

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

26 JANUARY 2022

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Laurence Walsh), in the Chair.

C. Boyes (Deputy Mayor)	M. Freeman	D.C. O'Sullivan
D. Acton	S.J. Gilbert	E. Patel
S. Adshead	J. Harding	K. Procter
A. Akinola	B. Hartley	T. Ross
J.M. Axford	W. Hassan	J. Slater
J. Bennett	S. J. Haughey	S. Taylor
Miss L. Blackburn	J. Holden	S. Thomas
B. Brotherton	C. Hynes	R. Thompson
D. Bunting	D. Jarman	M.J. Welton
D. Butt	D. Jerrome	A. Western
T. Carey	J. Lamb	D. Western
Dr. S. Carr	J. Lloyd	M.P. Whetton
G. Carter	S. Longden	G. Whitham
K.G. Carter	M. Minnis	A.M. Whyte
D.N. Chalkin	M. Mirza	A.J. Williams
G. Coggins	A. Mitchell	B.G. Winstanley
M. Cordingley	D. Morgan	J.A. Wright
L. Dagnall	P. Myers	Mrs. P. Young
J. Dillon	A. New	
N. Evans	J.D. Newgrosh	

In attendance

Deputy Chief Executive	S. Saleh
Head of Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer	D. Sykes
Governance Manager	J. Addison
Business Support Officer	E. Gorman
Senior Governance Officer	I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. E. Brophy, R. Chilton and S. Maitland.

57. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on *24 November 2021 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 13 January 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

*Note: In respect of Minute No. 52, both the Motion and Amendment regarding Greater Manchester Combined Authority Scrutiny were corrected to reflect the correct Scrutiny Committee titles.

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58. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Knife Crime

The Mayor expressed the Council's sadness at the recent incident in Stretford which had resulted in the loss of life of a young person in a violent and senseless manner and advised that the police and community safety officers were working hard to address the issues and support local communities. The Council's thoughts and prayers went out to the family and all those affected by the tragic events.

(b) Former Councillor David Higgins

With regret the Mayor informed the Council that former Councillor David Higgins, Mayor of Trafford in 2009/10, sadly passed away peacefully in hospital on 13 January after a long illness. Former Councillor Higgins represented the Brooklands Ward and served on the Council for 16 years from 1998 to 2015.

As a mark of respect to a former colleague, the Council to stand for a few moments silence in reflection of in his memory.

(c) Her Majesty the Queens New Year's Honours

The Mayor took the opportunity to recognise those residents named in Her Majesty the Queen's New Year Honours List, namely:

Francis Rogers of Sale awarded the citation of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Local Government Reform in the Liverpool City Region.

Jaco-Albert Van Gass of Sale awarded the citation of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to cycling.

Cornel Grant of Old Trafford awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Greater Manchester.

The Council joined with the Mayor to convey congratulations for their achievements and richly deserved recognition.

(d) Membership of Council and Appointments

The Mayor informed the Council that Dr. Karen Barclay had tendered her resignation as a Councillor effective from 1 January 2022 and as a consequence it has been agreed under delegated authority, with effect from 19 January 2022 that:

- (i) Councillor Whetton was appointed Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee;
- (ii) The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Boyes was appointed Shadow Executive Member for Adult Social Care; and
- (iii) Councillor Evans was appointed as a Substitute Member of Planning and Development Management Committee.

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59. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 9 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

- (a) Councillor Myers asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Workers dealing with emergency repairs to the gas, electricity and water supply to Trafford residents often have to park their vehicles a long way from residents’ homes because of local parking restrictions. This can lead to delays in repairing the faults, increased disruption to residents and wasted time as workers have to go back and forth to their vehicles.

Will the Executive Member consider formally giving the same parking rights to emergency liveried vehicles as to Blue Badge holders? The Blue Badge entitlements are set out on the Trafford Council website.”

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services advised that where tradespeople were visiting homes for urgent repairs to broken boilers or leaking pipes it was expected that they park lawfully wherever they could and to use the visitor card system in resident permit areas. Where this was not possible, parking dispensations could be applied for and details were on the Council website and whilst usually these needed to be done a few days ahead of time, requests could be received at shorter notice. Special exemptions also existed for statutory undertakers carrying out repairs to the gas, water or electricity network.

As a supplementary question Councillor Myers asked whether the Executive Member would consider formally adding parking for an emergency situation to the 6 legal grounds for appealing the penalty charge notice, a request Councillor Adshead was happy to take back for investigation.

- (b) Councillor Boyes asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Can the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services please advise Council how many blocked gullies have been reported by members of the public and how many have been cleared in each year from 2017/18 onwards? In addition, can the Member please tell Council how many staff have been employed in the gully teams and the dig down crews in each of those years?”

Councillor Adshead, the Executive Member for Environment and Regulatory Services reported that in 2017 there was 1682 service requests, 1786 in 2018, 2728 in 2019, 2138 in 2020, 2155 in 2021 and 159 so far in 2022. Also, each year 16,000 gullies were scheduled for a routine clean in addition to the reactive calls that were attended to and the service had 2 gully crews to undertake routine and reactive work which had been in place with the contract since 2015. A dig down crew was also contracted to deal with underground problems and undertook jetting and dig downs during the course of the year to tackle such issues.

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Councillor Boyes asked as a supplementary question whether the Executive Member could also advise the Council on what plans had been put in place to work with United Utilities, the Environment Agency and land owners after heavy flooding to ensure a more joined up approach was implemented to allow surplus waste water to drain away more efficiently in the future that had been the dreadful experience in previous years.

In response Councillor Adshead confirmed that there was regular liaison with the Environment Agency, United Utilities etc. and that a special group had been established to tackle the issue following the terrible events of the past few years as unfortunately with climate change and an aging infrastructure there was the likelihood of an increase of flood events. The Executive Member confirmed that he was happy to have a conversations with Councillor Boyes if was aware of any issues in his area.

(c) Councillor Acton asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Please can the Leader give the Council an update on the Afghanistan Relocation and Assistance resettlement scheme in Trafford?”

The Leader of the Council, Councillor A. Western was pleased to report that to date 3 families had been settled in Trafford so far under the scheme. Working with partners the Council had identified 5 properties in the Borough to which those fleeing Afghanistan could find a home, 3 from Trafford Housing Trust, 1 from Onward Housing and 1 from a private landlord, with one of those properties still awaiting a match to be identified from the Home office.

All the families that had been accommodated had been supported by a dedicated support worker that had been employed using the funding made available from the scheme. They had been assisted to claim benefits, register for doctors and dentists, register for English language classes and attain school places for those with children of school age.

The support worker had worked intensively with all of the families and had assisted with the practicalities of settling into life in the UK and Councillor Andrew Western was proud to say that the Council had promoted a multi-agency approach to ensure smooth transitions for the families.

(d) Councillor Jerrome asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Trafford Council officers have agreed that communities can opt out of the weed spraying regime where appropriate. Why can't we advertise this on our website, as Manchester City Council do

https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/709/looking_after_parks_and_open_spaces/5753/weeds,

and promote this as another element in working towards achieving our aim of a Pesticide-Free Trafford? A motion passed unanimously in March 2019.”

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Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environment and Regulatory Services advised that as part of the One Trafford Partnership Contract review there was a piece of work to look at updating the Council's website to improve communication and information on service provision with the public and members. It would be undertaken over the next few months and it was an opportunity to update the website to include information on how residents can apply to opt out of weed spraying similar to that offered by Manchester in their vicinity, street or area.

Whilst there was full support for the move to a pesticide free Trafford there had to be a recognition of some of the potential consequences of that change, which could include the potential for increased complaints due to some weeds growing out of control in some areas causing trip hazards to pedestrians and damage to the footway and highway. The transition to a pesticide free Trafford on the highway would require work with members, residents and businesses to enable a joined up approach to weed clearance that kept the borough's streets safe, damage free and weed free longer term.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Jerrrome asked what the Council had done since June 2020 when the Executive signed of the use of glysohate use in Trafford report further to the aims of the March 2019 which was to be 100% free from pesticide use. Councillor Adshead stated in response that work continued, although having been impeded by the pandemic, and the Council was looking at trialling products as they came onto the market and referring to the point made in the original question, re-affirmed that should residents wish to opt out the Council was happy to support.

(e) Councillor Hartley asked the following question for which he had given notice:

"It was great news to see Bowker Court opening recently in Timperley delivering 30 socially rented apartments, the first new social housing to be delivered in Trafford in nearly 10 years. Could the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration tell me how many units of affordable housing have been delivered, and what proportion of those are for social rent, in the years since Labour started to lead the council in 2018? And how does this compare to the last few years of Conservative control of the Council?"

Councillor Wright, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration confirmed that since 2018, 59 units of social rent housing had been delivered which was 28% of the affordable housing total delivered for the period. In the four preceding years under the previous administration, 8 units for social rent were delivered which was 2% of the total affordable housing delivered in that period.

Councillor Hartley asked as a supplementary question whether the Executive Member could provide the same figures for units due for completion in the current year and what were the Council's future plans to deliver more affordable housing in the borough. Councillor Wright confirmed that in the next financial year he was anticipating the completion of 333 affordable housing units of which 103 would be for social rent. In relation to improvement and expansion of the affordable housing project, the affordable housing fund had been introduced, the viability process had

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been significantly reformed with viability proposals now being publicised and affordable housing had been made a major priority in both the Council's Local and Corporate Plans. Also, as the Executive Member he would continue to champion the cause for social and affordable housing.

- (f) Councillor Morgan asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Could the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services confirm, as part of the OneTrafford contract 7 year review, when is the earliest that Trafford Council could theoretically pull out of the contract?”

In response, the Executive Member, Councillor Adshead advised that all of the options for termination of the contract have been investigated in depth in the last two years and the options were considered as part of the confidential part of the report to the Executive in November 2020. There was not an official break clause in the contract. In the absence of any contractual basis for terminating the contract the Council would automatically be in breach of its conditions and would be at risk of being made subject to substantial financial penalties as had been previously reported. Theoretically the Council could terminate the contract at the end of the 7 year review process, which was March 2022. Whilst the Council could terminate the Contract at that point it would need to pay Amey's breakage costs and would need to make provision for arranging new Services which would also leave the Council with significant financial risks. The contract would continue for a period of 12 months after termination making the final date March 2023.

- (g) Councillor Newgrosh asked the following question for which he had given notice:

“Can the Executive Member for housing please inform us what percentage of our boroughs Social Housing meets (or exceeds) the current minimum legal requirement for its insulation?”

Councillor Wright, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration advised that since the Council did not own any of Trafford's Social Housing he did not have that information to hand, however, he was willing to write to the provider for the details.

Councillor Newgrosh thanked him for the offer and as a supplementary question asked for a meeting to consider, much like the winter care packs and support for energy bills the Council had given, what other innovative and practical ways the Council could help to insulate and shield residents from the coming energy crisis. Councillor Wright responded by confirming that he would be happy to facilitate a meeting.

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60. PETITION FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND AN UPGRADE TO THE PLAYGROUND AT STAMFORD PARK, ALTRINCHAM

Lead petitioner, Diana Barrett introduced the following petition which had received 537 signatures from addresses within the Borough.

“We petition the Council to improve and upgrade the play area in Stamford Park so it can be enjoyed year round.

The current play area is in desperate need of an upgrade.

Stamford Park is one of the most popular parks in Trafford but the play equipment is dated and the playground gets water logged and muddy every time it rains.

Altrincham town centre needs a playground of a similar standard to that in Knutsford or Bruntwood Park. Soft, all weather surfaces and modern play equipment allow those playgrounds to be enjoyed in any weather throughout the year.

The Altrincham community deserves a much improved playground, which would have the added benefit of drawing more people to the town centre benefitting local businesses.

Please sign this petition to back a formal request urging the Council to allocate funding to this local play area so that all of our children can enjoy a well maintained and suitable playground.”

In presenting the petition, the lead petitioner highlighted the following issues:

- An absence of equipment past pre-school years.
- Safety was a concern with the current equipment.
- The uneven path around the park was a danger for children cycling or with scooters.
- The playground was unsuitable for differently abled users.

Furthermore, the benefits of an attractive playground were set out:

- Health and wellbeing benefits were well known and generally accepted.
- Playgrounds were at the heart of the community and an important gathering space.
- Imaginative playgrounds helped children to develop social, physical, cognitive and emotional skills.
- A better park would encourage more outside play for children all year round and would attract children for the two primary schools located next to the park.
- Spending time outdoors improves the mental health of all ages and helped combat child obesity
- It would reduce the carbon footprint by reducing the need of local residents having to travel to provision further afield.

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The lead petitioner acknowledged that it could be difficult for the Council to finance improvements from the existing Parks and Open Spaces budget but with the associated benefits for local businesses and the area in general, hoped that there would be other ways to find the money. Suggestions included:

- Contributions from new housing developments, given the added selling point of a local playground.
- Sponsorship from local businesses.
- National Lottery funds and government funds to tackle child obesity and improve mental health.

In summary, an improved park would provide the growing number of families in Altrincham town centre with better facilities, make Altrincham an even better place to live, attract visitors all year round and keep locals in the area rather than having to travel to neighbouring authorities. Having had to travel also, the petitioner presented photographic evidence of a modern playground she had recently visited in support of the petition's aspirations.

Councillor Patel, Executive Member for Culture and Leisure and Councillors Mrs. Young, Newgrosh and Jerrome responded to the petition on behalf of the political parties and made the following points:

Councillor Leisure: Advised that in Trafford there were approximately 80 play areas and investment was prioritised through the Annual Capital Programme and that for a number of years funding pressures had seen the Council lose millions of pounds, year on year, from its funding. Alongside routine maintenance, Stamford Park received its fair share of capital funding and since 2017 over £100,000 had been allocated towards improving drainage, refurbishment of tennis and basketball courts and replacing a climbing frame and the Council would continue to invest in Stamford Park. The equipment in the park was not untypical of a Trafford park and individual pieces of equipment were replaced overtime and maintain and repair equipment until it is deemed to have reached the end of its lifespan. All play areas had a weekly safety inspection and whilst it was agreed that some of the equipment was dated, it was safe and remained well used. Under current budget restraints it would not be possible to undertake a complete renewal of all the equipment in a play area of its size as to do so would be to commit the entire play area budget to one park. For information, the last significant funding the Council received from the government for play equipment was in 2010. Over recent years 3 projects had been completed to the surfacing in the play area, though it remained a challenging site due to changing ground levels, high footfall and the extensive tree canopy that covered the play area. Play surfacing could be as expensive as the equipment itself and it was unlikely that an affordable solution could be found that provided a mud free environment. Following a recent visit it was clear there had been a build-up on the hardstanding in the play area caused by leaves and therefore, a deep clean of the play area footpaths would be undertaken in mid to late February 2022. As Executive Member would be working to reset the relationship between the Friends of Stamford Park, the Council and the One Trafford Partnership and after speaking with the Vice-Chair of the Friends Group they would welcome new volunteers and asked the

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residents that had signed the petition and were keen to support the park to get in touch with the group. Agreed that all residents deserved access to a good park and recognised that Stamford Park, like others, was not without its current challenges. Understood that the answer was probably not what the petition had hoped for, however, hoped to have provided a positive and open response about how the Council approached its park funding and going forward would welcome the opportunity to introduce residents to the Friends of Park group and develop constructive dialogue for the benefit of Stamford Park.

Councillor Mrs. Young: Agreed that parks and green spaces played a key role in promoting good physical and mental wellbeing but was disappointed that the swing seats in the playground which were removed during lockdown had not been replaced, further exacerbated the lack of play equipment for 8-10 year olds. More equipment was needed as the current facilities were not sufficient for the amount of users. Flooding had been identified as a problem as a result of investigative walks around the park with residents and after being raised in February 2021 and told in April 2021 that engineers would investigate and provide a report, nothing had been heard since. Also the park was awaiting signage to address anti-social behaviour and in April 2021 representations were made about the maintenance of the border in the park. Welcomed attempts to increase membership of and develop the relationship with the friends group.

Councillor Newgrosh: Welcomed investment in all of Trafford's parks and would support a proposal to upgrade Stamford Park if it could be.

Councillor Jerrome: Agreed that the current petition was correct that the play area was in desperate need of an upgrade and that the Altrincham community deserved a much improved playground. Parks offered a vital green space for everyone and the playgrounds within them were an important free resource for all families offering tremendous value to health, wellbeing and enjoyment. Recalled a previous petition organised by a school pupil in 2018 regarding faulty play equipment in Stamford Park, dating back to 2015 where delays were experienced until finally being replaced in June 2020. Also commented on the experiences of other Friends Groups when seeking to get equipment maintained or replaced and suggested that the manner in which the borough's parks were maintained would be an excellent topic for the Scrutiny Committee to review.

Following the discussion the Leader of the Council, Councillor Andrew Western echoed the position as set out by the Executive Member, Councillor Patel regarding the funding and the work which would be done to maintain a fair standard across all of the borough's parks. He acknowledged that the lead petitioner was the only speaker to set out potential alternative sources of funding rather than asking for more money after 12 years of austerity that had impacted upon the Council. The maintenance of parks was one of the effects and unfortunately, with a budget gap of more than £20 million year on year as a result of the sustained cuts and the pressures placed on Councils, it was a challenge and becoming more difficult to deliver for the borough's residents. Alternative funding sources had been suggested and if the residents and Friends of Stamford

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Park wanted to look how they could do that, the Council would be happy to enter into a dialogue on how to move that forward.

The Leader reflected that every Councillor received complaints about the parks, that there was a huge challenge and that was the reason why there was a separate Motion on the agenda that evening around funding for parks and green spaces in the borough. After years of being starved of funding, it was recognised that it was an area in need of investment and therefore, the Motion asked for government support to enable the Council to do that.

61. PROCESS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Further to a recommendation by the Accounts and Audit Committee on 25 November 2021, the Director of Finance and Systems submitted a report setting out the proposals for appointing the Council's external auditor for the five-year period from 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That the proposal to opt in to the national arrangement for appointing the External Auditor, managed by Public Sector Appointments Limited, to cover the five-year period from 2023/24 and as detailed in Option 3 in the report, be approved.

**62. 6-MONTH CORPORATE REPORT ON HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING– 1
APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance submitted a report providing an overview of the ongoing work undertaken to protect and support the Council's services and schools during the Covid pandemic and other health and safety support. The report also provided an overview of accidents for the period 1 April to 30 September 2021.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

63. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - COST OF LIVING CRISIS

It was moved and seconded that:

"Households across the UK, including here in Trafford, are having to cope with major increases in the cost of living. These rises are affecting essential, unavoidable costs such as food prices and energy bills. Domestic energy bills are expected to increase further in the spring, by as much as 50%. Food costs are already rising by 10% per year.

When essential items increase it is those households on low and modest incomes who face the greatest burden as they have very little scope to absorb higher prices. This means already limited budgets are stretched even further.

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Despite full awareness of this, the government has chosen to reduce the amount of support it provides to low income working and non-working households over the last 6 months through the £20 a week cut to Universal Credit.

This increase in the cost of living is happening in the context of an eleven year period during which working age benefits have been cut and wages have stagnated in a number of sectors. Household will face a further hit when National Insurance contribution go up in April.

The Government's response to this situation has been piecemeal and poorly targeted. One off and temporary support, such as the hardship grants provided to low income families during the pandemic, do not represent an adequate response to the financial challenges facing many of our residents. Councils have been left high and dry by the government, without adequate long-term funding or long-term support to support residents facing financial hardship through things like local welfare assistance schemes, such as Trafford Assist.

The financial pressure facing many families could not be more acute and the situation shows little sign of easing. The independent Institute for Fiscal Studies has said that the government's current approach to support households on low incomes is inadequate and has said £3 billion needs pumping into the welfare system in response to soaring energy bills and mounting inflationary pressure. Instead of a planned 3.1% increase in the value of benefits in April, it said payments needed to rise by about 6% to protect the poorest in society from high inflation hurting their finances.

Whilst this Council is committed to doing what we can to address poverty and the financial hardship being faced by our residents, we urgently need the government to step in and provide an adequate response to rising living costs and growing levels of poverty.

This Council calls on the government to:

- Introduce a windfall tax on oil and gas companies. The revenue raised should be used to support families with soaring energy prices and remove VAT on domestic energy bills for a minimum of 12 months.
- Reverse the £20 per week cut to Universal Credit.
- Increase benefits by more than planned in order to reflect the rising living costs facing low income families and make a long-term commitment to ensuring the benefits system provides both working and non-working households with a decent standard of living.
- Provide long-term dedicated funding to councils towards local welfare assistance schemes so that local authorities can respond to the needs of residents facing severe financial hardship.
- Provide permanent support towards meal costs to Free School Meal eligible families during the school holidays."

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(Note: During the debate on the Motion, the time being 8:13 p.m., the Mayor indicated that speeches on this matter would now be limited to a maximum of two minutes per speaker.)

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

RESOLVED: That households across the UK, including here in Trafford, are having to cope with major increases in the cost of living. These rises are affecting essential, unavoidable costs such as food prices and energy bills. Domestic energy bills are expected to increase further in the spring, by as much as 50%. Food costs are already rising by 10% per year.

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64. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - TRAFFORD'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

It was moved and seconded that:

“This Council notes:

1. Trafford has an extensive and varied network of parks and greenspaces that are highly valued by the residents they serve, often receiving recognition beyond the borough.
2. Assets in every sense of the word our parks and greenspaces have for many generations played a significant role in the lives of Trafford residents. The value of our parks and greenspaces was most recently highlighted during Covid lockdowns when they provided a haven in all our neighbourhoods for play, walking, exercising, and a place to clear your mind and relax.
3. The physical nature of our parks is changing as we recognise their role in promoting biodiversity and respond to climate change.
4. The long-term financial pressures faced by the Council impacts on the ability to invest in our parks and greenspaces, while the use of our parks is increasing we can see the decline of our parks and greenspace infrastructure.

This Council believes:

5. Our parks and greenspaces should be safe, inclusive spaces that welcome residents of all backgrounds, ages and abilities.
6. Parks and greenspaces play a key role in promoting good physical and mental health and wellbeing. They are places where residents can interact socially, reducing isolation for both young and old. Our parks and greenspaces are free to access, providing spaces to exercise formally and informally supporting our ambitions to get everyone moving more each day.

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7. We have demonstrated our commitment to protecting greenspaces through our applications for Fields in Trust status for the former William Wroe site, Turn Moss and Crossford Bridge
8. For many of our residents living in urban areas our parks and greenspaces provide a unique opportunity to interact with wildlife, for example a key milestone for many is the simple act of feeding the ducks in the park. Our parks and greenspaces are key areas where we can promote biodiversity - seen within our development of 'long grass regimes' providing support to wildlife, our promotion of wild flower meadows and the ending of the use of glyphosates in parks.
9. Our parks have a role in our response to climate change, as our weather gets more unpredictable our parks offer spaces where flood and heavy rainfall can be held to support our urban drainage systems.
10. It's important to continue to support our amazing network of Friends of Parks volunteers. We do this through the Friends of Park forum, through the provision of grants, for example since 2019 we have awarded 28 Inclusive Neighbourhood Grants to our Friends of Parks and through advice and support from Council and One Trafford Green Space Officers.
11. We must continue to work in partnership with external funders and developers where possible to secure additional monies and expertise to develop our parks and greenspaces. Applying for any funding sources applicable to council parks and greenspaces.
12. We must be open about the financial challenges facing the Council and the impact this has on the levels of investment into parks since 2010. Huge pressures on staffing, capital and revenue budgets mean we are not able to undertake all the work we would like to and have to manage investment through a rolling programme of repairs and our capital programme. We have to make priority decisions around repairs and investment.
13. Back in 2016 a cross party select committee recognised that parks play a vital role in communities. We believe the government should recognise the value of parks and greenspaces and end the short term approach to funding, providing realistic, ring-fenced funding to secure the future of our parks for generations to come.

This Council resolves to:

14. Recognise and thank our partners and volunteer network of Friends of Parks for the essential work and support they provide across the borough.
15. Thank our Council and One Trafford officers and operatives who provide a dedicated service within significant financial and staffing pressures.
16. Afford our parks and greenspaces protection through our Local Plan.
17. Promote bio-diversity by continuing to review and challenge the approach to how parks and greenspaces are managed, planted and developed.

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18. Work with One Trafford to develop sustainable drainage systems within parks and greenspaces. This will support our urban drainage systems, provide wildlife habitats and mitigate against the impact of flood and heavy rain within our parks and greenspaces.
19. Continue to work with the Police through our Community Safety Team to tackle antisocial behaviour, applying youth work resources where possible.
20. Despite the huge financial challenges facing Council budgets, continue to invest in capital and maintenance programmes.
21. Continue to find external funding opportunities and work with external partners such as City of Trees, The Conservation Volunteers, National Lottery and Sport England.
22. Call on government to recognise the importance of parks and greenspaces and provide Councils with realistic long-term, ring-fenced funding to allow us to invest in our parks at a level that reflects their value to the residents and environment of Trafford.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that in respect of point 16 the following addition be made:

16. Afford our parks and greenspaces protection through our Local Plan. **Scrutiny Committee to be asked to review the cost and practicality of placing all our parks and green spaces in Field of Trust status as Liverpool City Council have done and report back to Executive by 1 January 2023 <https://www.fieldsintrust.org/News/liverpool-city-council-pioneering-commitment-to-protect-all-parks-forever>**

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and was agreed unanimously. The substantive Motion was then put to the voted and was declared carried by unanimous consent.

RESOLVED: That this Council notes:

1. Trafford has an extensive and varied network of parks and greenspaces that are highly valued by the residents they serve, often receiving recognition beyond the borough.
2. Assets in every sense of the word our parks and greenspaces have for many generations played a significant role in the lives of Trafford residents. The value of our parks and greenspaces was most recently highlighted during Covid lockdowns when they provided a haven in all our neighbourhoods for play, walking, exercising, and a place to clear your mind and relax.
3. The physical nature of our parks is changing as we recognise their role in promoting biodiversity and respond to climate change.
4. The long-term financial pressures faced by the Council impacts on the ability to invest in our parks and greenspaces, while the use of our parks is increasing we can see the decline of our parks and greenspace infrastructure.

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This Council believes:

5. Our parks and greenspaces should be safe, inclusive spaces that welcome residents of all backgrounds, ages and abilities.
6. Parks and greenspaces play a key role in promoting good physical and mental health and wellbeing. They are places where residents can interact socially, reducing isolation for both young and old. Our parks and greenspaces are free to access, providing spaces to exercise formally and informally supporting our ambitions to get everyone moving more each day.
7. We have demonstrated our commitment to protecting greenspaces through our applications for Fields in Trust status for the former William Wroe site, Turn Moss and Crossford Bridge
8. For many of our residents living in urban areas our parks and greenspaces provide a unique opportunity to interact with wildlife, for example a key milestone for many is the simple act of feeding the ducks in the park. Our parks and greenspaces are key areas where we can promote biodiversity - seen within our development of 'long grass regimes' providing support to wildlife, our promotion of wild flower meadows and the ending of the use of glyphosates in parks.
9. Our parks have a role in our response to climate change, as our weather gets more unpredictable our parks offer spaces where flood and heavy rainfall can be held to support our urban drainage systems.
10. It's important to continue to support our amazing network of Friends of Parks volunteers. We do this through the Friends of Park forum, through the provision of grants, for example since 2019 we have awarded 28 Inclusive Neighbourhood Grants to our Friends of Parks and through advice and support from Council and One Trafford Green Space Officers.
11. We must continue to work in partnership with external funders and developers where possible to secure additional monies and expertise to develop our parks and greenspaces. Applying for any funding sources applicable to council parks and greenspaces.
12. We must be open about the financial challenges facing the Council and the impact this has on the levels of investment into parks since 2010. Huge pressures on staffing, capital and revenue budgets mean we are not able to undertake all the work we would like to and have to manage investment through a rolling programme of repairs and our capital programme. We have to make priority decisions around repairs and investment.
13. Back in 2016 a cross party select committee recognised that parks play a vital role in communities. We believe the government should recognise the value of parks and greenspaces and end the short term approach to funding, providing realistic, ring-fenced funding to secure the future of our parks for generations to come.

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This Council resolves to:

14. Recognise and thank our partners and volunteer network of Friends of Parks for the essential work and support they provide across the borough.
15. Thank our Council and One Trafford officers and operatives who provide a dedicated service within significant financial and staffing pressures.
16. Afford our parks and greenspaces protection through our Local Plan. Scrutiny Committee to be asked to review the cost and practicality of placing all our parks and green spaces in Field of Trust status as Liverpool City Council have done and report back to Executive by 1 January 2023 <https://www.fieldsintrust.org/News/liverpool-city-council-pioneering-commitment-to-protect-all-parks-forever>
17. Promote bio-diversity by continuing to review and challenge the approach to how parks and greenspaces are managed, planted and developed.
18. Work with One Trafford to develop sustainable drainage systems within parks and greenspaces. This will support our urban drainage systems, provide wildlife habitats and mitigate against the impact of flood and heavy rain within our parks and greenspaces.
19. Continue to work with the Police through our Community Safety Team to tackle antisocial behaviour, applying youth work resources where possible.
20. Despite the huge financial challenges facing Council budgets, continue to invest in capital and maintenance programmes.
21. Continue to find external funding opportunities and work with external partners such as City of Trees, The Conservation Volunteers, National Lottery and Sport England.
22. Call on government to recognise the importance of parks and greenspaces and provide Councils with realistic long-term, ring-fenced funding to allow us to invest in our parks at a level that reflects their value to the residents and environment of Trafford.

65. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR PLAN

It was moved and seconded that:

“Council notes that poor air quality in Greater Manchester is contributing to the deaths of 1200 people a year in the City Region. Council further notes that – following the loss of a legal case in 2015 – Government has instructed a number of authorities including Trafford to act to improve air quality. We recognise that this is a concerning public health issue and that action is required to protect the health of local residents.

As a result of this, and following extensive modelling work to develop an approach that would achieve compliant levels of nitrogen dioxide emissions locally, the 10 authorities of Greater Manchester are under a Ministerial Direction from the Secretary of State to introduce a CAZC Clean Air Zone

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across the 10 districts including Trafford. This means that Trafford must implement the Zone unless the Secretary of State resolves otherwise, and that in accordance with section 9 of the Ministerial Direction no deviation can be made to the parameters of this Zone unless made by the Secretary of State.

Council is aware that the 10 Greater Manchester councils commissioned work through Transport for Greater Manchester late last year to look at issues in the global supply chain that have become clear in recent months. Particular challenges arising from the pandemic have impacted on the supply of new vehicles, with for example harsher lockdowns in a number of countries having a significant impact on the manufacturing sector. This has necessarily impacted on the price of compliant second hand vehicles, with price increases of as much as 60% as a result.

Council is fearful that these supply chain issues could result in the owners of LGVs and Hackney Carriages being unable to transition their fleet, and consequently in the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester being potentially unable to achieve compliance with their Ministerial Direction. This Direction requires Trafford to achieve legal levels in terms of nitrogen dioxide in the shortest time possible and by 2024 at the latest.

It is clear therefore that an urgent review of policy is required to enable Trafford and the other 9 boroughs to have confidence in their ability to meet their legal requirements.

In light of this Council resolves that:

- The Secretary of State should accede to Greater Manchester's request and authorise a pause to the opening of the LGV, taxi and Private Hire Vehicles Financial Support Fund scheduled for the end of this month.
- The Secretary of State should undertake an urgent policy review supported by Greater Manchester leaders and officials to ensure that any scheme that comes forward provides sufficient financial support to those LGV, taxi and Private Hire Vehicle drivers who need to transition to compliant vehicles.
- The Secretary of State must ensure that this review fully reflects the more challenging market conditions that Greater Manchester has identified and accordingly ensure that sufficient funding is available for Trafford businesses and residents to upgrade their vehicles.

Council believes that the above measures are critical in order to give certainty that we can meet our legal obligation to achieve compliance in terms of nitrogen dioxide emissions. Without them, we fear that there is a very real possibility that the Clean Air Plan will be unsuccessful in this aim."

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It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

“Council notes that poor air quality in Greater Manchester is contributing to the deaths of 1200 people a year in the City Region. Council further notes that – following the loss of a legal case in 2015 – Government has instructed a number of authorities including Trafford to act to improve air quality. We recognise that this is a concerning public health issue and that action is required to protect the health of local residents.

As a result of this, and following extensive modelling work to develop an approach that would achieve compliant levels of nitrogen dioxide emissions locally, the 10 authorities of Greater Manchester are under a Ministerial Direction from the Secretary of State to introduce a CAZ C Clean Air Zone across the 10 districts including Trafford. This means that Trafford must implement the Zone unless the Secretary of State resolves otherwise, and that in accordance with section 9 of the Ministerial Direction no deviation can be made to the parameters of this Zone unless made by the Secretary of State.

Council is aware that the 10 Greater Manchester councils commissioned work through Transport for Greater Manchester late last year to look at issues in the global supply chain that have become clear in recent months. Particular challenges arising from the pandemic have impacted on the supply of new vehicles, with for example harsher lockdowns in a number of countries having a significant impact on the manufacturing sector. This has necessarily impacted on the price of compliant second hand vehicles, with price increases of as much as 60% as a result.

Council is fearful that these supply chain issues could result in the owners of LGVs and Hackney Carriages being unable to transition their fleet, and consequently in the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester being potentially unable to achieve compliance with their Ministerial Direction. This Direction requires Trafford to achieve legal levels in terms of nitrogen dioxide in the shortest time possible and by 2024 at the latest.

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- The Secretary of State must ensure that this review fully reflects the more challenging market conditions that Greater Manchester has identified and accordingly ensure that sufficient funding is available for Trafford businesses and residents to upgrade their vehicles.

This Council is committed to giving every resident the genuinely clean air they deserve as fast as possible. As such we resolve to:

- **Implement the clean air zone on the existing schedule, despite changing the timings on the funds.**
- **Push for a faster roll-out of safe walking and cycling routes.**
- **Implement 20mph speed limits where people live.**
- **Implement a rapid expansion of school streets initiatives.**
- **Maintain and expand the A56 cycle lanes and engage with communities to support changes in habits.**
- **Support and encourage alternative means of transport within cities such as electric cargo bikes, and vehicle sharing.**
- **Ensure large and effective signs are placed near our 3 level crossings, and other idling hotspots to ask people to avoid idling.**
- **Work with Transport for Greater Manchester and bus companies to reduce idling from school buses and buses waiting elsewhere.**

Council calls on the government to:

- (i) introduce a new Clean Air Act with strict new laws to protect our air; and**
- (ii) set up a new Environmental Protection Commission to enforce those laws.**

Council believes that the above measures are critical in order to give certainty that we can meet our legal obligation to achieve compliance in terms of nitrogen dioxide emissions. Without them, we fear that there is a very real possibility that the Clean Air Plan will be unsuccessful in this aim.”

(Note: During the debate on the Amendment, the time being 8:51 p.m., the Mayor indicated that speeches on this matter would now be limited to a maximum of one minute 30 seconds per speaker.)

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was put to the vote and declared lost. The Council continued to debate the substantive Motion before it was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That Council notes that poor air quality in Greater Manchester is contributing to the deaths of 1200 people a year in the City Region. Council further notes that – following the loss of a legal case in 2015 – Government has instructed a number of authorities including Trafford to act to improve air quality. We recognise that this is a concerning public health issue and that action is required to protect the health of local residents.

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As a result of this, and following extensive modelling work to develop an approach that would achieve compliant levels of nitrogen dioxide emissions locally, the 10 authorities of Greater Manchester are under a Ministerial Direction from the Secretary of State to introduce a CAZ C Clean Air Zone across the 10 districts including Trafford. This means that Trafford must implement the Zone unless the Secretary of State resolves otherwise, and that in accordance with section 9 of the Ministerial Direction no deviation can be made to the parameters of this Zone unless made by the Secretary of State.

Council is aware that the 10 Greater Manchester councils commissioned work through Transport for Greater Manchester late last year to look at issues in the global supply chain that have become clear in recent months. Particular challenges arising from the pandemic have impacted on the supply of new vehicles, with for example harsher lockdowns in a number of countries having a significant impact on the manufacturing sector. This has necessarily impacted on the price of compliant second hand vehicles, with price increases of as much as 60% as a result.

Council is fearful that these supply chain issues could result in the owners of LGVs and Hackney Carriages being unable to transition their fleet, and consequently in the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester being potentially unable to achieve compliance with their Ministerial Direction. This Direction requires Trafford to achieve legal levels in terms of nitrogen dioxide in the shortest time possible and by 2024 at the latest.

It is clear therefore that an urgent review of policy is required to enable Trafford and the other 9 boroughs to have confidence in their ability to meet their legal requirements.

In light of this Council resolves that:

- The Secretary of State should accede to Greater Manchester's request and authorise a pause to the opening of the LGV, taxi and Private Hire Vehicles Financial Support Fund scheduled for the end of this month.
- The Secretary of State should undertake an urgent policy review supported by Greater Manchester leaders and officials to ensure that any scheme that comes forward provides sufficient financial support to those LGV, taxi and Private Hire Vehicle drivers who need to transition to compliant vehicles.
- The Secretary of State must ensure that this review fully reflects the more challenging market conditions that Greater Manchester has identified and accordingly ensure that sufficient funding is available for Trafford businesses and residents to upgrade their vehicles.

Council believes that the above measures are critical in order to give certainty that we can meet our legal obligation to achieve compliance in terms of nitrogen dioxide emissions. Without them, we fear that there is a very real possibility that the Clean Air Plan will be unsuccessful in this aim.

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66. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR PLAN

(Note: Following determination of the preceding matter (Minute No. 65 refers), the Mayor advised that, in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.3, as the Motion also concerned the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone it now would not be able to be put as it would have the effect of negating a decision made at a meeting of Council within the preceding six months.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 13.5 it was moved and seconded as an alternation to the Motion for which notice had been given that:

“This Council is deeply concerned that the Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan report, presented to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), on 25 June 2021 by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) was misleading.

This has led to a situation where Greater Manchester (GM) Districts are in the process of implementing a plan that it is acknowledged cannot, at present, achieve its stated aims.

The Council Notes:

- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is 493sqm which includes every district in GM.
- TfGM in July 2021 stated a database sourced from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) estimated that approximately at present 90% of non-compliant LGV's in Greater Manchester, are not retrofittable.
- TfGM estimates that in 2023 there will be 75,000 non-compliant LGV's based in GM out of a total fleet of 136,000 LGV's.
- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan report was approved by all GM districts and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to support the Mayor of Greater Manchester's plan for Clean Air during July 2021.
- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan impacts tens of thousands of small businesses and charities within GM in addition to thousands who are based outside of the GM region but operate within the GM region contributing to the £62 billion economy.
- The 9 GM Conservative MPs wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs urging a delay to the rollout of the CAZ for further consultation.

The Council resolves:

- That the Chief Executive of the Council to write to the GMCA Chief Executive requesting that a joint scrutiny committee be established to initiate an independent investigation into GM Clean Air Final Plan.

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- That the findings of the investigation must be scrutinised by the newly formed GMCA Committee prior to recommendations being submitted to the GMCA and GM districts.
- That each of the GM districts will review the findings of the report via their internal scrutiny mechanisms i.e. Executive/Cabinet, Council and the relevant scrutiny panels.
- To call on the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the GM Districts and GMCA to do whatever necessary to suspend the rollout of the GM Clean Air Final Plan to enable a full investigation to take place to address the issues identified above.”

(Note: In accordance with Procedure Rule 9, the time being 9.25 p.m. and without the Council’s consent to the Motion, as altered, the Mayor proposed that the meeting now be adjourned.)

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned and this matter be considered further at the next meeting of the Council on 16 February 2022.

The meeting commenced at 7.05 p.m. and finished at 9.25 p.m.