



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

AGENDA PAPERS FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, 9 November 2022

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Place: Committee Rooms 2 & 3, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford,
M32 0TH

A G E N D A	PART I	Pages
1. ATTENDANCES		
To note attendances, including Officers, and any apologies for absence.		
2. MINUTES		To Follow
To receive and, if so determined, to agree as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2022.		
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST		
Members to give notice of any interest and the nature of that interest relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct.		
4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC		
A maximum of 15 minutes will be allocated to public questions submitted in writing to Democratic Services (democratic.services@trafford.gov.uk) by 4 p.m. on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must be relevant to items appearing on the agenda and will be submitted in the order in which they were received.		
5. DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2022/23		1 - 12
To receive a presentation from the Executive Member for Finance and Systems.		

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN PERFORMANCE To Follow

To receive a report of the Executive Member for Climate Change and Transport Strategy.

7. PLACING GREEN SPACES INTO FIELDS IN TRUST 13 - 14

To receive a report of the Executive Member for Environmental Services.

8. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 15 - 20

To consider the items within the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year.

9. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

Any other item or items which, by reason of special circumstances (to be specified), the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

10. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION (REMAINING ITEMS)

Motion (Which may be amended as Members think fit):

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, because of the likelihood of disclosure of "exempt information" which falls within one or more descriptive category or categories of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and specified on the agenda item or report relating to each such item respectively.

SARA TODD

Chief Executive

Membership of the Committee

Councillors D. Acton (Chair), D. Butt (Vice-Chair), J.M. Axford, G. Carter, G. Coggins, W. Frass, K. Procter, R. Thompson, L. Walsh, B.G. Winstanley, S. Zhi, D. Western (ex-Officio) and M.P. Whetton (ex-Officio).

Further Information

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

Alexander Murray, Governance Officer,
Tel: 0161 912 4250
Email: alexander.murray@trafford.gov.uk

Scrutiny Committee - Wednesday, 9 November 2022

This agenda was issued on **Thursday, 3 November 2022** by the Legal and Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall; Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0TH.

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Scrutiny Committee Update 9 November 2022

DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2022/23

Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2023/24 to 2025/26

<i>Summary of the Budget Proposals</i>	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Gross Budget Gap (Oct 22)	25,819	9,576	10,495	45,890
Policy Choice Funding Proposals				
General Increase in basic Council Tax to 1.99%	(2,266)	(2,390)	(2,523)	(7,179)
Social Care Precept increase 1.0%	(1,139)	(1,184)	(1,232)	(3,555)
Contribution from Budget Support Reserve	(2,500)	200	2,300	0
Total Policy Choice Funding	(5,905)	(3,374)	(1,455)	(10,734)
Savings and Income proposals	(11,394)	(3,486)	(3,272)	(18,152)
Revised Budget Gap (Oct 22)	8,520	2,716	5,768	17,004

Examples of components of the Gross Gap 2023/24

Expenditure and Income examples :-

- Pay Award (+4% plus 4% catch-up from 22/23) £5.85m
- National Living Wage, Real Living Wage and Fair Price for Care £8.35m
- Inflation – General and Contractual £8.17m (8% average) inc Energy+200% £3.2m
- Temporary increase to COVID general contingency £1.5m removed
- Demand and cost pressures – Adults and Children's £2.5m
- Add one off savings in 22/23 £0.5m and in-year recurrent pressures (CYP) £1.5m
- General and Service Grants – net increase £3.97m (Social Care Reform £2.4m, Social Care Grant £2.0m)
- Income from Asset Investment Strategy dropping out £3.2m (£1.8m recycle/savings, £1.5m reduced reliance)

Funding Examples :-

- Council Tax +1% growth in taxbase, Discretionary discounts, better outturn 21/22 +£1.75m
- Business Rates – Release of historic appeals, improvement sharing agreement, indexation of multiplier +£6.0m
- Reversal of use of Reserves -£11.4m

Key Budget Assumptions

- Position includes for a 2.99% increase in council tax (1.99% base, 1% ASC)
- Inflation – BOE forecast (at the time) peak 13% down to 2% (average 8% 23/24)
- Energy inflation +200% increase
- Pay award impact from 2022/23 6% agreed and 4% 2023/24
- Fair Price for Care (NLW, RLW, Contractual Inflation)
 - NLW follows RLW increase +10.2%
 - Supplier non pay inflation LGA composite rate (6% to 8%)
 - Social Care Reform Grant £2.4m
- Investment Programme – recycling the fall out £1.8m, £1.5m reduced reliance in 2023/24
- D2A Beds council budgeted level of 30. Additional national resource £500m meets costs
- Impact of social care charging reform is neutral (Consultation in progress)
- Service demand pressures in 2022/2023 impact :-
 - Children's P4 - in year placement demand, Home to School – growth £1.5m built in 23/24
 - Children's demographic growth in future will be absorbed through equal savings
 - No evidence of recurrent impact of COVID. Release of £1.5m contingency
 - Recurrent shortfall in Investment Programme justifies reduction in budget reliance £1.5m in 23/24

Key Budget Assumptions cont.....

- Additional general Social Care Grant - 2023/24 and £2.0m 2024/25
- Manchester Airport Investment – no dividend until 2026/27
- Fair Funding and Business Rates Review delayed until 2025/26
- Business Rates
 - Release of historic provision for appeals
 - Benefits post reset will be protected/smoothed
 - Business Rate Multiplier cap/freeze will be compensated by Government
 - Renegotiated GM sharing agreement (75/25) 2022/23 and 2023/24
 - Use of Business Rate Risk Reserve and Budget Support to smooth the benefits/absorb any short term pressures
- Realignment of Treasury Management Budget – review subject to parameters in Prudential Code

Savings and Income Proposals

Theme/Title	Previously Approved/ New	Service Area	Description of Saving	2022/23 £000's
Children Placements	PA	Children's	A review of demand and placements for looked after children	(1,000)
Staffing Efficiencies Children's Services	PA	Children's	Review of staffing establishment outside of the main redesign programme	(45)
Troubled Families Funding/Strengthening Families	New	Children's	Continuation of the service redesign	(275)
VCSFE service/children's commissioning	New	Children's	Undertake strategic needs assessment of commissioned services and offer	(72)
Sub-Total Children's				(1,392)
Weight Management	PA	Adults	Reduce the prevalence of community obesity and thereby reduce long-term health conditions that result and the support required.	(31)
Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)/Portal – Reshaping.	PA	Adults	The implementation of the LPS scheme and a whole system portal which will drive through efficiencies and costs savings.	(101)
Bad debt provision - Adults Social Care	New	Adults	Review level of contribution to bad debt provision	(50)
Homecare	New	Adults	Rephase Council contribution once Transformation Funding ceases	(1,000)
Demographic Growth Control	New	Adults	Demographic Growth Control	(100)
Sub-Total Adult's				(1,282)
Electric vehicle (EV) charging points	PA	Place	Expand number of EV charging points on a revenue share model	(100)
Strategic Investment Income	PA	Place	Investment Programme - Recycling of receipts to maintain net income at achievable levels	(1,800)
Review of operational and strategic estates	New	Place	Efficiency review of operational estate and lease/rent reviews to ensure full cost recovery across the Council's estate	(136)

Savings and Income Proposals (cont)

Planning Fees - greater cost recovery	New	Place	Increase planning fees (subject to Government confirming an uplift in fees, which are set nationally)	(100)
Regulatory Services - cost recovery	New	Place	The cost of safety certificates / recover more from taxi tests to increase.	(25)
Reduce Place Contingency	New	Place	Removal of a contingency budget from an earlier restructure	(30)
Housing Service	New	Place	Removal of temporary posts/vacancies	(50)
GMCA contribution	New	Place	Review level of contribution	(50)
Street Lighting	New	Place	Review option in relation to Trimming, 1hr warm up, cool down at start and end of day	(150)
Illuminated signs / bollards	New	Place	Invest to save to declutter and de-illumination to reduce energy cost impacts	(50)
Street Lighting	New	Place	Look at further options to trim earlier / later and switch off street lighting in low risk areas	(300)
Sale Water Park	New	Place	Review service provision	(100)
Unadopted highways/access roads	New	Place	Reduce budget provision	(50)
Sub-Total Place				(2,941)
Traded Services	PA	Finance & Systems	Traded Services income - increase in contributions to offset pay and cost inflation.	(38)
Review of Subscriptions	New	Finance & Systems	A range of subscriptions for external services to be reviewed	(20)
Sub-Total Finance & Systems				(58)
Traded Services	PA	Strategy & Resources	Review Traded Services income - increase in charges to offset pay and cost inflation.	(151)
Traded Services	New	Strategy & Resources	Reduce subsidy on some traded activity - 5% reduction in cost	(110)

Savings and Income Proposals (cont)

Change Charging basis for Modernisation Team	New	Strategy & Resources	Utilising the flexibility on capital receipts, it is intended to charge the cost of the team to the capital programme for a further two years.	(600)
Review of Sale Waterside Arts Centre and Flixton House Operations	New	Strategy & Resources	A review of the operational effectiveness of both assets.	(180)
Review Music Service	New	Strategy & Resources	Continue to remove the remaining Corporate overhead subsidy and continue with expansion of offer with a view to broadening reach	(30)
Sub-Total Strategy & Resources				(1,071)
Treasury Management Budget	New	Council Wide	Realignment of the Treasury Management Budget to support the latest forecast position and activity relating to borrowing and Investments	(3,850)
Increase Vacancy Factor/Budget utilisation	New	All	Increase vacancy management period across all services	(700)
Digital Strategy	PA	All	Increased use of digital technology to deliver better and more efficient services.	(100)
Sub-Total Council Wide and Cross Directorate				(4,650)
TOTAL SAVINGS AND INCOME PROPOSALS				(11,394)

Other areas to be considered

- External review of Learning Disability service;
- Review the Discharge to Assess System Flow and Council budget;
- Review of vacancy management protocols;
- Consider changes to staff terms and conditions;
- Review of contract management and procurement arrangements, initially through STAR procurement;
- Review of existing and potential enforcement activity that could support the alleviation of congestion;
- Review of activity across a number of areas including commissioning, business support and remaining discretionary services;
- Review of Combined Authority budget contributions.

Next Steps

Draft Budget

- Draft budget report to Executive 24th October 2022 (available on web under Democratic Services)
- Develop Business Cases for Savings identified to date
- Which are subject to consultation and with who (public/staffing/partners)
- Work with F&C Board/CLT/Modernisation Team to identify other areas of potential savings/income

Before Final Budget

- Continue to lobby Government. Trafford is one lowest resourced councils (F20 Group)
- Government announcement - Medium Term Fiscal Plan – 17th November 2022
- Provisional local government settlement mid December (detailed local government level and council tax thresholds)
- Review reserve balances to support the range of risks the Council faces.
- Further review of budget assumptions (pay award, National Living Wage, October inflation, In year monitoring)
- Challenge budget assumptions for affordability pending outcome of Government Funding (particularly Fair Price for Care, Hospital Discharge)



Questions ?

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 9 NOVEMBER 2022

Response to Report on Fields in Trust (Scrutiny Committee 19 September)

Following the report to the Committee in September some questions were posed by on the content of the report.

Question from the Committee:

Please provide more information on the potential costs of placing land with the Fields in Trust process

Response (circulated previously on 10 October)

The principal cost involved with the procedure is the officer time necessary to carry out the requisite work and manage the process. There is a minor charge for site registration. From registration work carried out thus evident that there can be significant variation in the time involved – and that a lot of the issues connected with each site only really come to the fore once the process has commenced. Consequently, it is difficult to provide a truly accurate estimate of the cost of site registration.

From current experience it is considered that it will take at least 80 hours of officer time to carry out the procedure – and depending on the grade of staff involved, a likely cost of around £2,800 in terms of the time taken. This cost takes no account of the ‘price’ of existing work having to be delayed or set aside.

If all Trafford sites were to be co-opted into this process, some economies of time would be expected – but broadly it might take at least 6 years of officer time to carry out the task.

Questions from Cllr Coggins

“So we could cover a site every two weeks, which is 26 sites a year. But it would take 6 years to complete? Do we have 156 sites? There are 29 listed on the council website here [Parks in Trafford](#) That looks like little over a year’s work? Still a lot but just checking how these numbers are arrived at?”

Trafford has different types of open space – including playing fields, play areas, parks and semi natural areas. The figure of 156 sites is derived from the Trafford [Greenspace Strategy](#) and is an amalgamation of the various tables within the strategy. It will include other types of greenspace, in addition to the principal parks.

The cost estimates are derived from the officer time employed on recent efforts to secure Fields In Trust registration. It is assumed that a variety of staff are involved – and so a blend of grades 8 -12 was used to estimate costings – based on an hourly rate. That hourly rate takes account of full cost of employing the member of staff. It was also assumed that with a larger number of sites, there would be economies of scale – and so a corresponding reduction in the overall total was made to take account of that.

It should be noted that these costs assumes existing staff are re-deployed to carry out the work. By implication this means that other, existing programmes across strategic planning, parks, leisure and estates would be correspondingly delayed or shelved. The headline cost does not reflect any knock-on resource implications that might arise as a consequence. If it was necessary to employ an external company to carry out the work, the costs would also be expected to be rise significantly.

Please provide some background on why William Wroe, Turn Moss and Crossfield were picked for FiT status

These sites are not conventional parks but are open spaces which historically have been used for a variety of purposes – William Wroe for example was previously a Municipal Golf Course. Each site has also been the subject of development proposals within the past few years. This combination of relatively unusual circumstances led to the decision to designate these areas under the Fields in Trust process.

Trafford Scrutiny Committee 2022/23 Work Programme

Wednesday 9 November 2022 – 6:30pm, Committee Rooms 2&3, Trafford Town Hall				
<i>Report submission deadline – midday on Tuesday 1 November 2022</i>				
Item	Information	Executive Member(s)	Lead Officer(s)	Comments
Budget Presentation	To receive an outline of the budget position for 2023/24 to inform the Budget Scrutiny process	Executive Member for Finance and Governance	Graeme Bentley	
Climate Change Action Plan Progress	This item was raised following a report that went to the Trafford Climate Emergency and Air Quality Commission in June from Jez Tweed which showed Trafford were behind the action plan in a number of areas.	Executive Member for Climate Change and Transport Strategy	Richard Roe	
Placing all Parks into Fields in Trust	To Receive a short update report covering the costs of putting all Parks into Fields in Trust and explaining how the figures were arrived at.	Executive Member for Environmental Services.	Adrian Fisher	This is a follow on from the previous meeting where the Committee requested further information to enable them to make a recommendation to Council
Work programme	For Members to discuss items for Consideration by the Committee for the municipal year.			

Budget Scrutiny

There are two Budget Scrutiny sessions scheduled for the 29 November and 1 December 2022. Discussions at these sessions, will help formulate the Scrutiny Committee's Budget Scrutiny report to the Executive (To be presented to Scrutiny at the 11 January 2023 meeting).

Wednesday 11 January 2023 – 6:30pm, Committee Rooms 2&3, Trafford Town Hall				
<i>Report submission deadline – midday on Tuesday 3 January 2023</i>				
Item	Information	Executive Member(s)	Lead Officer(s)	Comments
Corporate Plan Delivery	To receive a report from the Leader of the Council's performance against the Corporate Plan.	The Leader	Sara Saleh	This item was agreed with the Leader when he met with the Chair and Vice Chair on the 14 th of July.
Electrical Vehicle Charging strategy	To receive a report on the Councils current strategy to make recommendations.	Executive Member for Climate Change and Transport Strategy	Richard Roe	
HIMAP	The Committee have been asked to look at this item prior to it going to the Executive.	Executive Member for Climate Change and Transport Strategy	Chris Morris	Information relating to this topic area is to be shared with Committee Members in advance to aid them in scrutinising the item.

2022/23 Budget Scrutiny Report	A report produced by the Scrutiny Committee providing its recommendations on the 2023/24 Budget Proposals.	N/A – Report of the Scrutiny Committee		
Work programme	For Members to discuss items for Consideration by the Committee for the municipal year.			

Wednesday 8 March 2023 – 6:30pm, Committee Rooms 2&3, Trafford Town Hall				
<i>Report submission deadline – midday on Tuesday 28 February 2022</i>				
Item	Information	Executive Member(s)	Lead Officer(s)	Comments
Accessibility of Council Services	To look into how well residents are able to contact the Council and Access services following the pandemic.	The Leader	Sara Saleh	To receive a report on how Council Services are performing against SLAs

Work programme	For Members to discuss items for Consideration by the Committee for the municipal year.			

Ongoing Task and Finish work				
Item	Information	Executive Member(s)	Lead Officer(s)	Comments
Events at Old Trafford	Task and Finish group to investigate the impact events at the venue have on the local population.			Group has had two meetings and is looking at gathering views of local residents.
Disability Access	Work ongoing following interim report in March 2020			Response received at meeting 21 September 2022. A decision needs to be reached as to whether further action is to be taken by the Group.
Travellers	Work ongoing following interim report in March 2022			Response received at meeting 21 September 2022. A decision needs to be reached as to whether further action is to be taken by the Group.

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