TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

20 MARCH 2024

PRESENT

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Dolores O'Sullivan), in the Chair.

W. Frass R. Paul A.M. Whyte J. Harding K. Procter D. Acton S. Adshead B. Hartlev S. Procter J.M. Axford W. Hassan T. Ross S. J. Haughey B. Babar J. Slater E.L. Hirst H. K. Spencer O.J. Baskerville J. Holden O. Sutton J. Brophy B. Brotherton F. Hornby M.J. Taylor G. Carter C. Hynes S. Taylor K.G. Carter D. Jarman S. Thomas K. Chakraborty D. Jerrome R. Thompson G. Coggins W. Jones L. Walsh M. Cordingley M.J. Welton J. Leicester F. Cosby S.E. Lepori D. Western Z.C. Deakin M. Minnis M.P. Whetton R. Duncan J.D. Newgrosh A.J. Williams P. Eckersley T. O'Brien B.G. Winstanley S. G. Ennis J.A. Wright E.R. Parker N. Evans E. Patel S. Zhi

In attendance

Chief Executive S. Todd
Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer D. Sykes
Governance Manager J. Addison
Democratic Officer H. Callaghan

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bennett, D. Butt, S.J. Gilbert, J. Lloyd and S. Maitland

58. MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 31 January 2024, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21 February 2024, be brought to the next meeting of the Council.

59. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) The Leader of the Council's Announcements

Councillor Ross paid tribute to Councillors Laurence Walsh and Michael Whetton who were both retiring from the Council at the end of the Municipal year, and as such were attending their final meeting of Council. Councillor Ross recognised the decades of service both Councillors had given to the Borough.

(b) Scrutiny, Health Scrutiny, and Children and Young People's Scrutiny

Councillors Acton, S. Taylor and Western thanked the relevant Executive Members and Officers for attending their Committee across the year, as well as the Members of the Committees for the hard work which had taken place across the year. Councillor Western also thanked the young people from Trafford College who had attended the final Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee meeting.

60. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

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

On the basis that the Mayor had asked for the responses to be circulated to all Councillors and published on the website, the Council consented to taking both the question and response as read and move on to the supplementary question in each case.

(Note: Members were informed that ten minutes had been allocated to this Agenda item, and any outstanding supplementary questions were to be picked up outside of the meeting).

(a) Question 1 from Councillor Zhi regarding: crossing at Altrincham Grammar Schools for Girls.

Councillor Zhi asked as a supplementary whether a Member of the Council could join representatives from the Grammar school and the landowner, alongside himself, to discuss a resolution.

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Highways, Environmental and Traded Services asked Councillor Zhi to contact him following the meeting to arrange this.

(b) Question 2 from Councillor Zhi regarding: litter on Motorways.

Councillor Zhi did not have a supplementary question.

(c) Question 3 from Councillor Duncan regarding: Damp and Mould problems for residents in Trafford.

Councillor Duncan asked as a supplementary question whether the Council could consider approaching social landlords to provide temporary accommodation whilst properties which had become inhabitable due to damp and mould were dealt with and reassess their stance on this.

Councillor Wright, Executive Member for Housing and Advice responded that the Council would always support tenants in any way possible should their property become inhabitable. The Executive Member added that it was the responsibility of the social landlord to rehouse residents if they were not dealing with issues of damp and mould, with the Council stepping in if this was not available.

(d) Question 4 from Councillor Frass regarding: parks in South Trafford.

Councillor Frass asked as a supplementary question when parks, such as Buckingham Way Park in his Ward, and across Timperley, would receive budget for repairs similar to that seen in Longford Park.

Councillor Patel, Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration highlighted how the funding provided to Longford Park was wholly appropriate for securing the benefits brought through the initiative. The Executive Member suggested that Councillor Frass should raise a casework enquiry with the greenspaces team at the Council to help with the issues he had been having.

(e) Question 5 from Councillor M. Taylor regarding: the state of Halecroft Park.

Councillor M. Taylor thanked the Members for the response to the original question, however, asked similarly to Councillor Frass, when residents in his ward could expect similar funding to that seen in Longford Park.

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Highways, Environmental and Traded Services responded that following meetings with the greenspaces team and the Friends of Park group at Halecroft Park, repair jobs were in hand with some already completed. The Executive Member advised Councillor M. Taylor to contact him if he had any further concerns.

(f) Question 6 from Councillor Evans regarding: secondary school place in the south of the Borough.

Councillor Evans asked as a supplementary question at what stage the Council would consider expanding schools in the south of the Borough to accommodate more children, highlighting that since the 1970s there had been an exchange of students between Manchester, Salford, and Trafford.

Councillor K. Carter, Executive Member for Children and Young People referred to her original response, remarking that there was no need to expand the school places in Trafford, with no way that the Council would expand places to create further spaces for children out of Borough.

(g) Question 7 from Councillor Newgrosh regarding: Trafford Empty Homes Policy.

Councillor Newgrosh highlighted that during the time since the adoption of the Council's Empty Homes Policy, the number of long-term empty properties had risen. Councillor Newgrosh asked as a supplementary question how the Council judged its performance against the policy's indicator to reduce the number of long-term empty property.

Councillor Wright, Executive Member for Housing and Advice highlighted the complexities behind bringing long-term empty properties back into use. The Executive Member remarked that the performance by the team had been excellent, in what was a small team with very limited resource.

61. PETITION FOR DEBATE AT COUNCIL - A SAFER SCHOOL RUN FOR THE PUPILS OF OLDFIELD BROW

Lead Petitioners, Claire Knowles and James Cash introduced the following petition which had received 536 signatures in support:

"We the undersigned petition the Council to take action with regard to:

TAYLOR RD / STOKOE AVE CORNER: Stokoe Avenue (off Taylor Road) is proving a dangerous crossing area for our children at Oldfield Brow Primary School. There have been a few near misses reported of careless driving close to our children. Taylor Road alone is also known for speeding vehicles. As a parent of one of those children I also speak on behalf of other concerned parents that our Council needs to act now.

ROAD SIGNS / MARKINGS: On Taylor Road there is only 'one' sign to warn drivers of a school nearby. This is not enough. Taylor Road has poor visibility due to our many beautiful trees, hence reducing children being seen. More signs are urgently required.

CONGESTION / POLLUTION: Taylor Road is heavily congested at school times; although a zebra crossing at Taylor/Stokoe would potentially help reduce traffic, we are still exposed to the pollution from parked cars with engines running (especially at the Crescent).

There were 2,456 children under 16 seriously hurt or killed on Britain's roads last year. Oldfield Brow has an excellent community. Our roads need to be SAFE, and our air needs to be cleaner. Don't let our road be one of them.

Proposal / Solutions:

School Crossing Patrol (between hours of 8.15am - 9.15am and 3pm - 4pm) or Zebra Crossing (permanent)

- Speed limit reduced to 20mph and/or Speed bumps / cameras / road chippings / signs.
- School Road Signs and/or Children Crossing Signs
- SLOW Road Markings
- Turn Engine Off Signs"

The lead petitioners outlined the main reasons for the petitions ask, namely, a recent near miss from someone reversing up Stokoe Avenue; the dire need for a zebra crossing on this road to increase safety; parking and road safety coming up as the single biggest issue in the schools recent parent and carer forum; a community wide call for wider safety measures in the area; and that voice of the children at the school, who had conveyed that they did not feel safe walking to school.

Councillor Adshead, Executive Member for Highways, Environmental and Traded Services responded to the petition on behalf of the controlling group highlighting the seriousness the administration took towards safety around school, referring to the Safety around Schools steering group he set up when he became the Executive Member. This group still met and looked primarily at parking situations. The petitioners were informed that the school had been added to the list for 20 miles per hour (Mph) around the area, as well as "no idling engines" signs set to be put up. The Executive Member thanked the petitioners for bringing the issue to the Council and indicated that the Council would now work with the parking enforcement team, the local PCSO, and the school to explore how double yellow lines could be added around the school.

Councillors Zhi, Frass and Welton responded to the petition on behalf of the opposition's political parties.

Councillor Zhi felt it was imperative the Council recognised the urgency of the issues taking place at the school.

Councillor Frass expressed the full support of the Liberal Democrats for this petition, however, recognised the limited resource available, and implored with the Administration to implement the simple changes as soon as possible.

Councillor Welton hoped that the administration would recognise the genuine concerns expressed by residents and how people across the Borough wanted further traffic calming measures.

In summary, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ross advised that there was a will across the Labour group to improve road safety. School streets were being trialled across the Borough, and learnings from this were to be monitored. The Leader of the Council also spoke of the Vision Zero Strategy at Greater Manchester level, looking at the impact cars had on roads. Regarding the petition, the Leader informed the petitioners that the Council will look at everything it could do to work with officers and partners within the tight resources to make the area safer for everyone.

62. ADOPTION OF PLACES FOR EVERYONE PLAN

The Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration, Councillor Patel, submitted a report seeking the approval of Council to formally adopt The Places for Everyone Plan. The Executive Member spoke positively of the plan which had been submitted and marked it as a new era of regional collaboration. The Executive Member highlighted the sustainable housing growth, community infrastructure, and robust regional framework of environmental protections which came from the plan. Finally, Councillor Patel thanked officers from Trafford Council, colleagues at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and across Greater Manchester more widely.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ross seconded the plan and highlighted the importance in adopting the plan. Councillor Ross mentioned the need for housing in the Borough and outlined how the adoption of Places for Everyone was to support this. The Leader of the Council finished by joining Councillor Patel in thanking all officers for their support in the formulation of Places for Everyone.

Councillors Paul, Lepori and Coggins responded to the plan on behalf of the opposition parties.

Councillor Paul raised issue and concern around; resident opposition to the plan; areas such as Timperley Wedge and New Carrington being poorly served by public transport, road infrastructure and school places; Stockport Council taking a different approach; and Carrington being used despite being on peat moss. Councillor Paul concluded by expressing on behalf of her group, their profound objections, and disagreements with the Council's plan.

Councillor Lepori underlined the Liberal Democrats long time opposition to the plans to build on Timperley Wedge and Carrington Moss. Councillor Lepori proceeded to highlight his groups issue with the plan, including; the plan stretching services in Timperley further; lack of consideration to where water will go once building on the land began; little faith in the Government to guarantee the funding for the necessary infrastructure in the area; lack of infrastructure included for buses and cycles; the lack of leisure allocation included within the plan; and raised doubt over the affordability rates of the new housing set to be built. Councillor Lepori concluded by reemphasising the Liberal Democrats objection to the plan.

Councillor Coggins began by thanking those officers and Councillors in Trafford and across Greater Manchester for the work done over the years. Councillor Coggins also accepted that working together as a group of Councils across Greater Manchester was the best way to preserve and protect green spaces, and mentioned some of the elements of the plan they felt were positive. However, Councillor Coggins emphasised how the Green group could not support a plan which doubled airport use or intended to build a road over Carrington Moss. Furthermore, Councillor Coggins felt the plan prioritised economic growth, coming at the expense of the green belt, biodiversity, and the stability of the climate. Councillor Coggins finished by restating the Green group's intention to vote against the plan.

Councillor Patel responded to the Members and expressed her disappointment in each group for not supporting the plan.

Prior to the putting the Motion to the vote, Councillor Ennis requested a recorded vote and was seconded in this by Councillors Brophy, Frass, Lepori, Minnis and Newgrosh. In line with Rule 16.5 of the Trafford Council Constitution, the request for a recorded vote was accepted.

The Motion was then put to a recorded vote. The result was as follows:

Those in favour of the substantive Motion: Councillors Acton, Adshead, Axford, Babar, Baskerville, Brotherton, G. Carter, K. Carter, Cordingley, Cosby, Deakin, Harding, Hartley, Hassan, Haughey, Hirst, Hornby, Hynes, Jarman, Jones, O'Brien, Parker, Patel, K. Procter, S. Procter, Ross, Slater, S. Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Walsh, Western, Whyte, Williams, Winstanley and Wright.

Those against the substantive Motion: Councillors Brophy, Chakraborty, Coggins, Duncan, Eckersley, Ennis, Evans, Frass, Holden, Jerrome, Leicester, Lepori, Minnis, Newgrosh, Paul, Spencer, Sutton, M. Taylor, Welton, Whetton and Zhi.

With the result of the vote being 36 in favour and 21 against, with 0 abstentions and the Mayor choosing not to vote, the <u>Motion</u> was declared carried.

RESOLVED: That the Council;

- (i) Accepts the findings of the Inspectors' Report and approves the Main Modifications to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document proposed by the independent Inspectors, as set out in Appendix 1.1 and 1.2 to the report, for incorporation into the final version of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.
- (ii) Approves the amendments to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document Policies Map, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, for incorporation of all the changes which relate to Trafford's administrative area into the Composite Policies Map.
- (iii) Approves Additional Modifications to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, for incorporation into the final version of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.
- (iv) Adopt the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document 2022
 2039 (provided in Appendix 4), with effect from 21 March 2024 incorporating the Main Modifications and Additional Modifications as part of the Development Plan for Trafford, in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)
- (v) Adopt the Policies Map (Appendix 5) which incorporates the Modifications to it (Appendix 2) and is necessary to give effect to the policies of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.

(vi) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Place to make any minor nonmaterial editorial amendments to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document and Policies Map ahead of its final publication, subject to consultation and agreement with the eight other Places for Everyone authorities. These amendments will be limited to correcting minor errors and formatting text.

63. TRAFFORD COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2024/25

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Leisure, Arts, Culture, and Heritage submitted a report providing the Council with information relating to Trafford's pay policy for 2024/25 in line with the requirement for the Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Hynes, Executive Member for Leisure, Arts, Culture, and Heritage, spoke briefly to report. Councillors Evans, Ennis and Jerrome, on behalf of the opposition political parties, also spoke briefly in support of the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the 2024/25 Pay Policy statement, as recommended by Employment Committee on 11 March 2024 and as set out in the report, be approved.

64. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - FOCUS ON TRAFFORD

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding Focus on Trafford was moved and seconded.

The proposed Amendment was moved and seconded as set out and published.

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

<u>The substantive Motion</u> as Amended was then put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) This Council has often found itself debating issue which it has no operational responsibility for or influence over. It is noted that the residents we are elected to represent will often contact us about issues that require some national leadership for example national policy on vaping and leasehold properties. As elected members we should always want what is best for our residents and they would expect us to advocate and amplify their issues at a national level.
- 2) As Councillors, we are elected to represent residents within the Borough on matters which this Council has control over.

- 3) Residents, quite rightly, expect those they elect to focus on Trafford.
- 4) This very simple Motion provides residents with comfort that is what we are focused on.

This Council resolves to convene a meeting of the Constitutional Working Group (cross party) to review the Council's Constitution in relation to the format of Council meetings, with a focus on the scope of admissible motions, ahead of the next Council AGM.

65. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP MOTION - GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT: ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding Getting the basics right: Road Maintenance was moved and seconded.

An Amendment was moved and seconded, as set out and published.

Following a debate on the matter, the Amendment was put to vote and declared lost.

Following a debate, the Motion, was put to the vote and was declared lost.

66. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP MOTION - GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT: DRAINAGE

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding Getting the basics right: Drainage was moved and seconded.

An Amendment was moved and seconded, as set out and published.

Following a debate on the matter, the Amendment was put to vote and declared lost.

Following a debate, the Motion was put to the vote and was declared lost.

67. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP MOTION - GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT: FOOTPATHS AND GINNELS

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding Getting the Basics Right: Footpaths and ginnels was moved and seconded.

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

68. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TRAFFORD COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That the Motion be withdrawn.

69. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP - MY VOTE, MY VOICE CHARTER

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding My Vote, My Voice Charter was moved and seconded.

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

RESOLVED: Over 1.5 million adults in the UK live with a learning disability, and there are over 700,000 autistic adults.

Nevertheless:

40% of the general public don't know these groups have an equal right to vote.

80% of people feel that polling stations are inaccessible for disabled people as a whole.

As few as 12% of disabled voters were aware of their legal entitlements during the 2023 local elections, in the wake of new rules around voter identification and available onsite support.

There are several important elections set to take place during 2024 and every vote should count.

This Council therefore agrees to sign the My Vote, My Voice Charter.

We will encourage people with learning disabilities and autistic people to use their vote.

We will do this by:

- Sharing accessible resources.
- Encouraging people to complete the My Vote, My Voice elections surveys.
- Promoting the My Vote, My Voice campaign.
- Involving people with lived experience in this campaign.
- Championing the voting rights of people with learning disabilities and autism.

70. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE GREEN & LIB DEM GROUPS - ISRAEL AND GAZA MOTION

Councillor Evans raised a Point of Order for this Motion regarding point 11.3 in the Council's Constitution which outlined that:

'Scope: Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility, or which affect the Borough'.

The Mayor, following a discussion with the Monitoring Officer, informed Councillor Evans that the Motion did affect the Borough and that it would be heard.

Councillor Evans raised a second Point of Order regarding point 13.6 of the Council's Constitution on 'Withdrawal of the Motion'. The Monitoring Officer informed Councillor Evans that this was not a Point of Order.

The Mayor proceeded with the Motion.

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding Israel and Gaza Motion was moved and seconded.

The proposed Amendment was moved and seconded as set out and published.

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

<u>The substantive Motion</u> as Amended was then put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That:

This Council:

- Expresses deep sympathy for all those affected by the situation in Israel and Gaza.
- Offers our support to those in Trafford who have been affected by the ongoing violence in the region.
- Condemns the murder of Israeli civilians, the taking of hostages by Hamas and the death and destruction.
- Condemns the sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas on 7
 October and on female hostages still held in captivity.
- Condemns the impact on the Palestinian people of the Israeli government's military action that has resulted in a catastrophic number of deaths, injuries, and displacement among the population of Gaza.
- Expresses a deep concern that the UN has stated that a large proportion of Gaza is now uninhabitable, and much of the population is facing hunger and insanitary conditions.
- Believes that the urgent priority must be to stop the deaths and suffering of any more civilians in Israel and Gaza.

- Hopes for an immediate further release of all hostages and an immediate end to the holding of Palestinian prisoners in custody without charge; and an immediate, permanent bilateral ceasefire.
- Believe that the only credible basis for long-term peace is the delivery of a Palestinian state alongside a safe and secure Israel.
- Believes people of all faiths and none should feel safe in our borough.
- Condemns the increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic violence and abuse in the UK and believes all forms of racism have no place in Trafford.

The Council resolves to:

- (i) Continue to explore how the Council can support and facilitate events for people of all faiths and none, where they can come together and express solidarity and sadness in response to these events.
- (ii) Stand ready to provide support and open our arms to innocent people displaced and affected by these events in line with our recent Borough of Sanctuary motion.

The Council also resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the relevant UK Government ministers:

- 1) Calling on the UK Government to press all parties:
 - To agree to an urgent permanent bilateral ceasefire in Israel and Gaza and to make every effort to resume the peace process;
 - to guarantee that international humanitarian law is upheld and that civilians are protected in accordance with those laws;
 - to ensure that civilians have access to humanitarian support, including unfettered access to medical supplies, food, electricity, other fuel and water. And to request an urgent update on UK Government action being taken to ensure this;
 - to do all in its powers to support those that are committed to a permanent peace and a 2-state solution.
- 2) Sharing the content of the motion agreed at Council this evening, which reflects our concern.
- 3) Acknowledging the recent national funding provided to help tackle antisemitism and islamophobia, but also requesting

additional funding for local authorities to help and support community cohesion projects.

71. MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE GREEN GROUP - PAVEMENT OBSTRUCTION: TOWARDS THE VISION ZERO TARGET

The Motion set out on the Summons regarding Pavement obstruction: towards the Vision Zero target was moved and seconded.

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

RESOLVED: No councillor will be unfamiliar with complaints about pavement parking and obstruction of the pavement by vehicles.

Causing obstruction that prevents someone from passing along a footway, cycleway or similar is an offence under the Highways Act 1980 sec. 137 (hereafter 'S137'). This is enforceable only by the police, not by local authority enforcement. An offence under S137 is additional to any contravention of civil driving or parking restrictions such as yellow lines. A S137 offence can occur without the whole of the footway obstructed - if any individual's "free passage" is prevented, it constitutes obstruction.

In response to a Freedom of Information request, Greater Manchester Police have provided data relating to enforcement of S137. During 2022, across all of Greater Manchester, GMP issued just 267 fixed penalties under S137, and made five arrests, two of which resulted in no further action.

Furthermore, GMP do not record what part of the highway was obstructed. They are unable to say how many of these cases relate specifically to obstruction of a footway or similar.

The Council notes that:

- Reaching its Vision Zero target depends on safe access to footways, cycleways and other non-vehicular infrastructure at all times,
- Vision Zero cannot be achieved if inadequate data is available about pavement obstructions and enforcement of existing laws,
- GMP currently do not record data about which part(s) of the highway an obstruction occurred on, when taking action under S137,
- Across the whole of Greater Manchester, police enforcement of S137 by way of fixed penalties or arrests occurs less than once a day,

 Parking on pavements, or on any other part of the road other than a carriageway, has been banned across Greater London since 1974, with provision for local authorities to introduce exempted locations. Local authorities have the power to enforce this legislation. Similar laws were introduced by the Scottish Parliament in 2019.

The Council resolves:

- That the Leader will write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and to the Chief Constable of GMP, requesting that data is recorded and provided about S137 offences includes:
 - The Location of the obstruction, i.e., carriageway / footway
 / cycleway / shared use / other,
 - The type(s) of vehicle involved, or detailing as nonvehicular obstruction where appropriate,
 - Geographic data at the level of LA wards or similarly sized ONS areas.
 - The proportion of reported S137 offences that are acted upon with fixed penalties or arrests, the proportion which receive police attention but are not acted upon, and the proportion which do not receive any police attention, and that this data is made available to local authorities in a timely manner.
- To ensure that all relevant council staff understand what constitutes an offence under S137 and how to report via nonemergency routes,
- To work with council contractors to ensure that their staff are similarly informed,
- That the leader of the council will write to the Secretary of State for Transport, calling for the prohibition of pavement parking in Greater London to be expanded across England.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and finished at 9.30 pm