

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (VIRTUAL MEETING)

8 DECEMBER 2020

PRESENT

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

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

In attendance

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Akinola and J. Dillon.

28. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours

The Mayor took the opportunity to recognise those citizens and persons connected with Trafford who had been named in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours List earlier in the year, namely:

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Mrs. Amanda Jane Melton of Hale, awarded the citation of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Education;

Ms. Charlotte Helen Ramsden of Urmston, awarded the citation of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to children in Greater Manchester; and

Mr. Marcus Rashford of Bowdon, awarded the citation of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to vulnerable children in the UK during Covid-19.

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

(b) Coronavirus Local Restrictions Tier System

The Leader of the Council updated the Council of proposals at a Greater Manchester regional level to put forward a submission to the Government at the review point on 16 December 2020 that the region be reduced from Tier 3 to Tier 2, based on all the health indicators and the coronavirus infection rate being significantly below the England average per 100,000 of the population.

(c) Pandemic Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Acton, the Chair of the Pandemic Scrutiny Committee wished to place on record his thanks to all the members and officers of the Committee for their commitment and work over the past eight months during a particular difficult period and believed it was appropriate to recommence with the traditional Scrutiny Committees in the New Year. Councillor Acton also thanked Members of the Executive, officers and other organisations that had contributed, provided information and researched the issues raised. He reflected on a very meaningful period for scrutiny, one where it was necessary to hold Members and officers to account and whilst there was still a way to go with the pandemic, the Chair was optimistic that there were signs of an improvement.

29. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 11 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2 and that one had subsequently been withdrawn.

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

"This Council faces challenging budget constraints and difficult decisions for the administration are likely to be required. Part of the response to this challenge should be an increased focus in increasing the council tax base through building new homes.

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Please could the Executive Member outline what steps he is taking to ensure the planning and development service can adopt a greater focus on adopting a pro-growth approach to securing development, especially in existing urban areas?"

Replying to the question Councillor Wright, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration relayed the response which had been circulated to Members and published on the Council's website in advance of the meeting.

Remarking that there were brownfield developments struggling with the subjective elements of the planning process, viability, density and design and given the comment about Covid and the need to continue to attract investment in the borough, Councillor Anstee asked as a supplementary question could Councillor Wright commit to meet with him to run through those applications and to ensure that the Council's future plans align with the pro-growth aspirations outlined in the Executive Member's response. Councillor Wright indicated that he was happy to arrange a meeting with Councillor Anstee at a suitable time going forward.

(b) Question from Councillor Carey

It was noted that Councillor Carey had withdrawn the first of two questions for which he had given notice.

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

"Can the Executive Member confirm what funding was allocated to the Council in Tranche 1 of the EATF and any other funding the Council has received for roll out of schemes? Will he also provide a breakdown of all expenditure incurred to date on schemes?"

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

Given that Tranche 2 funding was imminent, Councillor Anstee asked as a supplementary question whether Councillor Adshead would provide a commitment that evening that there will be a clear plan from the Council on how it intends to implement a scheme on Oxford Road in the Bowdon ward. Councillor Adshead indicated that the Council had yet to finalise the whole Tranche 2 programme due to the delay, however, the implementation date of March 2021 remained and as soon as he had the funding confirmation he would ensure that updated information was provided to all Members.

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- (d) Councillor Miss Blackburn asked the following question for which she had given notice:

“Would the Executive Member comment on the usage of pavement frontage seating areas by Bars converted from retail establishments. With regard to health and wellbeing, due to the narrow pavements, are the licensees creating an effective barrier between the smokers and passing pedestrians?”

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

Councillor Miss Blackburn referred to the legislation which did not mention barriers between licensed premises and pedestrians only that there should be a distance of 2 metres between smokers and non-smokers without specifying pedestrians passing and asked as a supplementary question for the Executive’s views and whether there were any local conditions requiring a physical barrier.

Councillor Adshead advised that where temporary provision was introduced on public open space as a Covid recovery measure, smoking was not permitted as it was public land and would, therefore, be a contravention of the premises licence. Those establishments wishing to provide a smoking area would have to do so on their own land which by definition would be separate.

- (e) Councillor Chilton asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Can the Lead Member for Education advise when her department plans to consult with the public and ward members about the increase to three form entry at Firs Primary School in Ashton-on-Mersey? This will have a significant impact on the footprint and local infrastructure, which is congested already?”

Councillor Carter, Lead Member for Education reported that the Education and Early Years Basic Needs Capital Report was scheduled for the Executive meeting in January 2021 and includes the proposal for Firs Primary School to meet the needs of children in the catchment area and additional demand from new housing developments in Sale West. The proposal built upon the emergency measure of having to set up a temporary classroom and if the Executive is in agreement there will then be a period of statutory consultation. With regard to footprint and local infrastructure, the proposal was to accommodate local children who would have to travel further afield if they did not get a place at Firs Primary School.

Given that the need for extra places had been known for some time, Councillor Chilton asked as a supplementary question whether the Lead Member or at least the Corporate Director of Children’s Services would agree to meet with ward Members and the Board of Governors at that school, as it had not happened, before the proposal went before the Executive. Councillor Carter agreed that she and the Corporate Director would be happy for such a meeting.

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

"A recent council press release reported the plan for 48 townhouses and 38 apartments to be built at the former Sale Magistrates Court off Ashton Road. Can the Lead Member for Education tell me which schools in the area have capacity to receive additional pupils that the development will bring?"

Councillor Carter, Lead Member for Education referred to the formula used to calculate the number of school places the borough needed and anticipated the number of new homes in the development would account for 12-14 children for the primary phase. As with all developments, the Council requested a monetary contribution from the developer linked to the pupil numbers which is used towards the cost of future school expansion projects. The development was within the Sale West school place planning area and proposals were being developed to increase the capacity in the primary sector to meet demand as the Lead Member had mentioned in her response to the previous question from Councillor Chilton (Minute 29 (e) refers).

Putting his supplementary question, Councillor Carey referred to Trafford's housing target up to 2037 and asked the Executive Member what land had been identified to build new schools across the borough to meet the extra provision which will be required. Councillor Carter referred to consideration of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework at the Executive Meeting on 2 November 2020 when discussion was had about planning for school provision more effectively. Without the necessary support of those proposals there was the School Sufficiency Committee which would examine the suitability of sites for the future.

- (g) Councillor Boyes asked the following question for which he had given notice:

"Communication with residents must be a paramount objective of any administration, never more so than in the midst of a global pandemic, the worst crisis for the UK since World War Two. Given this scenario could the Leader explain why there was so much procrastination before the decision was finally taken to deliver an advisory leaflet to every house in the Borough, with the delivery itself being made by volunteers, at times using efficient walking routes provided by opposition Councillors. Furthermore on what basis was the decision taken more recently to deliver a second leaflet via the Royal Mail, as opposed to those same volunteers, at what must have been a very significant cost to residents?"

Councillor Andrew Western, the Leader of the Council advised that in respect of the first leaflet there was careful consideration as to whether it was appropriate and safe to deliver during the first few months of the pandemic when the country was in full lockdown and given that mutual aid groups had already been established through neighbourhood schemes and that they had undertaken some leafleting activity there was significant potential off duplication. There was also a clear need to establish community hubs at very short notice along with a number of other services that had to be stood up in response to the pandemic which the Council would wish to include on any communication information to residents,

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therefore it was never going to be an immediate activity. By the time it was considered safe to engage local volunteers the leaflet went out, at which time delivery services provided by the Royal Mail could not be guaranteed and the Leader of the Council was very grateful for the volunteers who supported that delivery, including those from the opposition political parties.

The second leaflet delivery was during the midst of the second significant wave of coronavirus and the national debate on a second lockdown. With the inevitability of a further lockdown and having the community hubs and other services set up, the Council was able to prepare and produce that leaflet quickly and efficiently and arrange its timely delivery.

Suggesting that the one place to which all online residents could receive regular information from the Leader of the Council was via a blog available to those that subscribe, Councillor Boyes asked as a supplementary question whether Members could have an assurance going forward that updates would be made much more frequent than had been during the current crisis when there was almost a five-month gap between postings.

In response, Councillor Andrew Western indicated that he was happy to determine as and when he posted a blog and was confident that Councillor Boyes was more than aware that it was not the only channel that the Council used to communicate with residents, however, it was a much more frequent blog than residents had under the previous administration.

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

"Can the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services provide an update on current consultation on the Modal filters at the Longford Park area of Stretford?"

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

Remarking that a petition against the measures had received more signatures than the numbers expressing desire for the traffic calming scheme through the first consultation, Councillor Butt asked as a supplementary question for the Executive Member to resolve the issue there and then, to save time and tax-payers money by removing the barriers. Councillor Adshead reported that the consultation for the scheme had received a particularly high number of positive responses keen for some sort of measures to be taken. The Council was currently re-consulting, therefore, could not decide anything until the consultation had closed and welcomed comments on all perspectives. The Executive Member assured the Council that the views from local residents would be paramount in determining the matter.

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- (i) Councillor Morgan asked the following question, the first of two questions for which he had given notice:

"Following the rejection of the much un-loved Greater Manchester Spatial Framework by Stockport Council, can the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration provide the Council with an update on progress with Trafford's Local Plan?"

Councillor Wright, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration responded to the question and advised that his response had been circulated to Members and had been published on the Council's website.

Councillor Morgan asked as a supplementary question why the Council could not have a full debate that evening on the merits and many flaws of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, as Stockport had done the previous week to which Councillor Wright advised that there was item on the agenda that evening.

- (j) Councillor Morgan asked the following question, the second of two questions for which he had given notice:

"Can the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration provide the Council with an update on the status of the Hale and Sale Moor Place Plans?"

Councillor Wright, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration responded to the question and advised that his response had been circulated to Members and had been published on the Council's website.

Councillor Morgan asked as a supplementary question whether the Executive Member could update the Council on what the total cost of the plan had been to date and the total anticipated cost of the plan through to fruition. Council Wright replied to say that he did not have the figures to hand and that he would undertake to provide the information to Councillor Morgan in writing as soon as possible.

- (k) Councillor Evans asked the following question for which he had given notice:

"As the Leader of the Council now has responsibility for Sustainability and Climate Change and The Clean Air Plan (and Air Quality Commission) in the borough, can the Member tell me how many NO2 exceedances there were in Trafford recorded at air quality monitoring sites in 2019?"

In response, the Leader of the Council confirmed that the answer was zero.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Evans asked what message the Leader of the Council would like to send to the tradespersons whose businesses' would be plunged into debt by a charge of at least £10,000 per van, per business. Responding to the supplementary question, Councillor Andrew Western wished to advise anyone who had not already fed into the consultation process which had now closed to email: cleanairgm@aecom.com to ensure that their views were known. He explained that the role he had, together with the Mayor of Greater

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Manchester was to lobby the Government responsible for implementing the scheme and responsible for directing all boroughs in Greater Manchester regardless of any exceedance numbers quoted by Councillor Evans. Those with views were encouraged to submit them to the email address, which remained open, in order that the individual borough's, including Trafford could build the most compelling case possible for the Government to provide the required funding. The Leader stated that to date only £41 million had been received from a total ask of £165 million and he considered that appalling given the impact on businesses Councillor Evans had highlighted. Asserting that there was no consistency on the matter from Greater Manchester Conservatives, the Leader of the Council suggested that Councillor Evans should take issue with his own Government, particularly as the funding to protect business and the decision to implement the scheme lay squarely with them.

30. PETITION - SECONDARY SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS 2021

Petition organiser, Claire Beall introduced the following petition containing 547 signatures, which had been presented to the Council:

“We the undersigned 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.

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.”

Addressing the Council, the lead petitioner summarised the reasons why action was called for and provided some examples of where children had been disadvantaged by not having the results of the exams when submitting their preferences.

Councillors Carter, Carey, Brophy and Coggins debated the petition on behalf of the political parties and made the following points:

Councillor Carter: The Department for Education (DfE) strongly advised that exams should have been delayed to late October and although the Council oversaw the admissions process it did not administer the tests. To ensure that children were not disadvantaged the DfE asked local authorities to allow at least one additional preference on the application form and to advise families to use those preferences for non-selective schools. To protect the interests of both schools and families, the Council decided to allow an additional three preferences, making eight preferences in total and 456 of the

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3087 Trafford applicants made use of all eight preferences. Each year the statutory deadline for all local authorities to publish a scheme to coordinate admission arrangements for schools was 31 October. The Council also received applications from other local authorities and with applications received the previous year from over 35 different authorities for Trafford schools, the Council had to co-ordinate its admissions in line with the national deadline. Acknowledging the petition's request and also that some other authorities had allowed amendment of secondary school preferences once results were known, it had not been possible to do so within Trafford's legally determined and published schemes with time critical processes having already commenced. With all the test results now known, the number of requests for a late change was eight to date and none in fact related to the circumstances cited in the petition. The Executive Member was satisfied that the guidance was clear and that virtually all parents had followed the process. Late applications for changes could be accommodated without disadvantaging another child and would always be done where possible, however, failing that there was the appeal process. In addition, waiting lists were maintained until the end of the autumn term and many schools, including the most popular do see movement with the allocations after 1 March. In conclusion, the arrangements were in co-ordination with Greater Manchester area and considered not to advantage or disadvantage any applicant over any other

Councillor Carey: Acknowledged the points made in the petition and also the response by Councillor Carter and supporting any move that would make the admission process simpler and easier to use, encouraged the Council to further engage with the petitioners in order to have an admission system that worked for them and all the young people across Trafford.

Councillor Brophy: Expressed support for the petition given the unprecedented pandemic and as a result of the unique challenges faced by families, believed the Council should be willing where possible to change timeframes to allow for fairness in the local school system.

Councillor Coggins: Recognised the complexities and that the Council had to work within the regulatory framework and understanding that very few families were now affected, was confident that the Council was committed to working with them to provide support as best it could and to consider any powers the Council had to help future exceptional circumstances within the legal constraints.

Following the debate and in response to a request from the Leader of the Council, the Council's Monitoring Officer outlined the legal framework in which the Council was operating, whereby applications received after 31 October had to be considered as late applications. It was recognised that the Council was constrained by its scheme and the need to work with other local authorities and the legal restrictions on what it could or could not do in terms of moving children.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Andrew Western was sympathetic to the stress and strain the issue had placed on families and acknowledging that there

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was no guarantee, was hopeful that the Council would be able to accommodate those children affected in the schools of their choice. The Council would continue to work with the families concerned and in terms of making people aware that the pass mark can differ by school, as a non-Covid issue, the Council would look to address to avoid any confusion in the system and any unfortunate consequences from that. The Leader appreciated that the matter was a very important issue that had come before the Council, however, it had now largely been reconciled as time had moved on but that was not to say there had been issues and difficulties and that the Council still did not have to do everything it could to work with the eight families affected. He considered it important to recognise that there were legal constraints which had prevented the Council from acting as the petitioners had requested.

31. ASSET INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Further to the Executive meeting held on 12 October 2020, the Executive Member for Finance and Governance, the Corporate Director of Place and the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems submitted a joint report advising the Council that the Asset Investment Strategy had recently been reviewed and updated to ensure it continued to reflect and support the Council's wider objectives and strategic priorities and to factor in changes in market conditions.

The recommendation to agree the updated Asset Investment Strategy was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That the updated Asset Investment Strategy, be approved.

32. 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 was requested to approve an increase to the net Revenue Budget as a result of a minor late change in the financial settlement relating to resources to support the Public Health budget.

RESOLVED: That an increase to the net Revenue Budget of £261,000 to £175,520,000, be approved.

33. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT (CTS) SCHEME FOR 2021/22

Further to the Executive meeting on 26 October 2020, the Executive Member for Finance and Governance submitted a report on the legal requirement to formally approve the Council's local CTS scheme before the start of each financial year. The report proposed that the scheme remained as was, only changing to reflect the national changes to income related benefits which had already been agreed in 2016, therefore no public consultation was required.

RESOLVED: That the Council adopts the Council Tax Support scheme currently in operation, updating in line with national benefits as previously agreed for 2021/22.

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34. LICENSING ACT 2003 - STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY - 2021 - 2026

Further to the Executive meeting on 26 October 2020, the Executive Member formerly for Public Safety, Governance and Reform submitted a report on the requirement to prepare, consult on and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy for the next five year period.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Council notes the recommendation of the Executive on 26 October 2020 to approve the revised Statement of Licensing Policy.
- (2) That the revised Statement of Licensing Policy, as attached to the report at Appendix F, be approved.

35. GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK (GMSF): APPROVAL OF GMSF 2020 FOR SUBMISSION

The Council was in receipt of a report of the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration and considered an addendum report providing an update on the position with the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, with particular reference to the decision of Stockport Council on 3 December 2020.

It was moved and seconded that the matter be withdrawn and in accordance with Procedure Rule 12 (j) that the question be now put.

The Motion was agreed by the consent of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the matter be withdrawn.

36. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - PROPOSED CHANGES TO ALL AGE TRANSPORT POLICY

It was moved and seconded that:

“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.”

(Note: During the debate, the time being 8:40 p.m., the 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 put to the vote and declared lost.

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37. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - UNION LEARNING FUND

(Note: Insofar as this item of business related to membership of a Trade Union, Councillor Andrew Western declared a personal interest as a member of both GMB and Unite the Union and Councillor Slater declared a personal interest as a member of Unison.)

It was moved and seconded that:

“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:
 - 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.

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- 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.
 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.”

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

RESOLVED: That 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:
 - 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:

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- 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.
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.

38. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - FAIR GRADE FOR ALL 2021

RESOLVED: That the Motion be deferred to a date to be determined.

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39. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE GREEN PARTY GROUP - ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

It was moved and seconded that:

“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.)
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.

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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."

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

"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 Democrat 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~~ **before we have utilised 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 **and that the decisive window for action is small and rapidly closing.**

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- ~~“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~~ **welcomes the Labour administration’s work to bring forward a Carbon Neutral Action Plan, set to be considered by the Executive this month, and agrees the following actions and commitments many of which are in the Carbon Neutral Action Plan or already in place:**

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.)~~

To consider carbon reduction implications alongside sustainability at the start of every decision-making report, in the same way as the Council considers Equality and Diversity, Health and Wellbeing and a range of other key factors. Every decision needs to be made knowing the climate implications alongside these existing critical considerations, and this will extend to include business case reports as well as formal Council reports. Council further supports the following actions proposed by the Executive in the Carbon Neutral Action Plan: adding Climate Change onto the Corporate Risk Register; including carbon reduction weighting in all procurement decisions through environmental social value requirements; and ensuring carbon reduction measures are included in the development briefs/business cases for all developments on council sites (for example tree cover/energy creation).

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.~~

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- 3-2. 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.
- 4-3. That the final response to the Anthesis report, ~~in December 2020~~ **being considered by the Executive this month** will include ~~ambitious timescales with real dates,~~ **a range of short, medium and long term actions** starting with the quick wins. **Short terms actions should be implemented by Spring 2022, medium term actions by Autumn 2024, and long term actions to be completed post 2024.**
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.~~
4. **To work with other agencies and authorities on reducing Trafford's indirect emissions as well as direct emissions.**
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.~~
75. To quickly develop an effective communications strategy **including a discrete section on the Council's website** to convey the importance of this work to residents, partners and businesses. **Further, to establish a Resident Panel and a Business Panel to support our work and to convene a Citizen's Assembly within 12 months to inform decision making in this area and increase resident engagement and involvement in the fight against climate change.**
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.~~
96. To ~~urgently~~ **continue to roll out the carbon literacy training already put in place by the Labour administration** across a wide section of officers and Councillors, **recognising that because there is an element of face to face training in this programme this will be accelerated when people are safely back in the workplace.**

Council further resolves that updates on our progress in reducing emissions against our carbon budget should be publicly available on a six-monthly basis."

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With the consent of the meeting the mover of the amendment altered the amendment as follows:

- removal of wording in point 1 “Council further supports the following actions ~~proposed by the Executive~~ in the Carbon Neutral Action Plan etc.”
- addition to point 4. “To work with other agencies and authorities on reducing Trafford’s indirect emissions as well as direct emissions, **in contributing to the Government’s ambitious target of cutting emissions by 68% by 2030 based on 1990 levels.**”

(Note: During the debate, the time being 9:15 p.m., the Mayor indicated that speeches on this matter would now be limited to a maximum of two minutes per speaker.)

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 this Council notes that Trafford was one of the first councils in the country to declare a climate emergency, 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 before we have utilised Trafford’s entire carbon budget, as derived from the Paris Agreement.
- We need to make cuts of 13.4% per year to our emissions to keep within our science-based budget and that the decisive window for action is small and rapidly closing.

Therefore, this Council welcomes the Labour administration’s work to bring forward a Carbon Neutral Action Plan, set to be considered by the Executive this month, and agrees the following actions and commitments many of which are in the Carbon Neutral Action Plan or already in place:

1. To consider carbon reduction implications alongside sustainability at the start of every decision-making report, in the same way as the Council considers Equality and Diversity, Health and Wellbeing and a range of other key factors. Every decision needs to be made knowing the climate implications alongside these existing critical considerations, and this will extend to include business case reports as well as formal Council reports. Council further supports the following actions in the Carbon Neutral Action Plan: adding Climate Change onto the Corporate Risk Register; including carbon reduction weighting in all procurement decisions through environmental social value requirements; and ensuring carbon reduction measures are included in the development

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briefs/business cases for all developments on council sites (for example tree cover/energy creation).

2. 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.
3. That the final response to the Anthesis report being considered by the Executive this month will include a range of short, medium and long term actions starting with the quick wins. Short terms actions should be implemented by Spring 2022, medium term actions by Autumn 2024, and long term actions to be completed post 2024.
4. To work with other agencies and authorities on reducing Trafford's indirect emissions as well as direct emissions in contributing to the Government's ambitious target of cutting emissions by 68% by 2030 based on 1990 levels.
5. To quickly develop an effective communications strategy including a discrete section on the Council's website to convey the importance of this work to residents, partners and businesses. Further, to establish a Resident Panel and a Business Panel to support our work and to convene a Citizen's Assembly within 12 months to inform decision making in this area and increase resident engagement and involvement in the fight against climate change.
6. To continue to roll out the carbon literacy training already put in place by the Labour administration across a wide section of officers and Councillors, recognising that because there is an element of face to face training in this programme this will be accelerated when people are safely back in the workplace.

Council further resolves that updates on our progress in reducing emissions against our carbon budget should be publicly available on a six-monthly basis.

The meeting commenced at 7.07 p.m. and finished at 9.25 p.m.