS scheme, as detailed in the report for consultation, with the outcome of the consultation and proposed final scheme to be brought back to the Executive in December.

The report proposes changes to the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme from April 2025. The changes are proposed so that the scheme is easier to understand and administer and is a simplified claims process for working age residents in receipt of welfare benefits who have been moving, and will continue to now move at pace, on to Universal Credit.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

The Council could have considered not making changes to the CTS Scheme however this would mean that the scheme would remain complex to administer, difficult to understand the calculations, not align to Universal Credit and not be able to benefit from digital automation which will speed up processing of new claimants and changes in circumstances.

The Council considered a number of different options, there are various types of CTS schemes; some are simpler than others though they all involve some form of means-testing in order to control costs. See Appendix D of the report for advantages and disadvantages of different scheme types.

The Income-banded scheme offers the most advantages to both residents and the Council as it will be easier for those receiving UC to understand, a simpler means test and lower administrative costs.

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| <u>DECISION REFERENCE</u> | E.21/10/24.16 | Executive (Councillors Participating: Ross, Adshead, K. Carter, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Thompson Williams, and Wright) |
| <u>RECORD OF THE DECISION</u> | | |
| Update on the Redevelopment of the Land at Stokoe Avenue, Altrincham - Part 2 As per the decision record for the report considered in the public part of the agenda. | | |
| <u>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</u> | | |
| As per the decision record for the report considered in the public part of the agenda. | | |
| <u>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS</u> | | |
| As per the decision record for the report considered in the public part of the agenda. | | |
| <u>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION</u> | | |
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| <u>RECORD OF THE DECISION</u> | | |
| Old Trafford Sports Barn Community Asset Transfer | | |
| As per the decision record for the report considered in the public part of the agenda, having given specific consideration of the full business plan (Part 2) for the future operation of OTSB by SPV. | | |
| <u>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</u> | | |
| As per the decision record for the report considered in the public part of the agenda. | | |
| <u>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS</u> | | |
| As per the decision record for the report considered in the public part of the agenda. | | |
| <u>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION</u> | | |
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