

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

15 FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Chris Boyes), in the Chair.

D.C. O'Sullivan (Deputy Mayor)	J. Harding	T. Ross
D. Acton	B. Hartley	J. Slater
S. Adshead	W. Hassan	S. Taylor
J.M. Axford	S. J. Haughey	S. Thomas
J. Bennett	J. Holden	R. Thompson
Miss L. Blackburn	F. Hornby	L. Walsh
J. E. Brophy	C. Hynes	M.J. Welton
B. Brotherton	D. Jarman	D. Western
D. Butt	D. Jerrome	M.P. Whetton
G. Carter	W. Jones	G. Whitham
K.G. Carter	S. Maitland	A.M. Whyte
D.N. Chalkin	M. Minnis	A.J. Williams
G. Coggins	D. Morgan	B.G. Winstanley
R. Duncan	P. Myers	J.A. Wright
S. G. Ennis	J.D. Newgrosh	Mrs. P. Young
W. Frass	E. Patel	S. Zhi
M. Freeman	K. Procter	
S.J. Gilbert	S. Procter	

In attendance:

Chief Executive	S. Todd
Director of Finance and Systems	G. Bentley
Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	D. Sykes
Head of Financial Management	D. Muggerridge
Governance Manager	J. Addison
Senior Governance Officer	I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Akinola, D. Bunting, Dr. S. Carr, L. Dagnall, J. Leicester, J. Lloyd, M. Mirza, A. New, T. O'Brien and A. Western.

59. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 4 January 2023 and the Meeting of the Council held on 25 January 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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60. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) His Majesty The King's New Year's Honours

The Mayor took the opportunity to recognise those residents named in His Majesty the King's New Year's Honours List, namely:

Professor Linda Joyce Merrick of Altrincham awarded the citation of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Music in Higher Education;

Professor Mohamed Pourkashanian of Bowdon awarded the citation of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to Net Zero Research and to Innovation;

Mr Charles Frederick Banks of Urmston awarded the citation of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to People with Disabilities in Greater Manchester and North-West England;

Mrs. Gwynneth Bellman of Hale awarded the MBE for services to the Administration of Justice and to the community in Manchester;

Miss Jade Bridget Clarke of Partington awarded the MBE for services to Netball;

Mrs. Shelly Jayne Quinton-Hulme of Stretford awarded the MBE for services to the community in Stretford;

Professor Charlotte Anne Skitterall of Altrincham awarded the MBE for services to Pharmacy; and

Mr. Mark Smallwood awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Greater Manchester during Covid-19.

The Council joined with the Mayor to convey congratulations for their achievements and richly deserved recognition.

(b) Manchester United Stadium Scrutiny Task and Finish Group

Councillor Acton, Chair of Scrutiny Committee was pleased to inform Members that a task and finish group had been established specifically to consider the experiences of residents living in the shadow of Manchester United's Stadium which was being chaired by local Councillor Walsh. It was the first exercise of this type and an initial survey was to date approaching 500 responses, the highest return since the Council had started to use Citizens Space surveys. The task and finish group would be considering the responses at its next meeting.

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61. BUDGET 2023/24

(Note: PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS - In respect of the main item of business on the agenda, the Mayor announced that the Leader of the Council (or his nominee) would have a maximum of 15 minutes to make the initial speech and a further maximum of 15 minutes to summarise the debate. The Leader of the Main Opposition Group (or her nominee) would have a maximum of 15 minutes, whereas, the Leaders of the Minority Opposition Groups (or their respective nominees) would each have a maximum of 10 minutes to make their initial speeches. Each Opposition Group Leader (or their respective nominees) would each have a further maximum of 5 minutes to summarise on behalf of their respective Groups. Time for all other speeches would be restricted to a maximum of 3 minutes.)

The Leader of the Council and portfolio holder for Finance and Governance presented a number of reports setting out the proposed budget for the forthcoming year which had been recommended by the Executive at its meeting held earlier that evening.

It was moved and seconded that the Executive's recommendations set out in each of the following reports be approved:

- (a) Executive's Revenue Budget Proposals 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2025/26;
- (b) Capital Strategy, Asset Investment Strategy, Capital Programme and Prudential and Local Indicators 2023-2026;
- (c) Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 – 2025/26; and
- (d) Fees, Charges and Allowances 2023/24,

and that the Council sets and approves the amounts as the amounts of the Council Tax for the year 2023/2024, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, for each of the categories of dwellings included in the respective valuation bands A to H.

Responding to the Motion, Councillor Morgan responded on behalf of the Conservative Group, Councillor Newgrosh responded on behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group and Councillor Jerrome responded on behalf of the Green Party Group, following which the budget proposals were debated..

In accordance with procedures agreed at the outset of the debate, the Political Group Leaders summarised the essential views of their respective group and responded to some of the issues that had arisen from the debate.

The Motion was then put to a recorded vote, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014. The result was as follows:

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Those in favour of the substantive Motion: Councillors Acton, Adshead, Axford, Bennett, Brotherton, G. Carter, K. Carter, Freeman, Gilbert, Harding, Hartley, Hassan, Haughey, Hornby, Hynes, Jarman, Jones, Maitland, O'Sullivan, Patel, K. Procter, S. Procter, Ross, Slater, Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Walsh, D. Western, Whitham, Whyte, Williams, Winstanley and Wright.

Those against the substantive Motion: Councillors Miss Blackburn, Brophy, Butt, Chalkin, Coggins, Duncan, Ennis, Frass, Holden, Jerrome, Minnis, Morgan, Myers, Newgrosh, Welton, Whetton, Mrs. Young and Zhi.

With the result of the vote being 34 in favour and 18 against, with 0 abstentions and the Mayor choosing not to vote, the Motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Council:
- a) Approves the 2023/24 net Revenue Budget of £209.38 million.
 - b) Approves the 2024/25 to 2025/26 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) including the income and savings proposals.
 - c) Notes the continued arrangements proposed in relation to an enhanced Finance and Change Programme and the role of the Finance and Change Board which will continue to work with the Executive on the development of sustainable budget plans to support the Council in meeting the financial challenges from 2024/25 onwards.
 - d) Approves the calculation of the Council Tax Requirement, as summarised in Section 8.1 of the Revenue Budget Proposals report and the formal Council Tax Resolution set out at (2) below.
 - e) Approves the proposal to increase Council Tax by 4.99% in 2023/24:
 - 2.99% general increase in the 'relevant basic amount' in 2023/24; and
 - 2% for the 'Adult Social Care' precept in 2023/24.
 - f) Notes the assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Strategy to increase Council Tax by:
 - an increase in the 'relevant basic amount' of 2.99% in 2024/25 and 1.99% in 2025/26; and
 - 2% for the 'Adult Social Care' precept in 2024/25 and 1% in 2025/26.
 - g) Approves the planned application of earmarked reserves as detailed in Section 6 of the Revenue Budget Proposals report.
 - h) Approves the Fees and Charges for 2023/24 and those relating to Registration of Births, Death and Marriages and Allotments also shown for 2024/25, as set out in the Fees and Charges booklet.

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- i) Delegates authority jointly to each Corporate Director in consultation with the Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges which are within their respective delegated powers during 2023/24 in the event of any change in VAT rate, as appropriate.
- j) Delegates authority jointly to each Corporate Director in consultation with the Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges during 2023/24 which are within their respective delegated powers where the economics of the charge levels have changed (e.g. costs have risen unexpectedly), or for commercial reasons.
- k) Approves the virement of £100,000 from the Neighbourhood Grants budget for a period of two financial years to allow financial support towards the continuation of the Community Hubs.
- l) Approves the proposal to maintain the minimum level of General Reserve for 2023/24 at £9.5 million (Section 6.8 of the Revenue Budget Proposals report).
- m) Approves the Capital Strategy, Prudential and Local Indicators and overall level of the Capital Programme and Asset Investment Fund of £388.42 million (as detailed in the Capital Strategy, Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2023-26) of which £200.58 million relates to 2023/24; including the proposal in relation to £7.95 million of new prudential borrowing related to the Leisure Strategy of £3.5 million and £4.45 million to support the Local Authority Housing Fund.
- n) Approves the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26, including the Debt Strategy (Section 4), the updated policy on Minimum Revenue Provision (Section 5), the Treasury Investment Strategy (Section 6) and the Prudential Indicators, including the Authorised Limit (as required by Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003, Operational Boundary, Minimum Revenue Provision and investment criteria, as set out in Sections 4 to 6 and Appendix 2 of the report.
- o) Approves the flexible use of capital receipts of up to £1.70 million over the two years 2023 to 2025 to support the cost of the Modernisation Team in developing the Council's Finance and Change Programme.
- p) Approves the proposed distribution of Dedicated Schools Grant as recommended by the School Funding Forum and Executive, as summarised in Section 7 and detailed in Annex I of the Revenue Budget Proposals report.
- q) Due to the late publication of the Public Health Grant allocations, delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Systems to vary the net Revenue Budget for any changes in the assumed level of this grant.

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- r) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Systems, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Governance to administer the Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Fund (EBSSAF) scheme, as announced in December 2022. Guidance is yet to be released, and costs will be fully funded by a section 31 grant.
- S) Approves the declaration to be made of the Council's intention to charge up to 100% premium on second homes with effect from 1st April 2024 and to bring forward the time period under which a premium can be charged on empty properties from two years to one year. The declaration must be done 12 months prior to commencement as laid out in the draft Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and is subject to its formal approval.

That in recommending approval of the above, the Council confirms that it has taken into consideration:

- t) The objective assessment by the Director of Finance and Systems of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of the financial reserves (Sections 1 and 6 of the Revenue Budget Proposals report).
- u) The Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations to the budget proposals, as included in a separate report considered at the Executive meeting held on 15 February 2023.
- v) The Council's Public Sector Equality duty.
- w) The results of the consultation on the budget proposals where required.
- x) The changes to the Council Tax Support Fund 2023/24, as detailed in a separate report to the Executive on 23 January 2023.

That in addition, the Council notes the following:

- y) The approval on 17 January 2023 under delegated powers by the Director of Finance and Systems of the Council Tax Base for 2023/24 at 78,464 Band D equivalents.
- z) the estimated Council Tax surplus for 2022/23 has been calculated at £0.473 million, sufficient to release £0.385 million to support the Council's budget plans and a distribution of £0.061 million and £0.027 million representing the respective shares of the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services).
- aa) The base budget assumptions as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as detailed in Annex A of the Revenue Budget Proposals report.
- bb) The budget gap for the two years 2024/25, £6.95 million and 2025/26, £10.13 million.

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- cc) That the Capital Programme for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 is to be set at an indicative £200.58 million, £132.39 million and £55.45 million respectively (indicative at this stage as a number of capital grants are not yet known).
 - dd) That the Council Tax figures included in the report for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) are the recommended provisional amounts pending their formal approval.
- (2) That, as referred to in d) above, the Council calculates the formal Council Tax Resolution as follows:

1. It be noted that on 16 January 2023 the Council calculated
 - (a) the Council Tax Base 2023/24 for the whole Council area as 78,464 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and;
 - (b) 1,745 for dwellings in the Parish of **Partington**;
 - (c) 148 for dwellings in the Parish of **Carrington**;
 - (d) 170 for dwellings in the Parish of **Warburton**;

to which Parish Precepts relate.
2. That the Council approve the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding Parish precepts) as £119,697,617.
3. That the Council agrees the calculation of the Aggregate Amounts for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £570,518,630 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) £450,717,263 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £119,801,367 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
 - (d) £1,526.83 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £103,750 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

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- (f) £1,525.51 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
- (g) £1,577.55 **Parish of Partington**
being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
- (h) £1,555.51 **Parish of Carrington**
being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
- (i) £1,575.51 **Parish of Warburton**
being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
4. The council tax set by Trafford Council includes a 2.0% increase to be spent exclusively on supporting the delivery of adult social care services.
5. That it be noted that for the year 2023/24 the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner and the Mayoral General (including Fire Services) have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
6. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

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Valuation Bands

Council Tax Schedule 2023/24	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Trafford Council (including Adult Social Care Precept)	1,017.00	1,186.51	1,356.00	1,525.51	1,864.50	2,203.50	2,542.51	3,051.02
Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	162.20	189.23	216.26	243.30	297.36	351.43	405.50	486.60
Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)	71.96	83.96	95.95	107.95	131.93	155.92	179.91	215.90
Sub total	1,251.16	1,459.70	1,668.21	1,876.76	2,293.79	2,710.85	3,127.92	3,753.52

Partington								
Parish only	34.69	40.48	46.26	52.04	63.60	75.17	86.73	104.08
Parish & District only	1,051.69	1,226.99	1,402.26	1,577.55	1,928.10	2,278.67	2,629.24	3,155.10
Aggregate of Council Tax requirements (incl. – Mayoral Precepts)	1,285.85	1,500.18	1,714.47	1,928.80	2,357.39	2,786.02	3,214.65	3,857.60

Carrington								
Parish only	20.00	23.33	26.67	30.00	36.67	43.33	50.00	60.00
Parish & District only	1,037.00	1,209.84	1,382.67	1,555.51	1,901.17	2,246.83	2,592.51	3,111.02
Aggregate of Council Tax requirements (incl. – Mayoral Precepts)	1,271.16	1,483.03	1,694.88	1,906.76	2,330.46	2,754.18	3,177.92	3,813.52

Warbuton								
Parish only	33.33	38.89	44.44	50.00	61.11	72.22	83.33	100.00
Parish & District only	1,050.33	1,225.40	1,400.44	1,575.51	1,925.61	2,275.72	2,625.84	3,151.02
Aggregate of Council Tax requirements (incl. – Mayoral Precepts)	1,284.49	1,498.59	1,712.65	1,926.76	2,354.90	2,783.07	3,211.25	3,853.52

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PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS

Parish/Town Council	2022/23			2023/24			C Tax Increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	
Partington	1,669	86,855	52.04	1,745	90,810	52.04	0.0%
Carrington	144	4,320	30.00	148	4,440	30.00	0.0%
Warburton	163	8,150	50.00	170	8,500	50.00	0.0%
TOTAL	1,976	99,325		2,063	103,750		

(3) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH RECRUITMENT

Further to a recommendation from Employment Committee on 6 February 2023, the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing and Equalities submitted a report advising that as the current postholder had indicated her intention to retire that year, a pay benchmarking exercise for salary levels of Directors of Public Health had been undertaken with local authorities across Greater Manchester that informed the recommendations which were now before the Council.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the uplift of the salary for the Director of Public Health post, up to £105,000, as recommended by Employment Committee in recognition of pay comparisons across Greater Manchester, be approved by the Council.
- (2) That the recruitment arrangements in progress with the Faculty of Public Health, be noted.
- (3) That the Council thanks Eleanor Roaf for all her exemplary work and formally recognises her exceptional performance as Trafford's Director of Public Health.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.07 p.m.