

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (VIRTUAL MEETING)

27 JANUARY 2021

PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Chris Boyes), in the Chair.

D. Acton	N. Evans	E. Patel
S. Adshead	M. Freeman	K. Procter
A. Akinola	Mrs. D.L. Haddad	S.B. Procter
Dr. K. Barclay	J. Harding	T. Ross
J. Bennett	B. Hartley	B. Shaw
Miss L. Blackburn	J. Holden	J. Slater
J. E. Brophy	C. Hynes	S. Taylor
B. Brotherton	D. Jarman	S. Thomas
D. Bunting	D. Jerrome	R. Thompson
D. Butt	P. Lally	M.J. Welton
T. Carey	J. Lloyd	A. Western
Dr. S. Carr	S. Longden	D. Western
K.G. Carter	M. Minnis	G. Whitham
R. Chilton	A. Mitchell	A.M. Whyte
C.H. Churchill	D. Morgan	A.J. Williams
G. Coggins	P. Myers	J.A. Wright
M. Cordingley	A. New	Mrs. P. Young
J. Dillon	J.D. Newgrosh	

In attendance

Chief Executive	S. Todd
Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy	J. Le Fevre
Governance Manager	J. Addison
Senior Governance Officer	I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor L. Walsh and Councillors S.B. Anstee, J. Lamb, B. Rigby, E.W. Stennett and B.G. Winstanley.

41. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 25 November 2020 and the Meeting of the Council held on 8 December 2020, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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42. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Holocaust Memorial Day

The Deputy Mayor announced that along with other Members he had attended an online memorial event that afternoon to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Leader of the Council announced that he had lit a candle outside the Town Hall prior to the meeting as a tribute on behalf of the Council.

The Council paused in reflection as a mark of respect for all the victims of the Holocaust and other terrible genocides the world had witnessed.

(b) Former Councillor John Schofield

With regret, the Deputy Mayor informed the Council that former Councillor John Schofield had passed away before Christmas. Former Councillor Schofield was a Trafford Councillor for the then Park Ward from 1975 to 1979 and prior to that served on Stretford Borough Council and would be remembered for his passion for education.

The Council paused for a few moments reflection in his memory.

(c) Her Majesty the Queen's New Year's Honours

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

Mrs Joanne Louise Whitfield of Timperley awarded the citation of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for (CBE) services to Retail and the Food Supply Chain during the Covid-19 response;

Mrs Sally Jane Dynevor of Bowdon awarded the citation of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to Drama;

Dr Amir Simon Hannan of Hale Barns awarded the MBE for services to General Practice in Hyde and Haughton Green in the Borough of Tameside; and

Mr Nicholas Peter Speight of Sale also awarded the MBE for services to the Food Supply Chain during Covid-19.

The Deputy Mayor conveyed the Council's congratulations for their achievements and richly deserved recognition.

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(d) Scrutiny Update

Councillor Acton, Chair of Scrutiny Committee informed the Council that following the two budget scrutiny meetings held in December 2020, a report had now been submitted to the Executive and it was hoped that it would assist finalisation of the Council's budget proposals.

Councillors Dr. Barclay and Denise Western the respective Chairs of Health Scrutiny and Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committees reported that their work was recommencing with meetings in the next week.

43. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Deputy Mayor reported that 9 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

(a) Councillor Welton had given notice of the following question:

“The 1/3 mile section of the Trans-Pennine Trail (TPT) that runs along busy Sinderland Lane (from Dairyhouse Lane to the turning for the recycling centre at Woodcote Lane) reverts to a 60 mph national speed limit, and has no pavement. It can be terrifying, as my 9 year old daughter and I experienced when we were close passed by the driver of a fast moving car, while riding our bikes there last year. Does the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services agree that these conditions are unsafe and off-putting for pedestrians and cyclists using the TPT, and contrary to the council's efforts to get more people walking and cycling?”

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services had responded to the question in advance of the meeting and his response had been circulated to Members and been published on the Council's website.

As a supplementary question Councillor Welton asked whether the Executive member was aware of the numerous physical barriers on the TPT that prevent its use by those using adapted bikes and trikes and would he review these barriers to ensure that it was accessible to all. Councillor Adshead indicated that he would be happy to do so and invited Councillor Welton to send him the details so that the issues could be raised with officers.

(b) Councillor Chilton had given notice of the following question:

“One of the many businesses badly affected by the current crisis are kennels and catteries, who now find themselves largely superfluous due to the fact nobody is travelling away from home. Can the Executive Member for Finance and Governance, Cllr Ross, advise whether, in line with other Councils, grant funding will be made available to them, as such businesses in Trafford (of which there are comparatively few) have so far received nothing?”

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Councillor Ross, Executive Member for Finance and Governance had responded to the question in advance of the meeting and his response had been circulated to Members and been published on the Council's website.

Councillor Chilton indicated that he was happy that the response covered the points raised in his question and that as a result he did not wish to raise a supplementary question.

(c) Councillor Evans had given notice of the following question:

“The report to the Public Executive on Monday last, quite rightly, highlighted the uncertainty of the future for the council’s finances, and the leisure economy in Trafford as we emerge from the pandemic (see para 5.7 in the public report). Given this uncertainty is it not therefore premature to have decided that new builds of the leisure centres at Altrincham and Stretford will now not proceed?”

Councillor Patel, Executive Member for Culture and Leisure had responded to the question in advance of the meeting and her response had been circulated to Members and been published on the Council's website.

Councillor Evans asked as a supplementary question for the Executive Member, in the absence of the associated costs, to reconsider such a huge decision for Stretford and Altrincham. Councillor Patel advised that it was explained at the Executive meeting that a leading industry specialist was working through the costings and the technical programming of the Altrincham, Sale and Stretford refurbishments and that she would report back on the age and condition of the buildings in the future.

(d) Councillor Butt asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Leaving aside the dereliction of responsibility by the GM Mayor Andy Burnham and his deputy Mayor Beverley Hughes to hold the GMP leadership to account on its systemic failure in recording 80,000 crimes including other crimes closed without investigation; 70% of all domestic abuse cases closed prematurely by the GMP; Will Cllr Whitham offer an apology to the residents of Trafford for his part in the failure as the appointed scrutiny member on the Greater Manchester Police, Fire and Crime Panel to adequately question and scrutinise committee reports that he will have received and on meetings held, particularly since the HMICFRS watchdog had reported concerns since 2016 and should have been a focus of attention?”

Councillor Whitham, Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships reported that Members would be aware that since the publication of the inspection report a number of measures had been announced and he was happy to speak to colleagues across the chamber about the report's findings, the methodology behind the findings, further inspections and the measures announced by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester and also the work of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel. It was an important matter of substance which was to be

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debated later (Minute No. 49 refers) and commenting on past political performance by the opposition in respect of police governance and scrutiny and the interest shown by the questioner, Councillor Whitham wondered whether an apology would, therefore, be forthcoming from Councillor Butt.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Butt asked Councillor Whitham how many, or what percentage, of the approximate 80,000 unrecorded crimes related to domestic violence and abuse reported by residents in Trafford. In response, Councillor Whitham indicated he would accordingly provide the information subsequent to the meeting.

- (e) Councillor Brophy had given notice of the following question, the first of two questions she had submitted:

"In the wake of Storm Christoph many residents in Timperley were left to fend for themselves as emergency services and AMEY were overwhelmed. Given the likelihood that the Climate Emergency will lead to increasing occurrences of severe flooding, what strategic changes are the Council planning to make to ensure that comprehensive flood prevention measures are implemented with input from affected residents?"

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services had responded to the question in advance of the meeting and his response had been circulated to Members and been published on the Council's website.

Councillor Brophy asked as a supplementary question whether Councillor Adshead could write to the Timperley Councillors, identifying the issues that arose from the previous week's flooding and how they were to be addressed. Councillor Adshead indicated that the response he had provided set out the extent of the problems experienced and that issues were clearly prioritised. The Executive Member took the opportunity to place on record thanks to all the Council's staff and partner organisations for their exceptional performance on that night. He invited Council Brophy to inform him of her concerns after the meeting so that they may be considered, as per his reply, as part of the after review and furthermore, Councillors of all the wards affected would be invited to provide their input into the review.

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

"Pictor Academy has been hit by flooding affecting their ability to provide outdoor space for their students as part of their agreed COVID-19 procedures. Colleagues will appreciate the difficulty that any change in routine presents when working with SEN children. The staff at Pictor have gone above and beyond, sourcing their own pump from a private firm and clearing the water from their yards and playing field. What can the council do to ensure that Pictor Academy is reimbursed for this unexpected cost and are supported in the event of any future flooding?"

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Councillor Carter, Lead Member for Education advised that as an academy, the school was no longer part of the local authority, however the Council was willing to provide non-financial support when requested. The site had been visited prior to Storm Christoph to investigate flooding reported by residents, however, no action could be taken with the culvert until the water receded and as such it was highlighted that if requested, sandbags would be provided to residents. Staff visited Lime Grove during the incident to check on water levels and they posed no risk to the properties. Staff on site also accessed the situation with the academy and when found to be affecting only the playing fields, other residents were prioritised.

As a supplementary question Councillor Brophy asked how the Council was going to ensure that its schools and partner organisations were better prepared to respond to events that were likely to become more frequent in the future. In response, Councillor Carter re-affirmed that partnerships were in place, however, the issue of flood defences extended beyond Education and was being led by the Environment Team.

(g) Councillor Newgrosh had given notice of the following question:

"I have been contacted by residents regarding the modal filter "planters" in the Longford Park area on Cromwell road, Norwood road and Hillingdon road. A consultation closed on 19th December for residents to give their views on whether these should either stay as they are, be moved or removed completely. I am aware a FOI request for the results has been submitted but no information or data is yet forthcoming. Can the Executive clarify when this data will be made public and the results be actioned if appropriate?"

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services had responded to the question in advance of the meeting and his response had been circulated to Members and been published on the Council's website.

Councillor Newgrosh indicated that he was happy that the response covered the points raised in his question and that as a result he did not wish to raise a supplementary question.

(h) Councillor Miss Blackburn had given notice of the following question:

"Would the Executive Member, Cllr Stephen Adshead, answer this question about the south side of Lostock Road, Davyhulme, regarding the designated cycle track where bollards were erected before the end of the consultation period with residents in December 2020. Can he state whether the (circa 70-80) bollards will be reduced in number in order to facilitate a safer entry and exit for residents onto the busy bus route to and from the M60 motorway? The current placement of bollards causes a hazardous angle for re-entry onto the road affecting its residents and other road users?"

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Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services had responded to the question in advance of the meeting and his response had been circulated to Members and been published on the Council's website.

Councillor Miss Blackburn asked as a supplementary question for Councillor Adshead to confirm if there were plans to create designated cycle lanes on Winchester Road, Davyhulme between Moss Vale Road and Crofts Bank Road. In response, the Executive Member was unable to confirm that any decisions had been taken since consultation on the Urmston Active Neighbourhood had only just finished and proposals would be brought forward in discussion with local Councillors and other agencies, including residents.

(g) Councillor Minnis asked the following question for which she had given notice:

"Trafford all age transport policy was up for consultation over the holidays. I was disappointed to find the consultation comprised only of two questions. Could I gain a commitment from the Executive that future consultations are both complete and meaningful?"

Councillor Carter, the Lead Member for Education confirmed that in fact the consultation lasted for 8 weeks, 6 during term-time and 2 over the school holidays with a detailed explanation provided and a thorough analysis of the families and schools that would be affected and those families were written to directly. All consultees were asked whether they agreed with the proposals, were invited to ask questions and to make comments or share alternative ideas and there was a supplementary question regarding whether the low income criteria should be expanded to include more families. Additional to this consultation, a question on the proposed change was also included in the budget consultations as a way of seeking wider input and 69% of the 441 wider consultees strongly agreed or agreed with the Home to School Transport proposal. Thanking all officers involved in the planning, promotion and reaction to such consultation, Councillor Carter considered that the approach was to be applauded and was completely robust.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Minnis asked that whilst Trafford's Transport Policy was compliant with national guidelines, could the Lead Member explain why children attending special schools and should qualify for the transport are being denied it under the 3 mile policy which was for more able children. In response to this point, Councillor Carter indicated that she would be happy to take up individual cases and asked Councillor Minnis to send her details of the cases she was aware of.

44. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: That the Council notes the following membership changes to Committees and Outside Bodies, agreed by the Chief Executive under delegated authority:

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(a) Planning and Development Management Committee

Councillor Bunting replaced Councillor Rigby as a member and Opposition Spokesperson of the Planning and Development Management Committee, with effect from 27 January 2021.

(b) Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee

Councillor Butt replaced Councillor Shaw as the Council's representative on the Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee, with effect from 18 January 2021.

45. 6-MONTH CORPORATE REPORT ON HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING - 1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance 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, safety and wellbeing for the period 1 April to 30 September 2020.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

46. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - POVERTY EMERGENCY

It was moved and seconded that:

“Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges across all sections of society, it has deepened existing inequalities, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable communities the hardest. It has put a spotlight on economic inequalities and fragile social safety nets that have left vulnerable communities bearing the brunt of the crisis. Both the health and economic consequences of the pandemic will be long lasting. It threatens to compound the damage done to low-income households by ten years of austerity.

Even prior to the pandemic poverty across the UK was increasing, particularly among low-income families. The independent Resolution Foundation predicted that by 2023-24 the proportion of children living in relative poverty (after housing costs) is on course to hit 37% – exceeding the previous record high of 34% in the early 1990s.

This motion recognises that some temporary steps have been taken by government to support some low-income families during the pandemic but that these have fallen well short of preventing more people falling into hardship and deprivation. Notes that this support is a drop in the ocean compared the £37 billion cut from working-age and family benefits since 2010.

It is not surprising therefore that we have seen a huge increase in the number of people using foodbanks and relying on other voluntary and

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community sector support in recent years. In spite of this huge level of need and rising levels of poverty, the UK government does not have a poverty strategy in place.

It is in this context that we are declaring a Poverty Emergency.

As a local authority, working with partners across the private, public and voluntary, faith and community sectors, we commit to doing what we can to prevent and reduce poverty as well as mitigating against the worst effects of central government policy. We are urging the government to take urgent steps to respond to growing levels of poverty across the country, whilst working to maximise what the council can do locally to address the issue.

Building on the Trafford Poverty Strategy 2021/22 approved by Executive in December 2020, this Council resolves to:

- Formally acknowledge the rising levels of poverty so widely evidenced over the past decade and further exacerbated by the dual crises of pandemic and recession.
- Implement the actions set out in the Trafford Poverty Strategy 2021/22 (approved by Executive in December 2020).
- Support people experiencing poverty to have their voices heard through the establishment of a Poverty Truth Commission and other mechanisms.
- Recognise socio-economic deprivation as an equalities issue. Acknowledging that the stress of being poor and in crisis has a detrimental impact on health, including mental health and wellbeing, achievement, life chances, participation, resilience and social cohesion.
- Commit to taking socio-economic status into account when making decisions, alongside the requirement to assess decisions against protected characteristics under the Equalities Act.
- Write to the government calling on them to introduce a UK wide poverty strategy and to urgently improve the value of support provided to low income households through the social security system, including making permanent the £20 Universal Credit uplift introduced at the start of the pandemic.
- Ensure that work on the poverty strategy informs and sits alongside all other work streams within the council's (and partners) economic and other recovery planning.
- Maintaining a strong local welfare offer through Trafford Assist, the Council Tax Support Scheme and through the provision of effective benefits advice/welfare rights services across the borough, alongside effective employment support services.

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- Ensure all staff directly employed by the council are paid above the Real Living Wage.
- Support a vibrant and inclusive economy that supports the creation of good quality, sustainable jobs.”

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

RESOLVED: That, whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges across all sections of society, it has deepened existing inequalities, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable communities the hardest. It has put a spotlight on economic inequalities and fragile social safety nets that have left vulnerable communities bearing the brunt of the crisis. Both the health and economic consequences of the pandemic will be long lasting. It threatens to compound the damage done to low-income households by ten years of austerity.

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This motion recognises that some temporary steps have been taken by government to support some low-income families during the pandemic but that these have fallen well short of preventing more people falling into hardship and deprivation. Notes that this support is a drop in the ocean compared the £37 billion cut from working-age and family benefits since 2010.

It is not surprising therefore that we have seen a huge increase in the number of people using foodbanks and relying on other voluntary and community sector support in recent years. In spite of this huge level of need and rising levels of poverty, the UK government does not have a poverty strategy in place.

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- Ensure all staff directly employed by the council are paid above the Real Living Wage.
- Support a vibrant and inclusive economy that supports the creation of good quality, sustainable jobs.

**47. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - ALL-PARTY
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP DEFINITION OF ISLAMOPHOBIA**

It was moved and seconded that:

“Trafford is proud of its diversity as a huge asset and a source of great strength. A substantial proportion of its residents are Muslim, who are an integral part of its make-up, playing a huge role in all aspects of the borough's life.

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Trafford Council has a strong history of promoting cohesion and welcoming people from all over the world. Its residents have always united and supported each other in the fight against racism and discrimination in all its forms.

This Council therefore welcomes, endorses and adopts the working APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) definition of Islamophobia, including all of its examples in full, cited as follows:

"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."

Contemporary examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in encounters between religions and non-religions in the public sphere could, considering the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, instigating or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims in the name of a racist/fascist ideology, or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as such, or of Muslims as a collective group, such as, especially but not exclusively, conspiracies about Muslim entryism in politics, government or other societal institutions; the myth of Muslim identity having a unique propensity for terrorism and claims of a demographic 'threat' posed by Muslims or of a 'Muslim takeover'.
- Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.
- Accusing Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.
- Accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to the 'Ummah' (transnational Muslim community) or to their countries of origin, or to the alleged priorities of Muslims worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying Muslim populations, the right to self-determination e.g., by claiming that the existence of an independent Palestine or Kashmir is a terrorist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded of any other groups in society, e.g. loyalty tests.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia.

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- Holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of any Muslim majority state, whether secular or constitutionally Islamic.

This Council asks the Chief Executive of the Council to:

1. Write to government ministers asking them to listen to Muslim communities and the cross-party group of MPs and peers and to adopt this definition of Islamophobia which classifies discrimination against Muslims as a form of racism.
2. Continue to prioritise tackling hate crime and Islamophobia in partnership. Trafford Council works with partners, especially Greater Manchester Police, on a rolling basis, and will now coordinate future actions in line with this definition of Islamophobia for all Muslims.”

(Note: After the Motion had been moved and seconded, the time being 8:23 p.m., the Deputy Mayor indicated that speeches on this matter would now be limited to a maximum of one minute per speaker.)

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was agreed by the general consent of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Trafford is proud of its diversity as a huge asset and a source of great strength. A substantial proportion of its residents are Muslim, who are an integral part of its make-up, playing a huge role in all aspects of the borough's life.

Trafford Council has a strong history of promoting cohesion and welcoming people from all over the world. Its residents have always united and supported each other in the fight against racism and discrimination in all its forms.

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- Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.
- Accusing Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.
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- Denying Muslim populations, the right to self-determination e.g., by claiming that the existence of an independent Palestine or Kashmir is a terrorist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded of any other groups in society, e.g. loyalty tests.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia.
- Holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of any Muslim majority state, whether secular or constitutionally Islamic.

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48. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - COUNCIL CORE SPENDING POWER INCREASE AND RELIANCE ON COUNCIL TAX INCREASES

It was moved and seconded that:

“This Council notes that:

- i. On 25 November 2020, the government set out the outcome of the 2020 Spending Review, suggesting that core spending power for councils in England would increase from £49.0 billion to £51.2 billion in 2021/22, an estimated 4.5% cash-terms increase and a rise in real terms.
- ii. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s provisional local government finance settlement 2021/22 supplies the detail behind the increase and conducted a 4 week consultation between 17 December 2020 and 16 January 2021.
- iii. The data behind the provisional settlement shows that, when the government suggested in the 2020 Spending Review an estimated 4.5% cash-terms increase for councils in England, they are in fact assuming that councils in England will increase council tax by 1.99% and the adult social care precept by 3% to raise £1.92 billion from council tax payers in England in 2021/22.
- iv. Consequently within the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s core spending calculations for councils in England, the government contribution element constitutes only 13% of the overall increase of £2.2 billion - so, of the stated overall increase of 4.5%, only 0.6% (£292.7 million) amounts to a financial contribution from government.
- v. The government’s 2020 Spending Review and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s provisional local government finance settlement 2021/22 set against a backdrop of 10 years of austerity and local government cuts, which has seen Trafford Council face huge budget cuts as a result of unfunded pressures and the phasing out of the revenue support grant.

This Council recognises that:

- i. The underlying assumptions within consecutive government Spending Reviews and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s core spending power calculations for councils in England has been to force councils in England to increase council tax and precepts and passport the costs of any increases onto local council tax payers.

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- ii. The government has failed numerous times over a number of years to hit its own deadlines to publish details of care system reforms for adults with disabilities and the elderly, which has resulted in the government introducing the Adult Social Care (ASC) precept in 2016/17, with no national funding solution still on the horizon.
- iii. The fair funding review for local government has also been delayed for a second year, with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government confirming in April 2020 that the implementation of the review will not go ahead in 2021/22 to allow councils to focus on meeting the immediate public health challenge posed by the pandemic.

Therefore, this Council calls on the Conservative Government to:

- i. Urgently increase the overall funding provided by the government to all councils in England from the government's £292.7 million in the core spending power calculations to at least the £1.92 billion that would allow councils in England to mitigate the impact(s) on local council tax payers.
- ii. Urgently resolve the adult social care funding crisis and bring forward proposals to mitigate the impact(s) on local council tax payers.
- iii. Make progress with the fair funding review, ensuring that differentials with regards to poverty and inequality and council tax payer's ability to pay are effectively factored into any future methodology for determining central government grant."

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

RESOLVED: That this Council notes that:

- i. On 25 November 2020, the government set out the outcome of the 2020 Spending Review, suggesting that core spending power for councils in England would increase from £49.0 billion to £51.2 billion in 2021/22, an estimated 4.5% cash-terms increase and a rise in real terms.
- ii. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's provisional local government finance settlement 2021/22 supplies the detail behind the increase and conducted a 4 week consultation between 17 December 2020 and 16 January 2021.
- iii. The data behind the provisional settlement shows that, when the government suggested in the 2020 Spending Review an estimated 4.5% cash-terms increase for councils in England, they are in fact assuming that councils in England will increase council tax by 1.99% and the adult social care precept by 3% to raise £1.92 billion from council tax payers in England in 2021/22.

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- iv. Consequently within the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's core spending calculations for councils in England, the government contribution element constitutes only 13% of the overall increase of £2.2 billion - so, of the stated overall increase of 4.5%, only 0.6% (£292.7 million) amounts to a financial contribution from government.
- v. The government's 2020 Spending Review and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's provisional local government finance settlement 2021/22 set against a backdrop of 10 years of austerity and local government cuts, which has seen Trafford Council face huge budget cuts as a result of unfunded pressures and the phasing out of the revenue support grant.

This Council recognises that:

- i. The underlying assumptions within consecutive government Spending Reviews and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's core spending power calculations for councils in England has been to force councils in England to increase council tax and precepts and passport the costs of any increases onto local council tax payers.
- ii. The government has failed numerous times over a number of years to hit its own deadlines to publish details of care system reforms for adults with disabilities and the elderly, which has resulted in the government introducing the Adult Social Care (ASC) precept in 2016/17, with no national funding solution still on the horizon.
- iii. The fair funding review for local government has also been delayed for a second year, with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government confirming in April 2020 that the implementation of the review will not go ahead in 2021/22 to allow councils to focus on meeting the immediate public health challenge posed by the pandemic.

Therefore, this Council calls on the Conservative Government to:

- i. Urgently increase the overall funding provided by the government to all councils in England from the government's £292.7 million in the core spending power calculations to at least the £1.92 billion that would allow councils in England to mitigate the impact(s) on local council tax payers.
- ii. Urgently resolve the adult social care funding crisis and bring forward proposals to mitigate the impact(s) on local council tax payers.
- iii. Make progress with the fair funding review, ensuring that differentials with regards to poverty and inequality and council tax payer's ability to pay are effectively factored into any future methodology for determining central government grant.

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**49. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP -
RESPONDING TO GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE SPECIAL MEASURES**

(Note: Before consideration of the next matter, the time being 8:45 p.m., the Deputy Mayor indicated that speeches on this item of business would be limited to a maximum of two minutes per speaker.)

(Note: Councillor Evans declared a personal interest in the next matter since his wife was a prospective Greater Manchester Mayoral Candidate and Councillor Freeman also declared a personal interest being in receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.)

It was moved and seconded that:

“This Council notes with deep concern:

- The December 17th announcement that Greater Manchester Police will enter the ‘engage’ phase of Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMIC) formal monitoring process.
- That this is only the second time a police force has required this level of intervention.
- That 80,100 crimes went unrecorded in the year ending 30 June 2020, equating to 220 crimes each day or one in five crimes in total across the period.
- That HMIC has indicated that one in four violent crimes went unrecorded.
- The failure of the force to improve after initial concerns were raised by the Inspectorate in 2016, indicating a serious lack of organisation and leadership within Greater Manchester Police.
- That the inspectorate has estimated a drop of 11.3% in recorded crimes since 2018.
- That the inspectorate found that some investigations had been wrongly and prematurely concluded.
- The resignation and ill health of former Chief Superintendent Ian Hopkins. The Council thanks him for his service to the city region.

This Council also notes that:

- The majority of Greater Manchester Police staff perform their duties with a high degree of dedication and professionalism and this Council thanks them for their service in challenging times.
- Since 2016, GMP has endured frontline cuts amounting to 33% of its PCSOs and 6% of its support staff.
- This places GMP at a significant disadvantage given that since 2016, the average cut to PCSOs across England and Wales has been 6%.

The Council recognises the significant challenge that coronavirus has posed to policing and gives thanks to all GMP personnel, who work tirelessly to protect communities across Trafford.

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This Council welcomes the publication of the Police Foundations first report, *'The Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales'* which was published in July 2020. The report highlights the difficulties that our police forces face, placing them in the context of severe police cuts which Conservative governments continue to pursue.

This Council particularly notes (*from the above report*):

- '... the critical importance of developing the public dialogue in relation to policing and public safety. Substantive strategic change is unlikely to be achieved while the public understanding of 'what the police do' extends very little beyond functions.'

This Council resolves to:

- Extend its full support and cooperation to GMP, HMIC and other affiliated stakeholders throughout the monitoring process.
- Work towards the Police Foundations objective of preventative, community focused policing by highlighting opportunities to bring local officers and residents together at a borough and ward level.
- Request that the Mayor of Greater Manchester provides a detailed report to Trafford Council indicating the action plan that will be undertaken in order to return policing in the Borough and the city region to an efficient and effective level."

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

This Council notes with ~~deep~~ concern:

- The December 17th announcement that Greater Manchester Police will enter the 'engage' phase of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMIC) formal monitoring process.
- ~~That this is only the second time a police force has required this level of intervention.~~
- **That Her Majesty's Inspectorate report that 80,100 crimes went unrecorded in the year ending 30 June 2020, equating to 220 crimes each day or one in five crimes in total across the period, including one in four violent crimes and that some investigations were not to an acceptable standard having been prematurely concluded.**
- ~~That HMIC has indicated that one in four violent crimes went unrecorded.~~
- ~~The failure of the force to improve after initial concerns were raised by the Inspectorate in 2016, indicating a serious lack of organisation and leadership within Greater Manchester Police.~~
- ~~That the inspectorate has estimated a drop of 11.3% in recorded crimes since 2018.~~
- ~~That the inspectorate found that some investigations had been wrongly and prematurely concluded.~~
- **That Her Majesty's Inspectorate conclude the performance of GMP has not improved after initial concerns were raised by them in**

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2016 indicating a serious lack of organisation and leadership within GMP

- **The continuing issues being experienced by GMP with their new Integrated Operations System (iOPs)**
- The resignation and ill health of former Chief Superintendent Ian Hopkins. ~~The Council thanks him for his service to the city region.~~

This Council ~~also~~ **further** notes that:

- **That Victims of Crime deserve and need a service they can have confidence in.**
- **That since 2012 in the name of austerity GMP has seen £215 million wiped from its budget losing in the process 2000 police officers and 1000 civilian workers.**
- **That these cuts to the budget were instigated by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition Government and carried on by successive Conservative Governments and have impacted upon the operational frontline capabilities of GMP.**
- **That despite Government promises of increased funding to recruit more Police Officers the vast majority of additional recruits to date have been funded through Police Precept increases putting additional burden on local residents through Council tax increases.**
- **That Police financial settlements continue to be made by the Government on an annual basis making forward planning for Police Forces problematic despite promises of a fair funding review.**
- ~~The majority of Greater Manchester Police staff~~ **That irrespective of the GMP Force Leadership issues GMP Officers and Staff continue to perform their duties with a high degree of dedication and professionalism and for which this Council thanks them for their service in what are very challenging times.**
- **The close working relationship this Council has engendered locally with Trafford Police in recognition that the Police themselves are not solely responsible for keeping our communities safe.**
- **The overall effects on Policing during this pandemic as evidenced by a 42% increase in calls received to deal with Mental Health issues where some 20% of callers were not known previously to the police and increased calls relating to domestic violence.**
- ~~Since 2016, GMP has endured frontline cuts amounting to 33% of its Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and 6% of its support staff.~~
- ~~This places GMP at a significant disadvantage given that since 2016, the average cut to PCSOs across England and Wales has been 6%.~~

~~The Council recognises the significant challenge that coronavirus has posed to policing and gives thanks to all GMP personnel, who work tirelessly to protect communities across Trafford.~~

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This Council welcomes: ~~the publication of the Police Foundations first report, 'The Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales' which was published in July 2020. The report highlights the difficulties that our police forces face, placing them in the context of severe police cuts which Conservative governments continue to pursue.~~

- **The announcement by the Mayor of Greater Manchester of the new dedicated hotline to support Victims of Crime which opened on 20 December 2020.**
- **The allocation to each and every Ward across Greater Manchester of a named Neighbourhood Beat Officer and Police Community Support Officer.**
- **The engagement of Consultants by the Mayor of Greater Manchester to examine the ongoing issues with the iOPs computer system.**
- **The publication of the Police Foundations report 'The Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales' published July 2020 which highlights the considerable difficulties police forces face in the context of the very severe cuts they have had imposed upon them and the unlikelihood of developing a meaningful dialogue with communities relating to public safety whilst public understanding of what the police do extends very little beyond basic functions.**

~~This Council particularly notes (from the above report):~~

- ~~'... the critical importance of developing the public dialogue in relation to policing and public safety. Substantive strategic change is unlikely to be achieved while the public understanding of 'what the police do' extends very little beyond functions.'~~

This Council resolves to:

- ~~Extend its full support and cooperation to GMP, HMIC and other affiliated stakeholders throughout the monitoring process.~~
- ~~Work towards the Police Foundations objective of preventative, community focused policing by **through** highlighting opportunities to bring local officers and residents together at a ~~borough~~ **Ward and Borough** ward level.~~
- ~~Request that **Seek a detailed update from** the Mayor of Greater Manchester **which** provides a detailed report to Trafford **this** Council **and our residents** indicating the **full** action plan that **will is to be** undertaken in order to return policing in the ~~Borough and the city region~~ **Trafford and across Greater Manchester** to an efficient and effective level."~~

After a debate on the amendment, it was put to the vote and declared.

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(Note: At this point, the time being 8:59 p.m., the Deputy Mayor indicated that speeches on this matter would now be limited to a maximum of one minute per speaker.)

It was moved and seconded as a second amendment that:

“This Council notes with concern:

- The December 17th announcement that Greater Manchester Police will enter the ‘engage’ phase of Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMIC) formal monitoring process.
- That Her Majesty’s Inspectorate report that 80,100 crimes went unrecorded in the year ending 30 June 2020, equating to 220 crimes each day or one in five crimes in total across the period, including one in four violent crimes and that some investigations were not to an acceptable standard having been prematurely concluded.
- That Her Majesty’s Inspectorate conclude the performance of GMP has not improved after initial concerns were raised by them in 2016 indicating a serious lack of organisation and leadership within GMP
- The continuing issues being experienced by GMP with their new Integrated Operations System (iOPs)
- **The failure of the force to improve after initial concerns were raised by the Inspectorate in 2016, indicating a serious lack of organisation and leadership within Greater Manchester Police. This failure should have been corrected by the then Labour Police and Crime Commissioner and then by the Labour Mayor of Greater Manchester who has responsibility for policing across Greater Manchester.**
- The resignation and ill health of former Chief Superintendent Ian Hopkins.

This Council further notes:

- That Victims of Crime deserve and need a service they can have confidence in.
- ~~That since 2012 in the name of austerity GMP has seen £215 million wiped from its budget losing in the process 2000 police officers and 4000 civilian workers.~~
- ~~That these cuts to the budget were instigated by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition Government and carried on by successive Conservative Governments and have impacted upon the operational frontline capabilities of GMP.~~
- ~~That despite Government promises of increased funding to recruit more Police Officers the vast majority of additional recruits to date have been funded through Police Precept increases putting additional burden on local residents through Council tax increases.~~
- ~~That Police financial settlements continue to be made by the Government on an annual basis making forward planning for Police Forces problematic despite promises of a fair funding review.~~

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- That irrespective of the GMP Force Leadership issues GMP Officers and Staff continue to perform their duties with a high degree of dedication and professionalism for which this Council thanks them in what are very challenging times.
- The close working relationship this Council has engendered locally with Trafford Police in recognition that the Police themselves are not solely responsible for keeping our communities safe.
- The overall effects on Policing during this pandemic as evidenced by a 42% increase in calls received to deal with Mental Health issues where some 20% of callers were not known previously to the police and increased calls relating to domestic violence.

This Council welcomes:

- The announcement by the Mayor of Greater Manchester of the new dedicated hotline to support Victims of Crime which opened on 20 December 2020.
- The allocation to each and every Ward across Greater Manchester of a named Neighbourhood Beat Officer and Police Community Support Officer.
- The engagement of Consultants by the Mayor of Greater Manchester to examine the ongoing issues with the iOPs computer system.
- ~~The publication of the Police Foundations report 'The Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales' published July 2020 which highlights the considerable difficulties police forces face in the context of the very severe cuts they have had imposed upon them and the unlikelihood of developing a meaningful dialogue with communities relating to public safety whilst public understanding of what the police do extends very little beyond basic functions.~~
- **The announcement by the Home Secretary that policing will receive up to £15.8 billion in 2021-22 – an increase of £636 million on last year. This includes over £400 million to recruit 20,000 extra police officers by 2023, delivering on the promise made by the Conservatives in last year's General Election. Greater Manchester Police has already benefited from an additional 193 officers.**

This Council resolves to:

- Extend its full support and cooperation to GMP, ~~HMIC~~ **HMICFRS** and other stakeholders throughout the monitoring process.
- Work towards the Police Foundations objective of preventative community focused policing through highlighting opportunities to bring local officers and residents together at Ward and Borough level.
- ~~Seek a detailed update from the Mayor of Greater Manchester which provides to this Council and our residents the full action plan that is to be undertaken in order to return policing in Trafford and across Greater Manchester to an efficient and effective level.~~
- **Request that the Mayor of Greater Manchester does the right thing and resigns from his position having failed the residents of Greater Manchester and the victims of crime so badly."**

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After a debate on the second amendment, it was put to the vote and declared lost.

The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That this Council notes with concern:

- The December 17th announcement that Greater Manchester Police will enter the 'engage' phase of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMIC) formal monitoring process.
- That Her Majesty's Inspectorate report that 80,100 crimes went unrecorded in the year ending 30 June 2020, equating to 220 crimes each day or one in five crimes in total across the period, including one in four violent crimes and that some investigations were not to an acceptable standard having been prematurely concluded.
- That Her Majesty's Inspectorate conclude the performance of GMP has not improved after initial concerns were raised by them in 2016 indicating a serious lack of organisation and leadership within GMP
- The continuing issues being experienced by GMP with their new Integrated Operations System (iOPs)
- The resignation and ill health of former Chief Superintendent Ian Hopkins.

This Council further notes:

- That Victims of Crime deserve and need a service they can have confidence in.
- That since 2012 in the name of austerity GMP has seen £215 million wiped from its budget losing in the process 2000 police officers and 1000 civilian workers.
- That these cuts to the budget were instigated by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition Government and carried on by successive Conservative Governments and have impacted upon the operational frontline capabilities of GMP.
- That despite Government promises of increased funding to recruit more Police Officers the vast majority of additional recruits to date have been funded through Police Precept increases putting additional burden on local residents through Council tax increases.
- That Police financial settlements continue to be made by the Government on an annual basis making forward planning for Police Forces problematic despite promises of a fair funding review.
- That irrespective of the GMP Force Leadership issues GMP Officers and Staff continue to perform their duties with a high degree of dedication and professionalism for which this Council thanks them in what are very challenging times.
- The close working relationship this Council has engendered locally with Trafford Police in recognition that the Police themselves are not solely responsible for keeping our communities safe.
- The overall effects on Policing during this pandemic as evidenced by a 42% increase in calls received to deal with Mental Health issues where

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some 20% of callers were not known previously to the police and increased calls relating to domestic violence.

This Council welcomes:

- The announcement by the Mayor of Greater Manchester of the new dedicated hotline to support Victims of Crime which opened on 20 December 2020.
- The allocation to each and every Ward across Greater Manchester of a named Neighbourhood Beat Officer and Police Community Support Officer.
- The engagement of Consultants by the Mayor of Greater Manchester to examine the ongoing issues with the iOPs computer system.
- The publication of the Police Foundations report 'The Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales' published July 2020 which highlights the considerable difficulties police forces face in the context of the very severe cuts they have had imposed upon them and the unlikelihood of developing a meaningful dialogue with communities relating to public safety whilst public understanding of what the police do extends very little beyond basic functions.

This Council resolves to:

- Extend its full support and cooperation to GMP, HMIC and other stakeholders throughout the monitoring process.
- Work towards the Police Foundations objective of preventative community focused policing through highlighting opportunities to bring local officers and residents together at Ward and Borough level.
- Seek a detailed update from the Mayor of Greater Manchester which provides to this Council and our residents the full action plan that is to be undertaken in order to return policing in Trafford and across Greater Manchester to an efficient and effective level.

**50. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP -
ENCOURAGING PUBLIC TRANSPORT USE THROUGH EMPLOYER-LINKED
SEASON TICKET PURCHASES**

(Note: Before consideration of the next matter, the time being 9:07 p.m., the Deputy Mayor indicated that speeches on this item of business would be limited to a maximum of one minute per speaker.)

It was moved and seconded that:

“This Council notes that:

In his article for the Daily Telegraph 'Tax Relief just the Ticket' (6 October 2013), journalist Boris Johnson called for employees to be 'allowed to pay for their season tickets from their pre-tax income.'

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Mr Johnson advocated for the introduction of a new tax relief scheme, limited to the basic rate, whereby ‘the employer would buy the season ticket and deduct the cost from his or her (employee’s) pay packet – and only then would the employee be assessed for tax.’

The impact of such a scheme would mean that employees would have less taxable income reducing their liability for income tax and national insurance and the employer would also save on national insurance contributions.

An Annual Metrolink ticket from Altrincham to the City Centre costs a commuter £1,154.

A Northern Rail season train ticket from Urmston to Oxford Road costs a commuter £944.

Such a scheme would represent a significant financial incentive for working Trafford residents who need to commute to resume public transport when they feel safe to do so in greater numbers.

Council further notes that:

Now Mr Johnson is Prime Minister he has it within his power to put his aspirations for tax relief on seasonal travel tickets into practice.

Council resolves to:

Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that the Government introduces a scheme for commuters to have the cost of public transport season tickets deducted from their pre-tax income, following the principles outlined in Mr Johnson’s Telegraph article in 2013.”

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was agreed by the general consent of the Council.

RESOLVED: That this Council notes that:

In his article for the Daily Telegraph ‘Tax Relief just the Ticket’ (6 October 2013), journalist Boris Johnson called for employees to be ‘allowed to pay for their season tickets from their pre-tax income.’

Mr Johnson advocated for the introduction of a new tax relief scheme, limited to the basic rate, whereby ‘the employer would buy the season ticket and deduct the cost from his or her (employee’s) pay packet – and only then would the employee be assessed for tax.’

The impact of such a scheme would mean that employees would have less taxable income reducing their liability for income tax and national insurance and the employer would also save on national insurance contributions.

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An Annual Metrolink ticket from Altrincham to the City Centre costs a commuter £1,154.

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Such a scheme would represent a significant financial incentive for working Trafford residents who need to commute to resume public transport when they feel safe to do so in greater numbers.

Council further notes that:

Now Mr Johnson is Prime Minister he has it within his power to put his aspirations for tax relief on seasonal travel tickets into practice.

Council resolves to:

Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that the Government introduces a scheme for commuters to have the cost of public transport season tickets deducted from their pre-tax income, following the principles outlined in Mr Johnson's Telegraph article in 2013.

51. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT'S INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO THE BASIC NEEDS OF STUDENTS, SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES DURING THE PANDEMIC

It was moved and seconded that:

"This Council believes:

The impact of COVID 19 on the lives of all Trafford residents has been severe. Children's education has been particularly affected with schools locked down for two significant periods over the last 12 months. Increasing unemployment and levels of poverty as a result of the pandemic have also provided a stark reminder of the reality of child hunger in the UK and the importance the provision of Free School Meals plays in combating this injustice. These damaging childhood experiences have been made worse by a series of incompetent decisions made by the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williams MP. These mistakes rank among the worst the government has made during the pandemic because of their impact, as well as being avoidable if the Secretary of State had demonstrated trust in teachers and their democratically elected representatives in Parliament and the unions. These serious mistakes include:

- In March 2020 the government ordered schools to close with no clear direction or guidance on how they should conduct learning at a distance, either in what the online lessons should be or how pupils without technology could get access. The Secretary of State failed to deliver the number of laptops promised for disadvantaged students in the first lockdown. Now, by the Education Secretary's own estimate, the

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roll out of one million devices will not be reached until the end of January – two thirds of the way through the current lockdown. With last summer squandered by the Department for Education (DfE), it is galling that this remains an issue. The result has been that the gap between pupils in high and low achieving schools has widened and continues to do so.

- The catastrophe of the 2020 GCSE and A-level results stemmed from a decision that grade inflation should be avoided and a lack of regard for the injustices that Ofqual's algorithm would produce, for individuals and social groups, as well as a failure to set up an extensive appeals process.
- The U-turn on 2020 exam results after five days meant that universities had already filled up many places. That led to a scramble in which some would take more pupils (requiring more funding), some would force pupils to defer their places with a knock-on effect on 2021, and some would be left underfunded, without enough pupils to fill their places.
- Experienced teachers, headteachers, unions and parents identified in July 2020 that GCSE and A-Levels in 2021 could not possibly take place fairly due to the wide ranging amounts of time Year 10 and 12 students had lost from the classroom and they called for internal assessments with external moderation. It took until early January 2021 for the Secretary of State to announce to Parliament that internal assessments would replace externally assessed exams but still without any details allowing teachers, students and parents to effectively plan for them.

This Council calls for:

- Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education to resign or for the Prime Minister to replace him immediately.
- The Secretary of State for Education to commit to and carry out the following, in consultation with Parliament, and education workers' unions:
 - Schools and Further Education Colleges be provided with the parameters applicable to the internal GCSE and A-Level assessments students will sit in summer 2021 and ensure they will be subject to external moderation. These requirements should not require increased workload levels for education workers beyond marking, grading and the submission of papers.
 - Share all the information the DfE has from Public Health England and/or SAGE or the Children's Task and Finish Group, about their estimates of the effects of its new criteria for school attendance on the R rate and infections in school.

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- The temporary extension of Free School Meals (FSM) to No Recourse to Public Funds residents and low-income migrants during the pandemic should be made permanent.
- To ensure that Government guidance on FSM packed lunches requires providers to ensure they include enough good quality nutritious food that meets the daily calorific requirements for a growing child of the relevant age group.
- Eradicate holiday hunger by permanently committing to FSM provision of at least £15 per child per week to ensure nutritional standards during all school holidays.
- Provide free household internet access for children and young people in households on Universal Credit.
- Establish a new, dedicated technology budget for all schools to combat the digital divide.

This Council calls on:

The Leader of Trafford Council to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Prime Minister asking him to respond as a matter of urgency to all of the above points.”

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

RESOLVED: That this Council believes:

The impact of COVID 19 on the lives of all Trafford residents has been severe. Children’s education has been particularly affected with schools locked down for two significant periods over the last 12 months. Increasing unemployment and levels of poverty as a result of the pandemic have also provided a stark reminder of the reality of child hunger in the UK and the importance the provision of Free School Meals plays in combating this injustice. These damaging childhood experiences have been made worse by a series of incompetent decisions made by the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williams MP. These mistakes rank among the worst the government has made during the pandemic because of their impact, as well as being avoidable if the Secretary of State had demonstrated trust in teachers and their democratically elected representatives in Parliament and the unions. These serious mistakes include:

- In March 2020 the government ordered schools to close with no clear direction or guidance on how they should conduct learning at a distance, either in what the online lessons should be or how pupils without technology could get access. The Secretary of State failed to

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deliver the number of laptops promised for disadvantaged students in the first lockdown. Now, by the Education Secretary's own estimate, the roll out of one million devices will not be reached until the end of January – two thirds of the way through the current lockdown. With last summer squandered by the Department for Education (DfE), it is galling that this remains an issue. The result has been that the gap between pupils in high and low achieving schools has widened and continues to do so.

- The catastrophe of the 2020 GCSE and A-level results stemmed from a decision that grade inflation should be avoided and a lack of regard for the injustices that Ofqual's algorithm would produce, for individuals and social groups, as well as a failure to set up an extensive appeals process.
- The U-turn on 2020 exam results after five days meant that universities had already filled up many places. That led to a scramble in which some would take more pupils (requiring more funding), some would force pupils to defer their places with a knock-on effect on 2021, and some would be left underfunded, without enough pupils to fill their places.
- Experienced teachers, headteachers, unions and parents identified in July 2020 that GCSE and A-Levels in 2021 could not possibly take place fairly due to the wide ranging amounts of time Year 10 and 12 students had lost from the classroom and they called for internal assessments with external moderation. It took until early January 2021 for the Secretary of State to announce to Parliament that internal assessments would replace externally assessed exams but still without any details allowing teachers, students and parents to effectively plan for them.

This Council calls for:

- Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education to resign or for the Prime Minister to replace him immediately.
- The Secretary of State for Education to commit to and carry out the following, in consultation with Parliament, and education workers' unions:
 - Schools and Further Education Colleges be provided with the parameters applicable to the internal GCSE and A-Level assessments students will sit in summer 2021 and ensure they will be subject to external moderation. These requirements should not require increased workload levels for education workers beyond marking, grading and the submission of papers.
 - Share all the information the DfE has from Public Health England and/or SAGE or the Children's Task and Finish Group, about their

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estimates of the effects of its new criteria for school attendance on the R rate and infections in school.

- The temporary extension of Free School Meals (FSM) to No Recourse to Public Funds residents and low-income migrants during the pandemic should be made permanent.
- To ensure that Government guidance on FSM packed lunches requires providers to ensure they include enough good quality nutritious food that meets the daily calorific requirements for a growing child of the relevant age group.
- Eradicate holiday hunger by permanently committing to FSM provision of at least £15 per child per week to ensure nutritional standards during all school holidays.
- Provide free household internet access for children and young people in households on Universal Credit.
- Establish a new, dedicated technology budget for all schools to combat the digital divide.

This Council calls on:

The Leader of Trafford Council to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Prime Minister asking him to respond as a matter of urgency to all of the above points.

The meeting commenced at 7.09 p.m. and finished at 9.24 p.m.