



**AGENDA PAPERS FOR
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, 17 July 2013

Time: 6.30 pm

**Place: Committee Rooms 2 and 3, Trafford Town Hall,
Talbot Road, Stretford, M32 0TH**

A G E N D A	PART I	Pages
1.	ATTENDANCES	
	To note attendances, including Officers, and any apologies for absence.	
2.	NOTING OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2013/14	
	The Committee are requested to note the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Scrutiny Committee for 2013/14 as appointed by Council on 22 May 2013:	
	Chairman: Councillor Brian Shaw Vice Chairman: Councillor Mike Cordingley	
3.	TERMS OF REFERENCE	1 - 4
	Members are requested to note the Committee's terms of reference.	
4.	MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE	5 - 6
	The Committee are requested to note the membership of Scrutiny Committee for 2013/14 as appointed by Council on 22 May 2013.	
5.	MINUTES	7 - 12
	To receive and, if so determined, to agree as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on:	
	2 April 2013 5 May 2013	

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to give notice of any interest and the nature of that interest relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct.

7. REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS 2012-13, INTRODUCTION TO NEW CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2014-15 13 - 20

To consider a report of the Chief Executive on the Council's progress over the previous year and future priorities.

Please note that Councillor Matthew Colledge, Leader of the Council and Theresa Grant, Chief Executive will be in attendance.

8. OUTCOME OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S PEER REVIEW OF SAFEGUARDING

To consider a report of the Corporate Director of Children, Families and Wellbeing. **TO FOLLOW**

9. APPROACH TO BUDGET SCRUTINY 2014-15 21 - 24

To consider a report of the Democratic Services Officer on a suggested approach to undertaking budget scrutiny for 2014-15 following feedback from Scrutiny Members, the Executive and Corporate Management Team.

10. DRAFT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2013-14 25 - 30

To consider and agree the draft Scrutiny work programme for 2013-14.

11. TOPIC GROUP B: OUTCOME OF THE COMMUNITY ASSET FRAMEWORK REVIEW 31 - 32

To receive an update on the review undertaken by Topic Group B.

12. TOPIC GROUP B: OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW OF INVESTMENT IN STREETLIGHTING

To consider the outcome of the meeting of Scrutiny Topic Group B held on 9 July 2013. **TO FOLLOW**

13. UPDATE FROM THE TOPIC GROUP CHAIRMEN

To receive an update from the Chairmen of the Topic Groups on the reviews they are expected to undertake during 2014/15.

14. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

Any other item or items (not likely to disclose "exempt information") which, by reason of special circumstances (to be specified), the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

15. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION (REMAINING ITEMS)

Motion (Which may be amended as Members think fit):

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, because of the likelihood of disclosure of "exempt information" which falls within one or more descriptive category or categories of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and specified on the agenda item or report relating to each such item respectively.

THERESA GRANT

Chief Executive

Membership of the Committee

Councillors B. Shaw (Chairman), M. Cordingley (Vice-Chairman), S. Adshead, R. Bowker, C. Candish, R Chilton, Mrs. P. Dixon, A. Duffield, D. Higgins, J.R. Reilly, D. Western and J. Lloyd (ex-Officio)

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact:

Helen Mitchell, Democratic Services Officer,
Tel: 0161 912 1229
Email: helen.mitchell@trafford.gov.uk

This agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 11 July 2013** by the Legal and Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford M32 0TH.

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

1. To act as the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Crime and Disorder Committee for the purposes of all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended), and Police and Justice Act 2006.
2. The Committee will also be responsible for the review and scrutiny of decisions made or actions taken in connection with the provision, planning and management of education in the borough of Trafford and, in particular, all of the functions of the Council as an education authority under the Education Acts, School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and all other relevant legislation in force from time to time. Co-opted Members will be appointed to discuss education matters and will attend the Scrutiny Committee when they consider education matters.

General Role

3. Subject to statutory provision, to review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge by the Council of its functions and by relevant partner authorities.
4. In relation to the above functions:
 - a) to make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, Executive of the Council, any joint committee or any relevant partner authority as appropriate
 - b) to consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
5. In relation to any function within the remit of this Committee:-
 - a) as set out in (b) below to exercise the power to call in, for reconsideration, executive decisions made but not yet implemented set out in Section 21(3) of the Local Government Act 2000.

- b) The call-in of an executive decision is to be exercised as follows:-
- i) the decision must not have been designated as urgent by the decision taker
 - ii) the request to call in a decision must be made within 5 working days of the decision being published
 - iii) any 3 members of an overview and scrutiny committee or select committee can ask the Chairman of this Committee or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairman to call in an executive decision
 - iv) in deciding whether or not to approve the request to call in a decision, the Chairman or Vice-chairman may consult the Vice-Chairman and the chairmen of the Select Committees as appropriate
 - v) if the Chairman, or Vice-Chairman as appropriate, approve the call in of a decision the request to call in the decision must be made to the Chief Executive within the timescale set out in (ii) above
 - vi) the Chairman may decide, after consulting as appropriate, to call in a decision whether or not a request under (iii) has been received.
6. To put in place and maintain a system to ensure that referrals from overview and scrutiny to the Executive, either by way of report or for reconsideration, are managed efficiently and do not exceed the limits set out in the Constitution.
7. At the request of the Executive, to make decisions about the priority of referrals made in the event of reports to the Executive exceeding limits in the Constitution, or if the volume of such reports creates difficulty for the management of executive business or jeopardises the efficient running of Council business.
8. To report annually to full Council on its workings, set out their plans for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

Specific functions

9. Maintain a strategic overview of progress towards the achievement of the ambitions and priorities within Trafford's Sustainable Community Strategy.
10. Identify the Committee's strategic priorities and determine the Overview and Scrutiny work programme to facilitate constructive evidence based critical-friend challenge to policy makers and service providers within the resources available.
11. Assist and advise the Council in the continued development of the Overview and Scrutiny function within Trafford.
12. Receive, consider and action as appropriate requests:
 - a) from the Executive in relation to particular issues; and
 - b) on any matters properly referred to the Committee
13. Identify areas requiring in-depth review and allocate these to an appropriate Topic Group. The Committee in consultation with the leader of the relevant Topic Group will set the terms of reference, scope and time frame for the review by the Topic Group.
14. In relation to the terms of reference of the Committee it may:
 - a) assist the Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
 - b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Executive and/or committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
 - c) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
 - d) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the overview

and scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance;

- e) conduct research, community and other consultation as it deems appropriate in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- f) question and gather evidence from any other person with their consent.
- g) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- h) question members of the Executive and/or committees, senior officers of the Council and representatives of relevant partner authorities on relevant issues and proposals affecting the area and about decisions and performance;
- i) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working; and
- j) undertake any other activity that assists the Committee in carrying out its functions.

Delegation

15. The Scrutiny Committee shall have all delegated power to exercise the power and duties assigned to them in their terms of reference.

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2013/14

Notes on Membership:

(1) The Scrutiny Committee shall have a membership of 11, or, where this does not achieve the political balance required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, whatever figure is necessary to reflect the proportional representation of political groups.

(2) The Scrutiny Committee shall be chaired by a Councillor who is a member of the largest political group on the Council. The person appointed as Vice-Chairman shall not be a member of the same political group as the person appointed as Chairman.

(3) The Chairmen of both the Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee shall be appointed as ex-officio Members of the opposite scrutiny committee.

(4) The Scrutiny Committee shall appoint co-opted Members when that committee considers education matters.

COMMITTEE	NO. OF MEMBERS	
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	11 (plus the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee as an ex-officio Non-Voting Member) + 5 CO-OPTED MEMBERS + 3 NON-VOTING MEMBERS (when considering Education matters)	
CONSERVATIVE GROUP	LABOUR GROUP	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP
Councillors:- Chris Candish Rob Chilton Mrs. Pamela Dixon David Higgins John Reilly Brian Shaw CH	Councillors:- Stephen Adshead Mike Cordingley V-CH Anne Duffield Denise Western	Councillors:- Ray Bowker
TOTAL	6	4
		1

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CO-OPTED MEMBERS FOR EDUCATION MATTERS

Church of England (VOTING MEMBER): Vacancy

Roman Catholic (VOTING MEMBER): **Sister P. Goodstadt**

Parent-Governor Representatives

Primary (VOTING MEMBER): Vacancy

Secondary (VOTING MEMBER): **Mrs. D. Haddad**

Special (VOTING MEMBER): **Mrs. R. Gallagher**

Teacher Representatives

(NON-VOTING MEMBER): **Mr. D. Kitchen**

(NON-VOTING MEMBER): Vacancy

(NON-VOTING MEMBER): Vacancy

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 APRIL 2013

PRESENT

Councillors B. Shaw (in the Chair), M. Cordingley, C. Candish, R. Chilton, Mrs. P. Dixon, A. Duffield, S. Adshead, J.R. Reilly, D. Higgins, R. Bowker, D. Western and J. Lloyd (ex officio Member of the Committee).

In attendance

Democratic Services Manager (P. Forrester)
Corporate Director, Economic Growth and Prosperity (H. Jones) (item 33)
Growth and Business Development Manager (M. Ledson) (item 33)
Senior Democratic Services Officer (J.M.J. Maloney).

Also Present

Councillor M. Hyman (item 33).

APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 6th February and 21st March 2013 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

33. TOWN CENTRES - UPDATE ON ACTIVITY, ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Executive Member for Economic Growth and Prosperity, with supporting officers, was in attendance to introduce a report setting out details of activities taking place, and planned, within the town centre areas across the borough.

The Executive Member and officers described ongoing workstreams in a range of key areas, including: tackling vacant units; environmental works; promotional and engagement activities; funding issues; strategies, plans and monitoring; specific Council support for town centres; engagement with local businesses, and local markets. In discussion the Executive Member drew attention to some of the broader factors within the economy and the local commercial environment which had contributed to the challenges facing the borough's town centres, setting out how the Council's approach was intended to mitigate these and contribute to a more sustainable future.

An opportunity was provided for Members to comment and to raise queries. These included: the need to refresh town centre partnerships in some cases, and the allocation of the Council's resources to support them; the scope for levels of parking charges to benefit local businesses in terms of footfall; the need for town centre master-planning to take account of the appropriate balance, given changing patterns of activity, between retail units and other social / leisure / residential uses; the importance of transportation issues; mechanisms to assess objectively the success of interventions; and the potential role for local councillors.

Members noted that the levels of business rates had the potential to have a significant impact on the fortunes of local business, and that this was a widespread issue, particularly in northern town centres. The Committee was advised that the Leader of the Council currently undertook a lead role on this issue for the Greater Manchester authorities, which had recently made representations on the matter to the relevant Government minister. It was also noted that the Council was aiming to develop a closer relationship with local agents and landlords to promote, where practicable, an appropriate quality and mix of retail and business developments within town centres.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Chairman thanked the Executive Member and officers for their attendance and the information which they had supplied, indicating that the Committee would look forward in due course to future progress updates.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the content of the report, and the responses by the Executive Member to questions, be noted.
- (2) That the Committee, as part of its ongoing work programme, receive further progress updates on town centre activities in due course.

34. REPORT OF TOPIC GROUP B: DOORSTEP CRIME

On behalf of the topic group, its Chairman, Councillor Chilton, introduced a draft report setting out details of activities, findings and recommendations arising from the group's review of Doorstep Crime, and conveyed his thanks to the members and stakeholders who had participated in the review. Members reviewed and welcomed the report, noting that some further information on the Trusted Trader scheme was awaited. The finalised report would be circulated to all Members of the Committee and referred to the Executive.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the content of the draft report be noted and welcomed.
- (2) That the finalised report be circulated to all Members of the Committee and referred to the Executive.

Scrutiny Committee
3 April 2013

35. UPDATE FROM TOPIC GROUP CHAIRMEN

Further to Councillor Chilton's report on Doorstep Crime (Minute 34 above refers), Councillor Reilly briefed the Committee on his topic group's study on the Development of a Community Asset Framework. As previously reported to the Committee, difficulties were still being experienced in securing the comprehensive schedule of relevant assets which represented key information for the project. Efforts were ongoing with relevant Members and officers to secure the information which the group required; and, given the potential significance of the issues involved, it was hoped that prompt progress would henceforward be possible.

RESOLVED: That the content of the update reports be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.15 pm

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 MAY 2013

PRESENT

Councillor B. Shaw (in the Chair).

Councillors M. Cordingley (Vice-Chairman), C. Candish, R Chilton, Mrs. P. Dixon, J.R. Reilly, D. Higgins, R. Bowker, D. Western and J. Lloyd (ex-Officio)

In attendance

Jane Le Fevre – Acting Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Helen Mitchell – Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Duffield and S. Adshead

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No such declarations were made.

37. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Legal and Democratic Services which related to changes to the Council's Constitution following a full review of its content.

In her presentation, the Council's Acting Director of Legal and Democratic Services advised the Committee that the current Constitution had been in place for some time and it was necessary to carry out a full review. As a result of the review, the Constitution had been thoroughly updated to ensure it reflects current legislative requirements and supports the effective and efficient operation of the Council. Furthermore, Members were advised that the Constitution was to be refreshed on an annual basis.

In discussion, Members questioned why the Council's Constitution was lengthier than that of the Constitution of the United States of America and whether there was an opportunity to confirm what constitutes a Key Decision. The Acting Director of Legal and Democratic Services advised Members that Part 2 of the Council's Constitution gave an overview of how the Council operates with the remaining documentation providing the detail in relation to the governance of the Council. Furthermore, Members were advised that what constitutes a Key Decision is noted within the Constitution and that training on decision making would be offered to all Members in the coming municipal year.

Confirmation was given to the Committee that the Licensing Policy does constitute part of the Policy Framework and required agreement from Council. It was also raised that clarification should be made in the report, prior to agreement by Council, that the Chief Executive was to delegate their attendance at outside bodies and not that of Members.

Scrutiny Committee
8 May 2013

The Committee thanked the Acting Director of Legal and Democratic Services for her attendance and the efforts made to thoroughly review and update the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED – That Scrutiny Committee note the proposed changes to the Constitution prior to their agreement before Council.

The meeting commenced at 7.04 pm and finished at 7.28 pm

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17th July 2013
Report for: Consideration
Report of: Corporate Director for Transformation and Resources

Report Title

2012/13 Performance update and an introduction to the new priorities and associated Annual Delivery Plan 2013/14

Summary

This report provides a review of the Achievements of 2012-13 and also introduces the new Corporate Priorities and ADP 2013-14 to support the development of Scrutiny's work programme over the coming municipal year.

Recommendation(s)

That Scrutiny:

1. Note the Council's performance for 2012/13
2. Note the new Council Priorities and development of them
3. Consider the content of the Annual Delivery Plan 2013/14

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Jayne Stephenson
Extension: 1231

Background Papers: Quarter 4 Annual Delivery Plan 2012/13
Annual Delivery Plan 2013/14

1. Purpose

As requested by Scrutiny this report sets out the key achievements delivered during 2012/13, including both activity and performance indicators. The report then introduces the new priorities, as set by the Executive on 25th March 2013 and the accompanying Annual Delivery Plan.

2. 2012/13 Performance Outcomes

2.1 Annual Delivery Plan 2012/13

The Annual Delivery Plan for 2012/13 includes a total of 78 indicators which are aligned to the then priority areas:

A Cleaner, Greener Borough
Fighting Crime
Improving Health and Wellbeing of Residents
Better Roads and Pavements
Preserving and Improving Educational Excellence
Low Council Tax and Value For Money

Of the 78 indicators, 63 (80%) achieved green status i.e. performance target met or exceeded.

2.2 Key findings from the ADP 2012/13

With over 4 million refuse bin collections and 4 million recycling bin collections per annum, recycling rates achieved 49% of all collected waste recycled, this is amongst the highest figures in Greater Manchester with the lowest cost service.

Fighting Crime indicators continue to improve on an annual basis with Trafford maintaining its position as the safest Borough in Greater Manchester and also having the highest levels of confidence in Trafford's ability to tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

A further success has been the direction of travel for two key housing targets, where both indicators were red in the previous year:

- Number of housing completions
- Increase in number of affordable homes

78% of residents receiving a reablement intervention no longer require on going services

11% of residents with Learning Disabilities are in employment compared to 9% last year.

Trafford should be proud that 94% of young people are in Education, Employment and Training in the lowest super output areas.

It is also worth noting that the Council achieved its efficiency / savings target of £12.2m and also achieved the highest collection rates across Greater Manchester for both Council Tax and Business Rates (98.1% and 97.87% respectively).

From a customer perspective only 3% of calls to Access Trafford are lost, this is an improvement on the previous year's figure of 6%.

Only 2 indicators (3%) were categorised as red status i.e. performance is more than 10% below target

One of which relates to the number of first time entrants from the most deprived areas in to the Youth Justice System. Whilst the number of entrants across the Borough has reduced by 29% compared to last year the number of within the most deprived areas have increased by 5. It should be noted that Trafford have the lowest numbers across AGMA.

The second indicator links to Council wide sickness levels. The target set was 9 days per fte, with 10.02 days recorded. This is slightly higher than last year's results which were 9.93 days. In essence the performance has remained static despite the time and effort invested in reducing sickness levels. A revised strategy is being developed which seeks to provide robust management information systems; adopt bespoke strategies for hotspots and continue support the health and well-being of employees.

2.3 Achievements

Whilst performance indicators are a key tool in the ability of an organisation to understand how it is performing against agreed priorities, they do not provide the richness of the achievements which the Council has delivered during 2012/13.

Listed below are a number of key achievements:

Host Borough for the Olympic Games 2012, including the Torch Relay and Looping the Loop events. Attracting over 360,000 visitors to Trafford.

Renovation of Trafford Town Hall, within budget and on time

Winners of the North of England Excellence award

Winners of the LGC award for Partnership working

Trafford is the joint best secondary education authority in the country

Trafford has exceptional educational attainment with the second highest national 'A' Level attainment and fourth highest GCSE.

Best school attendance rates in the North West.

Trafford's Children's Services have been rated as 'Performing Excellently' by Ofsted for the last two years.

The Council has developed a clear, strategic approach to residential care, and has been recognised by the Human Rights Equalities Commission for its excellent practice around dignity.

Adult Social Care has secured funding for a new 'Extra Care' facility, which will be a flagship in dementia support.

Trafford remains the economic powerhouse of Greater Manchester. Research (undertaken by Experion) has assessed Trafford as 'most resilient to recession' in Greater Manchester.

Sale West secured £1m Big Local funding from Big Lottery

Partnership signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant

Volunteers secured for Hale and Old Trafford Libraries

Delivered first Police and Crime and Commissioners elections

Project SWiTch/Implementation of i-Trent HR/Payroll system – winners of Payroll World ‘Best Implementation Project’ & Midland HR Customer Association Awards

Trafford’s internal apprenticeship programme going from strength to strength – 54 young people recruited onto the scheme to-date & 5 of these have secured permanent employment with the Council.

Collaboration with GMP Trafford, one of many benefits being the 30% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour as a result of co-locating staff (Council, Police and Trafford Housing Trust)

Hosted four international visits to showcase recognised best practice within Trafford for:

- Denmark (2) – Participatory Budgets
- China – Adult and Children’s Social Care / Partnership working
- Brazil – Open Data and Transparency

3. Priorities 2013/14

Since the Council’s Priorities were set in 2008 there have been significant political and economic changes which have already impacted on the council’s role and operations and are likely to have even greater impact in the future. The most notable change arises from:

- The Localism Act
- The impact of the recession and the role that the council can play in supporting business development and creating local employment as well as engaging with local businesses to enhance community responsibility
- Welfare Reform
- Comprehensive Spending Review
- Public Service Reform
- Public Health integration
- Social Care integration

In addition the Executive were mindful of the benefits of Partnership working, both within Trafford and across the Greater Manchester conurbation. Therefore the Community Strategy and the Greater Manchester Strategy were also considered alongside the above national landscape, as outlined above, when the priorities were discussed.

As a result the Executive, on 25th March 2013, agreed the following priorities were set for the Council:

- Low council tax and value for money
- Excellence in education
- Safe place to live - fighting crime
- Services focused on the most vulnerable people
- Economic growth and development
- Reshaping Trafford Council

Three of the existing priorities relating to Crime, Education, Vulnerable People and Low Council tax and value for money continue to be the backbone amongst which the priorities hang, however recognition has been given to the importance of Trafford's Economy as we continue to support existing businesses in terms of resilience, attract new businesses in to the Borough all leading to increasing employment opportunities and to ensure that Trafford remains the Economic powerhouse of Greater Manchester.

The final new priority area has been described as 'Reshaping Trafford Council' this reflects the ambition of the Council to not only survive the current financial climate but to develop a robust organisational model which creates the conditions for innovation and excellence. This new priority also seeks to deliver a framework which supports our Localities to become more involved in deciding local priorities, shaping local services and drawing upon community and partner resources to achieve the best possible outcomes for Trafford.

4. The Council's Annual Delivery Plan 2013-14

At the same Executive the Annual Delivery Plan for 2013/14 was also agreed. This is the first time that the Annual Delivery Plan has been developed prior to the known outcome of 2012/13 performance. This is a result of the confidence which the Council now places in the performance reporting of both the Annual Delivery Plan and the monthly dashboards. This allows the Council to set indicative targets for the coming year, which will be finalised in the first quarter report, following the finalisation of 2012/13 performance.

Trafford Council's Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) reflects the priorities established by the Council and implementation is the responsibility of the Executive and Corporate Management Team. The plan is at the heart of the Council's performance management framework and is designed to deliver the Council's Corporate Priorities. It contains the priority actions to be delivered over the coming year and the indicators which will measure performance.

The format of the Annual Delivery Plan has been improved to provide a succinct overview which clearly demonstrates the links between priorities, activity, policies / delivery programmes and performance measures.

There are three sections within the Annual Delivery Plan;

1. **Corporate Priorities 2013-14** – the strategic objectives which each of the council's corporate Directorates will work towards achieving against each of the corporate priorities.
2. **Key Policy or Delivery Programmes 2013 – 14** - the priority programmes of action that will be undertaken during the year to support the delivery of the Corporate Priorities.
3. **Key Targets 2013 – 14** - the measures and targets which will be used to monitor progress against the delivery of the ADP

A copy of the Annual Delivery Plan can be found at Appendix 1

4.1 Monitoring arrangements

The plan will be monitored throughout the year, with performance on the Key Targets reported on a quarterly basis, to the Corporate Management Team and the Executive. The end of year outturn figures 2012-13 and indicative targets 2013-14 will be confirmed via the Directorate Planning and ADP monitoring processes and reported in the quarter one 2013/14 report.

In addition, performance against a suite of further detailed performance indicators will be reported via a monthly dashboard to Corporate Management Team and the Executive.

Appendix 1

Trafford's Annual Delivery Plan 2013 – 14

The Council's Vision for Trafford which is shared by partners within the Trafford Partnership is:

Trafford is thriving, diverse, prosperous and culturally vibrant. A Borough at the heart of the Manchester City Region celebrated as the enterprise capital of the North West and home to internationally renowned cultural and sporting attractions



Our Values: Engaging the people of Trafford; Always improving; Leading the way; Acting with integrity; Valuing our people; Using time and money wisely

LOW COUNCIL TAX AND VALUE FOR MONEY			ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT			SAFE PLACE TO LIVE – FIGHTING CRIME		
Ensure that the Council can demonstrate that it provides efficient, effective and economical, value for money services to the people of Trafford.			Ensure the most strategic and effective use of the Council's assets and infrastructure, to enhance the attractiveness of Trafford as a place to invest; resulting in increased levels of economic growth, investment, housing and jobs in Trafford.			Aim to be the safest place in Greater Manchester, and to have the highest level of public confidence and satisfaction in the action we take to tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.		
For 2013/14 we will:			For 2013/14 we will:			For 2013/14 we will:		
Make effective use of resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure delivery of £18.685m savings as set out in the medium term financial plan Continue to collaborate on efficiency projects with other local authorities Continue to support the AGMA Procurement Hub Continue to work effectively with partners to improve service quality and value for money Minimise increases in the Waste Disposal Levy through increased recycling, including the introduction of weekly food and green waste collections Reduce Street Lighting energy costs, by investment in LED lanterns Ensure effective use of assets through the adoption of a Corporate Landlord approach Identify savings to meet the 2014/15 budget gap, seeking to minimise impact on front line services Deliver the Council's Transformation Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and deliver a portfolio of Transformation Projects delivering identified benefits including financial savings Introduce new ways of working, putting customers at the heart of what we do and understanding what we need to do Structuring ourselves more effectively and working with partners to achieve excellent value for money services Develop the capacity and skills of managers and staff. Deliver a balanced budget in line with statutory responsibilities and Council priorities 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver strategic development projects and maximise investment in the Borough, e.g. Town Centres, Trafford Park, Carrington Deliver investment and growth through effective planning processes and frameworks Support business growth and prosperity Develop and deliver the Council's asset strategy Deliver housing and economic growth, develop safe and secure neighbourhoods and grow opportunities for the residents of Trafford Deliver new affordable housing and work with Registered Social Landlords, the housing options service and other partners to meet local housing need Effective utilisation of long term investment to ensure the delivery of the highways investment programme Maintain the Highway network Deliver the infrastructure needed to support economic growth and prosperity and the development of safe, secure and attractive residential neighbourhoods Ensure businesses and individuals comply with legislation, to stimulate fair trade, and enhance environmental quality in our town centres and communities Improve maintenance and design of our parks, open spaces and streets, to foster safe, secure and attractive neighbourhoods Support the development of excellent leisure facilities across the Borough, to help improve the health and wellbeing of residents and the attractiveness of the Borough 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the underlying causes of crime and anti-social behaviour by working with partners to support and intervene at individual, family and community level, targeting resources where they are most needed Develop a collaborative and risk led approach to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Take early action and work directly with local communities to prevent crime, including the use of the Consumer Alert System. Develop and deliver innovative and effective interventions to address the behaviour of those involved in crime Deliver responsive and visible justice by undertaking robust enforcement action and turning the tables on offenders to make sure they are held accountable for their actions, and that criminal assets are recovered Continue to monitor public spaces CCTV cameras to improve the safety of residents by directing Police resources on the ground to incidents and also to provide recorded evidence which supports convictions 		
Key Policy or Delivery Programmes 2013 - 14								
Policy or Delivery Programmes: Medium term Financial Plan Land Sales Programme GM Municipal Waste Management Strategy			Master Plans (Old Trafford, Trafford Park) Trafford Economic Alliance work programme Town Centres Development, incl Altrincham Forward plan Corporate Landlord; Asset Strategy, Greenspace Strategy Community Infrastructure Levy Housing Strategy Highway Maintenance Capital Programme Transport Asset Management Plan			Crime Strategy 2012-15		
Key Targets 2013 - 14	Projected Outturn 12/13	Indicative Target 13/14	Key Targets 2013 - 14	Projected Outturn 12/13	Indicative Target 13/14	Key Targets 2013 - 14	Projected Outturn 12/13	Indicative Target 13/14
Improve the % of household waste arisings which have been sent by the Council for recycling/composting (CAG08)	48%	52% (tbc)	Percentage of ground floor vacant units in town centres	17%	15.5%	Maintain the position of Trafford compared to other GM areas in terms of Total Crime Rate.	1st	1st
Delivery of efficiency and other savings	£12.2m	£18.7m	The number of housing completions per year (reported quarterly)	256	220 - 256	Reduce total recorded crime by 1%	11,112	11,001
Reduce the level of sickness absence (Council wide excluding schools)	10	9	Deliver the published 2013/2014 Highway Maintenance Capital Programme (BRP02)	100%	100%	Reduce anti-social behaviour incidents by 1%	6041	5981
Percentage of Council Tax collected * reflects major changes to council tax from 1 April 2013	98.1%	97.4%*	Residence Employment (working age residents in employment)	97.6%	97.8%			
Identify savings to meet the 2014/15 gap	New indicator	£1.932m	Additional business rates generated	New indicator	New Indicator			

SERVICES FOCUSED ON THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE	EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION	RESHAPING TRAFFORD COUNCIL
Enable people to have more choice and control over the support they receive. We also want to provide quality services that encourage people to lead healthy, independent lives and support children and young people to be safe and to aspire and succeed.	Ensure that children are well prepared to achieve in adulthood through high quality learning and development.	Continue to develop relationships with residents, local businesses and partners to ensure that we all work together for the benefit of the Borough. Internally, to reshape the organisation to ensure the Council embraces innovation and new ways of working.
For 2013/14 we will:	For 2013/14 we will:	For 2013/14 we will:
<p>Personalisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People to have more choice, control and flexibility in meeting their needs <p>Health improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People to receive the best possible health and social care services delivered efficiently, effectively and in a co-ordinated way to reduce health inequalities Reduce alcohol and substance misuse and alcohol related harm Support people with long term health, mental health and disability needs to live healthier lives <p>Promoting resilience and independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that people in Trafford are able to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible <p>Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that vulnerable adults at risk of abuse are safeguarded through robust monitoring of commissioned services Implement the Munro recommendations (national guidance to improve safeguarding) Development of the Safeguarding Children Board (revised national expectations) <p>Market management and quality assurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To stimulate the market in Trafford ensuring there is a diverse choice of quality services that meet individuals' needs <p>Improve the health and well-being of the most vulnerable children and young people in the borough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of Health visitors and improve our school nursing service Continue to deliver programmes to reduce childhood obesity Improve emotional health support for children and young people <p>Close the gap for vulnerable children and families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce personal budgets for children with complex and additional needs Provide joined up assessment and support for children with special educational needs <p>Close the gap for children and families based on localities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve support for families facing difficult times including joint agency working Introduce early help for families before issues become problems <p>Support those affected by the Welfare Reform changes through the development and delivery of a multi-agency work programme</p>	<p>Improve the life chances of all children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with schools to maintain the 'Trafford Family of Schools' to support educational excellence Establish a new delivery model to provide support to schools in line with national policy Increase the number, range and take up of apprenticeships Provide monitoring, challenge and intervention for schools to ensure sustained high standards <p>Close the gap in educational outcomes across our vulnerable groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a full review and redesign of provision and support for children with Special Educational Needs Use the SEN Pathfinder as an approach to support educational progress of children with Special Educational Needs Increase the percentage of care leavers in Education Employment and Training <p>Close the gap in educational outcomes across the borough based on the different localities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted support through the revised Children's Centres outreach services following implementation of the Children's Centre Review Work with AGMA on the Early Years strand of Public Sector Reform to support targeted interventions Targeted support for young people through the Area Family Support Teams to maintain low levels of NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Citizens' Charter which will describe what agencies and residents will do to share the responsibility for making Trafford an outstanding place in which to live, grow up and prosper Establish Locality Partnerships to create stronger and empowered communities that are safer, cleaner, healthier and better informed Create Locality profiles to assess need and support the development of evidence based priorities and action plans Provide dedicated support to the Voluntary and Community Sector Deliver the Customer Strategy, including a review of complaints management process and implementation of an improved system to enable easier access to the Council Ensure that residents are consulted on and well informed about how the Council spends its budget and the standards of service that they can expect from us Develop arrangements to share services across agencies, where it is efficient to do so, including shared use of buildings Working together with our colleagues across Greater Manchester to secure greater efficiencies Integrated working with our Partners to pursue joined up services in local communities to provide better services for the future Continue to implement the "Sustainable Trafford" and Climate Change Adaptation strategies Secure alternative funding streams to use directly or commission others to run services on our behalf e.g. Social Impact Bonds Investigate the creation of an independent company which will trade with existing customers and seek new opportunities to grow its market share Integrate Adults, Children's Services and Public Health to create a Children, Families and Wellbeing directorate

Key Policy or Delivery Programmes 2013 - 14								
Stronger Families programme Health and Wellbeing Strategy Welfare Reform delivery programme			CYP Strategy 2011-2014			Customer Services Strategy Collaboration Programmes (e.g. GMP, SWITch, Strategic Procurement Unit) Third Sector Strategy; Volunteering Strategic framework Sustainable Trafford Action Plan		

Key Targets 2013 - 14	Projected Outturn 12/13	Indicative Target 13/14	Key Targets 2013 - 14	Projected Outturn 12/13	Indicative Target 13/14	Key Targets 2013 - 14	Projected Outturn 12/13	Indicative Target 13/14
Number of people in receipt of Telecare in year	1700	2000	% of pupils on achieving 5A*-C GCSE including English and Maths	71.9%	73%	Citizen's charter developed	New indicator	New Indicator
% of eligible service users / carers to receive Self-Directed Support in year (ASCOF 1Ci)	53%	70%	% of pupils on FSM's achieving 5A*-C GCSE including English and Maths	41.5%	43%	Locality partnerships operational	New indicator	New Indicator
Maintain % of eligible population aged 40-74 offered an NHS Health Check who received an NHS Health Check in the financial year	10.5%	10.5%	Maintain the low level of NEET in Trafford	4.75%	4.75	Number of third sector organisations receiving intensive support	New indicator	55
Breastfeeding rate at 6-8 weeks: difference from Trafford average of the lowest areas, by Medical Centre catchment	-16.3%	-15.5%	% of schools above national average for persistent absence (Termly)	New indicator	New indicator			
Children in Care Long Term Stability	77%	78%						

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 July 2013
Report for: Decision
Report of: Democratic Services Officer, Helen Mitchell

Report Title

APPROACH TO BUDGET SCRUTINY 2014/15

Summary

On an annual basis, Scrutiny Members consider the draft budget proposals and provide comments to the Executive prior to their agreement by Council.

In recent years, the process has been revisited and altered in order to enhance the outcomes arising from budget scrutiny and minimise, as far as possible, demands on Members' and Officers' time.

The purpose of this report is to secure agreement from the committee on an approach to budget scrutiny based on feedback from Scrutiny Members, the Executive and Corporate Management Team.

Recommendation(s)

Recommendation 1: That the Director of Finance and colleagues work with Democratic Services to prepare the paperwork which will support the budget setting process.

Recommendation 2: That the Executive note Scrutiny's wish to be involved at the earliest opportunity in the scrutiny of the draft budget proposals.

Recommendation 3: That the 2013/14 approach to budget scrutiny be formally adopted as the approach for 2014/15 subject to any comments by Members.

Recommendation 4: That Scrutiny Members consider the involvement of partners within the budget scrutiny process.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Helen Mitchell
Extension: 1229
Background Papers: None

Background Information

The Scrutiny and Health Scrutiny Committee possess the responsibility for holding the Executive to account for its decisions. Part of this responsibility extends to ensuring that the Council sets its budget in accordance with its own strategies and, increasingly, those of our partners.

In this challenging financial climate, reductions to the Local Government Settlement and other policy changes will impact on our citizens. As a result, the Scrutiny and Health Scrutiny Committees have a responsibility to ensure that the plans to mitigate the impact and to balance the budget are robust and fit for purpose.

Each year Members strive to refine the budget scrutiny process and last year was no exception. In order to capture this improvement and make changes to secure further improvement, the views of Scrutiny Members, the Executive and CMT have been sought and will be presented within this report.

Budget Scrutiny 2013/14

The approach taken in 2013/14 was to enhance the overall process to secure more focussed recommendations to the Executive.

The key differences between the approaches adopted in 2013/14 and 2012/13 are highlighted below: -

Pre-Meetings and Agenda Setting

In contrast with the previous year, pre-meetings were organised in order to –

1. Enable Members to identify key points of scrutiny from directorate proposals;
2. With the support of finance officers, further examine the budget paperwork in order to clarify understanding prior to the budget scrutiny workshops;
3. To set an agenda for the workshops.

This change supported Members to better understand the proposals as it afforded a further opportunity to clarify understanding within the overall process. Additionally, it enhanced the Member-led approach to Scrutiny as agendas were set in line with their priorities. Lastly, the development of an agenda supported the Executive and Corporate Directors to be better prepared and, as a result, it contributed to a more focussed and informed discussion at the workshops.

Self Selecting Topic Groups

A key strength of the establishment of Topic Groups within the Scrutiny structure is their self-selecting nature. Members with an interest in a proposed topic are able to join and contribute to a project which in turn drives the review forward successfully. Each Topic Group was allocated a directorate's draft budget to scrutinise in 2013/14 (with the exception of ETO and EGP, of which were examined simultaneously) and Members joined a Topic Group that they had a specific interest in. This contributed to better questioning and a more detailed and focussed discussion.

Timing

As the process was undertaken much earlier than usual, it allowed more time for meaningful consideration by the Executive of the Scrutiny recommendations prior to the formal decision being taken.

Comments on Budget Scrutiny 2013/14

Executive Comments

Comments received from the Executive explicitly stated that the process was 'helpful' and that Members were 'happy' with it. One comment received focussed on the preparation of Scrutiny Members and that an opportunity existed for participants to better appraise themselves of the information presented. A further comment expressed that an 'early heads up of thorny issues would be no bad thing for the process to incorporate'. These comments broadly endorse the approach to budget scrutiny which was adopted last year.

In relation to Scrutiny Members being better prepared, this can be addressed through the clear identification of what Members wish to achieve from the budget scrutiny process. By doing this, officers in Democratic Services and Finance can work closely with a view to developing budget paperwork which enhances understanding and supports the achievement of their desired aims. Additionally, Topic Group Chairman should encourage Scrutiny Members to attend pre-meetings and clarify their understanding at every opportunity.

Scrutiny Members have always welcomed involvement in the budget setting process at the earliest opportunity and to support an 'early heads up' would require Scrutiny's involvement at the formative stages of the process. In order to formalise this, it would be helpful to note it and ensure that Scrutiny Members are involved in the formative stages of the development of the draft budget proposals.

Recommendation 1: That the Director of Finance and colleagues work with Democratic Services to prepare the paperwork which will support the budget setting process.

Recommendation 2: That the Executive note Scrutiny's wish to be involved at the earliest opportunity in the scrutiny of the draft budget proposals.

Corporate Management Team Comments

Similar to the comments received by the Executive, CMT welcomed the refreshed approach to budget scrutiny as it allowed for more time to provide considered comments.

Scrutiny Comments

Comments received from Scrutiny Members overwhelmingly preferred last year's approach and one Member cited that the process is 'moving in the right direction'. A further Member advised that the early start to budget scrutiny had a very positive effect on the overall process as there was enough 'time to question and receive answers'.

Budget Scrutiny 2014/15

This report has highlighted that, subject to some minor amendments, the approach adopted in 2013/14 is working for Scrutiny and Executive Members, as well as Corporate Management Team.

Recommendation 3: That the 2013/14 approach to budget scrutiny be formally adopted as the approach for 2014/15 subject to any comments by Members.

Involvement of Partners

As referred to elsewhere within this report, part of the responsibility of Scrutiny Members is to ensure that the Council sets its budget in accordance with its own strategies and, increasingly, those of our partners. In order to do this, Members may wish to consider whether there is any scope for enabling our partners to participate, in an appropriate fashion, within the budget scrutiny process.

Councils such as the City of Plymouth involved the Police, Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group, Fire and Rescue Authority and local Health Authorities as part of their approach. This had the effect of providing Members with a Plymouth-wide view of the budget and highlighted a number of strategic and operational issues faced by partners. Scrutiny Members may feel that a similar approach, involving key partners such as those mentioned above, may be beneficial.

Recommendation 4: That Scrutiny Members consider the involvement of partners within the budget scrutiny process.

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 July 2013
Report For: Decision
Report of: Democratic Services Officer, Helen Mitchell

Report Title

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

Summary

The purpose of this report is to highlight the items and reviews which are on the work programme for this municipal year and request any further items from Members of the Committee.

Recommendation(s)

1. To agree the report and any additions to the work programme for 2013/14.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Helen Mitchell
Extension: 1229

Background Papers: None

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Scrutiny Committee Work Programme: 2013-14

<u>Date of Meeting</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Officer Responsible / Executive Member Responsible</u>	<u>Objectives and Desired Outcomes</u>	<u>Methods or venue</u>	<u>Timescale</u>
17 July 2013	Review of Achievements 2012-13, Introduction to New Corporate Priorities and ADP 2013-14	Leader/Chief Executive	Understand key achievements and overall direction of the Council as well as how performance against key targets will be monitored	Trafford Town Hall	One Meeting plus potential item for Topic Groups/Future Agenda Items
	LGA Peer Review – Safeguarding	Cllr Blackburn/Charlotte Ramsden	Understand how the Council is progressing feedback	As above	One Meeting
	Agree approach to Budget Scrutiny	Helen Mitchell	Obtain consensus on approach	As above	One Meeting
	Update from Topic Groups	Chairmen	Receive update	As above	One Meeting
2 October 2013	Review of achievement s over 2012-13, Community Safety Partnership – Priorities for 2013/14 and	Trafford BC/GMP - Insp. Bob Pell / Cllr Coupe/Dave Boulger?	Understand key achievements and overall direction of the CSP as well as how	Trafford Town Hall	One Meeting plus potential item for Topic Groups

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme: 2013-14

	performance indicators for 2013-14.		performance against key targets will be monitored		
	Review of GM Marathon	Peter Molyneux/Cllr Coupe/Cllr Mitchell?	What are the benefits for Trafford?	As Above	One Meeting
	Update from Topic Groups	Chairmen	Receive update	As above	One Meeting
11 December 2013	Agree Budget Scrutiny Report	Helen Mitchell	Agree content in advance of Executive meeting	Trafford Town Hall	One Meeting
	Update on Trafford Assist (New Local Welfare Assistance Scheme)	Cllr Barclay/Jo Wilmott	Update on progress since Scrutiny Committee Dec'12	As above	One Meeting
	Update on Localised Scheme for Council Tax Benefit	Cllr Anstee/Ian Duncan	Update on progress since Scrutiny Committee Dec '12	As above	One Meeting
	Review of Scrutiny Work Programme	Helen Mitchell	Consider emerging themes for future reviews and agenda	As above	One Meeting

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme: 2013-14

			items		
	Update from Topic Groups	Chairmen	Receive update	As above	One Meeting
5 February 2014	Executive Response to Budget Scrutiny	Cllr Anstee/Ian Duncan	Consider response arising from budget scrutiny recommendations	Trafford Town Hall	One Meeting
	Update from Topic Groups	Chairmen	Receive update	As above	One Meeting
	Locality Partnership Performance and Progress to Date	Adrian Bates/Jayne Stephenson – Cllr Coupe	Receive update and understand how performance is to be managed	As above	One Meeting
2 April 2014	Town Centres Update	Cllr Hyman/Helen Jones	Update on progress since Scrutiny Committee April '13	Trafford Town Hall	One Meeting
	Update from Topic Groups	Chairmen	Receive update	As above	One Meeting

Agreed Topic Group Reviews

Topic Group A: Review of Community Asset Framework (due for completion June 2013) —> Review of Housing Growth (due to commence on completion of previous review)

Topic Group B: Review of Doorstep Crime (due for completion May 2013) —> Review of Cycling (due to commence on completion of previous review)

Agenda Items in Reserve:

Welfare reform - housing and destitution avoidance (Suggestion by Cllr Cordingley)



Democratic Services

Trafford Town Hall
Talbot Road
Stretford
M32 0TH

Telephone: 0161 912 1229
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Email: Helen.mitchell@trafford.gov.uk
Minicom: 0161 912 2012
When phoning ask for:
Helen Mitchell

Our ref:
Your ref:
Date: 23 May 2013

Dear Councillor Hyman,

Topic Group B: Review of Community Asset Framework

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and your officers for their attendance at a meeting of the above Topic Group on 16 May 2013.

The Topic Group very much welcomed the opportunity to explore the issues raised in the draft report which related to formalising a range of partnership and commissioning arrangements between the Council and voluntary and community sector organisations, as well as fulfilling our obligations in relation to the Localism Act 2011. We felt that the overall approach to revisit the terms in which Council property is rented and maintained by community groups is one which is long overdue. It is with this in mind that we support, in principle, the proposals to refresh and put on a more formal footing the relationships between the Council and community organisations for the benefit of all parties involved.

You will recall that Members of the Topic Group questioned whether any consultation had taken place and Members were advised that Third Sector partners had made comments on the proposals at an early stage. Members expressed the view that, in relation to the nature of the report and recommendations presented to them on 16 May 2013, there was scope to enhance the approach to consultation. Members would like to be assured that an appropriate level of consultation has taken place which is proportionate to the significance and impact of the proposals. It was suggested in the meeting that advice be sought on this point from appropriate colleagues within the Council. On behalf of the Topic Group, I am confident that the Executive and officers would also welcome this level of assurance too. Whilst on the theme of providing assurance, and as a result of the recommendations' wide-ranging impact, the Executive Member may wish to ensure that matters relating to equalities have been considered and risks appropriately mitigated.

The Topic Group identified that the work generated as a result of agreeing the report and the recommendations would have a significant impact on officers within EGP and the wider

organisation. We are concerned that there appears to be no clearly defined resource/s within EGP in particular to deliver this project to a high standard.

In summary, the Topic Group were of the view that it may be helpful for the Executive to take a decision, at its meeting on 24 June 2013, which concentrated on the overarching principles of the refreshed approach and the need to meet legislation to include:

1. Refreshed approach to formalising partnerships with community groups to include flexibility for exceptions to be made;
2. Agreement of a Community Right to Bid procedure;
3. Agreement of the overall approach to community asset transfer.

Members felt that more detailed information on the impact of such changes should take the form of a further report to the Executive at a later date. By doing this, the Topic Group felt that the report could be further enhanced with information relating to an indicative implementation plan and, if appropriate, further consultation with stakeholders. When this was raised at the meeting, it was clear to the Topic Group that consideration would be given to this request.

Once again, I wish to thank you and your officers for the enabling the Topic Group to consider this report prior to its agreement by the Executive. We applaud the spirit of the approach taken in order to bring both structure and clarity to the ways in which the Council uses its estate for the benefit of the Trafford community.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor John Reilly
Chairman of Scrutiny Topic Group B

Cc Helen Jones
Rachel Crawshaw-Roberts
Cllr Mrs Dixon
Cllr Higgins
Cllr Bowker
Cllr Cordingley