

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

31 JANUARY 2018

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Jonathan Coupe), in the Chair.

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

In attendance

Chief Executive	Ms. T. Grant
Corporate Director Transformation and Resources	Ms. J. Hyde
Director of Legal and Democratic Services	Ms. J. Le Fevre
Chief Finance Officer	Ms. N. Bishop
Head of Communications	Ms. A. Schorah
Democratic and Scrutiny Officer	Mr. C. Gaffey
Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer	Mr. I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Butt, M. Freeman, J.R. Reilly, B. Rigby and S. Taylor.

59. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 29 November 2017, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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60. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Former Councillor Mrs. Eadie

It was with sorrow that the Mayor referred to the death of former Councillor and Mayoress Edith Eadie who had sadly passed away on Christmas Day. Mrs. Eadie had served on the Council as a Conservative Member from 1994 to 2008, representing the Davyhulme East Ward and was Mayoress during her late husband Councillor Frank Eadie's Mayoral Year in 1986/87.

The Council stood for a moments silence and paid its respects to a former friend and colleague.

(b) New Year's Honours

The Mayor took the opportunity to recognise those residents named in Her Majesty the Queen's New Year Honours List, namely:

Member of Parliament for Altrincham and Sale West, Mr Graham Brady of Altrincham, was awarded a Knighthood for political and public service;

Professor Caroline Dive of Hale received the citation of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Cancer Research;

Professor Christopher Griffiths of Bowdon was awarded the citation of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to dermatology;

Lou Cordwell of Sale was awarded the OBE for services to the Creative and Digital Economy;

Mrs. Elinor Chohan of Altrincham was awarded the citation of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to Interfaith and Community Cohesion;

Mr. Antony Goodman of Hale Barns was awarded the MBE for services to International Trade and UK Exports;

Mr. Sean Ryan of Flixton was awarded the MBE for services to Refugee Resettlement; and

Mrs. Janice Moss of Hale received the British Empire Medal for voluntary services and fundraising for the Christie Hospital.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor had written to convey the Council's congratulations to all the recipients.

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(c) Executive Member for Highways, Parks and Environmental Services

The Leader of the Council reported that earlier that day he had appointed Councillor Brian Shaw as the Executive Member for Highways, Parks and Environmental Services, as a replacement for Councillor John Reilly who had elected to stand down due to illness.

For the time being, the Leader had decided not to appoint a Deputy Executive Member for Highways, Parks and Environmental Services, the position Councillor Shaw had previously held.

The Council joined with the Leader of the Council in wishing Councillor John Reilly well in his recovery.

(d) Stretford Public Hall

The Leader referred to the recent theft of lead from the roof of Stretford Public Hall and announced that he had agreed to make available £2,500 to the Friends of Stretford Public Hall Group to assist with the repairs, which were undoubtedly a distraction, as it continued to fund raise for the restoration of the Hall's ballroom.

(e) Scrutiny Committee Update

Councillor Michael Young, Chairman of Scrutiny Committee reported that 2 reports had been presented to the Executive: Budget Scrutiny 2018/19; and a Task and Finish Group Review of the Council's Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) System, where there was concern over delays at bringing the system into full operation. Scrutiny Committee looked forward to receiving the Executive's response on each matter.

In response to the Department for Communities and Local Government report on the Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees, a task and finish group had been established with the aim of preparing a Trafford specific report and it was anticipated that this would be presented to Council in March 2018.

(f) Health Scrutiny Committee Update

Councillor Harding, Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee reported that the prime focus of the recent Committee meeting was the Care Quality Commission (CQC) report on delayed transfers of care and systems across Trafford. The Committee was currently formulating a response to the CQC report and would work with the Health and Wellbeing Board to continue to monitor the Action Plan arising from the CQC inspection.

61. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 5 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

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- (a) Councillor Andrew Western asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Please could the Executive Member advise why Trafford will not be hosting a Holocaust Memorial Event this year, and what support if any the Council offered to organisers to ensure that such an event took place in Trafford this year as previously?”

Councillor Mrs. Evans, the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships reported that the Council had supported a number of events in relation to Holocaust Memorial Day over recent weeks with particular focus on engaging a wider number of people across the borough to be aware of, and understand, such a disturbing event in history. The Council’s approach, which had been well received by regional representatives of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, focused on a three week engagement period with the theme ‘The Power of Words’, poet Pavel Friedman’s thought provoking poem, ‘The Butterfly’. The public was invited to participate and contribute to a central display at Sale Waterside, closing at Noon on 5 February 2018.

The Council had managed to reach over 11,000 people via social media channels, libraries and schools and all Members of Council were notified of the planned activity on 17 January 2018. Libraries and Sale Waterside had been decorated and used as the base for community events involving schools and local groups and the display at Sale Waterside had been praised for its creativity and its impact. The Council recognised the tremendous efforts and enthusiasm which had been shown by all and hoped to continue the small community based theme next year.

Welcoming the initiatives, Councillor Andrew Western asked as a supplementary question whether, running alongside the excellent events outlined, the Council would consider reinstating the support that was offered to the organisers of Holocaust Memorial Day central events in previous years, so that they could happen again in the future. Councillor Mrs. Evans indicated that she would be delighted to discuss matters for next year so that the Council could improve and enhance what had been on offer that year. The Executive Member believed awareness was growing as a result of the innovative approach and would welcome a conversation with Councillor Andrew Western to expand things further.

- (b) Councillor Mitchell asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Members will rightly be concerned with the recent spate of anti-social behaviour, gang related activity and deeply unpleasant and criminal incidents across the south of the borough. Please would the Executive Member outline to Council the steps being taken in partnership with Greater Manchester Police to deal with this and provide assurance to our residents?”

Councillor Mrs. Evans, the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships explained that since 6 January 2018, the Altrincham and Hale areas in particular had been experiencing a period of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and robberies

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committed by young people on young people. A multi-agency meeting was held on 13 January and a series of actions were coordinated which included:

- a number of acceptable behaviour contracts with young people involved;
- engagement with local secondary schools;
- delivery of already planned knife crime sessions in schools;
- support for schools and reassurances to parents and the wider community of the Council's commitment to assist;
- the 'Travel Safe Programme' with Transport for Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester Police had been operational on Metrolink 2.00 p.m. to Midnight every day since 24 January; and
- Two 'Operation Stay Safe' events with the Youth Offending Service were being planned to cover Altrincham in the near future.

As the pattern of behaviour became known a command structure was immediately established and Council officers had since been working with the police. It was understood that two series of incidents were at play: low level ASB linked to local secondary schools and a small number of incidents on local transport; and a series of robberies (5 in total) occurring on 6, 9 and 22 January which were currently not believed to be connected.

A comprehensive operational plan was in place and the Council was looking to commission focus outreach groundwork with young people and targeted work with both the victims and those responsible. Funding for such a response was already set aside.

In addition, the Council and Police issued a press statement detailing safety advice for young people and responses were being made to enquiries raised directly by residents.

The Executive Member hoped that her update provided an assurance that without hesitation or a prompt, the Council had acted decisively with its partners in an attempt to bring the incidents to an end.

As a supplementary question Councillor Mitchell asked the Executive Member to outline what action was being taken to affect a sustained increase in police presence across Trafford. Indicating that it was a decision of the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Councillor Mrs. Evans advised that the Council would be making representation to the Mayor that, in view of the recently announced £12 increase in the police precept for the recruitment of more officers, he should set out an individual plan for Trafford to indicate how the borough would see a viable increase in front line policing.

(c) Councillor Lally asked the following question for which he had given notice:

"During the last full Council meeting held on the 29 November 2017, Labour members abandoned the chamber without notice to the Mayor, senior officers and other elected members. Does the Leader of the Council believe this warrants a formal apology to the Mayor and this chamber?"

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The Leader of the Council, Councillor Sean Anstee trusted that Members had had time to reflect and considered that it was unfortunate since, in the main, Councillors had their political differences but worked through issues with a mutual respect for each other.

Stating that residents would have been disappointed, Councillor Lally asked a supplementary question whether the Leader could outline examples whereby the controlling administration had worked with local groups to overcome difficult issues. Councillor Sean Anstee declared that his administration had a record of engagement with both Members in the Council Chamber and with the community more widely. He expressed that there were numerous examples across the borough where the administration and its councillors, had worked pragmatically with local communities to find a way, in partnership, to make a positive change to the citizens of Trafford. The Leader believed that this approach to engagement was the manner in which the Council should approach all debate and Members should seek to use politics in Trafford for the positive force for good they could be.

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

“What is Trafford Council doing about the escalating anti-social behaviour, criminal activity and violence in Altrincham, Sale and the surrounding areas impacting significantly on our young people?”

As this was a similar question to that which had been put by Councillor Mitchell, Councillor Mrs. Evans, the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships referred Councillor Mrs. Brophy to the response she had given earlier (Minute 61(b) refers).

Councillor Mrs. Brophy asked as a supplementary question what was being done with schools and youth services to mitigate the impact of what was happening and whether the Executive Member could expand further on the plans to bring youth services together on the ground. Councillor Mrs. Evans advised that the Safer Partnership Community Team was not only working with communities and partners but also Councillors to develop a closer rapport with the police. With a relatively low crime rate in Trafford, there had been a spike in a specific area and partners had worked quickly to identify and deal with the problem. Councillor Mrs. Evans summarised that there was complete engagement with all schools and should Councillor Mrs. Brophy require more detail there was an extensive list of fluid and reactionary actions that would hopefully address the issues quickly.

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

“We have received many phone calls from residents concerned about the state of our roads which are flooding due to blocked gullies. Residents tell me that the gullies are not being emptied and are filling up with earth and dead leaves. The situation in Priory ward has never been as bad. Can you tell us what steps are being taken to rectify this situation as it appears the gullies are not being emptied on a regular basis? I have photos as evidence.”

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Councillor Shaw, Executive Member for Highways, Parks and Environmental Services advised that the Council's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System was the agreed access route for Member requests to ensure the quickest response as it was linked to live operations, and encouraged all members to set up their accounts. Councillor Shaw confirmed that officers had responded on 19 January 2018 to a flooding issue reported by Councillor Baugh on 18 January, at which point it was acknowledged that there had been some delays, however, gully cleansing on Broad Road and Temple Road in Sale had been scheduled.

The Executive Member advised the Council that an analysis of all service requests from residents of the Priory Ward since 1 November 2017 revealed that there had been 18 reported issues for drainage and flooding. Ten had been responded to and closed, of which four were subject to gully cleansing on Broad Road and Temple Road, Sale. Eight reported issues received in January were currently outstanding but were scheduled for completion. In respect of the regular maintenance programme for gully cleaning for the Priory Ward, 1320 of 1498 scheduled since 1 September 2017 had been cleaned but unfortunately 178 were unable to be due to access issues, most likely to have been parked vehicles.

Asking a supplementary question, Councillor Baugh wished to know when and which gullies were being emptied and believing Councillors should be informed when work was happening, asked for such information to be sent. In response, Councillor Shaw indicated that he was happy to provide the information.

62. STRETFORD MASTERPLAN CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Further to Minute No. 38 of the Council meeting held on 11 October 2017, the Leader of the Council reported on the Council's response to the feedback from the Stretford Masterplan Consultation which had influenced the Refreshed Masterplan agreed at the Executive Meeting held on 29 January 2018.

Following one of the Council's largest ever consultations, the Refreshed Masterplan outlined the approach for securing the revitalisation of Stretford, while reflecting key elements of the public's feedback.

Following the feedback, a revised scheme for the Lacy Street area was now proposed, which would be considerably lower in height and less dense than the original proposal. The revised Masterplan also proposed that:

- A main university campus, due to be open by September 2019, would be located at the Talbot Road site;
- A leisure centre would go ahead on the campus site with unrestricted access to all users, students and residents alike;
- Turn Moss plans would progress, with a planning application expected to be submitted by February 2018;
- Two sites of particular interest along the A56 corridor would be maintained as green space;
- Manor Farm Industrial Estate would be retained as a key employment site.

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Members welcomed the Council's response to the public consultation and acknowledged the massive commitment and efforts displayed by local residents, Ward Councillors and staff.

Supporting the approach so far and recognising that elements of the scheme would evolve, Members highlighted a number of matters requiring assurance:

- Lancaster University's involvement;
- Increased engagement of Old Trafford residents in the consultation;
- Public Transport commitments from Transport for Greater Manchester;
- Concern about the creation of a small 'Town Centre' on the former Kellogg's site and uncertainty over the former B&Q site.
- Air pollution levels on the A56 and a request that a survey be commissioned;
- Request for regular feedback at the Executive;
- Turn Moss Playing Field planning concerns, access, playing pitch provision and biodiversity aspects.

The Leader of the Council was appreciative of the points raised and anticipated that they would be given full consideration. He advised that more detail would be added as the Council continued to engage with the public as the Masterplan proposals moved forward.

RESOLVED: That the discussion this evening and the decision of the Executive on 29 January 2018, be noted.

63. SPORT AND LEISURE PROPOSALS - UPDATE

The Leader of the Council provided a verbal update on sport and leisure provision in Urmston, Davyhulme and Flixton.

With major refurbishment of Urmston Leisure Centre due to commence, the Leader revealed proposals to redevelop George H. Carnall which would see the leisure centre transformed into a sport, health and wellbeing hub, alongside becoming the new home of Manchester Giants Basketball Team.

Part of the centre would be refurbished to offer sporting facilities and accessible space for community groups, a new health hub would be created, linked to a step up-step down type facility. The redeveloped site would also include new affordable residential accommodation specifically for people who work in key public services, such as nurses, teachers and police officers. The Giants would also link with local people offering health and wellbeing programmes.

The proposals for George H. Carnall required further development and would be subject to planning and consultation. The Leader of the Council advised that he would share with Members information on the initial proposals and also provide Councillor Bowker with an update on Altrincham Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED: That the Leader of the Council's oral update be noted.

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64. TRAFFORD COUNCIL AND NHS TRAFFORD CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP INTEGRATION: PROPOSED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Corporate Director of Transformation and Resources submitted a report on the proposed arrangements for further alignment of functions across the Council and NHS Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group as part of the next phase of the integration of the two organisations, including development of a single integrated strategic commissioning function.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council notes the Executive Structure for the integrated Trafford Council and NHS Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group approved by Trafford Council Executive on 29 January 2018.
- (2) That Council approves the proposal that Trafford Council Chief Executive is appointed the Accountable Officer for NHS Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group and notes that this is subject to NHS approvals.
- (3) That Council approves the appointment of a Joint Chief Finance Officer operating across the two organisations.
- (4) That Council notes the requirement for a period of assurance in relation to the financial resilience of both organisations, to be carried out by the Accountable Officer and Joint Chief Finance Officer after the implementation of the Executive structure whilst moving forward with the integration.
- (5) That Council notes that a further report will be taken back to the Executive in the summer to update on progression of these proposals.

65. 6-MONTH CORPORATE REPORT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY - 1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources submitted a report providing information on Council wide health and safety performance and trends in the workplace accidents. The report also provided a summary of other key developments in health and safety for the period 1 April to 30 September 2017.

In response to a question from Councillor Baugh, the Executive Member agreed to provide her with details of the Road Traffic Accidents reported in Appendix 3 to the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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66. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - RECYCLING AND A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

It was moved and seconded that:

“Recent data released confirms that Trafford remains the highest performing metropolitan authority for recycling in the country with a recycling rate of 61.3% for 2016/17. This makes the borough the only local authority in Greater Manchester and the wider North West region to be placed in the top ten nationally and is a vindication of the policies pursued by Trafford Conservatives to enhance recycling options, retain non-statutory collection of other recyclable waste and improve education and understanding of the benefits of recycling with our local population.

In a further commitment to enhancing our town centre environment and parks, this administration is investing in 300 new trio-recycling bins for installation across the borough and is seeking to further increase the number of green flag parks in Trafford this year.

Council places on record its thanks and appreciation to One Trafford Partnership staff, volunteers and council officers for their ongoing efforts to help keep Trafford clean, green and enjoyable for all of our residents.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

“Recent data released confirms that Trafford remains the highest performing metropolitan authority for recycling in the country with a recycling rate of 61.3% for 2016/17. This makes the borough the only local authority in Greater Manchester and the wider North West region to be placed in the top ten nationally and Trafford Council would like to place on record its thanks to local communities and residents as this achievement is a direct result of their efforts.

In a further commitment to enhancing our town centre environment and parks, Trafford Council is investing in 300 new trio-recycling bins for installation across the borough and is seeking to further increase the number of green flag parks in Trafford this year.

Council places on record its thanks and appreciation to One Trafford Partnership staff, volunteers and council officers for their ongoing efforts to help keep Trafford clean, green and enjoyable for all of our residents.”

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council and consequently the substantive Motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED: That recent data released confirms that Trafford remains the highest performing metropolitan authority for recycling in the country with a recycling rate of 61.3% for 2016/17. This makes the borough the only local authority in Greater Manchester and the wider North West region to be

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placed in the top ten nationally and Trafford Council would like to place on record its thanks to local communities and residents as this achievement is a direct result of their efforts.

In a further commitment to enhancing our town centre environment and parks, Trafford Council is investing in 300 new trio-recycling bins for installation across the borough and is seeking to further increase the number of green flag parks in Trafford this year.

Council places on record its thanks and appreciation to One Trafford Partnership staff, volunteers and council officers for their ongoing efforts to help keep Trafford clean, green and enjoyable for all of our residents.

67. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - TRAFFORD LIBRARIES

It was moved and seconded that:

“Council welcomes proposals of the Conservative administration to abolish library fines for all ages across Trafford from April 2018.

Trafford will become the first public library authority in the country to adopt this policy which sends a welcome message to our residents in Trafford that they will have access to a completely free library service. This decision will overcome evidence that suggests that this charge is off-putting for customers and help to see a further increase in usage of libraries across the borough.

This change also aligns with the Vision 2031 ambition of ‘no one held back, no one left behind’ as there would be no barriers, either actual or perceived, of people accessing libraries and all they had to offer.

Council notes that most learning of literacy happens in the first 11 years of a child’s life, as does the development of a person’s love of reading and therefore supports a further policy change that WILL result in every child whose birth is registered in Trafford receiving a library card and a book start pack.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

“Council notes proposals of the Conservative administration to abolish library fines for all ages across Trafford from April 2018.

Trafford will become the first public library authority in the country to adopt this policy which sends a message to our residents in Trafford that they will have access to a completely free library service. This decision will overcome evidence that suggests that this charge is off-putting for customers and could potentially help ensure a further increase in usage of libraries across the borough.

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This change also aligns with the Vision 2031 ambition of ‘no one held back, no one left behind’ as there would be no barriers, either actual or perceived, of people accessing libraries and all they had to offer.

Council notes that most learning of literacy happens in the first 11 years of a child’s life, as does the development of a person’s love of reading and therefore supports the continuation of what is a long standing policy of this Council: that every child whose birth is registered in Trafford receives a library card and a book start pack.

However, Council recognises a change such as this – untested elsewhere in the country – could potentially have a negative impact on the library service in terms of more books not being returned due to the absence of deterrent. Council, therefore, agrees to trial this policy for a period of 6 months and review the new approach at the end of this period, to ensure that library budgets are not affected and that it does not impact on the length of time residents are waiting to borrow books – or lead to additional books not being returned, which would deplete the Council’s book offer to its residents.”

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

Further speeches were made on the issue, following which the substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That Council welcomes proposals of the Conservative administration to abolish library fines for all ages across Trafford from April 2018.

Trafford will become the first public library authority in the country to adopt this policy which sends a welcome message to our residents in Trafford that they will have access to a completely free library service. This decision will overcome evidence that suggests that this charge is off-putting for customers and help to see a further increase in usage of libraries across the borough.

This change also aligns with the Vision 2031 ambition of ‘no one held back, no one left behind’ as there would be no barriers, either actual or perceived, of people accessing libraries and all they had to offer.

Council notes that most learning of literacy happens in the first 11 years of a child’s life, as does the development of a person’s love of reading and therefore supports a further policy change that WILL result in every child whose birth is registered in Trafford receiving a library card and a book start pack.

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68. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - SOCIAL CARE FUNDING

RESOLVED: That, the time being 9.24 p.m., consideration of this Motion be deferred to a future meeting of the Council.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.25 p.m.