

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED FOR
COUNCIL**

Date: Wednesday, 27 July 2022

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| 11 (a) | SAVE OUR RIVERS MOTION | |
| | Amendment Submitted by the Conservative Group | 1 - 2 |
| 11 (c) | MANCHESTER AIRPORT PASSENGER EXPERIENCE MOTION | |
| | (i) Amendment Submitted by the Labour Group | 3 - 4 |
| | (ii) Amendment Submitted by the Liberal Democrats Group | 5 - 6 |

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Amendment Received for Council – 27 July 2022

Item 11 (a) CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT of the Motion Submitted by the Liberal Democrats Group

Save Our Rivers

Our local rivers, brooks and watercourses are invaluable assets to our borough. They make up a vital part of our natural ecosystem, providing habitat for bird, fish and insect life as well as being sites for recreation for Trafford residents. Flash flooding is an increasingly prevalent issue in Trafford and this is likely to continue in the years ahead as a direct result of the climate emergency.

This Council gives thanks to its officers and environment agency workers who go above and beyond the call of duty, to offer support to our residents during instances of severe weather.

Local waterways are also subject to harmful sewage dumping practices, which damage ecosystems and pose a significant public health risk, especially in the context of flash flooding.

This Council notes that:

- Every river in England is now polluted beyond legal limits; with the Environment Agency rating only 14% as Good in 2019.
- This chemical pollution is mostly caused by sewage discharges from water companies and the run-offs of nutrients from farms.
- ~~Government funding to the Environment Agency to monitor river quality and regulate farms and water companies has dropped 75% over the last 10 years and as a result, farms are now almost never inspected, water quality is rarely tested, and water companies can pump raw sewage into rivers with virtual impunity.~~
- In recent years, flash flooding has been a growing issue across Trafford, with many residents facing risks to their homes during severe weather.
- That councillors, residents and the Environment Agency are required to work together towards flooding resilience goals, in line with resolutions passed by this Council.
- That whilst residents wait for long-term flood mitigation schemes, the issue of contaminated water from sewage dumping poses a potentially serious health and environmental risk – especially if homes flood during severe weather.
- At a local taskforce meeting, The Environment Agency only committed to clearing the brooks that flow through Timperley twice a year, which repeated late-night emergency call outs have shown to be insufficient to avoid flooding.

Amendment Received for Council – 27 July 2022

- ~~That in October 2021, 265 Conservative MPs – including Altrincham and Sale West MP Sir Graham Brady – voted against provisions in Lords Amendment 45 to the Environment Bill which would have curtailed sewage dumping, removing proposals that would have placed a legal duty on water companies to “take all reasonable steps to ensure untreated sewage is not discharged from storm overflows.”~~

This Council believes that the UK Government should commit to:

- Restoring Environment Agency budgets for river quality monitoring.
- Increasing inspections of water companies and farms, and prosecuting offenders.
- Funding local and highways authorities to introduce treatment systems to prevent road pollutants from entering our water courses.
- ~~Implementing a ‘Sewage Tax’ on water companies and other industries who persist in knowingly polluting our rivers and waterways.~~

This Council resolves to:

- Ask the Flood Resilience Working Group created in March 2021 to support the Environment Agency to inspect and clear Fairywell Brook more frequently. Reducing the build-up of debris that causes the Brook to flood and sewage-contaminated water to enter residents’ homes during flash floods.

This Council resolves to ask the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for the Environment to write to:

- The Environment Minister calling for the Government to adopt the ~~four~~ **three** commitments outlined above.
- The Chief Executive of United Utilities calling for further urgent action to address the impact of waste-water discharges on our local rivers.
- The charity ‘River Action’ expressing this Council’s support for their campaign to restore the health of Britain’s rivers.

~~This Council also calls upon the three Members of Parliament who represent Trafford to support the resolutions of this motion and advocate for a ‘Sewage Tax’ in Parliament.~~

Amendment Received for Council – 27 July 2022

Item 11 (c) LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT of the Motion Submitted by the Conservative Group

Manchester Airport Passenger Experience

This Council notes that:

- Situated adjacent to Trafford, Manchester Airport is a major international airport. It was the fourth busiest airport in the UK in 2021 in terms of terminal passengers and is the global gateway to and from the North of England;
- Trafford Council is a shareholder in the airport, along with the 9 other Greater Manchester districts and Australian investment fund IFM Investors. The holding has regularly returned a dividend which has been used to support the council's Revenue Budget;
- Since the airport started to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, travellers including Trafford residents have experienced delays, large queues and abandoned flights. ~~Airlines have been offering refunds on flights or offering alternative flights, which may be in term time;~~
- Civil Aviation Authority data shows that in the first three months of 2022 Manchester Airport had 72.3% of its flights leave on time. This was the lowest percentage across the 26 airports in the UK which are included in the statistics; and
- Manchester Airport has commenced an extensive staff recruitment campaign, supported by partners including Trafford Council. ~~The government has passed legislation as part of its 22-point plan to tackle aviation disruption which means certain new recruit training can be undertaken at the same time as background checks, speeding up the process. Ministers have also agreed that HMRC employment history letters can be used as reference checks.~~

This Council believes that:

- **Whilst the current situation at Manchester Airport is of great concern to the borough, especially as the council has a financial holding in the airport and many Trafford citizens work at the airport and rely on it on a regular basis the Government's response to the crisis in the aviation sector and at airports has been lamentable;**
- **The 22-point plan announced by the Government at the end of June 2022 to tackle aviation disruption was a result of pressure brought to bear by the aviation sector, it came far too late to prevent the disruptions experienced at the beginning of the year and in April and May;**

Amendment Received for Council – 27 July 2022

- That whilst improvements have been made since the beginning of the year to the security operation at Manchester Airport much of the chaos experienced as we approach the summer holiday season is the responsibility of airlines and private baggage handling companies. Many of these operators made huge numbers of their employees redundant instead of accepting extended furlough arrangements whilst continuing to sell holidays and flights they could never hope to fully resource; and
- That arrangements at the UK Border where long queues to re-enter the UK have been experienced are due to the resourcing decisions of the UK Border Agency which ultimately is the responsibility of the UK Government.
- ~~Some parents may choose to book holidays in term time to avoid peak season delays at the airport or may only be offered a re-scheduled holiday in term time. Taking a child out of class in term time will have a detrimental impact on the child's education.~~

This Council resolves:

- To ask the Chief Executive to write to Chris Woodroffe the new Managing Director of Manchester Airport to invite him to meet with Trafford Elected Members to set out the airport's plan to improve the airport's performance **in conjunction with the airport operators and airlines they work with.**

Amendment Received for Council – 27 July 2022

Item 11 (c) LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP AMENDMENT of the Motion Submitted by the Conservative Group

Manchester Airport Passenger Experience

This Council notes that:

- Situated adjacent to Trafford, Manchester Airport is a major international airport. It was the fourth busiest airport in the UK in 2021 in terms of terminal passengers and is the global gateway to and from the North of England;
- Trafford Council is a shareholder in the airport, along with the 9 other Greater Manchester districts and Australian investment fund IFM Investors. The holding has regularly returned a dividend which has been used to support the council's Revenue Budget;
- Since the airport started to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, travellers including Trafford residents have experienced delays, large queues and abandoned flights. Airlines have been offering refunds on flights or offering alternative flights, which may be in term time;
- Britain's withdrawal from the European Union has had implications on the staffing of UK airports – in the year before the pandemic, more than a quarter of a million EU citizens left the United Kingdom, mostly working age citizens in sectors that involve public-facing jobs;
- With a reduced pool of applicants for jobs, many sectors including aviation are finding recruitment more difficult as a result of Brexit;
- Britain is projected to endure the worst economic recovery in the G7;
- Britain's employment laws allowed British airlines and airports to cut workforces earlier and deeper than European counterparts during the pandemic and as demand for travel has resumed, British passengers are uniquely positioned to suffer long airport delays as a result;
- This Council has declared a Climate Emergency. There is an onus on central government, airlines, airports and their stakeholders to ensure that the sector works towards our environmental targets;
- Civil Aviation Authority data shows that in the first three months of 2022 Manchester Airport had 72.3% of its flights leave on time. This was the lowest percentage across the 26 airports in the UK which are included in the statistics; and

Amendment Received for Council – 27 July 2022

- Manchester Airport has commenced an extensive staff recruitment campaign, supported by partners including Trafford Council. The government has passed legislation as part of its 22-point plan to tackle aviation disruption which means certain new recruit training can be undertaken at the same time as background checks, speeding up the process. Ministers have also agreed that HMRC employment history letters can be used as reference checks.

This Council believes that:

- The current situation at Manchester Airport is of great concern to the borough, especially as the council has a financial holding in the airport and many Trafford citizens work at the airport and rely on it on a regular basis; and
- Some parents may choose to book holidays in term time to avoid peak season delays at the airport or may only be offered a re-scheduled holiday in term time. Taking a child out of class in term time will have a detrimental impact on the child's education.

This Council resolves:

- To ask the Chief Executive to write to Chris Woodroffe the new Managing Director of Manchester Airport to invite him to meet with Trafford Elected Members to set out the airport's plan to improve the airport's performance.