

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 18 December 2024	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/18.12.24/5a	Executive (Councillors Participating: Ross, Adshead, K. Carter, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Slater, Thompson and Williams)
<u>RECORD OF THE DECISION</u>		
Response to Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group - Reducing Car Dependency		
(1) That the Executive welcomes the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Report on Reducing Car Dependency dated 10 July 2024 and supports the principle of widening transport choices and reducing reliance on the private car for journeys in Trafford.		
(2) That the response to the Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group, set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be endorsed.		
<u>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</u>		
To address the matters highlighted by the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.		
<u>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS</u>		
None.		
<u>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION</u>		
None		

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Not Applicable - the Executive's response is referred back to the Scrutiny Committee and will be presented to its next meeting.

PUBLICATION DATE

Thursday, 19 December 2024

RECORDED BY:

Director of Legal and Governance

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RECORD OF THE DECISION

Update on the Redevelopment of Lacy Street, Stretford (Part 1 and Part 2 reports)

- (1) That the proposals for the Development, be noted.
- (2) That progression to RIBA Stage 3 and 4 design and then the delivery of 53 homes 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 the 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; and
 - 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

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Friday, 3 January 2025

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

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RECORD OF THE DECISION

Civic Quarter Heat Network - Approval to Accept Green Heat Network Fund Grant

- (1) That the contents of the report, be noted.
- (2) That the Executive approves accepting the grant if Trafford Council's application is successful, and moving to the commercialisation phase of work, noting that a final decision to proceed will be taken once this phase has completed.
- (3) That the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Legal and Governance, be delegated authority to accept the Green Heat Network Fund grant if awarded at the level submitted.
- (4) That the Corporate Director of Place, following consultation with finance, legal and procurement, be delegated authority to carry out a procurement exercise to identify commercialisation advisers and a third-party delivery partner, and take all other necessary steps to develop the project prior to approval of a Joint Development Agreement.
- (5) That a further report be made to the Executive to seek approval of the Joint Development Agreement.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

A key rationale for the heat network is carbon savings, especially with the scope for expanding the network beyond the Civic Quarter. In addition, a significant benefit of the scheme is that supplying heat from a central low carbon source will greatly lower the strain on the electricity grid compared to having individual electric heating in buildings.

Another significant benefit is the potential for future expansion. The Trafford Civic Quarter sits within one of a number of identified heat network zones in Greater Manchester. There is considerable scope for expansion by connecting the Civic Quarter network to other nearby networks that could also be developed, such as Trafford Wharfside or into Trafford Park. The scheme could even be part of a much greater movement of heat from large sources in the west, such as Carrington Power Station and Davyhulme Water Treatment Works, through Trafford and on in to central Manchester. From discussions with potential heat network delivery partners, we know that there is considerable interest in this scheme because of the expansion potential.

Other benefits are that the construction of the network will provide green jobs. There is also a presentational benefit to having such a flagship scheme as part of the Civic Quarter development.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Assuming the application is successful:

Accept the GHNf commercialisation and capital grant offer and continue to commercialisation.

Decline the GHNf commercialisation and capital grant offer and cease development of the Heat Network.

Decline the GHNf grant offer and continue to commercialisation phase.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None

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RECORD OF THE DECISION

Former William Wroe Golf Course, Flixton - Future Plans

- (1) That the contents of the report, be noted.
- (2) That the proposed focus on access, infrastructure and nature-related activities for the next 2-3 years, be approved.
- (3) That the Council and partners seek further funding to progress accessibility improvements and wetland creation/reclamation work.
- (4) That the Corporate Director of Place, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Systems, be delegated authority to agree the scope and funding of short-term infrastructure works to improve signage and access.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To approve the short to medium-term approach to realising ambitions for improved accessibility, infrastructure, biodiversity and natural flood management at William Wroe. This approach will allow the Council and partners to focus efforts on securing additional capital funding to implement the proposals within the TEP study, whilst capturing and communicating site management within a dedicated management plan that places an emphasis on resource-efficient, low-cost interventions with added capacity via environmental partners plus community groups and volunteers.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Continue the current management approach without further site enhancements, with consequent adverse impacts in respect of community aspirations, climate change adaptation and nature recovery potential.

Postpone short to medium-term improvements in favour of exploring in detail alternative long term management models, which would fail to take advantage of the range of funding opportunities and volunteer resources that are available currently.

Use available funding to implement many of the high and moderate priorities from the ARUP options appraisal, with repercussions for the medium to long-term management of the site and associated revenue budget impacts.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None

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<u>RECORD OF THE DECISION</u>		
<p><u>Trafford Council & Trafford Leisure: New Operating Agreement (Part 1 and Part 2 reports)</u></p> <p>(1) That the Executive approves in principle, the new governance arrangements based on a new contract and Operating Agreement with Trafford Leisure CIC, together with amended Articles of Association that reflect the new governance arrangements.</p> <p>(2) That a further report be brought back to the Executive in the new year detailing the full implications of adopting an agency model agreement between the Council and Trafford Leisure.</p> <p>(3) That the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance, be delegated authority to negotiate and agree the terms of new agreements and leases with Trafford Leisure CIC Limited, in relation to the use and operation of the facilities.</p> <p>(4) That the Director of Legal and Governance be delegated authority to enter into and sign and/or seal the said agreements and leases on behalf of the Council.</p>		
<u>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</u>		
<p>The report reflects the decision from the Executive in 2021 to continue with its local provider Trafford Leisure CiC. The new Operating Agreement reflects the outcomes of the SOPM and puts in place new fit for purpose governance and contractual arrangements to ensure effective monitoring and compliance of the Leisure Provider in the delivery of the Councils strategic priorities.</p>		
<u>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS</u>		
<p>Continue with the current operating agreement that has been in place with Trafford Leisure since 2016. This agreement is limited in its scope and breadth and does not include key agreements such as leases.</p>		
<u>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION</u>		
<p>Councillor Hynes declared an interest being a Member of the Trafford Leisure Board and also being an employee of HM Revenue and Customs, insofar as the agency model agreement related to VAT.</p>		

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<u>RECORD OF THE DECISION</u>		
<p><u>Council Tax Support Scheme 2025-26 – Proposed Scheme Following Consultation</u></p> <p>(1) That the outcomes of the consultation process and the Equality Impact Assessment both of which have supported and informed the final recommendations, be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the proposals contained in the report to change the Council’s Council Tax Support working age scheme from 1 April 2025, be approved.</p>		
<u>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</u>		
<p>The changes to the Council’s Council Tax Support Scheme 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.</p>		
<u>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS</u>		
<p>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 claims and changes in circumstances.</p> <p>The Council considered a number of different options before consulting on the proposed option. The Council has carefully considered the feedback gathered throughout the consultation period and have made changes to reflect some of the main concerns raised as explained in part 4 of the report.</p> <p>Overall the Income-banded scheme, with the changes made following consultation, 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, with a Discretionary Council Tax Support Scheme in place to ensure any residents who require additional support can apply to request this as well as some transactional protection for large families in 2025-26.</p>		
<u>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION</u>		
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