

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

30 NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Mrs. Judith Ann Lloyd), in the Chair.

J. Coupe (Deputy Mayor)	Mrs. P. Dixon	J.R. Reilly
D. Acton	A. Duffield	B. Rigby
S. Adshead	Mrs. L. Evans	T. Ross
S.B. Anstee	N. Evans	M. Sephton
S.K. Anstee	T. Fishwick	B. Sharp
Dr. K. Barclay	M. Freeman	B. Shaw
J. Baugh	P. Gratrix	J. Smith
Miss L. Blackburn	Mrs. D.L. Haddad	E.W. Stennett
R. Bowker	J. Harding	L. Walsh
C. Boyes	J. Holden	Mrs. V. Ward
Mrs. J.E. Brophy	D. Hopps	A. Western
B. Brotherton	M. Hyman	D. Western
D. Bunting	C. Hynes	M. Whetton
D. Butt	D. Jarman	A. Williams
K. Carter	P. Lally	J.A. Wright
M. Cawdrey	J. Lamb	M. Young
R. Chilton	P. Myers	Mrs. P. Young
M. Cordingley	D. O'Sullivan	
M. Cornes	K. Procter	

In attendance

Chief Executive	Ms. T. Grant
Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director Economic Growth, Environment and Infrastructure	Mrs. H. Jones
Corporate Director Transformation and Resources	Ms. J. Hyde
Interim Corporate Director Children, Families and Wellbeing	Ms. J. Colbert
Director of Legal and Democratic Services	Ms. J. Le Fevre
Chief Finance Officer	Ms. N. Bishop
Democratic and Performance Services Manager	Mr. P. Forrester
Interim Senior Solicitor	Ms. D. Adcock
Interim Public Relations Manager	Mr. M. McAdam
Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer	Mr. I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bennett, Mrs. A. Bruer-Morris, L. Dagnall, E. Malik, A. Mitchell, Mrs J. Reilly and S. Taylor.

35. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6 September 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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36. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Britain in Bloom North West Awards 2016

The Mayor reported that she had attended the recent North West in Bloom Awards and was delighted to inform the Council of the local winners.

Altrincham won a gold medal for Best Large Town; The Trafford Centre won the gold medal for Best Large Tourist Attraction; Partington Town Council won a Silver Medal for Best Small Town; and Timperley a Silver Gilt Medal for Best Large Town.

Royal Horticultural Society Certificates of Distinction were awarded to Broomwood Community Wellbeing Centre which was classed as thriving; Secret Garden, Altrincham, classed as outstanding; Friends of Denzell Gardens and the Devisdale, Altrincham, outstanding; and Friends of John Leigh Park Altrincham, outstanding

The Mayor also presented the Mayor of Trafford's Trophy to Bidston Village Green.

(b) Scrutiny Committee Update

Councillor Michael Young, Chairman of Scrutiny Committee advised the Council that Budget Scrutiny Working Group sessions would be held on 6 and 7 December 2016 and that both the Task and Finish Groups for Amey and EHCP had met and were progressing with the aim of presenting their work in March 2017. Additionally, the Committee was in the process of recruiting 2 parent governor representatives, since the positions become vacant as the representatives children leave school.

(c) Health Scrutiny Committee Update

Councillor Harding, Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee informed the Council on the following developments.

The Urgent Care Centre at Trafford General had moved ahead of schedule from a consultant led model to a nurse and GP led model and the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee would continue to monitor the performance of the service going forward.

Trafford Health Scrutiny Committee had been identified as a key stakeholder by the Single Hospital Service programme team and would receive regular updates on the progress of the plan to streamline the services of the University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust (UHSM) and the Central Manchester University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (CMFT).

Task and Finish Groups for Wellbeing of Secondary School Students and End of Life Pathways were gathering information and aimed to complete in March/April 2017.

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Following Brooks Bar Medical Centre's failed follow up inspection by the Care Quality Commission the practice had been closed. Instead of conducting a list dispersal, Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group would bring in new GPs to run the practice and protect services. The Health Scrutiny Chairman and Vice-Chairman would maintain regular contact and residents could contact them for an update.

37. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 5 questions had been submitted under Procedure Rule 10.2, however, a question from Councillor Freeman that concerned Education, Health and Care Plans was not permitted since the matter was currently under review by the Scrutiny Committee.

- (a) Councillor Baugh asked the following question for which she had given notice:

In the budget 2016/2017, the proposal is to consult with schools on funding their school crossing patrol service. Would you confirm that two documents appear to make it very difficult for schools to actually pay for the crossing patrol service. Schools receive their money via the Dedicated Schools Grant. This references another document - The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014. In this document, the government sets out the legal responsibility for schools to spend their budgets only on certain agreed ring-fenced matters. In Part 2 of the Law, Chapter 1, Pages 10 and 11, schools and local authorities are told exactly what this ring-fencing means. In addition, under the heading 'Exceptions' it states:

“A local authority's non-schools education budget or school budget must not include the following classes or descriptions of expenditure – “

there are two items and then the third point states the following:

“(c) expenditure for the purposes of section 26 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (a) (arrangements for patrolling school crossings).”

Would you confirm this information is correct?

Councillor Mrs. Evans, Executive Member for Transformation and Resources advised that the Council was actively seeking avenues of funding to support the retention of school crossing patrols across the Borough and dialogue had been opened with schools alongside businesses and community groups to seek a funding resolution. There were examples from across the country where schools had supported the retention of patrols and the Council was working in collaboration with Head Teachers to consider the options available within the framework of the regulations. Councillor Mrs. Evans hoped Members would support efforts to explore every possible avenue to retain the services rather than immediately move to disband them in their entirety.

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Councillor Baugh asked as a supplementary question whether the Executive Member would, as a matter of courtesy and at her earliest convenience, confirm to schools that it would be illegal for them to fund the school crossing patrol service. Councillor Mrs. Evans reaffirmed that the Council recognised the Dedicated Schools Grant framework and would continue to work to find a solution. The Executive Member also indicated that Councillor Baugh could invite Head Teachers to contact her with any concerns.

- (b) Councillor Mrs. Brophy asked the following question, the first of three for which she had given notice:

Just last week residents in Trafford and across Greater Manchester were hit with extreme weather causing disruption to transport, risking family homes and potentially putting lives in danger. What measures have been put in place since these floods to ensure our residents are not put at risk again?

Councillor John Reilly, Executive Member for Economic Growth, Environment and Infrastructure explained that he would respond in writing to Councillor Mrs. Brophy as the question was similar to one she had asked in January 2016 and that nothing material had changed since then. The Executive Member just added that last week's weather caused flooding on Carrington Road, Flixton but no properties were threatened. Working with the Environment Agency, One Trafford responded quickly to remove surface water from the carriageway demonstrating that response procedures were in place and clearly worked well.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Mrs. Brophy asked for an update on the measures being put in place as climate and weather conditions become more severe and sought an assurance that they were constantly reviewed. Councillor John Reilly confirmed that officers constantly work with the Environment to monitor and update procedures and suggested that should Councillor Mrs. Brophy require anything specific he would be happy to intervene.

- (c) Councillor Mrs. Brophy asked the following question, the second of three for which she had given notice:

Homelessness is a crisis facing our local community today. What measures are being put in to place to ensure that homeless people in Trafford are being effectively helped?

Councillor John Reilly, Executive Member for Economic Growth, Environment and Infrastructure explained that a similar question had been asked at the previous meeting on 6 September 2016 and referring Councillor Mrs. Brophy to the answer he had given then (Minute No. 30(a) refers), indicated he would be happy to address anything additional outside of the meeting.

Councillor Mrs. Brophy mentioned that she had become aware of an emergency facility run by volunteers with restricted operational hours that was under review and asked as a supplementary question what more was being done. The Executive Member repeated that he was happy to address anything additional and

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invited Councillor Mrs. Brophy to send him a list of questions and he would ensure that they were answered.

- (d) Councillor Mrs. Brophy asked the following question, the third of three for which she had given notice:

What plans have been put in place to ensure that brownfield sites, derelict buildings and disused sites are built on first before dismantling Trafford's green spaces?

Councillor Shaw, Deputy Executive Member for Economic Growth, Environment and Infrastructure advised that the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) identified the need for 227,000 homes over the next 20 years. Across Greater Manchester 70% and in Trafford 50% of the land supply to meet this need would come from sites within the existing urban area not green belt sites.

Greater Manchester was helping developers to kick start housing projects through the Greater Manchester Housing Fund. The £300 million fund was helping to free up land, regenerate housing and build new homes. To date over £97 million had been committed to build 1184 units at 9 sites across Greater Manchester. In addition, in 2016 the Greater Manchester authorities joined a government funded pilot scheme to develop a Brownfield Land Register.

As part of work to prepare the next version of the GMSF, officers would revisit urban sites to ensure that all possible brownfield sites had been identified and that the land was being used as effectively as possible.

Regarding the part of the question on derelict properties, the Council had worked with landowners in recent years to bring buildings back into use or redevelop derelict sites, an example being Cross Street, Sale. Similar work would continue at local level through planning briefs and the Local Plan. Additionally, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) had committed to review existing employment sites to ensure they were fit for purpose and where they were not, consideration would be given to the potential re-use of derelict or unused buildings for residential redevelopment to minimise the need to release green belt sites. As these sites were likely to be in the urban area they would be outside the scope for the allocation within the GMFS but instead would be taken through the Trafford Local Plan process. The Council would continue to consider the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs), as required to enable regeneration and the GMCA had additional CPO powers, which would ultimately become the Mayor's, which would also be considered.

Reasoning that existing legislation favours larger brownfield sites, Councillor Mrs. Brophy asked as a supplementary question what the Council was doing to influence the government to encourage the use of smaller brownfield sites for house building. Councillor Shaw ensured Councillor Mrs. Brophy that he would provide a response in time.

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38. GREATER MANCHESTER DEVOLUTION

The Leader of the Council provided an oral update on the Orders presently progressing through Parliament and the work being undertaken to pave the way for various aspects of the Devolution Agreement.

The first order had been laid before Parliament and was expected to be debated in the next two weeks and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority was continuing to work with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the progression of the order.

The Leader advised that he would provide a further update on the second order that mainly deals with Mayoral Development Corporations and the transfer of the Greater Manchester waste function in 2018, alongside transport issues and data sharing, when information was available.

The Overview and Scrutiny Order had been finalised and was ready to be laid before Parliament, possibly that week. It was a generic order that applied to all combined authorities, not just Greater Manchester and included the arrangements for Audit Committees. Other items progressing included the election rules that would apply in 2017 and also the Finance Order that was needed to support the undertaking of the Combined Authority.

In relation to Employment and Skills, the Council would be asked in the next few months for Trafford to become to lead authority for co-financing employment and skills work until such point as this obligation could be moved from the Council to the Combined Authority.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework discussions had been progressed, important work for not just Trafford but all of Greater Manchester. Also the Greater Manchester submission to the Autumn Statement had been responded to by the Government and the implications were being assessed. Most of the details in relation to the 'asks' that were submitted were expected from government departments over the next few weeks.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

39. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: That Council notes that on 11 October 2016, under delegated authority, Councillor Mrs. Evans was appointed as the Council's representative on the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Asylum Seekers Board for 2016/17.

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40. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED PARISH MEMBER TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services / Monitoring Officer submitted a report advising of the selection process undertaken to identify a replacement Co-opted Parish Member on Standards Committee and seeking Council approval for an appointment to be made.

RESOLVED: That Council endorses the appointment of Councillor Sid Neild of Carrington Parish Council as a Co-opted Parish Member of Standards Committee, with effect from 30 November 2016.

41. OFFICE OF SURVEILLANCE COMMISSIONERS - OUTCOME OF INSPECTION 2016

The Executive Member for Transformation and Resources submitted a report advising Members on the outcome of the inspection carried out by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners and setting out the recommendations and the proposed action for the Council to implement those recommendations. Reports had also been presented to the Accounts and Audit Committee on 29 September 2016 and the Executive on 31 October 2016.

RESOLVED: That the Council notes that the Commissioner's recommendations have been accepted and that the following steps have been taken to implement the recommendations/learning points:

- a) an officer debrief of the lessons learned as a consequence of the inspection has taken place.
- b) amendments made to the main policy document Guidance on the Use of Surveillance, as set out in the report.
- c) process now agreed with external agencies (GMP) in relation to authorisations for directed surveillance. Follow up checks to be carried out from time to time.
- d) periodic refresher training for authorising officers, applicants and enforcement officers will be arranged.

42. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - DOMESTIC ABUSE

(Note: The Mayor, in her capacity as a Trustee of Trafford Domestic Abuse Services and through her marriage to the Interim Mayor and Police Commissioner for Greater Manchester, declared a personal interest in this item and remained in the Chair during its consideration.)

It was moved and seconded that:

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“The Interim Mayor of Greater Manchester Tony Lloyd last month launched a new campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse in Greater Manchester, entitled Sitting Right With You. As councillors we were all notified of this directly and we know this Council responded with a press release. This Council recognises the importance of raising awareness of domestic abuse and pledges to ensure it will be recognised as a priority for all councillors, as many residents in our borough will experience abuse and we need to support and help them in any way possible.

Domestic abuse affects 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men nationally and Council therefore formally agrees to sign up to this campaign and to do our utmost to raise awareness and challenge stigma by getting the message out that domestic abuse is more common than people generally think, whilst ensuring that our residents know where and how to access help.”

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Interim Mayor of Greater Manchester Tony Lloyd last month launched a new campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse in Greater Manchester, entitled Sitting Right With You. As councillors we were all notified of this directly and we know this Council responded with a press release. This Council recognises the importance of raising awareness of domestic abuse and pledges to ensure it will be recognised as a priority for all councillors, as many residents in our borough will experience abuse and we need to support and help them in any way possible.

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43. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - PHARMACIES

It was moved and seconded that:

“Trafford Council recognises and values local pharmacies as a vital primary care health service and as an integral part of the fabric of local communities throughout our borough.

Council notes that:

- Pharmacies in Trafford offer a range of services such as dispensing prescriptions, disposal of unwanted medicines and supporting self-care
- Pharmacies play an important role in promoting wellbeing such as healthy eating, smoking cessation, exercise, flu vaccination, sexual health and more
- Advice and support services are also available to care homes

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Trafford Council is greatly concerned about Government imposed threats to pharmacies as a result of cuts in the budget of £170 million nationally from October 2016. This is a 6% cut in cash terms but could mean a cut of 12% during the financial year which may potentially close up to a quarter of pharmacies with an increased focus on warehousing dispensary and online services. Service cuts in pharmacies put more residents at risk as well as putting pressure on GPs and on hospital services and therefore increasing NHS costs. A fully funded community pharmacy service is cost effective and is in the interest of patients and carers.

Trafford Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and our local Clinical Commissioning Group detailing our concerns and demanding an immediate reversal of this funding cut.”

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

44. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - SKY LANTERNS

It was moved and seconded that:

“The Council recognises the hazards caused by Sky Lanterns (also known as Chinese Lanterns).

Sky Lanterns have given rise to a number of serious concerns including:

- The risk to human life.
- Risk to pets, livestock, birds, wildlife and marine life.
- Fire and damage to property and vehicles.
- The impact on the environment, including littering.

Sky Lanterns have been responsible for the fire at the Smethwick Recycling Plant in June 2013, which resulted in damage totalling around £6 million. They have been responsible for 62 fires within Greater Manchester.

Deaths and injury has been inflicted on livestock, birds, wildlife and marine life mainly through ingestion and entrapment caused by the lanterns wire frame. The RSPCA, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Farmers and Vets have all warned of the dangers of Sky Lanterns. They have also been banned in several other Countries including Australia, Spain and Germany.

This Council therefore resolves to ban the sale and use of Sky Lanterns on any of its property or premises.

In addition the Council calls on Government to introduce legislation to ban the sale and use of Sky Lanterns in the UK.”

Following speeches in support, the Motion was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

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RESOLVED: That the Council recognises the hazards caused by Sky Lanterns (also known as Chinese Lanterns).

Sky Lanterns have given rise to a number of serious concerns including:

- The risk to human life.
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In addition the Council calls on Government to introduce legislation to ban the sale and use of Sky Lanterns in the UK.

45. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - BUS SERVICES BILL

RESOLVED: That the Motion set out at 8 (d) on the Summons be withdrawn.

46. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - TRAFFORD PARK METROLINK

(Note: Councillor Cordingley declared a personal interest in this item, being the Council's appointed representative on the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee and remained in the meeting during its consideration.)

It was moved and seconded that:

“The Council welcomes the recent confirmation that the Secretary of State for Transport has given final approval to enable construction to commence on the Trafford Park Metrolink Line.

This has been a long standing commitment of Trafford Council and demonstrates how Greater Manchester devolution and planned development can secure significant investment in major transport infrastructure.

The Council looks forward with anticipation to completion of the scheme and resolves to continue to work closely with Transport for Greater Manchester and contractors to ensure the successful delivery of the scheme.”

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Following speeches in support, the Motion was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Council welcomes the recent confirmation that the Secretary of State for Transport has given final approval to enable construction to commence on the Trafford Park Metrolink Line.

This has been a long standing commitment of Trafford Council and demonstrates how Greater Manchester devolution and planned development can secure significant investment in major transport infrastructure.

The Council looks forward with anticipation to completion of the scheme and resolves to continue to work closely with Transport for Greater Manchester and contractors to ensure the successful delivery of the scheme.

47. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - APPRENTICESHIPS

It was moved and seconded that:

“The Council welcomes the introduction of the apprenticeship levy as a means of increasing business productivity and profitability whilst simultaneously increasing the supply and quality of apprenticeship training for our population including higher and degree level apprenticeships.

The Economic Growth team have been working directly with Trafford businesses (both levy paying and not) to ensure the potential benefits are realised to help support and strengthen our local economy and improve skills of the existing workforce.

The levy is an important component to secure future training of our apprentices and enhance the broad educational offer that our residents enjoy and the Council pledges to continue to support employers, schools and residents through the introduction of the levy next year.”

Following speeches in support, the Motion was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Council welcomes the introduction of the apprenticeship levy as a means of increasing business productivity and profitability whilst simultaneously increasing the supply and quality of apprenticeship training for our population including higher and degree level apprenticeships.

The Economic Growth team have been working directly with Trafford businesses (both levy paying and not) to ensure the potential benefits are realised to help support and strengthen our local economy and improve skills of the existing workforce.

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The levy is an important component to secure future training of our apprentices and enhance the broad educational offer that our residents enjoy and the Council pledges to continue to support employers, schools and residents through the introduction of the levy next year.

The meeting commenced at 7.06 pm and finished at 8.48 pm