

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

14TH NOVEMBER 2012

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Mrs. Patricia Young), in the Chair.

D. Acton	J.R. Coupe	K.A. Procter
S.A. Adshead	Mrs. P.A. Dixon	D.A. Quayle
S.B. Anstee	A.C. Duffield	J.R. Reilly
Dr. K.M. Barclay	L.K. Evans	Mrs. J.I. Reilly
J.E. Baugh	D.A. Fishwick	T. Ross
J. Bennett	M. Freeman	B. Sharp
Miss L.L. Blackburn	P. Gratrix	B. Shaw
R. Bowker	J. Harding	J.G. Smith
C. Boyes	D.R. Higgins	E.W. Stennett
Mrs. A.M. Bruer-Morris	J.C. Holden	N.A. Taylor
Mrs. J.E. Brophy	M.R. Hyman	S.R. Taylor
B. Brotherton	C. Hynes	L.J. Walsh
D.E. Bunting	D.P. Jarman	Mrs. E.V. Ward
D.H. Butt	P.M.D. Lally	A. Western
C.J. Candish	J.T. Lamb	D. Western
R. Chilton	E.H. Malik	M.P. Whetton
M.R. Colledge	A.R. Mitchell	Mrs. J. Wilkinson
Mrs. L.J. Cooke	P.J. Myers	A.P. Williams
M. Cordingley	D. O'Sullivan	M.D.P. Young
M.D. Cornes	I.J. Platt	

In attendance:

Corporate Director Children and Young People's Service	Mrs. D. Brownlee
Corporate Director Environment Transport and Operations	Mr. P. Molyneux
Corporate Director Communities and Wellbeing	Ms. A. Higgins
Acting Corporate Director Transformation and Resources	Mr. I. Duncan
Interim Corporate Director for Economic Growth and Prosperity	Mr. P. Harvey
Interim Head of Legal Services	Mr. M. Jones
Director of Human Resources	Ms. J. Hyde
Head of Workforce and Core Strategy	Ms. L. Hooley
Democratic Services Officer	Miss. H. Mitchell
Democratic Services Officer	Mr. I. Cockill

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.A. Lloyd, B.D. Rigby and K.I. Weston.

49. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19th September 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

50. ANNE HIGGINS, CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES AND WELLBEING

Announcing that it was Anne Higgins last Council meeting before shortly leaving the authority, the Mayor handed over to Councillor Michael Young who, having worked closely with Anne for a number of years in his role as Executive Member, paid tribute for all her hard work which had helped transform adult social services in a most remarkable manner. Councillor Acton and Bowker, Leaders of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups joined in thanking Anne for all her work on behalf of Trafford and the improvements she had helped to drive through and all the Council wished her well for the future.

51. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Councillor Shaw, Chairman of Scrutiny Committee, provided an update on the work of Scrutiny, advising on the outcome of the Scrutiny Work Programme session held on 10th October 2012 and the commissioning of work by the scrutiny topic groups. Councillor Shaw reported that Topic Group A, led by Councillor Chilton, would be conducting a review of Doorstep Crime and that Topic Group B, led by Councillor John Reilly was to review the Use of Council Buildings by Community Groups.

The Committee was also commencing its review of the Budget and workshops with the Executive had been arranged for 20th and 22nd November 2012. Councillor Shaw thanked Scrutiny Members, the Executive and officers for their co-operation as the Council embeds its new Member-led scrutiny arrangements.

52. HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Lamb, Vice- Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee, updated the Council on the Committee's activities, predominantly around the future of Trafford General Hospital and the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Manchester City Council regarding changes to local health services. A further joint meeting would be held mid-January 2013 to consider the outcomes of the consultation which would feed into the final decision expected at the end of January 2013.

With regard to the Health Scrutiny Topic Groups, Councillor Lamb indicated that Topic Group C, led by Councillor Butt, would be conducting a review of the Care of Elderly Residents in NHS Hospitals and that Topic Group D, led by Councillor Holden was to review the Realisation of Care Budgets.

53. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

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

[Note: Prior to the debate on this item, the time being 7.18 p.m., the Mayor indicated that Members asking and responding to a question would be limited to a maximum of two minutes.]

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

"What analysis have the Council conducted of the impact of their planned closure of 10 out of 16 sure start centres across the borough?"

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Councillor Miss Blackburn, Executive Member for Supporting Children and Families, advised that, in line with the national approach, Trafford Children and Young People's Service's (CYPS) Vision 2015 was reviewing how services were being delivered to ensure they were accessible, helped the most vulnerable and narrowed the gap between the most disadvantaged children and their peers. Services were being aligned with the Area Family Support Teams to work in a multi-agency way with schools and families in their homes. Focusing on early intervention, CYPS planned to enhance outreach and family support provision for those aged 0-19 years, encouraging greater engagement with all stakeholders and improve outcomes by strengthening links with health visitors and midwives.

Noting the perception of a Children's Centre being a physical building, the Executive Member considered that the term in reality covered the services provided for families within a community. CYPS had completed an initial impact analysis of the service redesign proposals, however, they were still subject to the outcome of a consultation period which commenced on 23rd October 2012 and would conclude on 14th January 2013.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Ross wondered how the proposals reconciled with the Controlling Group's Manifesto pledge to maintain all 16 children's centres and alluded to the social media comments of the Executive Member's predecessor. Councillor Miss Blackburn reiterated that the consultation period was still ongoing and maintained that the manifesto had not been broken. In addition, Councillor Miss Blackburn indicated that she had not read her predecessor's comments and would provide a response to Councillor Ross when she had.

(b) Councillor A. Western asked the following question for which he had given notice:

"Could the Executive Member please confirm the minimum hourly rate that it is proposed will be paid to council employees in Trafford following the introduction of the Living Wage next year? Furthermore could he clarify how many of the Council's staff it is anticipated will be paid at this new minimum threshold and how many will be paid just above the rate, at 15 pence or less above this new figure per hour?"

Councillor Williams, Executive Member for Transformation and Resources reported that the Council was proposing a minimum hourly rate of £7.20 which would be subject to consultation as part of the budget proposals. Not including casual staff, it was anticipated that 310 employees would be paid the proposed new minimum and that 210 employees would fall between the £7.21 - £7.35 hourly bracket.

Councillor A. Western asked as a supplementary question whether the Executive Member was aware of the effect a mandatory 5 days unpaid leave, as proposed under the review of Terms and Conditions, would have on the Living Wage, advising that a £7.35 minimum hourly rate for 51 paid weeks was needed in order to average £7.20 over 52 weeks and wondered if this would be applicable for the 520 members of staff Councillor Williams had mentioned to. Referring to neighbouring authorities that were considering a lower minimum hourly rate than Trafford, Councillor Williams indicated that this issue would be investigated as part of ongoing consultation.

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(c) Councillor Hynes asked the following question for which she had given notice:

“What plans does the Council have for the allocation of the schools capital budget?”

In response, Councillor Cornes, the Executive Member for Education, referred Councillor Hynes to a report considered by the Executive in February 2012 and an update report submitted in September 2012.

Thanking the Executive Member and referring to cosmetic repairs at Acre Hall Primary School, Urmston, Councillor Hynes asked as a supplementary question whether any further comprehensive work was envisaged. Councillor Cornes confirmed that the Executive was in discussion with the school and had already agreed re-roofing works. In Trafford, the prioritization of works was a decision of the Governing Body, however the Council regularly communicates with all of its schools.

(d) Councillor Mrs. Wilkinson asked the following question for which she had given notice:

“Could the Executive Member explain why the new Voluntary Community Infrastructure Contract has been awarded to Pulse. Furthermore could the member also explain what benefit this will provide to the community and if this will deliver any better value to this Council?”

Councillor Coupe, the Executive Member for Safe and Strong Communities, informed the Council that Pulse was the successful tendering organisation following a robust procurement process and that it was a decision of the Partnership Executive to tender the contract as it was believed that Trafford was not meeting its potential in relation to the third sector. It was in fact the second tender exercise as, unfortunately, the two partnering organisations that were originally awarded the contract advised the Council in June 2012, that they were unable to fulfil its terms. As regard to the benefit, Councillor Coupe advised that Pulse Regeneration had demonstrated a strong track record of supporting the third sector in an innovative way over the past 11 years and both the procurement panel and Trafford Partnership were confident that Pulse would deliver a comprehensive and quality service within Trafford.

Responding to a supplementary question, the Executive Member assured Councillor Mrs. Wilkinson that the decision making process was robust and balanced to include stakeholders including the community and the voluntary sector.

(e) Councillor Acton asked the Leader of the Council the following question for which he had given notice:

“Please could you inform me how long was the previous Economic Growth and Prosperity post holder employed by Trafford in that post, was there a payment made to him when he left Trafford, and if so how much was that payment?”

Replying to the question, Councillor Colledge advised that the individual concerned was in post for 23 months and that no payment was made when he left the Council's employment.

54. POLICE PRESENTATION

The Council received a presentation from Chief Superintendent Mark Roberts and Superintendent Jim Liggett of Greater Manchester Police detailing Trafford Division's detection rates and outlining the key initiatives that had positively impacted upon performance, in particular, Demand Reduction, Offender Targeting and Partnership Working and Collaboration. The presentation also referred to performance amid budget reductions and the results of public confidence surveys in the area.

Responding to questions from Members, the Chief Superintendent acknowledged the vital addition of Police Community Support Officers as a tremendous link with the community and reiterated the success of partnership working, a model that others in Greater Manchester wished to replicate.

Mayor, on behalf of the Council thanked Chief Superintendent Roberts and the Trafford Division for their excellent work and expressed gratitude for the manner in which partnership with the borough's agencies had been embraced.

55. GAMBLING POLICY

The Executive Member for Highways and Environment submitted a report detailing the proposed changes to the Council's Gambling Policy Statement following a review of the policy and an 8-week consultation process.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the changes to the Gambling Policy Statement and the responses to the consultation process be noted.
- (2) That the Gambling Policy Statement, January 2013 – 2016, be approved.

56. MOTIONS

The Mayor informed Members that five Motions had been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.

- (a) Motion submitted by the Conservative Group

It was moved and seconded that:

“This Council welcomes the news that, to date, 79 Trafford residents will be taking up work in the new Tesco store in Stretford. It is currently estimated that the new store will create over 350 new jobs overall. New recruits include single parents, older people made redundant and younger people struggling to find their first job. Some have spent many years out of work, while others have never been employed.

This Council therefore joins with the MP for Stretford and Urmston in welcoming the benefits of the Council facilitated Tesco / Lancashire County Cricket Club regeneration scheme which, despite a difficult national economic situation, is boosting Trafford's local economy and increasing employment opportunities for all our residents.”

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It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

“Along with Kate Green MP, this Council welcomes the news that, to date, 79 Trafford residents will be taking up work with the new Tesco store in Stretford. It is currently estimated that the new store will create over 350 new jobs overall.

However this Council has real concern that “out of town superstores’ like this new Tesco, and the out of town superstore which has been proposed and rejected by Trafford Council at Trafford Retail Park, close to Urmston Town Centre, have the effect of severely adversely affecting existing Town Centres and local shopping parades . Local independent traders have closed, shop units are empty, resulting in significant job losses and stagnation on our High Streets.

In light of the above the Council supports the setting up of similar initiatives like the one in Altrincham Town Centre, badged as (Altrincham Forward), for our other Town Centres which are in desperate need of support. This will have the affect of boosting Trafford local economy and increasing employment opportunities for all our residents right across our Borough.”

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

A further speech was made in respect of the substantive Motion which was then put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That this Council welcomes the news that, to date, 79 Trafford residents will be taking up work in the new Tesco store in Stretford. It is currently estimated that the new store will create over 350 new jobs overall. New recruits include single parents, older people made redundant and younger people struggling to find their first job. Some have spent many years out of work, while others have never been employed.

This Council therefore joins with the MP for Stretford and Urmston in welcoming the benefits of the Council facilitated Tesco / Lancashire County Cricket Club regeneration scheme which, despite a difficult national economic situation, is boosting Trafford’s local economy and increasing employment opportunities for all our residents.

(b) Motion submitted by the Conservative Group

[Note: Prior to the debate on this item, the time being 8.43 p.m., the Mayor indicated that, with the exception of the proposer and seconder of the Motion, speeches would be limited to a maximum of two minutes per speaker.]

It was moved and seconded that:

“Food banks offer local communities the chance to actively support those who find themselves in crisis for whatever reason. This Council recognises the importance of having food bank facilities within our borough to help the most vulnerable.

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This Authority is aware of the work of local faith leaders in seeking to establish a Greater Manchester wide network of Food Banks in partnership with the Trussell Trust, whose network of food banks has fed almost 110,000 people in crisis across the UK so far this year. It is also aware of other organisations working to provide a food bank network to the needy.

This Council therefore pledges to seek to work, in conjunction with the relevant food bank organisation, to do whatever is necessary to ensure that Trafford families facing difficult times can benefit from food banks within our Borough. Furthermore we seek to actively work and promote a Greater Manchester wide network.”

Following a debate on the matter, the Motion was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Food banks offer local communities the chance to actively support those who find themselves in crisis for whatever reason. This Council recognises the importance of having food bank facilities within our borough to help the most vulnerable.

This Authority is aware of the work of local faith leaders in seeking to establish a Greater Manchester wide network of Food Banks in partnership with the Trussell Trust, whose network of food banks has fed almost 110,000 people in crisis across the UK so far this year. It is also aware of other organisations working to provide a food bank network to the needy.

This Council therefore pledges to seek to work, in conjunction with the relevant food bank organisation, to do whatever is necessary to ensure that Trafford families facing difficult times can benefit from food banks within our Borough. Furthermore we seek to actively work and promote a Greater Manchester wide network.

(c) Motion submitted by the Labour Group

[Note: Prior to the debate on this item, the time being 9.02 p.m., the Mayor indicated that all speeches would be limited to a maximum of two minutes per speaker.]

It was moved and seconded that:

“This Council welcomes the campaign of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority (GMFRA), in partnership with the other Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities, against the unfairness applied to the Government's Formula for the distribution of Grant.

The distribution of government funding, through the Formula, now favours "Shire Fire and Rescue Authorities" (Combined Fire Authorities) and protects London, at the expense of the urban/regional cities.

Between 2011 and 2013, GMFRA, West Midlands, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear Metropolitan Authorities will shoulder around 80% of the cuts compared to the rest of the Fire Services

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across the Country, Shires, Combined Authorities and London between them will shoulder just short of 20%.

Indeed - six of these Fire Authorities have, perversely, seen grant increases in the last two years.

GMFRA are certain that, if the Formula Grant is not re-adjusted to ensure greater fairness, Greater Manchester will be faced with further damaging cuts, further significant reduction of Firefighters, further significant fewer fire appliances, and potentially closures of Fire Stations.

This level of cuts will also have serious consequences for the delivery of Fire and Rescue Services for the people of Greater Manchester and impact on the resilience of the infrastructure of Greater Manchester.

This Council, therefore, calls on the Government to ensure everyone 'shares the pain of austerity' and introduces a fairer Grant Formula model for GMFRA and other Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities elsewhere.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

“This Council supports the campaign of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority (GMFRA), in partnership with the other Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities, for greater equity to be applied to the Government's Formula for the distribution of Grant.

The distribution of government funding, through the Formula, now favours 'Shire Fire and Rescue Authorities' (Combined Fire Authorities) and protects London, at the expense of the urban/regional cities.

Between 2011 and 2013, GMFRA, West Midlands, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear Metropolitan Authorities will shoulder around 80% of the cuts compared to the rest of the Fire Services across the Country, Shires, Combined Authorities and London between them will shoulder just short of 20%.

Indeed - six of these Fire Authorities have, perversely, seen grant increases in the last two years.

GMFRA are certain that, if the Formula Grant is not re-adjusted to ensure greater fairness, Greater Manchester will be faced with further cuts, which may affect the level of resources available and it is believed by some that this could have consequences for the delivery of Fire and Rescue Services for the people of Greater Manchester and impact on the resilience of the infrastructure of Greater Manchester.

This Council, therefore, calls on the Government to ensure everyone 'shares the pain of austerity' and introduces a fairer Grant Formula model for GMFRA and other Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities elsewhere.”

Following a debate on the matter, the amendment was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

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RESOLVED: That this Council supports the campaign of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority (GMFRA), in partnership with the other Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities, for greater equity to be applied to the Government's Formula for the distribution of Grant.

The distribution of government funding, through the Formula, now favours 'Shire Fire and Rescue Authorities' (Combined Fire Authorities) and protects London, at the expense of the urban/regional cities.

Between 2011 and 2013, GMFRA, West Midlands, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear Metropolitan Authorities will shoulder around 80% of the cuts compared to the rest of the Fire Services across the Country, Shires, Combined Authorities and London between them will shoulder just short of 20%.

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This Council, therefore, calls on the Government to ensure everyone 'shares the pain of austerity' and introduces a fairer Grant Formula model for GMFRA and other Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities elsewhere.

(d) Motion submitted by the Labour Group

[Note: Prior to the debate on this item, the time being 9.12 p.m., the Mayor, having been notified of a proposal to defer the final motion, indicated that the time restriction on speeches was being suspended.]

It was moved and seconded that:

"This Council supports the Manchester Evening News campaign to feed the hungry and to call on Government to help the children and families out of poverty.

40,000 (42%) of all children in Greater Manchester are living in poverty. What this means is youngsters going hungry, parents seeking food parcels and voluntary organisations stepping in just to provide a square meal. It is clear that Government Austerity measures and the severe cuts imposed by the Council are hitting many families in Trafford and throwing people and our children into desperate poverty. It has recently been announced that a food bank will be opening in Stretford, this should not be happening in 2012 and action needs to be taken by Government immediately to tackle this huge problem.

Therefore we call on Government and Trafford Council to support the campaign and to take immediate action to introduce measures and policies to eradicate

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the problem of children and families going hungry in whole areas of Trafford and Greater Manchester and beyond.”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that:

“This Council supports the Manchester Evening News campaign to feed the hungry and to work with the Government to help children and families out of poverty.

24.2% of all children in Greater Manchester are living in poverty, in the City of Manchester the figure is 39.5% and in Trafford it is 14.9%, with the consequence that some youngsters are going hungry, parents are seeking food parcels and voluntary organisations stepping in to provide a reasonable meal.

Trafford Council is engaging with voluntary and public sector organisations on this issue and therefore the Council supports the campaign and will take steps to introduce measures and policies to eradicate the problem of children and families going hungry in areas of Trafford, Greater Manchester and beyond.”

[Note: During the debate on the Motion, the time being 9.23 p.m., the Mayor indicated that speeches would now be limited to a maximum of one minute per speaker. With the time being 9.27 p.m., speeches were further restricted by the Mayor to a maximum of thirty seconds per speaker.]

Following the debate on the matter, the amendment was agreed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

RESOLVED: That This Council supports the Manchester Evening News campaign to feed the hungry and to work with the Government to help children and families out of poverty.

24.2% of all children in Greater Manchester are living in poverty, in the City of Manchester the figure is 39.5% and in Trafford it is 14.9%, with the consequence that some youngsters are going hungry, parents are seeking food parcels and voluntary organisations stepping in to provide a reasonable meal.

Trafford Council is engaging with voluntary and public sector organisations on this issue and therefore the Council supports the campaign and will take steps to introduce measures and policies to eradicate the problem of children and families going hungry in areas of Trafford, Greater Manchester and beyond.

(e) Motion submitted by the Conservative Group

RESOLVED: That this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Council scheduled to be held on 23rd January 2013.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.30 p.m.