

# TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2023

## PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Chris Boyes), in the Chair.

D.C. O'Sullivan (Deputy Mayor)	W. Hassan	K. Procter
D. Acton	S. J. Haughey	S. Procter
S. Adshead	J. Holden	T. Ross
A. Akinola	F. Hornby	J. Slater
J.M. Axford	C. Hynes	S. Taylor
Miss L. Blackburn	D. Jarman	S. Thomas
B. Brotherton	D. Jerrome	R. Thompson
D. Bunting	W. Jones	L. Walsh
D. Butt	J. Leicester	M.J. Welton
G. Carter	J. Lloyd	D. Western
K.G. Carter	S. Maitland	M.P. Whetton
G. Coggins	M. Minnis	A.M. Whyte
R. Duncan	M. Mirza	A.J. Williams
S. G. Ennis	D. Morgan	B.G. Winstanley
W. Frass	A. New	Mrs. P. Young
M. Freeman	J.D. Newgrosh	S. Zhi
J. Harding	T. O'Brien	
B. Hartley	E. Patel	

### In attendance

Chief Executive	S. Todd
Director of Legal and Governance	D. Sykes
Governance Manager	J. Addison
Senior Governance Officer	I. Cockill

## APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bennett, J. E. Brophy, Dr. S. Carr, D.N. Chalkin, L. Dagnall, S.J. Gilbert, P. Myers, A. Western, G. Whitham and J.A. Wright.

## 47. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23 November 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## 48. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### (a) Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Acton, Chair of Scrutiny Committee reported that further to the Council Motion regarding Fields in Trust protection for all of Trafford's parks and open spaces (Minute No. 64 of the Council meeting held on 26 January 2022 refers),

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Scrutiny had received a report and having discussed the issues concluded that it would be an expense for the Council as it would need to employ more staff in the existing team to implement all the 156 sites in the Borough. There were already various protections across the Borough with sites already having Fields in Trust protection or were due to gain the protection. In light of its findings, Scrutiny Committee felt that there was no need to change the existing policy regarding the protection of Trafford's precious parks and land.

(b) Health Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Whetton, Chair of Health Scrutiny reminded Members that the task and finish group project on access to GPs was seeking their involvement in order to get 5 surveys completed from their local ward residents. Members were urged to help ensure there was boroughwide coverage by the deadline of the beginning of February.

#### **49. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

The Mayor reported that 10 questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

(a) Councillor G. Carter had given notice of the following question:

*"The cost of living crisis poses profound challenges to workers. Can the Leader of the Council explain Trafford Council's approach to the Real Living Wage?"*

Councillor Ross, the Leader of the Council had responded directly to the questioner in advance of the meeting as follows and there was no supplementary question:

*"Thank you for your question Councillor Carter. This Labour Administration has been committed to bringing in the Real Living Wage for some time and I am delighted to confirm that Trafford Council is now at the stage where we can apply for Real Living Wage accreditation. This decision was taken to our Public Executive meeting on 23 January 2023. Accreditation will mean that 320 staff across the council and schools, who are on the lowest pay scales, will receive additional payments at a time when many are faced with increasing living costs.*

*The Council will join 5 current local authorities in Greater Manchester who have been accredited by the Living Wage Foundation as paying the Real Living Wage. We will also be joining 55 Real Living Wage Accredited organisations in the Borough."*

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(b) Councillor Zhi had given notice of the following question:

*“Can the Executive Member for Environmental Services please tell me how many complaints have been made directly to the Council since I was elected in May 2022 regarding the location or timing of road works in the Bowdon ward?”*

The Executive Member, Councillor Adshead had responded to the questioner in advance of the meeting and the response had been published on the Council’s website as follows:

*“The Council records requests for service, enquires and complaints relative to highway services in the CRM/C360 system that unfortunately cannot be broken down into wards or type of service such as roadworks due to the way the data is currently captured. Hence, we are unable to give that level of detail without reading all the text in the complaints that we have received relative to highway works. Since May 2022 last year (for the whole borough) the council received 232 Stage 1 complaints and 48 Stage 2 complaints logged as Highway’s complaints. These complaints will cover many different topics linked to problems with the highway. The replacement for the CRM/C360 system that is currently being developed with IT will include additional functionality to allow more detailed reports to be produced going forward and this is anticipated to be in place during 2024.”*

Councillor Zhi, having received several residents complaint about street works, asked as a supplementary question what steps the Council could undertake to ensure better co-ordination between utility companies so that tax payers money was spent fairly and efficiently. Councillor Adshead advised that there was no cost to the public purse since they were private companies and indicated that he was aware of one complaint from the Bowdon Ward which he understood Councillor Zhi to have had a satisfactory answer to. The Executive Member believed that communication had improved between utility companies and referred all Members to the GM Roadworks website that provided extensive details of all the works being undertaken in the conurbation.

(c) Councillor Welton had given notice of the following question, the first of two questions he had submitted for the meeting:

*“The Council has a comprehensive gritting programme for keeping carriageways clear, but in December’s cold spell many pavements were left icy and dangerous for days. I know of older and vulnerable people who were trapped in their homes for over week, for fear of falling. Will the Executive Member for Environmental Services consider developing a strategy for clearing pavements when long periods of cold weather are forecast?”*

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member had responded to the questioner in advance of the meeting and the response had been published on the Council’s website as follows:

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*“There is already a strategy in place for dealing with clearance and treatment of footways when there are prolonged periods of ice and snow conditions. It is unaffordable and logistically impractical to have teams standing by to undertake treatment of all footways routinely during prolonged spells of cold weather. There is a priority list of footways that are treated during prolonged cold weather and the approach to gritting is included on the website. These footways are treated by staff who are redeployed from the highways, street cleaning and grounds maintenance staff whilst they are unable to undertake their routine tasks due to the cold weather. The footways that are treated are predominantly in and around shopping areas, around schools and hospitals. Treatment involves hand spreading of grit hence why they are unable to undertake this on all footways and is only undertaken as and when those other services are unable to be delivered due to the cold weather. Compacted ice and snow, however, is difficult to remove once it has taken hold and will often remain in place until after the thaw hence there is likely to be some footways that will have residual ice and snow during prolonged severe weather periods. During these times we would follow government guidance on additional community support to ensure vulnerable members of Trafford are catered for: Guidance on community action during severe weather - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) Gritting ([trafford.gov.uk](http://trafford.gov.uk))”*

Councillor Welton asked as a supplementary question whether the Executive Member would consider conducting a review and consultation to better understand the impact of prolonged cold weather on the safety and mobility of vulnerable residents with a view to informing Council policy in that area. The Executive Member drew members attention to the link provided in his response that provided an explanation of work undertaken particularly in heavy weather and advised that in general terms the Council’s Scrutiny function that can decide to review the service which he would welcome should Scrutiny decide. Councillor Adshead also re-affirmed that he would also welcome any concerns that Councillor Welton may wish to raise.

- (d) Councillor Welton had given notice of the following question, the second of two questions he had submitted for the meeting:

*“Like other members I would like to pay tribute to the work Eleanor Roaf has done for Trafford as Director of Public Health. Please can I ask the Executive Member for Climate Change and Transport Strategy if he has read the Greater Manchester Active Travel Public Health Manifesto, of which she was co-author?”*

The Executive Member, Councillor Williams had responded to the questioner in advance of the meeting as follows and the response had been published on the Council’s website:

*“Thank you for your question Councillor Welton. I can confirm that I have read and am familiar with the Greater Manchester Active Travel Public Health Manifesto which has in part informed the ambitions of the administration regarding Active Travel.”*

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As a supplementary question, Councillor Welton asked whether the Executive Member agreed that the best leaving present the Council could give Eleanor Roaf in tribute to her many years of service would be a commitment to implement the actions set out in the Active Travel Public Health Manifesto in full.

Councillor Williams indicated that he certainly agreed with the spirit of the question and went on to explain that there were several actions recommended in the manifesto that linked to the work that Trafford was already delivering on Active Travel, in partnership with Transport for Greater Manchester and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Trafford was presently consulting on its Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy which identified the approach that the Council would be undertaking and was linked to the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040. Trafford was actively progressing several schemes and initiatives as part of that work, which the Executive Member provided a brief update on:

- In respect of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, Urmston had been identified as an area that would benefit from a range of measures to support active travel and was being progressed with funding via Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). Other localities had been introduced including Longford Park and a public consultation and scoping exercise had been completed in respect of the Walton Road Estate in Sale.
- In respect of 20mph zones and safer streets, there were many requests for such measures and Trafford could progress several 20mph streets in areas and were focusing in and around schools. There was a funding consideration around this area of work and the Executive Member suggested that more funding was needed to accelerate the programme.
- In respect of safer pedestrian areas – All new public realm development work was being designed in line with Transport for Greater Manchester's Streets for All Strategy and design guide. The Council had been working collaboratively with TfGM to ensure Trafford's review of its own Design Guide aligned with the streets for all principles to ensure future developments were safe for pedestrians.
- In respect of parking enforcement, it was a difficult area to tackle as significant resource was required, additionally there were competing demands for parking in many of our streets; a situation that was not unique to Trafford. Obstruction of the highway was also a Police function to enforce. Having a zero-parking policy on pavements would potentially cause issues with access for emergency vehicles in some of our older narrower streets that were not designed for the number of cars that were presently being used by households. In particularly bad areas, the Council looked to introduce yellow lines to protect junctions and streets of footfall. Government guidance was still awaited on this however, with the ambition to move to 50/50 modal shift there should be a reduction in car ownership in the medium to longer term that would allow enforcement to be undertaken with reduced consequences as described, subject to resources

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being available. Councillor Welton would also be aware of changes in the Council's approach to enforcement, as approved at the meeting of Executive Committee earlier that week.

- In respect of better access to cycling and walking opportunities – there were several schemes that were reaching detailed design and delivery stage across Trafford which were linked to the Active Travel Funding of £20 million which was currently allocated to the Council and those schemes were offering better access to cycling and walking. These were being delivered in collaboration with TfGM. There was also a large pipeline of areas that Trafford would progress in the medium and longer term, but any progression would be subject to funding from Active Travel England.

Councillor Williams hoped that Councillor Welton could appreciate that as he had said earlier, the administration did very much agree with the spirit of the question.

(e) Councillor Maitland had given notice of the following question:

*" I very much welcome the Council's multimillion-pound Leisure Strategy, as this is already having a hugely successful impact within the borough - as we move into the next phase, which will see Altrincham Leisure Centre completely transformed to replicate the flourishing Move Urmston: Could I please ask my colleague, Councillor Harding, Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships, how will this strategy coupled with her vision – make further strides to improve the health, fitness and well-being for all residents across the borough?"*

The Executive Member, Councillor Harding had responded directly to the questioner in advance of the meeting and the response had been published on the Council's website as follows, to which there was not a supplementary question:

*"Trafford Moving is the boroughs strategic approach to Sport and Physical Activity and takes a whole system approach. A whole system approach provides the opportunity to align the boroughs leisure centres and wider physical and community assets, partnership, clubs, voluntary sector and sporting NGBS to deliver universal and targeted programmes of activity, providing accessible, affordable opportunities for all residents to move more each day.*

*Building on the recent success of Urmston Moving, Trafford Council's proposed leisure investment programme is informed by Trafford Moving and will deliver fit for purpose facilities that are embedded in local communities, offering a broad programme of activities, and mix of facilities tailored to local needs. The refurbished centres will act as local hubs of activity that deliver programmes to encourage and support residents to be more physically active, focused on delivering health and wellbeing outcomes for Trafford communities.*

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*This includes the recently announced successfully bid for nearly £20 million to help revitalise Partington Sports Village through Levelling Up funding. The investment will safeguard the future of vital leisure facilities in the town and help deliver significant health and wellbeing benefits.”*

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

*“In Gorse Hill Ward many residents have approached me asking what is the Council doing to support the community in these difficult times. Can I ask the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships to explain what her department is doing to support residents around the “cost of living crisis?”*

The Executive Member, Councillor Harding had responded directly to the questioner in advance of the meeting and confirmed her response to the meeting as follows, to which there was not a supplementary question:

*“Trafford Council was quick of the mark in responding to the Cost of Living crisis and supporting residents through*

- Trafford Assist – providing financial and local welfare assistance to help provide food, furniture, white goods and extra support to help with Fuel Bills*
- Free School Meals – supporting children and young people*
- Citizens Advice Trafford – offering advice and guidance to residents*
- Welfare Rights Services – providing tailored support to access benefits and Budgeting Support Advisors based in Community Hubs*
- Living Rooms – providing a safe, warm space in over 50 sites borough-wide, with hot drinks, refreshments, wi-fi and activities*
- Community Hubs – funded to support and signpost residents to services*
- Winter Wellbeing Packs – 3,000 packed and distributed to residents, with blankets, hot water bottles, hats, gloves and information about local services to help keep them warm and well*
- Assistance for people at risk of homelessness and support with rent and household costs*
- Real Living Wage – additional payments for 320 staff on the lowest pay bands working in our schools and across the council, being uplifted to the Real Living Wage rate*
- Energyworks – offer free energy advice and equipment to improve fuel efficiency of homes*
- Money Advice Referral Tool – developed to boost household income and access the relevant support service*
- Pension Credit – promoting uptake to support pensioners to access eligible financial support*
- Help with School Uniform – grants and second hand uniforms*
- Launched Trafford Poverty Truth Commission to bring people with lived experience of poverty together with leaders from partners, to develop policy solutions and recommendations which will inform a refreshed Trafford Poverty Strategy led by the Poverty Action Group*

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*We are working closely with partners, who have helped respond to this impact, such as Trafford Housing Trust who have also launched a Winter Support Fund to help residents. Whilst I applaud the excellent partnership work that is being done to address the Cost of Living Crisis, this Labour administration can never settle for food banks and living rooms to be an accepted part of our society. The work we are doing as part of the Poverty Truth Commission and Poverty Action Group will set out bold plans for the future to strive to eradicate poverty.”*

(g) Councillor Duncan had given notice of the following question:

*“On 19 November 2022, the Secretary of State for Levelling up Housing and Communities wrote to all Local Authority Chief Executive and council leaders following the tragedy of the little boy, who died at two years old as a direct result of mould in his family home. The letter highlighted the urgent need to ensure a decent standard of properties for tenants in all sectors.*

*Can the Executive Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods please tell me what action the Council has taken since May 2022 to prioritise the improvement of housing conditions for the thousands of private and social tenants in Trafford, in line with existing duties in the Housing Act 2004?”*

The Executive Member, Councillor Wright had responded to the questioner in advance of the meeting and the response had been published on the Council's website as follows:

*“Trafford has the benefit of a comprehensive stock condition survey to help inform our approach to arising housing standards in our Borough. The Survey carried out just before the pandemic found that 84.3% of the private sector homes in Trafford met the requirements of the Decent Homes Standards – compared with 79.9% nationally. It also found that 5.5% of occupied dwellings in Trafford experienced Category 1 hazards, well below the national average of 12.1% - with dampness mould accounted for around half of these Category 1 hazards.*

*Whilst the position of housing in Trafford is better than average – any property with such problems is one home too many. Our small but effective housing standards team respond to around 350 housing complaints each year. Over the past three years Damp and Mould problems have accounted for between 9.6% and 15.5% of all complaints received.*

*Since this tragic incident was brought to public attention, we have changed our complaints process so that damp and mould issues are given a higher profile. All complainants now receive an immediate advice leaflet so they are better able to address the issue, regardless of what formal action may subsequently follow. We do not yet have full figures from May 2022 but I can advise that since we changed our processes in November we have dealt with 30 damp & mould complaints across the Borough.*



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*At the same time the Government has written to all registered providers to ensure they are actively managing this issue. We are aware that THT have altered their procedures as a consequence to be more responsive to this type of complaint."*

Councillor Duncan indicated that the letter from the Secretary of State requested a full response by 27 January 2023 and as a supplementary question if the response would be shared with Members and more widely with Trafford citizens and appealed for the Council to take action in properties where damp and mould issues still existed and to promote the needs of existing residents.

Councillor Ross, Leader of the Council responded to the supplementary question, In the absence of Councillor Wright and advised that he was aware of the letter and that a response would be submitted by 27 January he would check whether it could be published. As part of the letter, the Council would be asking government for more resource to provide greater enforcement and inspection of inadequate properties.

(h) Councillor Holden had submitted the following question for which he had given notice:

*"How many agreed crossing patrol points are there in the Borough and how many are currently vacant?"*

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Environmental Services had responded directly to the questioner in advance of the meeting and confirmed his response to the meeting as follows:

*"Trafford Council currently operates and funds 71 crossing points across the borough. All of our current sites have been categorised using the National Guidance published by Road Safety Great Britain (RSGB).*

*The provision of school crossing staff is not a statutory duty for councils. However, we recognise that they make a valuable contribution towards pupils' safe and sustainable travel to schools.*

*There are four categories of SCP Site as defined by the guidance:*

- *Category P: A SCP is justified at the site, though it is recommended that a signal controlled crossing is installed instead.*
- *Category A: A SCP is justified at the site.*
- *Category B: A SCP site is not initially justified but further factors (such as proximity to junctions and the age of the children using the crossing) may be considered and may potentially move the point into category A.*
- *Category C: No justification for a SCP site unless exceptional circumstances exist*

*Trafford has 66 Cat A crossings, i.e. a SCP is justified. The other 5 are Cat B but have additional traffic / road juncture issues.*

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*The guidance also states that where there is a fully automatic traffic signal (ATS) crossing, there is no need to have a staffed crossing point, unless there are exceptional circumstances.*

*We currently have 12 School Crossing Patrol vacancies that we have not managed to recruit to, despite continuing to run recruitment campaigns. We are also seeking to recruit mobile staff to enable us to cover staff that are unavailable due to sickness absence.*

*Our objective is to have a full staff compliment to ensure we can cover all 71 of our staffed crossings as it is extremely difficult to move staff from one crossing to another when we do not have adequate staff.*

*In conjunction with Road Safety a Transport for Greater Manchester survey is to be commissioned on a small number of suitable crossings to assess the possibility of placing automatic traffic signal crossings to mitigate the need for a school crossing patrols."*

Councillor Holden asked as a supplementary question what additional methods had the Council put in place since 2018 to improve recruitment and thereby decrease the vacancies and what interventions, such as additional light controlled crossings have been installed.

Councillor Adshead advised that there was ongoing advertisement but for a long time prior to 2018 recruitment to certain areas of the borough had been a long standing and growing problem across Greater Manchester and perhaps nationally for a whole variety of reasons. An easy solution was not apparent and he would be happy consider all suggestions.

In terms of a programme for controlled crossings a number, as mentioned in the response, were now being examined by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and each year the Council considered schemes as part of its capital programme with priority given to those in close proximity to schools. Larger junctions were more expensive and bids for government schemes were submitted through TfGM rather than by the Council itself.

(g) Councillor Axford had given notice of the following question:

*"In view of the urgency of tackling the climate emergency and our aspiration to reach zero carbon by 2038, can the Executive Member for Climate Change and Transport Strategy please let us know if it is possible to have additional council officer resource?"*

The Executive Member, Councillor Adshead had responded directly to the questioner in advance of the meeting and the response had been published on the Council's website as follows, to which there was not a supplementary question:

*Since the Council first declared a Climate emergency in November 2018 we have been working to ensure Climate Change action is at the heart of the Councils activities. Notable milestones include our first Carbon Neutral action*

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*Plan in December 2020, the establishment of Climate Change Commission and significant de-carbonisation works on our public buildings. Our revised Corporate Plan establishes “Addressing our climate crisis” as one of our three priorities for the Council – and so whilst tackling climate change is the responsibility of all services across the authority, I recognise this agenda needs to be properly resourced.*

*With that in mind, I am pleased to announce that resources have been identified to boost the dedicated officer team – with both a more senior officer role at Head of Service level, commensurate with this high-profile activity, alongside an additional officer within the team to progress ongoing activity. Full details will be within the Budget Report to be submitted to Council next month.*

(h) Councillor Newgrosh had given notice of the following question:

*“Having just passed the third anniversary of Trafford Council’s Empty Homes Policy, with the most recent Council report stating the long term empty housing have risen to 912 (as of December 2021), and with my residents still blighted by the threat of New Homes and Offices on the Greenbelt of Timperley Wedge:*

*How many long term empty homes have been brought back into use by this important Council initiative? And, can the Executive Member inform us what December 2022’s Long Term Empty figures are?”*

Councillor Wright, Executive Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods had responded to the questioner in advance of the meeting and the response had been published on the Council’s website as follows:

*“I agree with Cllr Newgrosh that empty properties are a cause of concern – and that we need to work pro-actively to ensure as many are brought back into effective use as possible. As an example of this I’m pleased to say that Trafford Housing Trust will be starting work next month on refurbishing the empty flats at Lindow Court in Sale, utilising £540,000 from our Trafford Affordable Housing Fund. this will provide 9 one and two bedroomed flats, re-fitted to modern standards.*

*Unfortunately, it wasn’t possible to collate the figures to December in time for this meeting, but I undertake to provide those in writing as soon as possible.*

*Meanwhile I cannot agree that development at Timperley Wedge will be in any way a blight– of course we should be prudent with the use of our precious greenbelt land, but the delivery of much needed affordable housing alongside a mix of conventional family homes should only be viewed as a benefit to the local community.”*

Councillor Newgrosh asked as a supplementary question that if building homes and new office space on green belt was not a blight as asserted but in fact a benefit to the local community, why has William Wroe been placed in a Fields in Trust instead of those residents sharing in the claimed benefits.

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Councillor Ross, Leader of the Council responded to the supplementary question, In the absence of Councillor Wright and wished to restate what the Executive Member had put in his written answer. Trafford had a housing shortage with people desperate for housing in the Borough, people waiting a long time and people living with their families waiting to move in to somewhere. The Council had to look at places to build houses and Timperley Wedge was one of those assets that had been looked at over the long term. The Leader made no apology at looking to increase house building and it continued to be a priority for the administration, as was building a number of affordable houses. He hoped in the longer term that Trafford would become a more affordable place for people to live, to raise their families and to call home.

**50. PETITION - SAVE ALTRINCHAM TOWN HALL**

Petitioner, Trevor Stone was in attendance to introduce the following petition which before the meeting had received 1,731 signatures in support and to present the community's case for saving Altrincham Town Hall for use by the community:

“We petition the Council to abandon its intention to dispose of Altrincham Town Hall unless it is to a community-based organisation as was done with Stretford Public Hall and the George Carnall Leisure Centre in Urmston.

Altrincham Town Hall is a beautiful building, both inside and out, and it has served the local community well for the past 120 years. It must continue to function that way and we implore the Council to ensure this happens.

Why is this so important? The Town Hall is a key component of Altrincham's heritage and it is now the only true community space left in the town centre offering affordable facilities for meetings, events and other activities. It is used by many community groups and its impressive Council Chamber is a perfect and increasingly popular location for weddings.

It must not become one of those “you only miss it once it's gone” items. Timperley has already lost its library, and the Jubilee Centre in Bowdon is scheduled to be next. Hale, Broadheath and Hale Barns have only very limited meeting facilities and the loss of Altrincham Town Hall would thus leave the area of south Trafford with virtually no available community space at all.”

The petitioner outlined some of the difficulties encountered with the process to renew the Town Hall's listing as an Asset of Community Value and the Council's decision not to proceed with their application. The petition was quick to attract the public's attention, however, it too had not been without difficulty before now being put before the Council. In summary, he felt that the process was shambolic and that the community had been made to feel unfairly treated and appealed to work with the Council and not against it to find a mutually agreeable solution. A community bid would remove the liability of running and maintaining the building which would be done via a community interest company and with a passion for the building and its heritage the Council would know that it would be done properly. Altrincham Town Hall was quite simply an irreplaceable community asset. Having met the commercial bidder to explore possibilities for joint use of the facility it

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regrettably had come to nothing and the Council was politely requested to listen to and act upon the views of the community.

Councillor Patel, Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration and Councillors Whetton, Newgrosh and Welton responded to the petition on behalf of the political parties and made the following points:

Councillor Patel: Acknowledged the genuine and heartfelt community interest in the matter and set the budgetary scene. When facing difficult financial decisions the administration always sought to protect frontline services and the most vulnerable. In order to protect an important part of Borough's heritage, the Council was looking to find a sustainable financial future for Altrincham Town Hall and it was not being sold, redeveloped for flats or lost to Council ownership. As an Asset of Community Value, the Council was legally bound to follow a strict process around any potential lease of the building and the work which had been undertaken was set out for the meeting and in terms of the legal obligations concerning the disposal of an Asset of Community Value, the Council had fully complied. Considered that community groups had been given a fair and transparent chance to bring forward their proposals. Unlike George H. Carnall and Streford Public Hall, two of the three business cases received were reliant on ongoing Council funding. The petition was now asking to now dismiss the legally sound process undertaken and hold out indefinitely until a sustainable community business case emerged which would present the Council with an ongoing risk of exposure. A positive picture could be painted of Council investment into community space in Altrincham and surrounding areas and contrary to the petition, Timperley had in fact a new library not a closed one and the Council had supported community aspirations to maintain a temporary library in Hale and invested significantly in Altrincham Community Hub as part of the wider hub network – this was not a picture of disinvestment or decline. In conclusion, following due process, the Council intended to progress to the next stage of the Asset of Community Value disposal which was to present the results of bids received to the Executive and to seek a formal decision on the successful bid. For the reasons that had been set out, did not consider that the Council should delay progression of the matter beyond February 2023.

Councillor Whetton: Considered a better route to save on costs was available which was to seek to reduce the current costs to nil, perhaps on an acceptable tapered financial basis, whilst placing the responsibility for running the building into community hands. A community group would invest for the long term with pride and ambition also and a care that would be unlikely in a commercial contract and prevent dilapidation. Community groups could apply for grants meant for such purposes and retention of the premises for community use would be a good longer term prospect for the Council, whereas a commercial deal would likely need re-running several years hence without loyalty to Altrincham or the Council. Considered the parallels drawn in the petition to Streford Public Hall and George H. Carnall Leisure Centre were relevant in terms of balancing out the approach across the Borough.

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Councillor Newgrosh: Altrincham Town Hall could easily play a key role in the continued success of the heritage quarter with considerable potential to add value without losing its community role. Would be wrong to lose the site's civic function and public access. Considered Altrincham Town Hall should be given as fair a chance as Streford Public Hall.

Councillor Welton: Considered marking and investment would have overcome the building's limitations as a venue and would have served to make it more viable in the long term. Understand in times of austerity but the case for the Town Hall being unviable as a public venue remained unproven, whereas the Community Group can see the potential in the building. Given the huge petition and growing community interest, urged the administration to have patience and to nurture that interest for a community bid for the Town Hall.

Following the discussion the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ross thanked Trevor for his introduction of the petition and as someone who knew the building having been there and able to recognise the beauty of the building inside and out, he emphasised that the building and its feature were not going anywhere. The Council would still own the building and was looking to safeguard its future. He had received strong assurances that the process was carried out fairly with due diligence and above board. Having heard the concerns Mr. Stone had raised, Councillor Ross was willing before the Executive came to a decision in February to ask again and stress test everything he had said to make sure that the advice the Council had been given was watertight.

Councillor Patel had set out the case for proceeding and also the financial context faced by the Council and as Leader he had a duty to do the best for the borough's residents as a whole. It was not an easy decision and given what he had said about having further reassurances about the process, it was one that would not be taken lightly, however, there was a duty to protect the Council Tax payer and make sure every penny possible was put into frontline services.

The Leader was grateful for the petition and delighted to see such interest in the building. With regard to the reference to Streford Public Hall, the group was rewarded as they had a robust case but unfortunately, for Altrincham, despite the best efforts of the community, it had just not worked out that time. The Council did have another bidder which it was looking to consider at the Executive where the decision would be taken. Councillor Ross thanked everyone for their contributions and the Council would pick up on the concerns raised Mr. Stone and would make sure it had assurances before any further decision was taken.

**51. 6-MONTH CORPORATE REPORT ON HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING- 1  
APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing and Equalities submitted a report providing information on Council-wide health and safety performance and delivery. The report also provided a summary of other key developments in relation to health, safety and wellbeing for the period 1 April to 30 September 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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**52. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM - CIVIC QUARTER AREA ACTION PLAN: FORMAL ADOPTION**

(Note: The Mayor allowed consideration of this matter as an item of urgency and varied the order of business to receive a report recommending the formal adoption of the Civic Quarter Area Action Plan which had been recommended to Council by the Executive at it's meeting held on 23 January 2023.)

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration submitted a report detailing the examination process for the Civic Quarter Area Action Plan (CQAAP), a development plan document that would form the basis for planning decisions in the Civic Quarter which aimed to deliver a substantially regenerated neighbourhood in part of north Trafford. The examination process concluded with the issuing of the Inspector's Report in December 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Civic Quarter Area Action Plan be adopted by the Council, in accordance with Article 4.02 (m) of Trafford Council's Constitution (August 2022), as submitted to the Secretary of State on 26 November 2021 and set out Appendix A to the report, subject to the inclusion of:

- a. The final schedule of Main Modifications as recommended by the Inspector as necessary to make the CQAAP sound, as set out in Appendix Cb to the report;
- b. The changes to the policies map and parameter plans, as set out in Appendix Bb to the report; and
- c. The updated schedule of minor modifications, as set out in Appendix Cc to the report.

**53. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP - IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY WITH LATER-RUNNING TRAMS**

It was moved and seconded that:

"This Council notes that:

- Trafford residents, either working in the hospitality sector or enjoying the night-time economy, face a curfew for the tram, expensive taxis, or a risky walk home in the dark.
- Tackling both Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and gender-based violence more widely are priorities for Greater Manchester Police across the city region.
- Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham has announced his ambition to make the city's tram network the "11<sup>th</sup> district" for policing.
- This means that a late-night tram service across Greater Manchester is increasingly becoming the best transport option to ensure thousands of people across the region can get home safely in the evenings and after dark.

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Regarding the viability of such a service, this Council further notes that:

- Since November 2021 London's "night tube" continues to be successful and has surpassed fears that it would have limited customers. The service runs at an off peak cost.
- Concerns that there won't be enough passengers can be assuaged by looking to the success of the later running Airport Line which is much used as the "last tram" home for many. An expansion to existing services would not mean less use and many passengers could use a day ticket which runs for the whole service.
- Metrolink has seen a growth and return to pre-pandemic levels of service users on the Greater Manchester tram network.
- The population of Greater Manchester is projected to rapidly increase in the coming years as more and more people move to our city. Here in Trafford we will see additional population increase around projects such as 'Trafford Waters' which will have a higher percentage of public transport users.
- We must have the responsibility and foresight to put into practice safe and accessible public transport links.

This Council resolves to:

- Ask Transport for Greater Manchester to run a 3 month trial of the night tram on the Altrincham to Bury service, and to monitor its success.
- If a trial is granted, to work in close partnership with British Transport Police to ensure that resourcing is in place to keep a late night service safe for all users, with an emphasis to preventing gender based violence.
- Ask the Leader to write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester calling for his support."

Following a debate on the matter, during which the Leader of the Council invited all Groups to feed in their views so that collaborative representations could be made, the Motion was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That this Council notes that:

- Trafford residents, either working in the hospitality sector or enjoying the night-time economy, face a curfew for the tram, expensive taxis, or a risky walk home in the dark.
- Tackling both Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and gender-based violence more widely are priorities for Greater Manchester Police across the city region.
- Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham has announced his ambition to make the city's tram network the "11<sup>th</sup> district" for policing.



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- If a trial is granted, to work in close partnership with British Transport Police to ensure that resourcing is in place to keep a late night service safe for all users, with an emphasis to preventing gender based violence.
- Ask the Leader to write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester calling for his support.

**54. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - FAIRER FUNDING FOR TRAFFORD**

It was moved and seconded that:

"This Council notes the sustained pressure on local authority finances across the country. Local authorities have borne the brunt of budget cuts over and above those made to other government departments since 2010. This year in particular the Council faces an enormous budget challenge with the cost of living crisis and other factors meaning that the Council's budget gap for 2023/25 has increased to more than £27 million.

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Trafford's funding challenge is made more difficult each year by an outdated funding formula that leads to the Council receiving one of the worst funding settlements in the country. Indeed, were Trafford to be funded at even 90% of the national average for local authorities, the Council would benefit from additional funding of some £5.7 million per annum.

Council notes and welcomes the work undertaken recently by the Executive and Council to campaign for a fairer funding settlement for Trafford. To this end Council affirms our commitment to support the aims of the F20 campaign, a cross-party group of councils seeking to remedy this longstanding funding inequity; and resolves to ask the Leader to write to the Prime Minister calling for an immediate review of this funding formula noting that the detrimental impact this outdated mechanism is having is placing services in Trafford at risk."

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

RESOLVED: This Council notes the sustained pressure on local authority finances across the country. Local authorities have borne the brunt of budget cuts over and above those made to other government departments since 2010. This year in particular the Council faces an enormous budget challenge with the cost of living crisis and other factors meaning that the Council's budget gap for 2023/25 has increased to more than £27 million.

Trafford's funding challenge is made more difficult each year by an outdated funding formula that leads to the Council receiving one of the worst funding settlements in the country. Indeed, were Trafford to be funded at even 90% of the national average for local authorities, the Council would benefit from additional funding of some £5.7 million per annum.

Council notes and welcomes the work undertaken recently by the Executive and Council to campaign for a fairer funding settlement for Trafford. To this end Council affirms our commitment to support the aims of the F20 campaign, a cross-party group of councils seeking to remedy this longstanding funding inequity; and resolves to ask the Leader to write to the Prime Minister calling for an immediate review of this funding formula noting that the detrimental impact this outdated mechanism is having is placing services in Trafford at risk.

**55. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING AND PREVENTATIVE DISEASE**

It was moved and seconded that:

"This Council notes that:

- Preventable disease continues to have a massive impact on the public's health, the NHS and the economy.
- Tobacco is the biggest cause of cancer and premature death in the UK.

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- Decades of comprehensive policy action have meant adult smoking prevalence in the UK in 2019 was at a record low at 14.1%, but this masks significant inequality.
- Differences in smoking rates make it one of the leading drivers of health inequalities, responsible for half the difference in life expectancy between the lowest and highest income groups in England.
- Smoking is estimated by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) to cost society £17 billion annually for England, £2.4 billion of which falls to the NHS.
- That through their public health duties, local authorities are responsible for improving the health of their population and do this through services such as stop smoking services and wider tobacco control activities.

Further Council:

- Believes that local government must be adequately resourced to fulfil their public health duties.
- Supports Cancer Research UK's calls for a Smokefree Fund (a fixed annual charge on the tobacco industry, making the tobacco industry pay for the damage their products cause, without being able to influence how the funds are spent) to fund local tobacco control work, and urges the UK Government to consider implementing a Smokefree Fund as part of its efforts to reach the Smokefree 2030 target and tackle health inequalities.

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

RESOLVED: That this Council notes that:

- Preventable disease continues to have a massive impact on the public's health, the NHS and the economy.
- Tobacco is the biggest cause of cancer and premature death in the UK.
- Decades of comprehensive policy action have meant adult smoking prevalence in the UK in 2019 was at a record low at 14.1%, but this masks significant inequality.
- Differences in smoking rates make it one of the leading drivers of health inequalities, responsible for half the difference in life expectancy between the lowest and highest income groups in England.
- Smoking is estimated by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) to cost society £17 billion annually for England, £2.4 billion of which falls to the NHS.
- That through their public health duties, local authorities are responsible for improving the health of their population and do this through services such as stop smoking services and wider tobacco control activities.

Further Council:

- Believes that local government must be adequately resourced to fulfil their public health duties.

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- Supports Cancer Research UK's calls for a Smokefree Fund (a fixed annual charge on the tobacco industry, making the tobacco industry pay for the damage their products cause, without being able to influence how the funds are spent) to fund local tobacco control work, and urges the UK Government to consider implementing a Smokefree Fund as part of its efforts to reach the Smokefree 2030 target and tackle health inequalities.

**56. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE GREEN PARTY GROUP - A PARKING POLICY TO WORK FOR CLEAN AIR AND ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

It was moved and seconded that:

"This Council notes:

Parking policy has the potential to be one of most effective tools councils can use to reduce car dependency and promote road safety. Trafford Council can free up space, create an attractive public realm and work towards our Climate Emergency and Vision Zero ambitions. The time for this has never been so urgent. UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, told world leaders at the opening of Cop 27: "We are in the fight of our lives and we are losing. Our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible." This Council can use its parking controls to incentivise and enable a shift towards more sustainable transport that will benefit all road users. This must also be fair and not disproportionately affect the less well off in the borough.

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Parking Policy Benchmark Tool suggests a range of practical measures by which parking policy can be utilised to support its vision and principles. This Council notes that many of these measures are already being actively implemented by councils around the UK and recommends that there should scrutiny of these measures to assess their viability for adoption in Trafford.

This Council believes:

The CPRE Parking Policy Benchmark Tool 2022 offers a template which this Council could use to reset its own parking controls. This Council should share its vision and principles:

- Recognition of the need to reduce car use and ownership, and the role parking policy plays in this.
- Recognition of the role parking policy plays in improving air quality and public health.
- Recognition of the role parking policy plays in creating safe and attractive streets.
- Recognition of the role parking policy plays in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- A pledge to make parking policy fair for all residents, not just car owners.

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- A hierarchy of kerbside use that places Blue Badge holders and sustainable uses above car parking.

This Council resolves to:

- Instruct Scrutiny to set up a Task and Finish Group to assess Trafford Council's parking controls that reports with recommendations to the Executive by no later than the end of January 2024.
- Contact the CPRE to notify them of this work and invite them to advise the Task and Finish work.
- Create a list of borough-wide schemes that could benefit from extra parking revenue funding that meet our Vision Zero ambition.
- Write to Sarah Storey, Active Travel Commissioner, to inform her that we are undertaking this work and that it relates to our Vision Zero ambition."

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

"This Council notes:

Parking policy has the potential to be one of most effective tools councils can use to reduce car dependency and promote road safety. Trafford Council can free up space, create an attractive public realm and work towards our Climate Emergency and Vision Zero ambitions. The time for this has never been so urgent. UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, told world leaders at the opening of Cop 27: "We are in the fight of our lives and we are losing. Our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible." This Council can use its parking controls to incentivise and enable a shift towards more sustainable transport that will benefit all road users. This must also be fair and not disproportionately affect the less well off in the borough.

~~The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Parking Policy Benchmark Tool suggests a range of practical measures by which parking policy can be utilised to support its vision and principles. This Council notes that many of these measures are already being actively implemented by councils around the UK and recommends that there should scrutiny of these measures to assess their viability for adoption in Trafford.~~

This Council believes in:

~~The CPRE Parking Policy Benchmark Tool 2022 offers a template which this Council could use to reset its own parking controls. This Council should share its vision and principles:~~

- Recognition of the need to reduce car use and ownership, and the role parking policy plays in this.
- Recognition of the role parking policy plays in improving air quality and public health.

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- Recognition of the role parking policy plays in creating safe and attractive streets.
- Recognition of the role parking policy plays in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- A pledge to make parking policy fair for all residents, not just car owners.
- A hierarchy of kerbside use that places Blue Badge holders and sustainable uses above car parking.

This Council resolves to:

- **Welcome the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group set up to look at how the Council can help reduce car usage across the Borough and recommends the group considers parking policy as part of the review.**
- ~~- Instruct Scrutiny to set up a Task and Finish Group to assess Trafford Council's parking controls that reports with recommendations to the Executive by no later than the end of January 2024.~~
- ~~- Contact the CPRE to notify them of this work and invite them to advise the Task and Finish work.~~
- Create a list of borough-wide schemes that could benefit from extra parking revenue funding that meet our Vision Zero ambition.
- Write to Sarah Storey, Active Travel Commissioner, to inform her that we are undertaking this work and that it relates to our Vision Zero ambition."

The mover and seconder of the Motion signified acceptance of the amendment, which was then put to the vote and declared carried.

(Note: Before the debate on the substantive Motion, the time being 8:55 p.m., the Mayor indicated that speeches on this matter would now be limited to a maximum of one minute per speaker.)

Following a debate on the matter, the substantive Motion was agreed with the Council's unanimous consent.

RESOLVED: That this Council notes:

Parking policy has the potential to be one of most effective tools councils can use to reduce car dependency and promote road safety. Trafford Council can free up space, create an attractive public realm and work towards our Climate Emergency and Vision Zero ambitions. The time for this has never been so urgent. UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, told world leaders at the opening of Cop 27: "We are in the fight of our lives and we are losing. Our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible." This Council can use its parking controls to incentivise and enable a shift towards more sustainable transport that will benefit all road users. This must also be fair and not disproportionately affect the less well off in the borough.

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This Council believes in:

- Recognition of the need to reduce car use and ownership, and the role parking policy plays in this.
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- Recognition of the role parking policy plays in creating safe and attractive streets.
- Recognition of the role parking policy plays in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- A pledge to make parking policy fair for all residents, not just car owners.
- A hierarchy of kerbside use that places Blue Badge holders and sustainable uses above car parking.

This Council resolves to:

- Welcome the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group set up to look at how the Council can help reduce car usage across the Borough and recommends the group considers parking policy as part of the review.
- Create a list of borough-wide schemes that could benefit from extra parking revenue funding that meet our Vision Zero ambition.
- Write to Sarah Storey, Active Travel Commissioner, to inform her that we are undertaking this work and that it relates to our Vision Zero ambition.

**57. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - YOUTH COUNCIL FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

It was moved and seconded that:

“Egypt COP27 was just finished last week (November 2022). If there is one thing we learnt, that is “We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator”, said by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

The year of 2022 is unforgettable, not only because of the energy security, but also because of the UK’s first ever red heat warning in July. This was followed by a drought across much of England, at the same period as flood alerts were issued, as the heatwave broke up with thunderstorms and torrential rain in August.

Trafford Council declared the “Climate Emergency” in Nov 2018. It is now the Council’s duty to cut emissions, increase biodiversity, protect our communities and adapt services to minimise the impact of climate change, adapt waste collections, protect more vulnerable including those receiving adult social care, women, children and young people.

What we have found is that young people have been underrepresented and their voices are largely missed in Trafford. Young people are more vulnerable to climate emergency than older adults who have better paid

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work, more qualifications and capital, and stronger networks. The ramifications include increasing anxiety about climate related disruption, food poverty and energy poverty.

Furthermore, we also found that young people can be powerful motivational speakers, but they are often tokenistic and continue to be excluded from decision making. That's why we are calling on the Council to work urgently with families, schools and communities to deliver a fresh approach to ensure young people's voice can be heard by creating a Youth Council for Climate Change by the end of March 2023 where young people can speak up about the issues that affect them and for adults to listen and take their views seriously.

All children have the right to live in a safe and clean environment, and we know that the climate crisis is an issue children and young people are passionate about. Meanwhile, we also know that youth leadership is a largely untapped resource for climate actions. When genuine youth leadership happens, it can mobilise communities at speed and at scale. That's why we believe it is vital for them to have a platform, and one where we can engage with them, to understand their needs on climate actions and work with young people together and in a meaningful way on this profound challenge."

It was moved and seconded as an Amendment that:

**"At the recent Egypt COP27, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres delivered a powerful message** ~~was just finished last week (November 2022). If there is one thing we learnt, that is that "We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator", said by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.~~

The year of 2022 is unforgettable, not only because of the energy security, but also because of the UK's first ever red heat warning in July. This was followed by a drought across much of England, at the same period as flood alerts were issued, as the heatwave broke up with thunderstorms and torrential rain in August.

Trafford Council declared the "Climate Emergency" in Nov 2018. It is now the Council's duty to cut emissions, increase biodiversity, protect our communities and adapt services to minimise the impact of climate change, adapt waste collections, protect more vulnerable including those receiving adult social care, women, children and young people.

**This Council believes that young people should be represented in Trafford and their voices should be heard.** ~~What we have found is that young people have been underrepresented and their voices are largely missed in Trafford. Young people are often more vulnerable to climate emergency than older adults who have better paid work, more qualifications and capital, and stronger networks. The ramifications can include increasing anxiety about climate related disruption, food poverty and energy poverty.~~



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Furthermore, **this Council believes** ~~we also found~~ that young people can be powerful motivational speakers. **However**, ~~but they are~~ **can** often ~~tokenistic~~ and ~~continue to~~ be excluded from decision making. That's why we are calling on the Council to work urgently with families, schools and communities to deliver a fresh approach to ensure young people's voice can be heard by **engaging with them and identifying how best they wish to raise their concerns about our climate emergency** ~~creating a Youth Council for Climate Change by the end of March 2023 where young people can speak up about the issues that affect them and for adults to listen and take their views seriously.~~

All children have the right to live in a safe and clean environment, and we know that the climate crisis is an issue children and young people are passionate about. Meanwhile, we also know that youth leadership is a largely untapped resource for climate actions. When genuine youth leadership happens, it can mobilise communities at speed and at scale. That's why we believe it is vital for them to ~~have~~ **help design** a platform **that best works for them**, and one where we can engage with them, to understand their needs on climate actions and work with young people together and in a meaningful way on this profound challenge."

Following a debate on the matter, the Amendment was agreed with Council's unanimous consent. The Substantive Motion was then put to the vote and was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: That at the recent Egypt COP27, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres delivered a powerful message that "We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator".

The year of 2022 is unforgettable, not only because of the energy security, but also because of the UK's first ever red heat warning in July. This was followed by a drought across much of England, at the same period as flood alerts were issued, as the heatwave broke up with thunderstorms and torrential rain in August.

Trafford Council declared the "Climate Emergency" in Nov 2018. It is now the Council's duty to cut emissions, increase biodiversity, protect our communities and adapt services to minimise the impact of climate change, adapt waste collections, protect more vulnerable including those receiving adult social care, women, children and young people.

This Council believes that young people should be represented in Trafford and their voices should be heard. Young people are often more vulnerable to climate emergency. The ramifications can include increasing anxiety about climate related disruption, food poverty and energy poverty.

Furthermore, this Council believes that young people can be powerful motivational speakers. However, they can often be excluded from decision making. That's why we are calling on the Council to work urgently with families, schools and communities to deliver a fresh approach to ensure

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young people's voice can be heard by engaging with them and identifying how best they wish to raise their concerns about our climate emergency.

All children have the right to live in a safe and clean environment, and we know that the climate crisis is an issue children and young people are passionate about. Meanwhile, we also know that youth leadership is a largely untapped resource for climate actions. When genuine youth leadership happens, it can mobilise communities at speed and at scale. That's why we believe it is vital for them to help design a platform that best works for them, and one where we can engage with them, to understand their needs on climate actions and work with young people together and in a meaningful way on this profound challenge.

**58. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN TRAFFORD**

It was moved and seconded that:

"This Council notes that:

- Neighbourhood Forums previously took place in each Trafford Locality. Neighbourhood Forums met on an ad-hoc basis and were convened for specific topics. They have also been used as a consultation vehicle, for example as part of the budget consultation.
- Through Locality Working, Locality Partnerships were introduced which partly took on the role of the Neighbourhood Forums. Locality Partnerships were a group of local citizens, community groups, councillors, and staff who worked in organisations such as the Council, Police, leisure, housing and health, who came together to share information and ideas, build relationships and create change. The Locality Partnerships are no longer meeting, nor undertaking any of the functions that they were established for.
- Community engagement at the council is currently primarily undertaken by the Community Engagement Team, established under Covid-19 and is funded until March 2023, with discussions taking place regarding how to secure the future of the Team. The Inclusive Economy and Communities Team also undertake some community engagement but there is no scope within that Team to establish Neighbourhood Forums.
- The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships has responsibility for promoting a neighbourhood and area focus across the Council and the Borough and for ensuring appropriate consultation with partners and the community on matters within the portfolio.
- The ruling Labour Group 2018 manifesto on page 5 promised that "We will hold quarterly public meetings with the Council Executive at which members of the public can attend and ask questions and continue to

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explore better communication channels with the public.” Those meetings do not appear to be taking place currently.

- The 2021 Trafford Labour manifesto on page 16 stated regarding the Climate Emergency that “...the Labour Group commits to convening a Trafford Citizen’s Assembly in this calendar year to involve and engage residents in the decisions we need to take to move forward with our green agenda.” A motion was passed at the December 2020 Council meeting and part of the resolution was “...to convene a Citizen’s Assembly within 12 months to inform decision making in this area and increase resident engagement and involvement in the fight against climate change.” It was announced at the October 2022 Council meeting that the Citizen’s Assembly will not be progressed, however.

This Council believes that:

- Neighbourhood Forums can provide an opportunity for citizens to speak face-to-face with councillors and council officers. They can also provide an opportunity for citizens to be consulted in their local communities on new policy proposals.
- With the end of the Covid-19 lockdowns, direct engagement between citizens and the council can and should take place on a more formalised basis as in the past.

This Council resolves:

That the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships brings a report to Executive, no later than the March 2023 Executive meeting, which sets out the options for engaging directly with citizens through a Neighbourhood Forum approach.”

It was moved and seconded as an Amendment that:

“This Council notes that:

- Neighbourhood Forums previously took place in each Trafford Locality. Neighbourhood Forums met on an ad-hoc basis and were convened for specific topics. They have also been used as a consultation vehicle, for example as part of the budget consultation.
- Through Locality Working, Locality Partnerships were introduced which partly took on the role of the Neighbourhood Forums. Locality Partnerships were a group of local citizens, community groups, councillors, and staff who worked in organisations such as the Council, Police, leisure, housing and health, who came together to share information and ideas, build relationships and create change. The Locality Partnerships are no longer meeting, nor undertaking any of the functions that they were established for.

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- Community engagement at the council is currently primarily undertaken by the Community Engagement Team, established under Covid-19 and is funded until March 2023, with discussions taking place regarding how to secure the future of the Team. The Inclusive Economy and Communities Team also undertake some community engagement but there is no scope within that Team to establish Neighbourhood Forums.
- The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships has responsibility for promoting a neighbourhood and area focus across the Council and the Borough and for ensuring appropriate consultation with partners and the community on matters within the portfolio.
- **The ruling Labour Group were instrumental in the establishment of the Community Hubs as a response to the global pandemic. The hubs are now considered a blue print for the way this council wants to work with communities. This Council has over the last year been engaging at a neighbourhood level on genuine and hyperlocal neighbourhood plans. These will be further co-produced with the communities and residents in that neighbourhood. This Council remains committed to involving its citizens to develop stronger communities.**
- ~~- The ruling Labour Group 2018 manifesto on page 5 promised that “We will hold quarterly public meetings with the Council Executive at which members of the public can attend and ask questions and continue to explore better communication channels with the public.” Those meetings do not appear to be taking place currently.~~
- The 2021 Trafford Labour manifesto on page 16 stated regarding the Climate Emergency that “...the Labour Group commits to convening a Trafford Citizen’s Assembly in this calendar year to involve and engage residents in the decisions we need to take to move forward with our green agenda.” A motion was passed at the December 2020 Council meeting and part of the resolution was “...to convene a Citizen’s Assembly within 12 months to inform decision making in this area and increase resident engagement and involvement in the fight against climate change.” It was announced at the October 2022 Council meeting that the Citizen’s Assembly will not be progressed, however.

This Council believes that:

- Neighbourhood Forums can provide an opportunity for citizens to speak face-to-face with councillors and council officers. They can also provide an opportunity for citizens to be consulted in their local communities on new policy proposals.
- With the end of the Covid-19 lockdowns, direct engagement between citizens and the council can and should take place on a more formalised basis as in the past.

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- **It is regretful that over a decade of austerity has put pressure on our ability to resource Neighbourhood Forums. However, this Council continues to seek innovative ways to work with residents.**

This Council resolves:

That the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships brings a report to Executive, no later than the ~~March~~ **October** 2023 Executive meeting, which sets out the options for engaging directly with citizens through a Neighbourhood Forum **/Plan** approach.”

Following a debate on the matter, the Amendment was put to the vote and declared carried. The Substantive Motion was then put to the vote and was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: That this Council notes that:

- Neighbourhood Forums previously took place in each Trafford Locality. Neighbourhood Forums met on an ad-hoc basis and were convened for specific topics. They have also been used as a consultation vehicle, for example as part of the budget consultation.
- Through Locality Working, Locality Partnerships were introduced which partly took on the role of the Neighbourhood Forums. Locality Partnerships were a group of local citizens, community groups, councillors, and staff who worked in organisations such as the Council, Police, leisure, housing and health, who came together to share information and ideas, build relationships and create change. The Locality Partnerships are no longer meeting, nor undertaking any of the functions that they were established for.
- Community engagement at the council is currently primarily undertaken by the Community Engagement Team, established under Covid-19 and is funded until March 2023, with discussions taking place regarding how to secure the future of the Team. The Inclusive Economy and Communities Team also undertake some community engagement but there is no scope within that Team to establish Neighbourhood Forums.
- The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships has responsibility for promoting a neighbourhood and area focus across the Council and the Borough and for ensuring appropriate consultation with partners and the community on matters within the portfolio.
- The ruling Labour Group were instrumental in the establishment of the Community Hubs as a response to the global pandemic. The hubs are now considered a blue print for the way this council wants to work with communities. This Council has over the last year been engaging at a neighbourhood level on genuine and hyperlocal neighbourhood plans. These will be further co-produced with the communities and residents in

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that neighbourhood. This Council remains committed to involving its citizens to develop stronger communities.

- The 2021 Trafford Labour manifesto on page 16 stated regarding the Climate Emergency that "...the Labour Group commits to convening a Trafford Citizen's Assembly in this calendar year to involve and engage residents in the decisions we need to take to move forward with our green agenda." A motion was passed at the December 2020 Council meeting and part of the resolution was "...to convene a Citizen's Assembly within 12 months to inform decision making in this area and increase resident engagement and involvement in the fight against climate change." It was announced at the October 2022 Council meeting that the Citizen's Assembly will not be progressed, however.

This Council believes that:

- Neighbourhood Forums can provide an opportunity for citizens to speak face-to-face with councillors and council officers. They can also provide an opportunity for citizens to be consulted in their local communities on new policy proposals.
- With the end of the Covid-19 lockdowns, direct engagement between citizens and the council can and should take place on a more formalised basis as in the past.
- It is regretful that over a decade of austerity has put pressure on our ability to resource Neighbourhood Forums. However, this Council continues to seek innovative ways to work with residents.

This Council resolves:

That the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships brings a report to Executive, no later than the October 2023 Executive meeting, which sets out the options for engaging directly with citizens through a Neighbourhood Forum /Plan approach.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.28 p.m.