

Biographical notes

The Mayor of the Borough of Trafford, Councillor Simon Thomas, 2026/2027

I have served on the council for eight years, facing four elections during that time, and I am proud to be the first Labour councillor elected in Flixton ward for 19 years. I was born at home on Torbay Road in 1965 and grew up locally, attending Flixton Infants and Juniors before moving on to Urmston Grammar School for Boys.

My first experience of politics came in the early 1980s, canvassing for Baroness Hughes. I later stepped away from politics to focus on sport, playing football in local Sunday league pub teams, cricket for both Stretford and Flixton Cricket Clubs—where I captained the 3rd XI—and lacrosse for Urmston Lacrosse Club.

When my children started school, I became more involved in the community again, serving as a parent governor at Woodsend Primary School for eight years, including the final two as Chair. This role gave me my first opportunity to speak in the council chamber, where I opposed the closure of the school—sadly, unsuccessfully. I later continued as a parent governor at Flixton Girls' School.

I was elected as a councillor in 2018, succeeding Alderman Viv Ward, who remains a good friend to both my wife and me. More recently, I have met up with Viv again through my role as a trustee of the Bradshaw Trust. My early committee work included Licensing and Health, followed by a year as Sports Safety Chair. I then served on Licensing and Planning, including three years as Deputy Chair of Licensing, before stepping down. Over the past two years, I have focused on Planning and Scrutiny, an area of particular interest given my earlier role as a Civil Engineering Technician with Manchester City Council.

My career took a different direction in my early twenties, and I have since worked in sales across a variety of sectors, including catering, alarms, and now tools and PPE. I have always enjoyed working in people-facing roles. The hardest role I have undertaken was helping out as Santa at the Trafford Centre!

I have been married to my wife Michelle for 35 years, and we have two daughters, Kirsty and Alicia, both now grown up and with partners of their own. Family has always been the most important part of my life. One of my sons-in-law recently completed a solo coast-to-coast challenge in aid of Mind Manchester, while the other is the brother of former councillors Sean and Steven Anstee.

I have also shared many special experiences with my daughters, including dancing together in shows. Alicia and I achieved second place in the European Adult and Child Pairs competition and went on to win the Commonwealth Pairs title—though the photos of my Lycra costume are now safely locked away! It has been a joy to

watch both girls perform in theatres across the country, including appearances in Summer Holiday alongside Christopher Biggins and Suzanne Shaw.

I strongly believe that building community cohesion and encouraging social development in young people starts at home, but must be supported by opportunities to participate in activities such as sports clubs and dance schools. I would also welcome the return of traditional youth clubs, as Flixton Youth Club played a hugely positive role in my own upbringing.

The Mayoress to the Mayor of the Borough of Trafford, Mrs Michelle Thomas, 2026/2027

Michelle is a self-taught knitter, sewer, and crochet queen, and is branching into soap and candle making. She spends time crafting at home most days.