



TRAFFORD  
COUNCIL



## 2021/22 - Council Tax

### Facts and Figures on Finance

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## Facts and figures on finance

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## Welcome from the Leader of the Council



I know nobody likes receiving their Council Tax bill; however I wanted to highlight to you the increasing importance of Council Tax in funding local services. Since 2010, successive governments have reduced funding for local government in England by approximately 50 per cent in real-terms. , which was challenging in isolation. However, the outbreak of Covid-19 and the impact of the national and local lockdowns has affected all areas of our lives and livelihoods and placed further unprecedented pressure on all aspects of council services.

In respect of the Council's finances, it is important to understand the impact that the pandemic has had on the budget, putting pressure on expenditure, income streams and the funding we collect in the form of council tax and business rates. The estimated impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21 is over £50m along further pressures of nearly £19m in 2021/22, This is in addition to the £17.2m of business as usual pressures. The one off Government support, provided to Trafford Council during the course of the pandemic and carrying on into the 2021/22 financial year, has helped to offset these figures, however substantial pressures remain to be met from Council resources. The challenge for 2020/21 and 2021/22 has been for the Council to regain the lost or deferred income to avoid placing an additional burden on the people and businesses of Trafford

Council's role in responding to the pandemic has been pivotal in supporting communities and businesses, the list of support is extensive and includes:

- We have supported **2,799** vulnerable residents with long term services this year, keeping them safe and well in their homes and communities;

- **1,039** vulnerable children face-to-face visits took place in November 2020 alone to ensure Trafford's children are safe and well;
- We supplied more than 15,000 supermarket vouchers, worth more than **£240,000**, to families entitled to a free school meal during the October 2020 half term;
- **4,855** payments to businesses have been made, with a combined value of **£46.5m**, which helped to keep Trafford's economy afloat during the first national lockdown;
- **6,343** Trafford Assist applications have been processed and **294** Test and Trace Payments made to support our residents most in need;
- **25,095** tonnes of waste have been collected from our residents' homes – 18.5% more than we expected to collect;
- **191,114** online items from our e-Library have been downloaded since March 2020 – an increase of 91% over the same period last year;
- Over **129,000** calls from residents and businesses have been answered by our Contact Centre since Lockdown #1 began.

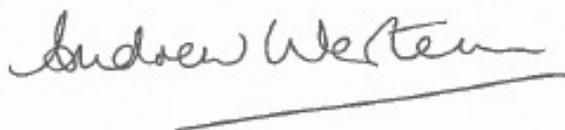
As a Council we continue to deliver innovative solutions to generate alternative funding and income streams rather than to make cuts to vital local services. We are a low spending Council and have one of the lowest levels of council tax in the country while achieving some of the best results.

- Children who go to schools in Trafford achieve among the highest levels of attainment in the country. Over 94 per cent of the Trafford student population attend schools that provide a good or outstanding provision, which ensures that every child achieves their potential and has a fair start in life. The proposals in this budget include significant levels of investment in our school buildings to allow this provision to expand;
- Council's Asset Investment Strategy continues to support the revenue budget and is currently delivering nearly £7m of net benefit in 2021/22. Some of the acquisitions involved the purchase of some key regeneration sites in the borough, including

in both Altrincham and Stretford town centres and now they are in the Council's control provide a real opportunity to develop them into assets we can be proud of in the future. An example here is the acquisition of Stretford Mall in Stretford Town Centre and we have recently secured £17.6m from the Government's Future High Streets Fund Funding to support improvements to the town centre; something which we have been consulting on over recent years.

Thanks for taking the time to read this leaflet and we look forward to 2021/22.

**Cllr Andrew Western**  
**Leader of Trafford Council**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Western". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

While the support we have provided during the pandemic has been extensive, we must continue to look to the future. In this regard, the Council, working alongside its partners, is producing a **Recovery Plan** for the borough to 'Build Back Better'. At the same time, we remain focused on our longer term objectives and celebrate the huge achievements we have delivered so far. A number of strategies and action plans are under development to support the residents and businesses of Trafford and to build on the many opportunities we have, including a broader vision around inclusion and accessibility for all.

Major investments planned for 2021/22 include £10.7m for maintenance and improvements of our highways, £13.7m in school buildings, £2.7m to continue the improvements across our leisure centre assets and some major sustainable investments, including £9.1m for the provision of walking and cycling schemes, £0.5m in electrical charging points and £1m of investment in our parks, green spaces and tree planting programme.

There will also be significant growth in our social care budgets that will help support the health and well-being of some of our most vulnerable people, with £7.8m more being made available to meet demand in adult and children's services, improve and support our early help and prevention services and support the National Living Wage.

Climate change this will continue to be at the forefront of Council decision making and a Carbon Neutral Action Plan has been developed, which includes a number of short, medium and long term actions to support the ambition of becoming carbon neutral by 2038. There are a number of measures in the budget which provide a start to this process including substantial investment, through the Mayor's Challenge Fund, in new cycling and walking schemes, and a significant investment in parks and open spaces including new tree planting schemes.

Our environment is important to us and thanks to your help we are one of the greenest boroughs in the UK with 11 green flag parks and excellent levels of recycling. This helps to keep Council Tax down and is great for the environment.

## **1 - Council Tax helps pay for the following**

- Supported over 4,700 residents with a care package
- Provided over 7,400 services to service users
- Provided over 733,000 hours of external home care support
- Supported over 1,310 residents through Stabilise and Make Safe (reablement)
- Supported over 400 residents through Discharge to Assess (preventing Delayed Transfers from Acute Beds)
- Over 2,600 children in receipt of children's safeguarding services
- Over 480 periods of children being in the care of the local authority
- Over 425 Child Protection plans
- Maintained over 500 miles of roads and footpaths
- Maintained over 27,500 lampposts and 4,500 items of illuminated street furniture
- Responsible for 18,000 highway trees and 50,000 trees within public parks and open spaces
- Remove approximately 350 tonnes of street sweepings and litter per month
- Empty approximately 40,000 bins of household rubbish every day
- Support and regulate over 5,000 premises for food, health and safety, trading standards, pollution and licensing
- Manage parking restrictions on street and off street across the borough
- Licence and regulate approximately 7,000 premises, people and taxis within the Borough
- Carry out over 1,500 pest control treatments in homes, schools and businesses across the borough
- Assist over 450 existing and start-up businesses in Trafford
- Support approximately 400 people in Trafford into employment via the Trafford Pledge, Working Well, and other employment programmes
- Provide housing advice and assistance to over 34,000 households
- Prevent over 440 households from becoming homeless
- Assist over 300 households to find and secure affordable housing through the Council's Housing Register
- Enable the development of 69 new affordable homes across the borough
- Determine over 3,000 planning applications
- Grant planning permission for over 57,000 sq meters of employment space

- 1,198 fixed penalty notices issued for littering
- 161 littering prosecutions
- The Council continues to collect 98 per cent of Council Tax remaining the highest collection rate in GM which supports the Council's financial resources
- The Council's customer contact service deals with around 160,000 telephone enquiries a year. In 2021/22, the Contact Centre target is to answer 70 per cent of telephone calls within 30 seconds
- The Catering Service serves on average 12,663 meals per day, over 2.40 million meals per year
- The authority has one crematorium and five cemeteries and the service undertakes approximately 1,700 cremations and 600 burials per year
- Waterside, Trafford's award-winning destination for performance, culture and events, welcomed over 102,000 visitors in 2019/20
- 268 professional and 44 local non- professional productions took place at the venue
- Over 7,152 residents attended our 717 participatory and creative learning events
- 39,347 people attended our ticketed performances.
- Trafford Music Service engage over 7,000 primary age pupils per year through the whole class First Access programme.
- Creative Industries Trafford; our professional development project for artists and creatives engaged with 120 artists and saw over 700 people participate in our professional development events
- Provision of the Council's in-house professional services of HR, Legal, IT & Finance
- Facilitates and supports the award winning Trafford Partnership

**We cover all these services in our spending plans**

## 2 - Our spending plans

	2020/21			2021/22		
	Gross spending £million	Income £million	Net spending £million	Gross spending £million	Income £million	Net spending £million
Children's Services and Schools	206.4	163.0	43.4	207.1	162.4	44.7
Adult Social Services (incl. Public Health)	103.2	41.8	61.7	105.9	40.7	65.2
Highways	8.8	3.0	5.8	8.9	2.8	6.1
Economic Growth and Planning	16.3	21.1	-4.8	13.9	19.0	-5.1
Environment and Infrastructure	7.4	2.5	4.9	7.6	2.7	4.9
Collecting and Getting Rid of Waste	21.8	1.2	20.6	21.3	0.1	21.2
Recreation and Tourism	6.8	1.9	4.9	6.7	1.4	5.3
Corporate Support Costs/Other	24.1	7.0	17.1	24.4	7.2	17.2
Benefit Payments and Other Services	83.9	62.0	21.9	85.0	65.2	19.8
<b>Net spending</b>	<b>479.0</b>	<b>303.5</b>	<b>175.5</b>	<b>480.8</b>	<b>301.5</b>	<b>179.3</b>

## Why spending has changed

We estimate that our spending before the use of reserves will increase from £175.5 million in 2020/21 to £179.3 million in 2021/22 an increase of £3.8 million as follows:

	<b>£million</b>
Demographic pressures and investment in social care	9.2
Decrease in levy charges (incl. Waste Disposal and Transport Levy)	0.2
Inflation and other increases	1.5
Increase due to national living wage	1.3
Increase in Government Grants	-1.4
Increase in Government Grants (COVID-19)	-8.7
Income Generation and Service Delivery Savings	-9.2
Reduction in Investment Income	5.4
Other	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.8</b>

The above includes £10.3 million of COVID related pressures.

## 3 - How your Council services are paid for

Our total planned spending on services is £480.8m. This is paid for from specific grants, local fees and charges of £301.5m. The largest grants are Dedicated Schools Grant £155.2m, and Housing Benefit subsidy grant £46.0m. The remaining £179.3m comes from retained business rates of £62.29m and Council Tax of £105.87m, including £3.06m Adult Social Care Precept and £11.14m use of reserves.

## 4 - How we work out your Council Tax

Council Tax pays for our spending plans that are not covered by government grants and fees and charges.

We also add on the net spending plans of the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner and the Mayoral General (including Fire Services) before we work out how much Council Tax each household must pay.

	<b>2021/22 £million</b>	<b>Amount for each person £</b>
Our spending plans	179.304	755.43
Council Tax collection fund	1.095	4.61
-surplus/+deficit previous year		
Business rates collection fund	0.443	1.87
-surplus/+deficit previous year		
	<u>180.842</u>	<u>761.91</u>
<b>Less:</b>		
Contribution from Reserves (business as usual)	-2.803	-11.81
Contribution from Reserves (COVID-19 pressures)	-8.341	-35.14
Contribution from business rates	<u>-62.734</u>	<u>-264.31</u>
<b>Council Tax Requirement Trafford's own purposes</b>	106.964	450.65
<b>Add:</b>		
Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner	16.551	69.73
Mayoral General (including Fire Services)	<u>6.895</u>	<u>29.05</u>
<b>Total Council Tax Requirement</b>	<u>130.410</u>	<u>549.43</u>

The amount shown against Trafford Council's own purposes includes a figure of £3.06m (a three per cent increase) to cover a precept to help finance the cost of adult social care (see Section 5 for further details of the adult social care precept).

The estimated equivalent number of properties in valuation Band D is 75,816, so the Council Tax for a property in Band D is £1,720.08. We work out the Council Tax for each property band as a specific proportion of the Band D tax. The relevant tax levels for 2021/22 are as follows:

<b>Band</b>	<b>Fraction</b>	<b>Council Tax £</b>
A	6/9	1,146.71
B	7/9	1,337.82
C	8/9	1,528.95

D	9/9	1,720.08
E	11/9	2,102.32
F	13/9	2,484.56
G	15/9	2,866.79
H	18/9	3,440.16

Taxpayers in the following Parish areas will pay extra because of the addition of a local parish precept.

Parish	Parish Precept £
Partington	82,119
Warburton	8,250
Carrington	3,780

In 2020/21, we worked out the money we needed to raise from Council Tax as follows:

	2020/21 £million	Amount for each person £
Our spending plans	175.522	742.57
Council Tax collection fund -surplus/+deficit previous year	-1.216	-5.14
	<u>174.306</u>	<u>737.43</u>
<b>Less:</b>		
Contribution from Reserves	-4.524	-19.14
Contribution from business rates	-65.792	-278.34
<b>Council Tax Requirement</b>		
<b>Trafford's own purposes</b>	103.990	439.95
<b>Add:</b>		
Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner	16.120	68.20
Mayoral General (including Fire Services)	7.038	29.78
<b>Total Council Tax Requirement</b>	<u>127.148</u>	<u>537.93</u>

The estimated equivalent number of properties in valuation Band D was 77,386, so the Council Tax for a property in Band D was £1,643.03.

## 5 - Statement concerning adult social care funding

The Localism Act 2011 abolished council tax capping and replaced it with a requirement to hold a council tax referendum if an authority wishes to increase its 'Relevant Basic Amount

of Council Tax' by an amount equal to or exceeding a level set out by the Government, which for 2021/22 is 2 per cent.

In addition, in each of the financial years since 2016/17 the Secretary of State offered authorities with adult social care responsibilities the option of increasing their 'relevant basic amount' of council tax to help pay for adult social care costs without breaching the referendum threshold.

In relation to the financial year 2021/22 the Secretary of State has determined a referendum principle of five per cent (comprising three per cent for expenditure on adult social care and two per cent for other expenditure), for adult social care authorities, such as Trafford. These authorities may therefore set council tax up to this percentage in 2021/22 without holding a referendum.

In each of the years between 2016/17 and 2021/22, the Council accepted the offer made by the Secretary of State to charge the additional Adult Social Care Precept (two per cent for 2016/17, three per cent for 2017/18, two per cent for 2018/19, one per cent for 2019/20, two per cent for 2020/21 and three per cent for 2021/22) and an accumulated figure of £158.17 is included in the Council Tax figure of £1,720.08 for a Band D equivalent property.

## 6 - Charges for other public services

Our net spending plans include charges for public services the Council does not directly provide but collects the levies on behalf of other organisations who provide the required services in Trafford, including waste, transport and flood and water management.

### Environment Agency

The Environment Agency provides the following information about its flood defences for the North West (how it will protect the area from flooding).

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 6,500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences, in the area of the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion.

The financial details are:

	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>thousands</b>	<b>thousands</b>
Gross expenditure	£92,022	£130,113
Levies raised	£4,097	£4,179

<b>Total Council Tax Base</b>	2,178	2,163
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The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy.

The Local Levy is shared on the basis of Band D Equivalents between all contributing bodies within the Committee Area. The levy to be paid by Trafford Council to the Agency in 2021/22 is £0.146million (£0.146million in 2020/21).

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. The total Local Levy raised has increased by 2 per cent from £4.097 million in 2020/21 to £4.179 million for 2021/22.

## **Waste and transport**

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority also charge us for services they provide:

	<b>2020/21</b> <b>£ thousands</b>	<b>2021/22</b> <b>£ thousands</b>
GM Combined Authority (Transport)	16,176	16,110
GM Combined Authority (Waste)	<u>16,085</u>	<u>15,625</u>
	<u>32,261</u>	<u>31,735</u>

## **7 - Staffing**

The number of full-time equivalent staff working for us in February 2021 was 3,805.

## 8 - Capital spending and loan debt

We have a continuing capital programme reflecting the investment we are planning to make in our assets (buildings, highways and so on) to support the achievement of Council's objectives and key priorities. The money to pay for this spending comes from loans, capital grants and contributions and money we make from selling assets. In 2021/22, we plan to spend £184.37million.

	<b>£million</b>
Schools	13.68
Children's and Adults Social Care	5.42
Highways & Transport	16.90
Leisure Facilities Development	2.74
Regeneration and Economic Development	141.63 *
Other services	4.00
	<b><u>184.37</u></b>

\* Includes £122.57 million on Community Investment Fund.

As at 12 February 2021, the Council's external debt was £380.1 million which amounts to £1,602 for each person in the borough.