



## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

# AGENDA PAPERS MARKED 'TO FOLLOW' FOR TRAFFORD PANDEMIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 22 September 2020

Time: 4.00 p.m.

Place: Virtual

This meeting will be streamed live at

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCjwblOW5x0NSe38sgFU8bKq](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjwblOW5x0NSe38sgFU8bKq)

AGENDA	PART I	Pages
7.	<b>RETURN TO SCHOOL</b>	1 - 6
	To receive a report from the Executive Member for Children's Services and the Lead Member for Education.	
9.	<b>PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE</b>	7 - 12
	To receive an update from the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing, and Equalities.	
11.	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT TO EXECUTIVE</b>	13 - 16
	To approve the report for submission to the Executive Meeting 28 September 2020.	

**SARA TODD**  
Chief Executive

### Membership of the Committee

Councillors D. Acton (Chair), S.B. Anstee, Dr. K. Barclay, Miss L. Blackburn, G. Coggins, J. Dillon, J. Holden, J. Lamb (Vice-Chair), J. Lloyd, J.D. Newgrosh, A. New, B. Shaw, R. Thompson, D. Western, A.M. Whyte, A.J. Williams and B.G. Winstanley.

## Trafford Pandemic Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday, 22 September 2020

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### Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact:

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This agenda was issued on **Monday 14 September 2020** by the Legal and Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall; Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0TH.

### WEBCASTING

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**TRAFFORD COUNCIL**

**Report to:** Trafford Pandemic Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 22/09/2020  
**Report for:** Information  
**Report of:** The Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services.

**Report Title**

Return to school update

**Summary**

This report provides an update for the Pandemic Scrutiny Committee on the numbers of children returning to school following the end of the summer holidays. The report provides detail as to levels of attendance at school and early years, the levels of COVID cases, the support available for schools and settings, funded support, and Trafford's position regarding transport for Children and Young people.

**Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended that the Pandemic Scrutiny Committee note the report.

**Contact person for access to background papers and further information:**

Name:  
Extension:

## **INTRODUCTION**

Over the last few months, officers from across the Council have been working with education leaders to provide guidance, tools and support on the measures to be taken to reduce the spread of infection in schools and prepare for a full-reopening of schools. This has included regular communication, virtual meetings with Head teachers and school leaders with responsibility for different roles across different phases and partnerships, school governors and Trade Unions. The Council has provided model policy documents, templates for risk assessments, staff risk assessments, step by step guidance on response to infection, regular HR and Health and Safety advice and direct support for individual schools. In addition, over 600 laptops have been distributed to all vulnerable children made known to us.

The DfE initially issued guidance in July 2020 setting out the Government's plan for all children and young people to return to school and college in September 2020. The expectation is that pupils attend school full time. Current restrictions on group sizes are lifted to allow this to happen although COVID-19 secure measures will remain in place to reduce the risk of transmission. This means that schools will be required to keep children in class or year group sized "bubbles". Schools must determine what constitutes a group or 'bubble' within their school and ensure that each bubble as far as possible does not mix with another bubble.

### **A. RETURN TO SCHOOL**

#### **ATTENDANCE DETAIL**

School attendance from September will become compulsory again (with the exception of children who are electively home educated). From September 2020, schools are required to once again record attendance and respond to absence including issuing sanctions such as issuing fixed penalty notices where appropriate. Where a pupil is unable to attend school due to clinical or Public Health advice, they should be able to access remote education and not be penalised for non-attendance.

All Trafford schools have made a successful return to school. We can access the DfE Attendance Portal to assess the current position in schools but as this is not mandatory, we do not have a complete dataset.

However, what it is showing is an overall attendance rate of 90% which is above the national average, and we have reported to schools the ambition to obtain 96% as is normally expected. The data is also showing 87% of pupils with an EHC plan are attending and 85% of those pupils with a social worker.

#### **ELECTIVELY HOME EDUCATED**

We continue to monitor the growth in parents requesting to Electively Home Educate their children. As is replicated nationally, we are seeing an increase in requests as detailed below:

	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>19/20</b>
<b>September Cases</b>	39	9

Overall, the number of EHE children and young people is 149. We anticipated a spike due to Covid and have changed our information for parents (and schools) to urge any parent considering EHE to ensure that they make a fully-informed decision before removing the child from roll at a school.

## **B. EARLY YEARS**

There are 5045 children now attending Early Years settings. This is an increase of 1000 from the start of the summer holidays.

100% of nurseries/ group settings and 84 % of childminders are open.

We are aware of concerns for the Out of School Club sector as they are reporting a decrease in parental demand and there are some challenges to manage the bubbles, therefore this term may be a critical time for businesses of this nature.

## **C. COVID CASES**

Daily SITREPs regarding COVID cases are being produced and circulated to members and ward councillors and currently we have 23 schools and 2 Early Years Providers affected (as of 18.09.20) The majority of cases are in primary schools (14), with 7 cases in the secondary sector and 2 in our special schools.

The number of children impacted by the need to isolate as a result of COVID cases is approx. 905 and 53 staff members, therefore the wider impact is significant. Remote learning is put into place during the 14 day isolation period.

Trafford's Public Health team have been invaluable in providing ongoing support through:

- Weekly data briefings
- Guidance for the management of cases including template letters to parents
- Question and answer sessions with school leaders
- Communicating any changes to procedure
- "Hand-holding" schools whilst managing positive cases

Despite the offer of a DfE Helpline for schools in the management of cases, schools have welcomed the continued support of our local PH team and this will be maintained.

All schools have received 10 testing kits which have been used to support families, and most specifically vulnerable families, who have not been able to access a test. Our school nurses are also working with schools in the event of a child refusing to have a test. More tests can now be ordered by schools.

Daily case reports will continue to be provided for members.

#### **D. SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS AND SETTINGS**

There has been significant support provided for schools and settings throughout the last few months in readiness for the return to school, including the following resources:

- √ Toolkit of support for full opening with links to relevant websites
- √ Operational details
- √ Curriculum development
- √ Formative assessment strategies to address lost learning
- √ Ofsted preparation
- √ Mental Wealth Toolkit
- √ Public Health Supplementary Guidance – planning for outbreaks
- √ Attendance guidance/ training
- √ Laptop allocation
- √ Safe travel back to school toolkits

We have continued to provide a wrap-around of support for each school which includes:

- ❖ Liaison Officer
- ❖ Educational Psychologist
- ❖ School Nurse
- ❖ Social Care contacts

We have maintained the locality SENCo clusters to ensure we continue to support our schools in meeting the needs of children and young people with additional needs and we will also be linking in with Trust Governor Services to provide information and support for Governing Bodies.

#### **E. FUNDED SUPPORT**

There have been a number of packages of funded support provided to schools:

##### 1) Catch-up Funding

The DfE has allocated £650m additional funding to support pupils to catch up. Schools are to determine how best to use this one off funding for the 2020/21 academic year to ensure that pupils are able to make up for lost teaching time. This has been allocated to schools as follows:

Schools' allocations will be calculated on a per pupil basis:

- Mainstream schools- £80 for each pupil in years Reception to Year 11
- Special and Alternative Provision - £240 for each place

In addition, the government has directly provided £350m funding for tuition from the National Tutoring programme which will be available for schools.

Schools leaders must be able to account for how this money is being used to achieve the aim of resuming a normal curriculum as soon as possible. Governors and Trustees should also scrutinise schools' approaches to catch up funding and ensure that its use is transparent to parents/carers.

2) Targeted funding for Reception pupils to help schools boost early language skills

£9m has also been allocated to Reception aged children to raise outcomes in speaking and language skills. The funding will provide schools with training and resources, helping them deliver one-to-one and small-group support for five-year-olds whose spoken language skills may have suffered as a result of the pandemic.

3) Wellbeing in Education Grant

The wellbeing for education recovery project aims to provide additional support to state-funded schools and colleges. This will enable education staff to promote and support the wellbeing and mental health of pupils and students as they return to full-time education. It takes the form of a new, nationally developed training package developed for education staff and funding for Local Authorities to appoint local experts to deliver the training into schools and Further Education (FE) providers during the 2020 autumn term, tailor it to the local context, and to provide ongoing advice and support until March 2021.

We have appointed 5 local experts from the Educational Psychology service, CAMHS and the Vulnerable Children's Service.

## **F. TRANSPORT**

There were a number of challenges the Transport Unit faced at the start of the term, particularly in relation to the transport of children and young people with additional needs.

Challenges:

- Procurement processes meant that all runs needed to be recommissioned
- There continues to be some volatility in accessing personal assistants. The nature of the role means that they were typically older people and COVID has restricted their return to their position. We have worked with HR to support their safe return, but Occupational Health have deemed some of them unfit to return as it is challenging to create a COVID safe environment in a vehicle.
- We had a number of contractors who had not applied the specification appropriately which led to a small number of vehicles being the wrong size and some did not attend their runs at all. 35 runs were also knocked back by contractors at short notice. All of these issues, led to some families being let

down and having to make their own arrangements. We also requested support from schools where necessary.

Actions taken:

- Parents of children where runs were not appropriate were contacted and an apology was given. The team spent all day creating solutions to ensure amendments were made.
- Council staff stepped up and acted as PAs to ensure we had sufficient capacity in the interim. This will remain an issue, as PAs are cautious to attend work if not feeling well and we will have to work closely with parents and schools to source solutions.
- Members of the Family Information Service have provided additional telephone support to pick up calls in the office from 7am. Technology constraints mean we cannot redirect calls to other numbers. We will also ensure a generic communication is sent out to all parents



**Report to:** Pandemic Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 17/09/2020

**Report of:** COVID-19 Programme Team

**CLT Lead:** Eleanor Roaf, Director Public Health Trafford

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**Report Title: Update paper to Pandemic Scrutiny Committee on COVID-19 Programme in Trafford**

**Report Summary:**

This report outlines the progress made in the recent period in the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper outlines key activities within each work programme including testing, track and trace, data and intelligence, community engagement and PPE/infection control.

**Contact Officer:**

Name: Laura Hobbs, Programme Lead for COVID-19

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## **1.0 Data and Intelligence**

- 1.1 Rates of infection have been gradually increasing over the past weeks.
- 1.2 The 7-day average number of daily confirmed cases in Trafford on Tuesday 15 September 2020 was 14.1.
- 1.3 There were 99 confirmed cases during the week ending Tuesday 15 September which is equivalent to 41.7 cases per 100,000 residents.
- 1.4 The highest number of daily cases during the past week were reported on Thursday 10 September with 22 cases.
- 1.5 The positivity rate for testing current stands at 3.1%.
- 1.6 Whilst Trafford have the second lowest incidence per 100,000 population within GM local authorities, rates are increasing with Clifford, Longford and Sale Moor the worst affected areas.
- 1.7 Performance monitoring against PHE intelligence exceedance data (network triggers) continues with ongoing exploration of demographics (e.g. younger people) to understand patterns and causes to feed into our 10 point action plan.
- 1.8 Full data and intelligence briefing is provided in Appendix A.

## **2.0 Testing**

- 2.1 Testing sites in Trafford Park and Partington are now operational but the number of test being undertaken in the locality has been declining due to the national capping of activity
- 2.2 There are significant testing issues nationally with limited testing capability and large lab analysis backlogs on tests.
- 2.3 The mobile testing site will be in place during September and October at Trafford House but there is a chance these may be redeployed to other GM sites in response to COVID outbreaks and where rates are higher.
- 2.4 Redeployment of testing sites to other areas could act to skew infection rate data if fewer cases are being identified due to reduced testing capacity.
- 2.5 The recruitment of BAU swabbing team has been initiated and is ongoing and there is a plan in place for swabs to be obtained for staff regularly visiting care homes.
- 2.6 Supported Living & Extra Care Social Care Team are to be part of GM testing pilot during next period.
- 2.7 Care Homes are reporting increasing unacceptable delays in test results being received which have been escalated the national team.

## **3.0 PPE**

- 3.1 The stock position at New Smithfield Market (PPE Warehouse) for all PPE lines is within healthy parameters.

- 3.2 GMHSCP have now secured three models of FFP3 masks for future supply and to manage demand and reduce reliance on a single model. Quality assurance and certification of these masks is complete and testing/piloting and FIT testing onto the new models is ongoing.
- 3.3 Key roles in new structure have now been appointed – there are two remaining roles that could not be recruited to that need to go back out to advert.
- 3.4 The online PPE order form has now been launched to providers, simplifying the ordering process and reducing resource requirements. Feedback has been positive.
- 3.5 A first draft of the GM procurement and logistics business case has been shared with chief execs. The team are generally supportive of the interim proposals outlined in the paper - a functioning GM PPE model provides a key foundation to support our own transitional arrangements. Remaining areas of concern have been shared with RCG and the team are proactively working with GMHSCP to address these concerns to ensure the future model is fit for purpose and provides adequate locality assurance.
- 3.6 A local position on provision of PPE for winter flu clinics agreed – providers should access PPE via the national online portal in the first instance. However the team have secured adequate supplies via GM to cover winter flu PPE need should this be required.
- 3.7 There is limited information on further mobilisation plans of the national PPE portal – the scope of the portal is regularly being expanded with new providers being on-boarded and order limits are regularly updated, but a roadmap of has not been shared by the national team. The mobilisation of this portal forms a critical dependence of the scale and scope of the Trafford and Manchester PPE mutual Aid Hub.

#### **4.0 Track & Trace**

- 4.1 Locally supported contact tracing was initiated on the 9th September 2020. Staff recruitment is ongoing and additional staff from ASC and the CCG are being secured via RCG.
- 4.2 The operational model for track and trace is in development and actively being implemented - Information governance requirements have now been signed off and agreements are being developed for other case systems within council.
- 4.3 There is currently a high volume of emails being received in the team for advice on infection control measures and potential positive cases in school settings.
- 4.4 The job descriptions for the infection control lead, nurse and support officer have been drafted and are with MFT for evaluation and recruitment.
- 4.5 The operational model to consider door-to-door contacts and enhanced community engagement for these activities is ongoing.

#### **5.0 Community Engagement**

- 5.1 The team are creating better system ownership of delivery against the 10-point action plan. The Public Engagement Board Members have agreed specific actions where they could support in delivering key messages and a Covid-19 Co-ordination Engagement Group has been established to support the work of the Board and co-ordinate the engagement response across the locality.
- 5.2 The Covid-19 Co-ordination Engagement Group will use the local data and intelligence to update and lead the intensive engagement plan using localised networks for disseminating information and engaging with residents
- 5.3 A series of engagement events have been delivered in Partington during September in response to the high rates of infection.
- 5.4 The team are working to develop localised networks in neighbourhoods for disseminating info, faith leaders, 'activists' and community organisations. CCF members are willing to engage with hard-to-reach communities to increase awareness and support. Masjid E Noor and As Salaam Centre (both Old Trafford Mosques) have agreed to utilise their transmitter service to broadcast key messages and updates into households. Mosques have suggested that the messaging would reach 5,000 households in Old Trafford and Stretford. This allows for engagement with households that do not have access to the Internet.
- 5.5 Urdu and Punjabi posters have been delivered around Old Trafford and Stretford businesses and there is ongoing engagement with business re local lockdown restrictions.
- 5.6 A Virtual Partners Network has been established to disseminate key information to communities for wider circulation.
- 5.7 25,000 leaflets printed in Arabic, Gujarati and Urdu have been developed for distribution after afternoon prayers by Mosque Leads.
- 5.8 An engagement event has been planned with Community Safety Officers, Partnerships and Communities Officers and Place-Based Integration Workers in Old Trafford
- 5.9 Stakeholder briefings are now being circulated weekly by Trafford Business, Community Safety and Partnerships and Communities.
- 5.10 Faith Leaders disseminate weekly stakeholder briefing to congregations.
- 5.11 Targeted work has been undertaken with education partners re safe return to school.

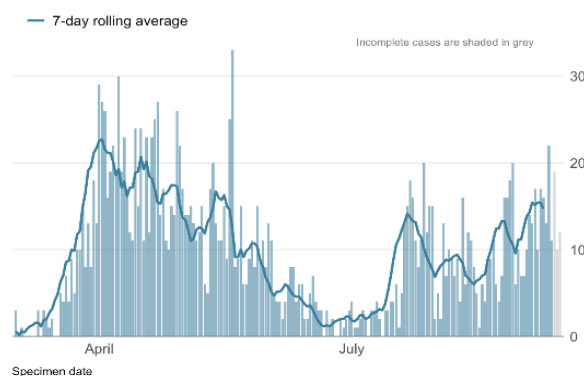
## Appendix A: Covid-19 Surveillance Summary

This summary draws on a number of PHE data sources which have different publication times so the most recent reporting date will vary slightly.

- The 7-day average number of daily confirmed cases in Trafford on Tuesday 15 September 2020 was **14.1**.
- There were **99** confirmed cases during the week ending Tuesday 15 September which is equivalent to **41.7** cases per 100,000 residents. **97** cases or **40.9** cases per 100,000 residents were confirmed during the previous week.
- The highest number of daily cases during the past week were reported on **Thursday 10 September** with **22** cases.
- **10.1% (10)** of cases were tested under Pillar 1 and **89.9% (89)** under Pillar 2.

### Epidemic curve of daily confirmed new cases

Trafford, 02 March to 14 September 2020



Source: PHE Covid-19 Situational Awareness Explorer

### Testing volume and positivity rate

Trafford, 14 days ending 15 September

Pillar	Tests		Positiv rate
	n	per 100,000	
Pillar 1	1,019	429	1.2
Pillar 2	4,186	1,764	3.9
Total	5,205	2,193	3.4

Source: PHE Daily COVID-19 Surveillance Reports

### Weekly incidence per 100,000 population by local authority

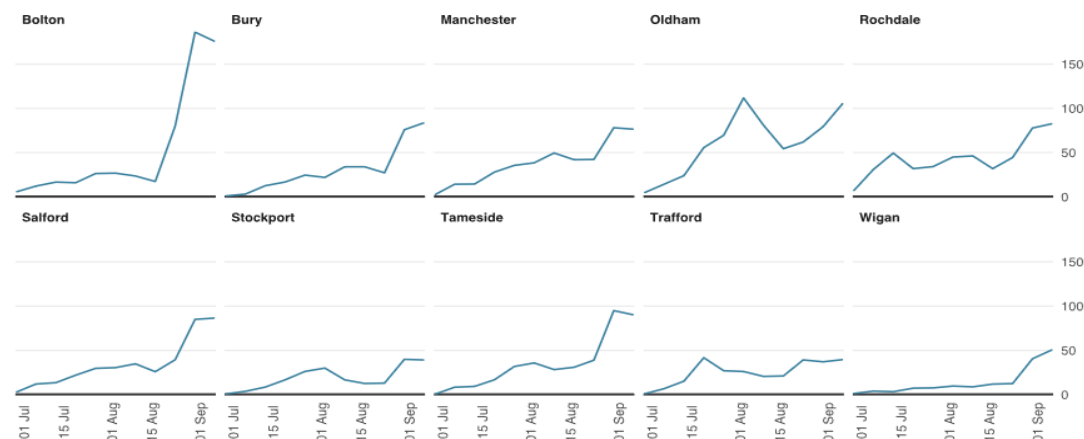
Greater Manchester, 01 September to 14 September 2020

	01 September - 07 September	08 September - 14 September ↓	Change
Bolton	186.1	175.6	-10.4
Oldham	79.3	105.9	26.6
Tameside	94.9	90.1	-4.9
Salford	85	86.5	1.5
Bury	75.9	83.8	7.9
Rochdale	77.8	82.7	4.9
Manchester	78.1	76.5	-1.6
Wigan	40.5	50.8	10.3
Trafford	37.1	39.6	2.5
Stockport	39.9	39.2	-0.7

Source: PHE Coronavirus Dashboard

### Weekly incidence per 100,000 population by local authority

Greater Manchester, 08 July to 14 September 2020



**Weekly incidence per 100,000 population by ward**

Trafford, 02 September to 15 September 2020

	02 September - 08 September	09 September - 15 September	↓ Change
Clifford	103.9	143.8	39.9
Longford	136	96	-40
Sale Moor	55.4	83.1	27.7
Hale Barns	19.9	59.6	39.7
Davyhulme East	30.7	51.1	20.4
Broadheath	7.1	49.9	42.7
Bucklow-St Martins	28.4	47.4	18.9

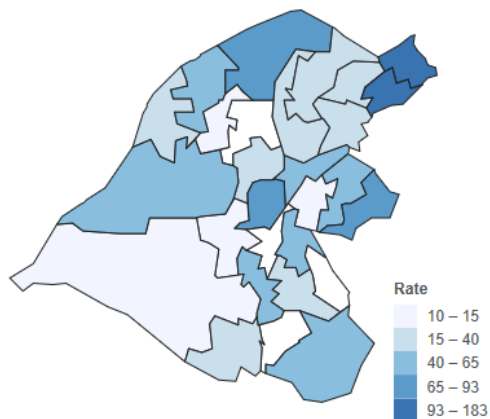
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Previous 1 of 3 Next

Source: PHE Covid-19 Situational Awareness Explorer

**Incidence per 100,000 population by MSOA**

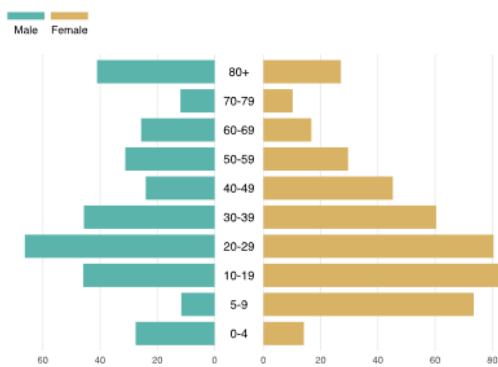
Trafford, 09 September to 15 September 2020



Source: PHE Covid-19 Situational Awareness Explorer

**Incidence per 100,000 population by age and gender**

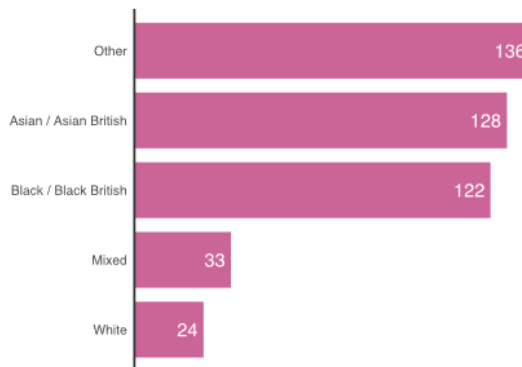
Trafford, 09 September to 15 September 2020



Source: PHE Covid-19 Situational Awareness Explorer | ONS

**Incidence per 100,000 population by ethnicity**

Trafford, 09 September to 15 September 2020



Source: PHE Covid-19 Situational Awareness Explorer | 2011 Census

## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Pandemic Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 22 September 2020  
**Report for:** Decision  
**Report of:** Chair of the Pandemic Scrutiny Committee

### Report Title

**Trafford Pandemic Scrutiny Committee Report**

### Summary

This report lays out a number of recommendations relating to Homelessness and the Council's Budgetary position for the Executive following their meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

### Recommendation(s)

The Pandemic Scrutiny Committee are requested to recommend to the Executive;

- That the Trafford Pandemic Scrutiny Committee report be noted.
- That the Executive continue to look at long term solutions to the potential rise in homelessness, due to the ongoing impact of COVID 19.
- That regular updates on homelessness be provided to the Pandemic Scrutiny Committee and all Councilors.
- That the Executive review the current process for 208 notices to improve performance to ensure that the Council is able to provide support from the commencement of a placement.
- That any future budgetary reports on Council finances, which are to be included on public agendas, include a simplified overview position. Stating the Council's current budget position, an overview of what this means for the Council and Trafford residents, and what the Executive and Officers are doing to mitigate the budgetary impacts.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Alexander Murray – Governance Officer  
Extension: 4250

## **Background**

1. The Pandemic Scrutiny Committee was created on the 15<sup>th</sup> May by Council to fulfil the Council's Scrutiny function during the COVID 19 pandemic following the suspension of the Council's three Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 Following updates that were provided to the Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> August the Committee formed a number of recommendations for the Executive to consider.

## **Homelessness**

- 2.1 At the Committee meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> August the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration raised concerns regarding the end of the Government's suspension on evictions and asked the Committee to support the Council in lobbying for this to be extended. The Committee supported lobbying for an extension but noted that it would only be a temporary measure. Since the meeting the Government announced an extension of four weeks to the suspension along with the introduction of a 6 month notice period for evictions to be in place until at least 31 March 2021. While this is greatly improved from the previous position it is still a limited measure. The Committee recommend that the Executive continue to look at long term solutions to the potential rise in homelessness, due to the ongoing impact of COVID 19.
- 2.2 Due to the ongoing impact of COVID 19 and the increased risk of homelessness for Trafford residents this is an area that all Trafford Councillors should be aware of. It is recommended that regular updates on homelessness in Trafford be provided to the Committee and all Councillors.
- 2.3 While it is a requirement that Local Authorities receive a 208 notice when a person is to be placed within the area these are currently not being provided. This was discussed at the meeting where the Committee were informed that all Local Authorities performed poorly in respect to the completion of 208 notices. The Committee feel that the completion of 208 notices, or other suitable forms of notification, needs to be prioritised to enable the Council to ensure that sufficient support is provided to all people who reside within the borough. The Committee recommend that the Executive review the current process for 208 notices to improve performance to ensure that the Council is able to provide support from the commencement of a placement.

## **Council Budget 2020/21**

3. The Committee were provided with the Council's budget monitoring report for quarter 2 at the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> August. The report was very detailed and provided an in-depth breakdown of the Council's finances and projections for 2020/21. At the meeting there was an amount of confusion regarding what all of the figures meant and the impact that they would have upon the Council. Due to the importance of the information provided the Committee feel it should be digestible by all Committee Members and members of the public who access the Committee's reports. The Committee recommend that any future budgetary reports on Council finances, which are to be included on public agendas, include a simplified overview position. Stating the Council's current budget position, an overview of what this means for the Council



and Trafford residents, and what the Executive and Officers are doing to mitigate the budgetary impacts.

### **Recommendations**

4. The Pandemic Scrutiny Committee are requested to recommend to the Executive;
  - 1) That the Trafford Pandemic Scrutiny Committee report be noted.
  - 2) That the Executive continue to look at long term solutions to the potential rise in homelessness, due to the ongoing impact of COVID 19.
  - 3) That regular updates on homelessness be provided to the Pandemic Scrutiny Committee and all Councillors.
  - 4) That the Executive review the current process for 208 notices to improve performance to ensure that the Council is able to provide support from the commencement of a placement.
  - 5) That any future budgetary reports on Council finances, which are to be included on public agendas, include a simplified overview position. Stating the Council's current budget position, an overview of what this means for the Council and Trafford residents, and what the Executive and Officers are doing to mitigate the budgetary impacts.

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