

Public Document Pack



TRAFFORD
COUNCIL

AMENDMENTS FOR COUNCIL

Date: Wednesday, 19 July 2023

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Council – 19 July 2023

Liberal Democrat Amendment to motion 8a – To Oppose Day Crewing Plans at Sale Fire Station

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) is proposing to move Sale fire station from a whole-time [24-hour station](#) model to a day crewing model, which means that crews would provide an immediate response during station hours (8.30am to 6pm) and up to a four-minute delayed response during on-call hours (6pm to 8.30am).

GMFRS claims that this proposal would save £340,000 per year and allow them to invest in other priority areas.

Sale fire station has low incident levels, with the third-lowest number of night-time life risk incidents and the third-lowest total incidents at night-time in the last three years.

However, Sale fire station is strategically placed to cover a central area of the Trafford borough and extending to Urmston, Flixton, and Partington.

Sale fire station also serves as a backup for other fire stations in Trafford [including Altrincham which covers Timperley and Hale areas](#), and neighbouring boroughs in case of emergencies or major incidents.

The average response time in Sale would increase by 1 minute 10 seconds (from 7 minutes 45 seconds to 8 minutes 55 seconds) and the overall response time across Trafford borough would increase by 20 seconds (from 7 minutes 43 seconds to 8 minutes 3 seconds) if the proposal is implemented.

The ongoing changes to highways to reduce speed limits and accommodate cyclists will add to response times which have not been factored in.

These increased response times could have serious consequences for public safety, especially for vulnerable groups such as elderly people, children, people with disabilities, or people living in high-rise buildings.

[This council](#) **We believes:**

The proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model is a biased preferred option consultation, that has failed to take into consideration the residents of Partington, [or indeed, the views of firefighters who serve at Sale and across](#)

Trafford. This council Conservatives sees this as unacceptable. Basing the proposal on data from the past three Covid years is incomparable with any other years.

The proposal offers little or no data on the assumption of being able to attend the station from the fire fighters' home within 4 minutes or how this will be monitored. This council understands that several of the assumptions made in the Fire Cover Review are based on modelling, which GMFRS themselves have accepted is flawed.

The consultation does not do enough ensure those most affected have their say, Sale's residents and businesses deserve better.

The proposal flies in the face of the promise made by Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham to avoid cuts to frontline services in Greater Manchester despite raising the precept tax on residents.

This council notes:

The extraordinary meeting of Scrutiny Committee that was held on Monday 10th July and thanks members of the GMFRS and the Fire Brigade Union for their attendance and cooperation with elected members.

That, after initially considering the Chair's call for a 'pause' before reaching a decision, the committee subsequently agreed to support the Liberal Democrats' proposal, calling for a complete rejection of the 'Day Crewing' proposals. The Chair of Scrutiny Committee, then undertook to draft a letter outlining the settled position of the Committee.

This council Resolves to:

~~We the Conservative group of Trafford Council,~~ ask the Labour administration to write to the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham **calling on him** to uphold his commitment not to cut services and leave residents of Sale at risk from delays to response times, ~~making it clear we~~ **restating the settled and firm view of Scrutiny Committee and this council as a whole that Trafford fully rejects in full** GMFRS's proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model.

Amended motion 8a to read:

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) is proposing to move Sale fire station from a 24-hour station to a day crewing model, which means that crews would provide an immediate response during station hours (8.30am to 6pm) and up to a four-minute delayed response during on-call hours (6pm to 8.30am).

GMFRS claims that this proposal would save £340,000 per year and allow them to invest in other priority areas.

Sale fire station has low incident levels, with the third-lowest number of night-time life risk incidents and the third-lowest total incidents at night-time in the last three years.

However, Sale fire station is strategically placed to cover a central area of the Trafford borough and extending to Urmston, Flixton, Partington, and the Timperley/Altrincham area.

Sale fire station also serves as a backup for other fire stations in Trafford and neighbouring boroughs in case of emergencies or major incidents.

The average response time in Sale would increase by 1 minute 10 seconds (from 7 minutes 45 seconds to 8 minutes 55 seconds) and the overall response time across Trafford borough would increase by 20 seconds (from 7 minutes 43 seconds to 8 minutes 3 seconds) if the proposal is implemented.

The ongoing changes to highways to reduce speed limits and accommodate cyclists will add to response times which have not been factored in.

These increased response times could have serious consequences for public safety, especially for vulnerable groups such as elderly people, children, people with disabilities, or people living in high-rise buildings.

This council believes:

The proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model is a biased preferred option consultation, that has failed to take into consideration the residents of Partington, or indeed, the views of firefighters who serve at Sale and across Trafford. This council sees this as unacceptable. Basing the proposal on data from the past three Covid years is incomparable with any other years.

The proposal offers little or no data on the assumption of being able to attend the station from the fire fighters' home within 4 minutes or how this will be monitored.

This council understands that several of the assumptions made in the Fire Cover Review are based on modelling, which GMFRS themselves have accepted is flawed.

The consultation does not do enough ensure those most affected have their say, Sale's residents and businesses deserve better.

The proposal flies in the face of the promise made by Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham to avoid cuts to frontline services in Greater Manchester despite raising the precept tax on residents.

This council notes:

The extraordinary meeting of Scrutiny Committee that was held on Monday 10th July and thanks members of the GMFRS and the Fire Brigade Union for their attendance and cooperation with elected members.

That, after initially considering calling for a 'pause' before reaching a decision, the committee agreed to support a proposal put forward by Councillor Frass, calling for a complete rejection of the 'Day Crewing' proposals. As Chair of Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Acton then undertook to draft a letter outlining the settled position of the Committee.

This council resolves to:

This council, therefore, asks the Labour administration to write to the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham calling on him to uphold his commitment not to cut services and leave residents of Sale at risk from delays to response times, restating the settled and firm view of Scrutiny Committee and this council as a whole that Trafford fully rejects GMFRS's proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model.

Council – 19 July 2023

Labour Amendment to motion 8a – To Oppose Day Crewing Plans at Sale Fire Station

- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) is proposing to move Sale fire station from a wholetime model to a day crewing model, which means that crews would provide an immediate response during station hours (8.30am to 6pm) and up to a four-minute delayed response during on-call hours (6pm to 8.30am).
- GMFRS claims that this proposal would save £340,000 per year and allow them to invest in other priority areas.
- Sale fire station has low incident levels, with the third-lowest number of night-time life risk incidents and the third-lowest total incidents at night-time in the last three years.
- However, Sale fire station is strategically placed to cover a central area of the Trafford borough and extending to Urmston, Flixton and Partington.
- Sale fire station also serves as a backup for other fire stations in Trafford and neighbouring boroughs in case of emergencies or major incidents.
- The average response time in Sale would increase by 1 minute 10 seconds (from 7 minutes 45 seconds to 8 minutes 55 seconds) and the overall response time across Trafford borough would increase by 20 seconds (from 7 minutes 43 seconds to 8 minutes 3 seconds) if the proposal is implemented.
- ~~The ongoing changes to highways to reduce speed limits and accommodate cyclists will add to response times which have not been factored in.~~
- These increased response times could have serious consequences for public safety, especially for vulnerable groups such as elderly people, children, people with disabilities, or people living in high-rise buildings.

We believe:

- ~~The proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model is a biased preferred option consultation, that has failed to take~~ has not given sufficient into consideration to the residents of Partington. ~~Conservatives see this as unacceptable~~ **The Council is very concerned about the specific impact the plans would have on businesses and residents in the Carrington and Partington areas.** Basing the proposal on data from the past three Covid years is incomparable with any other years.
- The proposal offers little or no data on the assumption of being able to attend the station from the fire fighters' home within 4 minutes or how this will be monitored.
- **We are very concerned that the proposals will leave Partington with the slowest response times to night-time 999 calls in all of Greater Manchester.**
- **Although the Council acknowledges that the consultation period has been extended and that GMFRS arranged a community meeting in Partington following requests,** the consultation does not do enough ensure those most

affected have their say, Sale's Trafford's residents and businesses deserve better more time to provide feedback.

- Although the overall proposal flies in the face of the promise made by Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham to avoid cuts to frontline services in Greater Manchester despite raising the precept tax on residents, provides enhanced services in some areas of Greater Manchester, it is of significant concern that Trafford faces two distinct reductions in its fire service cover.

Resolve:

- We the Conservative group of Trafford Council, therefore, ask the Labour administration to write to the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham to uphold his commitment not to cut services and leave residents of Sale at risk from delays to response times, making it clear we reject in full GMFRS's proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model. acknowledges that the Leader of the Council has written to the Chief Fire Officer to set out the administration's concerns regarding proposals and to urge GMFRS to reconsider.
- This Council condemns the Conservative-led governments that have stripped over £20 million funding from GMFRS since 2010.

Council – 19 July 2023

Green Group Amendment to motion 8a – To Oppose Day Crewing Plans at Sale Fire Station

- Following over a decade of austerity introduced by the Conservative government which has resulted in cuts in front line services, the Fire Service is having to redistribute its current funding to meet the future needs of Greater Manchester. This has resulted in proposed cuts to staffing in Trafford and a day-crew model being established in Sale. The government needs to fund the service properly and not force the service into cuts in some areas.
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) is proposing to move Sale fire station from a wholetime model to a day crewing model, which means that crews would provide an immediate response during station hours (8.30am to 6pm) and up to a four-minute delayed response during on-call hours (6pm to 8.30am).
- GMFRS claims that this proposal would save £340,000 per year and allow them to invest in other priority areas.
- Sale fire station has low incident levels, with the third-lowest number of night-time life risk incidents and the third-lowest total of life risk incidents at night-time in the last three years.
- However, Sale fire station is strategically placed to cover a central area of the Trafford borough and extending to Urmston, Flixton and Partington.
- Sale fire station also serves as a backup for other fire stations in Trafford and neighbouring boroughs in case of emergencies or major incidents.
- The average response time in Sale would increase by 1 minute 10 seconds (from 7 minutes 45 seconds to 8 minutes 55 seconds) and the overall response time across Trafford borough would increase by 20 seconds (from 7 minutes 43 seconds to 8 minutes 3 seconds) if the proposal is implemented. **As an average this does not take into account the impact on more distant communities such as Partington. It also does not take into account the impact of large events such as football matches on travel times.**
- ~~- The ongoing changes to highways to reduce speed limits and accommodate cyclists will add to response times which have not been factored in.~~
- These increased response times could have serious consequences for public safety, especially for vulnerable group such as elderly people, children, people with disabilities, or people living in high-rise buildings.

We believe:

- ~~The proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model is a biased preferred option consultation, that has failed to take into consideration the residents of Partington~~ **and the high risk industries based in Carrington. Conservatives see this as unacceptable.** Basing the proposal on data from the past three Covid years is incomparable with any other years. **Calculations need to be based on current risk levels, including traffic**

levels related to the significant return to car usage and accompanying collision risk and more outdoor activities which may present increased risk.

- The proposal offers little or no data on the assumption of being able to attend the station from the fire fighters' home within 4 minutes or how this will be monitored. All fire fighters would need to live in Sale to be able to meet this requirement which is not a practical option.
- The consultation does not do enough to ensure those most affected have their say, Sale's Trafford's residents and businesses deserve better.
- The proposal flies in the face of the promise made by Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham to avoid cuts to frontline services in Greater Manchester despite raising the precept tax on residents.

Resolve:

Trafford councillors support the response sent by Trafford Scrutiny Committee to the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service consultation. The response makes clear that we reject the proposals and would like time to consider alternative proposals that might maintain the current service and meet the future needs too. We request that further investigation is carried out to review the safety implications of moving to a day crewing service model at Sale fire Station which takes into account future building plans and changes in Trafford. This should give particular focus to the more distant areas of Trafford including Partington, Warburton, Carrington and Dunham. It should also consider the practicalities of fire fighters being available within a 4 minute radius.

- ~~— We the Conservative group of Trafford Council, therefore, ask the Labour administration to write to the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham to uphold his commitment not to cut services and leave residents of Sale at risk from delays to response times, making it clear we reject in full GMFRS's proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model.~~

Council – 19 July 2023

Labour Amendment to motion 8b – The impact of voter ID laws on democracy in Trafford

This Council notes that:

The 2023 local elections were the first to be held under the regulations imposed by the Elections Act 2022, which required electors to present Photo ID when voting in person.

Many Elected Members experienced upset, angry and frustrated voters who were unable to cast a vote on Polling Day because they could not locate the right Photo ID, or because the ID they had was invalid.

The Government originally claimed Voter ID Certificates would minimize any negative impact on turnout which the introduction of Voter ID might have.

In April, the Prime Minister said: "our elections should have some form of identification so that we can make sure they are high-integrity processes."

However, this Council further notes:

In May, the Conservative ex-Business Secretary, Jacob Rees-Mogg said: "Parties that try and gerrymander end up finding their clever scheme comes back to bite them, as, dare I say, we found by insisting on voter ID for elections".

Across England, the place with the highest rate of voters being turned away was Knowsley, the third-most deprived area in England.

Meanwhile South Oxfordshire, with very low indices of multiple deprivation saw the lowest rate for voters being turned away.

The Government's own research identified that 2 million people, eligible to vote in England, Scotland and Wales, do not have permissible forms of Photo ID. Yet just prior to the 2023 Local Elections, the number of voters without ID who had successfully obtained a Voter ID Certificate was just 4%.

This Council recognizes that:

The current Government's intention was not to secure the integrity of in-person voting, but was instead an attempt to tilt the system in their party's favour.

The data from organisations like Democracy Volunteers reveals women were disproportionately affected, in part because women are more likely to have changed their name as a result of marital status, and thus not have ID that matches the Electoral Roll. This drives up inequality in access to voting.

The data from across England confirms that the more deprived areas were more negatively affected by being unable to vote, also driving an inequality in access to voting.

~~It is likely that the national picture is replicated in Trafford, with more deprived areas more negatively affected by being unable to vote.~~

~~Given that one of the three aims in the Council's 'Corporate Plan' is tackling inequalities arising from poverty, the unequal access to voting between affluent and deprived areas of the borough needs to be tackled.~~

The Electoral Commission (EC) continues to collect and analyse the data to provide a more determinative picture.

A full report will be published in September 2023 in which they will also be looking at the patterns of higher and lower levels of people turned away across local authorities in order to identify any trends. This will assist Trafford Council to target improved voter engagement.

This Council therefore resolves to:

Going forward, (provided there are no restrictions imposed by legislation or the Electoral Commission on what data can be released), to publish ~~Be transparent about the difference in voters turned away in more deprived areas, compared to more affluent parts of the Borough, by publishing~~ the number of voters turned away for not having the right Photo ID data in each individual polling district for the elections held in 2023 and for future elections held in Trafford. This data could be collated and published at polling district level.

Council – 19 July 2023

Labour Amendment to motion 8c – Tackling Damp and Mould in Trafford's Social Housing

As a council, we ~~must lead~~ **are already leading** from the front to ensure our residents benefit from safe and secure housing. As such, this Council ~~must ensure~~ **will continue to monitor** that **social** housing stock is maintained to the highest quality. This is especially the case for socially rented properties. Many housing association properties in Trafford are affected by damp and mould. Poor living conditions are a major risk to the health and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable people in society, especially children and the health impacts, both physical and mental, of living with damp and mould can be devastating.

Therefore, this Council acknowledges:

- The tragic death of the two-year old Awaab Ishak as a result of chronic exposure to mould within his family's one-bedroom flat in Rochdale.
- The failure of Rochdale Boroughwide Housing to maintain the property and fix the mould issue that led to Awaab's death.
- That there is no room for complacency. Without **ongoing** serious action to tackle damp and mould, a tragic case like this could happen in Trafford.
- The subsequent letter written by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to council leaders and social housing providers stating that damp and mould complaints must be handled "with sufficient seriousness".

Note that since the letter received by the SoS, we have done the following regarding damp and mould:

- **Created a link on the Council's website to an advice leaflet on damp and mould - [Disrepair in private rented properties \(trafford.gov.uk\)](https://trafford.gov.uk)**
- **Set up a new code on our case management system to be able to report specifically on the number of complaints received about damp and mould growth**
- **Completed and returned the data collection request received by the SoS following their initial letter**
Changed our procedure to ensure that all tenants who contact us about damp and mould are emailed a link to the advice leaflet above (or provided another way if not by email)
- **Note the creation of a £15m fund by GMCA called the Social Housing Quality Fund to help improve properties suffering with severe mould and damp.**

- The creation of, and subsequent transfer of housing stock to, Housing Associations does not render local authorities powerless to improve the lives of tenants.
- That under the Housing Act 2004, Trafford has a legal duty to review housing conditions in their district, identify actions required to remedy 'category 1 hazards' and then - to quote legislation - "they must take the appropriate enforcement action in relation to the hazard".
- That under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, mould is designated as a 'category 1 hazard', meaning that local authorities can serve hazard awareness and improvement notices and can also take other emergency action, where housing associations are falling short.

Therefore, this Council resolves to ask all housing associations with properties in Trafford to:

- Ensure they prioritise damp and mould complaints and resolve them without delay.
- Identify and prioritise vulnerable tenants dealing with damp and mould issues - particularly the very young, the very old and those with chronic lung conditions.
- Prioritise these vulnerable tenants by actioning repairs to areas of their homes that can prevent damp and mould. For example, clearing guttering, sealing windows, replacing faulty extraction fans in bathrooms and kitchens as well as providing cavity wall insulation.
- Conduct a full damp and mould survey of properties in Trafford and provide an action plan for reparatory works.
- Provide tenants with actionable guidance for preventing damp and mould, beyond advice to simply 'wipe it off'. This work should be amplified by the council's communications team.
- Provide specific training to call handlers on how to advise tenants telephoning or emailing about their damp and mould problems.
- Inform all tenants on the process for raising and tracking a damp or mould complaint.
- Ensure all councillors are given the opportunity to attend regular inspection walkabouts with housing officers.
- Recognise that this issue is not solely an issue within a social housing environment and that in conjunction with Trafford and the other nine boroughs, GMCA has created the New Deal for renters which specifically aims to improve conditions in the private rented sector.

This Council further resolves to:

- **Continue to** Work constructively with housing associations to deliver meaningful improvements for social housing tenants, ~~too~~ many of whom are left without proper protection or recourse when they encounter a damp or mould issue.
- Where progress is too slow, to use powers including but not limited to hazard awareness notices and hazard improvement notices to ensure that damp and mould complaints are treated with the urgency they are due.
- To ask the Leader of the Council to write to all housing associations outlining the above resolutions and stating this council's strongly held view that nobody should have to live in a damp, cold or unsafe home.

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Council – 19 July 2023

Conservative Amendment to motion 8c – Tackling Damp and Mould in Trafford's Social Housing

As a council, we must lead from the front to ensure our residents benefit from safe and secure housing. As such, this Council must ensure that housing stock is maintained to the highest quality. This is especially the case for socially rented properties. Many housing association properties in Trafford are affected by damp and mould. Poor living conditions are a major risk to the health and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable people in society, especially children and the health impacts, both physical and mental, of living with damp and mould can be devastating.

Therefore, this Council acknowledges:

- The tragic death of the two-year old Awaab Ishak as a result of chronic exposure to mould within his family's one-bedroom flat in Rochdale.
- The failure of Rochdale Boroughwide Housing to maintain the property and fix the mould issue that led to Awaab's death.
- That there is no room for complacency. Without serious action to tackle damp and mould, a tragic case like this could happen in Trafford.
- The subsequent letter written by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to council leaders and social housing providers stating that damp and mould complaints must be handled "with sufficient seriousness".
- The creation of, and subsequent transfer of housing stock to, Housing Associations does not render local authorities powerless to improve the lives of tenants.
- That under the Housing Act 2004, Trafford has a legal duty to review housing conditions in their district, identify actions required to remedy 'category 1 hazards' and then - to quote legislation - "they must take the appropriate enforcement action in relation to the hazard".
- That under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, mould is designated as a 'category 1 hazard', meaning that local authorities can serve hazard awareness and improvement notices and can also take other emergency action, where housing associations are falling short.

Therefore, this Council resolves to ask all housing associations with properties in Trafford to:

- Ensure they prioritise damp and mould complaints and resolve them without delay.
- Identify and prioritise vulnerable tenants dealing with damp and mould issues - particularly the very young, the very old and those with chronic lung conditions.
- Prioritise these vulnerable tenants by actioning repairs to areas of their homes that can prevent damp and mould. For example, clearing guttering, sealing windows, replacing faulty extraction fans in bathrooms and kitchens as well as providing cavity wall insulation.
- Conduct a full damp and mould survey of properties in Trafford and provide an action plan for reparatory works.
- Provide tenants with actionable guidance for preventing damp and mould, beyond advice to simply 'wipe it off'. This work should be amplified by the council's communications team.
- Provide specific training to call handlers on how to advise tenants telephoning or emailing about their damp and mould problems.
- Inform all tenants on the process for raising and tracking a damp or mould complaint.
- Ensure all councillors are given the opportunity to attend regular inspection walkabouts with housing officers.

This Council further resolves to:

- Work constructively with housing associations to deliver meaningful improvements for social housing tenants, too many of whom are left without proper protection or recourse when they encounter a damp or mould issue.
- Where progress is too slow, to use powers including but not limited to hazard awareness notices and hazard improvement notices to ensure that damp and mould complaints are treated with the urgency they are due.
- To ask the Leader of the Council to write to all housing associations outlining the above resolutions and stating this council's strongly held view that nobody should have to live in a damp, cold or unsafe home.
- **Compel Housing Associations to provide alternative accommodation whilst works are being undertaken in cases that are deemed un-inhabitable by environmental health.**

Council – 19 July 2023

Conservative Amendment to motion 8d – The Problems With Leasehold and Rejuvenating Commonhold

This Council notes that:

- There are an estimated 4.86 million leasehold dwellings in England. This equates to 20% of the English housing stock. There are around 235,000 leasehold properties in Wales. This equates to 16% of all properties in Wales.
- There can be significant problems with leasehold including escalating ground rents, expensive service charges, the cost of getting consents, that a lease is a wasting asset, and lack of control over the management of the building.
- First introduced in England and Wales in 2002, commonhold is an alternative to leasehold ownership of flats, and other properties that share communal areas or services. Commonhold is the norm in many other countries.
- Fewer than 20 commonhold developments have been established since the commonhold legislation came into force. Flats in England and Wales continue to be owned almost universally on a leasehold basis.

This Council believes that:

- ~~Leaseholders have been let down by~~ The Government which promised in its 2019 manifesto to ban the sale of new leasehold homes **should urgently deliver on this commitment.**, and by The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing who called leasehold a “feudal” system and promised to abolish it **should act on his promise.**
- Commonhold is a better system, in need of rejuvenation. Government needs to enact the Law Commission’s recommendations on enfranchisement of leasehold, reinvigorating commonhold and the right to manage.

This Councils resolves:

- To write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing requesting that the Government fulfils its pledge to end the sale of leasehold for new properties and implement the recommendation of the Law Commission in relation to leaseholder enfranchisement, reinvigorating commonhold and the right to manage.
- To seek to promote commonhold in new developments where possible.

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