

## Council – 29 January 2025

### Conservative Group Amendment to Motion 5c – Flooding Resilience and Emergency Preparedness

2025 began with the worst flooding across Trafford for decades. Whilst the events on New Year's Day were unexpected, the risk of severe flooding in Trafford has been increasing in recent years. Agencies responsible for flooding resilience have failed to heed warnings and missed opportunities to intervene with targeted investments. The flood risk posed to some communities in Trafford is not accurately monitored by the Environment Agency and is therefore poorly understood by Trafford Council and emergency responders.

~~Faced with the growing risk posed by climate change extreme weather patterns,~~  
†This Council must work with its partners and the government to secure comprehensive flooding resilience investment across all areas of Trafford affected by flooding. It is clear that without action, things will only get worse.

It is also vitally important that Trafford Council's service provider is robustly held accountable for the lack of basic maintenance of the borough's drains so that gullies and grids are not left completely blocked at high-risk times of the year.

This Council notes:

1. The resolution passed by Council in July 2022, which committed Council to working closely with the Environment Agency and others to mitigate the impact of severe weather.
2. The decision taken by the Environment Agency in 2024, citing a lack of data, to withhold funding for major flooding resilience measures in the vicinity of Fairywell Brook.
3. The inadequate leaf clearance and drainage maintenance works, evident across Trafford Borough this winter.
4. That any Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDS) constructed as part of the new housing developments, which are merely designed to maintain current levels of surface water run-off, will not address the fact that water run-off already causes flooding.

However, this Council further notes:

Despite frequent warnings from the Liberal Democrats ~~and the Conservatives regarding about~~ the scale of flood risk posed to Timperley and South Trafford ~~if the Timperley Wedge is developed coupled with the recent intervention of Network Rail to put in a pumping station to assist with localised flooding~~, this Council and its partners have failed to understand the local risk factors; leading to a complete lack of preparedness for emergencies and a failure to lobby for meaningful flood resilience investment in the area.

This Council resolves to:

1. Reassess the performance of our contractors against KPIs for drain maintenance and leaf clearance; and issue penalties for poor performance.
2. Use this set of ~~penalties~~ fines to pay for a Fixed-Term of extended operating hours at weekends to clear the back-log of blocked drains in Trafford.
3. Publish a plan for flooding emergencies so that everybody is clear about Trafford Council's role in a crisis and explore ways to enhance Trafford's ability to respond in a crisis such as by: purchasing pumps; developing contingency plans for temporary accommodation; and providing advice to residents on how to stay safe in a flooding emergency.
4. Lobby the government and the Environment Agency to get a flooding resilience projects for areas of Trafford that are impacted – including Timperley – back on the table.
5. Compensate any resident that have been flooded due to the negligence of the council failing to properly clear the drains.
6. Have a full audit of the drains and address those that due to poor workmanship have suffered grids being sealed down and are now in need of excavation and thorough gully cleaning.
7. Have an emergency council manned help line when it is clear these kinds of conditions are approaching.