



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Monday, 30 November 2020

Trafford Town Hall
Talbot Road
Stretford
M32 0TH

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Trafford on **TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2020**, at **7.00 PM** in the **VIRTUAL MEETING**, for the transaction of the business set out below.

Please Note: Members of the public may view the meeting via the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjwbIOW5x0NSe38sgFU8bKg>

Pages

1. **Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader of the Council, Members of the Executive, Chairs of Scrutiny Committees and the Head of Paid Service.

2. **Questions By Members**

This is an opportunity for Members of Council to ask the Mayor, Members of the Executive or the Chairs of any Committee or Sub-Committee a question on notice under Procedure Rule 10.2.

3. **Petition - Secondary Schools Admissions 2021**

To consider the following petition requiring debate:

“We the undersigned (547 signatories) petition the Council to allow parents to amend the order of secondary schools preferences for admission September 2021 once the results of the selection exams are known.

The delay of the secondary school selection exams due to government guidelines during the current covid crisis means that parents are having to make secondary school preference choices without knowing the outcome of these exams.

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Other authorities such as Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Enfield and Barnet are all allowing changes to application forms once selective results have been published. Parents in Trafford should be afforded the same opportunity. At the moment parents are expected to choose schools without being fully informed.”

Note: In accordance with the Council’s Petition Scheme, a petition containing more than 500 signatures will be debated by the Council. The petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition and then it will be discussed by the Council for a maximum of 15 minutes.

4. Asset Investment Strategy

To consider a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Governance, following recommendation from the Executive meeting held on 12 October 2020.

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5. Revenue Budget 2020/21 - Public Health Budget

Further to a recommendation set out in the Period 6 (April to September 2020) Budget Monitoring 2020/21 report to the Executive on 23 November 2020, the Council is requested to approve an increase to the net Revenue Budget of £261,000 to £175,520,000, as a result of a minor late change in the financial settlement relating to resources to support the Public Health budget.

The Council is required to formally approve any change to the Revenue Budget.

6. Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme for 2021/22

To consider a joint report of the Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Corporate Directors of Place and Finance and Systems, following recommendation from the Executive meeting held on 26 October 2020.

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7. Licensing Act 2003 - Statement of Licensing Policy - 2021 - 2026

To consider a report of the Executive Member formerly for Public Safety, Governance and Reform, following recommendation from the Executive meeting held on 26 October 2020.

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8. Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF)

To consider a report of the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration, further to the recommendation of the Executive meeting held on 2 November 2020.

To Follow

9. Motions

To consider the following motions submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 11:

(a) Motion Submitted by the Conservative Group - Proposed Changes to All Age Transport Policy

This Council is deeply concerned by detrimental changes outlined in the All Age Travel Policy consultation brought forward by the Labour administration. The Council is opposed to these proposals and resolves to take them no further.

(b) Motion Submitted by the Labour Group - Union Learning Fund

This Council notes:

1. On Tuesday 6 October, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) received a letter from the Department for Education saying that ministers have decided to end the Union Learning Fund from March 2021.
2. The Union Learning Fund (ULF) was set up in 1998 to support trade unions to widen access to learning and training in workplaces for both union members and non-members. The fund supports workplace projects across England, and is coordinated by the TUC.
3. Each year around 200,000 workers are supported into learning or training with union support through the ULF and the TUC. These learners undertake all sorts of job-relevant learning and training, including basic literacy and numeracy, ICT skills, apprenticeships and traineeships, vocational training, continuing professional development and many other informal and formal courses.
4. In 2019–20, the ULF was worth £12 million. If upheld this decision will effectively end union-brokered skills training, and will undermine key government skills and retraining priorities at a crucial moment for our economy.

This Council understands that:

1. Union learning reaches people that other Department for Education programmes do not reach.
2. There is an independent evaluation of the Union Learning Fund every two years. It was most recently evaluated by the University of Exeter in 2018. They spoke to 2,459 learners, and found:

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- Over two-thirds (68 per cent) of learners with no previous qualifications got a qualification.
 - 47 per cent of those with entry level or level 1 qualifications got a qualification at a higher level.
 - Four in five (80 per cent) said they had developed skills that they could transfer to a new job.
 - Two in three (62 per cent) said their new skills made them more effective in their current job.
 - One in five (19 per cent) said they had been promoted or given increased responsibility and one in 10 (11 per cent) got a pay rise.
3. The 2018 independent evaluation found that union learning provided excellent value for money:
- For every £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund, there is a return of £12.30: £7.60 to the worker, £4.70 to the employer.
 - The Union Learning Fund delivers an estimated net contribution to the economy of more than £1.4bn as a result of a boost to jobs, wages and productivity.
 - The return to the exchequer (through reduced spending on welfare benefits and other factors resulting from the boost to jobs and wages) is £3.57 for each £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund.
 - The £12 million government funding levered in an additional £54 million from employers, unions and training providers in 2019–20.
4. The government has said it will put reskilling workers at the heart of its economic recovery plans after the pandemic. In September 2020, the government announced a new fully funded entitlement to achieve a first level 3 qualification, delivered through the National Skills Fund. Union learning is ideally placed to support this aspiration, in three ways:
- directly, through delivering relevant level 3 courses to workplace learners, which is already a core function of the Union Learning Fund and was assessed as highly effective by the 2018 independent evaluation.
 - directly, through enabling those with basic skills to learn and develop, putting them in a position to progress to level 3 skills.
5. Successive governments of all parties have valued this role – and have supported the Union Learning Fund. As government funding, it is paid as a contract and is subject to stringent monitoring requirements. Union Learning Fund money can only be spent on the direct costs of getting working people into learning and skills training, and the associated costs of delivering this programme.

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6. ULF projects adapted quickly to delivering online learning and training for workers during the pandemic and have actually surpassed the number of outcomes expected by government since the beginning of April.

This Council resolves to:

1. Express its public support for the continuation of the Union Learning Fund.
2. Raise this issue with our local MPs and encourage them to call on the government to reverse its decision.

(c) Motion Submitted by the Labour Group - Fair Grade For All 2021

After the fiasco of this year's A-level and GCSE results, this Council is keen to ensure fairness for students next year. On 19 August, trade union leaders wrote to Gavin Williamson outlining what steps the Government must take to ensure no student is disadvantaged, as did Kate Green MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education on 10 November. Students and teachers urgently need clarity on A-levels and GCSEs, in particular what contingency is in place if exams have to be cancelled again next year. It is imperative that the distressing experiences of 2020 A-level students are never repeated, and that this chaos justifies a wider review of how qualifications are awarded.

This Council calls on Government to:

- Reduce the content assessed in GCSE and A-level exams next summer, across all subjects, by making some topics optional to allow for the different order in which content will have been taught across the country.
- Put in place arrangements to make sure that no student misses out on the opportunity to receive their qualifications as a result of having to self-isolate during next year's exam period. This government must work with exam boards to make reserve papers available in all subjects. This would make it possible for students who miss an exam opportunity to sit it at a later date.
- Create a level playing across the country for all students sitting exams next year. The pandemic has hit and will continue to hit the regions to varying degrees. The government has hinted at flexibility to boundary grades but must go further and seriously consider a regional approach to norm-referencing performance to reflect the varying degrees of school attendance levels across the regions.
- Publish its plans now for a worst-case scenario whereby exams cannot go ahead next year due to the impact of the pandemic. A credible Plan B is required that must have the confidence of parents, teachers, school leaders and unions.

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This Council calls on the Leader of Trafford Council to:

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

(d) **Motion Submitted by the Green Party Group - Accountability and Transparency in Tackling the Climate Emergency**

This Council notes that Trafford was one of the first councils in the country to declare a climate emergency. This was as a result of a Green Party / Liberal Democrats motion two years ago in November 2018. This was passed with all-party support.

As a result of this, in September 2020 Trafford's Carbon Neutral Framework, produced by Anthesis was published. The Council's draft response was published at the same time.

The report from Anthesis states that:

- We have only 7 years left at our current rate of polluting, to have used up Trafford's entire carbon budget, as derived from the Paris Agreement.
- We need to make massive cuts of 13.4% per year to our emissions to keep within our science-based budget.
- "The decisive window for action is small, and rapidly closing ... The Council must adopt a more proactive approach to this agenda and view the response to this agenda as a higher priority than previously." (p.22)

Despite this stark situation:

- There is no mechanism for considering our emissions in the decision-making process. So all our decisions are made without knowing the effects on our emissions.
- The Council's Covid recovery plan mentions the climate only once in passing.
- The draft action plan in response to the Anthesis report doesn't address the large amount of emissions created outside of Trafford, but caused by Trafford, e.g. in food production.
- Very few staff have had carbon literacy training.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

1. To provide quarterly and annual reporting on how much the Council has reduced its emissions. Trafford's carbon budget is finite and the Council must treat it as carefully as it does its financial budget. (This can be done using proxy values such as energy used and miles travelled by various modes of transport.)

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2. To provide an overview of the climate impact at the start of every decision-making report. Every decision needs to be made knowing the climate implications. There will need to be extremely strong reasons for not taking the most effective decision each time. The green decisions are the ones that improve quality of life, support local businesses and help keep our residents healthier anyway, so this should be a win-win.
3. To develop a chain of responsibility for our carbon budget, like the Council has with its financial budget. This would mean breaking down our annual carbon budget and ensuring that the different components all have a responsible officer.
4. That the final response to the Anthesis report, in December 2020 will include ambitious timescales with real dates, starting with the quick wins.
5. To make a plan that predicts the obstacles that might occur and looks ahead for solutions. Nothing can be allowed to derail this work.
6. To work on reducing Trafford's indirect emissions as well as direct emissions. Because most of the 'stuff' we use in Trafford is produced far away and shipped to us, we have responsibility for the emissions used in manufacturing and transporting these goods. This includes food. These emissions are harder to measure but the Council and partners can change its own behaviour and support residents, businesses and partners to do the same.
7. To quickly develop an effective communications strategy to convey the importance of this work to residents, partners and businesses.
8. To embed tackling the climate emergency and staying within our carbon budget as an additional key objective in the Covid recovery plan. This will mean that the Council's responses to the two major crises we are facing are working together and not pulling in opposite direction.
9. To urgently roll out carbon literacy training across a wide section of officers and Councillors.

Yours sincerely,



SARA TODD
Chief Executive

Membership of the Council

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

Further Information

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

Ian Cockill, Governance Officer
Tel: 0161 912 1387
Email: ian.cockill@trafford.gov.uk

This Summons was issued on **Monday, 30 November 2020** by the Governance Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford M32 0TH.

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