



# TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Council – 22 January 2014**

**Consideration of a Petition containing more than 3,000 signatures**

**Petition re: Trafford Water Sports Centre**

The Council was requested to consider a Petition containing 3,216 signatures regarding the future of Trafford Water Sports Centre. The petition organiser, Kristy Walden, addressed the meeting and accentuated the main concerns of the signatories of the petition which had been worded as follows:

“Trafford Council confirmed it is terminating its contract, in agreement with Deckers, for water sports provision at the park and as such, Trafford Water Sports Centre will close on December 31.

We are asking Trafford Borough Council not to close this excellent, unique facility once considered the jewel of Trafford.”

Councillors Coupe, Freeman and Bowker responded on behalf of the political parties and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Colledge thanked Ms. Walden for introducing the petition that evening before summarising what the Council would now do.

Councillor Colledge professed that all Members had sympathy with the comments of the petition and there was a desire to protect services in harsh financial times. However, this could not be done at any cost and when there was an impact on other services. The Council recognised the importance of what had been done at the Water Park but it had become an issue due to the level of subsidy.

Wishing to allay concerns that the Council was going to close the gates and walk away the Leader affirmed that the Water Park will be maintained. The Council was assessing all options and by working with the community, business and leisure providers was expecting to make the facility more sustainable. Councillor Colledge reported that levels of interest had significantly improved and stated that it was now the time to find new and different ways of providing services at the Water Park.