

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

21 MARCH 2018

PRESENT

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

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

In attendance

Corporate Director Transformation and Resources	Ms. J. Hyde
Corporate Director Children, Families and Wellbeing	Ms. J. Colbert
Principal Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer	Ms. D. Sykes
Interim Head of Communications	Ms. A. Schorah
Head of Governance	Mr. P. Forrester
Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer	Mr. I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Baugh and M. Cordingley.

74. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21 February 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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75. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Retiring Members of Council

The Mayor indicated that it was the last Council meeting for a number of Members since they would not be seeking re-election in the forthcoming local elections or resigning from the Council.

The Council joined with the Mayor in thanking Councillors Karina Carter, Mrs. Pamela Dixon, Phil Gratrix, Dolores O'Sullivan, June Reilly and Alex Williams for their loyal and dedicated work on behalf of the Council.

The Leaders of their respective Groups paid tribute to all their achievements and particular contributions during their time on the Council with Councillor Mrs. Dixon having served the Brooklands Ward May 1990-94 and from 1995; Councillor Gratrix, Sale Moor May 1990-2008 and from 2010; Councillor Mrs. Reilly, Davyhulme West from May 2002; Councillor Alex Williams, Altrincham from May 2003; Councillor Carter, Stretford June 2004-10 and then Bucklow St. Martins from June 2014; and Councillor O'Sullivan, Stretford from May 2010.

The Mayor wished each retiring Member every happiness and success for the future.

(b) Deputy Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council reported that he was appointing Councillor Myers as his Deputy as replacement for Councillor Alex Williams following notice of his resignation effective from 22 March 2018.

(c) Scrutiny Committee Update

Councillor Michael Young, the Chairman of Scrutiny Committee advised the Council that the Committee had completed its review of the Scrutiny function in Trafford and submitted a report to the Executive, with a response expected in the new municipal year. The Committee had also received the Executive's response to its review of the joint venture contract with Amey and expected an appraisal of the contract to be published in the future.

(d) Health Scrutiny Update

Councillor Harding, Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee reported that the Committee was finalising a report of its Task and Finish Group on Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing which was to be presented to the Executive.

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76. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 6 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

- (a) Councillor Jarman asked the following question, the first of two for which he had given notice:

“The early year’s foundation data has just been published for 2017. The statistics for Good Level of Development (GLD) are particularly disturbing with apparently the most disadvantaged children getting left further behind with the gaps between the highest and the lowest increasing each year since 2014. This is particularly reflected in the figures for pupil premium and English as an additional language children.

What is particularly shocking to me is that the ward that I represent, Longford, has by far the lowest level of GLD in Trafford. Starting at a markedly low base, the figures have decreased by a further 12% in just one year.

Would the Executive member be able to identify the reasons for this poor level of attainment and would he accept that the closure of Children’s centres in the most badly affected areas has contributed to the downturn in outcomes?”

Councillor Whetton, the Executive Member for Children and Families acknowledged that the results for the Longford Ward showed a disappointing low figure for 2017, however, he did not believe overall there had been a general decline in Trafford. For the period 2014-17 GLD had risen by 4.7% although within that figure many dynamics were at play. With marked rises and falls over the past 4 years, the volatile nature of the statistics reflected that in essence the subject was very young children.

The Executive Member stated that there was not a discernible link with the results and the changes to the operations of children’s centres. Services for parents and young children were still available without necessarily being based in buildings across the borough. Stretford Children’s Centre was available to residents of Longford and showed a high level of engagement, however, evidence suggested that effective interventions had to be delivered by a range of professionals and in the community. Councillor Whetton was also mindful that a greater level of black and minority ethnic people and language diversity in certain wards led to a lower GLD performance score.

Councillor Whetton was cautious about single year on year fluctuations in figures at ward level, particularly as they related to relatively small numbers, however, given the marked reduction, he did intend to requisition an investigation into Longford’s 2017 figures to determine whether there were any influencing factors and would share the outcome with Councillor Jarman and his ward colleagues.

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As a supplementary question, Councillor Jarman wondered whether the Executive Member could commit to a timescale for the strategies and targets for improvement he intended to oversee. Councillor Whetton qualified that in his response he had not committed to oversee an improvement but to get a better understanding of the circumstances and would then, in that light, decide upon the next course of action.

- (b) Councillor Bennett asked the following question for which she had given notice:

“Could the Executive Member tell me how many Council funded residents are being cared for in Nursing or Residential care outside of the Borough?”

Councillor Stephen Anstee, the Executive Member for Adult Social Care reported that currently 245 residents were receiving residential or nursing care outside of the Borough which represented 36% of all placements. Of the 245, 100 were in Manchester and 41 in Salford. The predominant reason for placements outside of Trafford was family choice based on proximity and ease of access to the home for maintaining contact.

Indicating that residents were telling her that it was becoming increasingly difficult to find a home close by, Councillor Bennett asked as a supplementary question whether there were any plans to expand the number of home beds within the Borough. Councillor Stephen Anstee assured Councillor Bennett that assessments were undertaken in the best interests of residents with logistics taken into account and that he would be happy to investigate any individual cases that Councillor Bennett wished to share.

- (c) Councillor Jarman asked the following question, the second of two for which he had given notice:

“Please will Trafford Council withdraw its current planning application for Turn Moss and work with local residents and users of Turn Moss to draw up a better plan?”

Councillor Hopps, the Executive Member for Housing and Strategic Planning confirmed that the Council would not be withdrawing the planning application for Turn Moss, for which a statutory consultation was being undertaken as part of the planning process. The Executive Member indicated that the Council would continue to listen to and work with all sectors of the community to ensure that the facilities, if approved, provided the maximum possible community benefit, a principle which the Council, Trafford Leisure and Salford City Football Club had all made a firm commitment to in the planning application.

In light of over 1000 objections now submitted, Councillor Jarman asked as a supplementary question why Trafford Council, which prides itself on listening to residents, would want to press ahead with the application and if it did and with new and complex documents still being added to the application, requested that the consultation be extended for a further 21 days to allow for the new documents to be scrutinised properly. Councillor Hopps was aware that the Planning Team was

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actively engaged on the many representations received and would determine the appropriate timescale for proceeding to the next stage of the process. The Executive Member affirmed that delivery of the Stretford Masterplan, as part of the UA92 proposals, remained a priority of the administration which was also committed to a multi-million pound investment in leisure.

- (d) Councillor O'Sullivan asked the following question for which she had given notice:

“Can the Executive Member for Trafford Council please tell me how much in hard cash and Officers time has been invested in the Town Centre in Altrincham compared to Stretford Town Centre in the last five years?”

Councillor Hopps, the Executive Member for Housing and Strategic Planning advised that it was not possible to provide an exact figure on time and money invested in each of the Borough's Town Centres since officer timesheets were not kept and work on securing investment and regeneration occurred via a combination of means, which included local businesses and civic leaders. In many respects the Council and its staff were often the facilitators for driving investment in the town centres. Securing the successful regeneration of town centres right across the borough was a key priority and Councillor Hopps stated that whilst in his current role, a vast amount of time had been spent by the Strategic Growth and Planning Teams on Stretford and this would continue to be the case in the months and years ahead.

Councillor Sullivan asked as a supplementary question whether, in view of the boost to Altrincham recently reported regarding the public realm transformation project and the buyout of the Grafton Centre, the Council could expect the Conservative Party Chairman to praise investment in Stretford Town Centre any time soon. Having seen how Altrincham had been transformed over the past years, Councillor Hopps hoped that the Stretford Masterplan investment would have the same effect for Stretford and that the national party Chairman could be invited in the future.

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

“In light of the Carillion collapse and Amey having been fined for inadequate service in Trafford and facing complaints in boroughs around the country, does the council think the contract with Amey provides good service and value for money, or should this contract be reviewed?”

Councillor Shaw, Executive Member for Highways, Parks and Environmental Services stated that the collapse of Carillion did not have a direct correlation to fines incurred by Amey in the One Trafford Partnership and had no bearing on the contract other than to highlight that robust contract management and open book accounting were key to partnership contracts. The contract was robustly and effectively managed by an experienced client team within the Council. The Executive Member reported that additional resources and funding provided by the Council's partner Amey for key milestone projects had been identified for delivery

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and implementation during the current year and 2018/19. He believed that the contract represented good value for money and achievement could be seen in key service areas such as the highways and greenspaces capital programmes. The Council continued to drive and monitor contract performance and compliance across all service areas and would continue to do so throughout the current contract.

Councillor Mrs. Brophy asked as a supplementary question, whether the Council had provision to protect residents from fallout should the Amey Company collapse. Councillor Shaw did not believe it was expected and indicated that the Council would respond appropriately if that was to occur.

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

“What action is planned from Trafford Council to raise awareness and take action to prevent the significant environmental impacts of plastic waste in our local waterways and the negative impact this plastic waste is having on the global marine ecosystems?”

Councillor Shaw, Executive Member for Highways, Parks and Environmental Services reported that on 11 January 2018 the Government published 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment', which included a range of activities aimed to reduce plastic waste in waterways and the marine environment. The Council supported the plan to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by 2042 and a key aspect would be to increase the proportion of plastic packaging collected and recycled with targets set by the Council. The Executive Member outlined a range of ongoing projects in the Borough which included, trio bins to encourage on street recycling at source; the 'Right Stuff Right Bin' scheme; the Environment Enforcement Team's educational work with school children; and the Kingdom Enforcement Initiative introducing a fixed penalty system for those that litter and fly tip.

Mentioning a recent report of a river in Greater Manchester with the worst ever recorded levels of microplastic pollution, Councillor Mrs. Brophy asked as a supplementary question what Trafford was going to do to encourage the tightening of regulation and enforcement to prevent the release of harmful plastic particles into waterways. Councillor Shaw advised that the Council would continue to work with the agencies.

77. DECLARATION OF VACANCY - ALTRINCHAM WARD

The Chief Executive submitted a report advising that Matthew Sephton had become disqualified for being a member of the authority by virtue of his conviction and imprisonment and recommending that the Council formally declare a vacancy in the Altrincham ward.

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RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council notes that Matthew Sephton has become disqualified for being a member of this authority.
- (2) That the Council declares as vacant the office held by Matthew Sephton as a councillor for the Altrincham Ward and notes that the election for the ward will be held on 3 May 2018.

78. TRAFFORD COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2018/19

The Council considered a report of the Acting Director of Human Resources providing information relating to Trafford's Pay Policy for 2018/19, in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, and advising of the recommendation from Employment Committee at its meeting held on 7 March 2018 (Minute No. 28 refers).

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the 2018/19 Pay Policy Statement, as set out in appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

79. HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19: PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR CHANGES AS A RESULT OF THE HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources submitted a report detailing the changes required to the Council's Prudential Indicators as a result of the Executive's decision on 19 March 2018 to increase the level of Capital Investment in Highways.

Detail of the Highways Capital Programme and the changes required to the Prudential Indicators were set out in the Executive report of the Executive Member for Highways, Parks and Environmental Services appended to the report.

RESOLVED: That Council approves the additional expenditure of £17 million over the years 2018-21, to be financed from borrowing £16.6 million and one-off contributions, as detailed in the appended Executive report and the updated prudential indicators, as included in Appendix I of the Executive report.

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

Further to the deferral at the meeting held on 31 January 2018 (Minute No. 68) it was moved and seconded that:

"This Council welcomes the addition of Social Care to the role of the Secretary of State for Health. Council has long been aware of not only the national crisis across social care but the one we face here in Trafford.

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The lack of social care continues to have a major impact on the winter crisis across the NHS. There are stories of many people left in hospital beds and not able to get home due to the lack of provision of adequate social care packages. Delayed Transfers of Care many of which are due to social care have meant an increase in delayed beds days of 109,000 since 2010.

This Council recognises that in October 2017 there was a 10% reduction in delayed transfers (59,943) on the year before (65,888) but they are still 13% higher than at the same time in 2015 (52,791). The number of people spending the Christmas period in hospital due to Delayed Transfers of Care almost doubled between 2010 and 2016 (from 1,995 people on December 30th 2010 to 3,929 on 29 December 2016).

This Council recognises that the care sector remains deeply unstable - according to the Association for the Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) Autumn survey 50 councils had experienced handbacks of care contracts. 92% (46 Councils) had experienced handbacks in home care, 24% (12) in residential care and 52% (3 Councils) in nursing care.

Here in Trafford as recently as last month there have been issues with care homes rated as inadequate and home care providers unable to meet the demand for social care. Indeed the St. Marks Centre in Sale has been found to be in such difficulty that they have been prevented from admitting new residents.

Nationally, budget funding cuts are having a detrimental impact upon the quality of care. Almost a quarter of all adult social care services had the poorest ratings for safety from the Care Quality Commission – 22% of care facilities require improvement and 2% are inadequate. Trafford's figures are higher than this national average.

The funding situation remains precarious with no extra money identified for social care as per the Local Government Finance settlement. The Social care gap is projected to rise to £2.5 billion by 2020 according to the Kings Fund.

With these stark statistics in mind this Council calls on the Government to:

- Provide an immediate injection of cash to properly fund social care (The Local Government Association state that an immediate cash injection of £1.3 billion is required to stabilise social care).
- Assist local government with a national 10 year workforce strategy – investing in staff alongside increased financing is critical to ensure the sustainability of adult social care.
- To develop and implement a fair funding scheme as part of the Green Paper to be initiated in the summer.
- To provide councils with adequate funding for a Fair Price for Care – here in Trafford local providers state that they cannot continue to provide a service with the latest offer from this Council.

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- Develop more robust regulation frameworks in order to monitor the financial health of larger providers.
- To deal with the issue of back pay which is due to care staff for sleep-ins. The sector estimates the costs of this back pay to be £400 million which places services for learning disability and children's' social care providers under serious threat.

In addition, this Council resolves to:

- Review the 2018/19 draft budget proposals to ensure that the revenue funding allocated to adult social care services in the budget is sufficient, and increase the level of proposed spending if required in light of this ongoing crisis."

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

"This Council welcomes the additional prominence given to social care by its addition to the role of the Secretary of State for Health.

Council is aware of the pressures an ageing population in Trafford has on our social care service and has worked positively to address this challenge.

This Council recognises that nationally, in October 2017 there was a 10% reduction in delayed transfers (59,943) on the year before (65,888) but they are still 13% higher than at the same time in 2015 (52,791). The number of people spending the Christmas period in hospital due to Delayed Transfers of Care almost doubled between 2010 and 2016 (from 1,995 people on December 30th 2010 to 3,929 on 29th December 2016).

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In addition, funding pressures nationally are having an impact upon the quality of care. Council understands that a lack of social care provision is a contributory, but not the only, factor to winter pressure across the NHS.

Despite the position, Council notes that locally its response to this has been to put in place measures to ensure our residents are brought home from hospital as quickly and as safely as possible, including:

- Establishment of an urgent care control room to maximise use of the system resources and reduce delayed transfers of care.
- Recruitment of a community flow manager to manage that control room and the activity within.

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- Extension of the Discharge to Assess beds from 9 at Ascot House to 42 enabling people to move to a community home while they recover skills and confidence and make long term decisions about their ongoing care needs.
- Re-scoping the reablement service to support step down care with very good outcomes for residents

Also, Council notes that the authority has recently commissioned an increased number of Home Care packages, at the Councils Fair Price for Care. In the present and forthcoming financial year additional resource has been allocated by the Executive to fund demand pressure within the social care system.

This Council will:

- Make representations to Government for additional funding to cover the increasing cost of rising demand being placed on the social care system. In addition, make the case to Government that they should develop a fair funding scheme as part of the green paper to be produced and work with and consult authorities, to design such formula.
- Support the development by Government of more robust regulation frameworks in order to monitor the financial health of larger providers.
- Look at ways of improving peoples long term health and fitness levels, in an attempt to reduce the demand on social care.
- Recognise the importance of the role social care provision plays in a wider NHS system, including working with the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership on a workforce strategy and alignment of Clinical Commissioning Group and local authority functions.
- Work with Government to deal with the issue of back pay at a national level, ensuring costs are not passed to the local authority, which may be due to care staff for sleep-ins. The sector estimates the costs of this back pay to be £400 million which places services for learning disability and children's' social care providers under serious threat.

In addition, this Council resolves to:

- Review the 2018/19 draft budget proposals to ensure that the revenue funding allocated to adult social care services in the budget is sufficient within available resources, and increase the level of proposed spending if required.”

Following speeches of support, the amendment was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council and the substantive Motion was consequently declared carried.

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RESOLVED: That this Council welcomes the additional prominence given to social care by its addition to the role of the Secretary of State for Health.

Council is aware of the pressures an ageing population in Trafford has on our social care service and has worked positively to address this challenge.

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In addition, this Council resolves to:

- Review the 2018/19 draft budget proposals* to ensure that the revenue funding allocated to adult social care services in the budget is sufficient within available resources, and increase the level of proposed spending if required.

* Note: Since the Motion and Amendment were formulated prior to agreement of the Council Budget on 21 February 2018, an assurance was provided that the funding for adult social care services had been reviewed as part of the budget setting process.

81. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATES

It was moved and seconded that:

“Trafford’s businesses are at the heart of a thriving economy across the borough, creating jobs and helping our communities to prosper and succeed. This administration has taken a number of decisions in recent years to invest in town centres, support employers to grow and help residents in to employment.

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Examples include the Town Centre Loan Scheme, the Trafford Pledge, increasing broadband connectivity, cheaper car parking charges and the continued identification of Trafford Park as a home of industry, manufacturing and digital innovation.

Council notes the additional steps proposed by this Conservative administration to automatically apply discretionary business rates relief to qualifying businesses across the borough, which is expected to see at least 180 businesses receive a reduction worth a total of £300,000.

The Council recognises the pro-growth and business strategies pursued by the administration and welcomes this latest step to support businesses in Trafford to succeed.”

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

RESOLVED: That Trafford’s businesses are at the heart of a thriving economy across the borough, creating jobs and helping our communities to prosper and succeed. This administration has taken a number of decisions in recent years to invest in town centres, support employers to grow and help residents in to employment.

Examples include the Town Centre Loan Scheme, the Trafford Pledge, increasing broadband connectivity, cheaper car parking charges and the continued identification of Trafford Park as a home of industry, manufacturing and digital innovation.

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The Council recognises the pro-growth and business strategies pursued by the administration and welcomes this latest step to support businesses in Trafford to succeed.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 8.28 p.m.