



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Tuesday, 11 July 2023

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, 19 JULY 2023, at 7.00 P.M.** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, TRAFFORD TOWN HALL, TALBOT ROAD, STRETFORD**, for the transaction of the business set out below:

- | | Pages |
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| 1. Minutes | |
| To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 24 May 2023, for signature by the Mayor as Chair of the Council. | 1 - 14 |
| 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. Membership of Committees | |
| To note that Councillor Holden was appointed to replace Councillor Whetton as a Member and Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Committee, with effect from 28 May 2023. | |

5. The Bee Network Committee - Improving Greater Manchester's Transport Governance

To consider a report of the Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer. 15 - 36

6. Accounts and Audit Committee Annual Report to Council 2022/23

To note a report of the 2022/23 Chair and Vice-Chair of the Accounts and Audit Committee which was referred from the Accounts and Audit Committee meeting held on 21 June 2023. 37 - 56

7. Year End Corporate Report on Health, Safety and Wellbeing - 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

To note a report of the Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Leisure, Arts, Culture & Heritage. 57 - 72

8. Motions

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

(a) Motion Submitted by the Conservative Group - To Oppose Day Crewing Plans at Sale Fire Station

- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) is proposing to move Sale fire station from a wholetime model to a day crewing model, which means that crews would provide an immediate response during station hours (8.30am to 6pm) and up to a four-minute delayed response during on-call hours (6pm to 8.30am).
- GMFRS claims that this proposal would save £340,000 per year and allow them to invest in other priority areas.
- Sale fire station has low incident levels, with the third-lowest number of night-time life risk incidents and the third-lowest total incidents at night-time in the last three years.
- However, Sale fire station is strategically placed to cover a central area of the Trafford borough and extending to Urmston, Flixton and Partington.
- Sale fire station also serves as a backup for other fire stations in Trafford and neighbouring boroughs in case of emergencies or major incidents.
- The average response time in Sale would increase by 1 minute 10 seconds (from 7 minutes 45 seconds to 8 minutes 55 seconds) and the overall response time across Trafford borough would increase by 20 seconds (from 7 minutes 43 seconds to 8 minutes 3 seconds) if the proposal is implemented.

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- The ongoing changes to highways to reduce speed limits and accommodate cyclists will add to response times which have not been factored in.
- These increased response times could have serious consequences for public safety, especially for vulnerable groups such as elderly people, children, people with disabilities, or people living in high-rise buildings.

We believe:

- The proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model is a biased preferred option consultation, that has failed to take into consideration the residents of Partington. Conservatives see this as unacceptable. Basing the proposal on data from the past three Covid years is incomparable with any other years.
- The proposal offers little or no data on the assumption of being able to attend the station from the fire fighters' home within 4 minutes or how this will be monitored.
- The consultation does not do enough ensure those most affected have their say, Sale's residents and businesses deserve better.
- The proposal flies in the face of the promise made by Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham to avoid cuts to frontline services in Greater Manchester despite raising the precept tax on residents.

Resolve:

- We the Conservative group of Trafford Council, therefore, ask the Labour administration to write to the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham to uphold his commitment not to cut services and leave residents of Sale at risk from delays to response times, making it clear we reject in full GMFRS's proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model.

(b) **Motion Submitted by the Liberal Democrats Group - The Impact of Voter ID Laws on Democracy in Trafford**

This Council notes that:

The 2023 local elections were the first to be held under the regulations imposed by the Elections Act 2022, which required electors to present Photo ID when voting in person.

Many Elected Members experienced upset, angry and frustrated voters who were unable to cast a vote on Polling Day because they could not locate the right Photo ID, or because the ID they had was invalid.

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The Government originally claimed Voter ID Certificates would minimize any negative impact on turnout which the introduction of Voter ID might have.

In April, the Prime Minister said: "our elections should have some form of identification so that we can make sure they are high-integrity processes."

However, this Council further notes:

In May, the Conservative ex-Business Secretary, Jacob Rees-Mogg said: "Parties that try and gerrymander end up finding their clever scheme comes back to bite them, as, dare I say, we found by insisting on voter ID for elections".

Across England, the place with the highest rate of voters being turned away was Knowsley, the third-most deprived area in England.

Meanwhile South Oxfordshire, with very low indices of multiple deprivation saw the lowest rate for voters being turned away.

The Government's own research identified that 2 million people, eligible to vote in England, Scotland and Wales, do not have permissible forms of Photo ID. Yet just prior to the 2023 Local Elections, the number of voters without ID who had successfully obtained a Voter ID Certificate was just 4%.

This Council recognizes that:

The current Government's intention was not to secure the integrity of in-person voting, but was instead an attempt to tilt the system in their party's favour.

The data from organisations like Democracy Volunteers reveals women were disproportionately affected, in part because women are more likely to have changed their name as a result of marital status, and thus not have ID that matches the Electoral Roll. This drives up inequality in access to voting.

The data from across England confirms that the more deprived areas were more negatively affected by being unable to vote, also driving an inequality in access to voting.

It is likely that the national picture is replicated in Trafford, with more deprived areas more negatively affected by being unable to vote.

Given that one of the three aims in the Council's 'Corporate Plan' is tackling inequalities arising from poverty, the unequal access to voting between affluent and deprived areas of the borough needs to be tackled.

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This Council, therefore, resolves to:

Be transparent about the difference in voters turned away in more deprived areas, compared to more affluent parts of the Borough, by publishing the number of voters turned away for not having the right Photo ID in each individual Polling District for the elections held in 2023 and for future elections held in Trafford.

(c) **Motion Submitted by the Liberal Democrats Group - Tackling Damp and Mould in Trafford's Social Housing**

As a council, we must lead from the front to ensure our residents benefit from safe and secure housing. As such, this Council must ensure that housing stock is maintained to the highest quality. This is especially the case for socially rented properties. Many housing association properties in Trafford are affected by damp and mould. Poor living conditions are a major risk to the health and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable people in society, especially children and the health impacts, both physical and mental, of living with damp and mould can be devastating.

Therefore, this Council acknowledges:

- The tragic death of the two-year old Awaab Ishak as a result of chronic exposure to mould within his family's one-bedroom flat in Rochdale.
- The failure of Rochdale Boroughwide Housing to maintain the property and fix the mould issue that led to Awaab's death.
- That there is no room for complacency. Without serious action to tackle damp and mould, a tragic case like this could happen in Trafford.
- The subsequent letter written by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to council leaders and social housing providers stating that damp and mould complaints must be handled "with sufficient seriousness".
- The creation of, and subsequent transfer of housing stock to, Housing Associations does not render local authorities powerless to improve the lives of tenants.
- That under the Housing Act 2004, Trafford has a legal duty to review housing conditions in their district, identify actions required to remedy 'category 1 hazards' and then - to quote legislation - "they must take the appropriate enforcement action in relation to the hazard".

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- That under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, mould is designated as a 'category 1 hazard', meaning that local authorities can serve hazard awareness and improvement notices and can also take other emergency action, where housing associations are falling short.

Therefore, this Council resolves to ask all housing associations with properties in Trafford to:

- Ensure they prioritise damp and mould complaints and resolve them without delay.
- Identify and prioritise vulnerable tenants dealing with damp and mould issues - particularly the very young, the very old and those with chronic lung conditions.
- Prioritise these vulnerable tenants by actioning repairs to areas of their homes that can prevent damp and mould. For example, clearing guttering, sealing windows, replacing faulty extraction fans in bathrooms and kitchens as well as providing cavity wall insulation.
- Conduct a full damp and mould survey of properties in Trafford and provide an action plan for reparatory works.
- Provide tenants with actionable guidance for preventing damp and mould, beyond advice to simply 'wipe it off'. This work should be amplified by the council's communications team.
- Provide specific training to call handlers on how to advise tenants telephoning or emailing about their damp and mould problems.
- Inform all tenants on the process for raising and tracking a damp or mould complaint.
- Ensure all councillors are given the opportunity to attend regular inspection walkabouts with housing officers.

This Council further resolves to:

- Work constructively with housing associations to deliver meaningful improvements for social housing tenants, too many of whom are left without proper protection or recourse when they encounter a damp or mould issue.
- Where progress is too slow, to use powers including but not limited to hazard awareness notices and hazard improvement notices to ensure that damp and mould complaints are treated with the urgency they are due.

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- To ask the Leader of the Council to write to all housing associations outlining the above resolutions and stating this council's strongly held view that nobody should have to live in a damp, cold or unsafe home.

(d) **Motion Submitted by the Labour Group - The Problems With Leasehold and Rejuvenating Commonhold**

This Council notes that:

- There are an estimated 4.86 million leasehold dwellings in England. This equates to 20% of the English housing stock. There are around 235,000 leasehold properties in Wales. This equates to 16% of all properties in Wales.
- There can be significant problems with leasehold including escalating ground rents, expensive service charges, the cost of getting consents, that a lease is a wasting asset, and lack of control over the management of the building.
- First introduced in England and Wales in 2002, commonhold is an alternative to leasehold ownership of flats, and other properties that share communal areas or services. Commonhold is the norm in many other countries.
- Fewer than 20 commonhold developments have been established since the commonhold legislation came into force. Flats in England and Wales continue to be owned almost universally on a leasehold basis.

This Council believes that:

- Leaseholders have been let down by the Government which promised in its 2019 manifesto to ban the sale of new leasehold homes, and by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing who called leasehold a "feudal" system and promised to abolish it.
- Commonhold is a better system, in need of rejuvenation. Government needs to enact the Law Commission's recommendations on enfranchisement of leasehold, reinvigorating commonhold and the right to manage.

This Councils resolves:

- To write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing requesting that the Government fulfils its pledge to end the sale of leasehold for new properties and implement the recommendation of the Law Commission in relation to

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leaseholder enfranchisement, reinvigorating commonhold and the right to manage.

- To seek to promote commonhold in new developments where possible.

(e) Motion Submitted by the Labour Group - Raw Sewage Discharges

In 2011 the Environment Agency reported that our rivers were cleaner than at any time since the Industrial Revolution.

In March this year the same agency noted that there were more than 300,000 raw sewage discharges into rivers and coastal areas in 2022, lasting for more than 1.75 million hours.

In the same period our local water company, 'United Utilities', was responsible for 69,245 of those sewage discharges lasting for 425,491 hours.

In Trafford alone raw sewage was discharged into our waterways 1,912 times lasting for 9,295 hours.

These 9,295 hours of raw sewage went into the waterways alongside which we Trafford residents walk, cycle and ride and in which our families go boating, fishing and paddling.

Raw sewage in open waters has been shown to increase the risk of diseases such as hepatitis and Weil's disease.

The deterioration in the quality of our water is so apparent that it is evidenced not only by Environment Agency data but by the observations of Trafford residents who have noted the rise in unpleasant odours and visible pollution in the water.

The sewage discharge data, provided by the water companies themselves, demonstrates that not a single discharge in 2022 resulted from exceptional circumstances - rainfall or storms – but due to a lack of treatment and investment by the same water companies.

Yet since 1989, they have paid out £72 billion in dividends to shareholders and bonuses of millions of pounds to executives while accruing industry wide debts of £60 billion and inflicting a 40% real terms price increase on ordinary people. So much value has been extracted from the sector that one of the largest companies is currently failing under its huge level of debt and there are forecasts of future huge price rises across the country, including Trafford, to make up for decades of lack of investment.

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This situation is unfair and unsustainable – ordinary people are paying ever higher prices for the privilege of having raw human sewage dumped in their communities while the industry is allowed to be run for the enrichment of shareholders and executives.

We call upon Central Government to firmly establish the Polluter Pays Principal across the industry - to ensure that the Water Companies operate in the interests of the Public, not shareholders and make meaningful provision for the monitoring of water quality, publish a meaningful strategy with targets for the reduction of sewage discharges, including meaningful economic impact assessments, and provide for meaningful financial penalties in relation to sewage discharges and breaches of monitoring requirements.

(f) **Motion Submitted by the Green Party Group - Daring More Democracy: A Greater Manchester Assembly**

This motion is put forward in the context of the so-called 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal between the UK Government and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

Now that we have such an extended deal, which explicitly addresses issues of governance and accountability alongside 'new levers, functions and responsibilities' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Policy Paper March), it is the right time to address the democracy implications of devolution for Trafford within the Greater Manchester structures.

Objectives

To replace the Greater Manchester Combined Authority with a new devolved Greater Manchester Authority, which will include a directly-elected assembly. The role and function of the new authority and assembly will be comparable to that of Greater London Authority (GLA) and London Assembly (LA), and will have similar power to scrutinise and challenge decisions made by the mayor. Funding for this more substantial authority and these expanded powers will be made available by central government. Election of the assembly will be by a mixed-member proportional system, similar to that used in London, the exact details of which will be established by a government commission.

Council notes that:

- The population of Greater Manchester is substantial: half that of Norway, over half that of Ireland, and is almost as large as that of Wales.

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- Although directly elected, the metropolitan mayor is answerable to ten local authority leaders who are not directly elected but appointed as group leader by their own party processes. This creates a clear deficit of democracy. This is not only because of direct election through a First Past the Post (FPTP) system in the local authority but also because of possible post-electoral arrangements affecting the leadership of a given local authority. The ten party-elected leaders cannot be expected to fully represent the range of views of almost three million people. An Assembly such as GLA's will allow for a fuller say for voters.
- The Mayor of Greater Manchester has himself publicly called both for more devolution of powers from Westminster England-wide, and for electoral reform away from FPTP representation.
- The Deeper Devolution Deal brings GMCA closer into alignment with the GLA in questions of powers, responsibilities and priorities – if not in terms of per capita funding – but makes no suggestion for concomitant structural change in relation to representation.
- The GMCA is now in receipt of a single funding settlement.
- GDP per capita across Greater Manchester is approximately half that of Greater London.

Council resolves:

1. That the Council Leader will write to the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, calling for:
 - A government commission to establish the exact makeup of a new Greater Manchester Authority and Greater Manchester Assembly, under instruction to use the London Assembly and its mixed-member electoral system as a guiding model. This would include powers given to the Assembly similar to those of the London Assembly, to scrutinise and challenge the mayor's decisions, and (with a supermajority vote) to amend the mayor's budget or to reject strategic decisions.
 - Legislation for the findings of the commission to be put to a legally binding confirmatory referendum across Greater Manchester, which (if successful) would establish the new authority and assembly, replacing the GMCA and existing devolution settlements.
 - Due to the economic imbalance between the two city regions, the legislation would include requirement for central government to provide sufficient annual funding via an increased single funding settlement, so that the GMA has a comparable per-capita budget to the GLA while keeping council tax precepts at a similar rate to those for the GMCA.
2. That the Council Leader will write to leaders of the other nine Greater Manchester councils and to the Mayor of Greater Manchester, asking for them to publicly support this call.

(g) Motion Submitted by the Green Party Group - Support the Climate and Ecology Bill

Preamble

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK, and around the world. The global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and—alongside this—the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. In fact, the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

Climate change remains a major concern for voters with 66% of people (according to YouGov) expressing they are 'worried about climate change and its effects'. Alongside this, the popularity of Sir David Attenborough's Save Our Wild Isles initiative demonstrates public concern that UK wildlife is being destroyed at terrifying speed.

Climate and Ecology Bill

The Climate and Ecology Bill, a private member's bill currently before the House of Commons, seeks to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

Based on the latest science, the Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was a goal agreed to at COP15, via the Kunming-Montreal Framework (22 December 2022); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with a fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21, via the Paris Agreement (12 December 2015).

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and reduced energy bills; and boosting the UK's food and energy security.

Trafford Council notes that:

The Climate and Ecology Bill, which has been introduced in the UK Parliament on four occasions since 2020, including most recently in the House of Commons 10 May 2023. The Bill is backed by 168 cross-party MPs and Peers and 237 local authorities, alongside the support of eminent scientists, such as Sir David King; environmental non-governmental organizations, such as The Wildlife Trusts and CPRE; businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank; and 30,000 members of the public.

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The Bill would require the UK Government to develop and deliver a new environmental strategy, which would include:

1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, requiring a plan that considers both together;
2. Reducing emissions in line with 1.5°C, ensure emissions are reduced rapidly, for the best chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C;
3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;
4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;
5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;
6. Ensuring that no-one is left behind, by providing for retraining for people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
7. Giving people a say in finding a fair way forward through an independent and temporary Climate and Nature Assembly, representative of the UK population, an essential tool for bringing public opinion along with the unprecedented pace of change required.

Trafford Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;
2. Inform local residents, and local press/media of this decision;
3. Write to Trafford's MPs, Andrew Western, Sir Graham Brady and Mike Kane, to inform them that this motion has been passed, urging them to sign up to support the Climate and Ecology Bill, or thanking them for already doing so;
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the Climate and Ecology Bill, expressing its support (campaign@zerohour.uk).

Yours sincerely,



SARA TODD
Chief Executive

Membership of the Council

Councillors D.C. O'Sullivan (Mayor), A.M. Whyte (Deputy Mayor), D. Acton, S. Adshead, J.M. Axford, Babar, O.J. Baskerville, J. Bennett, J. Brophy, B. Brotherton, D. Butt, G. Carter, K.G. Carter, K. Chakraborty, G. Coggins, M. Cordingley, Z.C. Deakin, R. Duncan, P. Eckersley, S. G. Ennis, N. Evans, W. Frass, S.J. Gilbert, J. Harding, B. Hartley, W. Hassan, S. J. Haughey, E.L. Hirst, J. Holden, F. Hornby, C. Hynes, D. Jarman, D. Jerrome, W. Jones, J. Leicester, S.E. Lepori, J. Lloyd, S. Maitland, M. Minnis, A. New, J.D. Newgrosh, T. O'Brien, E.R. Parker, E. Patel, R. Paul, K. Procter, S. Procter, T. Ross, J. Slater, H. K. Spencer, O. Sutton, M.J. Taylor, S. Taylor, S. Thomas, R. Thompson, L. Walsh, M.J. Welton, D. Western, M.P. Whetton, A.J. Williams, B.G. Winstanley, J.A. Wright and S. Zhi.

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, 11 July 2023** by the Governance Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford M32 0TH