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TRAFFORD
COUNCIL

Thursday, 18 July 2019

Trafford Town Hall
Talbot Road
Stretford
M32 0TH

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is requested at a reconvened meeting of the Council of the Borough of Trafford on **TUESDAY, 23 JULY 2019**, at **7.15 P.M.** (or at the later rising of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council) in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, TRAFFORD TOWN HALL, TALBOT ROAD, STRETFORD**, for the transaction of the business adjourned at the meeting of the Council held on 17 July 2019, set out below:

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| 1. Motion Submitted by the Liberal Democrats Group - Empty Homes Premium Scheme | |

This Council notes that:

- Britain faces a shortage of affordable and sustainable housing
- Current Greater Manchester Spatial Framework proposals to meet demand by building on 'greenbelt' land are highly unpopular with residents in Trafford
- There are currently more than 2,000 unoccupied and substantially unfurnished empty homes in Trafford, many of which have been empty for over two years, some considerably longer. A rise of 16% since 2017.
- There are currently more than 19,000 unoccupied and substantially unfurnished empty homes across greater Manchester
- A significant number of these properties – both in Trafford and across the city region – are considered 'unfit for human habitation'

This Council acknowledges the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 enabling the use of the 'Empty Homes Premium' model - as seen in Cheshire East - as an additional means for local authorities to encourage empty homes to be brought back in to use and welcomes the inclusion of a 50% 'Empty Homes Premium' in the February 2019 budget.

Continued ...

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This Council Requires the Executive to raise the 'Empty Homes Premium' from 50% to 100% as part of its budget (February 2020) in line with the following timescale:

- As of April 1st 2020 the 'relevant maximum' for properties empty over 2 years will be 100%

This Council also Requires the Executive to give notice of the following incremental time scale:

1. As of 1st April 2021 the 'relevant maximum' for properties empty over 5 years will be 200%
2. As of April 1st 2022 the 'relevant maximum' for properties over ten years empty will be 300%

This Council requires the Executive to investigate the feasibility of 'Capped Public Works Loans' as seen in Cheshire East, to assist with major works and help bring more properties back into use without punishing property owners.

This Council Notes the following exemptions:

- Properties requiring major works should receive an extension of up to 12 months before the 'relevant maximum' is raised
- Properties currently in 'Trust' or 'Probate' should receive an extension of up to 12 months before the 'relevant maximum is raised
- Properties left empty by a person who lives in accommodation provided by the Ministry of Defence (for example: service personnel posted away from home)
- Properties which are part of another property (for example: an annexe)

This Council Recognises that simply seeking to bring empty housing back into use is not enough to solve Britain's housing crisis, but is determined to pursue every available option, especially when it is possible to avoid development on 'Green Belt' land.

This Council requires the Leader of the Council to:

- Write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the leaders of all Greater Manchester local authorities urging them to work with Trafford Council to address the housing shortage in our region by supporting the resolutions of this motion
- Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government urging the Government highlighting the need for local authorities to be able to protect 'Greenbelt' land whilst addressing the housing shortage

2. Motion Submitted by the Conservative Group - Members' Allowances Increases for Labour Councillors

This Council condemns the revelation that, on 22 August 2018, the Labour Group via the Leader of the Council wrote to the Corporate Director for Finance and Systems instructing that the voluntary reduction of 1.9% applied to Members Allowances since 2013/14 be reversed.

Council notes:

- This letter was submitted secretly with no public accountability or scrutiny of the change
- That the change in allowances was subsequently backdated to April 2018
- That the Labour group also requested this change to be applied to significant Special Responsibility Allowances, to ensure maximum personal financial benefit for Labour members

Council finds it abhorrent and hypocritical that this Labour administration has the audacity to talk about austerity whilst at the same time:

- increasing their own allowances, in secret without scrutiny
- trebling the cost of the Corporate Leadership Team to nearly £1m per annum in the last 10 months
- overseeing the deterioration of services in Trafford (see Children's Services) through poor leadership and management

The Council requires every Labour member to return their increased allowance to the taxpayers of Trafford and for members' allowances to be reset to the levels stipulated in 2015/16 to be consistent for all Members (i.e. 98.1% of present full allowance).

Yours sincerely,



SARA TODD
Chief Executive

Membership of the Council

Councillors R. Chilton (Mayor), L. Walsh (Deputy Mayor), D. Acton, S. Adshead, A. Akinola, S.B. Anstee, Dr. K. Barclay, J. Baugh, J. Bennett, Miss L. Blackburn, R. Bowker, C. Boyes, J. E. Brophy, B. Brotherton, D. Bunting, D. Butt, T. Carey, Dr. S. Carr, K.G. Carter, C.H. Churchill, G. Coggins, M. Cordingley, J. Dillon, A. Duffield, N. Evans, M. Freeman, Mrs. D.L. Haddad, J. Harding, B. Hartley, J. Holden, C. Hynes, D. Jarman, D. Jerrome, P. Lally, J. Lamb, J. Lloyd, S. Longden, M. Minnis, A. Mitchell, D. Morgan, P. Myers, A. New, J.D. Newgrosh, E. Patel, K. Procter, S.B. Procter, B. Rigby, T. Ross, B. Shaw, J. Slater, E.W. Stennett, S. Taylor, S. Thomas, R. Thompson, M.J. Welton, A. Western, D. Western, G. Whitham, A.M. Whyte, A.J. Williams, B.G. Winstanley, J.A. Wright and Mrs. P. Young.

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Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact:

Ian Cockill, Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 0161 912 1387

Email: ian.cockill@trafford.gov.uk

This Summons was issued on **Thursday, 18 July 2019** by the Legal and Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford M32 0TH

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