

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

19 FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Dylan Butt), in the Chair.

D. Acton	J. Coupe	Mrs. J. Reilly
S. Adshead	Mrs. P. Dixon	B. Rigby
S. Anstee	A. Duffield	T. Ross
Dr. K. Barclay	Mrs. L. Evans	B. Sharp
J. Baugh	M. Freeman	B. Shaw
J. Bennett	P. Gratrix	J. Smith
Miss L. Blackburn	D. Higgins	E.W. Stennett
R. Bowker	J. Holden	N. Taylor
C. Boyes	M. Hyman	S. Taylor
H. Boyle	C. Hynes	L. Walsh
Mrs. A. Bruer-Morris	D. Jarman	Mrs. V. Ward
J. Brophy	P. Lally	A. Western
B Brotherton	J. Lamb	D. Western
D. Bunting	J. Lloyd	M. Whetton
C. Candish	A. Mitchell	Mrs. J. Wilkinson
R Chilton	P. Myers	A. Williams
M. Colledge	D. O'Sullivan	M. Young
Mrs. L. Cooke	K. Procter	Mrs. P. Young
M. Cordingley	D. Quayle	
M. Cornes	J.R. Reilly	

In attendance

Chief Executive	Ms. T. Grant
Corporate Director Children and Young People's Service	Mrs. D. Brownlee
Corporate Director Transformation and Resources	Mrs. W. Marston
Director of Finance	Mr. I. Duncan
Director of Human Resources	Ms. J. Hyde
Director of Legal and Democratic Services	Ms. J. Le Fevre
Head of Financial Management	Mr. I. Kershaw
Head of Human Resources Business Partnering	Ms. D. Lucas
Democratic Services Manager	Mr. P. Forrester
Democratic Services Officer	Mr. I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E.H. Malik, T. Fishwick, J. Harding and I. Platt.

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77. MINUTES

That, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Boyle in the list of attendances, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 22 January 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

78. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that a question had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

Councillor Mrs. Brophy asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Councillors will remember at a Trafford Council in October 2009 that I asked what we are doing to prepare for the increased risk of flooding in Trafford and across Greater Manchester due to climate change as outlined by the Head of the Environment Agency, in a speech around this time.

Many areas in the south of the country and beyond are experiencing unprecedented flooding. Only last week across the North West and locally in Trafford we had severe storms, which caused a number of trees in the Borough to come down and our motorways closed for periods of time. What is Trafford Council doing to ensure that our residents are protected and warned about flooding and other forms of extreme weather, as climate change starts to impact on all our lives?”

Councillor Mitchell, Executive Member for Highways and Environment responded to the question and reported that in the last week Council officers had attended over 450 incidents in the Borough, responding to emergency calls that had come about as a result of the extreme weather. Most of these incidents related to fallen trees and to his knowledge none related to flooding.

In terms of flooding, Councillor Mitchell assured Members that the Council was active on several fronts to ensure that residents were protected from and warned about flooding and other forms of extreme weather. The Executive Member then outlined the work of the Council in this area, detailing:

work with the Environment Agency to ensure that water levels on the Borough’s main rivers were monitored; how flood warning information is disseminated; emergency plan operations; and regular discussions with Agency staff;

partnership working with the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities to update the Trafford Multi Agency Flood Response Plan and the Greater Manchester Strategic Multi-Agency Flood Plan;

requiring developers to address the issue of climate change, including flood risk, as part of their development proposals following the adoption of the Trafford Core Strategy in January 2012;

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publication, in response to the Pitt review and subsequent legislation, of the Council's first Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy on 17 February 2014 for a 6 week consultation.

Councillor Mitchell stated that the Council was in a very strong position to deal with extreme weather conditions, with a full management framework in place on a 24 hour 7 day basis. This incorporated senior management from the beginning and clear lines of communication. Reporting on the swift and effective response to the violent storms which occurred on 12 February 2014 and which did so much damage in Trafford, the Executive Member envisaged that all outstanding storm damage works would be completed by 28 February 2014.

In asking her supplementary question, Councillor Mrs. Brophy referred to the redeployment and restructuring of Environment Agency staff and concern that it would be properly prepared for further incidents, particularly given the response to her question in October 2009 which indicated that 300 homes had been identified by the Environment Agency as potentially at risk of flooding in the Timperley area alone. Councillor Brophy, therefore, asked as a supplementary question what support might be offered to people at risk?

Councillor Mitchell indicated that he was not aware of specific incidents that would cause concern with the Environment Agency and that a lot of its responsibility had transferred to the Council. This had given rise to the consultation document and he invited Councillor Mrs. Brophy to feedback her views.

79. AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS - RECORDED VOTES

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report advising of new regulations in accordance with the Audit and Accountability Act 2014, requiring all councils to adopt the practice of requiring a recorded vote at Budget setting meetings. The report also advised of an expectation that those councils meeting before the regulations come into effect adopt the practice even though they are not legally required to do so at that point in time.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Council's Standing Orders be amended with effect from 25 February 2014 so as to include provisions requiring recorded votes at budget meetings as set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.
- (2) That, prior to the changes, recorded votes be held for all substantive motions agreeing the budget, setting council taxes or issuing precepts and any amendments proposed at the meeting.

80. REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report advising on the political balance of the Council following the Broadheath by-election on 16 January 2014.

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RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

81. TRAFFORD COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2013/14

The Director of Human Resources submitted a report providing Members with information relating to the Council's Pay Policy for 2014/15 in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. The Pay Policy Statement had been recommended to the Council by the Employment Committee at its meeting held on 19 February 2014.

RESOLVED: That Trafford Council's 2014/15 Pay Policy Statement, as set out in the report, be approved.

82. STOCKPORT, TRAFFORD AND ROCHDALE (STAR) JOINT PROCUREMENT SERVICE - APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report on the process for the appointment of the Director of Stockport, Trafford and Rochdale Council's joint procurement service.

RESOLVED: That the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Director of Human Resources, be authorised to set up a process for the appointment of the Director of the STaR which allows members from Rochdale and Stockport to participate effectively in the process.

83. BUDGET 2014/15

(Note: PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS - In respect of the main item of business on the agenda, the Mayor announced that the Leader of the Council (or his nominee) would have a maximum of 15 minutes to make the initial speech and a further maximum of 15 minutes to finish the debate. The Leaders of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups (or their respective nominees) would each have a maximum of 15 minutes to make their initial speeches and a further maximum of 5 minutes to wind up on behalf of their respective Groups. The Mayor also outlined the approach for dealing with amendments, should any be made to the main motion, and indicated that the mover of an amendment would have 5 minutes, whilst the time for all other speeches would be restricted to 3 minutes.)

The Executive Member for Finance presented a number of reports setting out the proposed budget for the forthcoming year, together with the recommendations from the Executive meeting held earlier that evening.

It was moved and seconded that the Executive's recommendations for the budget, circulated to Members at the meeting, be approved.

Councillors Brotherton and Bowker responded to the Motion on behalf of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively. During his speech, Councillor Brotherton gave notice of a Motion under procedure rule 12 to adjourn the meeting. Accordingly, the Mayor proceeded to deal with the proposed adjournment.

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It was moved and seconded that:

“This Council condemns the Government austerity measures, as they relate to Local Authorities, which have resulted in unprecedented cuts to all Councils but particularly so in Greater Manchester and Metropolitan areas like Trafford.

Since 2010 the Council has already cut its budget by £61 million, a further budget cut of £17 million is proposed for 2014/15 and following the Chancellors announcement further cuts of around £54 million are projected in the following three financial years. This will represent a total of £132 million cut from the Council budget.

The largest share of the total cuts have come from Children and Young People and Older People Services, many of which are services that are provided to the most vulnerable people in Trafford, for example, 10 children centre closures, 4 elderly people home closures, day care centre for elderly people closed, swingeing cuts in social services, social worker numbers reduced, people with learning difficulties budget cut, youth services, connexions, advice services have all suffered significantly with deep cuts in funding.

This Council is rightly concerned for the vulnerable people who receive statutory services from the Council that they will suffer a loss of service and be put at risk, which in turn will put a huge strain on remaining staff. It is of further concern that the Council will be forced to remove those people who require lower levels of care from receiving any care whatsoever, which in the long term will require more resources as these residents slip into high dependency care earlier than they should have. This concern is shared by many Councils and Council Leaders up and down the Country, of all political persuasions.

This Council remains concerned that basic Council services like street cleaning, environmental enforcement, fortnightly collection of grey bins, park maintenance, repairs of roads and pot holes, library services, Sale Water Park, housing services, music service, education welfare officers, public protection officers and many more services are being run down to an unacceptable level.

The cuts represent over 1,000 job posts lost in Trafford and those who remain employed have had their wages drastically reduced in real terms.

The Council further notes the recent Manchester Evening News (MEN) editorial which revealed that the Council austerity cuts across Greater Manchester imposed by the Chancellor are not working. The figures revealed by experts indicate that: “far from reducing the cost of the public purse, taking funding away from our regions much needed services is pushing costs up by making people more dependent on the services that remain, most notably the health services”. Alongside the MEN report the Council also

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recognises the “cost of living crises” which is driving many people to become more dependent.

In light of the above the Council calls on the Government to review their austerity measures with a view to drawing an immediate halt to the cuts to local authorities. This would enable Trafford to present a balanced budget and fulfil our statutory duties, without the need to continue to make savage cuts to vulnerable people and maintain services across Trafford at least to the present level, without the need to raise the Council Tax for already hard pressed families.

The Council adjourns this meeting and gives notice to hold a further Council meeting on 5 March 2014 where a report will be submitted outlining a revised set of budget proposals taking account of the Government’s response to the Council’s representation.”

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion moved under procedure rule 12 was put to a recorded vote, in accordance with the decision of Council made earlier (Minute 79 refers). The result was as follows:

Those in favour of the Motion: Councillors Acton, Adshead, Baugh, Bennett, Boyle, Brotherton, Cordingley, Duffield, Freeman, Gratrix, Hynes, Jarman, Lloyd, O’Sullivan, Procter, Quayle, Ross, Smith, Stennett, S. Taylor, Walsh, A. Western and D. Western.

Those against the Motion: Councillors Anstee, Dr. Barclay, Miss Blackburn, Bowker, Boyes, Mrs. Brophy, Mrs. Bruer-Morris, Bunting, Candish, Chilton, Colledge, Mrs. Cooke, Cornes, Coupe, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Evans, Higgins, Holden, Hyman, Lally, Lamb, Mitchell, Myers, J.R. Reilly, Mrs. Reilly, Rigby, Sharp, Shaw, N. Taylor, Mrs. Ward, Whetton, Mrs. Wikinson, Williams, M. Young and Mrs. Young.

Those abstaining from voting: None.

With the result of the vote being 23 in favour and 35 against, with 0 abstentions, the Motion was declared lost.

The Council then turned to the debate on the main Motion.

(Note: During the debate on the Motion, the time being 8.43 p.m. the Mayor indicated that the length of speeches would now be restricted to a maximum of two minutes per speaker. With the time being 8.57 p.m., the Mayor further reduced speeches to 1 minute.)

In accordance with procedures agreed at the outset of the debate, the Political Group Leaders summarised the essential views of their respective group.

The Motion was then put to a recorded vote, in accordance with the decision of Council made earlier (Minute 79 refers). This result was as follows:

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Those in favour of the Motion: Councillors Anstee, Dr. Barclay, Miss Blackburn, Bowker, Boyes, Mrs. Brophy, Mrs. Bruer-Morris, Bunting, Butt, Candish, Chilton, Colledge, Mrs. Cooke, Cornes, Coupe, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Evans, Higgins, Holden, Hyman, Lally, Lamb, Mitchell, Myers, J.R. Reilly, Mrs. Reilly, Rigby, Sharp, Shaw, N. Taylor, Mrs. Ward, Whetton, Mrs. Wikinson, Williams, M. Young and Mrs. Young.

Those against the Motion: None.

Those abstaining from voting: Councillors Acton, Adshead, Baugh, Bennett, Boyle, Brotherton, Cordingley, Duffield, Freeman, Gratrix, Hynes, Jarman, Lloyd, O'Sullivan, Procter, Quayle, Ross, Smith, Stennett, S. Taylor, Walsh, A. Western and D. Western.

With the result of the vote being 35 in favour and 0 against, with 23 abstentions, the Motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED –

- (A) That the Council approves:
- (1) The net Revenue Budget for 2014/15 at £154.552 million, a decrease of £(4.451) million, or (2.8)%, when compared to the 2013/14 base budget of £159.003 million.
 - (2) The calculation of the Council Tax Requirement as detailed in Section 8 of the budget report and summarised in Appendix A to this document.
 - (3) The formal Council Tax Resolution, as required under statute and set out in (D) below.
 - (4) That there is no increase in the proposed Council Tax level for Trafford related services in 2014/15 (valuation bands are detailed at Annex F of the budget report).
 - (5) The Fees and Charges for 2014/15, as set out in the booklet available on the Council's web site, including specifically :
 - the decision to increase allotment fees by 50p per week for a standard and additional concessionary plot, and an increase in the concessionary charge for a first plot of 25p per week, all to be made in 2015/16.
 - delegation to Corporate Directors jointly with the Director of Finance of the authority to amend fees and charges during 2014/15 in the event of any change in the rate of VAT, as appropriate.
 - (6) That the minimum level of General Reserve for 2014/15 be set at £6 million, the same as in 2013/14 (Annex N of the budget report).

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- (7) The overall Capital Investment Programme level of £83.2 million (as detailed in the Capital Investment Programme 2014/17 report) of which £40.9 million relates to 2014/15.
- (8) The Prudential Borrowing Indicators as set out in Appendix 1, page 10, of the Treasury Management Strategy.
- (9) The additional borrowing as detailed in paragraph 17 of the Capital Investment Programme and Prudential Indicators 2014/17 report.
- (B) That, in approving the above, it is noted that the Council has taken into consideration:
- (1) The objective assessment by the Director of Finance of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of the General Reserve (Annex N).
- (2) The Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee recommendations to the budget proposals.
- (3) The detailed report on the outcomes of the Staff and Trade Union Consultation which can be found on the agenda for the Employment Committee on 19 February 2014.
- (C) That in addition, the Council notes the following:
- (1) The approval on 23 January 2014, under delegated powers by the Director of Finance, of the Council Tax Base for 2014/2015 at 71,940 Band D equivalents, along with the calculation of the estimated Council Tax surplus, sufficient to release £300,000 to support the Council's 2014/2015 revenue budget and a distribution of £40,500 and £15,600 representing the respective shares of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority.
- (2) That the Capital Investment Programme for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 is to be set at a notional £24.5 million and £17.8 million respectively.
- (3) The Treasury Management Strategy 2014/2017.
- (4) The base budget assumptions, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Outlook, as detailed in Annex B of the Executive's Revenue Budget Proposals 2014/2015.
- (D) That, as referred to in A3 above, the Council calculates the formal Council Tax Resolution as follows:
- (1) It be noted that on 23 January 2014 the Council calculated:
- (a) the Council Tax Base 2014/15 for the whole Council area as 71,940 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and;

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(b) 1,354 for dwellings in the Parish of Partington to which Parish Precepts relates.

- (2) That the Council approve the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 (excluding Parish precepts) as £79,510,246
- (3) That the Council agrees the calculation of the Aggregate Amounts for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- (a) £414,166,180 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils
 - (b) £334,598,389 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £79,567,791 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
 - (d) £1,106.03 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £57,545 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, as detailed below:

PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT

Parish/Town Council	2013/14			2014/15			Council Increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Band D (£)	
Partington	1,331	56,568	42.50	1,354	57,545	42.50	0.0%
TOTAL /	1,331	56,568	42.50	1,354	57,545	42.50	0.0%

- (f) £1,105.23 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

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(g) £1,147.73 Parish of Partington
being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- (4) That it be noted that for the year 2014/15 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
- (5) That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2014/15 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

Valuation Bands

Council Tax Schedule 2014/15	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Trafford Council	736.82	859.62	982.43	1,105.23	1,350.84	1,596.44	1,842.05	2,210.46
Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for GM	101.53	118.46	135.38	152.30	186.14	219.99	253.83	304.60
GM Fire & Rescue Authority	38.42	44.83	51.23	57.64	70.44	83.25	96.06	115.28
Sub total	876.77	1,022.91	1,169.04	1,315.17	1,607.42	1,899.68	2,191.94	2,630.34
Partington								
Parish only	28.33	33.06	37.78	42.50	51.94	61.39	70.83	85.00
Parish & District only	765.15	892.68	1,020.21	1,147.73	1,402.78	1,657.83	1,912.88	2,295.46
Aggregate of Council Tax requirements (incl. Police & Fire)	905.10	1,055.97	1,206.82	1,357.67	1,659.36	1,961.07	2,262.77	2,715.34

The meeting commenced at 7.06 p.m. and finished at 9.29 p.m.

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INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

(Note: At the conclusion of the formal meeting of the Council, an informal meeting was held to extend an invitation to:

Councillor Ejaz Malik to be the Mayor of the Borough of Trafford for 2014/15;

and

Councillor John Holden to be the Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Trafford for 2014/15.

The informal meeting concluded at 9.32 p.m.)