

EXECUTIVE

29 JANUARY 2024

PRESENT

Councillor T. Ross (in the Chair).

Councillors C. Hynes (Deputy Leader), S. Adshead, K.G. Carter, E. Patel, J. Slater, R. Thompson, A.J. Williams and J.A. Wright

In attendance

Paul Rogers	Governance Officer
Nathan Atkinson	Corporate Director Adults and Wellbeing
Graeme Bentley	Director Finance and Systems
Emma Malpas	Head of Legal Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Jill McGregor	Corporate Director of Children's Services
Richard Roe	Corporate Director of Place
Sara Saleh	Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Strategy and Resources
Sara Todd	Chief Executive

Also Present

Councillors Acton, Butt, Evans, Ennis, Holden, Lepori and Welton.

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71. ATTENDANCES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Harding

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

73. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

74. MATTERS FROM COUNCIL OR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (IF ANY)

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny presented a report on Events at Old Trafford. In 2022 the Scrutiny Committee agreed to form a Task and Finish Group to look at the impact of Events at Old Trafford Football Ground upon the local Community and to look at ways that impact could be reduced. This report focuses upon the issues faced regarding Traffic and puts forward recommendations to alleviate the issues faced.

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The Chair made reference to the survey which had been sent out with 438 responses received, paragraph 2 of the report refers. Traffic and anti social parking were the main problems. As a result the report was produced with recommendations. He drew attention to plans to classify certain roads around Manchester United on match days as red routes. Also need to encourage the club to provide secure bike storage at the stadium to increase the use of bicycles as an option to driving and the expansion of TFGM shuttle service to the ground.

The Leader informed the Executive that beyond the Task and Finish Group the Ward Councillors have secured some good relationships with the club and some positive actions have already been achieved. He was of the view that there were good suggestions arising from the report to take away and work with.

RESOLVED: That the Executive

1. Support plans to classify certain roads around Manchester United as red routes.
2. Work with Manchester United over time to reduce the number of spectators arriving by car, noting that there are currently around 16,000 cars not able to park at Old Trafford.
3. Work with TFGM to extend the Shuttle service and the possibility of providing car parks further away from the ground, for example within Trafford Park.
4. Request Manchester United to provide a list of all genuine car parking facilities to fans they have.
5. Work with Manchester United and TFGM to see whether car parking facilities for games are highlighted on Google Maps, Waze, or other mapping apps.
6. Look to link to TFGM's live Traffic Data and Manchester United information from the Council website and social media accounts.
7. Spread awareness of the monthly newsletter to ensure people are made aware of when matches are being held.
8. Look at the option to run a secure bike storage trial with Manchester United to see if it increases cycling to matches, and if positive, encourage Manchester United to commit to further provision of safe, secure cycle parking facilities on site.
9. Work with TFGM and the Trafford Centre with a view to utilising the parking spaces at the Trafford Centre for Match Day Parking.
10. Ensure that the monitoring data from Manchester United Traffic Management Plan be shared with Ward Councillors.
11. Support the continuation of the regular meetings between Manchester United and ward Councillors and that performance data from the Traffic Management Plan be shared at those meetings.
12. Support the reforming of the task and finish group to look at significant issues by residents if they occur.

The Chair of Health Scrutiny informed the Executive that an informal meeting of Health Scrutiny had been held with representatives of GM NHS as a workshop on 24 January 2024 to discuss the NHS initial findings on Urgent Care in Trafford. Views from the Workshop would be taken away and fed into the GM NHS review.

75. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 15 November 2023, 27 November 2023 and 11 December 2023 be approved as an accurate record.

76. INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT IN NEW CARRINGTON

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration & the Executive Member for Climate Change presented a report which provides an overview of the current progress with development and supporting Infrastructure around Carrington and Partington – known as ‘New Carrington’. It also explains, principally, the necessity of transport improvements to the future growth in the area – and how this inter-dependency will be managed.

The Places for Everyone Plan (DfE) provides the context for future homes and employment development in this locality – an area currently constrained by poor accessibility and limited transport infrastructure. Master planning required by DfE is now underway and will help provide a detailed framework for future development and the transport, physical, green and social infrastructure needed to underpin it.

Alongside this a transport strategy for the area has been prepared and this will help guide the detailed design of measures such as the Carrington Relief Road – the main highway and active travel artery for the area.

This report sets out the current programme and costings for this route – and options for future funding. As a major brownfield site, the former Carrington refinery is subject to contamination which complicates both development and the provision of future infrastructure.

Finally given ongoing constraints on the Highway Network, the report considers how planning applications for new development should be managed in the short term, pending implementation of planned transport improvements.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration summarised the background to the Plan as referred to in paragraph 1 to the report. As well as highlighting the Places for Everyone Plan which includes future homes and employment development in the Carrington and Partington locality, the Carrington Relief Road was highlighted as an integral part of the Plan to support the housing and employment growth. Members attention was drawn to The Carrington Transport Strategy where the overall goal is to develop a new sustainable community in the Carrington area (Carrington, Partington and Sale West), with high levels of internal walking and cycling connectivity, provision of internal

facilities and good public transport connections, including to the wider Greater Manchester network. The Carrington Relief Road Programme and Funding is set out in Paragraph 6 to the report.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration underlined the following conclusions in the report –

- (i) New Carrington will be the main growth point in Trafford for the next decade or more; as a consequence it will require ongoing effort to ensure development is coordinated with necessary infrastructure – and that there is effective place-making to bequeath successful communities to future generations.
- (ii) The first step is to ensure the timely delivery of the Carrington Relief Road, as this will underpin key developments and facilitate other transport improvements. The new route sits on the context of a wider Transport Strategy for Carrington & Partington – an approach fully aligned with the rapidly evolving Greater Manchester Bee Network. Every effort must now be made to secure the detailed design of the route and the funding for its delivery. Joint working with the GMCA, TFGM and other partners will be essential to secure this outcome.
- (iii) The Road will only be delivered with the aid of proportionate developer contributions. However such contributions will only be forthcoming if planning applications for development are approved. If all development is delayed because of the lack of infrastructure, then this of itself may undermine the funding of the road. In order to break this potentially negative cycle, it is proposed that a planning strategy be employed that enables some development to proceed, especially where appropriate infrastructure contributions are made.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration thanked the officers for their work in producing a very complex and ambitious report and marks an important milestone in the project.

Councillor Ennis referred to the ever increasing costs of the project and took the view that there may be a need to revisit the viability of the Project. The Member further questioned how a temporary 106 Agreement allow a developer to budget properly when costs are constantly changing. The Member also made reference to the fact that the hydrology for Timperly Wedge is totally unknown and the flooding at Timperley Wedge affects many parts of South Trafford and the flooding transfers to Carrington. The Member asked when will the hydrology reports be available for the New Carrington Project.

The Leader informed the Councillor Ennis that from a Greater Manchester perspective we will be working with the Environment Agency and United Utilities around the Integrated Water Course Management Plan which looks at new developments and the impacts of developments when water is drained. He would get back to Councillor Ennis regarding the hydrology reports.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration that the new viability work is most welcome and we the most confident as we have ever been about the actual costs involved. Previously this work did not take into account our ambitions in terms of the breadth of the highway for active travel etc so a lot of the costs has gone into that aspect. The design of this has moved forward and that has gone into the viability. New Carrington in a GM capacity will be one of GM's six Growth Zones so to command a five per cent budget of a transport allocation which has not been allocated yet but will be a significant amount. Paragraph 8 of the report highlights a potted history of Section 106 Agreement contributions that has been secured previously. So the report provides developers with some certainty about contributions and we will do this in discussion with landowners and the Council's Planning Committee. The issue is not flooding but contamination and this is clearly set out in the report.

Councillor Welton applauds the reports commitment to the twenty minute neighbourhood model in Carrington itself but the reports highlights the car dependency and even with the raft of measures proposed in his view barely moves the dial. It may well be that moving further to include a tram link connection and this may well be the fate unless the a reach for Scenario 3 – Most Sustainable, GM Policy objectives fully achieved. Re paragraph 1.1 of the report, he notes the issue of induced demand is acknowledged so the New Carrington project will put more pressure on the existing roads across Trafford. Why is there no analysis of achieving the costs in Scenario 3 so not achieving this Scenario will cost us more in terms of carbon emissions, public health outcomes regarding obesity, increased rates of collisions, costs of congestion and higher costs of road maintenance, all these costs should be considered against the costs of infrastructure when planning for the very long term. There is no mention of demand regarding bus traffic should have a place in the Plan. As far as he is aware Carrington Green Line is still officially a live train line, so what is the likely approval for its conversion as a walking and cycling route as is indicated by the Plan.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration responded saying that the report is open and honest and we are not trying to achieve the ultimate goal in sustainability. It's a realistic and ambitious project, it does not rule out the possibility of improving the offer in front of Members, this is a project that will come out over decades and over time there will be great advances in transport. Regarding the demand on the bus network this will be based on the Bee transport. Planning decisions are a balance between economic social and environmental and this a fair and realistic appraisal of where we are. Regarding the Carrington Green line route this is something that needs investigating.

Adrian Fisher, Director of Growth and Regulatory Services, if Carrington Green Line is a live railway it is owned by Network Rail. It is very heavily overgrown. There are examples elsewhere where they have been converted to a walking cycle route that is something which we wish to develop. In terms of Scenario 3 that is the most sustainable option but it is about moulding something which is realistic with the resources that are available so the infrastructure design is built around the funding world we are in. Therefore Scenario 2 is the best and most sustainable

and reasonably achievable within the available resources and that's where the balance lies.

Councillor Williams, Executive Member for Climate Change, emphasised that we are at the start of gaining full public control of our buses back and we need to wait and see over the coming months and years what new bus services so he can take away a discussion on demand responsive bus servicing at the Greater Manchester level he would be happy to do so and get back to him.

Councillor Ennis referred to the disused Carrington railway and informed Members that has not been a previously popular suggestion to bring it back into use but as far as he is aware active travel money has been allocated there and parties and parish councils are keen to bring it back in a more active travel way and does the Executive support that approach and might that be rolled into the report presented. The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration advised that the active travel approach regarding reopening the Carrington Green Line will be investigated and reported back.

Councillor Holden referred to the mention in the report about new primary schools and thousands of houses but only one mention of a secondary school in the Partington area. Many of the residents are forced to send their children to the School in Cil west because of lack of space. Has any consideration been given to those standards when Broadoak fills up.

Councillor Duncan informed Members that the residents he represents are feeling frustrated and angry that the Council are neglecting their wishes and to consider environmental devastation. So the question is in relation to the deep peat deposits on Carrington Moss the report states in paragraph 7.7 'As a consequence, peat is not considered to be a significant constraint on future infrastructure provision.' This shows a huge lack of understanding on the impact of drainage on the main body of peat which covers around 335 hectares. Trafford Councils seems willingly to disregard Natural England's guidance.

Councillor Paul spoke for Manor Ward and drew attention to residents concerns about the xxx Allotments and she shares their concerns. This allotments is opposed by the majority of residents. Can the report into the investigation of peat be made available.

The Executive Member for Children and Young People advised that one of the requests for approval is the expansion of Broad Oak school. So we are hoping that it will go from four form entry to six form entry and we will be requesting nearly £2 million in 106 Agreement money to fund that school.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration advised that on the question of peat this report covers it. The peat question draws into a wider discussion on the New Carrington allocation. The public examination dedicated two full days and all the documentation and survey results were made public through that process. The Inprint of this entire area is full of deep peat is incorrect and the discussion about opposition to this piece of work is not reflected in the response we have received form the consultation. People want new roads and

houses and they are happy for that to progress. With regard to the Masterplan we are engaging with landowners and statutory bodies and we are undertaking a series of detailed environmental surveys on the land and the nature and extent of peat deposits will be known before any development takes place.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the approach to Master Planning for New Carrington be noted.
- (2) the Transport Strategy for Carrington set out at Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed.
- (3) the resolution in September 2021 to progress the planning application for the Carrington Relief Road be noted and that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Place to carry out all necessary steps to secure funding for the route and, in consultation with the Director of Legal & Governance, to conclude any appropriate agreements in principle for securing the land necessary for the route and its related infrastructure.
- (4) the planning strategy set out in Section 8 of the report be endorsed and the Planning & Development Committee be invited to consider and approve a detailed formula for interim infrastructure contributions.

77. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE EXECUTIVE'S DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2024-2025

The Scrutiny Committee Chair presented The Overview and Scrutiny Review of the Executive's Draft Budget proposals for 2024-25. The Executive's Draft Budget Proposals for 2024-2025 were agreed at its meeting held on 15th November 2023.

Two Budget Scrutiny Working Group sessions were held on the 28th and 30th November 2023 with the relevant Executive Members and Senior Officers in attendance to address Members questions. Members were also provided with background information on the budget proposals.

This report reflects the outcome of those discussions, summarises areas, and provides recommendations for the Executive to consider in developing its final budget proposals and response to the Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair of Scrutiny acknowledged that Trafford are finding it difficult to balance the budget like many Councils and underlined the point that as a result of 14 years of austerity approximately £300 Million has been taken out of the budget since these measures had been put in place, the covering Forward of the report refers. Scrutiny is supportive of the Executive to lobby the government for improved funding. He wanted to put on record his thanks to the Executive and Corporate Leadership Team and staff for the work they do in these difficult times.

The Leader thanked Scrutiny for the report and advised that the Executive would take away the suggestions and recommendations and we will report back at the Executive Budget meeting in a few weeks time.

RESOLVED: That the Executive notes the following Scrutiny Committee recommendations to be considered at the Executive Budget meeting –

1. that the Executive keep all Councillors informed of the Council's full lobbying plans and for Scrutiny to have input to those plans.
2. that the Executive Member for Finance and Governance continue to lobby the Government over support to Local Authorities and where possible work with other local authorities in doing so.
3. that the Executive provide the Scrutiny Committee with further information on how the savings listed within the savings plan would be achieved and provide the plans that support their success.
4. that Scrutiny support the Executive producing a communications strategy which can inform residents of the financial restraints of the Council and reasons behind any service changes provided by the Council.
5. that the Executive explores the closure of Trafford Town Hall once a week and provides Scrutiny with any negative impacts that are found from this change if they occur.
6. the Executive continue to monitor reserves closely and inform the Scrutiny Committee if further concerns are raised around the Council's levels of reserves.
7. the Executive be requested to continue to monitor increased income and opportunities for income generated through contract changes with Amey and keep Scrutiny updated on results of this.
8. the Executive look to increase transparency on the service management process in both Children and Adults services and highlight these changes to a future meeting of Scrutiny for comment.

78. BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 PERIOD 8

The Leader presented the Budget Monitoring 2023-24 Period 8 (April 2023 to November 2023). He emphasised the challenging financial environment he informed the Executive that it is encouraging to see the outturn forecast has improved from Period 6 £0.51m overspend to Period 8 £0.59m underspend. This is positive news which reflects the effectiveness of our financial management practices and those additional controls put in place to contain the forecast adverse outturn anticipated earlier in the year. The report sets out the variances from budget of each directorate and gives an update on the capital programme progress set out in Section 6 and Annex 3 of the report.

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The Director of Finance and Systems reiterated the Leader's presentation that the movement from Period 6 is positive particularly that if the position can be maintained then no unplanned use of reserves would be necessary in year. The demand pressures being felt in the current year are reflected in the 2024-25 Budget planning. He also referred to Contingencies which for this year which was also positive even though there was a little way to go.

The Leader thanked the Director of Finance and Systems and his colleagues for all the work they do in supporting the finances.

Councillor Evans raised a number of questions on the content and format of the report for which answers were provided.

Councillor Ennis referred to the need for improved funding and drew attention to the government's recent announcement.

Councillor Butt made reference to the Variances in Table 1, page 220, and in particular the Legal and Governance costs and Finance and Systems and what has caused the increases.

The Head of Legal and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that this has been discussed within the Employment Committee. The Legal and Governance have been carrying a significant number of vacancies over a number of years which has resulted in an increase in Agency spend. There has been a redesigned service which was implemented on 1 January this year so we hope to be able to recruit to permanent posts to reduce the spend pressures.

The Leader advised that in terms of the Finance and Systems, Trafford Assist has been the pressure point with people approaching the Council for help and that is why there is an increase in that budget area.

Councillor Welton referred to the cost of the delayed opening of the Regent Road Car Park and asked is there a point where it would become more cost effective for the Council to get involved to finish the project or can we push the developer to finish it.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration advised that the Council is not at the point where it would be cost effective for the Council to finish the work. The car park was inspected in January and there were 180 snags which impacted on the structure. We are considering all avenues to get the work completed as soon as possible.

Councillor Evans asked could the developer be pursued for the Council's loss.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration is not aware of the legal implications but the Council is running of patience with the developer.

RESOLVED: That the Executive

- a) note the report and the estimated revenue outturn position showing a budget underspend of £0.59m a positive movement of £1.09m since Period 6;
- b) note the update on the Capital Programme as detailed in Section 6 and Annex 3;
- c) note that due to the positive movements in the estimated outturn since Period 6, that no new management actions are required at this point in 2023/24.

79. BUSINESS RATES RELIEF (AUTUMN BUDGET MEASURES) AND NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATING DISCRETIONARY POLICY CHANGES 2024/25

The Leader presented the Business Rates Reliefs (Autumn Budget Measures) and National Non-Domestic Rating Discretionary Policy Changes 2024-25 report.

This report sets out an extension to the 75% Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) Business Rates Reliefs scheme to eligible businesses in 2024-25, delivered via local authority discretionary powers. The cost of the scheme will be fully funded through a Section 31 grant.

It also sets out the impact of existing legislation in relation to Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief which is being revoked with effect from 1 April 2024. This follows the Government's Business Rates (Technical Consultation) Review in relation to the constraints on local authorities' ability to backdate awards of relief and the required notice period to reduce or remove awards of relief. Local Authorities need to decide if they want to include any of the revoked matters into their local discretionary schemes.

Trafford is proposing to include in its National Non-Domestic Rating Discretionary Policy the same backdating provisions that currently exist in the legislation.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the extension to the 75% RHL Business Rates Relief Scheme in 2024-25, be approved in line with the government guidance.
- 2) the amendment to the Council's National Non-Domestic Rating Discretionary Policy from 1 April 2024 to include backdating time limits for granting awards in line with the current legislative wording which is being revoked, be approved.

80. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2024-25

The Leader presented the Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme for 2024-25.

The Council's CTS Scheme sets out the basis on which the Council will carry out assessments to establish eligibility for CTS, which is a means tested financial support award designed to help residents on a low income to pay their Council Tax.

There is a legal requirement to formally approve the Council's CTS scheme before the start of each financial year. It is proposed that the CTS Scheme for 2024/25 be worded in accordance with the decision made by the Executive on 27 November 2023, and that claims will be operationally assessed on the basis set out in that decision.

RESOLVED: That the Executive approves the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024-25 and recommends the approval and adoption of the Scheme to Council as part of the budget setting process.

**81. COUNCIL TAX EMPTY HOMES AND SECOND HOMES PREMIUM -
INTRODUCTION AND PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON EXEMPT CATEGORIES**

The Leader presented Council Tax Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium – Introduction and Proposal to Consult on Exempt Categories report.

The Council has the discretion to amend the council tax premium to 100% (200% in total) for properties empty between one and five years (currently between two and five years) from 1 April 2024.

The Council has the discretion to charge an additional 100% (200% in total) on all second homes from 1 April 2025.

Executive approval was sought in October 2022 to align future long term empty home premiums with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill changes once the Bill received Royal Assent, which it did on 26 October 2023.

This report seeks final approval to implement these premiums as well as to consult on a proposed Exemption Policy in line with the national consultation.

Councillor Evans asked what happens to Air Bed and Breakfast homes.

The Director of Finance and Systems advised that they are categorised as second homes in accordance with legislation.

Councillor Butt asked what form the consultation will take.

The Director of Finance and Systems informed Members that it would be a public consultation but couldn't give an answer on the timespan of the Consultation. He would inform Councillor Butt of the specific details when they are available.

Councillor Ennis referred to Exemptions and asked if the armed services covenant can be reviewed as it may have changed since it was previously looked at in 2019.

The Leader acknowledged the point raised and that this would be reviewed.

Councillor Lepori in supporting the report will there be safeguarding in place where building work is taking place and not moving forward for various reasons.

The Leader acknowledged the point raised and assured the Member that this will be looked at together with any further issues raised in the consultations period.

RESOLVED: That the Executive gives approval to:

- Consult on the proposed Council Tax Discretionary Council Tax Premium Exemption Policy;
- Note that the Council Tax Discretionary Council Tax Premiums Exemption Policy will be presented to the Executive for consideration and approval following conclusion of the consultation exercise;
- Increase the council tax empty homes premium to 100% (200% in total) for properties empty between one and five years (currently between two and five years) from 1 April 2024; and
- Implement the discretionary 100% second homes council tax premium (200% in total) from 1 April 2025.

82. TRAFFORD COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE UPDATE

The Executive Member for Communities and Safety presented presented an Update report on the Trafford Community Collective.

Trafford Community Collective (TCC), a registered charity since March 2021, was established to support, promote, and connect the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Trafford. The Collective is a membership organisation for VCFSE organisations with the aim of organisations working together to increase opportunities for the sector to develop its role as a strategic partner and support the development of community-based, holistic, person centred, services at a neighbourhood level. This report provides an update on the activity and outcomes of the Collective in 2022/23.

The report shows the Collective's development from 2019 to the present day and it now works across Trafford's community hubs and has a growing membership in the voluntary sector groups and is becoming a key strategic voice of the sector. In March 2023 Trafford Council and NHS Trafford committed £130,000 to continue its work until 2025.

Trafford Community Collective (the "Collective") is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation that represents the VCSFE sector in Trafford. The organisation became a registered charity in March 2021 following two years of consultation and engagement with VCFSE organisations, Trafford Council, Trafford CCG (as known in 2021), and other key statutory partners.

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The Collective recognised the increased opportunities for the VCFSE sector to develop its role as a strategic partner in Trafford. As a strategic partner, the Collective aims to:

- Support the development of community-based services at a neighbourhood level.
- Effectively communicate, engage, and involve individuals, families, and communities at a local level.
- Effectively communicate, engage, and involve communities of interest at a local level and across Trafford.
- Provide a focus on the wider determinants of health and new ways of working designed to reduce health inequalities.

Throughout the period of development, Thrive Trafford, the Local Infrastructure Organisation for Trafford provided significant support to establish the Collective. In April 2022 Thrive and the Collective submitted a successful partnership application for the infrastructure contract for the period 2022 – 2025.

This briefing provides an update on the activity and outcomes of the Collective in 2022/23 and outlines the plans for the future. The Executive Member for Communities and Safety drew attention to the Background and Context to the report as set out on pages 322- 328 of the report and more specially set out on pages 329-340 to the report.

The Leader thanked the Executive Member for the report and added his thanks to George Devlin for his work with the Community Collective and Voluntary and Community Sector. He also thanked everyone at the Community Collective for all the work they have done.

Councillor Slater acknowledged the work that the Community Collective has done and welcomed the report.

Councillor Williams welcomed the funding that has been put in place for an additional School Streets officer and welcomes that VCFSE sector is showing an interest in supporting our school streets.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration welcomed the report which is very informative at a time of such limited resources and growing need. She drew attention to the working partnership with primary care and in Sale Moor we were one of the successful areas to operate test and learn a really worth while cause.

Councillor Lepori echoed everyone's comments in welcoming the report. His only concern moving forward was about focusing in on those areas of deprivation and where people are struggling and in moving forward doesn't want to see a lag where people have suffered financially over the past few years and are still struggling even though they may not look as if they are.

The Executive Member for Communities and Safety took the view that Councillor Lepori's point was a concern and would tailor the services around that awareness.

Councillor Welton advised that he had attended a meeting with Councillor Lepori towards the end of last year and he was very impressed by the number of people there and the connections made between the various organisations.

The Leader advised that we are seeking to find any funding streams available to extend the project.

RESOLVE: That the Executive

1. notes the content of the report; and
2. approves the proposal that a further progress report on the delivery of the VCFSE Strategy is presented in 2024 at the Executive.

The Leader on behalf of the Executive thanked George Devlin for all his time with the Community Collective and wish him well for the future.

83. RIGHT TO THE STREETS UPDATE

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration presented a report regarding Right of Streets – End of Project. The report provides an end of project report on the Right to the Streets, a Home Office-funded gender-based violence street safety project. The Right to the Streets project commenced in Trafford in September 2022 and completed in September 2023.

This innovative project has combined community activity, policy work, podcasting, visuals campaign, social media, artwork and communities grants to build a wide reaching, impactful grassroots project.

The project focussed on North Trafford, Gorsehill, Old Trafford and Stretford areas and was shaped using a co design process using local data, engagement Events and Art projects. Local partners in the area, including Trafford Council, were keen to kickstart a successful place-based approach to addressing this complex issue of physical inactivity and community exclusion caused by fear of and experience of male violence against women and girls.

Our Safer Streets project, 'Right to the Streets', explored ways to make streets and public spaces safer and more welcoming for women and girls so they feel a sense of belonging in their community and are able to live active lives.

The Right to the Streets project was delivered in a partnership consisting of a variety of key organisations that have taken responsibility for certain elements; partners, page 301 refers.

As a strategic partner, Trafford Council have supported Right to the Streets through building networks and making connections. Our role has been to support

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the project with expertise, networking, focusing on the local area, embedding in local plans and with local data and insight.

The legacy of the project has been varied and this includes the opportunity of Rights to the Streets. Council has secured £20,000 funding from the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network to deliver a Policy Lab on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls working with 8 other Councils in the UK. The evidence and knowledge from this project will be used to share approaches from councils across the UK. This work will continue during 2023/24, will be reported back on the Network regularly and will be evaluated in Summer 2024.

That as part of the Legislative theatre commitments, Executive Member for Communities and Safety and the Policy Team continue to engage with GM contacts to be involved in key work in this area going forward. Trafford Council will be working with GMCA on their new GBV strategy delivery plan in 2024.

The Executive Member highlighted how Rights to the Street has helped with Trafford Council's thinking when developing and moving forward in priority areas. This is through understanding the localities and issues with them. This has been particularly see across Partington and the Levelling Up Fund project at Partington Sports Village and Trafford Council has shown that women's safety from male violence was considered throughout the evidence of the project.

Councillor Slater thanked the Executive Member for an excellent report and the work that has been done and that the Rights to the Streets should be part of the fundamentals when dealing with planning, opening up cycleways as examples.

Councillor Lepori asked if something similar can be put in place at Altricham where problematic behaviour is in evidence including women and girls and police are struggling to deal with those problems.

The Leader informed Members that the Altricham issue would be get taken away and would be considered.

Councillor Welton took the view that there is potential for a cross Borough project if the funding could be found. He made reference to the need for appropriately lit and safe cycling routes.

The Leader acknowledged that this is something the Council can explore other parts of Trafford as well subject to funding.

RESOLVED: That the Executive notes the contents of the report.

84. EDUCATION AND EARLY NEEDS CAPITAL

The Executive Member for Children's Services presented a report regarding Education and Early Years Basic Need and High Needs Capital. The report sets out to address the shortfall in school places and for Trafford to meet the needs of children and young people with people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Trafford is a popular authority due to its excellent educational provision and the Dfe values the Council for managing provisions for places. Since 2010 an additional 4646 places have been created and the report details the rise of applications for both primary and high schools and schools have been expanded to meet the unprecedented demand for places. The report also mentions about the efforts of officers, local Councillors and the two MPs for the Altrincham and Sale area to secure a new school in this area but this was rejected by the Dfe. The Member referred to Section 4 of the report discusses the Free Early Education Places, a government initiative. This has been beset with practical issues in Trafford as we are not sure Trafford will have the numbers of staff to be able to provide the free childcare that is being offered There is a sufficiency exercise underway to see if it is sustainable. We are waiting for funding details from the government. Section 5 details School Places Demand for SEND and about increasing the number of places at schools which is part of the Council's Strategic Initiative. Our strategic priorities are to increase capacity within local specialist provision, including small specialist classes and resourced provision within mainstream schools, to meet the increasing demands for places.

The Leader emphasised that the report demonstrates how the Council plans school places as and when demographics change, property numbers so its important that this is looked at on a regular basis.

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration echoed Council Carter's thanks to officers and the Dfe recognition for Trafford's good approach to school applications faced with significant demand and need changes and the calm approach to those challenges.

Councillor Ennis referred to regeneration works and increasing demand if there is an increasing demand in the Waterside development what are the reasons behind Dfe rejecting the need for a new school in the south Trafford area. On SEND where a child is without a SEND place how often should Trafford be touching base with that family.

The Executive Member for Children's Services the government sets sizes of schools which is currently 750 pupils. Trafford does not have 750 families without a place. It was averaging around 90 in Sale and Altrincham. With the schools around Trafford showing places available, on paper we have enough provision in the Borough and that is how the government makes its decision. All the high schools in the Sale and Altrincham area are on tight sites and not able to expand.

Councillor Ennis further queried that given the new development proposed at Timperley Wedge how will this development support the additional school need.

The Executive Member for Children's Services responded informing that the government have a formulae they use for when houses are built so we can only go forward on what we currently know.

The Corporate Director for Children's Services added that Section 3 in the report sets the reasons are for building new schools and echoed the Executive Member for Children's Services comments regarding Government's formulae on new schools and the demand does not outweigh the number of school places available in the Borough so there is not sufficient demand to warrant the building of a new school.

With regard to the SEND question the Executive Member for Children's Services we are limited by the consent of parents in what we can do. Regarding the Council's ability to meet placements. The overspend on higher needs suggest that the Council is working hard to make sure for parental requests to meet the needs in terms of children with SEND regardless of whether it is inside or outside the Borough.

Councillor Evans referred to Section 2.6 in the report, the table ratings, he would like to see this expanded when this updated at a future meeting to see where these places are.

The Executive Member for Children's Services advised that the detail the Councillor refers to is available. Realistically parental choice is limited dependent on where you live. Unless parents live close to a school that choice is not available.

The Corporate Director for Children's Services referred to Section 2 of the report which shows that 99 per cent of primary school parental allocations have been allocated as per their three choices. So there is a good level of compliance in the primary sector on choice.

Councillor Ennis further added that his worry is for the deprived child in Partington who as a result of where they are is never going to see an opportunity to have any choice of school. He will approach Dfe about the problem.

Councillor Butt welcomes the development at Altrincham College.

The Executive Member for Children's Services advised that it's a complex project for Sport England who could be more helpful but we will deliver another 300 places which has now been pushed back to 2026.

Councillor Welton has sympathy for officers working on this. He made reference to those schools who have unhelpful selection policies which could be amended to help include those 90 places that Trafford are looking to place.

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RESOLVED: That the Executive agrees the proposals contained within this report as the detailed capital programme for 2024/25, specifically:

- (i) Note the demand for primary and secondary school places as set out in sections 2 and 3 of the report.
- (ii) Note the demand for free early years provision as set out in section 4 of the report.
- (iii) Note the demand for SEND school places as set out in section 5 of the report.
- (iv) Approve the proposals detailed in sections 6.2 and 6.4 of the report to create the following additional school places:
- (v) Stretford High School – increase the Published Admission Number (PAN, the maximum number of pupils that the admission authority will admit to each year group) by 10 places from September 2023.
- (vi) Sale High School – bulge class of 30 places for September 2023 (funded from existing budgets).
- (vii) Park Road Primary, Sale – accessibility works for a pupil placed at school via the Fair Access Protocol.
- (viii) The Orchards – increase of 10 places through creation of a Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) suite.
- (ix) Approve the Secondary School expansion proposals detailed in section 6.3 of the report:
- (x) Altrincham College (6FE to 8FE) 60 places – additional funding.
- (xi) Broadoak School (4FE to 6FE) 60 places
- (xii) Approve the High Needs (SEND) capital proposal detailed in section 6.5 of this report:
- (xiii) Brentwood School (increase from 45 places to 80 places including individual learning spaces) – additional funding.
- (xiv) Approve the allocation of Basic Need capital funding and High Needs Capital Provision to carry out work to improve the facilities and expand provision for pupils detailed in Appendix A: Proposed Capital Projects, Basic Need Capital Programme, Table 1 and High Needs (SEND) Capital Provision Programme, Table 2.
- (xv) Note the completion of previous SEND / High Needs Capital schemes in Appendix B.

85. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There were no items of Urgent Business to consider.

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The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.07 pm