

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

15 MARCH 2023

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Chris Boyes), in the Chair.

D.C. O'Sullivan (Deputy Mayor)	J. Harding	E. Patel
D. Acton	B. Hartley	K. Procter
S. Adshead	W. Hassan	S. Procter
A. Akinola	S. J. Haughey	T. Ross
J.M. Axford	J. Holden	J. Slater
J. Bennett	F. Hornby	S. Thomas
Miss L. Blackburn	C. Hynes	R. Thompson
J. E. Brophy	D. Jarman	M.J. Welton
B. Brotherton	D. Jerrome	D. Western
D. Butt	W. Jones	M.P. Whetton
G. Carter	J. Leicester	G. Whitham
K.G. Carter	J. Lloyd	A.J. Williams
D.N. Chalkin	M. Minnis	B.G. Winstanley
G. Coggins	M. Mirza	J.A. Wright
R. Duncan	D. Morgan	Mrs. P. Young
S. G. Ennis	P. Myers	S. Zhi
W. Frass	A. New	
S.J. Gilbert	T. O'Brien	

In attendance

Chief Executive	S. Todd
Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	D. Sykes
Governance Officer	M. Cody
Senior Governance Officer	I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Bunting, L. Dagnall, M. Freeman, S. Maitland, J.D. Newgrosh, S. Taylor, L. Walsh, A. Western and A.M. Whyte.

63. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 February 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

64. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Acton, Chair of Scrutiny Committee announced that the Committee had established Task and Finish Group for the reduction of car dependency in the Trafford area with Councillor Axford as its Chair. Councillor Acton acknowledged

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that it would be a difficult task to convince people to use alternative means and looked forward to the Group reporting back and its submission to Council in due course.

(b) Health Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Whetton, Chair of Health Scrutiny reported that the Task and Finish Group investigating access to GPs had received a reasonable response from its residents' survey, however, the response rate from GPs was disappointing. The content of responses provided a lot of detail to consider and recommendations were currently being finalised in anticipation of an interim report being signed-off by Health Scrutiny Committee and published before the end of the municipal year.

(c) Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

Councillor D. Western, Chair of Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee informed the Council that an interim report was expected before the end of the municipal year from the Committee's Task and Finish Group established to investigate children's access to mental health services.

65. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 11 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2 and, on the basis that each question and response had been circulated, advised that these would be taken as read and that he would proceed with the supplementary questions. (Note: All the questions and responses are available to view on the Council's website.)

(a) Question 1 from Councillor Myers re: the Trafford Labour Manifesto 2018 pledge to keep Trafford's council tax low

Councillor Myers asked as a supplementary question as to whether the Leader had any idea when his party would be keeping to their manifesto commitment. Councillor Ross, the Leader of the Council referred again to his definition being as to how Council Tax compared with the other Greater Manchester authorities and other comparator groups which was well below the Band D average. Despite the financial challenges all local authorities had faced over the past 13 years of austerity, Trafford had continued to maintain a low Council Tax compared with its neighbours and the Leader stated that it was his Group's intention to carry that on whilst at the same time he reminded the Council of the percentage increase proposed in the last budget set by a Conservative administration.

(b) Question 2 from Councillor D. Western re: photo ID for voters in the local elections

Councillor D. Western did not have a supplementary question.

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(c) Question 3 from Councillor Morgan re: damage to grass verges

Councillor Morgan asked as a supplementary question what plans the Executive Member had to do more to stop this blight on neighbourhoods. Councillor Adshead, the Executive Member for Environmental Services believed that there was no simple solution and that each site would have to be looked at individually to see if it could be resolved locally.

(d) Question 4 from Councillor Morgan re: the Trafford Labour 2018 Manifesto statement, point 31, "We will establish 20mph zones around all primary schools"

As a supplementary question, Councillor Morgan the Executive Member why the pledge had been dropped. Councillor Adshead, the Executive Member for Environmental Services advised that 20mph zones by themselves were not the only consideration when looking to improve safety around schools and that authorisation for CCTV to enforce such zones was a key factor. Ideally, the Council would like to introduce a lot more schemes but each location had to be assessed independently to determine the most appropriate solution.

(e) Question 5 from Councillor Frass re: the road surface outside St Hugh's Primary in Timperley

Councillor Frass asked as a supplementary question whether the Executive would consider accelerating the timetable for repair, in view of the fact that Park Road was part of the route of the Manchester Marathon taking place in approximately 4 weeks' time. Councillor Adshead, the Executive Member for Environmental Services referred to his written response which indicated that patching repairs were being considered but unfortunately, as works had to be programmed and aligned with school holidays, was unable to add anything further.

(f) Question 6 from Councillor Miss Blackburn re: use of Altrincham Library for community meetings as a result of the proposals for Altrincham Town Hall

Councillor Miss Blackburn asked as a supplementary question whether another venue in Altrincham town centre could be considered should Altrincham Library be unable to be used for evening community meetings. Councillor Patel, the Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration confirmed that it was a genuine offer to explore venues and that the Open Plus System allowed that flexibility. Councillor Patel also confirmed that there were alternatives in the nearby area and had a list of community buildings on offer in Altrincham, therefore it was something that had been looked into.

(g) Question 7 from Councillor Holden re: ensuring that damage to verges, pavements and road surfaces caused by developers and contractors during building work is repaired to a satisfactory standard

As a supplementary question Councillor Holden asked how often the monitoring processes had been implemented over the past 12 months or so. Councillor Adshead, the Executive Member for Environmental Services confirmed that

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Inspectors from Planning and Highways would visit the site during implementation of the scheme and following completion and invited Councillor Holden to meet with him if he had concerns about a particular case.

- (h) Question 8 from Councillor Holden re: the number of children not offered a place at any of their listed schools and in which wards they were resident

Councillor Holden asked as a supplementary question how the Council planned to enhance the provision of school capacity to allow more young people to continue their education within their communities and not, at a crucial time in their lives, be torn away from their friends, family and social group, simply to fill in partly empty schools. Councillor New, Lead Member for Education agreed to respond by email and inform all Members.

- (g) Question 9 from Councillor Brophy re: the number of claimants in Trafford with disabilities and long-term illnesses being contacted about debt:

Councillor Brophy asked as a supplementary question whether the Council took into account all the additional expenditure people faced in maintaining their health and wellbeing and would the Executive Member outline the steps taken to ensure financial fairness for adults with disabilities and long-term illness and the additional measures which took into account the current cost of living crisis. Councillor K. Carter, the Executive Member for Adult Social Care referenced her response which demonstrated that a great deal of care and sensitivity was shown and expressed her full support and trust that staff would take into account people's individual circumstances. Councillor K. Carter acknowledged that, since the Council had not received any additional funding, it had not been able to factor in cost of living support but was assured that staff would manage any outstanding payments from vulnerable clients with as much sensitivity as possible.

- (h) Question 10 from Councillor Newgrosh re: the reduction of street waste bins

In the absence of Councillor Newgrosh, the Mayor permitted Councillor Ennis to put a supplementary question and he asked what plans would be brought forward to roll out more bins across the borough and return provision to original levels. Councillor Adshead, the Executive Member for Environmental Services reported that the proposal and replacement programme came forward and was supported at a time when the controlling group was in opposition. Previously, there were open top litter bins, unmanageable dog waste bins and in certain areas an over provision and Councillor Adshead confirmed that the programme was not about reducing the number of receptacles but was to introduce more suitable waste bins across the Borough. With the locations having been agreed by ward Councillors, currently there would not be any extra provision, as investment had been significant and had led to a reduction in littering from bins that were not fit for purpose.

- (i) Question 11 from Councillor Chalkin re: Hale Village investment

Councillor Chalkin did not have a supplementary question.

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66. MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That the Council notes that Councillor Dr. Carr resigned as a Member of the Council, with effect from 20 February 2023.

67. GREATER MANCHESTER MINIMUM LICENSING STANDARDS FOR TAXIS

The Executive Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods submitted a report proposing amendments to the implementation date for the hackney carriage and private hire age and emissions standards for existing Trafford licensed vehicles, which were proposed as part of the Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards project and adopted by Council on the 24 November 2021.

The Executive considered the matter on 23 January 2023 and recommended to the Council that the compliance date be extended from 1 April 2024 to 1 April 2026.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the implementation dates for age limits for existing licensed vehicles be amended as per Standard 2 in Table B, within section 6 of the report.
- (2) That the implementation dates for emission standards for existing licensed vehicles be amended as per Standard 3 in Table B, within section 6 of the report.
- (3) That the decision to further amend the implementation dates for age limits and emission standards for existing licensed vehicles, as per Standard 2 and Standard 3 in Table C, within section 6 of the report, be delegated to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods, should there be further delays to the introduction of the Clean Air Plan and the taxi funding support package and it would not be appropriate to introduce the implementation dates in Table B of the report.

68. TRAFFORD COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023/24

The Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing and Equalities submitted a report providing the Council with information relating to Trafford's Pay Policy for 2023/24 in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the 2023/24 Pay Policy statement, as recommended by Employment Committee on 20 February 2023 and as set out in the report, be approved.

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69. DRAFT TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 2023/24

The Director of Legal and Governance submitted a report recommending adoption of a provisional timetable of Council and Committee meetings for the 2023/24 municipal year.

RESOLVED: That the provisional timetable of Council and Committee meetings for the 2023/24 municipal year, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and recommended to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 24 May 2023.

70. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM - WAIVER OF THE SIX MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE

(Note: The Mayor allowed consideration of this matter as an item of urgency and varied the order of business to present a request to waive the six-month Councillor attendance rule prior to the end of the 6-month period.)

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report advising the Council of a request received to extend the six-month rule, as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, approves Councillor Dagnall's request for a three-month extension to the attendance rule on medical grounds, until 15 June 2023.

71. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - PROTECTING OUR PRECIOUS GREEN BELT

It was moved and seconded that:

"The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in December made a statement in the House of Commons in relation to an update on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

In this statement the Secretary of State confirmed that whilst he will maintain a method for calculating he believes that the plan-making process for housing has to start with a number, this number should be an advisory starting point, a guide from that is not mandatory.

The Secretary of State further added that it will be up to Local Authorities, working with their communities, to determine how many homes can actually be built, taking into account what should be protected in each area - be that our precious green belt or national parks. It will be down to local authorities to determine how many homes can be built, taking into many factors, including protecting our precious Green Belt.

The Secretary of State further outlined how those local authorities with local plans at an advanced stage of preparation who will not benefit from these provisions can take advantage of transitional arrangements to produce plans

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that are compliant with the new guidance. Although this Council is part of the Places for Everyone submission, we have no adopted local plan. As such the housing need calculation made within Places for Everyone is now obsolete and not in line with national guidance. As such it is clear that Trafford's local plan be produced in line with the new national guidance. Bearing in mind the clarification outlined in the Secretary of State's statement in the House of Commons;

This Council resolves to;

- To withdraw Trafford Council from the Greater Manchester "Places for Everyone" Plan with an immediate priority.
- Develop a joint approach to calculating housing need through community consultation and a reinforced brownfield first policy.
- Make a public commitment to protect the Borough's precious Green Belt by removing the Timperley Wedge and Carrington Moss sites from any future local plan."

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

This Council believes that:

Tackling the housing crisis is essential in order to provide fairer futures for the next generation.

A plan that works for all of Trafford Borough is best developed in Trafford Borough, by this Council and in consultation with the people we represent.

Every part of the borough should be afforded fair and equal treatment when it comes to providing access to nature and wildlife and protecting what remains of our green spaces.

This Council recognises:

That Trafford Council has recently focussed substantial energy on preserving green spaces in the north of the borough, and now will seek to find similar ways to protect those in the south of the borough.

The site of the former municipal golf-course William Wroe - which spans both sides of the Manchester to Liverpool railway in Flixton - was removed from the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (the predecessor to Places for Everyone) and now enjoys 'field of trust' status.

The lengthy work which would be required to submit all such green spaces to Fields of Trust; and agrees to find alternative ways to protect vulnerable green space in the south of the borough from unnecessary development.

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Plans to develop Timperley Wedge would remove the last large open green space between the already heavily developed urban areas of Timperley and Hale Barns, thus removing the ‘green lung’ between those communities and the airport.

The density of the housing means the current ‘Timperley Ward’ has one of the lowest percentages of green space of any ward in Trafford and the further increase in density resulting from building large numbers of houses and office buildings on Timperley Wedge would be detrimental to the area.

Council Officers have confirmed that there is sufficient brownfield space in Trafford for more than 16,400 dwellings. A ‘brownfield first’ approach can provide Trafford with the homes it needs and should be pursued more vigorously.

That the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in December made a statement in the House of Commons in relation to an ~~update~~ **government U-turn** on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

In this statement the Secretary of State confirmed that whilst he will maintain a method for calculating he believes that the plan-making process for housing has to start with a number, this number should be an advisory starting point, a guide from that is not mandatory.

The Secretary of State further added that it will be up to Local Authorities, working with their communities, to determine how many homes can actually be built, taking into account what should be protected in each area - be that our precious green belt or national parks. It will be down to local authorities to determine how many homes can be built, taking into many factors, including protecting our precious Green Belt.

The Secretary of State further outlined how those local authorities with local plans at an advanced stage of preparation who will not benefit from these provisions can take advantage of transitional arrangements to produce plans that are compliant with the new guidance.

Although this Council is part of the Places for Everyone submission, we have no adopted local plan. As such the housing need calculation made within Places for Everyone is now obsolete and not in line with national guidance. As such it is clear that Trafford’s local plan be produced in line with the new national guidance. Bearing in mind the ~~clarification outlined in the~~ Secretary of State’s ~~statement~~ **U-turn** in the House of Commons.

This Council resolves to:

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- Make a public commitment to protect the Borough's precious Green Belt by removing the Timperley Wedge and Carrington Moss sites from any future local plan."

(Note: During the debate on the amendment, the time being 8:07 p.m., the Mayor indicated that speeches on this matter would now be limited to a maximum of one minute 30 seconds per speaker.)

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and declared lost. The Substantive Motion was then put to the vote and was also declared lost.

72. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE GREEN PARTY GROUP - MAKING VOTES COUNT WITH PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

It was moved and seconded that:

"This Council notes:

Within Europe, only the United Kingdom and authoritarian Belarus still use the archaic First Past the Post (FPTP) system for general and local elections. Internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries.

At the 2019 general election:

- The SNP won one seat every 25,883 votes.
- The Conservatives won one seat for every 38,264 votes
- Labour won one seat for every 50,837 votes.
- The Liberal Democrats won one seat for every 336,038 votes.
- The Green Party won one seat for every 866,435 votes.
- The BREXIT party received no seats despite winning over 600,000 votes (2%) nationwide.

FPTP returns a government that doesn't represent the will of the voters. FPTP also permits the basic unfairness of minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats but 100% of the power.

The impact of FPTP is to leave millions of voters feeling unrepresented and unheard.

Under a PR voting system MPs, councillors and other elected representatives would better reflect the views of their communities. This would lead to improved decision-making, higher turnout and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and at local elections in Scotland. Welsh

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councils also now have the right to adopt a PR system for their local elections if they so choose.

This Council believes that:

- The FPTP system has contributed to dangerous levels of distrust and disillusionment with our democratic processes and politicians.
- 3 elections between 2015 and 2019, and 3 Prime Ministers in the last year, shows that FPTP does not lead to stable government.
- It is essential that faith is restored in our democratic system and that the public see Parliament as fairly reflecting their views.
- Our FPTP voting system is a significant barrier to restoring this faith and all but guarantees that the balance of opinion among the electorate is not reflected in Parliament or in council chambers.
- A system of proportional representation in which seats match votes and all votes count equally would help to rebuild public trust. It would ensure that all political views are represented in Parliament and councils in proportion to their level of public support.

Council therefore resolves:

- 1 To request that the leader of the council writes to the Government asking it:
 - to change our outdated electoral laws to enable proportional representation to be used for general elections,
 - and to (following the Welsh Government's example) allow Councils to use a PR system if they so choose.
- 2 To request the leader to sign, on behalf of this council, the Electoral Reform Society petition calling for fair votes in English local government.
- 3 To call upon Trafford's MPs to push for a change to electoral law to permit proportional representation and to promote the matter for debate within Parliament."

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

"This Council notes:

Within Europe, only the United Kingdom and authoritarian Belarus still use the archaic First Past the Post (FPTP) system for general and local elections. Internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries.

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- The BREXIT party received no seats despite winning over 600,000 votes (2%) nationwide.

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The impact of FPTP is to leave millions of voters feeling unrepresented and unheard.

Under a PR voting system MPs, councillors and other elected representatives would better reflect the views of their communities. This would lead to improved decision-making, higher turnout and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and at local elections in Scotland. Welsh councils also now have the right to adopt a PR system for their local elections if they so choose.

With 2.8 million people, Greater Manchester is almost as populous as Wales with 3.1 million people, yet the citizens of Greater Manchester do not enjoy the same devolved powers to decide their own electoral systems for local elections as the citizens of Wales.

This Council believes that:

- The FPTP system has contributed to dangerous levels of distrust and disillusionment with our democratic processes and politicians.
- 3 elections between 2015 and 2019, and 3 Prime Ministers in the last year, shows that FPTP does not lead to stable government.
- It is essential that faith is restored in our democratic system and that the public see Parliament as fairly reflecting their views.
- Our FPTP voting system is a significant barrier to restoring this faith and all but guarantees that the balance of opinion among the electorate is not reflected in Parliament or in council chambers.
- A system of proportional representation in which seats match votes and all votes count equally would help to rebuild public trust. It would ensure that all political views are represented in Parliament and councils in proportion to their level of public support.

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- 2 To request the leader to sign, on behalf of this council, the Electoral Reform Society petition calling for fair votes in English local government.
- 3 To call upon Trafford's MPs to push for a change to electoral law to permit proportional representation and to promote the matter for debate within Parliament.
- 4 **To call upon Greater Manchester's Mayor to use his office to push for our region to have the devolved powers necessary to switch to proportional representation for the local election of Councillors to the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester."**

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

(Note: The Council continued to debate the substantive Motion and with the time being 8:45 p.m., the Mayor indicated that speeches on this matter would now be limited to a maximum of two minutes per speaker.)

Following further debate, the substantive Motion was then put to the vote and declared lost.

73. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP - REMOVING TRAFFORD BOROUGH FROM PLACES FOR EVERYONE

RESOLVED: That the Council notes that this Motion has been withdrawn.

74. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - CARE EXPERIENCED AS A PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC

It was moved and seconded that:

"The Independent Review of Children's Social Care headed by Josh McCallister recommended that "Government should make care experience a protected characteristic" and that "New legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations". The report published in May 2022 stated that "Many care experienced people face discrimination, stigma and prejudice in their day to day lives. Public perceptions of care experience centre on the idea that children are irredeemably damaged and that can lead to discrimination and assumptions being made".

One young person told the review that a teacher had told them "You're smart - for a kid in care" another young person said "I don't want people to point out that I am in care if I don't want that mentioned. It makes me so cross – that shouldn't happen."

This stigma and discrimination can be explicit and often comes with assumptions about the likely characteristics of children and adults that have care experience. They can also be implicit and are evidenced in the way care experience is discussed in schools, workplaces and the media.

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At its worst this can lead to care experienced people being refused employment, being disadvantaged in education or facing unfair judgements about their ability to parent when they have children and families of their own.

Hearing testimony from care experienced people sharing the discrimination they have experienced, even from a very young age, it is clear that such discrimination can be similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2010).

So, while there may be ways that society can help reduce stigma and discrimination, including creating greater public consciousness on these issues, just as with other areas of equality, there is a case to go further. Therefore, the government should make care experience a protected characteristic.

Following the publication of the review, Trafford Council engaged with representatives from Trafford's After Care Council to understand what considering Care Experienced as a Protected Characteristic would mean to them.

This Council believes that Care Experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives and recognises that;

- Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account.
- Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system.
- Care experienced people often face a postcode lottery of support
- As corporate parents, councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority.
- Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society.
- The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.
- Council acknowledges that children don't choose to enter the care system, that they don't choose to be split up from their siblings, and don't choose to be placed outside their local area, where this happens.
- Council respects a young person's right not to disclose their care experienced status, unless they wish to.

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Council therefore resolves:

1. When making any decisions in relation to its policies or formulating Corporate Plans it recognises that Care Experienced people are a vulnerable group who face discrimination;
2. That it recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;
3. That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a Protected Characteristic in services and employment;
4. That the Council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic so that future services and policies are assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a Protected Characteristic;
5. This Council will provide support to Corporate Parents to act as mentors;
6. The Council will champion this with our partners and work with other bodies to treat care experience as a Protected Characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation;
7. To call upon other public bodies to adopt corporate parenting for children in care and care leavers until such time as it may be introduced by legislation;
8. For the Council to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.”

(Note: During the debate on the Motion, the time being 9:03 p.m., the Mayor indicated that speeches on this matter would now be limited to a maximum of two minutes per speaker. With Members still waiting to be heard, the time for speeches was reduced at 9.08 p.m. to one minute per speaker.)

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was put to the vote and declared carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care headed by Josh McCallister recommended that “Government should make care experience a protected characteristic” and that “New legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations”. The report published in May 2022 stated that “Many care experienced people face discrimination, stigma and prejudice in their day to day lives. Public perceptions of care experience centre on the idea that children are irredeemably damaged and that can lead to discrimination and assumptions being made”.

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One young person told the review that a teacher had told them “You’re smart - for a kid in care” another young person said “I don’t want people to point out that I am in care if I don’t want that mentioned. It makes me so cross – that shouldn’t happen.”

This stigma and discrimination can be explicit and often comes with assumptions about the likely characteristics of children and adults that have care experience. They can also be implicit and are evidenced in the way care experience is discussed in schools, workplaces and the media.

At its worst this can lead to care experienced people being refused employment, being disadvantaged in education or facing unfair judgements about their ability to parent when they have children and families of their own.

Hearing testimony from care experienced people sharing the discrimination they have experienced, even from a very young age, it is clear that such discrimination can be similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2010).

So, while there may be ways that society can help reduce stigma and discrimination, including creating greater public consciousness on these issues, just as with other areas of equality, there is a case to go further. Therefore, the government should make care experience a protected characteristic.

Following the publication of the review, Trafford Council engaged with representatives from Trafford’s After Care Council to understand what considering Care Experienced as a Protected Characteristic would mean to them.

This Council believes that Care Experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives and recognises that;

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- Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system.
- Care experienced people often face a postcode lottery of support
- As corporate parents, councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority.
- Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society.
- The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.

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- Council acknowledges that children don't choose to enter the care system, that they don't choose to be split up from their siblings, and don't choose to be placed outside their local area, where this happens.
- Council respects a young person's right not to disclose their care experienced status, unless they wish to.

Council therefore resolves:

1. When making any decisions in relation to its policies or formulating Corporate Plans it recognises that Care Experienced people are a vulnerable group who face discrimination;
2. That it recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;
3. That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a Protected Characteristic in services and employment;
4. That the Council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic so that future services and policies are assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a Protected Characteristic;
5. This Council will provide support to Corporate Parents to act as mentors;
6. The Council will champion this with our partners and work with other bodies to treat care experience as a Protected Characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation;
7. To call upon other public bodies to adopt corporate parenting for children in care and care leavers until such time as it may be introduced by legislation;
8. For the Council to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.

75. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - TRAFFORD POVERTY TRUTH COMMISSION

It was moved and seconded that:

“On Friday 8 October 2021 Trafford's first Poverty Truth Commission was launched at Stretford Public Hall.

The Commission was launched as a collaboration between Trafford Council, Trafford Housing Trust and Stretford Public Hall and was formed of Commissioners who are residents of Trafford and have lived experience of poverty, and of leaders from the public, private and voluntary sectors in the borough.

Meeting of the Council 15 March 2023

It was a real and genuine opportunity for people to share their “lived experience of living in poverty.

On Wednesday 8 March 2023 the findings of the Trafford Poverty Truth commission were shared at an event at Stretford Public Hall with some clear recommendations.

This Council would like to recognise and pay tribute and thanks to all the Commissioners who were involved in the Trafford Poverty Truth Commission.

This Council resolves to continue to collaborate and work with all partners across Trafford to support delivery of the 4 recommendations of the final report.

- Improve how Trafford residents access services.
- Continue to use the voice of people with lived experience in the development of policy and services in Trafford.
- Make public transport truly accessible for everyone.
- Tackle mental health and isolation.

This Council is also committed to the ethos of “Nothing about us without us”, the current cost of living crisis is making life a misery for many Trafford residents. Trafford Council will continue to work with residents to coproduce support for our communities.”

(Note: Before the debate on the Motion, the time being 9:20 p.m., the Mayor indicated that speeches on this matter would be limited to a maximum of one minute per speaker.)

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was put to the vote and declared carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That on Friday 8 October 2021 Trafford’s first Poverty Truth Commission was launched at Stretford Public Hall.

The Commission was launched as a collaboration between Trafford Council, Trafford Housing Trust and Stretford Public Hall and was formed of Commissioners who are residents of Trafford and have lived experience of poverty, and of leaders from the public, private and voluntary sectors in the borough.

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The meeting commenced at 7.02 p.m. and finished at 9.25 p.m.

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

Councillor Dolores O’Sullivan to be the Mayor of the Borough of Trafford for 2023/24;

and

Councillor Amy Whyte to be the Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Trafford for 2023/24.

The informal meeting concluded at 9.29 p.m.)