

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

19 JULY 2023

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Dolores O'Sullivan), in the Chair.

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

In attendance

Chief Executive	S. Todd
Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	D. Sykes
Governance Manager	J. Addison
Senior Governance Officer	I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.M. Axford, G. Carter, K.G. Carter, G. Coggins, C. Hynes, S. Maitland, A. New, R. Paul and S. Zhi.

17. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 24 May 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Acton, Chair of the Committee reported that an Extraordinary Meeting of Scrutiny Committee was held on 10 July 2023 to discuss the Greater Manchester Fire Service's plans regarding cover at Sale Fire Station with the Greater Manchester Fire Chief and Fire Union representatives. Members then met

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

to formulate their views and decided as a Committee, unanimously across party lines, to reject the proposals as it was strongly felt that the plans presented to them would increase the risk to the people of Sale and the surrounding area.

(b) Health Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Butt, Chair of the Committee anticipated that he would report to the next meeting following the Committee's first meeting of the Municipal Year.

(c) Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Western, Chair of the Committee reported that the Task and Finish Group had completed its work on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and a report would be presented to the Committee's first meeting of the Municipal Year.

19. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 4 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2 and, on the basis that each question and response had been circulated, advised that these would be taken as read and that the meeting would proceed with the supplementary questions. (Note: The questions and responses are available to view on the Council's website.)

(a) Question 1 from Councillor Eckersley re: performance monitoring of the electric vehicle charging services contract

Councillor Eckersley asked as a supplementary question whether the Council had provisions in place around maintaining accessible service level standards for customer service, particularly performance of the electronic App provided by Be Ev for residents to interact with them as the service provider. In response, Councillor Williams, Executive Member for Climate Change pointed out that Be Ev did not only operate in Trafford so it would be difficult to comment on anonymous feedback, however, if Cllr Eckersley could provide him with a link to the comments in question, he would be happy to discuss those with officers and provide a written response.

(b) Question 2 from Councillor Holden re: annual weed spraying

Asking a supplementary question Councillor Holden referred to the wildflowers that were prominent along the gutters and kerb stones in his ward and queried whether it was indication of neglect. In response, Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental Services asked Councillor Holden to inform him of his specific concerns and he would ensure they were passed to the relevant officers.

(c) Question 3 from Councillor Holden re: Number of Secondary School Appeals in respect of those not offered place of their choice.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Holden asked, given the distance of the school from his Ward, if there were plans to avoid the regular use of Broadoak

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

School for children in the Manor Ward or whether some enhancement to transport facilities was available.

In the absence of Councillor K. Carter, Councillor Ross, the Leader of the Council replied that the Executive and officers would come back with some information on the work with local secondary schools in the Sale area to look at adequate school placements.

(d) Question 4 from Councillor Holden re: the quality of road surfacing works

As a supplementary question, Councillor Holden asked for reassurance from officials and elected representatives that some interest would be shown in the delivery of the quality needed for this work. Councillor Adshead, the Executive Member for Environmental Services advised that all such works were guaranteed for twelve months with inspections being undertaken and asked if Councillor Holden could inform him of specific locations where works were unsatisfactory. The Executive Member commented also that government funding for highway repairs had been slashed with a result that the Council had to prioritise principal routes and meaning most side roads received surface dressing repair works.

20. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

The Council was requested 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.

The Mayor, also took the opportunity to inform the Council of the following changes within the Green Party Group, which were to be effective from 25 July 2023:

Councillor Jerrome was to step down as Group Leader and Councillor Welton would replace him and as a consequence, they would swap Committee positions with Councillor Welton being the Group's Member on Accounts and Audit Committee and Councillor Jerrome the member on Planning Development and Control Committee.

RESOLVED: That the above changes notified to Council, be noted.

21. THE BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE - IMPROVING GREATER MANCHESTER'S TRANSPORT GOVERNANCE

The Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer submitted a report proposing new governance arrangements to enable a more coordinated and integrated approach to transport governance across the Greater Manchester region.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Council agrees to the establishment of a new joint transport committee (the Bee Network Committee) of the Greater Manchester

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

Combined Authority (GMCA), the Mayor and the ten Greater Manchester constituent councils.

- (2) That the Council agrees to the appointment of members to the Bee Network Committee in line with Appendix 1 to the report, namely, 1 member, preferably the lead member with responsibility for transport and 1 substitute member and re-confirms to the appointments made at the Annual Meeting of Council on 24 May 2023 of Councillor Williams to the Bee Network Committee and Council Adshead as substitute.
- (3) That the Terms of Reference of the Bee Network Committee, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
- (4) That the Council notes the delegation of the functions of the GMCA, as set out in the Terms of Reference to the Bee Network Committee and also notes the delegation of Mayoral functions, as set out in the Terms of Reference, included at Appendix 2 to the report.
- (5) That the delegation of the functions of the Local Authority Constituent Councils, as set out in the terms of Reference, attached at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved (which for the avoidance of doubt are the same delegations given to the former Transport Committee).
- (6) That the Rules of Procedure for the Bee Network Committee, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be approved.

**22. ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL
2022/23**

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Accounts and Audit Committee submitted to the Council a report setting out the Committee's Annual Report for 2022/23. The Annual Report which had been presented to the Accounts and Audit Committee on 21 June 2023 summarised the work undertaken by the Committee during the year and its impact and also provided assurance to the Council on the fulfilment of the Committee's responsibilities.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

**23. YEAR END CORPORATE REPORT ON HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING -
1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023**

The Council received a report of the Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Leisure, Arts, Culture and Heritage providing information on council wide health and safety performance and delivery. The report also provided a summary of other key developments in relation to health, safety and wellbeing for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Speaking to the report, the Leader of the Council placed on record the Council's congratulations to Richard Fontana, Strategic HR lead for Health and Safety who won the People Professional of the Year award at the recent Greater Manchester

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

Health and Care Champion awards, which recognised those working hard to improve the health and wellbeing of the region's communities.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

24. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM - STAR PROCUREMENT COLLABORATION AND EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration submitted a report on the strategic proposal to expand the current STAR Shared Procurement service ("STAR") from four partner councils to six partner councils. The report outlined the rationale for STAR's growth strategy and provided details of proposed commercial arrangements, governance arrangements and implementation strategies.

(Note: The Mayor, allowed this matter as an urgent item of business to enable the Council to consider a report concerning the Council's STAR Procurement Collaboration. The Council also received a supplementary report confirming the identity of potential partners, which had been classified as not for publication since it was currently commercially sensitive information. This report was considered by the meeting without the need to exclude the press and public.)

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the disestablishment of the current STAR Joint Committee, be approved.
- (2) That the Council approves the expansion of the current shared procurement service to include the Fifth Partner and Sixth Partner which will continue to be hosted by Trafford Borough Council in accordance with the provisions detailed in the main body of the report.
- (3) That approval be given to the establishment of a new STAR Joint Committee for Stockport, Trafford, Rochdale, Tameside, the Fifth Partner and Sixth Partner, that will support the delivery of the Shared Service and provide delegated authority to the Procurement Service to operate across the Stockport, Trafford, Rochdale, Tameside, Fifth Partner and Sixth Partner areas.
- (4) That the governance arrangements and Terms of Reference of the new STAR Joint Committee, as set out in the report, be approved.
- (5) That authority be delegated to the Director of Legal and Governance to agree the final terms and conditions of and to enter into an Inter Authority Agreement ("IAA") in respect of the STAR Procurement shared service in similar terms to the existing IAA.
- (6) That the Council notes and approves the proposed approach to those circumstances whereby staff would transfer to the new procurement service, and therefore to Trafford Council under TUPE, as outlined in the report.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

25. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - TO OPPOSE DAY CREWING PLANS AT SALE FIRE STATION

(Note: The Council did not consent to a proposed alteration of the Motion of which Councillor Butt had given notice to amend the first line of the proposed resolution to read "The Council resolves to write ..."

It was moved and seconded that:

- “- 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.
- 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.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

- 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."

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

"Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) is proposing to move Sale fire station from a ~~wholetime~~ **24-hour station** 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 **including Altrincham which covers Timperley and Hale areas**, 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.

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.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

This Council ~~We~~ believes:

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, **or indeed, the views of firefighters who serve at Sale and across Trafford. This council** ~~Conservatives~~ sees 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. **This Council understands that several of the assumptions made in the Fire Cover Review are based on modelling, which GMFRS themselves have accepted is flawed.**

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.

This Council notes:

The extraordinary meeting of Scrutiny Committee that was held on Monday 10 July and thanks members of the GMFRS and the Fire Brigade Union for their attendance and cooperation with elected members.

That, after initially considering the Chair's call for a 'pause' before reaching a decision, the committee subsequently agreed to support the Liberal Democrats' proposal, calling for a complete rejection of the 'Day Crewing' proposals. The Chair of Scrutiny Committee, then undertook to draft a letter outlining the settled position of the Committee.

This Council ~~R~~esolves to:

~~We the Conservative group of Trafford Council,~~ ask the Labour administration to write to the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham **calling on him** to uphold his commitment not to cut services and leave residents of Sale at risk from delays to response times, ~~making it clear we~~ **restating the settled and firm view of Scrutiny Committee and this council as a whole that Trafford fully** ~~rejects in full~~ GMFRS's proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model."

Following speeches on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

(Note: Before consideration of a second amendment, the Leader of the Council advised of the intention to include the first and last paragraphs of the proposed Green Party Group Amendment, starting “Following over a decade” and “Trafford councillors support” respectively.)

It was moved and seconded as a second amendment that:

- “- **Following over a decade of austerity introduced by the Conservative government which has resulted in cuts in front line services, the Fire Service is having to redistribute its current funding to meet the future needs of Greater Manchester. This has resulted in proposed cuts to staffing in Trafford and a day-crew model being established in Sale. The government needs to fund the service properly and not force the service into cuts in some areas.**
- 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.
- ~~— 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~~ has not given sufficient ~~into~~ consideration ~~to~~ the residents of Partington. ~~Conservatives see this as unacceptable~~ **The Council is very concerned about the specific impact the plans would have on**

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

businesses and residents in the Carrington and Partington areas. 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.
- **We are very concerned that the proposals will leave Partington with the slowest response times to night-time 999 calls in all of Greater Manchester.**
- **Although the Council acknowledges that the consultation period has been extended and that GMFRS arranged a community meeting in Partington following requests,** the consultation does not do enough ensure those most affected have their say, **Sale's Trafford's residents and businesses deserve better more time to provide feedback.**
- **Although the overall 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, provides enhanced services in some areas of Greater Manchester, it is of significant concern that Trafford faces two distinct reductions in its fire service cover.**

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.~~ **acknowledges that the Leader of the Council has written to the Chief Fire Officer to set out the administration's concerns regarding proposals and to urge GMFRS to reconsider.**
- **This Council condemns the Conservative-led governments that have stripped over £20 million funding from GMFRS since 2010.**
- **Trafford councillors support the response sent by Trafford Scrutiny Committee to the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service consultation. The response makes clear that we reject the proposals and would like time to consider alternative proposals that might maintain the current service and meet the future needs too. We request that further investigation is carried out to review the safety implications of moving to a day crewing service model at Sale fire Station which takes into account future building plans and changes in Trafford. This should give particular focus to the more distant areas of Trafford including Partington, Warburton, Carrington and Dunham. It should also consider the practicalities of fire fighters being available within a 4-minute radius."**

Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023

Following a debate on the matter, during which it was confirmed that the Green Party Group would not be proceeding with a further amendment, the second amendment was put to the vote and declared carried. The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That

- Following over a decade of austerity introduced by the Conservative government which has resulted in cuts in front line services, the Fire Service is having to redistribute its current funding to meet the future needs of Greater Manchester. This has resulted in proposed cuts to staffing in Trafford and a day-crew model being established in Sale. The government needs to fund the service properly and not force the service into cuts in some areas.
- 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.
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- 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 has not given sufficient consideration to the residents of Partington. The Council is very concerned about the specific impact the plans would have on businesses and residents in the Carrington and Partington areas. 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.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

- We are very concerned that the proposals will leave Partington with the slowest response times to night-time 999 calls in all of Greater Manchester.
- Although the Council acknowledges that the consultation period has been extended and that GMFRS arranged a community meeting in Partington following requests, the consultation does not do enough ensure those most affected have their say, Trafford's residents and businesses deserve more time to provide feedback.
- Although the overall proposal provides enhanced services in some areas of Greater Manchester, it is of significant concern that Trafford faces two distinct reductions in its fire service cover.

Resolve:

- Trafford Council, therefore, acknowledges that the Leader of the Council has written to the Chief Fire Officer to set out the administration's concerns regarding proposals and to urge GMFRS to reconsider.
- This Council condemns the Conservative-led governments that have stripped over £20 million funding from GMFRS since 2010.
- Trafford councillors support the response sent by Trafford Scrutiny Committee to the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service consultation. The response makes clear that we reject the proposals and would like time to consider alternative proposals that might maintain the current service and meet the future needs too. We request that further investigation is carried out to review the safety implications of moving to a day crewing service model at Sale fire Station which takes into account future building plans and changes in Trafford. This should give particular focus to the more distant areas of Trafford including Partington, Warburton, Carrington and Dunham. It should also consider the practicalities of fire fighters being available within a 4-minute radius.

26. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP - THE IMPACT OF VOTER ID LAWS ON DEMOCRACY IN TRAFFORD

It was moved and seconded that:

“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.

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

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

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.

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."

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

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.

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

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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.

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**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

~~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.~~

The Electoral Commission (EC) continues to collect and analyse the data to provide a more determinative picture.

A full report will be published in September 2023 in which they will also be looking at the patterns of higher and lower levels of people turned away across local authorities in order to identify any trends. This will assist Trafford Council to target improved voter engagement.

This Council therefore resolves to:

Going forward, (provided there are no restrictions imposed by legislation or the Electoral Commission on what data can be released), to publish ~~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 data in each individual polling district for the elections held in 2023 and for future elections held in Trafford.~~ **This data could be collated and published at polling district level.**

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and declared carried. The Substantive Motion was then put to the vote and was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: That 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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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."

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

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.

The Electoral Commission (EC) continues to collect and analyse the data to provide a more determinative picture.

A full report will be published in September 2023 in which they will also be looking at the patterns of higher and lower levels of people turned away across local authorities in order to identify any trends. This will assist Trafford Council to target improved voter engagement.

This Council therefore resolves to:

Going forward, (provided there are no restrictions imposed by legislation or the Electoral Commission on what data can be released), to publish the number of voters turned away for not having the right Photo ID data in each individual polling district for elections held in 2023 and for future elections. This data could be collated and published at polling district level.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

27. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP - TACKLING DAMP AND MOULD IN TRAFFORD'S SOCIAL HOUSING

It was moved and seconded that:

“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”.
- 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.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

- 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.
- 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."

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

"As a council, we ~~must lead~~ **are already leading** from the front to ensure our residents benefit from safe and secure housing. As such, this Council ~~must ensure~~ **will continue to monitor** that **social** 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

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

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 **ongoing** 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".

Note that since the letter received by the SoS, we have done the following regarding damp and mould:

- **Created a link on the Council's website to an advice leaflet on damp and mould - [Disrepair in private rented properties \(trafford.gov.uk\)](https://trafford.gov.uk)**
- **Set up a new code on our case management system to be able to report specifically on the number of complaints received about damp and mould growth.**
- **Completed and returned the data collection request received by the SoS following their initial letter.**
- **Changed our procedure to ensure that all tenants who contact us about damp and mould are emailed a link to the advice leaflet above (or provided another way if not by email).**
- **Note the creation of a £15 million fund by GMCA called the Social Housing Quality Fund to help improve properties suffering with severe mould and damp.**
- 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".

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

- 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.
- **Recognise that this issue is not solely an issue within a social housing environment and that in conjunction with Trafford and the other nine boroughs, GMCA has created the New Deal for renters which specifically aims to improve conditions in the private rented sector.**

This Council further resolves to:

- **Continue 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.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

- 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.
- 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."

The Amendment was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded as a second amendment that the following resolution be added to the substantive Motion:

- " - **Expect Housing Associations to provide alternative accommodation whilst works are being undertaken in cases that are deemed uninhabitable by environmental health.**"

Following a debate on the matter, the second Amendment was put to the vote and declared lost. The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That as a council, we are already leading from the front to ensure our residents benefit from safe and secure housing. As such, this Council will continue to monitor that social 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 ongoing 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".

Note that since the letter received by the SoS, we have done the following regarding damp and mould:

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

- Created a link on the Council's website to an advice leaflet on damp and mould - [Disrepair in private rented properties \(trafford.gov.uk\)](https://trafford.gov.uk)
- Set up a new code on our case management system to be able to report specifically on the number of complaints received about damp and mould growth.
- Completed and returned the data collection request received by the SoS following their initial letter.
- Changed our procedure to ensure that all tenants who contact us about damp and mould are emailed a link to the advice leaflet above (or provided another way if not by email).
- Note the creation of a £15 million fund by GMCA called the Social Housing Quality Fund to help improve properties suffering with severe mould and damp.
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- 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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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.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

- 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.
- Recognise that this issue is not solely an issue within a social housing environment and that in conjunction with Trafford and the other nine boroughs, GMCA has created the New Deal for renters which specifically aims to improve conditions in the private rented sector.

This Council further resolves to:

- Continue to work constructively with housing associations to deliver meaningful improvements for social housing tenants, 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.
- 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.

28. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - THE PROBLEMS WITH LEASEHOLD AND REJUVENATING COMMONHOLD

(Note: The Council signified its consent to an alteration of the Motion of which Councillor Harding had given notice to include a proposed amendment from the Conservative Group.)

It was moved and seconded that:

"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.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

- 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:

- The Government which promised in its 2019 manifesto to ban the sale of new leasehold homes should urgently deliver on this commitment. The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing who called leasehold a “feudal” system and promised to abolish it should act on his promise.
- 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 leaseholder enfranchisement, reinvigorating commonhold and the right to manage.
- To seek to promote commonhold in new developments where possible.”

Following speeches in support, the Motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That 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,

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

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:

- The Government which promised in its 2019 manifesto to ban the sale of new leasehold homes should urgently deliver on this commitment. The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing who called leasehold a “feudal” system and promised to abolish it should act on his promise.
- 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 leaseholder enfranchisement, reinvigorating commonhold and the right to manage.
- To seek to promote commonhold in new developments where possible.

29. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - RAW SEWAGE DISCHARGES

It was moved and seconded that:

“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.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

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.

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 Principle 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.”

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That in 2011 the Environment Agency reported that our rivers were cleaner than at any time since the Industrial Revolution.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

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.

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**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

30. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE GREEN PARTY GROUP - DARING MORE DEMOCRACY: A GREATER MANCHESTER ASSEMBLY

It was moved and seconded that:

“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.
- 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.

**Meeting of the Council
19 July 2023**

- 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."

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

31. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE GREEN PARTY GROUP - SUPPORT THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL

RESOLVED: That consideration of this Motion be deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting commenced at 7.01 p.m. and finished at 9.12 p.m.