

EXECUTIVE

18 NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT

Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Ross), in the Chair.

Councillor C. Hynes	Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Leisure, Arts, Culture & Heritage
Councillor S. Adshead	Executive Member for Highways, Environmental & Traded Services / Labour Group Secretary
Councillor K.G. Carter	Executive Member for Children & Young People
Councillor J. Harding	Executive Member for Finance, Change & Governance
Councillor E. Patel	Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration
Councillor J. Slater	Executive Member for Healthy & Independent Lives
Councillor R. Thompson	Executive Member for Communities and Safety
Councillor A.J. Williams	Executive Member for Climate Change
Councillor J.A. Wright	Executive Member for Housing & Advice

Also present

Councillors Butt, Coggins, Eckersley, Ennis, Evans, Frass, Holden, Lepori, M. Taylor and Welton.

In attendance

S. Todd	-	Chief Executive
J. McGregor	-	Corporate Director of Children's Services
R. Roe	-	Corporate Director of Place
G. Bentley	-	Director of Finance and Systems
H. Gollins	-	Director of Public Health
D. Geary	-	Assistant Director, Corporate Strategy and Policy
E. Malpas	-	Head of Legal and Governance
I. Cockill	-	Senior Democratic Officer

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

51. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

52. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Five questions had been submitted for the meeting and responses were provided as follows:

(a) Question from Michele Solak Edwards

“As you will be aware, there is concern in the Flixton community regarding the implementation of the trial traffic measures and it appears that employees of Amey and Trafford Council have visited Woodsend Library gathering views on the scheme. This has not been advertised and was at a time when many community members were at work. Similarly, a Council Officer appears to be attending children’s Halloween events but is taking the opportunity to speak with the community to gather thoughts on the trial. None of these events have been advertised to the community and I would like to understand the purpose of these discussions and whether they will have any bearing on the trial outcome?”

Response of the Executive Member for Climate Change:

A number of activities were organised as part of Flixton Community Streets activation programme over the October half term holidays in the Flixton area. These included two Halloween craft sessions at Woodsend Library and two Halloween trail walks starting at Flixton House and walking around the local area. Both were advertised by local schools and Trafford Libraries.

The activation funding associated with the scheme enabled Trafford Council to put these free activities on for local families to attend. Colleagues from Trafford Council and Amey, who are working on the scheme attended the afternoon craft session at Woodsend Library on Monday 28 October and made people attending aware that they were there should they want to speak to them about the scheme.

Trafford Council’s Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Lead attended the two Halloween trail walks on Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 October which was around the scheme area.

The events were not consultation events but engagement opportunities. Some good conversations were held, and positive comments were received regarding able to do this in that environment.

We have received feedback from residents that they do not feel able to express their views openly either on social media platforms or public consultation events.

The conversations held enable Trafford Council to understand residents views on the scheme but the consultation through Citizen Space is the formal way to express and record views of residents. Part of the conversations were to encourage residents to complete the survey and have their say on the scheme. The voice of children and young people is also very important, so we have been engaging with local schools to understand their views.

(b) Question from Andrew Gould (Committee Member: Friends of Trafford's Parks and Green Spaces)

"It seems that to play tennis in Trafford's public parks, players need to register with the Lawn Tennis Association and agree to all their various terms and conditions.

In the past if you wanted to play you just needed a bit of enthusiasm and then to turn up. Now you have to agree to the LTA potentially using your image rights. Even if the LTA are providing no funding to your local tennis court, they want the information and will be able to promote their services to you – this seems just a data collection exercise with little benefit to residents.

It should not be necessary to provide personal details in any form to play tennis in a public park so will Trafford Council now rethink the Tennis Investment Project and fund maintenance and improvements in a way that doesn't impact on the freedom to play or the privacy of residents?"

Response of the Executive Member for Leisure, Arts, Culture and Heritage:

Thank you for your question in relation to the Tennis Investment Programme and partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association, the national governing body for all UK Tennis.

To briefly provide some background to the Tennis Investment Programme

Public consultation on Trafford's Tennis Investment Project to access national LTA funding and secure the long-term maintenance of park courts was carried out in spring 2023.

Having listened to the wide range of feedback received, balanced with the need to attract investment, the Council agreed in July 2023 through an executive paper to carry out an initial 24-month pilot scheme. The pilot scheme in Longford and Ashton Park will test the introduction of secure gated courts alongside an online booking and charging system. There will be a quarterly review process in place to monitor and analyse key performance indicators such as user numbers, revenue, outreach engagement and user feedback. On conclusion of the pilot period a paper will be provided to Executive to detail the impact of the pilot and provide recommendations on next steps including the option to expand the model to other courts, subject to funding.

In relation to the booking of park tennis courts

The pre booking of park courts is not new to Trafford. Five of the borough's 11 park sites - Longford, Ashton, Davyhulme, Walton and Stamford Park - already have booking systems in place via a booking app called 'Rally', which is managed by the LTA on the Council's behalf. The booking system gives assurance to players that the court is available and secures a timeslot. The booking system will now be extended across all park courts which will also be managed via the LTA. This will bring a consistent approach across

the borough for all players while still providing flexibility for players who turn up and play if the court is not in use. Data shows that the system has been well used, and there's no record that the council is aware of any complaints received.

National research on benefits of booking

LTA research has shown that one of the key barriers to participation in tennis is finding and booking a court, someone to play with, or a tennis session. The LTA aim is to ensure that all courts will be available to book through an online booking system to make it easier to find and book a court, as well as tennis lessons or other activities, based on location, date and time. This approach has been piloted successfully for the past three years, and the evidence from sites across the country is that installing gate access and a booking system increases participation.

Local testing

In Trafford we are taking a pilot approach at Longford and Ashford Parks which will test the introduction of gates, online booking and charging. An operator is currently being procured to deliver a tennis programme. Across the remaining park sites, we will extend the online booking system currently in place with the LTA.

The introduction of gating, online booking and charging were all key elements of the consultation on Trafford's Tennis Investment Project carried out in spring 2003.

With regards to Data captured by the LTA

The LTA site has detailed advice on the categories of personal data, how the governing body for UK tennis collects, receives processes data and the purposes its used for stating ...

"In essence, our principal legitimate interests are in pursuing our mission of opening tennis up to a wider range of participants and administering British tennis in a way that promotes and safeguards the integrity of the sport."

The capture of data also supports the LTAs monitoring of contract compliance and meeting their legal and health and safety requirements. The capture of data improves players booking and access experience – allowing players to tailor their preferences, for example search nearby alternative courts for availability, look up coaching schemes, access leagues etc.

Funding needed for Park Tennis and the Councils Tennis Investment Project

There has been limited investment into the borough's park courts over the past decade, as is the case within other Councils, pressure on core budgets has restricted investment. Open courts, without structured maintenance and activity, have also become areas used for nuisance and anti-social

behaviour. Friends of groups do their best to maintain courts on a day-to-day basis, as Mr. Gould will appreciate, but they have limited capacity.

To put that into perspective and drawing on information from the previous executive report (July 2023) – based on LTA guidance a park court needs a collective maintenance and sinking fund of around £1,500 per annum. In addition to these running costs the LTA have highlighted that courts identified as poor and standard, would require significant upfront investment. The council does not have funding available to finance the level of capital investment required. The approved capital programme including s106 is provided on the basis of a self-financing model supported by external contribution and a charging model which the Tennis Investment Programme in partnership with the LTA provides. This approach will be tested through the pilot scheme and will be reported back to the Executive.

(c) Question 1 of 3 from Chris Boyes

“Re Agenda Item 6 – Budget Monitoring 2024/25 Period 6

Page 64 - Moving Traffic Cameras - When is the actual anticipated date for the publication of scheme locations?”

Response of the Executive Member for Highways, Environmental and Traded Services:

We have commissioned a third-party supplier to undertake a review of 10 potential sites. We are reviewing the outputs with the supplier and anticipate any announcement will be made in Quarter 4. Any deployment of moving traffic cameras will be subject to a prioritisation exercise, internal approval and accompanied with a communications plan. This will ensure our customers and stakeholders are fully briefed.

(d) Question 2 of 3 from Chris Boyes

“Agenda Item 7 – Simpler Recycling

Page 80 - paragraph 3.2 Larger businesses with more than 10 full time equivalent (FTE) staff must have these recycling collections, including food waste collections, in place by 31 March 2025.

What instructions of the changes to be in place by 31st March 2025 have been sent to companies which currently conduct waste collections of mixed waste from customers into a single container, such waste would normally go separately into black, blue and grey bins in domestic situations. “

Response of the Executive Member for Highways, Environmental and Traded Services:

We do not have a duty to notify businesses of their legal requirements for waste collections. We also do not hold records of what waste collections businesses have in place.

However, we have included information about the changes in the business bulletin and we plan to send further information via this bulletin in the new year. The One Trafford Partnership have also notified customers whose waste they collect.

(e) Question 3 of 3 from Chris Boyes

“Re Agenda Item 9 – The List of Local Heritage Assets

Given that the following assets are either undergoing or about to undergo redevelopment please could you advise what has or will be done to maintain the heritage aspects of the properties

Page 578 - Former Police Station - Tatton Place, Sale M33 7ED

Page 635 - Former Sale Congregational Church Sunday School Room
Montague Road, Sale M33 3BU

Page 652 - 11-13 Raglan Road Sale - M33 4AQ

Response of the Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration:

Page 578 - Former Police Station - Tatton Place, Sale M33 7ED

The developer was encouraged from their first contact with the Planning Service not to demolish the Former Police Station but retain and convert it to residential use in order to secure a long term viable future for the building. This conversion is currently underway and a number of planning conditions secure high quality materials and detailing appropriate to the building's heritage interest.

Page 635 - Former Sale Congregational Church Sunday School Room -
Montague Road, Sale M33 3BU

The old church hall and rectory house to the rear of the site are recognised as non-designated heritage assets, whilst the church to the front is not considered to be of heritage value. The developers initial contact with the Planning Service was with a scheme which sought to remove all existing buildings on site, however officers objected to the loss of the church hall and rectory and sought their retention and incorporation within the redevelopment of the site. The development as approved substantially retains the church hall along with the rectory house. The siting of the new dwellings either side of a central access allows views through to the rear of the site and old church hall. Fenestration and materials are controlled by planning condition so that the changes to the church hall are sensitive to the character and appearance of the original building.

Page 652 - 11-13 Raglan Road Sale - M33 4AQ

Permission was granted by Planning Committee for a residential development which retained the non-designated heritage asset and whilst the building would be altered, poorly designed extensions would be removed and the new additions would be sensitive to the character and scale of the building.

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

No matters had been referred from Council or the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Councillor Butt, Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee was afforded an opportunity to provide an update on the recent work of the Committee.

54. BUDGET MONITORING 2024/25 PERIOD 6

The Executive Member for Finance, Change and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems submitted a joint report informing Members of the 2024/25 projected outturn figures relating to both Revenue and Capital budgets. The report also summarised the projected outturn position for Council Tax and Business Rates.

An opportunity was provided for Members to ask questions and the Executive Member and officers responded to concerns about the following areas of the budget:

- residential care occupancy rates and financial losses;
- plans to address escalating costs in both Adult Social Care and Children's Services, whilst maintaining quality of care;
- the predicted deficit in the High Needs Block and the long-term strategy;
- the CIPFA review and the level of reserves;
- cuts in the 2024-27 capital programme; and
- the economies of ICT efficiencies.

Further to a question on Council Tax premiums being extended to furnished long-term empty homes, the Director of Finance and Systems indicated he would get back to the Member on the number of properties this would affect and the expected revenue.

Linked to the shortfall in parking income from Regent Road car park, Altrincham, an investment in signage was suggested as a spend to earn measure. Acknowledging previous difficulties in getting car park owners to contribute, the Corporate Director of Place agreed to revisit the proposal.

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance wished to place on record her thanks and that of the Executive to officers for their innovative approach to find financial solutions in extremely challenging times.

The Leader of the Council was assured by actions being taken to manage the budget and acknowledge that there was an overwhelming view that Local Government Funding was failing, particularly with the demand for children’s and adult social care.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report and the estimated revenue outturn position showing a budget overspend of £3.56m, a favourable movement of £652k from Period 4, be noted.
- (2) That the update on the three-year Capital Programme as detailed in Section 6 and Annex 3 of the report, be noted.
- (3) That the expected funding shortfall in capital receipts for the 2024/25 Capital Programme and the proposed work of the Capital Programme Board in managing this shortfall, be noted.
- (4) That the management actions and mitigating actions, as detailed in Paragraph 2 of Part 2 of the report, in the delivery of a balanced budget and effective financial management, be noted.

55. SIMPLER RECYCLING

The Executive Member for Highways, Environmental and Traded Services submitted a report providing an update on the changes needed to meet the requirements of the reforms to household and business bin collections known as “Simpler Recycling”. The report also set out how the Council intended to expand the weekly food waste collection service to apartments that are not currently offered the service.

An opportunity was provided for Members to raise questions and the Executive Member responded to queries regarding the GMCA contract for green waste and the collection, enforcement and implementation dates for commercial waste. In response to a question regarding those residential blocks not receiving a service, the Executive Member advised that a tender contract was being developed to access such properties.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposal to expand the weekly food waste collection service to apartments not currently provided with the service by 31 March 2026, be approved.
- (2) That the proposal to proceed to procure waste collection vehicle, food waste bins, caddies and liners via public service frameworks and further competitive tender exercises, be approved.

- (3) That the Corporate Director of Place be delegated authority, in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways, Environmental & Traded Services, to approve the award of contracts to the winning bidders for bins, caddies and liners.
- (4) That the Corporate Director of Place be delegated authority, in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways, Environmental & Traded Services and the Executive Member for Climate Change, to approve the award of contract to the winning bidder for the waste collection vehicle.
- (5) That the Corporate Director of Place be delegated authority, in consultation with the Director of Legal & Governance to agree the terms of any legal documentation required to implement the expansion of the weekly food waste collection service following the procurement exercise.

56. UPDATE ON DELIVERY OF THE TRAFFORD POVERTY STRATEGY 2023-25 AND ONE STOP SHOP

The Executive Member for Housing and Advice submitted a report summarising the progress delivery of the refreshed Trafford Poverty Strategy 2023-25 and One Stop Shop.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the content of the report and progress to date, be noted.
- (2) That the Executive places on record its thanks to the Strategic Partnerships and Policy team and all officers for their work and also for the recognition Trafford had received in being awarded the Resolve Poverty Award 2024.

57. THE LIST OF LOCAL HERITAGE ASSETS (LOCAL LIST): CONSULTATION DRAFT LIST OF NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS AND DESIGNATION CRITERIA

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration and Executive Member for Leisure, Arts, Culture and Heritage submitted a joint report seeking approval for the final draft list of local heritage assets and selection criteria to be the subject of a second round of public consultation before adoption.

An opportunity was provided for Members to raise questions and it was noted that in planning terms, inclusion in the list was a material concern and not something that provided protection. The Executive Member was also asked to take into account whether a drop-in session was needed at Altrincham Library, given the number of Linotype estate properties listed and it was agreed to give this further consideration.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the consultation draft List of Local Heritage Assets (Local List), be approved.

- (2) That the draft selection criteria for future additions to the Local List, be approved.
- (3) That the publicity and consultation arrangements for the draft Local List and selection criteria, be approved.
- (4) That the Corporate Director of Place, the Head of Planning and Development and their nominated officers be authorised to positively identify non designated heritage assets during the course of a pre-application enquiry or planning application and to add further entries to the Local List where these meet the selection criteria.
- (5) That the Executive notes that a future report to the Executive will seek authorisation for a consultation draft SPD which will include the adopted List of Local Heritage Assets, selection criteria and process for the validation or removal of entries.

58. SOCIOECONOMIC DUTY BRIEFING

The Executive Member for Communities and Safety submitted a report summarising the Socioeconomic Duty and what needed to be considered by the Council regarding adopting the duty.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report's findings, be noted.
- (2) That the adoption of socioeconomic status as a protected characteristic in EIAs, be approved.
- (3) That the development of a detailed implementation plan, be approved.
- (4) That the draft timeline be approved for the Council to implement the Duty.

59. PROJECT SKYLINE (GM CHILDREN'S HOMES)

The Executive Member for Children and Young People submitted a report providing an update on Project Skyline, a Greater Manchester proposal to create a supply of children's homes to increase the availability of placements for Cared for Children. The report sought approval for the Council to enter into a Partnership Agreement with the remaining Local Authorities in Greater Manchester, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and NHS Greater Manchester for delivery of the Project.

An opportunity was provided for Members to ask questions and the Executive Member and Corporate Director responded in respect of Trafford children housed outside of Greater Manchester and their return to Skyline provision, staffing of a potential Trafford facility and the safeguarding responsibilities.

RESOLVED –

- (1) Give approval in principle for the Council to enter into a Partnership Agreement for the delivery of Project Skyline as detailed in this report.
- (2) That the Corporate Director of Children’s Services be delegated authority, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Legal and Governance to agree the terms of the Partnership Agreement.
- (3) That the Director of Legal and Governance be delegated to enter into any documentation required to effect the agreement described within the report.

60. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: 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.

61. ALTRINCHAM REGENERATION

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration submitted a report providing an update on regeneration in Altrincham.

In discussion, questions raised by Members were responded to.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Council acquires the full site identified in the report, through a private treaty agreement, on the terms set out in the report.
- (2) That the Council acquires the lease, on the terms set out in the report.
- (3) That the Corporate Director of Place be delegated authority, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Systems and the Director of Legal and Governance to agree minor amendments to the Heads of Terms and finalise terms of all agreements and contracts.
- (4) That the Director of Legal and Governance be delegated authority to enter into any contracts, agreements or deeds required to implement the above.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and finished at 8.16 p.m.