

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

23 MARCH 2022

PRESENT

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

C. Boyes (Deputy Mayor)	N. Evans	A. New
S. Adshead	J. Harding	J.D. Newgrosh
J.M. Axford	B. Hartley	K. Procter
J. Bennett	W. Hassan	T. Ross
Miss L. Blackburn	S. J. Haughey	J. Slater
J. E. Brophy	J. Holden	S. Taylor
B. Brotherton	C. Hynes	S. Thomas
D. Bunting	D. Jarman	R. Thompson
D. Butt	J. Lamb	M.J. Welton
Dr. S. Carr	J. Lloyd	A. Western
G. Carter	S. Longden	M.P. Whetton
K.G. Carter	M. Minnis	A.J. Williams
M. Cordingley	M. Mirza	B.G. Winstanley
L. Dagnall	D. Morgan	J.A. Wright
J. Dillon	P. Myers	

In attendance

Chief Executive	S. Todd
Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy	J. Le Fevre
Governance Manager	J. Addison
Senior Governance Officer	I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Acton, A. Akinola, T. Carey, D.N. Chalkin, R. Chilton, G. Coggins, M. Freeman, S.J. Gilbert, D. Jerome, S. Maitland, A. Mitchell, D.C. O'Sullivan, E. Patel, D. Western, G. Whitham, A.M. Whyte and Mrs. P. Young.

73. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16 February 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

74. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that 6 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

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- (a) Councillor Evans asked the following question, the first of two questions for which he had given notice:

“Could the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services, as our representative on the Clean Air Committee, advise the Council how much it is costing to change the signage across Greater Manchester to read ‘Under Revue’ on the 1,309 CAZ signs installed across the city-region, including Trafford, so far?”

In response, Councillor Adshead, the Executive Member stated that the figure was £186,000.

As a supplementary question Councillor Evans enquired whether the Executive Member would agree that the scheme should now be scrapped. Councillor Adshead advised that since there was a clear directive from the Government to introduce a Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone, only the Government could decide upon the issue.

- (b) Councillor Evans asked the following question, the second of two questions for which he had given notice:

“The December 2021, January 2022 and February 2022 Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Corporate Issues and Reform Scrutiny Committee meetings were due to consider budgets under Andy Burnham’s and GMCA’s control. Budgets for the people of Greater Manchester worth hundreds of millions of pounds. The GMCA Budget this year is around £246 million, the GM Mayoral Budget over £127 million, the transport budget hundreds of millions more and Andy Burnham’s precept charge was to be part of the discussion tabled.

- *The meetings were cancelled, largely due to a lack of attendance from Labour members.*
- *The Liberal Democrat committee chair exempted the budgets from call in despite a commitment to the contrary.*
- *The budgets passed without a single question in formal scrutiny.*

Does the Leader of the Council think it is acceptable that a multi-million-pound budget affecting every Trafford resident is passed with no regard to the right of councillors to challenge and oversee the authority’s finances?”

In response, Councillor A. Western, the Leader of the Council replied to say that it was not.

Councillor Evans asked as a supplementary question whether the Leader of the Council would agree foster closer relations in the new municipal year in an attempt to find members across Greater Manchester with a real interest in scrutiny. Councillor A. Western reminded Members of the Motion brought by the Conservative Group to Council on 24 November 2021 (Minute 52 refers) and the actions taken arising from it. He advised that there was an ongoing review of

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scrutiny processes across Greater Manchester and that he was happy to work with anyone willing to improve those processes.

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

“It is well known that despite spending a considerable sum on upgrading the junction of Park Road, Timperley with the main A56, Chester Road, the traffic flow south bound has become even worse with tail backs at the busiest times, even post Covid, often exceeding a mile long.

This is not only frustrating to commuters and local residents but is also producing unnecessary increases in pollution levels.

Can Members have a definitive answer to the question often asked by residents, ‘Is it actually possible, even if it means using compulsory purchase powers, to acquire some of the frontages of the shops, to facilitate a left turn filter lane from the A56 into Park Road and thus once and for all resolve what is such a headache for Trafford residents?’

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services advised that since the A56 was a major route in and out of Trafford many of its junctions, including that at Park Road, unfortunately had queuing traffic in various directions at certain times of the day. Whilst it was possible to look at acquiring an area of shop frontage to potentially look at alleviating this problem it was not something that would be affordable and compulsory purchase of land was a long, complex and costly process which the Council and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) would not be looking to pursue.

As part of the Active Travel agenda, improving pedestrian and alternative travel options across the Borough was now a key priority across Greater Manchester, therefore, any potential redesign would have to look at also improving cycling and pedestrian movements. Reducing the area for movement of pedestrians at this junction would reduce the current pedestrian capacity in a location that was especially well used by pedestrians.

TfGM had however been asked to look at the traffic signal timings and traffic flows at the junction to see if any changes could be made that would assist in improving the movement of traffic through the junction.

As a supplementary question Councillor Boyes asked that the works regarding the phasing of the traffic lights took place in an expedite manner and perhaps the Council could have a report back no later than the October 2022 Council Meeting. Councillor Adshead advised that a significant number of utilities at the location further complicated the matter, however, acknowledging that timescales were dependant on joint working with TFGM, he would supply Councillor Boyes with the details as soon as the information became available.

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

“In the 2017/18 financial year, the last year Trafford was under a Conservative administration, Trafford MBC was 16th in the National Recycling League tables according to letsrecycle.com. Could the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services please give the latest publicly available position in the league?”

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environment and Regulatory Services reported that the latest publically available data was from 2020/21 and that Trafford was 53rd out of 338 Local Authorities in the league table.

In addition, the Executive Member considered it was worth noting that the 2020/21 pandemic and work from home mandate saw the amount of types of waste collected change significantly. The amount of waste collected for recycling from households in 2020/21 increased however the amount on non-recyclable waste increased more than the waste for recycling. In early 2020 the Council also continued to see a significant reject rate for paper and cardboard but a significant campaign reduced the amount of contamination later in the year.

Overall in England the official ‘waste from households’ recycling rate was 44.0% in 2020, down 1.5 percentage points from 45.5% in 2019. Trafford was still significantly higher than the average recycling rate at 53.3%

As a supplementary question, Councillor Morgan sought confirmation of the total cost of the increased charges Trafford has had to pay as a result of the 6% reduction in recycling rates. Cllr Adshead agreed to provide Cllr Morgan with the figures and added that the Green Bin Tax at the time significantly impacted upon recycling rates for that year and once scrapped there was evidence of the rates rising before the pandemic took effect.

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

“In a recent press release celebrating the Secondary Schools Offer Day, the Council confirmed the offering of one of their three preferences to 91% of Trafford children.

Could the Lead Member for Education tell us how many of these young people were offered a place at their first preference school?”

Councillor K. Carter, the Lead Member for Education confirmed that of the 3340 on time applications received 2542 children were allocated their first preference which equated to 76%. The Lead Member explained, however, that Trafford had a high proportion of illegible applications, nearly 400 in the past year, where Grammar School preferences are selected and then the entrance exam was not passed which meant that a high school selected counted as their first preference. Taking those into account the figure was 82% which was in line with the national average of 81.1%.

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Referring to children that receive schools outside of their community, Councillor Holden asked as a supplementary question whether the Lead Member could share the plan that exists to maintain community cohesion by increasing the possibility of children going onto secondary school with their friends and colleagues from their primary school. Sharing Councillor Holden's concerns, Councillor K. Carter acknowledged the dilemma that on paper Trafford appeared to have enough school places, however, they were not where there were pressures. There was a School Place Board and regards the plan, the Lead Member agreed to ask the Board for the information.

- (f) Councillor Miss Blackburn asked the following question for which she had given notice:

"Would the Executive Member inform me why money is being spent on white road markings being repainted whilst there are hundreds of pot holes that require filling?"

In response, the Executive Member for Environment and Regulatory Services, Councillor Adshead advised that as the Highway Authority, Trafford had a statutory duty to maintain all of the highway asset other than just the road surface, including road markings which provided road users with guidance on how to use the road and were an important contributory factor for improving road safety particularly at junctions.

White line replacement was often undertaken in large areas or on entire roads as the major cost was in mobilisation of the equipment, whilst the relative costs of replacing white lines was small in comparison to repair of potholes. Included in replacement markings were lane demarcations, left and right turn lanes, give way and stop lines, which if were faded beyond recognition and there was a subsequent accident, the Council could be liable for any claim. Therefore highway maintenance budgets were spent on a number of different repairs including potholes, signage and road markings to keep road users safe when using the roads.

Councillor Miss Blackburn asked as a supplementary question how much the Council had paid out in compensation to road users for damage caused to their vehicles coming into contact with pot holes in the current municipal year. Councillor Adshead asked Councillor Miss Blackburn to liaise with him further and he would provide that information.

75. HIGH SPEED 2 PHASE 2B WESTERN LEG (CREWE-MANCHESTER) HYBRID BILL PETITIONING

The Leader of the Council submitted a report proposing that the Council should object to elements of the HS2 Phase 2b Western Leg (Crewe- Manchester) hybrid Bill, deposited in Parliament on 24 January 2022.

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RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Council agrees that it is expedient for Trafford Council to oppose elements of the HS2 Phase 2b Western Leg (Crewe- Manchester) hybrid Bill.
- (2) That the framework and general direction of the Council's Petition outlined in the report, be approved.
- (3) That the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy and the Leader of the Council or the Executive Member for Regeneration and Housing, be delegated authority to take all such steps as may be necessary to produce a Petition, including steps required to submit a Petition and thereafter to maintain it, and if considered appropriate, withdraw the whole or parts of the Petition in respect of the HS2 Phase 2b Western Leg (Crewe- Manchester) hybrid Bill.
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy and the Leader of the Council or the Executive Member for Regeneration and Housing, to negotiate and seek such assurances/undertaking/agreements to the HS2 Phase 2b Western Leg (Crewe- Manchester) hybrid Bill as necessary.
- (5) That the Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy be delegated authority to sign or seal any such documents as are required to give effect to any decisions made pursuant to this Council decision.

76. TRAFFORD COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23

The Corporate Director of Strategy and Resources submitted a report providing the Council with information relating to Trafford's Pay Policy for 2022/23 in line with the requirements for the Localism Act 2011.

In response to a request from Councillor Myers for a comparison of Trafford's approach with other Greater Manchester councils, Councillor Ross, Executive Member for Finance and Governance advised that he would seek to provide the information outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the 2022/23 Pay Policy statement, as recommended by Employment Committee on 28 February 2022, as set out in the report, be approved.

77. COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report on the development of a new Councillor Code of Conduct for Trafford.

In accordance with the approval process for constitutional amendments, the Standards Committee on 15 December 2021, the Scrutiny Committee on 7

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February 2022 and the Executive on 28 February 2022 recommended to Council the new Councillor Code of Conduct for Trafford.

RESOLVED: That the Council adopts the Councillor Code of Conduct for Trafford.

78. CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance submitted a report providing details of the review of the current Contract Procedure Rules (“CPRs”) and proposing the adoption of a new set of CPRs by each of the STAR Authorities, namely Stockport, Trafford, Rochdale and Tameside Council’s.

In accordance with the approval process for constitutional amendments, the proposed new CPRs had been recommended for adoption by the Standards Committee on 14 March 2022, the Scrutiny Committee on 16 March 2022 and the Executive on 21 March 2022.

RESOLVED: That the proposed new Contract Procedure Rules be adopted by the Council.

79. SCRUTINY REVIEW OUTCOMES REPORT

The Council considered a report of the Scrutiny Committee providing a summary of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Review Panel which included areas reviewed; areas of success and areas of potential improvement; and details of proposed improvements which were currently being considered by Members.

The report advised that the scrutiny function review undertaken by the Scrutiny Review Panel and the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny had highlighted that the Scrutiny function at Trafford was effective and that the proposed changes were around process and procedure, rather than fundamental changes.

RESOLVED: That the work of the Scrutiny Review Panel and the recommended improvements, set out in section 6 of the report, be approved.

80. DRAFT TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 2022/23

The Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy submitted a report recommending adoption of a provisional timetable of Council and Committee meetings for the 2022/23 municipal year.

RESOLVED: That the provisional timetable of Council and Committee meetings for the 2022/23 municipal year, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and recommended to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 25 May 2022.

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81. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

With the consent of the Council to a proposed alteration to the Motion that had been submitted, it was moved and seconded that:

“This Council wholeheartedly condemns the barbaric and illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. As a democratic chamber, we are appalled by what we have seen unfold over recent weeks – horrors which we all hoped we would never see on our continent again. All our thoughts are for the men, women and children who are currently suffering immeasurably, whether it be in the cities under bombardment, those occupied by Russian forces, or those who have fled their homes.

There is no justification for the actions of the Russian Government, and we offer our backing to the Ukrainian people, Ukrainian Government and President Zelenskyy as they continue to fight for Ukrainian freedom, democracy and independence.

We applaud countries across the world who have come out to condemn and sanction the Russian regime and President Putin’s leadership.

We welcome the government’s plans to offer sanctuary to Ukrainians fleeing danger and are ready to help support those who comes to live in Trafford.

We recognise these actions are not the actions of the Russian people, but the Russian Government. We reject any attacks on Russian people in the UK, and offer our moral support to the Russian opposition groups bravely opposing the Putin regime.

Finally, this Council extends its thoughts and prayers to members of the Trafford Ukrainian community and pays tribute to the incredible generosity the people of Trafford have shown in their personal efforts to support the humanitarian response to this crisis.”

Following speeches in support, the Motion was agreed with the unanimously consent of the Council and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That this Council wholeheartedly condemns the barbaric and illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. As a democratic chamber, we are appalled by what we have seen unfold over recent weeks – horrors which we all hoped we would never see on our continent again. All our thoughts are for the men, women and children who are currently suffering immeasurably, whether it be in the cities under bombardment, those occupied by Russian forces, or those who have fled their homes.

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82. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - SITUATION IN UKRAINE

It was moved and seconded that:

This Council asks the Leader and Chief Executive to express the following sentiments on behalf of the Council and the people of Trafford urgently and in writing:

- To the Russian Ambassador in the UK, asking that he requests his Government to withdraw troops from Ukraine immediately.
- To the Ukrainian Ambassador in the UK, expressing the Council's support and solidarity, and respect for his nation's sovereignty and freedom.
- To the Prime Minister of the UK, asking that all efforts are made to welcome refugees coming from Ukraine to the UK without the need for a visa, and advise of our willingness to help in any way we can as a council to settle individuals and families whose lives have so sadly and suddenly been affected by the military action in Ukraine.
- To Ukrainians - and those of Ukrainian heritage - living in Trafford, that we stand with you and the people of Ukraine and offer our support in these unsettling times.
- To Russians living in Trafford, that whilst we profoundly condemn the actions of the Russian President we know this is Putin's war and that Russophobia has no place in Trafford."

Following speeches in support, the Motion was agreed with the unanimously consent of the Council and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That this Council asks the Leader and Chief Executive to express the following sentiments on behalf of the Council and the people of Trafford urgently and in writing:

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- To Russians living in Trafford, that whilst we profoundly condemn the actions of the Russian President we know this is Putin's war and that Russophobia has no place in Trafford.

83. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - PROCUREMENT LINKED TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

With the consent of the Council to a proposed alteration to the Motion that had been submitted, it was moved and seconded that:

"This Council notes:

1. The evidence collected and verified by a range of international non-governmental organisations that the People's Republic of China (PRC) is carrying out alleged crimes of Genocide and crimes against Humanity with regards to Uyghur, Kazakh and other Turkic Muslim populations.
2. On 9th of December 2021, Sir Geoffrey Nice QC delivered in London an independent tribunal's judgement that:
 - "Crimes against humanity attributable to the PRC is established beyond reasonable doubt by acts of: deportation or forcible transfer; imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty; torture; rape and other sexual violence; enforced sterilisation; persecution; enforced disappearance; and other inhumane acts."
 - "As to genocide ... all elements of an intended genocide to be accomplished by a Convention-listed act imposing measures to prevent births within the group are established"

This Council believes:

It has a responsibility to act when crimes against humanity take place anywhere in the world. This responsibility extends to using all legal, political and economic powers it has at its disposal to challenge, disrupt and ultimately contribute to ending these crimes.

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This Council agrees to:

1. Ask our procurement managers to develop, as quickly as possible, a revised procurement policy which would lawfully enable the Council to boycott entering into any future contracts for products or services that have links to companies, individuals or bodies that are directly or indirectly involved in the crimes against humanity currently taking place in China with regards to Uyghur, Kazakh and other Turkic Muslim populations.
2. To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chair of the Local Government Association and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities asking that binding procurement rules are brought forward introducing this position across local government as soon as possible.
3. To share this motion with our fellow Greater Manchester councils and the Greater Manchester Mayor inviting them to adopt the same approach at forthcoming council meetings.”

Following speeches in support, the Motion was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That this Council notes:

1. The evidence collected and verified by a range of international non-governmental organisations that the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is carrying out alleged crimes of Genocide and crimes against Humanity with regards to Uyghur, Kazakh and other Turkic Muslim populations.
2. On 9th of December 2021, Sir Geoffrey Nice QC delivered in London an independent tribunal’s judgement that:
 - “Crimes against humanity attributable to the PRC is established beyond reasonable doubt by acts of: deportation or forcible transfer; imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty; torture; rape and other sexual violence; enforced sterilisation; persecution; enforced disappearance; and other inhumane acts.”
 - “As to genocide ... all elements of an intended genocide to be accomplished by a Convention-listed act imposing measures to prevent births within the group are established”

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3. To share this motion with our fellow Greater Manchester councils and the Greater Manchester Mayor inviting them to adopt the same approach at forthcoming council meetings.

84. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

It was moved and seconded that:

1. "This Council notes that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will take place in 2022;
2. This Council notes that the 2022 May Bank Holiday Weekend will be moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June will see a four-day weekend to celebrate the Jubilee - the first time any British monarch has reached this historic milestone; and
3. This Council recognises the esteem in which the Queen is held by the British public and considers it highly likely that residents in Trafford would wish to see the authority mark the Jubilee in a significant way.

Council therefore:

4. Requests that the Chief Executive of the Council takes steps to explore the feasibility of renaming a road, property asset or landmark in Trafford after Queen Elizabeth II to mark the Platinum Jubilee."

Following speeches in support, the Motion was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council and declared carried.

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RESOLVED: That:

1. This Council notes that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will take place in 2022;
2. This Council notes that the 2022 May Bank Holiday Weekend will be moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June will see a four-day weekend to celebrate the Jubilee - the first time any British monarch has reached this historic milestone; and
3. This Council recognises the esteem in which the Queen is held by the British public and considers it highly likely that residents in Trafford would wish to see the authority mark the Jubilee in a significant way.

Council therefore:

4. Requests that the Chief Executive of the Council takes steps to explore the feasibility of renaming a road, property asset or landmark in Trafford after Queen Elizabeth II to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

85. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(a) Retiring Members of Council

The Mayor indicated that it was the last Council meeting for a number of Members since they would not be seeking re-election in the forthcoming local elections, namely Councillors Carey, Chilton, Cordingley, Dillon, Lamb, Longden and Mitchell.

The Mayor thanked them for their service over the years and expressed the Council's appreciation of their hard work and dedication.

(b) Jane Le Fevre – Monitoring Officer and Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy

The Mayor announced that it was the last meeting for Jane Le Fevre before her retirement and invited the Leader of the Council to present a bouquet of flowers. Jane was given a standing ovation by the Council in recognition of her many years of dedicated service after which she returned thanks conveying that it had been a great honour and a privilege to work with everyone and expressed admiration of the way in which all Members represent their communities.

The meeting commenced at 7.25 p.m. and finished at 9.21 p.m.