

Public Document Pack



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.

Continued ...

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.

Continued ...

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.

Continued ...

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.

Continued ...

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
Tel: 0161 912 1387
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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TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

24 NOVEMBER 2021

PRESENT

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

C. Boyes	L. Dagnall	J.D. Newgrosh
D. Acton	J. Dillon	D.C. O'Sullivan
S. Adshead	N. Evans	E. Patel
A. Akinola	M. Freeman	K. Procter
J.M. Axford	J. Harding	T. Ross
J. Bennett	B. Hartley	J. Slater
Miss L. Blackburn	W. Hassan	S. Taylor
J. E. Brophy	J. Holden	S. Thomas
B. Brotherton	C. Hynes	R. Thompson
D. Bunting	D. Jarman	M.J. Welton
D. Butt	D. Jerrome	A. Western
T. Carey	J. Lamb	M.P. Whetton
Dr. S. Carr	J. Lloyd	G. Whitham
G. Carter	S. Longden	A.M. Whyte
K.G. Carter	S. Maitland	A.J. Williams
D.N. Chalkin	M. Minnis	B.G. Winstanley
R. Chilton	A. Mitchell	Mrs. P. Young
G. Coggins	P. Myers	
M. Cordingley	A. New	

In attendance

Deputy Chief Executive	S. Saleh
Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy	J. Le Fevre
Head of Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer	D. Sykes
Governance Manager	J. Addison
Business Support Officer	E. Gorman
Senior Governance Officer	I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dr. K. Barclay, S.J. Gilbert, S. J. Haughey, M. Mirza, D. Morgan, D. Western and J.A. Wright.

42. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13 October 2021, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**Meeting of the Council
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43. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Chief Executive

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Andrew Western informed the Council that the Chief Executive's recovery from her complex operation had gathered pace in recent weeks and it was hoped that Sara would be able to return to duties quite soon. The Chief Executive had asked the Leader to convey her thanks for everyone's concern and to say she was looking forward to seeing them all once back in situ.

(b) Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Acton, the Chair of Scrutiny Committee reminded the Council that the Budget Scrutiny Sessions would be held on 30 November and 2 December 2021. All Scrutiny Members had been invited and all non-Executive Members would also be welcome to attend the sessions which were being held online.

44. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 3 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

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

“Regarding the temporary pop up lanes on the A56, the Council sent out a press release launching the consultation which contained the line “The consultation is not intended to be a referendum.” Residents feel it should be a referendum so if residents choose the third option of ‘to remove the temporary cycle lane and revert to the pre-Covid-19 structure with all lanes open for motorists’; what confidence should residents have that that option would be implemented?”

In response, Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services advised that the consultation was in an open format with no firm design proposals at that stage and it was an opportunity for the people of Trafford to give their views on the options at that stage. It was a chance for people to make suggestions and submit their ideas about what they would like transport to look like through the heart of the Borough, based around a framework of three possible scenarios. At the second stage of the consultation, when proposals had been firmed up, there would be a further opportunity for residents to comment about what they wanted. The results of those two consultations would be taken into consideration along with the clean air plan and Transport for Greater Manchester's wider transport plan for the region.

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- (b) Councillor Chalkin had given notice of the following question and this was put by Councillor Lamb:

“Further to the question asked at the full Council meeting on 13 October, can the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services address the state of Stamford Park? In the eyes of residents, the conditions in the park have deteriorated over the past few years.

Will the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services and the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure commit to both a full and transparent planned maintenance strategy to improve the equipment and the infrastructure of the park, and to supporting the friends of Stamford Park with additional resources to bring the park back to the standard residents expect?”

In response Councillor Patel, Executive Member for Culture and Leisure advised that on 11 November a walking meeting took place at Stamford Park with Councillors Chalkin and Mrs. Young to discuss how best to move standards of the park forward. A list of points were raised on site as follows:

- Swings in the playpark were removed and the Council was in the process of arranging for the swings to be reopened in the current financial year.
- Sign by Tennis Court – considered that it was not possible to “police” the area afterhours, however, signs had been ordered as an attempt to deter anti-social use of the courts.
- Children’s play park – it has been pointed out that there was a need for more benches in the area and the Council was working towards placing a new bench in the play park area in the current financial year.
- Fencing – the Council was discussing the issue with the Bowling Club and the Executive Member had personally met with the Club and it had been agreed to invite Hale Ward Councillors to future meetings.
- Flooding – concerns regarding a puddling of water around the main pond area had been raised and a request had been made for a drainage team to clear the gully area to assist the flow of water by the main pond.
- Path surfaces – it had been pointed out that the surface of one of the paths needed attention which was an issue right across the borough’s park footpaths with many of the surfaces dating back to the original construction. A capital bid had been made to review the footpaths in all parks and if successful the Council would hope to see an improvement with Stamford Park included in the condition survey.
- Friends – everyone was in agreement that the “Friends of Stamford Park” should be encouraged to start up again and the Council would provide whatever support it could. It has also been agreed to continue with regular park walking meetings, every two/three months.

Acknowledging that much of the maintenance work was expected to be undertaken by the end of the current financial year, Councillor Lamb asked as a supplementary question whether more specific timescales could be provided. Indicating that some of the work was subject to tender processes, Councillor Patel

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agreed to liaise with the Parks Team with an aim of providing Councillor Chalkin, as the originator of the question, with a more detailed timeframe.

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

“Would the Executive Member tell me when the Children's play area will be fully open and useable at Timperley Green?”

In response, Councillor Patel, Executive Member for Culture and Leisure advised that the Timperley Green play area had recently had 3 pieces of play equipment installed, a Hula Rotator, two seat swing and Wipe Out. These type of installations were not often opened immediately and in this instance the grassed areas need time to re-establish. The Parks Team have recommended waiting until early spring 2022 before opening up for play, as any earlier would risk seeded areas turning to mud. The contractor had the final fix items stored to go on in the spring, at which time some reseeding work will also be done where the grass had not taken.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Miss Blackburn asked whether the Executive Member could provide a ward by ward schedule for the repair and refurbishment of play equipment in the Borough's parks that could be accessed by the public. Councillor Patel recognised the importance of parks as critical green spaces to all residents and weekly safety inspections were undertaken of each park and through that process there was a rolling programme of refurbishment and renewal which was set out in the capital programme. It was not always easy to account for vandalism, however, the Executive Member agreed to liaise with the Parks Team on whether information regarding repair or replacement could be publicised more widely. Unfortunately, due to the budget situation when pieces of equipment fail or are vandalised there were not always funds immediately available to remedy matters.

45. PETITION - NO CONES ON CHESTER ROAD

Lead petitioner, Tracey Haworth introduced the following petition which, at the date of submission to the Council, had 2642 signatures and 1321 of these were from addresses within the Borough.

“The cones on the A56 need to be removed. A new and improved solution with local public consultation to allow better access for all road users.

Local social media forums are full of this very lively debate. The cones cause standing traffic and therefore greater emissions in an area where there are 4 primary schools in close proximity. The residents and businesses in Gorse Hill are effectively boxed in on 3 sides as drivers, the only exits lead onto the A56. At the traffic lights on Thomas Street turning right is much more problematic across the box junction which has standing traffic and an immediate right turn lane onto Davyhulme Road East. We need that other lane open and further information from the public on the other problem areas.

Key workers are struggling to attend their clients, ambulances are being delayed. The cones are affecting our use of our roads detrimentally.

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Drivers are constantly commenting on the scarcity of cyclists in the lanes and increase of accidents and near misses.

We feel the cones were quite literally sneaked in during lockdown without an effective public consultation.

Some residents say they have written to Trafford Council and have been informed the cones are there to stay. A review is clearly needed.”

In presenting the petition, the lead petitioner anticipated that a transparent debate would lead to a timeline for a new and improved solution, an explanation of the monitoring and communication of the traffic flow problem areas and emissions around the local schools and consideration of the problem areas raised, including Edge Lane and both Gorse Hill estates.

The Lead Petitioner highlighted the following issues:

- It was unlikely that many residents were aware of the priority being given in local plans to pedestrians and cyclists over motorists.
- It was acknowledged that Climate Change was high on the agenda, however, the transition to electric vehicles would take time and it was not always an option to walk or cycle.
- The reality was not just here and now but a short, medium and long term plan for a solution to the future patterns of thousands of road and pavement users was clearly not an easy feat, whilst giving consideration to and balancing Climate Change, the Clean Air Act and the environment.
- The petition highlighted the problematical, proportional use of the highway and additionally, logistical transport of goods and services could not be met by walking and cycling.
- A call for planning and architectural models whereby the designer was informed by users throughout all stages of the process: “the most ordinary people can have the most extraordinary ideas”.
- Parking issues in Gorse Hill were exacerbated by the industrial estate in the area and a problem area existed turning right onto the A56 and with incoming traffic off the A56.
- Congestion on Edge Lane trapped buses which then impeded north and south bound traffic on the A56.
- On the school run Children were walking and cycling through increased emissions as a result of standing traffic caused by the temporary coned lanes.
- Signs caused confusion and unclear whether they related to social distancing or cycling.

In light of the petition, a series of questions were posed as follows:

- 1) What is the cost of the cones in comparison to updating the existing cycle lanes with green tarmac and fresh paint and what is the delay?
- 2) How are the traffic flow, congestion and emissions monitored and fed back to residents?

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- 3) Will the A56 consultation be free flowing enough to engage all road users and visitors, including collective statements from local stakeholders, services, businesses and sports stadiums etc. and be promoted to be visible on local community boards?
- 4) Was there ever going to be a consultation and if so what was the timeline?
- 5) Why are the cones still there when social distancing has ended?
- 6) Why does a small focus group of cyclists wield so much power over thousands of road users?
- 7) The signatories highlighted the lack of use of the cycle lanes, therefore, apart from occasional use or cycle event, how can this be justified proportionally to our other road users?

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services and Councillors Butt, Newgrosh and Welton responded to the petition on behalf of the political parties and made the following points:

Councillor Adshead: The A56 initiative, like many introduced in the Borough during the pandemic with Emergency Active Travel Funding, had been assessed throughout the period and adjusted for safety and congestion, as the situation and increased traffic levels had dictated. Looking at how to proceed in the future, it was now an opportune time to seek the views of the public, although admittedly it had taken longer than anticipated to bring all the proposals together. The consultation sought the views of users of the A56 and residents of Stretford and particularly encouraged residents to submit their ideas and visions for the Town Centre and surrounding area. The consultation was in two stages with the first closing towards the end of December 2021 and more developed proposals would be brought forward in due course. Aware of the questions put, a detailed response was being prepared and would be sent to the lead petitioner as soon as possible.

Councillor Butt: Considered the temporary implementation of the measures to have been hugely disruptive and a danger to all road users, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Believed the residents had spoken with one voice and urged the Council to recognise the serious implications that had manifested themselves since the implementation, however, temporary and to address them.

Councillor Newgrosh: Did not consider that residents had spoken with one voice and that it was a divisive scheme with both benefits and detractors. Looked forward to the consultation being carefully assessed before a decision was made.

Councillor Welton: Agreed that the cones need to be replaced with an improved solution that met the Council's new priorities and believed that a high quality cycle lane on the A56 would help Trafford meet all their objectives. The experimental coned lanes had helped many ride their bike on the A56 for the first time but they had impacted journeys by car and bus at peak times. Acknowledged the debate on social media and large petitions both for and against. In terms of the actual petition challenged some of the assumptions it made regarding:

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- Cones caused standing traffic and therefore greater emissions: the primary cause of congestion was too many vehicles being driven at the same time and the traffic flow problems come during short periods of high demand, notably the school run or alongside events such as football matches and concerts which pre-date the cones and could only be tackled by creating alternative transport options.
- Emissions: it was likely that the cone lanes had reduced roadside air pollution and noise because there was now more distance between pedestrians, homes, shops and the traffic itself.
- Scarcity of cyclists: claimed that the coned lanes were responsible for a 400% increase in cycling but there was a need to create properly segregated lanes to alleviate peoples fear over safety and ensure that the lanes connect to where people wanted to go.
- Failure: not of the cones but the A56 itself, as a result of infrastructural changes over many years to accommodate traffic flow.

Following the discussion the Leader of the Council, Councillor Andrew Western advised that it was difficult to respond to the petition given that the Council was hearing it in the midst of the first phase of a consultation process, so was unable to provide a compelling response either way as to what was going to happen. The Council wanted to hear from all parties on how they wished it to move forward in shaping ideas and proposals for the future. The challenge was that the petition was one of many that had been drawn up in response to the issue and there were strong views on both sides of the debate.

In terms of the petition that evening, the Council noted its content and, as the Executive Member had indicated, the questions would be responded to. However, the Council was unable to give a definitive response on its future action at that stage, as it wished to hear from residents via the consultation process.

The Leader thanked all that had spoken for highlighting the wide range of views on the issue and the challenges faced and confirmed that the Council was committed to doing all it could, not only to enable active travel in Trafford but also, how it could look to improve the quality of life for the residents of Stretford that had a super highway running through the area in which they lived.

46. CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH 2021-24

The Executive Member for Covid-19 Recovery and Reform submitted a report referred from the Executive Meeting on 22 November 2021, providing a summary of the Council's refreshed Corporate Plan.

RESOLVED: That the refreshed Corporate Plan for 2021-24, be adopted and that the reporting schedule for Corporate Plan updates, be noted.

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47. TRAFFORD CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROGRESS REPORT

The Council received a report of the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services providing the response considered by the Executive on 28 September 2020 to the Climate Change Task and Finish Group's report and recommendations regarding the Climate Emergency.

RESOLVED: That the reports of the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services and the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, be noted.

48. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES 2022-2025

The Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services submitted a report advising that the Council was required to prepare, consult on and publish a Statement of Gambling Principles, in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005. The report had been referred from the Executive and invited the Council to consider the summary of responses received following the statutory consultation.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Council notes the recommendations of the Executive on 22 November 2021 and the feedback from the recent public and trade consultation on the proposed Statement of Gambling Principles.
- (2) That the Statement of Gambling Principles 2022-2025, as set out at Appendix 3 to the report, be adopted by the Council.

49. GREATER MANCHESTER MINIMUM LICENSING STANDARDS FOR TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE - STAGE 2 RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT (VEHICLES)

The Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services submitted a report setting out the proposed Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards (MLS) for Taxi and Private Hire. The report represented Stage Two of the Standards which related to Vehicles, whereas, Stage One related to Drivers, Operators and Local Authorities and those proposals were reported to the Council on 13 October 2021. The Council was now requested to consider the responses to the recent public and trade consultation for Stage Two and the proposed standards, policies and procedures outlined in the report recommended by the Executive on 22 November 2021.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the recommendations of the Executive on 22 November 2021 and the feedback from the recent public and trade consultation on the proposed Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards for Taxi and Private Hire, be noted.

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(2) That the Council approves that:

- wheel chair access for licensed hackney carriage vehicles is applied as per Standard 1 in Table A of the report;
- age limits for vehicles are applied as per Standard 2 in Table A of the report;
- emission standards for vehicles are applied as per Standard 3 in Table A of the report;
- the standards for vehicle colour are applied as per Standard 4 in Table A of the report;
- the standards for vehicle colour are applied as per Standard 4 in Table A of the report;
- the standard for livery for vehicles is applied as per Standard 5 in Table A of the report;
- the standards for vehicle testing are applied as per Standard 6 in Table A of the report;
- the provision of CCTV in vehicles is applied as per Standard 7 in Table A of the report;
- the standards for Executive hire are applied as per Standard 8 in Table A of the report;
- the standards for Executive hire are applied as per Standard 8 in Table A of the report;
- vehicle design standards are applied as per Standard 9 in Table A of the report;
- vehicle conditions are applied as per Appendix 2 of the report and Standard 10 in Table A of the report; and
- the implementation dates for standards and conditions contained within the report within Table A, be applied.

(3) That the Equalities Impact Assessment, as set out at Appendix 3 to the report, be noted.

50. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - END MISOGYNY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

It was moved and seconded that:

“The Council notes:

- Across the UK misogyny, harassment and violence towards women and girls is endemic.
- Like women and girls across the country, our residents suffer harassment and abuse every single day. A 2021 YouGov national survey on behalf of UN Women UK found that among women aged 18-24, 97% said they had been sexually harassed, while 80% of women of all ages said they had experienced sexual harassment in public spaces.

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- The Office for National Statistics reported that last year alone 618,000 women were victims of a sexual assault or an attempted sexual assault by a man.
- In the year to March 2020, just 1.4% of rape cases recorded by police resulted in a suspect being charged (or receiving a summons).
- That the Law Commission is currently reviewing all current hate crime legislation to consider whether any additional characteristics, including misogyny, should be granted legal protection, and is due to report back to Parliament in 2021.
- The Government announced in March that from Autumn Police Forces will record misogyny as a hate crime on an 'experimental basis', following years of Campaigning from Women's Groups and campaigners.
- In Trafford, the birthplace of Emeline Pankhurst, we are proud of our history and connections to the Women's rights movement. We want Trafford to be a safe place for our women and girls and will support organisations who have continually fought for the safety and protection of women.
- Studies have shown that the intersectional nature of discrimination means that women with additional protected characteristics, such as those who are from Black, Asian or Ethnic Minority communities, disabled or LGBT+, are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse.

The Council resolves:

- To ensure that Trafford Council continues to do everything in its power to build a borough free from misogyny and violence against women and girls.
- It is vital that women's and girl's voices are heard; and that the Council will bring forward a process that proactively encourages and listens to women's voices across the wards. This task force will involve all women Councillors.
- That the newly refreshed Domestic Abuse strategy will strengthen support for victims, and will deliver safe accommodation for women and their children in Trafford.
- To call on the Government to listen to the lived experience of women and girls across our country and to urgently act on any recommendations the commission makes to strengthen the law on hate crime, and to reform legislation around harassment to recognise as an offence a 'course of conduct' which targets women and girls in their community.

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- To call on the Government to provide the legislation, resource and funding for police forces across the UK to effectively tackle harassment, misogyny and domestic abuse.
- To call on Greater Manchester Police to record harassment of women as a hate crime as soon as possible.
- To adopt the Greater Manchester's recently published Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.
- To become a White Ribbon Accredited Organisation."

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Council notes:

- Across the UK misogyny, harassment and violence towards women and girls is endemic.
- Like women and girls across the country, our residents suffer harassment and abuse every single day. A 2021 YouGov national survey on behalf of UN Women UK found that among women aged 18-24, 97% said they had been sexually harassed, while 80% of women of all ages said they had experienced sexual harassment in public spaces.
- The Office for National Statistics reported that last year alone 618,000 women were victims of a sexual assault or an attempted sexual assault by a man.
- In the year to March 2020, just 1.4% of rape cases recorded by police resulted in a suspect being charged (or receiving a summons).
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- The Government announced in March that from Autumn Police Forces will record misogyny as a hate crime on an 'experimental basis', following years of Campaigning from Women's Groups and campaigners.
- In Trafford, the birthplace of Emeline Pankhurst, we are proud of our history and connections to the Women's rights movement. We want Trafford to be a safe place for our women and girls and will support organisations who have continually fought for the safety and protection of women.

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The Council resolves:

- To ensure that Trafford Council continues to do everything in its power to build a borough free from misogyny and violence against women and girls.
- It is vital that women's and girl's voices are heard; and that the Council will bring forward a process that proactively encourages and listens to women's voices across the wards. This task force will involve all women Councillors.
- That the newly refreshed Domestic Abuse strategy will strengthen support for victims, and will deliver safe accommodation for women and their children in Trafford.
- To call on the Government to listen to the lived experience of women and girls across our country and to urgently act on any recommendations the commission makes to strengthen the law on hate crime, and to reform legislation around harassment to recognise as an offence a 'course of conduct' which targets women and girls in their community.
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- To call on Greater Manchester Police to record harassment of women as a hate crime as soon as possible.
- To adopt the Greater Manchester's recently published Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.
- To become a White Ribbon Accredited Organisation.

51. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - FUTURE TRAFFORD PARK AND JUST TRANSITION TO A GREENER ECONOMY

It was moved and seconded that:

“Council recognises that in order to tackle the climate crisis we must tackle the emissions caused by industrial practices and ensure a just transition to a greener economy. In Trafford this need is particularly acute as the home of Trafford Park, a key economic centre in the north-west region but also a major driver of carbon emissions in Trafford.

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Whilst many of the levers needed to drive this transition are controlled by national government, Council recognises that there are steps we can take locally to support this work and facilitate change in Trafford Park.

Council therefore welcomes news of the Local Authority's three successful bids to the Greater Manchester Evergreen Fund under the umbrella of 'Future Trafford Park' which focus on the following issues:

- Low Carbon Park: to identify the opportunity for new, carbon neutral and sustainable forms of power generation in the Park and potential sites. The investment and job creation potential of a low carbon Park will also be identified in terms of the green economy and its facets; along with practical measures for how existing businesses can future-proof to achieve a low carbon Park.
- Greening Trafford Park: produce a 'greening' infrastructure framework for the Park to reduce carbon emissions through environmental and infrastructure improvements. This will cover measures to improve the visual appearance of the Park through sustainable greening, and improvements to transport infrastructure focusing on active travel, public transport and the better utilisation of the existing rail line and stations.
- Trafford Wharfside Development Framework: produce a Development Framework; with accompanying Delivery Strategy and Masterplan with design code, to identify how this important area should operate as a 'place', guide future development and enable the Council to facilitate the delivery of opportunity sites in a planned and sustainable way.

In particular Council appreciates that the Low Carbon Park element of this work is crucial to working towards a just transition and securing a greener future for Trafford Park.

Council notes that the successful bids will fund activity to develop business cases to move all three strands of our 'Greening Trafford Park' work forward. Council requests that a briefing is offered to all members by those preparing the business case for broader investment once they are appointed and work is underway."

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was put to the vote which was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That Council recognises that in order to tackle the climate crisis we must tackle the emissions caused by industrial practices and ensure a just transition to a greener economy. In Trafford this need is particularly acute as the home of Trafford Park, a key economic centre in the north-west region but also a major driver of carbon emissions in Trafford.

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- Greening Trafford Park: produce a 'greening' infrastructure framework for the Park to reduce carbon emissions through environmental and infrastructure improvements. This will cover measures to improve the visual appearance of the Park through sustainable greening, and improvements to transport infrastructure focusing on active travel, public transport and the better utilisation of the existing rail line and stations.
- Trafford Wharfside Development Framework: produce a Development Framework; with accompanying Delivery Strategy and Masterplan with design code, to identify how this important area should operate as a 'place', guide future development and enable the Council to facilitate the delivery of opportunity sites in a planned and sustainable way.

In particular Council appreciates that the Low Carbon Park element of this work is crucial to working towards a just transition and securing a greener future for Trafford Park.

Council notes that the successful bids will fund activity to develop business cases to move all three strands of our 'Greening Trafford Park' work forward. Council requests that a briefing is offered to all members by those preparing the business case for broader investment once they are appointed and work is underway.

52. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - GMCA SCRUTINY

It was moved and seconded that:

"This Council notes that:

- The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is the combined authority for Greater Manchester and is jointly run by the leaders of the ten Greater Manchester districts along with the elected Mayor;

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- Trafford residents are further directly affected by GMCA as it has a range of boards, panels and committees which look specifically at areas like transport, health and social care, planning and housing;
- GMCA has 3 Overview and Scrutiny Committees which are the Greater Manchester Corporate Issues & Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Greater Manchester Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Greater Manchester Housing Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There are also other committees which perform a scrutiny function such as the Police, Fire and Crime Panel;
- The role of the scrutiny committees is to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other actions taken by the GMCA and the Mayor; to make reports or recommendations to the GMCA or the Mayor concerning the discharge of their functions that are the responsibility of the GMCA; to make reports or recommendations to the GMCA or the Mayor on matters that affect the GMCA's area or the inhabitants of the area; to Call-In decisions made by the GMCA or the Mayor and to establish formal sub committees or informal task and finish groups if they wish;
- To make scrutiny committee meetings quorate, two-thirds, that is ten committee members must be present for a meeting to be quorate. The two thirds requirement also applies to sub committees; and
- From 1 January to 5 November 2021, 3 out of 6 Greater Manchester Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings have been cancelled, 3 out of 6 Greater Manchester Corporate Issues and Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings have been cancelled and 3 out of 9 Greater Manchester Housing Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny meetings have been cancelled.

This Council believes that:

- The scrutiny committees have not been able to undertake their scrutiny function effectively due to the number of meetings being cancelled due to non-attendance by Members; and
- Article 7 of The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 which imposes a duty on a combined authority to respond to reports and recommendations of overview and scrutiny committee is being impeded through a reduction in the volume of reports and recommendations being produced due to cancelled meetings.

This Council resolves:

- For the Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Combined

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Authority and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request that:

- The Mayor of Greater Manchester attends scrutiny committee meetings when he has indicated that he would do so; and
- Scrutiny arrangements with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority are improved and that the promised review of scrutiny arrangements in Greater Manchester is a meaningful one and commenced as soon as possible.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

“This Council notes that:

- The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is the combined authority for Greater Manchester and is jointly run by the leaders of the ten Greater Manchester districts along with the elected Mayor;
- Trafford residents are further directly affected by GMCA as it has a range of boards, panels and committees which look specifically at areas like transport, health and social care, planning and housing;
- GMCA has 3 Overview and Scrutiny Committees which are the Greater Manchester Corporate Issues and Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Greater Manchester Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Greater Manchester Housing Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There are also other committees which perform a scrutiny function such as the Police, Fire and Crime Panel;
- The role of the scrutiny committees is to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other actions taken by the GMCA and the Mayor; to make reports or recommendations to the GMCA or the Mayor concerning the discharge of their functions that are the responsibility of the GMCA; to make reports or recommendations to the GMCA or the Mayor on matters that affect the GMCA's area or the inhabitants of the area; to Call-In decisions made by the GMCA or the Mayor and to establish formal sub committees or informal task and finish groups if they wish;
- To make scrutiny committee meetings quorate, two-thirds, that is ten committee members must be present for a meeting to be quorate. The two thirds requirement also applies to sub committees; and
- From 1 January to 5 November 2021, 3 out of 6 Greater Manchester Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings have been cancelled, 3 out of 6 Greater Manchester Corporate Issues and Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings have been cancelled and 3 out of 9 Greater

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Manchester Housing Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny meetings have been cancelled.

- **A review of scrutiny arrangements in Greater Manchester is already proposed.**

This Council believes that:

- ~~- The scrutiny committees have not been able to undertake their scrutiny function effectively due to the number of meetings being cancelled due to non-attendance by Members; and~~
- ~~- Article 7 of The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 which imposes a duty on a combined authority to respond to reports and recommendations of overview and scrutiny committee is being impeded through a reduction in the volume of reports and recommendations being produced due to cancelled meetings.~~

This Council resolves:

- For the Chief Executive **or Deputy Chief Executive** of the Council to write to ~~the Mayor of Greater Manchester,~~ the Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority ~~and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities~~ to request that:
 - ~~The Mayor of Greater Manchester attends scrutiny committee meetings when he has indicated that he would do so; and~~
 - ~~- Scrutiny arrangements with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority are improved and that the promised review of scrutiny arrangements in Greater Manchester is a meaningful one and commenced as soon as possible, **with recommendations from this review actioned promptly so that scrutiny can be strengthened in GMCA structures.**~~

(Note: After the amendment had been moved and seconded, the time being 9:05 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 amendment was put to the vote and declared carried. Subsequently, the substantive Motion was then agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

RESOLVED: That this Council notes that:

- The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is the combined authority for Greater Manchester and is jointly run by the leaders of the ten Greater Manchester districts along with the elected Mayor;

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- Trafford residents are further directly affected by GMCA as it has a range of boards, panels and committees which look specifically at areas like transport, health and social care, planning and housing;
- GMCA has 3 Overview and Scrutiny Committees which are the Greater Manchester Corporate Issues and Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Greater Manchester Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Greater Manchester Housing Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There are also other committees which perform a scrutiny function such as the Police, Fire and Crime Panel;
- The role of the scrutiny committees is to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other actions taken by the GMCA and the Mayor; to make reports or recommendations to the GMCA or the Mayor concerning the discharge of their functions that are the responsibility of the GMCA; to make reports or recommendations to the GMCA or the Mayor on matters that affect the GMCA's area or the inhabitants of the area; to Call-In decisions made by the GMCA or the Mayor and to establish formal sub committees or informal task and finish groups if they wish;
- To make scrutiny committee meetings quorate, two-thirds, that is ten committee members must be present for a meeting to be quorate. The two thirds requirement also applies to sub committees; and
- From 1 January to 5 November 2021, 3 out of 6 Greater Manchester Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings have been cancelled, 3 out of 6 Greater Manchester Corporate Issues and Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings have been cancelled and 3 out of 9 Greater Manchester Housing Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny meetings have been cancelled.
- A review of scrutiny arrangements in Greater Manchester is already proposed.

This Council resolves:

- For the Chief Executive or Deputy Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to request that the promised review of scrutiny arrangements in Greater Manchester is a meaningful one and commenced as soon as possible, with recommendations from this review actioned promptly so that scrutiny can be strengthened in GMCA structures.

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24 November 2021**

53. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

RESOLVED: That the Council notes that the Motion has been withdrawn.

54. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE GREEN PARTY GROUP - BIKEABILITY TRAINING FOR CHILDREN WHO MISSED OUT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

(Note: Before moving the Motion, Councillor Welton declared a personal interest in the matter since his son had missed out on Bikeability training.)

(Note: After the amendment had been moved, the time being 9:17 p.m., the Mayor indicated that speeches on this matter would now be limited to a maximum of one minute per speaker.)

It was moved and seconded that:

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, 4,729 Year 6 pupils missed out on Bikeability training among the 2019-20 and 2020-21 year groups in Trafford. The cost of training the children is normally covered by a grant from the Department for Transport (£40 per child trained).

This Council will:

- work with Trafford’s secondary schools to ensure that every child, that has previously missed out and is able to participate, receives Bikeability (or equivalent) training prior to starting Year 10.
- work with TfGM, Sports England and other funding bodies to fund the training, or, as necessary, consider prioritising for funding as part of its 2021-22 budget.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ~~4,729~~ **many** Year 6 pupils missed out on Bikeability training among the 2019-20 and 2020-21 year groups in Trafford. The cost of training the children is normally covered by a grant from the Department for Transport (£40 per child trained).

This Council will:

- work with Trafford’s secondary schools to ~~ensure that every child, that has previously missed out and is able to participate, receives~~ **offer** Bikeability (or equivalent) training prior to starting Year 10 **for all children who missed out on this because it was not provided through their primary school due to the pandemic.**

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- ~~— work with TfGM, Sports England and other funding bodies to fund the training, or, as necessary, consider prioritising for funding as part of its 2021-22 budget.~~
- **Fund this activity via the usual Department for Transport grant available for such training.**

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council and subsequently, the substantive Motion was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: That during the COVID-19 pandemic, many Year 6 pupils missed out on Bikeability training among the 2019-20 and 2020-21 year groups in Trafford. The cost of training the children is normally covered by a grant from the Department for Transport (£40 per child trained).

This Council will:

- Work with Trafford's secondary schools to offer Bikeability (or equivalent) training prior to starting Year 10 for all children who missed out on this because it was not provided through their primary school due to the pandemic.
- Fund this activity via the usual Department for Transport grant available for such training.

55. ANNOUNCEMENT - VIGIL FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Further to the debate that evening of the Motion to end misogyny and violence against women and girls (Minute No 50), the Mayor reminded Members of the vigil being held on 25 November 2021 at Trafford Town Hall. Reflecting on the emotive debate earlier and the importance of the issue the Mayor encouraged everyone to attend and advised that support was available from Trafford Domestic Abuse Services, telephone 0161 872 7368.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.25 p.m.

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

13 JANUARY 2022

PRESENT

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

C. Boyes (Deputy Mayor)	M. Freeman	J.D. Newgrosh
D. Acton	S.J. Gilbert	D.C. O'Sullivan
S. Adshead	J. Harding	E. Patel
A. Akinola	B. Hartley	T. Ross
J.M. Axford	W. Hassan	S. Taylor
J. E. Brophy	S. J. Haughey	S. Thomas
B. Brotherton	J. Holden	R. Thompson
D. Bunting	C. Hynes	M.J. Welton
D. Butt	D. Jarman	A. Western
Dr. S. Carr	D. Jerrome	D. Western
G. Carter	J. Lloyd	M.P. Whetton
K.G. Carter	S. Longden	G. Whitham
D.N. Chalkin	S. Maitland	A.J. Williams
R. Chilton	M. Minnis	B.G. Winstanley
G. Coggins	A. Mitchell	J.A. Wright
L. Dagnall	D. Morgan	Mrs. P. Young
J. Dillon	P. Myers	
N. Evans	A. New	

In attendance

Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy	J. Le Fevre
Information Governance Assistant	M. Shaw
Business Support Officer	E. Gorman
Senior Governance Officer	I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bennett, Miss L. Blackburn, T. Carey, M. Cordingley, J. Lamb, M. Mirza, K. Procter, J. Slater and A.M. Whyte.

**Extraordinary Meeting of the Council
13 January 2022**

56. RIXTON AND WARBURTON TOLL BRIDGE - TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT ORDER

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration submitted a report advising the Council that the Manchester Ship Canal Company had submitted an application for an Order under Section 3 of the Transport and Works Act 1992, proposing new procedures for the operation of the Rixton and Warburton Toll Bridge, including new tolls, concessions, byelaws and collection arrangements.

The report detailed a Trafford Council response to the Order which raised a number of objections to the proposed changes, particularly around the increased toll charge and lack of provision for local resident discounts. The response had to be submitted by 18 January 2022.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration had also submitted a supplementary report proposing that objection be raised to an additional issue, the proposed transfer of the Bridge into a new company separate to the Manchester Ship Canal Company.

Speaking to the reports, Councillor Wright, the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration clarified that the level of the toll proposed was in fact £1.00 inclusive of VAT per crossing.

It was moved and seconded that the Executive's recommendations set out in both the report and supplementary report be approved.

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Council submits an objection to the Rixton and Warburton Toll Bridge Transport and Works Act Order as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- (2) That, in addition to the objections referenced in the original report, the Council submits an objection to the Rixton and Warburton Toll Bridge Transport and Works Act Order, as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the supplementary report.
- (3) That the Corporate Director of Place be delegated authority to prepare detailed submissions and take any other necessary steps to pursue and progress the objection to the order, including negotiations with the Manchester Ship Canal Company and that any further concessions shall be agreed, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 7.46 p.m.

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Council
Date: 26 January 2022
Report for: Decision
Report of: Director of Finance and Systems

Report Title

Process for the appointment of the External Auditor

Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out proposals for appointing the Council's external auditor for the five-year period from 2023/24.

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 at Section 7 states that a "relevant authority must appoint a local auditor to audit its accounts for a financial year not later than 31 December in the preceding financial year." Therefore, for Trafford Council, the appointment of an auditor must be completed by 31 December 2022 for the audit year 2023/24.

The Accounts and Audit Committee, in liaison with the Director of Finance and Systems, have reviewed a number of options available in terms of recommending to Council a process for the future appointment of the external auditor (to commence for an agreed period from the financial year 2023/24). This report provides background as to the options available and provides the recommendation from the Accounts and Audit Committee in terms of the proposed way forward.

The Accounts and Audit Committee was provided with a report on options available in terms of the process for the future appointment of the external auditor at its meeting on 25 November 2021. The Committee agreed that it should be recommended to Council that the future process for appointing the external auditor, to be completed by December 2022, is undertaken via the use of the Sector Led body, Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (Option 3 as described in this report).

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approves the proposal to opt in to the national arrangement for appointing the External Auditor, managed by Public Sector Appointments Ltd (PSAA), to cover the five-year period from 2023/24 as detailed in Option 3.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Graeme Bentley – Director of Finance and Systems
 Contact: Graeme.bentley@trafford.gov.uk

Background Papers:

None

Relationship to Corporate Priorities	The scope of the work of External Audit may cover all of the Council’s corporate priorities.
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	Trafford Council has liaised with other GM Councils to review options available in considering recommended actions.
Financial	The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 states that a “relevant authority must appoint a local auditor to audit its accounts for a financial year not later than 31 December in the preceding financial year.” The current auditor appointment arrangements cover the period up to and including the audit of the 2022/23 accounts. A decision therefore needs to be made to consider the appointment covering the audit of the accounts from 2023/24 onwards to ensure the Council meets these statutory requirements. This report sets out recommended steps.
Legal Implications	See Financial Implications
Equality/Diversity Implications	N/A
Sustainability Implications	N/A
Carbon Reduction	N/A
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	N/A
Risk Management Implications	N/A
Health and Safety Implications	N/A

1 Background

- 1.1 The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act) at Section 7 states that a “relevant authority must appoint a local auditor to audit its accounts for a financial year not later than 31 December in the preceding financial year.”
- 1.2 In 2017 the Council opted into the ‘appointing person’ national auditor appointment arrangements managed by Public Sector Appointments Ltd (PSAA) and as a result appointed its current auditor for the period covering the accounts for 2018/19 to 2022/23.
- 1.3 During 2021/22 all local government bodies need to make decisions about their external audit arrangements for accounting periods from 2023/24.
- 1.4 At its meeting on 25 November 2021, the Accounts and Audit Committee, in liaison with the Director of Finance and Systems, reviewed a number of options available for the future appointment of the external auditor (to commence for an agreed period from the financial year 2023/24).
- 1.5 This report provides a summary of the options review and provides the recommendation from the Accounts and Audit Committee in terms of the proposed way forward.

2 Options Overview

- 2.1 There is a requirement under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 for all local government and NHS bodies in England to locally appoint their external auditors. There are three options open to the Council under the Act which are:
 - Option 1: Make a stand-alone appointment as Trafford Council
 - Option 2: Establish local joint procurement arrangements
 - Option 3: Opt-in to a sector led body appointed by the Secretary of State under the Act - Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Limited.
- 2.2 New appointments for auditors need to be made by December 2022 regardless of which option is chosen.

- 2.3 In accordance with Regulation 19 of the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015, the decision on opt-in must be taken by members of the Authority meeting as a whole i.e. approval is therefore being sought at a meeting of the Council.

3 Review of Options

- 3.1 The options above have been reviewed and a summary of each is provided below. The Accounts and Audit Committee, in liaison with the Director of Finance and Systems, having reviewed these options are recommending option 3 to Council as the preferred process for the future appointment of the external auditor.

Option 1: Make a stand-alone appointment as Trafford Council

- 3.2 This option requires the Council to appoint an Auditor Panel, separate in role and membership to the Accounts and Audit Committee, to oversee the required public procurement exercise and subsequent management of the external audit contract. It requires the whole or majority of the membership to be independent of the Council. Independent members for this purpose are independent appointees – for the Council this excludes all current and former elected members (or officers) and their close families and friends. This means that elected members will not have a majority input to assessing bids and choosing to which audit firm to award a contract for the Council's external audit.
- 3.3 This option allows the Council to have local input to the decision; however, recruitment and servicing of the Audit Panel, running the bidding exercise and negotiating the contract is estimated by the Local Government Association (LGA) to cost in the order of £15,000 plus ongoing expenses and allowances throughout the life of the contract.
- 3.4 The option limits the market influence that the Council has through the letting of a standalone contract and it is not guaranteed that audit firms will submit tenders for this work given widely reported capacity issues in the market currently and given the likelihood that they will also be competing as part of the PSAA Arrangement procurement exercise. This presents a potential risk of being unable to make an appointment by the statutory deadline. In addition, the Council could not take advantage of the 'economy of scale' created through joint or national procurement.
- 3.5 This option does enable the Council to determine cost, quality and social value weightings in its procurement process whereas opting into PSAA Arrangement will require us to align with PSSA's scoring and appointment processes.

Option 2: Establish local joint procurement arrangements to procure collaboratively

- 3.6 In 2017 an option was explored to establish Greater Manchester level collaborative procurement arrangements. Whilst affording greater economies of scale, this approach largely presents the same risks and opportunities as the stand-alone option detailed in option 1. It also increases the risk of audit firms being unable to submit a bid as they are at heightened risk of having a conflict of interest when acting for more than one of the local authorities.
- 3.7 The option has been explored more recently and when discussed with Greater Manchester Treasurers, the consensus is that this presents a high level of risk, with relatively low benefits compared to option 3.

Option 3: Opt in to PSAA

- 3.8 In 2017 PSAA led a procurement exercise for 484 of 494 public bodies in respect of the appointment of an external auditor.
- 3.9 On behalf of public bodies who opt to participate going forward, PSAA will undertake a public procurement exercise for the next appointing period, covering audits for 2023/24 to 2027/28 (PSAA Arrangement). Feedback from across Greater Manchester and North West authorities indicates that they will be opting into the PSSA Arrangement, thereby adopting this same approach in 2022 as 2017.
- 3.10 The closing date for public bodies to opt in to the PSAA Arrangement is 11 March 2022. This date will enable the completion of procurement activity and the award of contracts by the statutory deadline of 31 December 2022.
- 3.11 Given challenges and capacity in the current market and the need to maintain a high quality of external audit provision, there is an even stronger case that this option 3 will produce better outcomes and will be less burdensome for the Council, compared to procurement undertaken locally in accordance with options 1 and 2 because:
- collective procurement reduces overall costs for the sector and for individual authorities compared to smaller local procurements and contract management arrangements;
 - there is no requirement to establish a specific Council auditor panel with an independent chair and independent members to oversee a local auditor procurement and ongoing management of an audit contract;
 - supporting the sector-led body offers the best way of ensuring there is a continuing and sustainable public audit market into the medium and long term; and

- it is the best opportunity to secure the appointment of a qualified, registered auditor - there are only nine accredited local audit firms, and a local procurement would be drawing from the same limited supply of auditor resources as PSAA's national procurement.

3.12 Key features of the PSAA approach are:

- contracts let under the PSAA opt-in will run for five years;
- contracts between PSAA and the audit firms will require firms to deliver audits compliant with the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice;
- the number of firms eligible to undertake local public audit is regulated through the Financial Reporting Council and the Recognised Supervisory Bodies (RSBs). Only appropriately accredited firms will be able to bid for appointments;
- PSAA will manage current and potential future conflicts of interest rather than the Council having to re-procure contracts should such conflicts arise;
- opting into the PSAA will remove the need to set up an auditor panel in addition to the Council's Accounts and Audit Committee;
- in addition to working with the LGA, a stakeholder advisory panel with representative organisations for councils, police and fire bodies ensures ongoing influence and engagement with PSAA;
- PSAA is a not-for-profit organisation whose costs are around 4% of the scheme with any surplus distributed back to scheme members;
- scale fees will vary in line with the additional work needed which reflects risk and complexity (scale is set following consultation with opted in bodies);
- PSAA will manage variation requests and approve where appropriate; and
- This approach is supported and endorsed by the LGA.

3.13 One disadvantage of Option 3 is the inability to determine the evaluation criteria that will be used during the procurement exercise to determine the successful audit firm. However, the audit approach is mandated through standards and guidance and there is minimal flexibility in the scope of work requested. The scope of the audit will still be specified nationally by the National Audit Office (NAO) which is responsible for writing the Code of Audit Practice. All firms appointed to carry out the Council audit must follow these requirements.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 The Council has until December 2022 to make an appointment. In practical terms this means one of the options outlined in this report will need to be in place by Spring 2022 in order that the contract negotiation process can be carried out during 2022.
- 4.2 The Council will then need to take action to implement new arrangements for the appointment of external auditors from April 2023.

5 Other options

The options are set out within the report.

6 Reasons for Recommendation

The Authority is required in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to appoint an auditor to audit its accounts. Legislation requires that the decision to appoint the auditor must be taken by the Council and completed in order to meet relevant deadlines in 2022.

Based on the options reviewed, as covered in this report, it is recommended that Council approves the proposal to opt in to the national arrangement for appointing the External Auditor, managed by Public Sector Appointments Ltd (PSAA), to cover the five-year period from 2023/24 as detailed in Option 3.

Finance Officer Clearance MF

Legal Officer Clearance DS

CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE

G. Bentley

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TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Council
Date: 26 January 2022
Report for: Information
Report of: Executive Member for Finance and Governance

Report Title

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

Summary

1. To provide an overview of the ongoing work undertaken to protect and support our Services and Schools during the COVID Pandemic and other health and safety support
2. To provide an overview of accidents for the period 1 April 2021 – 30 September 2021

Recommendation(s)

1. That the report is noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Richard Fontana Strategic HR Lead – Health and Safety
Extension: 4919

Background Papers: None

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The Council's approach to managing health and safety at work is set out in the Corporate Health and Safety Policy. This includes the arrangements for ensuring the health, safety and welfare of employees and reporting on performance.
Financial	There are no foreseeable financial implications arising out of this report.
Legal Implications:	The programme of proactive and reactive work carried out by the Health and Safety Unit to respond to the COVID Pandemic, and wider health and safety management are designed to continually meet compliance with health and safety legislation.
Equality/Diversity Implications	None
Sustainability Implications	None
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	None

Risk Management Implications	Management of COVID19 risks has continued to be a significant focus for Trafford Council
Health & Wellbeing Implications	The Employee Wellbeing Strategy provides a framework for focused interventions to support the health and wellbeing of our workforce
Health and Safety Implications	See Legal section above. The continuing health and safety arrangements combined with the mechanisms for the provision of advice and guidance are all focused on sensible and targeted risk management.

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 The Covid19 Pandemic has continued to bring significant challenges for the Council in effectively delivering our key services whilst ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of our workforce. The Health and Safety Unit (HSU), working closely with services and partners has maintained a key supportive role and provided competent advice to manage Covid19 risks.
- 1.2 Over the course of the pandemic we have continued to support staff to work from home where possible. Arrangements have remained in place to provide Covid Secure buildings for our front line staff and changes to working practices have allowed teams to deliver services safely in the community supported by appropriate PPE where required. During this reporting period, we needed to continue to protect our workforce as national restrictions were lifted in July 2021 and develop a safe reintegration process for staff to return to our offices. Covid Safe arrangements were still required even though prescriptive legal measures on social distancing and mandatory wearing of face coverings were removed and an advisory approach was adopted.
- 1.3 The content of this 6 month Corporate Health and Safety Report will provide:
- An updated review of the continuing health, safety and wellbeing work undertaken to protect and support our services and schools through the pandemic.
 - An overview of accidents during this period, giving details of the numbers and types of incidents that have occurred across directorates and schools
 - Details of delivery of other health and safety support and the HSU work programme.
- 1.4 Updates also continue to be provided to the relevant Corporate Directors and Joint Consultative Committees.

2. **Covid19 – Managing Pandemic Risks for our Services and Schools**

2.1 **Planning and Delivering our Covid Support**

- 2.1.1 HSU has continued to have representation on a number of coordinated strategic and operational working groups to prioritise our Covid support for Services and schools. Table 1 below highlights the overarching key groups:

Table 1 – Key Strategic and Operational Groups

Groups	Description
Trafford People, Digital and Modernisation Thematic Group (Silver)	Reports to RCG (Recovery Coordination Group) Ensures the co-ordination of the Council's Covid response, recovery and reintegration plans following efforts to manage the impact of Covid-19 since March 2020.
Reintegration Sub Group (Bronze)	Reports to Trafford People, Digital and Modernisation Thematic Group Includes estates, people, digital and health & safety issues which provides an overview of our operational delivery of Covid management and reintegration programme.
Health and Safety Operational Group	Reports to Reintegration Sub Group Chaired by HSU and working with key partners, it delivers operational risk management and monitoring processes in line with Covid arrangements.

2.1.2 HSU have also maintained representation on further groups to provide specific support e.g. in the provision of PPE, schools support (outbreak control meetings and head teachers update meetings) and elections planning meetings.

2.1.3 The communication of all our Covid guidance and information had been supported through the provision of our [#Stay EPIC COVID19 Support intranet pages](#), regular updates in the staff and manager briefings, senior manager communications, information on our '6 boxes', schools specific communications and bespoke videos and training outlining our Covid measures. These have also been shared with our partners working within our buildings.

2.2 Supporting our Workforce to Work from Home

2.2.1 Support has continued for staff working from home where they are able to do so. This greatly supports our Covid measures within our buildings by helping to manage occupancy levels, reduce the risk of transmission and support business continuity for our front line services. The support includes:

- Additional [health, safety and wellbeing guidance](#) for working from home safely
- Access to essential equipment to work from home e.g. laptop risers, keyboards, mice
- Additional more complex assessment support from HSU to identify any additional needs or equipment

2.2.2 The focus of the support has now shifted to reflect longer term Trafford Smart Working and new working styles, which will give a business focused approach to flexible working and provide a better work life balance for colleagues.

2.2.3 Two of the work styles, 'home worker' and 'hybrid worker', give staff the opportunity to work in a home environment for all or part of their working hours on a permanent arrangement. This move from temporary arrangements during the pandemic, requires the Council to ensure that we are continuing to robustly meet our duties under workstation and display screen equipment legislation. HSU are fully involved with the Trafford Smart Working Project Team to support this work which will include:

- Additional workstation and DSE assessments to continue to ensure a safe and healthy workstation and environment for staff
- Investment in suitable additional workstation equipment as determined through the risk assessment

2.3 Covid Safe Buildings and Services

General building arrangements

- 2.3.1 The provision of Covid safe buildings have remained an essential aspect of protecting staff and minimising the risk of transmission. Even following national restrictions lifting in July 2021, we still have duties to protect our workforce from Covid19. Continuing measures have included:
- Managing the occupancy of our buildings
 - Space arrangements throughout our buildings, at desks, in communal areas and in meeting rooms
 - Enhanced cleaning regimes and hand hygiene arrangements.
 - Screens installed at public facing areas.
 - Recommended wearing of face coverings
 - Good ventilation in place
- 2.3.2 The arrangements at our main office buildings have continued to be reviewed by HSU in conjunction with our FM providers and partners on a monthly basis and issues are also addressed through the bi-weekly Health and Safety Operational Group. Covid 19 building risk assessment templates are also still available for premises managers to arrange and monitor measures at other buildings.

Covid Secure Elections

- 2.3.3 In May 2021, Covid secure elections were delivered. A range of measures were put into place for the nominations, postal votes, polling stations and count to ensure these complex arrangements could be delivered safely and the risk of Covid transmission was managed effectively.

Reintegration Support

- 2.3.4 As the national restrictions were eased and lifted, HSU supported safe arrangements for the reintegration of further staff to our workplaces in line with the Trafford Roadmap. This was to aid the delivery of services, assist with business continuity and support staff wellbeing. Examples of this work is shown in table 2:

Table 2: Activities to support Covid Safe Reintegration

Activity	Description
Occupancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupancy levels were increased to a maximum of 40% which could be accommodated within our existing Covid Safe arrangements. Staff were encouraged to return to the office in a managed way for part of the week. • Services managed the attendance of staff to the offices within this parameter. • This continued to be monitored through our signing in processes at our main buildings
Meeting Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting room occupancies were reviewed and increased following changes to self-isolation guidance • Covid safe arrangements remained in place for distancing, cleaning and ventilation to protect those using the meeting space • Committee rooms and the Council Chamber at Trafford Town Hall were included in the review to support the hosting of the majority of Council face to face meetings. Full Council is still currently held at external suitable venues but remains under review • Advice and support has been provided to services who require the use of meeting rooms for service delivery and mandatory events

CO2 Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE and government guidance identifies CO2 monitoring as a useful tool for assessing appropriate ventilation within workspaces. • CO2 monitors are now being used as an effective risk management tool within Council spaces to ensure adequate ventilation is available to reduce the transmission risk of Covid. Key examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the Council Chamber for Council Meetings - Used by the Arts Centre for their performance and exhibition spaces that are open to the public - By Registrars within their venues for official services and duties - The TalkShop are using them to support meetings with service users - All of the above services have received direct support with the review of their Covid Safe risk assessments • CO2 monitors are also being rolled out for use in schools supported by DfE guidance and advice from HSU where needed
Welfare Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSU supported the completion of new shower facilities at Sale Waterside including an accessible shower to support active travel etc. The changing facilities and drying room are also available at Trafford Town Hall • The Terrace seating area was reopened with Covid Safe measures in place following the relocation of the Lateral Flow Testing Site
Information and Guidance for Staff and Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to our intranet guidance and communications, two bespoke videos were produced demonstrating from an individual perspective the Covid arrangements in place at Trafford Town Hall and Sale Waterside.

2.4 Service Risk Assessment Support

2.4.1 Service Leads and Managers continue to be responsible for making sure the risks associated with Covid19 have been assessed in relation to their work activities. Template support materials have been updated as the Government and HSE guidance has changed. Specific support has been provided across our range of services including Registrars Services, Libraries and the Arts Centre. Trafford Transport have received support in reviewing arrangements for their passenger assistants to operate safely. PPE remains available to services where required.

2.4.2 The Health and Safety Executive made an unannounced visit to Sale Library in April as part of their ongoing Covid Secure compliance inspection programme. The inspector observed the range of measures put into place to protect staff and visitors and were complimentary with the arrangements. A previous spot check had also taken place at Altrincham library in February, where again the inspector was happy with the measures in place.

2.5 Protecting our Staff at Greater Risk

2.5.1 Throughout the pandemic, Trafford guidance for services and schools has been provided for staff at greater risk from Covid19. This reflected government guidance for those who were 'clinically extremely vulnerable' and 'clinically vulnerable'.

2.5.2 The Trafford guidance has been continually reviewed and updated in line with any government changes, which have included the end of the requirement to shield, and categories for persons at greater risk. Trafford has maintained an individual risk assessment process to identify and consult with staff considered to be at greater risk and how they can be supported with any additional protective measures.

2.6 Reducing the risk of transmission from Covid19 confirmed or suspected cases

- 2.6.1 A Trafford test and trace process has remained in place to respond effectively to suspected and confirmed cases of Covid19 and minimise the risk of transmission within the work environment. This includes appropriate self-isolation and the obtaining of a test, assessment of any further potential contacts and further cleaning arrangements where required. There has been no significant outbreaks of Covid19 within our Council buildings. Although identified contacts no longer have to self-isolate if they are double vaccinated, it is still encouraged that home working will be undertaken for the isolation period where possible, combined with regular lateral flow testing.
- 2.6.2 Trafford Covid19 guidance requests that staff attending our workplaces undertake regular lateral flow testing. HSU supported the relocation of our in house lateral flow testing site managed by Public Health to the Trafford Town Hall library. This can be used both by staff and other cohorts to support regular testing.

2.7 Schools Support and SLA Delivery

- 2.7.1 Schools have continued to be aided during exceptionally challenging times. Supporting Public Health colleagues, HSU have assisted schools through:
 - Reviewing and updating the schools overarching Covid19 risk assessment template to implement and monitor arrangements for pupils and staff
 - Attend outbreak control meetings and provide advice to support the effective management of cases
 - Attendance at Head Teachers and Trade Union update meetings to answer any queries and provide any further advice and guidance
 - Direct support through the school SLA arrangements
- 2.7.2 To support schools during the pandemic through the SLA, HSU have been offering options to deliver ‘virtual/remote’ audit support for schools during the pandemic that assist with their ongoing compliance and management of health and safety issues whilst continuing to manage COVID related risks for pupils and staff. All schools under the SLA were supported with a monitoring toolkit to assist them in reviewing their health and safety performance.
- 2.7.3 Currently, 77 schools have purchased the Health and Safety SLA for 2021-22. The breakdown of schools is shown in table 3.

Table 3: Breakdown of school SLA buy-back

School Type	Number
Community	37
Voluntary Controlled	1
Voluntary Aided	20
Independent	2
Academy	17
Total	77

2.8 Health and Wellbeing Support During the Pandemic

2.8.1 The wider HR Service in conjunction with partners has continued to deliver a range of interventions for our workforce and provide, promote and signpost a wealth of support in line with our *EPIC You* Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This includes a focus on mental wellbeing and assisting colleagues in challenging times. Table 4 summaries the support from April 2021.

Table 4: *EPIC You* Health and Wellbeing Activities and Support

Activity	Details
Trafford Support Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trafford Council/CCG Mental Health First Aid Network: Promoting our trained volunteers who are a point of contact if colleagues are experiencing a mental health issue or emotional distress. • Trafford Employee Assistance Programme: 24/7, easy to access confidential support. Unlimited access to information and counselling
Tea and Talks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tea and Talk sessions hosted monthly by our Mental Health First Aiders aimed at supporting staff to connect and take some time out from pressures of work and home life. This may be a conversation specifically around mental health or just a general chat.
Staff Support Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microlearn sessions: Delivered to staff included Digital Wellbeing to facilitate improved use and management of IT that supports wellbeing and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. • 'Let's Talk' Sessions: Included a wellbeing session 'Supporting through change to feel physiologically safe' • EPIC Manager Health and Wellbeing Module: Launch of this module as part of the EPIC Manager programme to ensure managers are able to support the wellbeing of their teams.
Wellbeing campaigns and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted and encouraged physical and mental wellbeing events to staff including '30 days Wild' and National Walking Month in May and Cycle to Work Day in August. • World Suicide Prevention Day was highlighted in September through our staff communication channels
Health and Wellbeing Guidance and Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing staff pages: Have been refreshed and updated to provide more engaging advice and guidance with hints and tips for staff and managers on a range of wellbeing topics. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resources under themes such as resilience, managing stress, returning to the office and financial wellbeing - 'Bites' learning series including bite size talks with reflective questions

3. Accident Statistics

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 Accident statistics can provide an important aspect of monitoring health and safety performance and help identify areas where risk needs to be managed more effectively. As mentioned in the previous year's Corporate Health and Safety report, the Covid pandemic had a significant impact on our workforce delivery due to a number of factors including an increased number of staff working from home, temporary pauses or changes in the provision of some front line services, reduction in customers accessing our buildings and schools only open for key workers at periods of lockdown. This resulted in a substantial decrease in reported incidents.

3.1.2 During the six month period of this report, we have seen schools return to a period of full operation with Covid measures in place and other teams increasing the provision of their services again as restrictions were lifted. However, a substantial number of staff have also continued to work from home.

3.1.3 The changes have seen an increase in the number in the incidents reported. The total number of incidents for April-September reported to the HSU has risen from 20 incidents reported in 2020 to 63 in 2021. Tables 5 and 6 provide a breakdown of these incidents by service area, directorate and type of accident.

Table 5: Numbers of accidents by Directorate and Service Area

Directorate	Service Area	No of incidents
Adults Services	Adults Neighbourhood Teams	3
Total		3
Childrens Services	Education Standards, Quality and Assurance	9
	Residential & No Wrong Door	1
Total		10
Governance & Community	Customer Services	1
Total		1
Strategy and Resources	Cleaning Support Service	1
	Catering Support Service	7
Total		8
Place	Growth and Regulatory Services	2
	Housing Options	1
Total		3
Schools	Special Schools	33
	Community Schools	5
Total		38
Total Accidents		63

Table 6: Type of accident by Directorate

Type of accident	Directorates – See Key Below							Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Cut by sharp object	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Contact with hot surface/substance	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Fall from steps/down stairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hit by a moving vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hit by moving, flying or falling object	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4
Hit something fixed or stationary	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Injured while handling, lifting or carrying	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4
Other kind of incident	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Physical Assault	0	4	0	0	0	1	23	28
Road Traffic Collision	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Slipped, tripped, fell on same level	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	5
Sports related	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Striking against object	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Verbal assault, threats or Intimidation	1	2	0	1	0	2	2	8
Totals	3	10	0	1	8	3	38	63

A - Adults

C - Finance and Systems

E - Strategy and Resources

G - Schools

B - Childrens

D - Governance & Community

F - Place

3.1.4 Comparing the accident statistics to the same period in 2020, the increase in accidents mainly relates to schools (in particular special schools) with an increase of 38 incidents reported compared to 5 in the previous reporting term when schools were operating at significantly reduced capacity under lockdown arrangements. Services that include support to schools have also seen an increase in incidents reported including Trafford Transport Provision (9 incidents from 1) and catering and cleaning services (8 from 3).

3.2 Types of Accidents

3.2.1 Violence and aggression accounted for the majority of incidents. Physical assault includes a wide range of physical incidents stemming from aggressive behaviour and accounted for 28 incidents. These occurred mainly within Special Schools and Trafford Transport Provision when dealing with challenging behaviour. This was comparable with pre-pandemic levels in 2019. One significant incident occurred within the housing options team and involved a highly volatile service user within Sale Waterside. The incident was reviewed to improve physical and procedural security measures within the building.

- 3.2.2 There were 8 reported incidents of verbal assault, threats or intimidation (compared to 3). These were reported from a range of services including schools, Transport Provision, Regulatory Services and Adult Social Care
- 3.2.3 Slips and trips accidents accounted for 5 incidents and mainly occurred within a school or school catering environment. The remaining incidents involved a variety of circumstances and were not related.

3.3 Rate of Reportable Injuries to Staff

- 3.3.1 There were three incidents that were reportable under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) to the Health and Safety Executive during the period covered by this report. These incidents related to catering and cleaning services within schools requiring more than 7 days off work and included:
- A catering member of staff who was accidentally knocked into by a pupil
 - A catering member of staff who caught their foot on a pipe
 - A cleaning member of staff who suffered a moving and handling injury

4. Continued Delivery of Health and Safety Improvement Plan

- 4.1 The focus of the HSU's work programme has largely continued in supporting the Covid Pandemic, however this and additional work is highlighted

4.2 Key Work Programme Actions

The following actions detailed in Table 6 were completed

Table 7: Key work programme actions completed or being progressed by HSU

Area of development	Actions	Status
Corporate and schools guidance review	Covid19 Service Risk Assessment Templates Updated	Completed
	Covid19 Building Risk Assessment Templates Updated	Completed
	Persons at Greater Risk of COVID19 Guidance Updated	Completed
	Covid19 intranet guidance updates including Covid19 videos	Completed
	Display Screen Equipment Guidance to align with Smart Working Styles	In progress
Schools COVID Support	Schools Covid19 overarching risk assessment review	Completed
Fire Evacuation arrangements	Review of fire precautions and fire register arrangements for our Council buildings during Covid and evacuation drills undertaken	Completed

4.3 Training

The HSU has continued to work with the Learning and Development Team to provide essential training as detailed in table 8

Table 8: Training delivered April-September 2021

Course/Training	Number of Courses	Number Attended/Trained
Moving and Handling Induction (Adults)	2	7
Moving and Handling Hoist Training	3	10
Online General Manual Handling	-	60
Fire Evacuation Chair Training	2	4
Online Health & Safety Inductions	-	52

4.4 Requests for Service

HSU have continued to respond to a very high level of requests for advice and support in light of COVID and also other complaints or incidents relating to Health and Safety at Work issues.

4.5 Display Screen Equipment (DSE) Assessments

A total of 17 DSE (computer) workstation assessments have been carried out by the HSU for employees. These included supporting colleagues working from home and those with more complex health needs.

4.6 Moving and Handling Support

- 4.6.1 The Moving and Handling Lead continues to support refresher training needs with the delivery of the online Moving and Handling Training and Support Package. The system is accessed by staff in Ascot House, Care at Home and Supported Living Services and provides effective additional training for existing and new staff. It includes online videos, safe systems of work and training tools. All staff receive tailored training records to monitor their competence in moving and handling tasks.
- 4.6.2 Bespoke hoist training was delivered to supported living staff as an outcome to a complex risk assessment from a hospital discharge.
- 4.6.3 The Moving and Handling induction training programme continues on a request basis from services as part of their training needs and this is expected to increase as teams continue to reintegrate.
- 4.6.4 The Council's Moving and Handling Lead and Consultant has also completed 'complex' moving and handling assessments as detailed in table 9, providing support for staff and service users. The consultant has also provided two vocational rehabilitation assessments to assist staff in returning to work safely.

Table 9: Complex Moving and Handling Referrals

Complex Moving and Handling referrals	Number of referrals
Complex Moving and Handling - Adults	5
Complex Moving and Handling - Children	2
Complex Display Screen Assessments	15

4.7 Fire Safety

- 4.7.1 The Health and Safety Advisor (Fire Lead) has continued to deliver a range of fire support to services to ensure we meet our duties under relevant fire legislation.
- 4.7.2 They have overseen the replacement of evacuation chairs at Trafford Town Hall and Sale to ensure the equipment is suitable and fit for purpose in assisting evacuation for persons who may require assistance.
- 4.7.3 The subsequent delivery of fire evacuation chair training has taken place at both sites with relevant staff. Colleagues who require Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS) in the event of an emergency have been supported with arrangements when they are within our buildings.
- 4.7.4 Evacuation drills have been completed at Trafford Town Hall and Sale Waterside to test the fire arrangements in place

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The report has highlighted the continued work that has been delivered in response to the COVID Pandemic to protect our workforce whilst continuing to deliver our services. It has also highlighted the work underway in reintegrating our workforce and considerations to new ways of working.
- 5.2 This work will continue through 2021-22 through effective collaboration with partners and services and a comprehensive update on this work will be provided in the Corporate Health and Safety Year End Report.