



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Tuesday, 18 January 2022

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 **WEDNESDAY, 26 JANUARY 2022, at 7.00 P.M.** in the **WESLEY HALL, THE LIFECENTRE, 235 WASHWAY ROAD, SALE, M33 4BP**, for the transaction of the business set out below:

Note: As the Council continues to manage the risk of Covid-19, public attendance at this meeting will be limited and anyone wishing to attend is asked to contact democratic.services@trafford.gov.uk to register in advance. The Council has a duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of staff and others from Covid transmission risks so far as is reasonably practicable and all attendees are reminded of the need for self-isolation where positive cases and contacts have been identified.

Please note that the meeting will also be streamed live via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjwbIOW5x0NSe38sgFU8bKg> in line with the principles of openness and transparency in local government.

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| 1. Minutes | |
| To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the following meetings for signature by the Mayor as Chair of the Council. | |
| (a) Meeting of the Council - 24 November 2021 | 1 - 20 |
| (b) Extraordinary Meeting of the Council - 13 January 2022 | 21 - 22 |
| 2. 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. | |

3. **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.

4. **Petition for Improvements and an Upgrade to the Playground at Stamford Park, Altrincham**

To consider the following petition requiring debate:

We the undersigned (537 signatories) petition the Council to improve and upgrade the play area in Stamford Park so it can be enjoyed year round.

The current play area is in desperate need of an upgrade.

Stamford Park is one of the most popular parks in Trafford but the play equipment is dated and the playground gets water logged and muddy every time it rains.

Altrincham town centre needs a playground of a similar standard to that in Knutsford or Bruntwood Park. Soft, all weather surfaces and modern play equipment allow those playgrounds to be enjoyed in any weather throughout the year.

The Altrincham community deserves a much improved playground, which would have the added benefit of drawing more people to the town centre benefitting local businesses.

Please sign this petition to back a formal request urging the Council to allocate funding to this local play area so that all of our children can enjoy a well maintained and suitable playground.

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.

5. **Process for the Appointment of the External Auditor**

To consider a report of the Director of Finance and Systems further to a recommendation of Accounts and Audit Committee on 25 November 2021. 23 - 30

6. **6-month Corporate Report on Health, Safety & Wellbeing– 1 April to 30 September 2021**

To consider a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Governance. 31 - 42

7. Motions

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

(a) Motion Submitted by the Labour Group - Cost of Living Crisis

Households across the UK, including here in Trafford, are having to cope with major increases in the cost of living. These rises are affecting essential, unavoidable costs such as food prices and energy bills. Domestic energy bills are expected to increase further in the spring, by as much as 50%. Food costs are already rising by 10% per year.

When essential items increase it is those households on low and modest incomes who face the greatest burden as they have very little scope to absorb higher prices. This means already limited budgets are stretched even further.

Despite full awareness of this, the government has chosen to reduce the amount of support it provides to low income working and non-working households over the last 6 months through the £20 a week cut to Universal Credit.

This increase in the cost of living is happening in the context of an eleven year period during which working age benefits have been cut and wages have stagnated in a number of sectors. Household will face a further hit when National Insurance contribution go up in April.

The Government's response to this situation has been piecemeal and poorly targeted. One off and temporary support, such as the hardship grants provided to low income families during the pandemic, do not represent an adequate response to the financial challenges facing many of our residents. Councils have been left high and dry by the government, without adequate long-term funding or long-term support to support residents facing financial hardship through things like local welfare assistance schemes, such as Trafford Assist.

The financial pressure facing many families could not be more acute and the situation shows little sign of easing. The independent Institute for Fiscal Studies has said that the government's current approach to support households on low incomes is inadequate and has said £3 billion needs pumping into the welfare system in response to soaring energy bills and mounting inflationary pressure. Instead of a planned 3.1% increase in the value of benefits in April, it said payments needed to rise by about 6% to protect the poorest in society from high inflation hurting their finances.

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Whilst this Council is committed to doing what we can to address poverty and the financial hardship being faced by our residents, we urgently need the government to step in and provide an adequate response to rising living costs and growing levels of poverty.

This Council calls on the government to:

- Introduce a windfall tax on oil and gas companies. The revenue raised should be used to support families with soaring energy prices and remove VAT on domestic energy bills for a minimum of 12 months.
- Reverse the £20 per week cut to Universal Credit.
- Increase benefits by more than planned in order to reflect the rising living costs facing low income families and make a long-term commitment to ensuring the benefits system provides both working and non-working households with a decent standard of living.
- Provide long-term dedicated funding to councils towards local welfare assistance schemes so that local authorities can respond to the needs of residents facing severe financial hardship.
- Provide permanent support towards meal costs to Free School Meal eligible families during the school holidays.

(b) **Motion Submitted by the Labour Group - Trafford's Parks and Open Spaces**

This Council notes:

1. Trafford has an extensive and varied network of parks and greenspaces that are highly valued by the residents they serve, often receiving recognition beyond the borough.
2. Assets in every sense of the word our parks and greenspaces have for many generations played a significant role in the lives of Trafford residents. The value of our parks and greenspaces was most recently highlighted during Covid lockdowns when they provided a haven in all our neighbourhoods for play, walking, exercising, and a place to clear your mind and relax.
3. The physical nature of our parks is changing as we recognise their role in promoting biodiversity and respond to climate change.
4. The long-term financial pressures faced by the Council impacts on the ability to invest in our parks and greenspaces, while the use of our parks is increasing we can see the decline of our parks and greenspace infrastructure.

This Council believes:

5. Our parks and greenspaces should be safe, inclusive spaces that welcome residents of all backgrounds, ages and abilities.

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6. Parks and greenspaces play a key role in promoting good physical and mental health and wellbeing. They are places where residents can interact socially, reducing isolation for both young and old. Our parks and greenspaces are free to access, providing spaces to exercise formally and informally supporting our ambitions to get everyone moving more each day.
7. We have demonstrated our commitment to protecting greenspaces through our applications for Fields in Trust status for the former William Wroe site, Turn Moss and Crossford Bridge
8. For many of our residents living in urban areas our parks and greenspaces provide a unique opportunity to interact with wildlife, for example a key milestone for many is the simple act of feeding the ducks in the park. Our parks and greenspaces are key areas where we can promote biodiversity - seen within our development of 'long grass regimes' providing support to wildlife, our promotion of wild flower meadows and the ending of the use of glyphosates in parks.
9. Our parks have a role in our response to climate change, as our weather gets more unpredictable our parks offer spaces where flood and heavy rainfall can be held to support our urban drainage systems.
10. It's important to continue to support our amazing network of Friends of Parks volunteers. We do this through the Friends of Park forum, through the provision of grants, for example since 2019 we have awarded 28 Inclusive Neighbourhood Grants to our Friends of Parks and through advice and support from Council and One Trafford Green Space Officers.
11. We must continue to work in partnership with external funders and developers where possible to secure additional monies and expertise to develop our parks and greenspaces. Applying for any funding sources applicable to council parks and greenspaces.
12. We must be open about the financial challenges facing the Council and the impact this has on the levels of investment into parks since 2010. Huge pressures on staffing, capital and revenue budgets mean we are not able to undertake all the work we would like to and have to manage investment through a rolling programme of repairs and our capital programme. We have to make priority decisions around repairs and investment.
13. Back in 2016 a cross party select committee recognised that parks play a vital role in communities. We believe the government should recognise the value of parks and greenspaces and end the short term approach to funding, providing realistic, ring-fenced, funding to secure the future of our parks for generations to come.

This Council resolves to:

14. Recognise and thank our partners and volunteer network of Friends of Parks for the essential work and support they provide across the borough.

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15. Thank our Council and One Trafford officers and operatives who provide a dedicated service within significant financial and staffing pressures.
16. Afford our parks and greenspaces protection through our Local Plan.
17. Promote bio-diversity by continuing to review and challenge the approach to how parks and greenspaces are managed, planted and developed.
18. Work with One Trafford to develop sustainable drainage systems within parks and greenspaces. This will support our urban drainage systems, provide wildlife habitats and mitigate against the impact of flood and heavy rain within our parks and greenspaces.
19. Continue to work with the Police through our Community Safety Team to tackle antisocial behaviour, applying youth work resources where possible.
20. Despite the huge financial challenges facing Council budgets, continue to invest in capital and maintenance programmes.
21. Continue to find external funding opportunities and work with external partners such as City of Trees, The Conservation Volunteers, National Lottery and Sport England.
22. Call on government to recognise the importance of parks and greenspaces and provide Councils with realistic long-term, ring-fenced funding to allow us to invest in our parks at a level that reflects their value to the residents and environment of Trafford.

(c) Motion Submitted by the Labour Group - Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan

Council notes that poor air quality in Greater Manchester is contributing to the deaths of 1200 people a year in the City Region. Council further notes that – following the loss of a legal case in 2015 – Government has instructed a number of authorities including Trafford to act to improve air quality. We recognise that this is a concerning public health issue and that action is required to protect the health of local residents.

As a result of this, and following extensive modelling work to develop an approach that would achieve compliant levels of nitrogen dioxide emissions locally, the 10 authorities of Greater Manchester are under a Ministerial Direction from the Secretary of State to introduce a CAZ C Clean Air Zone across the 10 districts including Trafford. This means that Trafford must implement the Zone unless the Secretary of State resolves otherwise, and that in accordance with section 9 of the Ministerial Direction no deviation can be made to the parameters of this Zone unless made by the Secretary of State.

Council is aware that the 10 Greater Manchester councils commissioned work through Transport for Greater Manchester late last year to look at issues in the global supply chain that have become clear

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in recent months. Particular challenges arising from the pandemic have impacted on the supply of new vehicles, with for example harsher lockdowns in a number of countries having a significant impact on the manufacturing sector. This has necessarily impacted on the price of compliant second hand vehicles, with price increases of as much as 60% as a result.

Council is fearful that these supply chain issues could result in the owners of LGVs and Hackney Carriages being unable to transition their fleet, and consequently in the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester being potentially unable to achieve compliance with their Ministerial Direction. This Direction requires Trafford to achieve legal levels in terms of nitrogen dioxide in the shortest time possible and by 2024 at the latest.

It is clear therefore that an urgent review of policy is required to enable Trafford and the other 9 boroughs to have confidence in their ability to meet their legal requirements.

In light of this Council resolves that:

- The Secretary of State should accede to Greater Manchester's request and authorise a pause to the opening of the LGV, taxi and Private Hire Vehicles Financial Support Fund scheduled for the end of this month.
- The Secretary of State should undertake an urgent policy review supported by Greater Manchester leaders and officials to ensure that any scheme that comes forward provides sufficient financial support to those LGV, taxi and Private Hire Vehicle drivers who need to transition to compliant vehicles.
- The Secretary of State must ensure that this review fully reflects the more challenging market conditions that Greater Manchester has identified and accordingly ensure that sufficient funding is available for Trafford businesses and residents to upgrade their vehicles.

Council believes that the above measures are critical in order to give certainty that we can meet our legal obligation to achieve compliance in terms of nitrogen dioxide emissions. Without them, we fear that there is a very real possibility that the Clean Air Plan will be unsuccessful in this aim.

(d) Motion Submitted by the Conservative Group - Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan

This Council is deeply concerned that the Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan report, presented to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), on 25 June 2021 by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) was misleading.

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This has led to a situation where Greater Manchester (GM) Districts are in the process of implementing a plan that it is acknowledged cannot, at present, achieve its stated aims.

The Council Notes:

- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is 493sqm which includes every district in GM.
- TfGM in July 2021 stated a database sourced from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) estimated that approximately at present 90% of non-compliant LGV's in Greater Manchester, are not retrofittable.
- TfGM estimates that in 2023 there will be 75,000 non-compliant LGV's based in GM out of a total fleet of 136,000 LGV's.
- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan report was approved by all GM districts and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to support the Mayor of Greater Manchester's plan for Clean Air during July 2021.
- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan impacts tens of thousands of small businesses and charities within GM in addition to thousands who are based outside of the GM region but operate within the GM region contributing to the £62 billion economy.
- The 9 GM Conservative MPs wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs urging a delay to the rollout of the CAZ for further consultation.

The Council resolves:

- That the Chief Executive of the Council to write to the GMCA Chief Executive requesting that a joint scrutiny committee be established to initiate an independent investigation into GM Clean Air Final Plan.
- That the findings of the investigation must be scrutinised by the newly formed GMCA Committee prior to recommendations being submitted to the GMCA and GM districts.
- That each of the GM districts will review the findings of the report via their internal scrutiny mechanisms i.e. Executive/Cabinet, Council and the relevant scrutiny panels.
- To call on the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the GM Districts and GMCA to do whatever necessary to suspend the rollout of the GM Clean Air Final Plan to enable a full investigation to take place to address the issues identified above.

Yours sincerely,



SARA TODD
Chief Executive

Council - Wednesday, 26 January 2022

Membership of the Council

Councillors L. Walsh (Mayor), C. Boyes (Deputy Mayor), D. Acton, S. Adshead, A. Akinola, J.M. Axford, J. Bennett, Miss L. Blackburn, J. E. Brophy, B. Brotherton, D. Bunting, D. Butt, T. Carey, Dr. S. Carr, G. Carter, K.G. Carter, D.N. Chalkin, R. Chilton, G. Coggins, M. Cordingley, L. Dagnall, J. Dillon, N. Evans, M. Freeman, S.J. Gilbert, J. Harding, B. Hartley, W. Hassan, S. J. Haughey, J. Holden, C. Hynes, D. Jarman, D. Jerrome, J. Lamb, J. Lloyd, S. Longden, S. Maitland, M. Minnis, M. Mirza, A. Mitchell, D. Morgan, P. Myers, A. New, J.D. Newgrosh, D.C. O'Sullivan, E. Patel, K. Procter, T. Ross, J. Slater, S. Taylor, S. Thomas, R. Thompson, M.J. Welton, A. Western, D. Western, M.P. Whetton, 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
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Email: ian.cockill@trafford.gov.uk

This Summons was issued on **Tuesday, 18 January 2022** by the Governance Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford M32 0TH

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