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**TRAFFORD
COUNCIL**

AMENDMENTS FOR COUNCIL

Date: Wednesday, 22 November 2023

		Pages
9 (b)	MOTION: ALTERNATING THE WEED SPRAYING PROGRAMME	
	- Amendment from the Conservative Group	1 - 2
9 (d)	MOTION: VAPING	
	- Amendment from the Green Party Group	
	- Amendment from the Liberal Democrats Group	3 - 6
9 (e)	CROSS-PARTY MOTION: SUPPORT FOR A GREATER MANCHESTER-WIDE TRIAL OF THE BABY-BOX	
	- Proposed Alteration	7 - 8
9 (f)	MOTION: ALTRINCHAM MINOR INJURIES UNIT	
	- Amendment from the Liberal Democrats Group	
	- Amendment from the Green Party Group	9 - 12

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Council – 22 November 2023

Conservative Group Amendment to motion 9b – Alternating the Weed Spraying Programme

This Council notes:

- For at least the last 5 years, the weed spraying programme undertaken by Amey on behalf of the One Trafford Partnership has always started in the North of the Borough.
- The programme typically takes around two months to complete.
- However, it has often started late when contractors are unavailable, which when coupled with delays for weather, means it is often October before the programme finally reaches the southern parts of the borough.
- The residents living in South Trafford are therefore continually at a disadvantage as their wards are visited last.
- Initially, this just means having their residential streets and town and village centres looking untidy and uncared for throughout the whole summer, every year.
- However, repeatedly leaving the southern half of Trafford until last, also means it is subjected to the longer-term damage to road surfaces and drainage systems.

This Council believes:

- It is unfair to have a schedule which plans to leave the same part of the Borough until last every time because by the time the weed spraying programme reaches wards in the Timperley and Altrincham area, it is too late:
 - the seeds have spread - making the problem worse, year-on-year;
 - the weeds have got very big - so they leave sizable holes in the surface, helping potholes form;
 - the weeds start to block grids and drains - increasing surface flooding.
- We should strive for Trafford's town and village centres to look their best, therefore a more considered approach to the schedule that prioritises town and village centres should be developed.

This Council resolves to:

- **Return to the twice yearly weed spraying program in line with the Defra Guidelines.**
- Commence the weed spraying programme by spraying the main street(s) in each of the town and village centres in the Borough first, before starting other roads.
- Alternate the weed spraying programme each year, so that it starts at the opposite end of the Borough, geographically, to the year before.
- This would mean the first weeks of spraying in 2024 would be in Bowdon, Hale, Altrincham and Timperley, and the programme would finish in wards around Stretford, Old Trafford and Gorse Hill. Then in 2025 the order would reverse, and so on.

Council – 22 November 2023

Green Party Group Amendment to motion 9d – Vaping

Over the last few years, vaping among our young people has risen sharply, both nationally and locally.

In Trafford our Public Health team undertook a Young People's Trading Standards Survey 2022 which told us:

- 10% of young people who completed the survey claimed to vape occasionally or regularly compared to the GM average of 22%;
- 77% answered that they had never tried a vape, which is higher than the GM average of 59%.

However, our Voice of the Child Champions group told us in February 2023 that they felt the prevalence estimated in this survey are inaccurate, and the number of young people vaping was higher and that most people who vaped had not smoked before.

Also, some data we have accessed from Action on Smoking Health (ASH) shows that 8.6% of 11- to 18-year-olds in England vaped in 2022, compared with 4% in 2021.

Recent Chartered Trading Standards Institute research found that 60% of local trading standards services report high street shops selling vapes or vaping products to children. Trading standards teams reported a significant rise in underage vape sales last year, with more than a fifth of youngsters buying vaping products from newsagents while 16.3% buying them from a supermarket. Schools in Trafford are mirroring this trend with secondary schools now having to confiscate vaping products on school premises.

The effects of e-cigarettes and vaping are still not yet fully understood - which is especially important in the context of young people, as their lungs are still developing. There is growing evidence that e-cigarettes can help people manage their nicotine cravings – but this isn't without risk. While research has shown vaping poses a small fraction of the risks of smoking, it is deeply worrying that more and more children – who have never smoked – are starting vaping.

The LGA has called on its members to step up enforcement to deal with growing numbers of shops selling vapes to children despite the 18-age limit, with many “especially concerned” by child-friendly marketing, including colourful packages and different flavours. We are aware of the anti-social aspects of vaping and the environmental problems that are also associated; however, this motion is concentrating on our young people's health and what we do to prevent ill health for them in the future.

This Council asks the following:

- that the Leader writes to the Secretary of state for tighter regulations on the marketing of vape products, including a ban on brightly colour packaging and a review of the flavours vape companies use which are likely to appeal to children.
- that all parties across the chamber lobby the government and their local MPs for extra funding for councils for education and support to deliver to our young people the real health issues that vaping causes in the long term and the short term around popcorn lung and more.
- Call for harsher punishments for companies which flout advertising rules to promote their products on social media, and for more licensing powers to allow local authorities to ban the sale of e-cigarettes in shops near schools.
- **Write to government to ask them to ban disposable vapes.**

Also resolves that the Councils Trading standards team continue working with Public Health to:

- Carry out regular test purchases and seize products and issued fixed penalty notices when a business has been found to be in breach of the law.
- Implement mandatory age-of-sale signage on vaping products.
- Implement sanctions for breaching these rules should also be the same as penalties handed out under tobacco display regulations.

Council – 22 November 2023

Liberal Democrats Group Amendment to motion 9d – Vaping

Over the last few years, vaping among our young people has risen sharply, both nationally and locally.

In Trafford our Public Health team undertook a Young People's Trading Standards Survey 2022 which told us:

- 10% of young people who completed the survey claimed to vape occasionally or regularly compared to the GM average of 22%;
- 77% answered that they had never tried a vape, which is higher than the GM average of 59%.

However, our Voice of the Child Champions group told us in February 2023 that they felt the prevalence estimated in this survey are inaccurate, and the number of young people vaping was higher and that most people who vaped had not smoked before.

Also, some data we have accessed from Action on Smoking Health (ASH) shows that 8.6% of 11- to 18-year-olds in England vaped in 2022, compared with 4% in 2021.

Further data from ASH shows that single-use vapes are the chosen product for the vast majority of young people who have started using e-cigarettes (69% in 2023).

Some health groups are calling for single-use vapes to be banned completely. Unscrupulous retailers who sell vapes to children, often stock illegal products, containing high levels of toxic elements like chromium and lead.

Single-use vapes are detrimental to the environment, with over a million single-use plastic vapes and associated batteries going to landfill or littering the streets each week.

Recent Chartered Trading Standards Institute research found that 60% of local trading standards services report high street shops selling vapes or vaping products to children. Trading standards teams reported a significant rise in underage vape sales last year, with more than a fifth of youngsters buying vaping products from newsagents while 16.3% buying them from a supermarket. Schools in Trafford are mirroring this trend with secondary schools now having to confiscate vaping products on school premises.

The effects of e-cigarettes and vaping are still not yet fully understood - which is especially important in the context of young people, as their lungs are still developing. There is growing evidence that e-cigarettes can help people manage their nicotine cravings – but this isn't without risk. While research has shown vaping poses a small fraction of the risks of smoking, it is deeply worrying that more and more children – who have never smoked – are starting vaping.

The LGA has called on its members to step up enforcement to deal with growing numbers of shops selling vapes to children despite the 18-age limit, with many “especially concerned” by child-friendly marketing, including colourful packages and different flavours. We are aware of the anti-social aspects of vaping and the environmental problems that are also associated; however, this motion is concentrating on our young people’s health and what we do to prevent ill health for them in the future.

This Council asks the following:

- that the Leader writes to the Secretary of state for tighter regulations on the marketing of vape products, including a ban on brightly colour packaging and a review of the flavours vape companies use which are likely to appeal to children.
- that all parties across the chamber lobby the government and their local MPs for extra funding for councils for education and support to deliver to our young people the real health issues that vaping causes in the long term and the short term around popcorn lung and more.
- Call for harsher punishments for companies which flout advertising rules to promote their products on social media, and for more licensing powers to allow local authorities to ban the sale of e-cigarettes in shops near schools.
- **that all parties across the chamber lobby the government and their local MPs to support a ban on single-use vapes.**

Also resolves that the Councils Trading standards team continue working with Public Health to:

- Carry out regular test purchases and seize products and issued fixed penalty notices when a business has been found to be in breach of the law.
- Implement mandatory age-of-sale signage on vaping products.
- Implement sanctions for breaching these rules should also be the same as penalties handed out under tobacco display regulations.

Council – 22 November 2023

Cross Party Alteration to motion 9e – Council supports the exploration of for a Greater Manchester-wide Trial of the Baby-box

This Council notes:

- Across Greater Manchester, more than one in every three children grow up in poverty. Three of the 20 local authorities with the highest levels of child poverty nationally, are in Greater Manchester.
- As many as 10 children in every classroom of 30, are not getting the start in life that they deserve.
- The pandemic has compounded this situation, leading to a spike in child poverty rates of approximately 6% during the ‘pandemic years’ – 2020 and 2021.

This council believes in the power of early intervention and in the positive difference that can be made when health services provide meaningful support to families and children from birth.

The Baby Box **scheme** is a care package which is delivered to expectant parents, carers and guardians in the early stages of a child’s life. It is loaded with essentials such as clothing, reusable nappies, maternity pads, blankets, wraps and slings, as well as books, vouchers and advice for new parents. The box itself doubles as a small cot.

The principle behind the Baby Box is that every child should be offered the best possible start in life.

Finland and Scotland have long since adopted the Baby Box. Each have seen **this contributing to** a steady and sustained positive impact on child poverty rates, as well as **on** infant mortality rates and rates of post-natal depression, among other positive health impacts.

The universal nature of the baby box in both countries means that ~~no child is left behind and that~~ no stigma is placed on families for receiving support.

Whilst a universally implemented Baby Box could deliver **positive transformational** outcomes for children and families across Greater Manchester, this council recognises the current strain on public sector finance and therefore advocates for a proportionate universal approach to be **explored** ~~adopted~~ in developing a Greater Manchester-wide trial of the Baby Box.

This Council also acknowledges and values the support already offered to new parents in Trafford by community and voluntary services such as The Little Green Sock Project and our Trafford Community Hubs, as well as the role of businesses in driving positive health outcomes for the people of Greater Manchester. We would seek to engage with such communities when exploring options for a Baby Box scheme.

~~This Council also believes in the importance of the role of businesses in driving positive health outcomes for the people of Greater Manchester.~~

This Council resolves to:

- **that the Leader of the Council, the Executive Member for Health and Care and Executive Member for Children and Young People engage with Council Officers and Children’s Scrutiny committee to explore the feasibility of introducing a Baby Box scheme in Trafford, comparing this with other assistance already in place, in alignment with our existing strategies to tackle poverty.**
- **If it is assessed that a Baby Box offer is feasible in Trafford, report our findings to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Deputy Mayor for Health, calling for the exploration of sources of funding and options for the delivery of an ethical and sustainable Baby Box trial in Greater Manchester.**
- ~~— Support a Greater Manchester-wide trial of the baby-box based on the principle of proportional universalism and ask the Leader of the Council, and representatives from all parties to send an ‘all-party’ letter to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and his deputy with responsibility for Health, calling for options for a trial to be developed and expressing our shared belief that the public and private sectors can work together in the delivery of an ethical and sustainable baby-box trial.~~
- ~~— Write to the Leaders of the other Greater Manchester local authorities calling on them to add their support for a trial.~~
- ~~— Undertake consultation here in Trafford to hear suggestions from parents and professionals about their needs and how a baby-box could best provide the right support.~~

Council – 22 November 2023

Liberal Democrats Group Amendment to motion 9f – Altrincham MIU

This Council notes:

- ~~that~~ The closing of Altrincham Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) during the COVID-19 pandemic was intended as a temporary measure.
- **That Minor Injuries Units are being phased out and replaced with Urgent Treatment Centres in order to provide more efficient care.**
- ~~Council also notes~~ That Altrincham MIU was reopened briefly in 2021 only to be closed again with “staffing issues” cited.
- **That the NHS faces debilitating staffing pressures as a direct result of Brexit and that strain on health services has been compounded by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Over the past eight years funding has failed to keep pace with inflation, there has been no strategy to fill vacancies - in particular for GPs and Paramedics which have a direct impact on urgent care provision.**

This Council praises the work done by the Health Scrutiny Committee in its attempts to see Altrincham MIU reopened, **and its support of the Urgent Care Review which is due to report back its findings at the next Health Scrutiny meeting following this Full Council.**

This Council is concerned by the additional pressures **that the mismanagement of the NHS in England by the Government and** continued closure of Altrincham MIU presents not just to A&E departments in Greater Manchester but also to GP Out-Of-Hours services run in Trafford. This Council is concerned that residents in Trafford with minor injuries are making longer journeys to A&E in Wythenshawe, and residents in South Trafford – in Altrincham, Timperley, Broadheath and Hale in particular – do not have ready access to minor injuries care within the borough, **placing extra pressure on those emergency services already in place.**

This Council notes that a two-day opening offer was developed but was rejected even though a two-day opening plan would be welcomed by residents if the alternative is no service offering at all.

This Council expresses its’ strong preference that Altrincham Minor Injuries Unit should reopen as an Urgent Treatment Centre in the interest of our residents, and commits to doing everything in its’ power to help achieve this outcome.

~~With this in mind,~~ This Council resolves to:

Write to the following people, with the findings of the Urgent Care Review asking them to support efforts to reopen the Altrincham facility as a Minor Injuries Unit Urgent Treatment Centre:

1. Mark Cubbon – Group Chief Executive of the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.
2. Sir Richard Leese – Chair of NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care.
3. Paul Dennett – Chair of the NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Board at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).
4. **Victoria Atkins MP - The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.**

Council – 22 November 2023

Green Party Group Amendment to motion 9f – Altrincham MIU

This Council notes that the closing of Altrincham Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) during the COVID-19 pandemic was intended as a temporary measure. Council also notes that Altrincham MIU was reopened briefly in 2021 only to be closed again with “staffing issues” cited. This Council praises the work done by the Health Scrutiny Committee in its attempts to see Altrincham MIU reopened.

This Council is concerned by the additional pressures the continued closure of Altrincham MIU presents not just to A&E departments in Greater Manchester but also to GP Out-Of-Hours services run in Trafford. This Council is concerned that residents in Trafford with minor injuries are making longer journeys to A&E in Wythenshawe, and residents in South Trafford – in Altrincham, Timperley, Broadheath and Hale in particular – do not have ready access to minor injuries care within the borough. This Council notes that a two-day opening offer was developed but was rejected even though a two-day opening plan would be welcomed by residents if the alternative is no service offering at all.

With this in mind, this Council resolves to write to the following people asking them to support efforts to reopen Altrincham Minor Injuries Unit:

1. Mark Cubbon – Group Chief Executive of the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.
2. Sir Richard Leese – Chair of NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care.
3. Paul Dennett – Chair of the NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Board at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).
4. **The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care asking her to properly fund nurses training and improve their pay levels to increase retention of these very valued staff who our MIU depends on.**

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