

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

24 MARCH 2021

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Laurence Walsh), in the Chair.

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

In attendance

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.H. Churchill, P. Lally, B. Shaw and E.W. Stennett.

55. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17 February 2021, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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56. 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, namely Councillors Sean Anstee, Mrs. Claire Churchill, Mrs. Denise Haddad, Shirley Procter, Brian Rigby, Brian Shaw and Whit Stennett.

The Leader of the Council thanked them all for their dedicated work on behalf of the Council and their constituents and indicated that Councillor Shirley Procter would be standing down the next day due to personal reasons. Of those retiring, Councillor Rigby had been a great servant of the Borough for 27 years, particularly for education having been awarded an MBE for services in that field; Councillor Stennett was a past Mayor, had given 28 years' service to the Council and the Clifford ward and the Leader considered him an Old Trafford legend recognised with the MBE for services to the West Indian community of Greater Manchester and beyond; and Councillor Anstee was a former Leader of the Council, a recipient of the CBE and Councillor Andrew Western, despite their political differences, recognised him to be always open and honest. The Leader appreciated that Councillor Anstee's actions were for the good of the Borough and wished him well in his new role as Chair of Trafford Housing Trust.

The Leader's words were echoed by Councillor Evans on behalf of the Conservative Group who paid his own tribute, particularly to Councillor Anstee who at the time became the youngest Council Leader aged 26, Councillor Rigby for his support to Trafford schools and Councillor Stennett, Mayor in 2003/4 and superb advocate for his ward. The Council joined in placing on record it's thanks to all those retiring and wished them every happiness and success for the future.

(b) Covid – One Year-on from Lockdown

Following the previous day's national day of reflection marking the anniversary of the first Covid lockdown, the Council paused for a minute's silence to reflect upon the events of the last 12 months and remember all those who had very sadly died during the pandemic, 512 of which had been in Trafford.

57. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 10 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

(a) Councillor D. Western had given notice of a question and asked:

"Please could the Leader of the Council advise what steps the Council are taking to support and engage with women to improve their safety following the murder of Sarah Everard and the series of shocking sexual assaults seen here in Trafford in recent weeks, including several in my own ward of Broadheath, and furthermore does the Leader consider it appropriate given

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these issues to continue with proposals to dim street lights overnight across the Borough?”

Councillor A. Western, the Leader of the Council responded to the question indicated that the proposals had been included as part of the budget setting process, however, following representations from several Members, particularly, the three Broadheath Ward Councillors, the Council had been able to offset the saving it would have produced in a concurrent manner, which enabled him to confirm that there would be no cut to street lighting that year or in the future. Responding to the important issue of the personal safety of women, the Leader reported that he had asked Councillor Slater, the Executive Member with responsibility for equalities to lead a series of workshops open to all women after the elections and over a period of six months to allow for as much engagement and to look at the interventions the Council and working partners, including the police, could take. Councillor A. Western was confident that by prioritising based on the feedback received, positive steps and proactive interventions could be taken to improve women's safety moving forward.

Councillor D. Western did not have a supplementary question but asked to be joined in thanking the police for resolving the recent issues in Trafford and for the successful arrest of the person responsible. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor wholeheartedly agreed and thanked the police for their work on this serious matter.

(b) Councillor Hartley had given notice of a question and asked:

“Some residents will have read alarming posts and information that there might not be sufficient school places in Sale. Would the Lead Member for Education like to comment on this?”

Councillor Carter, Lead Member for Education was grateful for the question and the opportunity to address the misinformation. The matter had been discussed at the Children and Young People's Scrutiny on 16 March 2021 at which an officer clearly stated that this was not the case and that there were enough school places in Sale. Councillor Carter recommended that all Members that had an interest read the School Place Planning for New Developments paper which was available on the Council's website which explained how new school places were calculated and allocated.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Hartley asked whether the Council's expansion plans for schools have taken account of new developments in the Sale area, like the development at Trafford Magistrates Court and would there be sufficient capacity as a result.

Councillor Carter explained that over the last 10 years 29 schools had been expanded creating an additional 3,681 new places throughout the borough and it was important to create the right balance between sufficient places and over provision. When calculating for how many places were necessary the Council's team had been accurate to 0.1% for primary children and 0.9% for secondary. Appreciating that not everyone will always be allocated the school of choice and

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that good conclusions had been reached with those families where there were such anomalies, the Council had to recognise that Trafford's secondary provision was extremely popular and more Trafford applications meant less places for out of borough pupils as Trafford children were prioritised. Responding specifically to the question of Sale, the Lead Member outlined current provision and the levels of surplus places, the impact of the 32 developments planned and the expansion plans for schools in the area and considered that there had been good estimation of the number of places needed.

(c) Councillor Jerrome had given notice of a question and asked:

“The A56 from Sylvan Grove, Altrincham, down to Navigation Road has a number of potholes or defects. These cause vibrations, noise and tremors to houses that bring great aggravation to residents on a 24 hour basis. Would it not be possible for Trafford to prioritise these problems and spare affected householders considerable pain across 365 days a year?”

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 Jerrome asked as a supplementary question whether the Executive Member could explain to those residents that repeatedly appeal for a 20 mph speed limit to slow speeding vehicles hitting the defects on this dangerous and winding stretch of road, why it was not possible. In his experience, Councillor Adshead believed that highway issues could always be resolved and that a site visit with officers and residents might be required should there be concerns after action has been taken. Highway officers were always happy to try and support residents with such problems.

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

“The government recently announced a doubling of the Safer Streets fund to £45 million in order to provide better lighting and the greater use of CCTV in parks. Can the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services state if the council has received details of its allocation of its share of that funding?”

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.

Understanding that the other Greater Manchester authorities would not be reducing their street lighting, Councillor Butt asked as a supplementary question whether the Community Safety team, in their conversations with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, could emphasise that, despite having lower crime rates than other districts, Trafford would have more poorly lit streets and therefore, should be looked upon more favourably for the funding. In response,

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Councillor Adshead referred Councillor Butt to the Leader of the Council's confirmation in respect of the question asked by Councillor D. Western, that the Council would not be dimming street lighting, on an ongoing basis (Minute No. 57 (a) refers).

(e) Councillor Mrs. Haddad had given notice of the following question:

“First may I offer, on behalf of the full Council, my deepest sympathies to Sarah Everard’s family as they mourn her tragic death. As the Council are aware there are current campaigns, with wide support, to make our streets safer for women. In view of this, will the Council reverse its recent budget decision to dim Trafford lights to save money?”

In addition, will the Council please inform me when the new WIFI operating system for CCTV Security cameras is expected to be installed and become operational? I ask this because my residents feel let down by recent failures in the CCTV system. This has given thieves the upper hand and hindered the police’s ability to investigate crime. The new operating system is also necessary for the expansion of the CCTV system?”

Councillor Mrs. Haddad acknowledged that the Leader of the Council's response to Question 1 (Minute 57 (a) above) answered the first part of her question and was also grateful for the written response of Councillor Freeman, Executive Member for Covid-19 Response and Recovery, in respect of the second part of her question, which had been circulated to Members and published on the Council's website in advance of the meeting. Content with both replies, Councillor Mrs. Haddad confirmed that she did not wish to raise a supplementary question.

(f) Councillor Welton had given notice of a question and asked:

“Residents in Altrincham tell us that the year round use of loud and polluting petrol-driven leaf blowers by commercial grounds maintenance companies is blighting their quiet enjoyment of their homes and gardens. Leaf blowers are also catastrophic for our populations of insects and small mammals, and the dust and pollen they produce add to the discomfort of allergy and asthma sufferers. Is it time to regulate their use in Trafford?”

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 would consider holding a consultation about the creation of a voluntary code of conduct on leaf blower use in Trafford. In response, Councillor Adshead believed that without legislation or regulation on their use, the best course of action would be to raise matters of noise pollution and any other associated issues of concern in his ward with the Council's pollution control officers.

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- (g) Councillor Evans had given notice of 2 questions and asked as the first:

“Residents are being told that expected service levels for some services cannot be met because of an ongoing ‘Ransomware’ incident. They have also been told that certain documentation and drawings can no longer be accessed because of the same issue. Given that the ‘Ransomware’ incident was reported in the press some 3 months ago can the council tell us when they expect service levels to return to normal?”

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 Evans asked as a supplementary question that once the Council’s partner had recovered would the Council’s audit team conduct an audit on the robustness of their procedures and whether since the attack the Council’s other partners been audited and also wondered, given that the Council was vulnerable through the actions of its associates, whether audit checks should form part of the performance monitoring process the Council expected of its partner organisations. In response, Councillor Adshead indicated that he would willing to investigate the concerns around process between the Council and its partners and invited Councillor Evans to forward to him the detailed points of his supplementary question so that a full written response could be provided.

- (h) Councillor Brophy had given notice of a question and asked:

“A study by the Research Institute for Disabled Commuters in 2019 concluded that little effort had been made to make existing electric charging points as accessible as possible for disabled users. The report highlighted practical steps that can be taken including the dropping of curbs, user experience testing with disabled motorists as well as improvements to design and location choices for charging sites. The report also rightly highlights local authorities as a vital stakeholder in driving change.

So can the Executive Member tell me what this Council is doing to ensure that electric vehicle charging points are made accessible for all?”

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 could the Executive Member detail what contributions the Council had received from the Government’s On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme. Whilst Councillor Adshead did not have the information to hand he understood that the information was included in the last report to the Executive concerning electric vehicle charging. Councillor Adshead invited Councillor Brophy to email him and he would endeavour to provide the information requested.

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(g) Councillor Evans had given notice of a question and asked:

“Yesterday Trafford committed to support The GM Mayor to franchise the buses within Greater Manchester the immediate cost to our council is £1.5 million. Given the current budgetary pressures could the Executive Member for Finance explain where this £1.5 million will be found?”

Councillor Ross, the Executive Member for Finance and Governance advised that in 2019/20 the Council received a windfall from the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority of £2.7 million which was moved to Reserves and £1.5 million of that was earmarked to support the Council’s share of the costs of bus reform.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Evans sought clarification that the £1.5 million had not been spent on Covid support and whether the Council had a guarantee from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority that Trafford would not be called upon for any further contributions towards the potential ongoing costs, which could range from between zero to £292 million. Councillor Ross confirmed that a review of the reserves was undertaken and as the Council was projected to add to the reserves by the end of the current financial year it had been possible to retain the ring-fenced money that was to go towards the bus reform, an initiative willingly supported by the controlling administration.

(h) Councillor Miss Blackburn had given notice of a question and asked:

“Residents on Lostock Road, Davyhulme have been awaiting a response from the Council since the bollards were installed late last year. Can the Executive Member clarify what the legal status is regarding the whole northern side of the highway of Lostock Road and when can residents expect an answer?”

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 Miss Blackburn asked whether the Executive Member was willing to visit and listen to the concerns of residents on the south side of Lostock Road, Davyhulme, as there were still serious safety issues with reports of near misses and one actual accident whilst a resident was exiting their home due to the installation of bollards along the cycle track, could he also comment on why residents had not received responses to emails which had caused dissatisfaction and mistrust following the 2020 consultation and would he like to rebut claims that the Council ignored residents wishes. Councillor Adshead confirmed that he had already met with residents on a number of occasions and was happy to meet with them further and assured Councillor Miss Blackburn that a formal response was being prepared to residents emails and would be issued in the near future. As previously communicated, it was still the case that residents were invited to contact the Council if they still had concerns.

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58. EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report proposing an extension to a number of temporary changes to the Constitution which had been agreed by Council on 18 March 2020 and were intended to be only used when strictly necessary and were to be in place for as long as was required for the Council to respond to the Coronavirus situation.

RESOLVED: That the Council approves an extension of the emergency provisions to the Council's Constitution previously approved on 18 March 2020 on the basis that, unless the provisions are subsequently renewed or cancelled, they will become inoperable and shall cease to have effect three months from the date of this decision on 24 June 2021.

59. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/22

The Corporate Director of Strategy and Resources submitted a report providing the Council with information relating to Trafford's Pay Policy for 2021/22 in line with the requirements for the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the 2021/22 Pay Policy statement, as recommended by Employment Committee on 1 March 2021 and set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved.

60. CIVIC QUARTER AREA ACTION PLAN - SUBMISSION AND EXAMINATION STAGE

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration and the Corporate Director of Place submitted a joint report seeking authorisation from the Council to delegate its authority for a number of actions associated with the continued production of the Civic Quarter Area Action Plan up to and including the Examination process.

The Executive Member indicated that he would provide a written response to Councillor Jerrome with regard to suggested higher minimum energy efficiency targets (currently 5% above 2013 Building Regulations) on the Council's own developments and whether that would be seen in plans going forward over the next few years.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That delegated authority be given to the Planning and Development Management Committee to approve and to formally submit the CQ AAP (together with associated submission documents) to the Secretary of State pursuant to Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

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- (2) That delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director of Place for any additional work required ahead of and during the Examination process (including the completion of a Service Level Agreement).
- (3) That delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning and Development Management Committee, for minor wording changes to be agreed as necessary at the Examination.

61. DEPOSIT OF STATEMENTS UNDER SECTION 15A COMMONS ACT 2006: STATEMENT REGISTRATION FEE

The Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy submitted a report seeking approval of fees in respect of applications made by landowners to deposit and register statements with the Council, acting as the Commons Registration Authority for Trafford, to prevent the creation of Town and Village Greens.

RESOLVED: That the Council:

- (i) Notes the statutory process for depositing and registering a landowner statement as set out in the report;
- (ii) approves the proposed Statement Registration Fee for depositing a statement under section 15A Commons Act 2006 at £366.
- (iii) delegates authority to the Corporate Director for Governance and Community Strategy to periodically review and make minor adjustments to the Statement Registration Fee as appropriate.

62. DRAFT TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 2021/22

The Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy submitted a report recommending adoption of a provisional timetable of Council and Committee meetings for the 2021/22 municipal year.

RESOLVED: That the provisional timetable of Council and Committee meetings for the 2021/22 municipal year, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and recommended to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 26 May 2021.

63. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - COMMUNITY THANK YOU

It was moved and seconded that:

“During the last 12 months we have seen an incredible community response to the pandemic across all localities in Trafford. In response this Council puts on record it’s thanks to all those involved in this effort and recognises that this would not have been possible without a commitment to partnership working and the dedication and hard work of council staff.

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That this Council:

- Celebrates the contributions made by keyworkers, volunteers and the entire Trafford community in responding to the needs of residents during an incredibly difficult period.
- Recognises the vital role the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector has played in support vulnerable residents, including the six hubs and all those organisations who have worked closely with them.
- Acknowledges the importance of partnership working and the importance of the Trafford Partnership in harnessing the contributions of organisations across the public, VCFSE and private sectors in the borough.
- Understands that the pandemic is ongoing and that professionals, volunteers and residents across the borough continue to support each other.
- Reasserts its commitment to working with partners to achieve the best outcomes for the community and residents, and in responding to the consequences of the pandemic that we know will be felt for years to come.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that the following be added:

“This Council resolves to:

- Thank Trafford residents and communities by making it easier to close roads for activities such as street parties, Playing Out and other communal events.
- Instruct Council to report to Executive by June 2021 on the feasibility of making street closures free, cheaper or in some way subsidised over the coming year
- Include within the report what can be afforded within the Council’s current financial constraints, when such events can be safely held in relation to the pandemic and plans for how this could be administered.
- Report back to June’s Executive on the Trafford Council 2019 Play Streets pilot scheme with a view to expanding this to wards in the south of the borough including Altrincham.”

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and declared lost. The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That during the last 12 months we have seen an incredible community response to the pandemic across all localities in Trafford. In response this Council puts on record it’s thanks to all those involved in this effort and recognises that this would not have been possible without a commitment to partnership working and the dedication and hard work of council staff.

That this Council:

- Celebrates the contributions made by keyworkers, volunteers and the entire Trafford community in responding to the needs of residents during an incredibly difficult period.

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- Recognises the vital role the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector has played in support vulnerable residents, including the six hubs and all those organisations who have worked closely with them.
- Acknowledges the importance of partnership working and the importance of the Trafford Partnership in harnessing the contributions of organisations across the public, VCFSE and private sectors in the borough.
- Understands that the pandemic is ongoing and that professionals, volunteers and residents across the borough continue to support each other.
- Reasserts its commitment to working with partners to achieve the best outcomes for the community and residents, and in responding to the consequences of the pandemic that we know will be felt for years to come.

64. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

It was moved and seconded that:

“This Council believes:

- Levels of income, housing, education, health and environmental inequality now reached in the UK have not been seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. These inequalities are further exacerbated across regions, classes; genders; races; ages; and for those with and without disabilities. The growth in UK inequalities are well documented and the steps needed to address them are clearly laid out in: the Marmot Review: 10 Years On (2020); The IPPR’s Economic Justice Commission (2028); and the IFS’s ongoing Deaton Review of Inequalities. Trafford specific inequalities and the Council’s approach to tackling them are set out in the Trafford Poverty Strategy for 2020/21.
- Local Government services have suffered disproportionately in their ability to mitigate the impact of this inequality crisis, primarily as a result of the Conservative Government’s austerity measures over the last 11 years. This has further weakened individuals, families, neighbourhoods and communities to collectively withstand the worsening economic climate in the UK and, most recently, the impact of the pandemic.

This Council calls for:

- A national, cross-party commitment to implementing the steps required to ensure the inequality crisis is tackled with real impact. This commitment needs to reflect the levels of public and political support that was given to the 1943 Beveridge Report that led to the creation of the modern welfare state which has been so drastically undermined over the last 40 years, contributing to the current crisis of inequality. In particular, this cross-party approach must include a commitment to

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using the Marmot Review's recommendations as a basic framework for identifying the key actions required to tackle the serious structural inequalities that now exist in the UK. Greater Manchester has already made this commitment, becoming the country's first Marmot City Region in 2020, but the Government must invest in the following areas to ensure the whole nation follows Manchester's example. These actions include but are not limited to:

- Giving every child the best start in life:

by increasing central government levels of spending on: early years and, as a minimum, meet the OECD average and ensuring funding is proportionately higher for more deprived areas; reducing levels of child poverty to 10 percent – level with the lowest rates in Europe; improving the availability and quality of early years services, Children's Centres, in all regions of England; and increasing the pay and qualification requirements for the childcare workforce.

- Enabling all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives:

put equity at the heart of national decisions about education policy and funding; increase attainment to match the best in Europe by reducing inequalities in attainment; invest in preventative services to reduce exclusions and support schools to stop off rolling pupils; restore the per-pupil funding for secondary schools and especially sixth form, at least in line with 2010 levels and up to the level of London (excluding London weighting).

- Creating fair employment and good work for all:

by developing an industrial strategy that focuses on diversifying our manufacturing base and addressing regional imbalances through a National Investment Bank directing state support for industry, particularly the digital and green economies; reforming the skills systems in the UK to meet the needs of the economy; reforming the UK's immigration system to promote human dignity, prosperity and justice, rather than using reductions in net migration as the definition of success; investing in good quality active labour market policies and reducing conditionalities and sanctions in benefit entitlement, particularly for those with children; reduce in-work poverty by increasing the National Living Wage, achieving a minimum income for healthy living for those in work; a target of doubling collective bargaining coverage to 50 per cent of workers by 2030, with a focus on the lowest paid sectors; a new 'right to access' that would give unions stronger rights of physical access to workplaces, combined with a 'digital right of access' to reach remote workers and a new 'right to join' for workers.

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- Ensuring a healthy standard of living for all:

by ensuring everyone has a minimum income for healthy living through increases to the National Living Wage and redesign of Universal Credit; removing sanctions and reducing conditionalities in welfare payments; putting health equity and wellbeing at the heart of local, regional and national economic planning and strategy; adopting inclusive growth and social value approaches nationally and locally to value health and wellbeing as well as, or more than, economic efficiency; review the taxation and benefit system to ensure it achieves greater equity and ensure effective tax rates are not regressive.

- Creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities:

by investing in the development of economic, social and cultural resources in the most deprived communities; 100% of new housing being carbon neutral by 2028; vastly accelerated grant funding with the sole purpose of building social housing in order to solve the housing crisis; aiming for net zero carbon emissions by 2038, whilst ensuring inequalities do not widen as a result.

This Council calls on:

The Leader to write to the Prime Minister, with copies sent to the leaders of all major political parties, asking him to:

- Publicly acknowledge that social and economic inequalities have increased unsustainably in the UK in recent decades and have been exacerbated by 11 years of austerity policies and the recent effects of the pandemic. Furthermore, that it is clear that the level of inequalities are now such that they threaten the UK's political, social and economic stability and international standing as a nation of fairness and opportunity for all.
- Implement the above recommendations in order that the country's crisis of social and economic inequality be effectively tackled over the coming decade and beyond."

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

RESOLVED: That this Council believes:

- Levels of income, housing, education, health and environmental inequality now reached in the UK have not been seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. These inequalities are further exacerbated across regions, classes; genders; races; ages; and for those with and without disabilities. The growth in UK inequalities are well documented

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and the steps needed to address them are clearly laid out in: the Marmot Review: 10 Years On (2020); The IPPR's Economic Justice Commission (2028); and the IFS's ongoing Deaton Review of Inequalities. Trafford specific inequalities and the Council's approach to tackling them are set out in the Trafford Poverty Strategy for 2020/21.

- Local Government services have suffered disproportionately in their ability to mitigate the impact of this inequality crisis, primarily as a result of the Conservative Government's austerity measures over the last 11 years. This has further weakened individuals, families, neighbourhoods and communities to collectively withstand the worsening economic climate in the UK and, most recently, the impact of the pandemic.

This Council calls for:

- A national, cross-party commitment to implementing the steps required to ensure the inequality crisis is tackled with real impact. This commitment needs to reflect the levels of public and political support that was given to the 1943 Beveridge Report that led to the creation of the modern welfare state which has been so drastically undermined over the last 40 years, contributing to the current crisis of inequality. In particular, this cross-party approach must include a commitment to using the Marmot Review's recommendations as a basic framework for identifying the key actions required to tackle the serious structural inequalities that now exist in the UK. Greater Manchester has already made this commitment, becoming the country's first Marmot City Region in 2020, but the Government must invest in the following areas to ensure the whole nation follows Manchester's example. These actions include but are not limited to:

- Giving every child the best start in life:

by increasing central government levels of spending on: early years and, as a minimum, meet the OECD average and ensuring funding is proportionately higher for more deprived areas; reducing levels of child poverty to 10 percent – level with the lowest rates in Europe; improving the availability and quality of early years services, Children's Centres, in all regions of England; and increasing the pay and qualification requirements for the childcare workforce.

- Enabling all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives:

put equity at the heart of national decisions about education policy and funding; increase attainment to match the best in Europe by reducing inequalities in attainment; invest in preventative services to reduce exclusions and support schools to stop off rolling pupils; restore the per-pupil funding for secondary schools and especially

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sixth form, at least in line with 2010 levels and up to the level of London (excluding London weighting).

- Creating fair employment and good work for all:

by developing an industrial strategy that focuses on diversifying our manufacturing base and addressing regional imbalances through a National Investment Bank directing state support for industry, particularly the digital and green economies; reforming the skills systems in the UK to meet the needs of the economy; reforming the UK's immigration system to promote human dignity, prosperity and justice, rather than using reductions in net migration as the definition of success; investing in good quality active labour market policies and reducing conditionalities and sanctions in benefit entitlement, particularly for those with children; reduce in-work poverty by increasing the National Living Wage, achieving a minimum income for healthy living for those in work; a target of doubling collective bargaining coverage to 50 per cent of workers by 2030, with a focus on the lowest paid sectors; a new 'right to access' that would give unions stronger rights of physical access to workplaces, combined with a 'digital right of access' to reach remote workers and a new 'right to join' for workers.

- Ensuring a healthy standard of living for all:

by ensuring everyone has a minimum income for healthy living through increases to the National Living Wage and redesign of Universal Credit; removing sanctions and reducing conditionalities in welfare payments; putting health equity and wellbeing at the heart of local, regional and national economic planning and strategy; adopting inclusive growth and social value approaches nationally and locally to value health and wellbeing as well as, or more than, economic efficiency; review the taxation and benefit system to ensure it achieves greater equity and ensure effective tax rates are not regressive.

- Creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities:

by investing in the development of economic, social and cultural resources in the most deprived communities; 100% of new housing being carbon neutral by 2028; vastly accelerated grant funding with the sole purpose of building social housing in order to solve the housing crisis; aiming for net zero carbon emissions by 2038, whilst ensuring inequalities do not widen as a result.

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This Council calls on:

The Leader to write to the Prime Minister, with copies sent to the leaders of all major political parties, asking him to:

- Publicly acknowledge that social and economic inequalities have increased unsustainably in the UK in recent decades and have been exacerbated by 11 years of austerity policies and the recent effects of the pandemic. Furthermore, that it is clear that the level of inequalities are now such that they threaten the UK's political, social and economic stability and international standing as a nation of fairness and opportunity for all.
- Implement the above recommendations in order that the country's crisis of social and economic inequality be effectively tackled over the coming decade and beyond.

65. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - GMB DOMESTIC ABUSE CHARTER

It was moved and seconded that:

"This Council recognises that supporting victims of domestic violence and abuse in Trafford is a key part of our work. We further recognise that as a significant local employer the Council must set a positive example in this regard, and ensure robust support for council staff impacted by domestic violence and abuse.

Council therefore resolves to sign up to the GMB Domestic Abuse Charter with immediate effect, as outlined below:

Work to Stop Domestic Abuse - GMB Employer Charter

As an employer who cares about the impact of domestic abuse on our employees, we pledge to:

1. Support employees who are experiencing Domestic Abuse to access support services and information confidentially.
2. Ensure that those experiencing Domestic Abuse will not be disadvantaged within the terms and conditions of their employment and will take all reasonable measures to facilitate any needs in the workplace.
3. Commit to working/participating with other organisations to facilitate best support for those experiencing Domestic Abuse.
4. Provide all employees with access to toolkits, information and our policies on domestic abuse, in a format that is easily and discretely accessible within the workplace.

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5. Ensure that we have employees trained across our organisation, to provide adequate access to support within the workplace for all employees. Staff trained should be representative of our workplace and will include line managers and Trade Union representatives.”

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

RESOLVED: That this Council recognises that supporting victims of domestic violence and abuse in Trafford is a key part of our work. We further recognise that as a significant local employer the Council must set a positive example in this regard, and ensure robust support for council staff impacted by domestic violence and abuse.

Council therefore resolves to sign up to the GMB Domestic Abuse Charter with immediate effect, as outlined below:

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3. Commit to working/participating with other organisations to facilitate best support for those experiencing Domestic Abuse.
4. Provide all employees with access to toolkits, information and our policies on domestic abuse, in a format that is easily and discretely accessible within the workplace.
5. Ensure that we have employees trained across our organisation, to provide adequate access to support within the workplace for all employees. Staff trained should be representative of our workplace and will include line managers and Trade Union representatives.

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**66. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP -
RESPONDING TO FLOODING AND SEVERE WEATHER**

It was moved and seconded that:

“Flooding and severe weather is becoming increasingly common as a result of the climate emergency. All local authorities will continue to be affected in differing ways. Severe weather can be erratic and unpredictable. Nevertheless, Trafford Council still has a responsibility to act to mitigate the damage and disruption that can be caused by severe weather and flooding.

This Council notes:

- The damage, inconvenience and disruption felt by residents across the borough, as a result of the recent flooding caused by Storm Christoph.
- The community spirit and goodwill shown by residents who helped each other protect property and check on vulnerable neighbours.
- The hard work of Council officers and staff during the storm.
- AMEY plc’s lack of capacity to respond to emergency callouts during and immediately after Storm Christoph, resulting in response times of over 24 hours and residents being unable to request a callout.

This Council calls for:

- The creation of a ‘Trafford Flooding Resilience’ programme, bringing together members and officers of this council as well as other stakeholders including but not limited to, the Environment Agency, United Utilities, the Bridgewater Canal Company, Network Rail and local residents. The aim of the programme will be to work closely with local communities in Trafford to build resilience against future floods and reduce their impact.
- The delivery of the ‘Trafford Flooding Resilience’ programme to be overseen by a cross party committee of this Council.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

Flooding and severe weather is becoming increasingly common as a result of ~~the~~ climate **change** ~~emergency~~. All local authorities will continue to be affected in differing ways. Severe weather can be erratic and unpredictable. Nevertheless, Trafford Council ~~still~~ has a responsibility to **help** ~~act~~ to mitigate the damage and disruption that can be caused by severe weather and flooding.

This Council notes:

- The damage, inconvenience and disruption felt by residents across the borough, as a result of the recent flooding caused by Storm Christoph.

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- The community spirit and goodwill shown by residents who helped each other protect property and check on vulnerable neighbours.
- **Places on record its thanks for the hard work of Council officers and our partners staff during the storm, many going beyond what could have been expected.**
- ~~— AMEY plc's lack of capacity to respond to emergency callouts during and immediately after Storm Christoph, resulting in response times of over 24 hours and residents being unable to request a callout.~~

This Council calls for:

- The creation of an **officer working group (which includes partners such as the Environment Agency, United Utilities and others) to replace the current informal arrangements (to be known as the Flood Resilience Working Group). That the new Flood Resilience Working Group report to the recently appointed 'Air Quality and Climate Change Commission', where members and other partners can have oversight of its findings and make recommendations. That its work also be presented to proposed Climate Emergency Resident's Panel to enable local communities to have an input into this work.** ~~'Trafford Flooding Resilience' programme, bringing together members and officers of this council as well as other stakeholders including but not limited to, the Environment Agency, United Utilities, the Bridgewater Canal Company, Network Rail and local residents. The aim of the programme will be to work closely with local communities in Trafford to build resilience against future floods and reduce their impact.~~
- ~~— The delivery of the 'Trafford Flooding Resilience' programme to be overseen by a cross party committee of this Council.~~

The mover and seconder of the amendment signified that they wished to withdraw the proposed change to the first sentence of the amendment in order to retain "climate emergency" and the alteration was accepted with the general consent of the Council.

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment (as altered) was put to the vote and declared carried. The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That flooding and severe weather is becoming increasingly common as a result of the climate emergency. All local authorities will continue to be affected in differing ways. Severe weather can be erratic and unpredictable. Nevertheless, Trafford Council has a responsibility to help to mitigate the damage and disruption that can be caused by severe weather and flooding.

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This Council notes:

- The damage, inconvenience and disruption felt by residents across the borough, as a result of the recent flooding caused by Storm Christoph.
- The community spirit and goodwill shown by residents who helped each other protect property and check on vulnerable neighbours.
- Places on record its thanks for the hard work of Council officers and our partners during the storm, many going beyond what could have been expected.

This Council calls for:

- The creation of an officer working group (which includes partners such as the Environment Agency, United Utilities and others) to replace the current informal arrangements (to be known as the Flood Resilience Working Group). That the new Flood Resilience Working Group report to the recently appointed 'Air Quality and Climate Change Commission', where members and other partners can have oversight of its findings and make recommendations. That its work also be presented to proposed Climate Emergency Resident's Panel to enable local communities to have an input into this work.

The meeting commenced at 7.02 p.m. and finished at 9.21 p.m.