

**EXECUTIVE CABINET**

**Day:** Wednesday  
**Date:** 30 August 2023  
**Time:** 1.00 pm  
**Place:** Committee Room 1, Committee Room 1 - Tameside One

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
	To receive any apologies for the meeting from Members of the Executive Cabinet.	
2.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
	To receive any declarations of interest from Members of Executive Cabinet.	
3.	<b>MINUTES</b>	
a)	<b>EXECUTIVE CABINET</b>	1 - 10
	The Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 26 July 2023 to be signed by the Chair as a correct record (Minutes attached).	
b)	<b>STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL</b>	11 - 16
	To consider the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 17 August 2023 and approve the recommendations arising from the meeting as follows:	
	<b>PERIOD 3 2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT</b>	
	<b>RECOMMENDED</b>	
	That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:	
	(i) Notes the forecast outturn position set out in table 2.	
	(ii) Approves the £12.909m reprofiling set out in table 2.	
	(iii) Notes the financing position set out in table 3.	
	<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMMES FOR GROWTH DEPARTMENTS</b>	
	<b>RECOMMENDED</b>	
	That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve:	
	(i) £19.9m capital funding for Stalybridge Town Centre to be added to the Council’s capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 26 April 2023.	

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From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Carolyn Eaton, Principal Democratic Services Officer, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

- (ii) £0.730m capital funding for UKSPF as agreed with GMCA to be added to the Council's capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 08 February 2023.

#### **CAPITAL PROGRAMME – OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (PLACE)**

##### **RECOMMENDED**

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Note the progress with regards to the schemes within the Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme as set out in the report.
- (ii) To note and approve the proposed Highways Maintenance programme for 2023 – 2024 as outlined in Appendix 1, subject to confirmation of the 2023/24 Highways maintenance grant.
- (iii) Approve the drawdown of funds for Engineers and Operations and Greenspace in respect of the S106 agreements detailed in Section 3 of this report and add to the council's Capital Programme to allow the detailed design, procurement and installation of the various works.
- (iv) Approve that £0.350m capital funding for UKSPF be added to the Council's capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 08 February 2023.

#### **ADULTS CAPITAL PLAN 2022/2023 AND 2023/2024 UPDATE**

##### **RECOMMENDED**

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the progress updates of the Adult Services Capital Programme.

#### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE**

##### **RECOMMENDED**

That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to APPROVE:

- (i) The Section 106 contributions totalling £0.101m as detailed in paragraph 2.13 are approved to finance Education Capital Schemes.
- (ii) A joint bid to the Football Foundation for St Thomas More sports pitch as detailed in paragraph 3.8.
- (iii) Additional funding of £0.150m to create extra teaching spaces at Oakdale Primary from the High Needs Provision Fund as detailed in paragraph 5.4.

That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to NOTE:

- (i) The removal of (£0.074m) DFC funding from the capital programme in relation to Academy conversions as detailed in paragraph 2.9.

- (ii) **Micklehurst All Saints – Roof Replacement (£0.050m) to be returned to the unallocated School Condition fund as detailed in paragraph 4.14.**
- (iii) **No further funding to be allocated to Rayner Stephens as detailed in paragraph 3.7.**

**CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE & EARLY HELP CAPITAL Q1 MONITORING REPORT**

**RECOMMENDED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:**

- (i) **Note the progress as set out in the report and approve the reforecasting of £1.641m of spend on the Boyds Walk project from 2023-24 to 2024-25.**
- (ii) **Add the capital funding from the Department for Education Family Hubs Grant for financial years 2023-24 (£100,100) and 2024-25 (£69,600) to the capital programme.**

<b>4.</b>	<b>BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 3</b>	17 - 34
	To consider a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME REVIEW 2023</b>	35 - 54
	To consider the attached report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation)/Assistant Director (Exchequer Services).	
<b>6.</b>	<b>POPULATION HEALTH COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS</b>	55 - 64
	To consider the attached report of the Executive Member (Population Health and Wellbeing)/Director of Population Health.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>TAMESIDE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2023/26</b>	65 - 102
	To consider the attached report of the Deputy Executive Leader/Director of Children's Services.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>AUTHORITY'S MONITORING REPORT</b>	103 - 154
	To consider the attached report of the Executive Member (Planning, Transport and Connectivity)/Director of Place.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>UKSPF PEOPLE &amp; SKILLS FUNDING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)</b>	155 - 168
	To consider the attached report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation)/Executive Member (Inclusive Growth, Business and Employment)/Assistant Director (Investment, Development and Housing).	
<b>10.</b>	<b>EXEMPT ITEM</b>	

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From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Carolyn Eaton, Principal Democratic Services Officer, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

The Proper Officer is of the opinion that during the consideration of the item set out below, the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public and therefore the reports are excluded in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Item	Paragraphs	Justification
Item 11	7&9	This report contains exempt information relating to paragraph 7 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) in that it relates to private financial and business affairs of the Council and a series of residential developers active within the Borough.

**11. DISPOSAL - FORMER LIBRARY, UNION STREET, HYDE, SK14 1AL**

169 - 176

To consider a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation / Assistant Director for Strategic Property).

**12. URGENT ITEMS**

To consider any additional items the Chair is of the opinion shall be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

## EXECUTIVE CABINET

26 July 2023

Commenced: 1.00pm

Terminated: 1.30pm

**Present:** Councillors Cooney (Chair), Choksi, Fairfoull, Feeley, Jackson, North, Sweeton, Ward and Wills

**In Attendance:**

<b>Sandra Stewart</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
<b>Ashley Hughes</b>	<b>Director of Resources (s151)</b>
<b>David Wilcock</b>	<b>Assistant Director, Legal Services (MO)</b>
<b>Stephanie Butterworth</b>	<b>Director of Adult's Services</b>
<b>Alison Stathers-Tracey</b>	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
<b>Julian Jackson</b>	<b>Director of Place</b>
<b>Debbie Watson</b>	<b>Director of Population Health</b>
<b>Emma Varnam</b>	<b>Assistant Director, Operations &amp; Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>Simon Brunet</b>	<b>Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence</b>

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors Kitchen (ex-officio) and Taylor.

### 17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Cabinet Members.

### 18. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

#### RESOLVED

**That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 28 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.**

### 19. 2023/24 FORECAST OUTTURN REPORT AT PERIOD 2

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Resources, which set out the Outturn position for the 2023/24 financial year at Month 2.

It was explained that the 2023/24 Revenue Budget had a Net Expenditure Requirement of £221.397m. The Net Expenditure Requirement was financed by Council Tax, Business Rates and other general funding.

Members were advised that, despite a forecasted position that was reflective of a balanced budget, it did contain significant levels of risk, further details of which were given in the report.

At the time of drafting the report, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation was running at 8.7%, unchanged from April 2023. The Bank of England had responded to the 'sticky' inflationary environment with a strong monetary policy decision and increased the base rate of interest by 50 basis points to 5%. There were economic forecasts now considered that to control inflation and return it to the Government target of 2%, the base rate of interest would rise to at least 6% in the calendar year for 2023.

The key points on the forecast 2023/24 Outturn as at month 2 were presented to Members. There was a forecast underspend of £0.031m against the Net Expenditure Requirement of £221.397m.

The position included management action comprising mitigations of £9.128m and reserve drawdowns of £2.126m. The position also assumed the delivery of all savings budget reduction proposals as detailed in the MTFs, for which work was underway within Service areas.

Key cost pressures from the impact of inflationary increases were prevalent within several service areas, on contracts and placements, and detailed work would be undertaken to track the proportion of increase relating to inflation and that being driven through increased demand for certain services.

Significant increases in demand were being experienced within Housing through increases in the requirement for Temporary Accommodation and also within Adults Social Care, particularly relating to long term residential placements.

Detailed analysis would be undertaken for areas where additional funding has been held in contingency to fund potential emerging pressures and, where relevant, recommendations would be put forward to draw down appropriate budget.

The budgeted Net Expenditure Requirement of £221.397m was financed by General Funding to the same amount, in order to balance the budget. The General Funding comprised: Council Tax, Business Rates, Government Grants, and contributions from Earmarked Reserves.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the forecast Revenue Outturn position for 2023/24 and required mitigating actions, be noted;**
- (ii) It be noted that further work will be ongoing throughout the year to track the progress of management actions with further updates to the Executive Cabinet alongside the additional work at Star Chambers, held bi-monthly.**

## **20. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Resources. The report updated the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The MTFS was part of the financial framework for the Council.

The last MTFS was presented as part of the 2023/24 budget proposals, which included a financial projection for the years from 2024/25 to 2027/28. The 2023/24 budget set a balanced budget with a net expenditure requirement of £221.397m. For future years, the increases to the net expenditure requirement were projected, alongside the quantum of new savings needed to balance the budget. Projected new savings were £13.993m in 2024/25, increasing to £37.465m in 2027/28.

The MTFS comprised a net expenditure requirement which was required to be balanced by the Council's General Funding, consisting of Council Tax, Business Rates, General Grants and earmarked reserves.

Following the 2023/24 budget proposals, inflation had remained stubbornly high. The Council also had available the results of the 2022/23 Outturn. There had been further Government announcements and the Council could incorporate the results of official returns and estimates for Council Tax and Business Rates. These changes were included in the updated MTFS.

The General Funding, which would be received in 2023/24, was higher than the 2023/24 budget proposals. Business Rates and Related Grants were £6.280m higher, so that an additional £6.280m could be transferred into Unallocated Earmarked Reserves.

It was stated that the Council's Top Up grant was higher by £2.313m, following a Government announcement. The table further updated for Business Rate income and Section 31 grants, increasing the additional funding as a whole to a total of £6.280m.

With regard to general funding sources from 2024/25 to 2028/29, the Council needed to find £12.889m savings in 2024/25, slightly less than the £13.993m savings previously required. By 2028/29, the savings required was £1.495m higher. In summary, in the revised MTFS, the Net Expenditure Requirement had increased significantly largely due to inflation, but the Council's General Funding Resources had also increased.

The Council would continue to review its MTFS and savings programme going forward. The assumptions included within the report would be refreshed in September to take account of available information on Government funding decisions, as well as the macro-economic environment, and again in December. The impacts would be profiled into best- and worst-case scenarios, to create a range of potential budget gaps to ensure prudence in budget setting.

For 2024/25, targets would be issued to Directorates based upon a percentage of gross budget, which, combined, would deliver the projected budget reduction target for 2024/25. Work would be undertaken between July and September by the Service areas, supported by Finance, to identify potential projects that could be undertaken to deliver the targets in each area. Over the period September to December, those proposals would be further developed to ensure robust delivery plans were in place and work would commence, with a view to maximising the full year effect of delivery in 2024/25.

Further detailed work would be undertaken, including a review of its fees and charges policy alongside a detailed analysis of its Earmarked Reserves. In addition, the Authority was further reviewing the potential cost of introducing the Living Wage Foundation, the National Living Wage and the Fair Cost of Care.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the impact of additional inflationary and demand pressures on the MTFS from 2024/25 to 2028/29, be noted;**
- (ii) It be noted that the update identifies an additional £6.280m of General Funding in 2023/24;**
- (iii) That the proposal to increase Council Tax by an additional 1%, and the Adult Social Care Precept by an additional 1%, both in 2024/25, be noted;**
- (iv) That the overall update to the MTFS for 2024/25 to 2028/29 and the upward revisions to the savings requirement, be approved.**

#### **21. TAMESIDE MARKETS – RENT AND SERVICE CHARGES**

Consideration was given to the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Executive Member for Towns and Communities / Head of Estates in respect of the Rent and Service charges for Tameside Markets. In light of the budget challenges and need to achieve fairness in the cost of living crisis, the purpose of the report was to review the subsidy provided to the markets and to review the annual rent increase set out contractually in all market holder leases. The rent increase set out in lease holders contracts was due from the 1 April annually and would be backdated to this. The delay in seeking this increase had been caused by trying to find a fair balance between the market traders and taxpayers who subsidised the market operation.

It was explained that the permanent market hall traders occupied their units by way of commercial leases with rents reviewed annually and index linked to increases in RPI based on December figures. The December 2022 RPI figure which would be the reference point for April 2023 rent uplifts, was 13.44%, and this RPI uplift was assumed in the 2023/24 budget proposals.

In addition to stall rentals, traders paid a service charge to cover the direct costs of running the markets. The running costs for the markets had historically been subsidised by the Council and the draft Service Charge statements for 2022-2023 showed an estimated subsidy of £170,547 for Ashton Market Hall and a subsidy £8,244 for Hyde market. The 2023/24 budget proposals included a saving to reduce the level of Council subsidy on the service charges.

Members were advised that, if the Council were to seek to recover the £67,000 savings target in relation to the Council's subsidy and simultaneously apply the significant inflationary RPI linked increase to the rents, in the current market trading climate, it came with an inherently high risk of increasing void levels in the markets, and placing traders under additional financial pressure in what was already a challenging retail economy, with the result that it may become financially unsustainable for traders. The consequence of this would be twofold - (i) a reduction in rental income; and (ii) an increase in irrecoverable service charge expenditure.

The options available were presented to Members and detailed below (all figures based on current occupancy):

- a. to apply the contractual increase of 13.4% (RPI) which would generate an additional £0.064m of income; or
- b. to apply an increase at CPI rate of 8.7% which would generate an additional £0.042m of income.

Discussion ensued in respect of the content of the report and the determination of the rent increase, including the importance of striking a fair balance between market traders and tax payers, and it was:

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) **That a global increase to the service charge of £0.067m in total which will be prorated to individual tenants subject to the size of the stall and location of Ashton or Hyde and that this is backdated to 1 April 2023, be approved;**
- (ii) **That an increase at CPI rate of 8.7%, be applied to market rents for financial year 2023/24, (Option B in the report), and that this be backdated to 1 April 2023; and**
- (iii) **It be noted that:**
  - **the budget set at Full Council in February 2023 included an uplift to the market rents at the Retail Price Index (RPI) in December 2022.**
  - **the budget set at Full Council in February 2023 included a savings proposal to reduce the global service charge subsidy to zero, totalling £0.067m at that point in time.**
  - **the revised global service charge subsidy to the markets, driven by the year-end position on utilities and staffing costs, is £0.179m before the decision to increase service charges by £0.067m.**
  - **the Council is still subsidising the markets through its service charges by a total of £0.112m per annum using latest available information.**
  - **the options presented on increases at RPI and Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation to market rents.**
  - **the intention to eliminate the global subsidy for markets' service charges in 2024/25 onwards.**

## **22. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE UPDATE, JULY 2023**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Chief Executive, which provided evidence to demonstrate progress towards achievement of the Corporate Plan and improving the services provided to residents, businesses and key stakeholders within the locality.

The scorecard, which contained long term outcome measures that tracked progress to improve the quality of life for local residents, was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

A glossary providing more information about the indicators included in the Corporate Outcomes Scorecard was attached to the report at Appendix 2.

Members were advised that it was proposed to develop a new scorecard linked to the council's corporate plan that focussed primarily on measures that recorded and explained the performance of council services. That was, areas and indicators the public and regulators used to judge how well the council was run and delivering for the local community. An initial outline scope of potential



measures had been undertaken. Sources included (not exhaustive) Ofsted; Care Quality Commission; Local Government Association (LGA); and government department frameworks. It was proposed a conversation take place with each Directorate on which measures to take forward. The existing long-term outcomes measures would be kept under ongoing review by the council and partners as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

## RESOLVED

**That the content of the report, scorecard at Appendix 1, the glossary of indicators at Appendix 2, and the plan for a refresh of the scorecard, be noted.**

### 23. GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR THE TAMESIDE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Executive Member for Towns and Communities / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, which set out the details of the grant funding for the Tameside Community Safety Partnership and the restrictions of the funding.

It was explained that each Community Safety Partnership in Greater Manchester received an annual grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), who was the Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester. The grants were received and administrated through each Local Authority in Greater Manchester.

Whilst previous years grants had all been issued on annual basis, this year the Deputy Mayor had stipulated a move towards a 3-year grant. The Deputy Mayor wrote to all the Greater Manchester Chairs of the CSPs and Local Authority Chief Executives on the 6 April 2023 to this effect. A copy of the Tameside Community Safety grant allocation letter was attached to the report at Appendix 1. This was accompanied by the Grant Agreement document, attached to the report at Appendix 2 detailing the terms of how each grant was to be spent.

The Grant Agreement document set out the following grant over the next 3 years:

Grant name	Year	Amount	Notes
Community Safety Grant	2023/24	£243,900	
	2024/25	£243,900	
	2025/26	£243,900	
Voluntary and Community Sector Grant	2023/24	£100,000	Carry forward only in exceptional circumstances
	2024/25	£100,000	
	2025/26	£100,000	
Hate Crime Grant	2023/24	£10,000	
	2024/25	£10,000	
	2025/26	£10,000	
Serious Violence Grant	2023/24	£150,000	Carry forward not permitted
	2024/25	£150,000	
Serious Violence Duty – Labour costs	2023/24	£11,182	
	2024/25	£9,858	
Serious Violence Duty – Non -Labour costs	2023/24	£15,966	
	2024/25	£8,098	

In order to accept the terms and conditions of the grant, a declaration must be signed by the following:

- Chief Executive of the Local Authority
- Finance Director of the Local Authority
- Community Safety Partnership Chair(s)

- Director of Children Services
- Director of Public Health

The monetary values above were not provided as one lump sum. Each individual grant would be provided on an annual basis.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the content of the report be noted;
- (ii) That the funding from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) for Community Safety be accepted and a grant funding agreement entered into with GMCA;
- (iii) It be noted that the Local Authority administers this fund on behalf of the Tameside Community Safety Partnership (CSP); and
- (iv) It be noted that the CSP board approves projects, monitors spend and outcomes in terms of the utilisation of the fund. The CSP report back to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) on the utilisation of the spend.

**24. GAS CONTRACT RENEWAL**

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Executive Member for Environmental Services / Director of Place, which explained that the Council's gas contract was due for review.

Members were advised that Tameside Council currently utilised Crown Commercial Services (CCS) framework for gas supplies. Under the CCS contract, there were a number of 'basket' purchasing options available. The current basket arrangement was L6 and referred to the 6-month purchasing window that traders could purchase the commodity prior to 1 April each year. The recommended L12 basket had a longer (10-month) purchasing window prior to the start of delivery each April.

The current arrangements under the L6 basket with CCS meant that the Council were required to serve termination notice prior to 15 September each year in order to leave the contract the following April, otherwise the contract rolled on for another year.

The purpose of the report was to seek approval to continue procuring under a contract with CCS for gas supplies, and sought approval to enter into a medium term strategy to procure gas under a L12 basket with CCS and to provide notification to move basket by 15 March 2024 in readiness to commence in April 2025.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the ongoing procurement of gas via the CCS framework be approved, and
- (ii) That a medium-term strategy be entered into, to move to a L12 basket with CCS at the next available date (to provide notification to move baskets by 15 March 2024). Buying of the commodity would then commence in April 2024 (12 months ahead) in readiness to for April 2025 contracted rates (L12). Noting the longer notice period for leaving the contract after transition.

**25. NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE DELIVERY MODEL - UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Towns and Communities / Director of Place / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, which provided a further update 12 months after the new model had been operational to ensure quality of service; that vulnerable residents were able to access appointments; and that it met demand, whilst at the same time being affordable and cost effective.

It was reported that since the launch of the new model in March 2022, demand had increased from 821 appointments in 2021/22 to 3338 appointments in 2022/23. Libraries were dealing with more footfall from customers dropping in for Level 2 support, which had enabled customer services to

operate on less staff whilst providing a high quality service targeted at Level 1 support that met demand.

The option to book appointments via all libraries during staffed hours had ensured that residents not digitally connected or who were vulnerable, had been able to access the service with 249 people accessing in this manner. Consistent communications would continue to go out so that people knew about the different ways to access the service and how to make an appointment.

More customers were visiting Tameside One in person to make an appointment, although it was acknowledged that this could be related to the economy opening up and more people visiting Ashton following the easing of Covid restrictions. The reception offer provided a professional welcome and support to make appointments, particularly to vulnerable residents, as well as directing people to the library depending on the type of enquiry.

Customer feedback revealed waiting times for appointments and quality of service was positive. There were some early issues around customers knowing how to contact the service, however this had significantly improved as a result of consistent communications going out.

Overall, the new service model appeared to be working well with referrals monitored each day along with staffing levels to ensure customers were seen promptly and by the channel of access that best suited their needs.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the progress made on the implementation of the new customer service centre delivery model and future developments, be noted.**

## **26. FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROVISION OF ADAPTATIONS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services, seeking approval for the establishment of a framework of approved contractors for adaptations for disabled people.

It was explained that, on 24 August 2022, Executive Cabinet gave permission for the procurement of a new framework of approved contractors for the delivery of adaptations for people in Tameside with disabilities. The new framework would provide suitable contractors to deliver adaptations over a 4 year period. STaR Procurement would lead the process to procure suitable contractors on the framework to provide the required works based upon the establishment of a minimum quality threshold.

Members were advised that a procurement exercise was carried out earlier in 2023 with STaR Procurement and Tameside Commissioning Services within Adult Social Care for the provision of the following: Major Adaptation Works (Lot 1A & Lot 1B), Minor Adaption Works (Lot 2 & 3), Extensions to residential properties (Lot 4) and Disrepair works for homeowners over 65 years and other vulnerable residents (Lot 5).

If approved, the new contracts with each provider for inclusion on the framework would commence on 1 September 2023 for 4 years to 31 August 2027.

Once the framework commenced, the intention was for individual packages of work to be specified and either approved using the fixed costs process within Lot 1A, or work would be compared with prices submitted by providers as part of the tender and works offered to those providing best value subject to their respective workloads for Lot 1B. Other works in Lot 2 and Lot 3 would be allocated to the contractor offering the best price. Works in Lot 4 and Lot 5 would be subject to a competitive quote exercise within the framework.

## **RESOLVED**

**That approval be given under the Council's Procurement Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations to establish and use a framework of approved contractors to carry out adaptations and other works in residential properties for disabled and vulnerable people, namely:**

- **ABM (Lancashire) Ltd**
- **Accessibility Bathrooms**
- **Jackson & Taylor**
- **KPDodd Construction**
- **M&R Heating Services**
- **Rivergate Developments**
- **Structec (NW) Ltd**

## **27. GMCA GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR A BED FOR EVERY NIGHT (ABEN) AND COMMUNITY ACCOMMODATION TIER 3 (CAS3)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, which explained that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) had prepared a joint grant funding agreement, which outlined the funding support it proposed to provide Tameside MBC, to deliver the following Greater Manchester programmes within Tameside:

- "A Bed Every Night" (ABEN) Homelessness Programme
- The Community Accommodation Service [Tier 3] (CAS3)

ABEN and CAS3 were 2 homelessness programmes, which provided vital accommodation for those who were at imminent risk of rough sleeping and who had no interim statutory accommodation options open to them. The programmes were key to prevent rough sleeping in Tameside.

Members were advised that the grant funding agreement was developed months before the GMCA had reached a final decision on their budget. Therefore the funding details from 1 April 2023 onwards, were indicative, for planning purposes only, and subject to formal approval by the GMCA as part of its annual budget. The GMCA had now formally approved their budget for the year 2023-2024 and had informed Tameside Council that they would be awarded in 2023-2024, £260,000 for the ABEN Homeless Programme and £202,116 for CAS3.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the GMCA Grant Funding be accepted and that the Authority enters in to the GMCA Grant Funding Agreement; and**
- (ii) The indicative funding for the year 2024-2025, as detailed in the report, be noted.**

## **28. REVIEW OF SUPPORTING FAMILIES DELIVERY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader, Children and Families / Assistant Director for Early Help and Partnerships, setting out the business case to terminate the contract between Tameside Council and Active Tameside for 'The Supporting Families Services' funded through the Supporting Families Grant (The Grant) and to bring the service back into the Local Authority control to provide better oversight and assurance around the quality of provision and to ensure value for money through the efficient use of grant. The proposition had been in consideration for some time before the recent announcement regarding closure of facilities and was not a reflection on the Trust, but a continuation of the children's improvement journey.

It was explained that whilst the performance of the provider had been consistently good, there was a need to bring about a more joined up service that was in line with the overall improvement journey in Children's Services. A critical part of the improvement journey was the Early Help Transformation programme that had seen a new Thresholds Framework developed across the partnership; a refreshed Early Help Partnership and Strategy, and further investment in case work using the Grant

which had provided the opportunity to review the efficacy of the provided service, particularly around management oversight of case work and value for money. Bringing the management of the service back into the local authority would provide the regular, operational oversight required to make further improvements in whole family support in Tameside.

The new Family Help Service was very much focussed on supporting the whole family network for as long as was needed, to prevent their needs escalating with long term ambition for families to access universal services. The focus had shifted considerably from providing time-limited interventions to more long-term support to prevent needs escalating leading to families requiring statutory services.

The new ways of working were already embedding and performance was improving steadily. It had also lead to the planned co-location of Family Help Teams with Children's Social Care locality teams to enable the smooth transition of children and families between levels of threshold. This was done in real time by Team Managers from the respective teams on a weekly basis. The practice would require the staff employed by Active to be more integrated in these teams so that their cases could be regularly reviewed by Team Managers to ensure the families were getting the right support from the right place. This renewed focus on strengthened management oversight and the transition of cases between Family Help and Children's Social Care meant that all staff who were working directly with children and families needed to be working together under single management arrangements. The transfer of the service back into Local Authority control would provide robust oversight as well as providing value for money and efficient use of the Grant.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Local Authority serve three months' notice on 1 August 2023, as per the terms and conditions of the contract, to terminate the contract for 'The Supporting Families Services'; and**
- (ii) That those staff, where applicable, be TUPE transferred to Tameside MBC.**

#### **29. URGENT ITEMS**

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items for consideration at this meeting.

#### **30. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

#### **RESOLVED**

**It be noted that the next meeting of Executive Cabinet is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 30 August 2023.**

**CHAIR**

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## STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL

17 August 2023

**Commenced:** 14:00

**Terminated:** 14:20

**Present:** Councillors Cooney (Chair), Fairfoull (Deputy Chair), North, McNally and McLaren

**In Attendance:**

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Ashley Hughes	Director of Resources
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Tracey Harrison	Assistant Director of Adults
Jane Sowerby	Assistant Director of Education
Catherine Moseley	Head of Access Services
Ben Middleton	Assistant Director of Strategic Property

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Feeley, Bray, L Boyle and Dickinson

### 12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 13 MINUTES

The minutes of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting held on the 22 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

### 14 PERIOD 3 2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources. The report detailed the forecasted outturn position for period 3 of the current financial year.

This was the first capital monitoring report for 2023/24, summarising the forecast outturn position at 31 March 2024. The detail of this monitoring report was focused on the budget and forecast expenditure for fully approved projects in the 2023/24 financial year. In addition to fully approved projects the Programme also included earmarked schemes which had been added to the programme but not specifically allocated yet, for example contingency budgets.

The Council's Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2025/26 contained £96.939m of schemes, of which £92.062m were fully approved and £4.877m were earmarked. A major risk facing the programme was the ongoing inflationary and supply pressures in the construction sector, which limited the affordability of projects. This had worsened where projects are delayed into future years which means the effects of inflation were further magnified.

#### RECOMMENDED

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:**

- (i) **Notes the forecast outturn position set out in table 2.**
- (ii) **Approves the £12.909m reprofiling set out in table 2.**
- (iii) **Notes the financing position set out in table 3.**

### 15 CAPITAL PROGRAMMES FOR GROWTH DEPARTMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Executive Member for Climate Emergency & Environmental Services / Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment / Executive Member for Towns & Communities / Executive Member for Planning Transport and Connectivity / Director of Place/ Assistant Director for Strategic Property. The report provided an update on the delivery of capital projects in the Place Directorate in relation to Growth.

The Panel were advised that Stalybridge Town Centre was awarded capital funding of £19.9m from the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in the March 2023 UK Budget. The Council signed the Memorandum of Understanding with DLUHC for this funding on 16 June 2023 and a delivery programme was now being prepared for the period to 31 March 2026.

It was reported that the Council had secured £730,000 of capital funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) under the SME Workspace investment priority (Intervention E22) to support SME Workspace at the Grade II\* Listed Ashton Old Baths. The capital funding would deliver improvement works to the roof and brickwork of the historic building and create additional SME workspace within the building through repurposing of existing spaces. Additional revenue funding from UKSPF had also supported the appointment of a Business Support Officer to be based at Ashton Old Baths.

Overall, this capital funding would ensure that Ashton Old Baths was futureproofed as an important incubation space for the DCT sector. The building sat within the recently adopted Future St Petersfield Masterplan, an important location for new commercial, leisure and residential development.

The Council was currently finalising the relevant grant funding agreement with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to enable the Council to deliver the UKSPF SME Workplace Place Programme for Tameside and drawdown associated funding.

## **RECOMMENDED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve:**

- (i) £19.9m capital funding for Stalybridge Town Centre to be added to the Council's capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 26 April 2023.**
- (ii) £0.730m capital funding for UKSPF as agreed with GMCA to be added to the Council's capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 08 February 2023.**

## **16 CAPITAL PROGRAMME – OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (PLACE)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Planning, Transport & Connectivity / Executive Member for Climate Emergency & Environmental Services / Assistant Director of Operations & Neighbourhoods.

Members were advised that the footway refurbishment scheme scheduled for Huddersfield Road, Stalybridge had now been completed, following removal of the scaffolding. The previous report set out details of the proposed Highway Maintenance Programme for 2022 - 2023 Phase 2. The programme presented, at this time, was subject to affordability following the completion of a procurement exercise which is now complete. An Executive Decision would now be taken to secure approval to award a contract to the successful contractor. Based on the tender submissions, and subject to approval, the programme presented in the previous report is deliverable.

Delivery of the programme was anticipated to start in summer 2023. Exact dates, for each location, will be confirmed once the contractor is formally appointed. These dates would be communicated to residents and businesses adjacent to the schemes, ward councillors and the general public.

Work had started on the development of this year's Highway Maintenance programme 2023 - 2024. The proposed programme could be found at Appendix 1. The estimated cost of delivering this



programme is £1.050m which, in principle, was affordable from the anticipated Highway's Maintenance budget for 2023 – 2024.

The report detailed the developments and proposed Section 106 works. The report sought approval for the works listed in the report and to be added to the Council's Capital Programme to allow the detailed design, procurement and installation of the works.

The Council had been awarded UK Shared Prosperity Funding for projects in Tameside, £350,041 had been granted for improvements to Greenspace including more inclusive play equipment; greenspace infrastructure improvements and funding for litter bins and litter pickers. Officers had recommended various projects across Greenspace to the UKSPF Board and the Executive Member for UKSPF – all the projects were approved. Officers were requesting that the £350,041 UKSPF funding be included in the Capital Programme.

## **RECOMMENDED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:**

- (i) Note the progress with regards to the schemes within the Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme as set out in the report.**
- (ii) To note and approve the proposed Highways Maintenance programme for 2023 – 2024 as outlined in Appendix 1, subject to confirmation of the 2023/24 Highways maintenance grant.**
- (iii) Approve the drawdown of funds for Engineers and Operations and Greenspace in respect of the S106 agreements detailed in Section 3 of this report and add to the council's Capital Programme to allow the detailed design, procurement and installation of the various works.**
- (iv) Approve that £0.350m capital funding for UKSPF be added to the Council's capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 08 February 2023.**

## **17 ADULTS CAPITAL PLAN 2022/2023 AND 2023/2024 UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. This report provided an update of the developments in relation to the Adults Capital Programme.

It was reported that the replacement of equipment continues on a reactive basis pending the planned changes to the Housing Adaptations service. Since the beginning of April 2023, requests to replace 3 ceiling track hoists, 2 stairlifts and 2 through floor lifts were received due to the inability to repair them or the excessive cost to revenue. The new procurement tender process for lifting and hoisting equipment that was led by Oldham Council had completed the moderation of bids received and would now progress to the contract award stage. The Council would be a partner on this contract.

In regards to Disabled Facilities Grant and Other Related Adaptations Funding, delivery of adaptations was continuing and the rate of delivery and expenditure was slowly increasing as post pandemic issues recede. The number of contractors available was still an issue. The new framework for adaptations contractors was progressing through governance and this should see the new builders begin to take effect in early 2024. As noted in the previous report the cost of extensions to properties remained a problem for homeowner applicants. However, most of the current extensions under development were with social landlords, primarily Jigsaw.

The number of requests for extensions continued to rise, as did the number of complex cases. There were 10 extensions at various stages of development/ completion and 7 complex cases including 3 where the grant limit could be exceeded.

The number of people making enquiries about personal application for DFG had risen sharply. 8 enquiries had been received since beginning of April. Some of these would likely not submit or

would fail due to the nature of the works not meeting the criteria. This meant there were currently 23 active enquiries.

The report provided an update on the Changing Place Toilets (CPT). Due to issues with design costs and timescale considerations STaR Procurement was carrying out an expression of interest on the Chest for a design and build process. Muscular Dystrophy UK had approved the design for the CPT for 4C at Christ Church in Ashton-Under-Lyne. The design could now progress to procurement.

The most important change related to the Hyde Bangladeshi Welfare Association (HBWA). The HBWA had changed the location of the scheme within the existing building and due to the issues it created a discussion was held with MDUK. They had expressed strong concerns about the viability of the CPT in the building and have said they cannot agree to the scheme. HBWA had been informed of this decision. A modification request had been submitted to DLUHC requesting this scheme be changed for the scheme at St George's in Denton. The loss of the HBWA meant that there were now only 3 schemes in the program. Due to the costs associated with this type of work it was still possible that the majority of the budget will be taken up. It was not considered suitable to search for a replacement venue due to the time constraints. As noted in the previous report the costs associated with CPT are high. The estimated costs of each CPT was expected to be in the region of £0.070m including design fees.

## **RECOMMENDED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the progress updates of the Adult Services Capital Programme.**

## **18 EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Education Achievement and Equalities / Assistant Director of Education / Director of Place. The report provided members of the Panel with an overview and updated position on the Council's Education Capital Programme and sought approval of the recommendations to Cabinet as set out in the report.

The report detailed the Section 106 Developer contributions which provided additional income intended to contribute towards the provision of additional school places. The report proposed to allocate Section 106 monies from the £0.232m received from developers to current schemes in year. The report detailed allocating contributions totalling £0.101m towards the works at Gee Cross Holy Trinity and at Mickle Hurst All Saints.

In regards to Basic Needs Funded Schemes, an update was provided for St Thomas More, it was highlighted that the school were progressing with a sporting facilities bid with the Football Foundation to obtain further funding towards the project. It was recommended that a joint bid be entered to the Football Foundation between the Council and the school as the LA had a joint ownership interest. The allocation from the Council would be used by the school as part of the match funding for this bid. The funds would not be released to the school until there was an approved grant from the Football Foundation.

An update was provided on the High Needs Provision Funded Schemes. In regards to Oakdale Primary, since the high level budget was approved, design works were undertaken and tender packages sent out. These had now been returned and the project cost had exceeded the original approved budget. The increase in cost was mainly due to additional toilets required and structural works that needed to be incorporated within the scheme, which came to light during the design and specification process. The works could be phased in line with current governance and upon approval of the additional funding, would be totally complete by middle of October 2023 as the second phase could be undertaken whilst school was operational. Panel was asked to recommend to Executive Cabinet that a further allocation of £0.150m was approved from the High Needs Provision Fund to enable the works to be completed. This would provide a total budget of £0.300m.

Members were advised that two schools have converted to Academy status in the 2023/24 financial year. As a result of this any DFC funding held by the authority must be transferred as part of the academy conversion. A total of £0.074m needed to be removed from the capital programme to reflect the transfer of funding.

#### **RECOMMENDED**

**That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to APPROVE:**

- (i) **The Section 106 contributions totalling £0.101m as detailed in paragraph 2.13 are approved to finance Education Capital Schemes.**
- (ii) **A joint bid to the Football Foundation for St Thomas More sports pitch as detailed in paragraph 3.8.**
- (iii) **Additional funding of £0.150m to create extra teaching spaces at Oakdale Primary from the High Needs Provision Fund as detailed in paragraph 5.4.**

**That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to NOTE:**

- (i) **The removal of (£0.074m) DFC funding from the capital programme in relation to Academy conversions as detailed in paragraph 2.9.**
- (ii) **Micklehurst All Saints – Roof Replacement (£0.050m) to be returned to the unallocated School Condition fund as detailed in paragraph 4.14.**
- (iii) **No further funding to be allocated to Rayner Stephens as detailed in paragraph 3.7.**

## **19 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE & EARLY HELP CAPITAL Q1 MONITORING REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Assistant Director for Children's Services / Assistant Director for Early Help and Partnerships. The report provided an update on the Children's Social Care and Early Help property capital schemes and set out details of the major approved schemes in this area of Children's Services.

In regards to Boyds Walk RIBA Stage 2 had recently been completed and at this early stage, the project was anticipated to be approx. £0.200m over budget. The main reasons for this were a small increase in the gross internal floor area, soft market testing of market of the mechanical and electrical works required coming back significantly higher than first estimated and the requirement to have a sub-station to accommodate the new capacity brought by the scheme. Early value engineering had been undertaken during stage 2 and the current cost of the project included risk and inflation contingencies, which could be taken out as the project moves through its RIBA stages. Further value engineering would also be considered, especially for mechanical and electrical works, in order to manage cost within the original funding envelope.

A £0.700m capital bid to the NHSE was being drafted and would be submitted in August. If successful, this bid would reduce the Council's 50% contribution to the scheme and / or provide a contingency for the scheme. The success, or otherwise, of this bid would be reported in future monitoring reports.

In May 2022, Tameside Council was one of seventy-five local authorities identified to receive a £169,700 share of the £301.750 million to implement the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme in the years 2022-25.

The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme was a jointly overseen by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) with funding allocated for October 2022 to March 2025. There was an expectation that local authorities meet all the requirements of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme by 31 March 2025.

The Tameside Family Hub model was well under way utilising revenue grant funding from the Department for Education to provide a new updated model of providing support to Tameside families. The new capital investment in the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme would

be used to support Family Hubs to have stable IT infrastructure so that our workforce and partners are able to have good reliable connectivity. The capital spending would also enable bringing in IT equipment into Family Hubs for families to use to access websites such as the Local Offer or Children's services pages. Some capital funding would be used to repair our outdoor areas to support with the delivery of early years sessions externally. In addition, family hubs would be re-branded with new signs at the hub and spoke locations.

#### **RECOMMENDED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:**

- (i) Note the progress as set out in the report and approve the reforecasting of £1.641m of spend on the Boyds Walk project from 2023-24 to 2024-25.**
- (ii) Add the capital funding from the Department for Education Family Hubs Grant for financial years 2023-24 (£100,100) and 2024-25 (£69,600) to the capital programme.**

#### **20 URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

**CHAIR**

# Agenda Item 4

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	30 August 2023
<b>Executive Member / Reporting Officer:</b>	Cllr Jacqueline North –First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) Ashley Hughes – Director of Resources
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>PERIOD 3 2023/24 FORECAST OUTTURN – REVENUE AND CAPITAL.</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	<p>This is the Period 3 monitoring report for the current financial year, showing the forecast outturn position.</p> <p>The report reviews the financial position for the General Fund revenue budget, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Capital budget.</p> <p>The underlying revenue position of £12.264m pressure is an adverse movement of £3.167m from Period 2 (where it was £9.097m) with compensatory management actions to deliver a forecast balanced position. The adverse movement is primarily driven by changes in placement mix, with more high cost placements than budgeted for, in Adults and Children’s Services reflecting greater complexity of need in our residents in receipt of care and support.</p> <p>There is a forecast deficit on the DSG of £2.540m, driven by High Needs Block costs forecast above the grant resources.</p> <p>The Capital programme is forecasting an underspend in-year, with subsequent reprofiling of budgets to future years, of £12.193m. This is due to programme rephasing at major projects including Godley Green and Hawthorn’s Special School.</p>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>That Executive Cabinet notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) The forecast General Fund revenue budget position of an underlying pressure of £12.264m, which is an adverse movement of £3.167m from Period 2 reporting.</li><li>2) The management actions being taken of £12.300m, which will be monitored for delivery and reported back to Cabinet on a regular basis.</li><li>3) That there is a projected overall underspend of £0.036m, following the application of management actions, as outlined in Table 2.</li><li>4) The forecast deficit on the DSG of £2.540m, primarily arising from the High Need Block.</li><li>5) The forecast of £12.193m budget reprofiling to future years on the Capital Programme for 2023/24, and that the decision to reprofile the budgets will be recommended to the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel (SPCMP).</li></ol>
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	Full Council set the approved budgets in February 2023.

**Financial Implications:** As contained within the report.  
**(Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)**

**Legal Implications:** The Local Government Act 1972 (Sec 151) states that “every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs...”  
**(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

Revenue monitoring is an essential part of these arrangements to provide Members with the opportunity to understand and probe the Council’s financial position.

Members will note that the underlying outturn position is a net deficit of £12.264m on Council budgets. As the council has a legal duty to deliver a balanced budget by the end of each financial year Members need to be content that there is a robust Medium Term plan in place to ensure that the council’s longer term financial position will be balanced. Ultimately, failure to deliver a balanced budget can result in intervention by the Secretary of State.

The council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that it operates with sufficient reserves in place. The legislation does not stipulate what that level should be, rather that it is the responsibility of the council’s 151 officer to review the level of reserves and confirm that the level is sufficient. Reserves by their very nature are finite and so should only be drawn down after very careful consideration as the reserves are unlikely to be increased in the short to medium term.

**Risk Management:** Associated details are specified within the report.

Failure to properly manage and monitor the Council’s budgets will lead to service failure and a loss of public confidence. Expenditure in excess of budgeted resources is likely to result in a call on Council reserves, which will reduce the resources available for future investment. The use and reliance on one off measures to balance the budget is not sustainable and makes it more difficult in future years to recover the budget position.

**Background Papers:** Background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Gemma McNamara, Interim Assistant Director of Finance (Deputy 151 Officer):

 e-mail: [gemma.mcnamara@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.mcnamara@tameside.gov.uk)

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's forecast financial position across the General Fund revenue budget, DSG and Capital Programme as at June 2023.
- 1.2 It shows the Council's budgets, forecast outturn positions and underlying variances. The report also identifies the management actions being taken to offset adverse variances.
- 1.3 Overall, there are significant expenditure pressures and risk of £12.264m on the underlying position within the General Fund. In order to mitigate this, Officers have put in place management actions of £12.300m to mitigate this overspend and maintain the position within the agreed budget, and these actions are reviewed with every budget monitoring report to confirm they remain on track.
- 1.4 A £2.540m overspend is forecast on the DSG fund, for which the work on the Delivering Better Value (DBV) project is aimed to target.
- 1.5 The Capital budget has forecast budgets of £12.193m to be reprofiled to future years in 2023/24, this does not affect the overall programme budget which is still forecast to break-even.
- 1.6 At the time of drafting this report, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation was running at 7.9%, a reduction of 0.8% since May 2023. The Bank of England have responded to the sticky inflationary environment with a strong monetary policy decision and increased the base rate of interest by 50 basis points to 5%, with a further increase of 25 basis points announced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023, taking the rate to 5.25%. There are economic forecasts now considering, that to control inflation and return it to the Government target of 2%, the base rate of interest will rise to at least 6% in the calendar year for 2023. Although the rate of inflation has decreased, cost of living pressures remain significant and will continue to impact on both the costs of, and demand for, Council Services for the foreseeable future.
- 1.7 Members should be aware of the wider impact the macroeconomic environment is having in Local Government. Multiple local authorities have warned of pressures adversely impacting on their financial sustainability, despite the welcome increase in funding received in the Local Government Finance Settlement for this financial year. A lack of multi-year funding settlements and the sustained high level of inflation has severely impacted the level of underlying risk in the Council's financial position and made planning for the future more difficult due to the increased uncertainty around available funding.
- 1.8 Whilst the Council is not in a poor financial position in terms of its balance sheet at this point in time, and section 6 on reserves demonstrates this, it is clear that ongoing cost pressures make delivering the 2023/24 budget, and the future Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), a difficult task. The addition of Star Chambers will support the delivery of budget reductions in 2023/23 through the continuous oversight and "critical friend" challenge nature in which they operate. However, without a "One Council" approach and a clear rationale around reserves being used to support transformation, change and a sustainably lower expenditure budget, Members will be asked to make more-and-more difficult decisions over the medium-term regarding service provision and levels of income generated locally.
- 1.9 Any decision to use reserves, above those approved at Budget Council, would require Section 151 Officer approval. Reserves should not be an alternative to undelivered budget reductions. The Section 151 Officer is of the view that, as at Period 03 reporting, additional use of reserves is not necessary subject to the identified management actions taking full effect in 2023/24.

## 2. FORECAST 2023/24 REVENUE OUTTURN POSITION AT MONTH 3

- 2.1 The underlying Month 3 adverse variance is £12.264m, which represents an adverse movement on the month 2 underlying position of £3.167m.
- 2.2 In recognition of this increasing risk, Officers have identified further offsetting mitigating actions of £3.172m, bringing the total to £12.300m. As a result, there is an overall month 3 projected underspend of £0.036m, representing a slight improvement of £0.006m on the reported month 2 position.
- 2.3 Of the underlying pressures emerging across the Council, the 3 largest potential overspends are: £5.057m on Place; £4.741m on Children's Social Care; and £2.850m on Adults Social Care. The most significant forecast underspend is in Resources (for £1.324m), driven by additional interest earned through working capital management and cashflow from surplus balances due to timing differences between inflows and outflows. Surplus balances do not mean additional funds for service delivery.
- 2.4 Table 1 below compares the month 3 forecast and final outturn position in previous years to give further context on the 2023/24 month 3 underlying variance of £12.264m. For example in 2022/23 the position reported at month 3 was an overspend of £12.850m, moving to an outturn position of £0.681m, with the main contributing factors being reductions in underlying forecasts/estimations, implementing one-off mitigations and use of reserves. Although in previous years the forecast position has improved as the Council progresses through the year, this has mainly been achieved by using one-off solutions which aren't sustainable going forward.

**Table 1: Previous years month 3 underlying variance compared to outturn position**

Financial year	Month 3 Underlying Variance	Outturn Position
	£m	£m
2022/23	12.850	0.681
2021/22	6.850	0.131
2020/21	5.966	(0.102)
2019/20	1.387	0.013
2018/19	3.724	(0.028)

- 2.5 Table 2 overleaf gives a breakdown of the position for each Directorate showing both the underlying risks and management actions, leading to the reported position and shown against the month 2 position.

**Table 2: Month 3 forecast monitoring position**

Forecast Position	Revenue Budget	Month 3 Forecast	Underlying Variance	Management Action	Net Variance	Net Variance Month 2	Change in Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adults	41.586	44.436	2.850	(2.833)	0.017	0.017	-
Children's Social Care	55.491	60.232	4.741	(4.441)	0.300	0.283	0.017
Education	8.743	9.538	0.795	(0.550)	0.245	0.144	0.101
Population Health	14.332	14.232	(0.100)	-	(0.100)	(0.097)	(0.003)
Place	28.811	33.868	5.057	(4.326)	0.731	0.511	(0.220)
Quality & Safeguarding	0.046	0.046	-	-	-	-	-
Governance	13.414	13.659	0.245	(0.150)	0.095	0.029	0.066
Resources	58.973	57.649	(1.324)	-	(1.324)	(0.917)	(0.407)



<b>Totals</b>	<b>221.397</b>	<b>233.661</b>	<b>12.264</b>	<b>(12.300)</b>	<b>(0.036)</b>	<b>(0.031)</b>	<b>(0.006)</b>
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2.6 To provide further detail to the table above, the following table shows the movement in the underlying position for month 3 compared to month 2, which is then described in more detail for each Directorate in sections following the table.

**Table 3: Month 3 movement in underlying position**

<b>Forecast Position</b>	<b>Revenue Budget</b>	<b>Month 3 Forecast</b>	<b>Month 3 Underlying Variance</b>	<b>Month 2 Underlying Variance</b>	<b>Change in variance</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Adults	41.586	44.436	2.850	1.487	1.363
Children's Social Care	55.491	60.232	4.741	2.576	2.165
Education	8.743	9.538	0.795	0.644	0.151
Population Health	14.332	14.232	(0.100)	(0.097)	(0.003)
Place	28.811	33.868	5.057	5.225	(0.168)
Quality & Safeguarding	0.046	0.046	-	-	-
Governance	13.414	13.659	0.245	0.179	0.066
Resources	58.973	57.649	(1.324)	(0.917)	(0.407)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>221.397</b>	<b>233.661</b>	<b>12.264</b>	<b>9.097</b>	<b>3.167</b>

**Adults Services – Underlying overspend of £2.850m, adverse movement of £1.363m**

2.7 The Adults Services Directorate has a forecast overspend against budget in 2023/24 of £2.850m, which is an adverse movement of £1.363m on the underlying forecast from period 2.

2.8 The main variations to budget for the increase of £1.363m in the forecast since period 2 include a net £2.473m increase in Nursing Placements costs including short stay placements, out of borough care and also additional support for increased needs for care.

2.9 Part of the key pressure is due to the number of clients being an increase of 25% on the budgeted number of clients expected within placements. The budget assumed an average number of 731 placements per month. The forecast number of placements per month is currently 916, based upon the month 3 position, adjusted for backdated changes identified in the current period. This is a 7% increase on the monthly average number of placements in 2022/23, which was 859.

2.10 The current and forecast number of placements include a significant increase of short stay placements when compared to the number budgeted. The budget assumed an average number of 25 short stay placements per month. The current forecast assumes placements per month continues to run at 177 over the course of the current year. During 2022/23, the average number of placements was 142 over the year, for which the current forecast represents an increase of 25%. Further work is underway with Health colleagues to evaluate the cause of the significant increase, the details of which will be explained in a subsequent monitoring report.

2.11 In addition, transition funding supports the related part year costs of children who become 18 during the year of transition and for the following financial year whilst care needs are assessed. The forecast annual cost of these placements in 2023/24 is currently £1.530m based on the full year effect of transitions from 2022/23 set against the budget of £1.344m.

2.12 A further area of pressure relates to an increase in the net forecast of Home Care and Support at Home costs of £0.104m since period 2. This is due to a 13% forecast increase in the hours provided per week compared to the budgeted allocation. The budget assumed an average number of 10,600 hours per week, however the current number of hours per week is 12,000,

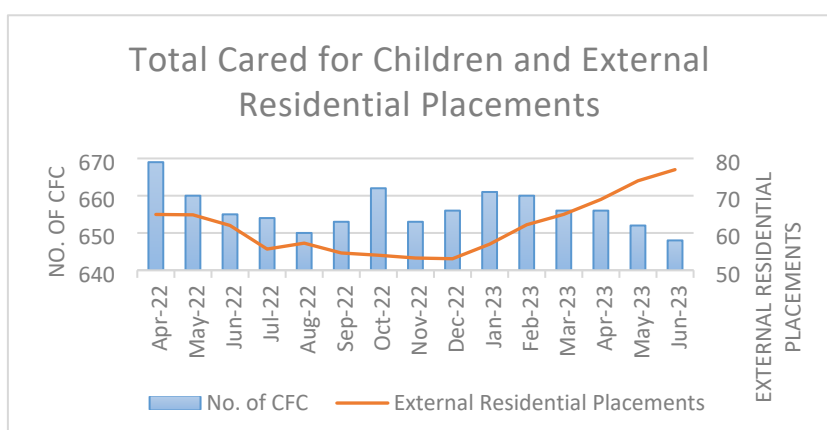
which has been projected for the remainder of the year. This is a 10% increase on the monthly median number of hours provided per week in 2022/23 (10,940).

- 2.13 A key area of focus relating to these home care hours relates to the differing type of care currently undertaken, with the hours split into standard home care (paid at £19.50 per hour) and support at home (paid at £21.14 per hour), which aims to support residents to live more independently. Targeting an increase in support at home hours, which although at a higher hourly cost, works out to be more cost effective overall due to a reduction in the hours required, as well as supporting residents to live independent lives. In addition, it is expected that this should result in a reduction of future demand for residential care home packages and modelling will be undertaken to show the impact of a movement towards more support at home packages being undertaken.
- 2.14 Management mitigations include an initial review of all existing care packages exceeding an annual net cost of £0.100m, this will then be followed by a review to pick up all packages with an annual net cost above £0.050m. These reviews will be supported by additional capacity via the conversion of existing vacant Social Worker posts to Social Care Assessor posts. In addition, the programme of out of borough resettlement to in borough provision will be accelerated and a review has commenced of health contributions towards jointly financed care packages. There is detailed work underway to evaluate the impact of these actions to support the required forecast mitigation value of £2.833m.
- 2.15 There are also further projects underway within the Directorate to realise longer term efficiencies including a review of the unit costs of internal learning disabilities service provision, the internal property portfolio management arrangements, a review of supported accommodation care provision to increase independence and the early review of service user care needs that will transition from Children's Services to realise care package cost efficiencies from the age of 18.

**Children's Services – Social Care – Underlying overspend £4.471m, adverse movement of £2.165m**

- 2.16 The overall position on Children's services is an underlying variance of £4.741m, mitigated by management actions of £4.441m, resulting in a net variance of £0.300m, an adverse movement of £0.017m on the month 2 position. The forecast overspend is driven by external placements for Cared for Children. This relates both to the overall number and the increasing cost of each placement with external residential placement numbers currently at 77, compared to 66 at the start of the financial year and 75 last month. In addition, the average weekly cost of placements is currently £6,131, compared to £5,371 at the same point last year, representing an increase of 14%.
- 2.17 Table 4 shows that while overall Cared for Children numbers are trending downwards, the number of external residential placements has risen sharply this calendar year, after a period of falling numbers, leading to a greater proportion of the total client base being in residential placements. As the table shows, this proportion has increased from 8.09% in December 2022 to 11.88% in June 2023. External residential placements are forecast to overspend by £4.943m, an increase of £0.499m from period 2.

**Graph 1: Total Cared for Children and Children in External Residential Placements**



**Table 4: External Residential Placements as Percentage of Cared For Children**

Month	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23
<b>External Residential as % of CFC</b>	8.09%	8.62%	9.42%	9.91%	10.21%	11.35%	11.88%

2.18 The increase in external residential placements have come from placement breakdowns in both foster care and in house residential settings, as well as new cared for children presenting to the local authority. Table 5 overleaf shows the cost differential when various placement types are moved to an external residential placement and the full year impact of the move.

**Table 5: External Residential Costs compared to Other Placement Types**

Placement Type	Average Unit Cost/Week	Average Residential Cost/Week	Cost Increase when moved to External Residential	Full Year Effect
Foster Care	£500	£6,100	£5,600	£292,800
Independent Foster Carer	£900	£6,100	£5,200	£271,886
In House Residential	£3,900	£6,100	£2,200	£115,029

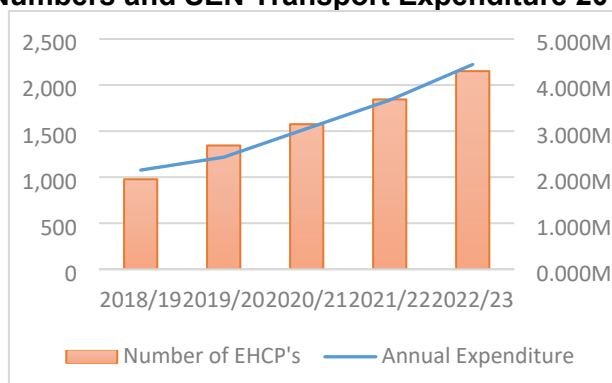
2.19 Management mitigations include achieving additional NHS and DSG contributions towards the health and education elements of care packages of children above those already forecast, which would increase income by £2.666m based a review of the current list of Children and Young People, whose placement would attract tripartite funding. A project to rehouse 6 UASC's from transition flats to alternate accommodation, freeing up flats for residential step downs would reduce this in year forecast by a further £0.831m. The full year effect of this action would be £1.662m. Regular meetings focusing on the highest cost placements have identified future potential step downs of £0.693m in year. These will continue to be monitored and reviewed through the financial year. The restructure of in-house residential care homes including the opening of St Lawrence Road would reduce forecasts by a further £0.251m.

**Education – Underlying overspend £0.795m, adverse movement of £0.151m**

2.20 The underlying variance is an overspend of £0.795m, which represents an increase of £0.151m from period 2. After management actions of £0.550m, there is a net variance of £0.245m, representing an adverse movement of £0.101m on the month 2 reported position. There is a net £0.328m overspend on Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Transport in the current year due to higher than expected levels of Education Health Care Plans including transport requirements.

2.21 Expenditure for SEN transport has increased steadily with the sustained increase in EHCPs over the past 5 years, which is shown in Graph 2. Further review of this will be undertaken of the ongoing level of transport needs associated with young people with EHCPs and the different options available to support their journeys to school.

**Graph 2: EHCP Numbers and SEN Transport Expenditure 2018/19-2022/23**



- 2.22 There is also an increase in the use of Associates on the Education Psychology Service for the delivery of statutory assessments £0.297m. The increase from P2 is primarily due to a reduction in traded income on the Education Welfare Service (£0.071m) due to increased time in court contesting school absence notices and an increase in home to school transport eligibility/demand.
- 2.23 The pressures in this area have been reduced through forecast increases in penalty notice income for unauthorised absences following the holiday period, currently projected to be £0.107m. When new SEND transport routes are implemented in September 2023, additional pupils are expected to increase route group efficiencies, reducing average cost per pupil and lead to a potential reduction in forecast expenditure of £0.250m.

**Population Health – Underlying underspend £0.100m, favourable movement of £0.003m**

- 2.24 Population Health is projected to underspend by £0.100m in 2023/24, mainly due to staffing redesign and contract savings. No management actions are required to mitigate this financial position.

**Place – Underlying overspend of £5.057m, favourable movement of £0.168m**

- 2.25 The forecast position as at period 3 is showing a net overspend of £5.057m for the Place Directorate. This is a small improvement on the underlying position from period 2, mainly due to an improved forecast in Homelessness, but remains a significant and challenging overspend position. The forecast is driven by cost and demand pressures continuing from 2022/23, savings not delivered in prior years and expected non-delivery of savings currently rated as 'red' for 2023/24. The net position includes some significant underspends on staffing which are helping to partially mitigation the gross overspends in pressure areas. Significant management action will be needed to reduce the potential overspend in this financial year. Management action for period 3 totals £4.326m, which is a reduction of £0.389m on the period 2 expected position due to anticipated delays in achievement of savings, leading to the adverse reported position at period 3.

- 2.26 The key areas of overspend driving this position are as follows:

- 2.27 **Corporate Landlord £2.031m** – The majority of the overspend relates to Facilities Management costs where the forecast expenditure of £4.490m exceeds the available budget of £2.677m, resulting in an overspend of £1.813m. The budget has been reduced in each of the last 3 years in respect of savings which have not been delivered. The 2023/24 savings target is £0.920m of which only £0.258m is expected to be delivered due to service capacity issues which have resulted in delays in progressing asset rationalisation. An interim Asset Rationalisation Manager is due to commence in post shortly. Contractual uplifts are also based on RPI and are expected to exceed the budgeted allowance for inflation in 23/24 by £0.200m. In addition, continuing shortfalls on rental income are resulting in a budget pressure of £0.204m combined with net forecast overspends across other budget lines.

- 2.28 **Homelessness £1.679m** – Continuing increases in demand for services is resulting in higher forecasted costs for temporary accommodation. Over the past 6 months, both the numbers of

temporary accommodation placements and the average nightly rate has increased by 5%. Over this period, the number of placements has increased from 190 to 251 and although the service has worked to reduce the average length of stay, the ongoing increases in numbers demonstrates the continued growth in demand. Further growth in demand in this financial year has been included in the forecast. The net forecast for homelessness is a reduced from period 2 as the service is expecting to secure nomination rights on 101 properties during this financial year, starting in October. This will enable the same number of families to move on from temporary accommodation resulting in an expected reduction of 12,270 temporary accommodation nights.

- 2.29 **Waste & Fleet £0.821m** – staffing costs exceed the net budget due to vacancy factor not being delivered and the use of agency staff to cover sickness and other absences. Vehicle repairs and maintenance continue to exceed budget due to a combination of increased prices and the aging fleet. Prior year savings in respect of three weekly collections and charging for replacement bins are not delivering the full saving originally anticipated.
- 2.30 **Income £0.927m** – Shortfalls in income across a number of service areas are resulting in pressures totalling £0.927m. This includes: Estates (£0.480m) due to shortfalls in rental income across the estate; Markets (£0.293m) where income from rents and services charges are not increasing at the same rate as increases in expenditure; and Planning (£0.154m) which continues to experience shortfalls in income from building regulation fees and planning fees.
- 2.31 **Public Protection & Car Parks £0.147m** – Increases in pay and display tariffs are expected to enable the service to meet the income budget but other cost pressures are resulting in a net forecast overspend.
- 2.32 Other areas of the Directorate are forecasting small under and overspends with staffing vacancies and underspends on supplies and services contributing to mitigate the total overspend position.
- 2.33 Management Actions of £4.546m are identified as a target in table 2 above, to reduce the reported overspend for the Directorate. These mitigating actions include reviewing inflationary pressures with a view to requesting contingency funding be brought into base budget (including £0.765m relating to contractual inflation not funded in 23/24 and previous years, and £0.090m relating to business rates increases resulting from the April 2023 revaluation), a review of vacancies and planned recruitment to identify any further staffing savings, review of grant funding to ensure grant utilisation is maximised, and work within the service to identify alternative savings to meet shortfalls.
- 2.34 The interim Asset Rationalisation Manager has now started, with a priority focus on bringing forward proposals for asset rationalisation and optimisation, which should enable some of planned savings to begin to be realised later this year. However, the nature and scale of the forecast overspend the Place Directorate means there is a significant risk that management actions will not deliver mitigations at the scale or pace required to bring the overspend down in the short term, particularly in respect of the pressures being experienced in Homelessness and due to the time and notice periods required to realise substantial savings following asset rationalisation.

**Governance – Underlying overspend £0.245m, adverse movement of £0.066m**

- 2.35 The Governance Directorate has a forecast underlying net overspend of £0.245m at month 3, which represents an adverse movement of £0.066m on the month 2 position. The position reflects an overspend in Legal services due to supernumerary locum solicitors which, at Period 2 reporting, were partially offset by a longer-term vacancy for the Monitoring Officer assumption. This has been revised at Period 03 reflecting the Council's recent appointment of a Monitoring Officer.
- 2.36 The overall pressure within the Directorate is as a result of a £0.120m shortfall in earned

income of from schools for the provision of payroll, recruitment and human resources services as a result of the academisation of schools. Within Policy, Performance and Communications, a £0.175m contribution to support the same functions in the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will no longer be received following the move to the Integrated Care Board and budget realignments will be reviewed as part of the MTFs work.

- 2.37 This adverse forecast has been partially mitigated through £0.050m of miscellaneous variances and further reviews of staffing forecasts and inflationary impacts are currently assumed to reduce the forecast overspend by £0.150m

**Resources – Underlying underspend £1.324m, favourable movement of £0.407m**

- 2.38 Resources has an underlying forecast underspend of £1.324m, which represents a positive movement of £0.407m on the month 2 position. This has primarily been caused by a further release in projection of £0.500m additional interest income from the increase in the Bank of England rate, offset by revised staffing forecasts to take account of resource requirements within ICT.
- 2.39 The overall underlying underspend is driven by £2.350m of additional interest as the Bank of England rate increases. However, this saving has been reduced by other pressures on expenditure, including £0.943m of additional costs within Exchequer Services comprising: £0.500m less income from the recovery of housing benefit overpayments; £0.320m additional cost on staffing; a £0.190m cost from the Housing Benefit Subsidy scheme; alongside £0.067m miscellaneous variances and the £0.114m overspend on Financial Services as a result of projected overspends on both staffing and additional external audit costs.
- 2.40 These expenditure pressures are slightly mitigated by a £0.049m net saving comprising offsetting variances within the Chief Executive and other departments. The driver of the saving is the additional income earned for services to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund and the Integrated Care Board. This is offset by a £0.100m projected overspend on Coroners and £0.060m of additional pension costs.
- 2.41 Following on from the Business Rates revaluation undertaken recently, changes to business rates paid for Council owned and occupied buildings are causing slight variances across the Directorates. A review of these is being undertaken and will be resolved Corporately.

**Savings Programme 2023/24**

- 2.42 The overall small projected underspend against the revenue budget, explained above, includes achieving planned 2023/24 savings. Detail of the delivery status of savings by Directorate of the 2023/24 savings programme, included within the original budget, is shown in Table 6 below.
- 2.43 At month 3, 42% of the programme is considered to be achieved, or on track to be delivered, a total of £4.430m. A further £4.897m is classed as Amber, with some issues or delays in delivery with £1.227m or 11.6%, with serious concerns of delivery. These savings are discussed with Directors and their management teams as part of the STAR Chamber process that has been implemented to give a key focus on savings delivery.

**Table 6: Saving Programme in 2023/24 Budget**

2023/24 Budget Reductions	Opening Target £m	Red £m	Amber £m	Green £m	Achieved £m
Adults	2.550	0.000	1.300	1.250	0.000
Children's	3.970	0.280	2.958	0.732	0.000
Population Health	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.104
Place	2.103	0.947	0.639	0.517	0.000
Governance	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Resources	1.776	0.000	0.000	1.776	0.000

<b>Quality and Safeguarding</b>	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.554</b>	<b>1.227</b>	<b>4.897</b>	<b>4.326</b>	<b>0.104</b>
<b>%</b>		<b>11.6%</b>	<b>46.4%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>

### 3. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

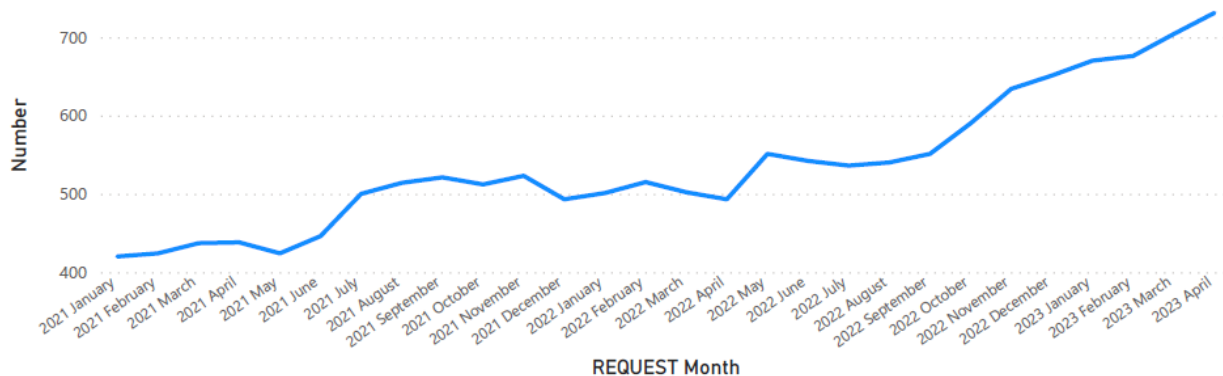
- 3.1 The overall forecast position on the DSG is a deficit of £2.540m, as reported to the Schools forum, details are included in Table 7 below. The deficit predominantly relates to the ongoing pressure on High Needs. Further information is included in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.4. The cumulative DSG position at the end of 2022/23 was a deficit of £3.306m. The forecast closing balance on the DSG at the end of the current financial year is £5.846m. There is currently a statutory override in place for the DSG from 2023-24 to 2025-26 which means any DSG deficits are not included in the council's main revenue budgets. Beyond this period any deficit would become recognised in the council's revenue position.

**Table 7: Dedicated Service Grant (DSG) 2023/24 Forecast Deficit**

<b>DSG Funding Blocks</b>	<b>DSG Settlement 2023-24 at Mar 2023 £m</b>	<b>Block Transfer 2023-24 £m</b>	<b>Revised DSG 2023-24 £m</b>	<b>Forecast Distribution / Expenditure 2023-24 £m</b>	<b>Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit £m</b>
Schools Block	201.052	(0.694)	200.358	200.349	(0.010)
Central School Services Block	1.249	0	1.249	1.249	0.000
High Needs Block	37.144	0.694	37.838	40.682	2.845
Early Years Block	18.082	0	18.082	17.737	(0.345)
Early Years Block estimated funding adjustment			(0.049)		0.049
<b>Total</b>	<b>257.527</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>257.477</b>	<b>260.017</b>	<b>2.540</b>

- 3.2 There is a forecast surplus of £0.010m on the Schools Block. This relates to unallocated growth, with the final growth allocation based on pupil numbers at the October 2023 census point and the figures will be updated once this has been finalised and may impact on the current surplus forecast. It is proposed that any surplus on the Schools Block contributes to the DSG deficit.
- 3.3 The forecast in-year deficit on the High Needs Block is expected to be £3.538m, which reduces to £2.845m with the £0.694m transfer from the Schools Block. In previous years, the Block Transfer would represent 0.5% (the maximum allowable in the Regulations), however this year it has been held at 0.354% to ensure no school would be capped following changes to indicators that build their budgets under the National Funding Formula (NFF). The forecast also includes £2.514m of estimated in-year growth related to increasing number of EHCP's and the planned new Resourced Bases. The driver of the deficit on the block is due to the rapid growth in the number of EHCP's. Graph 3 overleaf shows the number of monthly EHCP requests on a 12-month average basis. If the management action of additional DSG contributions towards Children's Social Care placement costs is achieved this would place an additional pressure on the High Needs Block of £1.333m.

**Graph 3: EHCP Requests 12 Month rolling average 2021-23**



- 3.4 In this context, the goal of Tameside's involvement with the DBV programme is to identify sustainable changes to the local SEND system that can drive high quality outcomes for children and young people with SEND, and the DBV programme has culminated in an evidence-based grant application to assist the implementation of those changes.
- 3.5 Following root cause analysis and triangulation via case reviews, surveys and various deep dives Transitions and Early Years have been identified as two high impact areas which the DBV Plan has focused on. If successful, the £1.000m revenue grant will likely be available from September 2023 and is expected to be utilised within two years. The Tameside Draft DBV Plan includes some quick wins that could be spent within autumn 2023 term but the majority of work streams will start implementation from January 2024 or September 2024.
- 3.6 The Early Years Block is currently forecasting a surplus of (£0.345m). However, the funding settlement for Early Years will be updated in August 2023 and it is anticipated there will be a reduction of £0.049m to reflect the January 2023 census data. Therefore, there is an estimated surplus of £0.295m.

## 4 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 4.1 This is the first capital monitoring report for 2023/24, summarising the forecast outturn position at 31 March 2024. The detail of this monitoring report is focused on the budget and forecast expenditure for fully approved projects in the 2023/24 financial year.
- 4.2 The Council's Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2025/26 contains £96.939m of schemes, of which £92.062m are fully approved and £4.877m are earmarked. A major risk facing the programme is the ongoing inflationary and supply pressures in the construction sector, which limits the affordability of projects. This is worsened where projects are delayed into future years which means the effects of inflation are further magnified.
- 4.3 Table 8 overleaf shows the full Capital Programme by Service area.

**Table 8 – Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26**

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	Earmarked £m	Total £m
<b>Place: Property, Development and Planning</b>					
Development & Investment	21.262	14.834	-	1.542	37.638
Corporate Landlord	0.993	-	-	-	0.993
Vision Tameside Population Health	0.073	-	-	-	0.073



	0.102	-	-	0.102
<b>Place: Operations and Neighbourhoods</b>				
Engineers, Highways & Traffic Management	4.725	-	-	- 4.725
Operations & Greenspace	1.370	-	-	- 1.370
Waste & Fleet Management	0.826	-	-	- 0.826
Estates	0.008	-	-	0.095 0.103
<b>Children's Social Care</b>				
School Related Works	22.235	11.504	-	- 33.739
Children's Social Care Safeguarding & Quality Assurance	2.863	0.813	-	- 3,676
<b>Adults Social Care</b>				
Adults Commissioning Service	4.745	5.657	0.020	- 10.422
<b>Governance</b>				
Governance	0.032	-	-	0.440 0.472
<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>59.234</b>	<b>32.808</b>	<b>0.020</b>	<b>2.077 94.139</b>
Contingency	-	-	-	2.800 2.800
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.234</b>	<b>32.808</b>	<b>0.020</b>	<b>4.877 96.939</b>

The total approved budget for 2023/24 is £59.234m, as outlined in Table 9 below.

**Table 9 – Capital Expenditure by Service Area**

	2023/24 Budget	Actual to Date	Projected Outturn	Projected Outturn Variation	Reprofiling to / (from) future years	Projected Variation after reprofiling
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Place: Property, Development and Planning</b>						
Investment & Development	21.262	0.583	11.659	(9.603)	(9.604)	0.001
Corporate Landlord	0.993	0.007	0.992	(0.001)	-	(0.001)
Vision Tameside	0.073	-	0.073	-	-	-
Active Tameside	0.102	0.103	0.103	0.001	-	0.001
<b>Place: Operations and Neighbourhoods</b>						
Engineers	4.725	0.129	4.721	(0.004)	-	(0.004)
Ops & Greenspace	1.370	0.065	1.404	0.034	-	0.034
Fleet Replacement	0.826	-	-	(0.826)	(0.826)	-
Estates	0.008	0.007	0.008	-	-	-
<b>Childrens Social Care</b>						
Education	22.235	1.016	22.209	(0.026)	-	(0.026)
Children	2.863	0.040	1.222	(1.641)	(1.641)	-
<b>Resources</b>						
Digital Tameside	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Adults Social Care</b>						

Adults	4.745	0.367	3.907	(0.838)	(0.838)	-
<b>Governance</b>						
Governance	0.032	0.006	0.023	(0.009)	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.234</b>	<b>2.323</b>	<b>46.321</b>	<b>(12.913)</b>	<b>(12.909)</b>	<b>0.005</b>

4.4 Services are projecting expenditure of £12.913m less than the current capital budget for the year. This variation is spread across various directorates, the major variations are detailed below from section 4.10. Due to the delays to schemes, £12.909m from 2023/24 budgets are recommended to be reprofiled into 2024/25, and this will be placed before SPCMP in due course.

### Capital Financing

4.5 The Council has limited resources available to fund Capital Expenditure. On 29 September 2021, Executive Cabinet approved the allocation of the remaining capital reserves to immediate priorities. No further capital projects will be approved in the short term unless the schemes are fully funded from external sources. Any additional priority schemes that are put forward for consideration and that are not fully grant funded will need to be evaluated, costed and subject to separate Member approval. There will be a revenue cost for any new capital schemes that are not fully funded from alternative sources and the implications of this will need to be carefully considered, given the on-going pressures on the revenue budget.

4.6 A number of schemes identified as priority for future investment include revenue generation or invest to save elements, where borrowing may be appropriate to facilitate investment. Borrowing to fund Capital Investment has revenue consequences as budget is required to fund interest and repayment of loans, and therefore any such schemes will need to be subject to full business cases. The Council will need a sustainable financial plan for the revenue budget before borrowing commitments are agreed.

**Table 10: Financing of the Full Capital Programme**

Funding Source	Approved Schemes			Earmarked Schemes	Total
	2023/24	Future Years	Total		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Grants &amp; Contributions</b>	46,230	32,828	<b>79,058</b>	-	<b>79,058</b>
<b>Revenue Contributions</b>	325	-	<b>325</b>	-	<b>325</b>
<b>Prudential Borrowing</b>	2,446	-	<b>2,446</b>	-	<b>2,446</b>
<b>Receipts &amp; Reserves</b>	10,233	-	<b>10,233</b>	4,877	<b>15,110</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,234</b>	<b>32,828</b>	<b>92,062</b>	<b>4,877</b>	<b>96,939</b>

### Capital Reserves and Receipts

4.7 Capital reserves of £1.511m are available, of this £1.489m related to reserves held for specific schemes, Godley Green Garden Village and Stalybridge Heritage Action Zone. The remaining £0.022m is held in a general capital reserve.

**Table 11 Capital Reserves**

	Available Capital Reserves
	£000
Specific Capital Reserves	1,489
General Capital Reserve	22
<b>Total Capital Reserves</b>	<b>1,511</b>

4.8 The low level of capital reserves is in part consequence of the low level of capital receipts available in prior years. The value of receipts used to finance capital expenditure in the past three years is outlined in the table below:

**Table 12: Capital Receipts**

	<b>Capital Receipts</b>
<b>Year</b>	<b>£000</b>
2022/23	401
2021/22	476
2020/21	55
<b>Total Capital Receipts</b>	<b>932</b>

- 4.9 Approved and earmarked schemes already in the capital programme for future years are reliant on £15.110m of capital receipts and reserves and therefore securing capital receipts will be vital to ensure the programme can be funded. Careful monitoring of progress in realising capital receipts must be undertaken to ensure that there is timely and pro-active disposal of assets and that the actual receipts are in line with projections. The latest disposal programme forecasts £22.107m of receipts from 2023/24 to 2025/26. Disposals have been RAG rated to identify the level of risk associated with the realisation of the capital receipt. Of the total anticipated capital receipts in 2023/24, £0.045m has completed, £1.623m is rated as 'green', £3.510m is rated as 'amber' with conditions to be satisfied, and £0.471m is rated as 'red' with significant uncertainty over delivery. There is a further £5.198m of projected capital receipts in 2024/25 and £11.260m in 2025/26. Of this total, £17.912m is rated amber and £2.547m is rated red. The failure to deliver these receipts would have an adverse effect on the delivery of the capital programme, meaning either schemes would have to be delayed or alternative financing, such as borrowing, would have to be sought. Borrowing incurs both interest and minimum revenue position (MRP) charges which would be additional revenue costs to the Council.

#### **Budget reprofiling of projects**

- 4.10 Total reprofiling is reported as £12.193m at month 3, as illustrated in table 9. This reprofiling has been incurred due to a number of reasons including delays at design stage along with issues around planning consent and approvals. More detailed narratives around the variations are provided below.

#### **Investment & Development**

- 4.11 **Godley Garden Village- (£5.304m)** - A formal request has been made to Homes England to extend the expenditure deadline beyond 31 March 2024 in relation to the Housing Infrastructure Fund works (£9.280m) and associated milestones due to delays obtaining planning consent. A formal decision is yet to be received and, therefore, expenditure has been provisionally re-profiled to 2024/25. This will be confirmed once a formal decision has been received from Homes England.
- 4.12 **Public Realm- (£4.299m)** - Advice received from the Consultant Strategic Advisor has resulted in the continuation of further lines of investigation to ensure the site realises the maximum benefit for Ashton Town Centre. This has led to a delay in the detailed design stage of the project, as a result an element of budget is being reprofiled into 2024-25. Regular progress updates will be provided through the Levelling Up Monitoring framework

#### **Fleet Replacement**

- 4.13 **Fleet Replacement – 40 Vehicles – (£0.826m)** - Initial approval was based on 20/21 estimated costs of £0.826m. Tenders went out for 13 of the 40 items on the programme and these came in at an additional £0.177m above the estimates and therefore the additional expenditure had to be authorised. Current status is we have been requested to obtain comparative quotes for lease/contract hire for some of the items which is delaying the procurement and it is therefore unlikely that any of the fleet expenditure will be incurred in the current financial year. Expenditure in excess of the scheme budget still requires authorising and funding arrangements to be agreed.

#### **Childrens Social Care**

4.14 **New Children’s Home – (£1.641m)** – The start of the project has been delayed due to the DFE requirement for formal consultation on the appropriation of land (former Infant School site). The decision to approve the appropriation of land for an alternate use has now been agreed by the Minister. RIBA Stage 2 has recently been completed and at this early stage, the project is anticipated to be approximately £0.200m over budget. The main reasons for this are a small increase in the gross internal floor area, soft market testing of market of the mechanical and electrical works required coming back significantly higher than first estimated and the requirement to have a sub-station to accommodate the new capacity brought by the scheme. Early value engineering has been undertaken during stage 2 and the current cost of the project includes risk and inflation contingencies, which may be taken out as the project moves through its RIBA stages. Further value engineering will also be considered, especially for mechanical and electrical works, in order to manage cost within the original funding envelope. A £0.700m capital bid to the NHSE is being drafted and will be submitted in August. The success, or otherwise, of this bid will be reported in future monitoring reports.

**Adults Social Care**

4.15 **Disabled Facilities Grant (Adaptations) – (£0.704m)** - The entire Disabled Facilities Grant for 2023/24 was applied to this project, there was no expectation that the full budget would be spent on Mandatory Adaptations. Expenditure for adaptations is expected to be similar to the previous year as although current expenditure is lower, approval rates are the same, as is the financial year end carryover of available jobs.

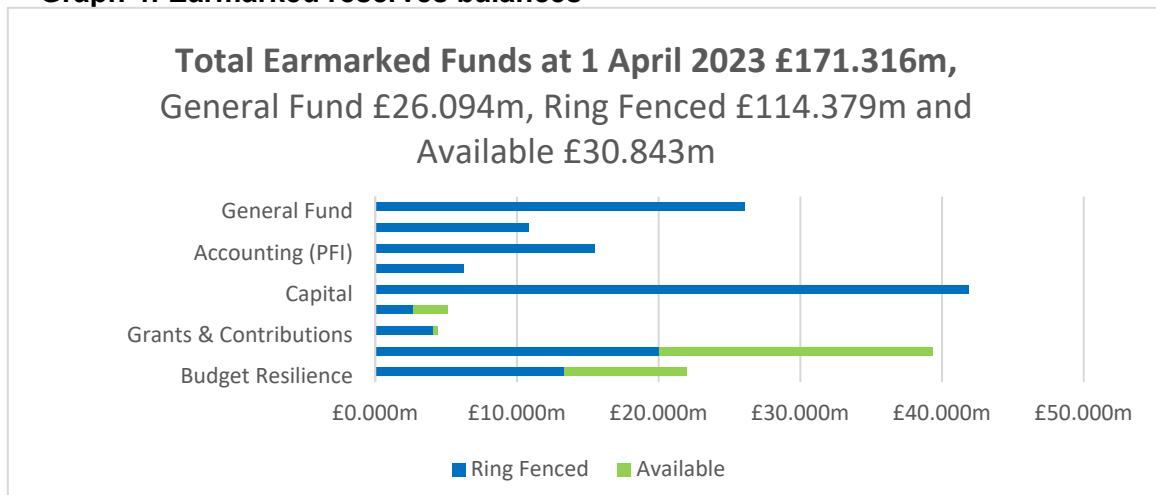
4.16 **Extra Care Assistive Technology – (£0.134m)** - £0.135m of the expected expenditure in 2023/24 occurred as part of the 22/23 Community Alarms Service, and was classed as revenue rather than capital, reducing the potential expenditure for the current financial year.

**5. EARMARKED RESERVES**

5.1 The value and categories of earmarked reserves as at 1 April 2023 are summarised below in Graph 4. Whilst the overall level of earmarked reserves held by the Council remains strong, most of these earmarked reserves are committed, with only £30.843m not committed outside of the general fund balance of £26.094m. No uncommitted reserves have been used in this year to date.

5.2 At Period 02 reporting, Members were advised on the level of reserves excluding the General Fund balance and Schools-related reserves. Reserves balances excluding the General Fund balance and schools-related reserves are £132m. Reserves balances including the General Fund balance and schools-related reserves total £171m.

**Graph 4: Earmarked reserves balances**



## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**


6.1 As stated on the front cover of the report.

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# Agenda Item 5

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	30 August 2023
<b>Executive Member:</b>	Councillor J North, First Deputy – Finance, Resources and Transformation
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ilys Cookson – Assistant Director Exchequer Services
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME REVIEW 2023</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	The Council's Council Tax Support Scheme has been in operation since 01 April 2013. This report examines the operation of the scheme over the period 01 April 2013 to 31 March 2023 and also details the procedural requirement to decide if changes are required to the scheme. If any changes are required, then consultation must take place for the scheme to become effective from 01 April 2024.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree that the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 in principle remains the same scheme as that set effective from April 2023, subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) annual benefit uprating as detailed in the scheme</li><li>b) further guidance which may be issued by Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</li></ul>
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	The report supports the 'Nurturing our Communities' and 'Live Longer and Healthier Lives' Corporate Plan priority themes.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	The Council Tax Support Scheme supports economically vulnerable households with Council Tax bills.
<b>Financial Implications:</b> <b>(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)</b>	<p>The estimated cost of the Council Tax Support Scheme is budgeted within the estimates of income from Council Tax, as a reduction in the amount received by the Council. Council Tax income is part of the funding for the Council's revenue budget.</p> <p>The estimate of Council Tax income in 2023/24, included an allowance for a £15m cost from the Council Tax Support Scheme. Approximately 17% of this £15m cost, reduces the Council Tax share distributed to Greater Manchester Police and Fire Preceptors, with the remaining 83% (£12.45m) a reduction in Tameside's Council Tax income.</p> <p>A change to the Council Tax Support Scheme increasing its cost, will reduce estimates of Council Tax income, requiring the Council to reduce other expenditure or identify additional income. A change to the scheme, which reduced cost would increase the estimate of Council Tax income, providing scope within the budget for additional expenditure.</p>
<b>Legal Implications:</b> <b>(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)</b>	The legal implications are set out in the main body of the report.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	Risks are set out in section 9 of this report.

**Background Information:** The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Ilys Cookson Assistant Director Exchequer Services

 Telephone: 0161 342 4056

 e-mail: [ilyc.cookson@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:ilyc.cookson@tameside.gov.uk)



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Prior to 01 April 2013, support towards payment of Council Tax was provided to economically vulnerable households via a national scheme known as Council Tax Benefit. Council Tax Benefit was operated by the Department of Work and Pensions and administered by Local Authorities on their behalf. The administration of the scheme was in accordance with the Council Tax Benefit Regulations 2006.
- 1.2 The Local Government Finance Act 2012, abolished Council Tax Benefit from 31 March 2013 and contained provision for each local authority to have their own locally set Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 01 April 2013.
- 1.3 On 27 November 2012, The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012 came into force. These Regulations applied to all Council Tax Reduction Schemes made by local authorities in England for the financial years beginning on or after 01 April 2013. The wording of the regulations, which is updated annually, has been included within Tameside's Council Tax Support Scheme from 01 April 2013.
- 1.4 The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (England) Regulations 2012 came into force on 18 December 2012. These regulations applied to any local authority in England that had not set their own Council Tax Reduction Scheme, in accordance with The Local Government Finance Act 2012. These Regulations have not applied to Tameside as the Council Tax Support Scheme has been set in accordance with The Local Government Finance Act 2012 each year since 01 April 2013
- 1.5 The local Council Tax Reduction schemes were funded in the first year by way of a fixed grant of £17.1m (including funding to precepting bodies) which the Department of Communities and Local Government (now The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) determined as being 90% of the 2011/2012 outturn for Council Tax Benefit expenditure. A local Council Tax Support Scheme was set taking into account the costing envelope provided.
- 1.6 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) no longer provide a specific amount of funding for payment of the support or administration of the Scheme.
- 1.7 In Tameside the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is known as the Council Tax Support Scheme. An independent review of local Council Tax Support schemes was undertaken in January 2018. [The Government response to an Independent Review of Local Council Tax Support Schemes \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#).
- 1.8 This report reviews the performance of the scheme in Tameside over the last 10 years, compares with other schemes in near geographical local authorities, and outlines options of changes for consideration which would then require consultation.
- 1.9 The Local Government Finance Act 2012 stipulates that a local authority must, for each financial year, consider whether to revise it's scheme or replace it with another scheme. If revising or replacing the scheme, it must draw up a draft scheme and consult generally on that draft scheme.
- 1.10 This report is to consider the following:
  - a) That the current Council Tax Support Scheme remains in place in 2024/2025; or
  - b) That the current Council Tax Support Scheme is revised for 2024/2025.

## **2. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 2.1 The Local Government Finance Act 2012 initially stated that local Council Tax Reduction Schemes must be approved by 31 January 2013, this was amended by The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2017 to extend the date for the scheme to be approved to 11 March before the start of each financial year to which the scheme applies.
- 2.2 If the Council fails to approve the local scheme by the correct date, The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (England) Regulations 2012 must be operated. This would have significant cost implications for the Council as it is based on some working age claimants being entitled to 100% of the Council Tax liability.
- 2.3 The Local Government Finance Act 2012 stipulates certain requirements for the authority when making the scheme. The authority must:
- Consult all major precepting authorities;
  - Draw up a draft scheme;
  - Consult generally on the draft scheme;
  - Publish the approved scheme;
  - For each financial year, consider whether to revise it's scheme or replace it with another scheme;
  - If revising or replacing the scheme, draw up a draft scheme and consult generally on that draft scheme;
  - If any revision to a scheme, or any replacement scheme, has the effect of reducing or removing a reduction to which any class of persons is entitled, the revision or replacement must include such transitional provision relating to that reduction or removal as the authority thinks fit.
  - Make any decision to revise or replace the scheme no later than 11 March in the financial year preceding that for which the revision or replacement scheme is to have effect.
- 2.4 All local authorities must include The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012 within their local schemes. These regulations provide certain elements of the scheme, including providing full protection for all pension age claimants by ensuring that Council Tax Support is calculated in the same way that Council Tax Benefit was operated prior to 01 April 2013. This means that all pension age claimants are excluded from decisions made by local authorities in respect of their local schemes.
- 2.5 The Council also consider the statutory public sector equality duty and the child poverty strategy in adopting a scheme. The Council has adhered to the procedural requirements each year since 2013.
- 2.6 Consultation on four broad options for the local scheme was undertaken between 06 August 2012 and 09 September 2012. The consultation responses clearly demonstrated a preference and, after some amendments following consideration of the responses, the draft Council Tax Support Scheme for 2013/14 based on the preferred option was further consulted on with precepting authorities on 17 October 2012 and then the public from 24 October to 14 November 2012. The preferred option was then adopted.
- 2.7 The Council Tax Support Scheme 2013/2014 was approved at Council on 21 December 2012 and amended from 01 April 2016 following consultation with precepting bodies and the public between 14 September 2015 and 30 November 2015. The revised scheme is detailed below at 3.2 and was approved at Council on 21 January 2016.
- 2.8 The Executive Cabinet approve the Council Tax Support Scheme annually, after consideration is given as to whether the scheme should be changed.

## **3. THE COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME REVISIONS**

- 3.1 The Council Tax Support Scheme 2013/2014, approved on 21 December 2012, contained the following elements:
- The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012 were adapted;
  - All claimants of pension age are protected and will receive the same benefits as they received in Council Tax Benefit;
- For claimants below pension age i.e. working age -
- Maximum Council Tax Support award of 80% of Council Tax liability;
  - Council Tax Support would be capped at liability for a Band B property;
  - Scheme aligned with the principles for Universal Credit;
  - 35% of earned income to be disregarded;
  - Disability Living Allowance disregarded as income;
  - Child Benefit disregarded as income;
  - Working age War Pensioners to be protected;
  - Claims for support could not be backdated;
- 3.2 The Council Tax Support Scheme was revised for 2016/2017 in response to the Council's overall budget position as follows:
- Capping support to the Council Tax liability of a Band A property
  - Reduction of the maximum Council Tax Support award to 75%
  - Align deduction for non-dependants of working age to the same level as those in the prescribed scheme and for those of pension age.
  - Disregard non-dependant deductions for claimants in receipt of a Staying Put payment.
- 3.3 The wording of the Council Tax Support Scheme has been amended slightly during the period from 01 April 2013 to confirm the intentions of the scheme. None of these changes were detrimental to claimants and were beneficial and documented in the reports to approve the scheme before the start of the financial year to which the scheme applied.
- 3.4 The wording of the scheme for 2023/2024 was revised to enable the Council to use data received from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), provided in respect of new Universal Credit claims, to award Council Tax Support without the requirement for the claimant to complete the on-line application form. This is beneficial to the claimants and the majority of the information required from the claimant to process the application for Council Tax Support is provided to the Council by the DWP.
- 3.5 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities issued any changes in legislation, including changes to The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulation 2012, to be included in local schemes for the forthcoming financial year.
- 3.6 The Valuation Tribunal Service considers appeals by any resident with regard to Council Tax Support schemes. The Tribunal Service is independent of the Council. On occasion the Valuation Tribunal may advise a Local Authority to reconsider elements of the scheme which can be for a number of reasons and, bearing in mind that each Local Authority will set its own scheme, so any decision of the Tribunal can only be directed to the Local Authority scheme being considered at appeal.
- 3.7 The Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) in their report of August 2019 to Local Authorities titled "Council Tax Reduction – Guidance for Practitioners" helped Local Authorities manage complex Council Tax reduction enquiries and complaints, and made a number of recommendations to all Local Authorities. It is considered best practice to recognise the recommendations by the LGO and provide clarity within the scheme.

- 3.8 In considering the setting of the local Council Tax Support Scheme each year, it has been important to examine the information arising from the continual review of the scheme to ensure that demand and cost of the scheme, communications and the recovery of Council Tax remained within projections which took place at the time the scheme was set.

**Demand**

- 3.9 In 2012/2013, 26,535 people were claiming Council Tax Benefit, of which 11,320 were pension age and 15,215 were working age. Demand for Council Tax Support is monitored on a quarterly basis and the number of claimants has reduced since the scheme was introduced in April 2013.
- 3.10 Claimant caseload fluctuates on a daily basis and overall there has been a reduction in claimant numbers from 01 April 2013. The reduction in numbers is not likely to be attributed to the changes introduced to the scheme which became effective from 01 April 2016 because, while the changes affected the majority of existing claimants by way of a reduced amount of Council Tax Support awarded, it did not change the eligibility criteria.

**Table 1: Demand for Council Tax Support:**

Number of Council Tax Support Claimants				
Year	Total Claimants	Working Age	Pension Age	Date of Data
2013/2014	23,716	12,781	10,935	01/04/2013
2014/2015	23,231	12,600	10,631	14/04/2014
2015/2016	22,029	12,060	9,969	10/04/2015
2016/2017	20,889	11,438	9,451	18/04/2016
2017/2018	20,087	11,011	9,076	04/04/2017
2018/2019	19,636	11,084	8,552	17/04/2018
2019/2020	18,724	10,613	8,111	02/04/2019
2020/2021	17,922	10,250	7,672	28/04/2020
2021/2022	18,208	10,749	7,459	01/04/2021
2022/2023	17,466	10,178	7,288	01/04/2022
2023/2024	17,040	9,892	7,148	02/04/2023

- 3.11 The reduction in the number of pension age claimants is due to the increasing age at which people are considered to have attained pension age in accordance with DWP regulations.

**Funding the scheme**

- 3.12 The Local Council Tax Reduction schemes were funded in the first year by way of a fixed grant which the Department of Communities and Local Government (now The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) determined as being 90% of the 2011/2012 outturn for Council Tax Benefit expenditure.
- 3.13 The Council paid £19.3m in Council Tax Benefit in 2011/2012. The amount of funding received by Tameside for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in 2013/2014 was £17.1m (including funding to precepting bodies), a reduction of £2.2m (11.4%).
- 3.14 For 2016/2017 onwards, Government funding for local Council Tax Support is provided through the Local Government Finance Settlement and is not ringfenced.
- 3.15 The cost of the Council Tax Support Scheme is monitored on a quarterly basis The annual cost of the Council Tax Support Scheme is as follows:

**Table 2: Annual cost of Council Tax Support Scheme in Tameside:**

<b>Cost of Council Tax Support Scheme</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>£m</b>
2013/2014	£16.0
2014/2015	£15.9
2015/2016	£14.9
2016/2017	£14.3
2017/2018	£13.7
2018/2019	£13.8
2019/2020	£13.8
2020/2021	£13.9
2021/2022	£14.7
2022/2023	£14.9
2023/2024	£15.6

- 3.16 The cost of the scheme has started to increase since 2021/2022 despite the reduction in claimant numbers. This is partly due to the increase in Council Tax levels set, the Mayoral precepts and the Social Care Precept.
- 3.17 Working age claimants are moving from DWP legacy benefits such as Income Support and Employment and Support Allowance to Universal Credit. In 2023 claimants will be migrating from Tax Credits to Universal Credit and this will affect over 400 claimants of Housing Benefit in Tameside. As claimant's DWP benefits change, this may affect any possible entitlement to Council Tax Support or increase or decrease the amount of Council Tax Support awarded.

#### **4. SCHEME COMPARISONS**

- 4.1 Consideration has been given to comparing the current demand and cost of the scheme against some Greater Manchester and graphically close local authorities. Information was requested from Greater Manchester and close local authorities, however not all provided information. Of those that did provide some information it was clear that no direct comparisons could be made as the schemes differed in many ways for example, and not limited to; different capital thresholds, capping support according to Council Tax bands, the maximum support provided, disregarding some earned income, the amounts awarded to disabled claimants and / or families with children, incentives to work and so on.
- 4.2 It should be noted that the demand for the scheme and the features of the scheme are individual to each local authority and based on the demographic data for that area, and each local authority's budget provision for the scheme. Each local authority compared has their own locally set Council Tax Reduction Scheme which incorporates The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012.

#### **5. CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE SCHEME IN 2024/2025**

- 5.1 The Local Government Finance Act 2012 stipulates that a local authority must, for each financial year, consider whether to revise its scheme or replace it with another scheme. If revising or replacing the scheme, it must draw up a draft scheme and consult generally on that draft scheme.
- 5.2 This report is to consider the following:
- That the current Council Tax Support Scheme remains in place in 2024/2025; or
  - That the current Council Tax Support Scheme is revised for 2024/2025.

- 5.3 When considering any revisions to the scheme, the potential impact to the current and potential claimants and increase or decrease in the funding of the scheme should be taken into account.
- 5.4 There are currently 17,040 claimants of Council Tax Support in Tameside of which 7,148 (42%) are pension age and are fully protected from any local changes to the scheme by The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 5.5 The cost to the scheme in 2023/24 for pension age claimants is projected as £7.9m from a total estimated cost of £15.6m. This expenditure would not change.
- 5.6 Any changes to the local scheme would therefore only affect the remaining 9,892 working age claimants. The expenditure for these claimants for 2023/2024 is projected as £7.7m. Should Council Tax levels increase in 2024/2025 then so too will the cost of the scheme.
- 5.7 The maximum Council Tax Support award in 2023/2024 for a claimant of working age is 75% of the liability for a Band A property which equates to £1,042.90 per annum or £10.83 per week. This reduction means that £28.96 Council Tax is payable each month.
- 5.8 Suggestions for revision of the scheme are shown below:

**Table 5: Examples of changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme**

	Requires an increase in funding to support scheme costs	Decrease in funding
Increase the capped % of support from 75% to 80%	✓	
Capped support to a property band B liability	✓	
Introduce a Banded Scheme	Costs unknown	
Reduce Capital Limit to £8k		✓
Reduce the capped % of support from 75% to 70%		✓

- 5.9 In the options shown in the table above, increasing the capped percentage of support from 75% to 80%, and capping support to a property band B liability rather than band A, would be reverting the principles of the scheme to how it operated initially from 2013/2014 to 2015/2016. The impact on either of these options would be to increase the Council Tax Support award, making claimants better off and potentially increasing demand, however the costs of the scheme and impact on the Councils budget would rise significantly.
- 5.10 Reducing the level of support offered to 70% of Council Tax liability would reduce the amount awarded and the cost of the scheme. Reducing the capital limit for working age claimants would result in fewer claimants being eligible for Council Tax Support.
- 5.11 Banded Council Tax Support schemes are growing in popularity in many local authorities however, it is not possible at present to measure the cost of a banded scheme. Such schemes are based on the amount of income that a household receives, and which can be subject to multiple changes over the course of a year. The amounts are then banded, and the Council Tax Support award is based on the income band into which the household falls. The benefits processing system supplier, Capita, has recently (July 2023) released a basic banded scheme module. This will be explored further during 2023 and 2024 in terms of feasibility, system costs and efficiencies and modelling potential impacts on claimants. Administration costs for banded schemes are generally low as the award of Council Tax Support would only change where someone's income moved from one band to another. In effect such banded schemes are administratively easy but may not be as equitable as a non-banded scheme, as a claimant at the bottom of one band (and so has less income) would receive the same amount of Council Tax Support as someone at the top of the same band who would have more income, however further exploration is required. Tameside's current

scheme is based on income as the amount of support changes with every £0.01p change in a person's income.

- 5.12 If the scheme were to change and remain cost neutral (remaining at the current funding level), but the amount of Council Tax Support award was increased for the most financially vulnerable, the impact would be detrimental to other claimants as this would mean a reduction in award to those other claimants who are just above the national minimum income level, as defined by the DWP dependent on whether the person is single, a member of a couple or if dependent children live in the household.
- 5.13 Consideration must be given to preventing poverty and the Council's Building Resilience Strategy aimed at tackling poverty in Tameside. A comprehensive Needs Assessment found that 4.8% of people in Tameside were in receipt of benefits.
- 5.14 The Council Tax Support Scheme aims to support as many Tameside residents as possible when in receipt of benefits or a low income. The cost of the scheme is borne by all Council Tax payers. To make the scheme more generous would impact on many residents of the Borough by way of increased Council Tax payments to fund any additional Council Tax Support Scheme costs.
- 5.15 Should a revision to the scheme be considered, an Equality Impact Assessment would be carried out to ensure that persons in protected groups were not discriminated against by any change to the scheme.

## **6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 The Equality Act 2010 makes certain types of discrimination unlawful on the grounds of: age, gender, race, gender reassignment, disability, maternity, sexual orientation, religion or belief.
- 6.2 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places the Council and all public bodies under a duty to promote equality. All public bodies, are required to have regard to the need to
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination.
  - Promote equal opportunities between members of different equality groups.
  - Foster good relations between members of different equality groups including by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
  - Eliminate harassment on the grounds of membership of an equality group.
  - Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by members of a particular equality group.
  - Take steps to meet needs of people who are members of a particular equality group.
  - Encourage people who are members of an equality group to participate in public life, or in any other area where participation is low.
  - This specifically includes having regard to the need to take account of disabled people's disabilities
- 6.3 The Act therefore imposes a duty on the Council, which is separate from the general duty not to discriminate. When a Council carries out any of its functions, including deciding the Council Tax Support scheme to be adopted, the Council must have due regard to the matters within the section of the Act outlined above. The Courts have made it clear that Councils are expected to rigorously exercise that duty.
- 6.4 A review of equalities information on the scheme takes place every quarter to ensure that the CTS scheme is operating as expected and to ensure that no one equalities group is adversely affected. The equalities groups considered are by age, gender, disability and maternity. The categories of gender reassignment, sexual orientation and religion or belief are not considered, as this information is not required to be held when processing Council Tax Support, which is a means tested benefit.

6.5 Information obtained from the quarterly equalities monitoring from April 2013. April 2018 and April 2023 are at Appendix 1.

## 7. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

7.1 Additional support is available to all Council Tax Support claimants in respect of a Hardship Fund administered under Section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The discretionary fund must be in place in accordance with government guidance to support local Council Tax Support schemes. The purpose of the Hardship Fund is to mitigate the potential risk that some claimants may, in exceptional circumstances, suffer severe financial hardship as a result of the introduction of the scheme or changes to the scheme and may apply for additional monies to help pay their Council Tax.

7.2 The Council Tax Service currently has a Discretionary Hardship Policy (Section 13A Policy) which has been approved by Executive Cabinet and can be found at Appendix 2. The Policy is available on the Councils website [Section-13A-Policy.pdf \(tameside.gov.uk\)](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/section-13a-policy). Section 13A awards are managed by the Council Tax Service which holds all Council Tax liability records and Council Tax Support records, and is therefore well placed to determine eligibility based on financial information held.

7.3 Hardship funding is identified from existing budgets with an amount of £50,000 approved for 2023/2024. This amount does not exclude applications being granted should the maximum allocated funding be exceeded. Payments under this scheme have been extremely low, as demonstrated below:

7.4 In 2020/2021 the Government as part of its response to COVID-19, awarded the Council a Council Tax Hardship Grant of £2.158m which was mandated to be used to make a payment of £150 to all existing and new working age Council Tax Support claimants in the 2020/2021 financial year.

7.5 For 2021/2022, the Council was awarded a further grant of £2.025m from the Government. The application of this grant was not mandated but guidance was provided that the grant should be used to meet the anticipated additional costs for the financial year 2021/2022 due to COVID-19 of providing Local Council Tax Support resulting from increased unemployment. On 28 July 2021, the Executive Cabinet determined that £1,012,500 of the grant should be used directly to support claimants of Council Tax Support and financially vulnerable households, as follows:

**Table 6: Distribution of Government Grant 2021/2022**

Support provided	Cost
A maximum of £50 to be awarded to each CTS claimant	£0.634m
A maximum of £50 to be awarded to further new claims for CTS and for hardship cases under Section 13a Hardship Policy	£0.378m

7.6 On 23 December 2022, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced further support for claimants of Council Tax Support. Funding of £0.455m has been provided to reduce Council Tax bills in respect of 2023/2024 for pension age and working age claimants by up to £25. This reduction was deducted from the annual bills issued in March 2023 and will also be applied to any new Council Tax Support claimants with a Council Tax Liability throughout the financial year.

7.7 As working age Council Tax Support claimants in Tameside have a minimum of 25% of the Council Tax liability to pay, the award of £25 applied to all of those claimants.

7.8 The remaining funding of £0.127m could be allocated at the Council's discretion and will be administered under Section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.



Discretionary funding of £25 has already been allocated to residents who are not in receipt of Council Tax Support but qualify for the following Council Tax discounts:

- Severely Mentally Impaired Discount
- Care Leavers Discount
- Carers Discount
- Disabled Relief

7.9 The remaining funding of approximately £0.107m will be used to support households evidencing financial hardship as approved by Executive Cabinet on 08 February 2023.

7.10 Additional funding has been received from central government in respect of the Household Support Fund, some of which will be used to support recipients of Council Tax Support. An application for the funding will be required.

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVICE**

8.1 Information regarding the Council Tax Support Scheme and an on-line application form is available on the Council's website and residents are signposted to the website on the back of Council Tax bills.

8.2 Residents may obtain advice and assistance on the Council Tax Support Scheme and the Hardship Fund from the Council's Benefits Service and Call Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau and Tameside Welfare Rights Service.

8.3 The Benefits and Council Tax service works closely with housing and voluntary sector colleagues who assist claimants, including those in supported accommodation. There are links with local DWP Job Centre to ensure that claimants of Universal Credit provide agreement for their data to be shared with the Council and also complete a claim for Council Tax Support when required.

8.4 From April 2023, the scheme wording has been amended to enable the Council to use data received from the Department of Work and Pensions, provided in respect of new Universal Credit claims, to award Council Tax Support without the requirement for the claimant to complete the on-line application form. This is beneficial to the claimants and the majority of the information required from the claimant to process the application for Council Tax Support is provided to the Council by the Department of Work and Pensions.

## **9. RISKS**

9.1 In considering the decision on whether to change the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/2025, carries the risk, to some extent, of the unknown in terms of a potential increase in new claims. It may be possible to model some proposed changes and estimate the potential increase in cost to the Council based on current caseload but the potential number of households that would qualify for a more generous scheme could not be quantified, nor the costs.

9.2 Any revision to the scheme that results in a lower award of Council Tax Support to financial vulnerable residents, may impact of Council Tax collection and any reduction could offset any financial gain in changing the scheme. Any revision to the scheme that results in an increase in the level of award will require funding from the Councils budget to cover the increased costs.

9.3 Central Government issuing guidance which local authorities must take into account in implementing any future scheme may present a risk, however DLUHC are aware of the legislative timescale within which a local scheme must be set. Therefore, should DLUHC wish to issue guidance to be included in a future year's scheme then every local authority would be in the same position of a tight timescale within which to consult and redraft the

scheme in accordance with legislation. The same applies with a Tribunal decision however such matters cannot be foreseen.

- 9.4 The decision as to whether or not the scheme as set from April 2023 should continue from April 2024 is complying with the procedure as set in Paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 1A to the 1992 Local Government Finance Act.
- 9.5 Equality reviews on the scheme currently takes place every quarter and an equality impact assessment will be included in the later report to set the scheme for the 2024/2025 financial year.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 Council Tax Support claimant numbers have reduced, and scheme costs have increased from April 2021. Claimant numbers and costs fluctuate daily however costs increase as the Council Tax level set increases each year. The highest number of claimants are those of working age. The scheme continues to operate as expected.
- 10.2 Claimants of pension age continue to be fully protected within the scheme. The scheme in terms of equalities monitoring is operating as expected and this will continue to be monitored every quarter.
- 10.3 Consideration has been given to comparing the scheme with some Greater Manchester and geographically close local authorities, however no direct comparisons can be made as schemes are individual to each local authority and based on the demographic data for that area, and each local authority's budget provision for the scheme. Tameside's scheme has been designed to provide the maximum possible support to residents whilst staying within the budget allocation.
- 10.4 Support will remain in place for all claimants in respect of the Section 13A legislation and Policy and advice available from both the Council and partner agencies remains in place.
- 10.5 No Tribunal directions have been received in respect of having to change the scheme and no legislative changes from DLUHC are expected. The Local Government Ombudsman has not issued any recommendations with regard to Council Tax Support schemes.
- 10.6 In view of the above comparisons and consideration of the scheme operation, the budget allocation and demand, it is proposed that no changes are made to the scheme for 2024/2025 save for the annual uprating of welfare benefit amounts set by central government.

## **11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 Recommendations are set out at the front of the report.

## Protected Characteristics

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>2013</b>		<b>2018</b>		<b>2023</b>	
<b>Total claimants</b>	<b>23,716</b>		<b>19,636</b>		<b>17,040</b>	
<b>Age</b>						
• Pension age	10,935	46%	8,552	44%	7,148	42%
• Working age	12,781	54%	11,084	56%	9,892	58%
<b>Disability</b>						
• Disability benefit in payment	5,512	23%	5,065	26%	5,994	35%
• Pension age and in receipt of disability benefit	3,109	13%	2,607	13%	2,823	17%
• Working age and in receipt of disability benefit	2,403	10%	2,458	12%	3,171	16%
• In receipt of disability benefit and earned income	32	0.1%	51	0.3%	29	0.1%
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	Specific data is not available on these protected characteristics for the CT client base.					
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	Specific data is not available on these protected characteristics for the CT client base, however information is collated regarding households who are single, couples and those which are single parents.					
• Single, pension age	8,000	34%	6,520	33%	5,678	33%
• Households with children	5,877	25%	4,405	22%	3,443	20%
• Lone Parents	3,899	16%	3,075	16%	2,568	15%
• Couples with children	1,978	8%	1,330	6%	875	5%
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	Specific data is not available on these protected characteristics for the CT client base.					
<b>Sex</b>						
• Male	9,842	41%	8,051	41%	6,816	40%
• Female	13,874	59%	11,585	59%	10,224	60%
• Male Pension age	4,815	20%	3,728	19%	3,214	19%
• Female Pension age	6,120	26%	4,824	25%	4,128	24%
• Male lone parents	256	1%	196	1%	205	1%
• Female Lone Parents	3,643	15%	2,879	15%	2,363	14%
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Specific data is not available on these protected characteristics for the CT client base.					
<b>Current and Former members of the armed forces</b>						
• In receipt of a disregarded war pension	49	0.2%	32	0.2%	18	0.1%
<b>Mental Health</b>	Specific data is not available on these protected characteristics for the CT client base.					
<b>Carers</b>						
• In receipt of Carers Allowance	437	2%	808	4%	1,014	6%
<b>Breastfeeding</b>	Specific data is not available on these protected characteristics for the CT client base.					
<b>Socio-economic disadvantage</b>						
• Working age and out of work	11,598	49%	3,957	20%	9,298	55%

• Working age and receiving full CTS *	10,451	44%	8,313	42%	7,854	40%
• Working age and earning (receiving 35% earnings disregard)	1,147	5%	988	5%	584	3%
• Working age affected by the Cap 2013 – to	764	3%	1,995	10%	1,430	8%
<b>Cared for children and care leavers</b>	The Council Tax Support Scheme was revised for 2016/2017 Disregard non-dependant deductions for claimants in receipt of a Staying Put payment.					
• Non-dependent disregard applied due to Staying Put	N/A	N/A	3			

\* 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 – 80% of a Band B property; 2016 onwards - 75% of Band A property

\*\* 2013/14 to 2015/2016 – Capped to a Band B property (living in a Band C or above); 2016/2017 onwards – Capped to a Band A property (living in Band B or above)

## **POLICY IN RESPECT OF SECTION 13A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992**

### **Tameside MBC – Discretionary Council Tax Relief**

#### **1. Background**

Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 allows the Council to reduce the amount of Council Tax payable. It can be considered for individual cases or the Council may determine classes of case in which liability is eligible for reduction.

All Section 13A awards are funded by Council Tax payers of the Borough.

Section 13A relief is discretionary; an applicant does not have a statutory right to a reduction.

Council Tax Support is considered under Section 13A(1)(a) and (2) of the Act.

Alternative discretionary reductions, care leavers discretionary reductions and hardship scheme reductions are considered under Section 13A(1)(c) of the Act. Each type of discount is detailed in this Policy.

#### **2. Types of Section 13A Discretionary Reduction**

##### **2.1 Council Tax Support**

Section 13A(1)(a) and (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to have a Council Tax Support Scheme. The purpose of the Council Tax Support Scheme is to provide means tested financial support to residents on a low income to meet Council Tax liabilities. Tameside's Council Tax Support Scheme, and the application form, can be found at <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/ctax/counciltaxsupport>

##### **2.2 Alternative Discretionary reductions**

Section 13A(1)(c) allows the Council to consider reducing the Council Tax payable for individuals or classes, even if they have already had a reduction under Section 13A(1) the Council Tax Support Scheme.

#### **3. How to claim a Discretionary reduction**

The application for a Section 13A discretionary reduction should be submitted as follows:

- The application must be made by the liable person to pay Council Tax or by someone authorised to act on their behalf.
- Applications for Section 13A reductions must be made to the Council Tax Team under the title of Discretionary Discount Application to:  
Council Tax Service, PO Box 304, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside OL6 0GA  
or email [counciltax@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@tameside.gov.uk)
- The Council may request any reasonable evidence in support of an application. Separate claims must be made in respect of different dwellings and/or council tax accounts.

Each application shall include the following information:

- The level of discount being requested (i.e. is this for the full year's council tax or part of it);
- The reason for the request;
- Period of time the discount is to cover;
- Steps that have been taken to meet or mitigate the council tax liability;
- Individual needs and circumstances;
- Reasonable supporting evidence to substantiate the request. This may include, but is not limited to:
  - ✓ income & expenditure statements;
  - ✓ any sources of credit such as cash cards, credit cards, store cards, cheque cards, cheque accounts, overdraft facilities, loan arrangements;
  - ✓ any help which is likely to be available to the applicant from other sources;
  - ✓ any other documentation available to support the application

#### **4. Discretionary Relief Considerations?**

Each application will be considered on its individual merits. However some or all of the following criteria should be met for each case:

- There must be evidence of financial hardship or personal circumstances that justifies a reduction in council tax liability. Where an application is made in respect of financial hardship, evidence of all income and expenditure will be required to enable a full assessment to be undertaken.
- The charge payer must satisfy the Council that all reasonable steps have been taken to resolve their situation prior to application.
- All other eligible discounts / reliefs / benefits have been awarded.
- The charge payer does not have access to other assets that could be used to pay council tax.
- The situation and reason for the application must be outside of the charge payer's control.
- The amount outstanding must not be the result of wilful refusal to pay or culpable neglect.
- The power to reduce under this section will be considered taking account of all circumstances and any reduction will take into consideration the public purse as Council's council tax payers fund Section 13 (A) discounts.

Where a reduction relates to a Government Scheme, the features of that scheme will be as defined by Government or, where local discretion is allowed, as defined by the Council for that specific purpose. All discretionary decisions are made at the absolute discretion of the Council.

#### **5. Classes of Reduction**

There are currently 2 classes of reduction which attract a discretionary payment and these are as follows:

- Care Leavers
- The Council Tax Support Scheme Hardship payments

By the introduction of these schemes Tameside Council has recognised that it must be able to respond flexibly to the needs of taxpayers within the borough to support strong and sustainable local communities.

### 5.1 Care Leavers Discount

A local discretionary discount was approved by the Councils Executive Cabinet in November 2018 to support Care Leavers up to the age of 25 years of age.

Corporate parenting is a statutory function whereby children and young people are looked after by local authorities rather than their own parents for a variety of reasons. The children and young people who are 'looked after' by local authorities are considered to be a vulnerable group within society. Managing a budget can be very challenging for most people on low incomes and particularly financially vulnerable young people as they transition into adulthood and adjust to living by themselves. A local authority continues to have responsibility for a Care Leaver up to the age of 25 years old.

Further information regarding the discretionary discount decision for Care Leavers can be found at

The on-line application form can be found at:

[Council Tax - Care Leavers Discount Application \(tameside.gov.uk\)](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/council-tax/care-leavers-discount-application)

### 5.2 The Council Tax Support Scheme Hardship Payments

In accordance with 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended in 2012, the Council Tax Support Hardship Fund is an additional payment which has the effect of reducing council tax liability for the liable person. To be eligible to be considered for a hardship payment the liable person must reside in Tameside and be in receipt of Council Tax Support.

Hardship payments are generally paid to people experiencing a short term exceptional finance problem as set out below, so applicants must not rely on a payment being made.

Each request will be considered independently and no single factor will determine if an award is to be made.

The following will be considered when making the decision, however the list is not exhaustive:

- Applicant is leaving an institution such as leaving care, prison, young offenders institute, hospital, care home, temporary supported housing or hostel
- Avoidance of going into care
- Council Tax hardship being experienced as a result of the Council Tax Support Scheme
- Chronic illness, disability including mental health illness
- Experiencing domestic abuse
- Homelessness or living in temporary housing such as 'sofa surfing'
- Substance or alcohol abuse
- Lone parent and / or pregnant
- Applicant has a support worker
- Housing circumstances and rented properties
- Other people living with the applicant
- Sanction placed by the DWP
- Significant debt
- Repayment of monies as a result of fraud
- It is reasonable that applicants may be able to manage money better

### 5.3 Additional types of Discretionary Awards.

From time to time Government may introduce a specific scheme in response to an event such as a natural disaster (e.g. flooding). Where such schemes are introduced, funding is normally fully met by Government without impact on the local Council Tax. Any such schemes that are introduced, in so far as they fall to be administered under Section 13A of The Local Government Finance Act 1992, will be administered in accordance with instructions and guidance set out by Government.

## **6. Amount of relief**

The Council will decide how much to award based on all of the applicant's circumstances and in relation to the schemes in operation at set out in this policy. Any relief to be awarded is entirely at the Council's discretion.

Where a scheme relates to a Government Scheme, the award of any discount will be as set out by Government or, where local discretion is allowed, as defined by the Council for that specific instance.

The maximum paid would be no more than the amount of Council Tax outstanding after all other eligible discounts / reliefs / benefits have been awarded.

Usually such payments are a 'one off' payment and will not be repeated.

Any Discretionary Payment award granted will be made by crediting the award value to the Council Tax account to which it applies reducing the amount of council tax outstanding.

Applicants will not receive cash or any other type of payment or refund.

## **7. Decision Notice and Appeals**

The Council will notify the applicant in writing of the outcome of their request. Where the request for a discretionary discount award is unsuccessful, or not met in full, the Council will explain the reasons why the decision was made.

Any award is discretionary and the applicant may submit a written request for an explanation or review of a discretionary discount refusal which must be submitted within one calendar month of the date of notification of the decision. The Council will then consider whether the customer has provided any additional information against the required criteria that will justify a change to the decision.

Applications should be titled 'Section 13A Review' and be sent to Council Tax Service, PO Box 304, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside. OL6 0GA or email [counciltax@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@tameside.gov.uk)

A written explanation of the decision or review if requested, will be provided by the Council within one calendar month of the request by the applicant. Where the Council decides that the original decision should not be revised, written reasons will be provided to the applicant.

Under Section 16 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, if the applicant remains dissatisfied with the outcome of their claim, an appeal may be made to the independent Valuation Tribunal. Further details on this process will be notified with the outcome of any review mentioned above.

## **8. Overpayments and Fraud**



If the Council becomes aware that the information contained in an application for a Section 13A discount award was incorrect or that relevant information was not declared, either intentionally or otherwise, the Council will seek to recover the value of any award made as a result of that application. The award will be removed from the relevant council tax account and any resulting balance will be subject to the normal methods of collection and recovery applicable to such accounts and which may incur additional costs.

The Council is committed to the fight against fraud in all its forms. Any applicant who tries to fraudulently claim a Section 13A discount may have committed an offence under the Fraud Act 2006. If the Council suspects that fraud may have occurred, the matter will be investigated as appropriate and this could lead to criminal proceedings.

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# Agenda Item 6

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	30 August 2023
<b>Executive Member:</b>	Cllr Eleanor Wills – Executive Member (Population Health & Wellbeing)
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Debbie Watson, Director of Population Health
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>POPULATION HEALTH COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS 2024 – 2025</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	<p>The report describes Population Health activity that will take place during 2024-2025 thus ensuring effective resource planning. The report sets out specific details on the following areas of spend and commissioning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Responsibility for testing and treating Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) – Locala Health &amp; Wellbeing</li><li>• Falls Prevention Service – Age UK</li><li>• Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pilot – Talk Listen Change (TLC)</li><li>• Caring Dad’s Pilot – LEAP Partnership</li></ul>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>That the Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Award a contract variation to provide non recurrent funding in the financial year 2023/2024 of £0.020m to Locala, the provider of specialist Sexual and Reproductive Health services in Tameside, to increase the number of Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) test kits available to Tameside residents.</li><li>(ii) To extend the current falls prevention programme with Age UK as part of the wider contract held by Adult Services for a further 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 at a cost of £0.036m.</li><li>(iii) To award a contract to LEAP to deliver the Caring Dad’s Pilot for a period of 2 years from 1 September 2023 at a cost of £0.046m.</li><li>(iv) To award a contract to Talk, Listen, Change (TLC) to deliver a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator pilot for a duration of two years from 1 September 2023 at a cost of £0.248m.</li></ol>
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	<p>The proposed activities directly support the delivery of the following priorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very best start</li><li>• Longer and Active lives with good mental health</li><li>• Independence and Activity in Older Age and dignity and choice at end of Life</li></ul>
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	<p>The commissioning intentions outlined in this report will ensure that key public health functions are delivered including some mandated functions of the local authority under the Health &amp; Social Care Act (sexual health provision and NHS Health Checks). Delivering these programmes will support achieving Corporate Plan objectives as well as key strategies such as the Tameside Domestic Abuse</p>

Strategy. The specific areas of investment also seek to tackle poor health outcomes around cardiovascular disease, dental decay in younger people, high rate of falls in older people, and high rates of domestic abuse and repeat offenders across Tameside.

**Financial Implications:  
(Authorised by the statutory  
Section 151 Officer)**

This report outlines commissioning intentions for the 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial year. The recommendations in this report are funded by both core Council funds (£0.056m) and government grants (£0.294m), £0.350m in total. See Appendix 1 for summary of proposed spend and budget.

The required budget is available for each of the schemes based on the information provided in sections 2 to 4 of the report below and recommendations above. As the policy implications above state, the commissioning intentions outlined in this report will have health and care benefits for the borough which should help reduce demand and financial pressures on Adults & Childrens Services and also the wider care system.

The report is requesting a contract variation for recommendation (i) and a direct award for recommendations (ii, iii & iv).

The service has ensured that appropriate break clauses are included within the commissioned contracts. This will ensure that safeguards are in place should the commissioned services need to be withdrawn.

It has been evaluated that the direct award will provide value for money through high impact low cost delivery. This will be continued to be reviewed as the contract progresses via standard contract monitoring.

**Legal Implications:  
(Authorised by the Borough  
Solicitor)**

The commissioning intentions detailed in this report are being supported by STAR procurement to ensure that compliant procedures are followed and that best value is achieved for the council.

**Risk Management:**

Risks will be identified and managed by the appropriate officers.

**Background Information:**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting



Telephone: 0161 342 2328



e-mail: [james.mallion@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:james.mallion@tameside.gov.uk)



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[james.mallion@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:james.mallion@tameside.gov.uk)

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report summarises the strategic commissioning plan of Population Health outlining activity, which will take place during 2024-2025 thus ensuring effective resource planning and delivery of effective services to meet demands across the population around a range of health issues. This is to be achieved by executing the available contract extensions for some contracts whilst options appraisals are carried out to inform the future OJEU, (The Official Journal of the European Union), tender exercises. This report seeks authorisation to proceed with the individual commissioning proposals as outlined in the recommendations at the front of the report.

## 2 RESPONSIBILITY FOR TESTING AND TREATING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS'S (STIs) – INCREASED TESTING CAPACITY IN LOCALA

- 2.1 The Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Service is jointly commissioned by Tameside and Stockport Council and is delivered by Locala Health & Wellbeing who were awarded a five year contract which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.
- 2.2 Part of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service offer in Tameside, a mandated function of the local authority, is to provide access to testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- 2.3 The majority of testing is carried out within specialist sexual health services. Current guidance for the general public is to undertake an STI screen, including an HIV test, at least once a year if having sex without a condom with new or casual partners – even if they do not have any symptoms. Those who have multiple or anonymous partners should be tested more frequently (e.g. every 3 to 6 months)<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.4 STIs are a major public health concern. STIs can be stigmatising, may seriously impact the health and wellbeing of individuals, and are costly to healthcare services. If left undiagnosed and untreated, common STIs may cause complications and long-term health problems, including pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, postpartum endometriosis, infertility, and chronic abdominal pain in women, adverse pregnancy outcomes and cardiovascular and neurological damage<sup>2</sup>.

### **Local statistics on STI<sup>3</sup>**

- 2.5 Overall, the rate of new STIs in Tameside has been lower than the national average in recent years. However there have been big increases in 2020 and 2021 in the rate of some infections, particularly syphilis in Tameside.
- 2.6 A total of 925 new STIs were diagnosed in residents of Tameside in 2021. This represents a particular increase compared to the previous year, especially for syphilis diagnoses. These STIs and the increases seen disproportionately impact some groups including gay and bisexual men, young people aged 15-24, people of Black Caribbean ethnicity, and those living in the most deprived areas.

**Table 1.** Diagnosis rates per 100,000 population of STIs in Tameside and England: 2020-2021<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/10/04/stis-get-tested-get-treated/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-preventing-stis/health-matters-preventing-stis>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sexually-transmitted-infections-stis-annual-data-tables/sexually-transmitted-infections-and-screening-for-chlamydia-in-england-2021-report>

<sup>4</sup> <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/sexualhealth/>

Diagnosis	2020	2021	% change 2020 to 2021 <sup>5</sup>	Rank among similar UTLAs/UAs <sup>5</sup>	Rank within England: 2021 <sup>6</sup>	Value for England: 2021
New STIs	351.8	407.3	15.8%	10	91	551.0
New STIs (exc chlamydia aged <25)	258.0	299.0	15.9%	8	77	394.5
Chlamydia	168.6	197.7	17.2%	13	110	282.0
Gonorrhoea	48.9	67.4	37.8%	4	62	90.3
Syphilis	7.0	24.2	243.8%	1	25	13.3
Genital warts	42.3	46.2	9.4%	5	71	50.0
Genital herpes	21.1	20.7	-2.1%	12	139	38.3

### Sexual Health & Testing Demand

2.7 The most recent spend comparison data available on the national Spend Comparison Tool is from 2019/20. It reveals that spend on sexual health in Tameside (£6.90) is low per head of population compared to GM partners, statistical neighbours (£9.13) and England average (£10.38)<sup>7</sup>. This provides the commissioned service with limited flexibility to adapt to demand increases.

2.8 Quick access to online orders for test kits is a vital route to increase testing, find and treat infections and stop further spread. The current core service sets an annual budget of £0.060m p.a. for this provision, but demand for this is currently vastly outstripping the budget, with demand into the sexual health service generally increasing. This is combined with a reduction in our out-of-area spend for Tameside residents attending sexual health clinics in other parts of the country, which we are mandated to pay for. So this is a positive reflection on our local service offer, with more local people attending and receiving support from our local services. This also provides an opportunity to re-align existing budgets to provide additional resource to the local service for STI testing, from the underspend in out-of-area charges.

### Gap in current offer

2.9 Online digital testing kits are seeing the highest demands. Locala provide this testing for older adults, with Brook providing testing for adults and young people under 25s. However younger men cannot currently access syphilis and gonorrhoea testing, yet this is a target group for STI testing. Widening the testing offer would ensure younger men can access these tests. The table below summarises current testing provision.

Provider	Test kits available	Applicable age group
Locala Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chlamydia and gonorrhoea (including triple site testing which is usually more relevant for MSM)</li> <li>HIV</li> </ul>	Aged 25 and over

<sup>5</sup> These are Tameside and its 15 statistical nearest neighbours, excluding those where values were suppressed due to small numbers. First rank has the highest value. Nearest neighbours are derived from [CIPFA's Nearest Neighbours Model](#).

<sup>6</sup> Out of 149 UTLAs/UAs in England, excluding those where values were suppressed due to small numbers. City of London and Isles of Scilly are always excluded. First rank has the highest value. Where the value was 0, ranks are based on order of local authority names.

<sup>7</sup> [https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/spend-and-outcomes-tool/#!/spend\\_benchmark](https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/spend-and-outcomes-tool/#!/spend_benchmark)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syphilis</li> </ul>	
Brook	Chlamydia and gonorrhoea (mostly single site testing which is usually more relevant for heterosexual people)	Aged under 25s
SH:24 (National free testing)	HIV	Aged 16 and over

### **Funding Proposal**

- 2.10 To improve the testing offer for young men and to better meet the increased demand for STI testing via the digital route within Locala, it is proposed that £0.020m one-off in-year funding is provided to Locala to increase the number of test kits available. This will enable increased access and will also produce more robust data around who is using these kits and what future budget setting should look like.
- 2.11 This will be funded within the current Population Health budget, from the in-year underspend in out of area charges via the established GM cross charging arrangements between different local authorities.
- 2.12 The GM cross charging methodology has been updated recently, resulting in annual fluctuations in payments between GM local authorities. This reflects the payments Tameside make and receive for residents seeking sexual health treatment outside their area and is based on previous year's data between GM authorities to enable a set process of cross-charging. A reduction in claims have meant there is a balance of £0.051m available in the budget in 2023/24.
- 2.13 It should be noted that Locala are commissioned via a joint contract with Stockport MBC, with Stockport as the lead commissioner. Stockport MBC has already awarded £0.020m for Locala to provide additional test kits, so this paper seeks to secure equivalent in year investment for Tameside residents.

### **Commissioning Approach**

- 2.14 This report seeks approval to award a maximum sum of £0.020m to Locala Health & Wellbeing during 2023/24 by way of a variation to the current contract. This is permissible within the contract as the cumulative value of this modification is less than 10% of the original contract value.
- 2.15 Population Health will work with STAR procurement to modify the contract in line with the requirements for modifications of this type.

## **3 AGE UK – FALLS PREVENTION SERVICE**

- 3.1 Falls and fall-related injuries are a common and serious problem for older people, and are the largest cause of emergency hospital admissions. A fall or injury can have a devastating effect on the individual's independence, confidence and quality of life, often leading to inactivity and further decline. However, falling is by no means inevitable and the worst effects of a fall are often preventable.
- 3.2 Age UK are currently commissioned to deliver a falls prevention service which forms part of the Tameside Falls Prevention Pathway that supports older people following a fall. The aim is to reduce falls amongst Tameside residents aged 65 and over, to support them to stay at home, in good mental and physical health, and remain independent for as long as possible. This will reduce demand on residential, hospital care and intensive care at home and maximise the quality of life for older people. The service has specific objectives to:
- Identify and help people at higher risk of falls or who have already fallen.

- deliver a falls prevention programme (secondary prevention)
- deliver a universal falls prevention marketing programme

3.3 Performance monitoring has highlighted the value in the work Age UK carry out for our Tameside residents. There have been many successes over the last 12 months including –

- Falls prevention courses delivered to professionals
- Referral to the service have remained high
- Nutrition and hydration information and advice is given to older people
- Falls prevention information, community drop ins and outreach sessions continue to be successful
- 476 people have received falls prevention information and advice in period 22-23
- 100% of clients would recommend the service and more than half go on to complete regular exercise and keep themselves safe and well

There is currently a waiting list for this service.

3.4 The contract for this service forms part of a wider Age UK contract led by Tameside Adult Services. The proposal is to work with STAR to seek an exemption to Procurement Standing Orders and issue a direct award to Age UK for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 whilst a review of the falls prevention commissioned programme across community and the acute trust takes place.

3.5 Population Health contribute £0.036m per annum in funding to commission the Falls Prevention element of the service. The contract is due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

#### **Commissioning Approach**

3.6 Adults Services, as Lead Commissioner, and Population Health are reviewing the arrangements for this contract and working closely with STAR Procurement to undertake an appraisal of the different procurement options available.

3.7 Permission is sought to;

- Continue to fund the Falls Prevention service at a cost of £0.036m pa for a further period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- Work with STAR to seek an exemption to issue a Direct Award to Age UK for a duration of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

#### **4 DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES – PROGRAMMES TO DELIVER ON PERPETRATOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 In 2021/22 Operations and Neighbourhoods coordinated a GM-wide bid to the Home Office via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to introduce a variety of perpetrator programmes, improving the availability of support targeted at perpetrators of domestic abuse. The programmes are evidence-based and aim to address known issues in relation to domestic abuse offending through a mixture of approaches.

4.2 In Tameside the focus of the delivery was to expand the Roots Tenancy Support and Compliance Service (for high risk multi-agency public protection arrangement and prolific and priority offenders) to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse who were engaging with the service in relation to homelessness. The aim of this targeted intervention was to support perpetrators of domestic abuse to gain and maintain independent living, and reduce the risk of re-offending.

4.3 The total amount of grants funding awarded to Tameside, via GMCA, was £0.490m over two years. There have been challenges with the existing Roots programme, and as further expansion was not possible during 2021/2022 the funding was allowed to be carried forward. This gives an opportunity to align the programme objectives to the recently



completed perpetrator needs assessment.

- 4.4 It is proposed that some of this funding is used to fund two pilots in Tameside, the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pilot and the Caring Dad's Pilot, for a period of two years at a total cost of £0.290m, see table below for breakdown of cost. The remainder of the grant will be used to support activities specifically linked to the delivery of the recommendations arising from the perpetrator needs assessment.

<b>Discretionary Grant Fund</b>	<b>£0.490 m</b>
Cost of Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pilot	- £0.248m
Cost of Caring Dad's Pilot	- £0.046 m
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>	<b>£0.196 m</b>

- 4.5 All activity will be agreed by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and will be commissioned in line with procurement regulations and in consultation with STAR procurement.

#### **Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pilot**

- 4.6 The original project has faced challenges in relation to the engagement of perpetrators and therefore GMCA has agreed to amend the project allowing Tameside to work with a specialist perpetrator organisation to deliver the pilot in the following ways:

- The specialist provider, Talk Listen Change will employ a dedicated engagement worker who will be based within the homelessness team to support the engagement of perpetrators and undertake early intervention work.
- The service will also provide training for the wider homelessness staff team to support them to identify and engage with perpetrators within the service.
- Spot purchase of a minimum of 20 places per year on a behaviour change programme, which the provider will commit to delivering in the Tameside area.

- 4.7 The report seeks approval to proceed with the pilot project for a period of two years from 1 September 2023 at cost of:

- £0.094m for the engagement worker (including on costs)
- £0.150m spot purchase of an initial 40 places on the behaviour change programme (enabling a course to be delivered locally)
- £0.004m for training of the homelessness teams (up to maximum of 45 people).

- 4.8 Following advice from STAR the proposal is that funding for the Domestic abuse and homelessness pilot will be awarded to Talk, Listen, Change (TLC) as a direct award. The places on the behaviour change programme will be on a spot purchase arrangement with Talk, Listen, Change (TLC).

- 4.9 On the advice of STAR, a competitive route for this work is not proposed, as Talk, Listen, Change (TLC) led and submitted the bid on behalf of GMCA and are the only provider of this work in the area. An additional benefit is that as an existing provider, they will be able to mobilise the work with perpetrators in Tameside quickly. The programme will be monitored to ensure value for money and impact.

#### **Commissioning Approach**

- 4.10 Permission is sought to work with STAR procurement to issue a Direct Award to Talk, Listen, Change (TLC) for a duration of 2 years at a cost of £0.248m. STAR have advised that a direct award is permissible as Talk, Listen, Change (TLC) are the only provider of this work in the area.

#### **Caring Dad's Programme Pilot**

- 4.11 The Caring Dads programme is a 17 week structured programme to address men's abusive behaviours within families. It is based on a model developed in Canada, informed by research which indicates that men are more likely to engage with services to address their behaviour if they think it will benefit their relationship with their children. The programme must be

delivered by accredited facilitators who have completed the Caring Dads' facilitator training.

- 4.12 In February 2023 the Council funded two places on the Caring Dad's facilitator training for staff from LEAP children's centre, (LEAP is part of St Peter's Partnership). The staff had been delivering a self-developed programme for Dads who had been using harmful behaviours within the family home. The project was funded by a Community Safety Grant.
- 4.13 Best practice when working with perpetrators of domestic abuse is to deliver accredited, evidence based programmes due to the level of risk involved in the work. In order to ensure that the work being delivered by LEAP was in line with best practice it was agreed to move towards a Caring Dads model.
- 4.14 In order to benefit from the training and to support a strong perpetrator offer for Tameside the report is seeking permission to award £0.046 to LEAP to enable the delivery of the Caring Dads programme for two years.
- 4.15 Following advice from STAR the funding for the Caring Dads pilot will be transferred to LEAP as a direct award.
- 4.16 Advice from STAR did not recommend a competitive route for this work as LEAP are the only accredited facilitators of the Caring Dad's programme within Tameside. An additional benefit is that as an existing provider, they will be able to begin delivery of the programme in Tameside quickly.

#### **Commissioning Proposal**

- 4.17 Permission is sought to work with STAR procurement to issue a Direct Award to LEAP for a period of two years from 1 September 2023 at a cost of £0.046m. STAR have advised that a Direct Award is permissible as LEAP are the only accredited facilitators of the Caring Dad's programme within Tameside.

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 As set out at the front of the report.

# APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED SPEND									
NAME OF PROVIDER	TYPE OF SERVICE	PROPOSED 2023/24 SPEND (£m)	PROPOSED 2024/25 SPEND (£m)	PROPOSED 2025/26 SPEND (£m)	PROPOSED CUMULATIVE YEAR SPEND (£m)	LEAD COMMISSIONER	ANNUAL BUDGET	COST CENTRE	FUNDING SOURCE
Locala	Increase the number of STI test kits available	£0.020	£0.000	£0.000	£0.020	Pamela Watt	£0.070	HH100302	Core Funding
Age UK	Falls Prevention	£0.000	£0.036	£0.000	£0.036	Sarah Whittle	£0.036	HH300600	Core Funding
Not yet identified	Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pilot	£0.072	£0.124	£0.052	£0.248	Lisa Morris	£0.124	RR100400	Grant Funded
Not yet identified	Caring Dad's Pilot	£0.013	£0.023	£0.010	£0.046	Lisa Morris	£0.023	RR100400	Grant Funded
<b>Total</b>		<b>£0.106</b>	<b>£0.183</b>	<b>£0.061</b>	<b>£0.350</b>		<b>£0.253</b>		

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	30 August 2023
<b>Executive Member:</b>	Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ali Stathers-Tracey, Director of Children's Services
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>TAMESIDE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2023/26</b>
<b>Report Summary/ Purpose of Report</b>	The report outlines the establishment of the new Children and Young People's plan that will be overseen by the Starting Well Partnership (Tameside's multi-agency children and young people's partnership). The Plan sets out Tameside's approach across the partnership to working with and to support children and young people and their families. The Plan has been development and agreed by Tameside's Starting Well Partnership.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	That the contents of the report be noted and the Plan is endorsed.
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	The Children and Young People's Plan will impact on the following corporate priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Priority One</b> – The Very Best Start in Life</li><li>- <b>Priority Two</b> - Aspiration and hope through learning</li><li>- <b>Priority Three</b> – Resilient families and supportive networks</li><li>- <b>Priority Four</b> - Opportunities for people to fulfil their potential</li><li>- <b>Priority Six</b> – Nurturing our communities</li><li>- <b>Priority Seven</b> – Longer and healthier lives with good mental health.</li></ul>
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	The Plan aligns with the Council's key policies in supporting families within our communities.
<b>Financial Implications:</b>	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
<b>(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer )</b>	However strengthening our plan and improving outcomes for young people in the borough will benefit the council financially in the long term.
<b>Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)</b>	The Children and Young People's Plan 2023/26 brings together the relevant statutory responsibilities for the council's provision of services to families. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 (the Act); the Council has a responsibility to promote inter-agency cooperation to improve the welfare of all children.</li><li>- Section 11 of the Act provides that statutory bodies including councils must make arrangements for ensuring that their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</li><li>- There is also a duty on schools outlines in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021, issued under the Education Act 2002, which places a statutory responsibility on schools to</li></ul>

safeguard children.

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) also sets out the importance of inter-agency working to support children and families: *Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.*

**Risk Management:**

The Children and Young People's Plan 2023/26 provides the framework by which partners and other stakeholders can identify their contribution to working with and supporting all children, young people and their families. The presence of clearly defined, shared priorities and approaches provides a clear focus for all partners.

**Conclusion:**

The Children and Young People's Plan 2023/26 sets out the Starting Well Partnership Board's vision and priorities for the next three years. It clearly sets out the shared objectives and provides focus for all stakeholders to assist in the planning of individual agency or collaborative working practices from conception through to preparing for adulthood. Delivery of the plan will be overseen by the Starting Well Partnership.

**Background Information:**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting

Paula Sumner, Assistant Director, Early Help and Partnerships



Telephone: 0161 342 2173



e-mail: [paula.sumner@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:paula.sumner@tameside.gov.uk)



<mailto:clarewatson2@nhs.net> <mailto:anna.moloney@tameside.gov.uk>

## 1 CONTEXT

1.1 The primary driver for this plan is Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 which brings together a variety of legal duties into one framework to enable partnerships to work collaboratively to support children, young people and their families. The primary legislation is:

- **Section 175 of the Education Act 2002** which places a duty on:
  - Local authorities in relation to their education functions; and
  - The governing bodies of maintained schools and the governing bodies of further education institutions (which include sixth-form colleges) in relation to their functions relating to the conduct of the school or the institutionto make arrangements for ensuring that such functions are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- **Children Act 1989**  
This Act places a duty on local authorities to promote and safeguard the welfare of children in need in their area.
- **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**  
Section 38 requires local authorities, acting in cooperation with certain persons (including every Chief Police Officer or local policing body whose area lies within that of the local authority, clinical commission groups and providers of probation services) to such an extent as is appropriate for their area, to secure that youth justice services are available in their area, such services to include the provision of persons to act as appropriate adults to safeguard the interests of children and young persons detained or questioned by police officers.
- **Housing Act 1996**  
Section 213A requires housing authorities to refer to adult social care services persons with whom children normally reside or might reasonably be expected to reside, who they have reason to believe may be ineligible for assistance, or who may be homeless and may have become so intentionally or who may be threatened with homelessness intentionally, as long as the person consents. If homelessness persists, any child in the family could be in need. In such cases, if social services decide the child's needs would be best met by helping the family to obtain accommodation, they can ask the housing authority for reasonable advice and assistance in this, and the housing authority must give reasonable advice and assistance.

The Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance applies to all organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children. Specifically, the guidance applies to all local authorities, health, and police.

- 1.2 More recently central government through the Department for Education have launched a consultation to further strengthen 'Working Together'. The proposals contained within the consultation place a stronger focus on earlier intervention and Family Help.
- 1.3 The Children and Young People's Plan is reflective and aligned to the current Working Together guidance but also takes cognisance of potential future changes to the guidance.
- 1.4 The Children and Young People's Plan has been developed in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families and to deliver on our corporate priorities to ensure children have the very best start in life, gain aspiration and hope through learning and to nurture resilient families and supportive networks to protect and grow our young people.

## **2 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

- 2.1 To help design the framework and agree the priorities behind the strategy a number of sessions have been held with the statutory partners and other stakeholders. These sessions reviewed a variety of datasets and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The partnership also sought views from the voluntary, community and faith sector, using softer intelligence to reach conclusions about where the partnership's focus needs to be.
- 2.2 Through existing networks such as the Children in Care Council and the Youth Parliament, the voice of children and young people was sought, again to inform the development of priorities within the plan.
- 2.3 Key statutory and non-statutory partners have also gained insight from users of their services and ensured that priorities are aligned to those of their organisations to ensure a commitment to this Plan and to ensure resources are available to assist in its delivery.

## **3 RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 All of the feedback from partners, and children and young people was analysed and considered in the formulation of this plan and the shared priorities. Following this analysis the members of the Starting Well Partnership considered the final draft plan at its meeting in July 2023 and endorsed it. Each of the priorities within the plan has an identified senior lead officer from either the Local Authority or a partner agency who are developing detailed plans for delivery.

## **4 IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The Starting Well Partnership, will further develop and drive a delivery plan for the Children and Young People's Plan and the partnership will oversee full implementation. Additionally, a shorter, young person and family focussed guide to the Plan will be developed. The Children's Communications Officer will also develop a communications plan to ensure a wider distribution once it is endorsed.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 As set out at the front of the report.



Tameside Children and Young People

# PLAN 2023/26



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# FOREWORD

This is a three year Plan for all children, young people and their families living in Tameside. Our Plan has been co-produced with our children and young people. The Plan supports Tameside's borough plan, in particular this Plan supports the Corporate Priorities of:

- Very best start in life
- Aspiration & hope through learning
- Resilient families & supportive networks
- Opportunities for people to fulfil their potential.

The key priorities for children and young people in Tameside are:

- Supported Families
- Healthy Lives
- Positive Lives
- Building Skills For Life

The Plan emphasises the vision of all partners for our children and young people to be safe, healthy, happy, ambitious for their future and develop skills for life.

It builds on improvements already underway and identifies our next steps. This Plan is intended to be a “live” document that provides an overarching framework to stimulate action, encourage debate and support continuous challenge of our collective leadership. It will drive conversations across the partnership and also with children, young people, families and front - line professionals to help ensure that whatever we do genuinely makes a difference to their lives.

Supporting children and young people is the responsibility of everyone who works with and cares about children and young people. No one agency can do that alone. We work in partnership, so that children and young people and their families are heard and involved at home, at school, in their communities and particularly when they need additional information, advice, support or interventions to help them. The success of this Plan will depend upon the skills and determination of each partner and our shared ambition to make sure that Tameside really is one of the greatest places in which to grow up.

**Alison Stathers-Tracey**  
**Director of Children's Services**



# OUR VISION

We know that Tameside is a great place to grow up. We have strong communities, excellent schools and early education, good opportunities for work and much more.

But we can do better.

Most of our children and families grow up in a supportive environment that enables them to have the best start in life without the input of specialist services. When this is not the case children and families may need some extra support at different times in their lives.

We want every child, young person and family to get the help and support they need to succeed as early as possible. Our vision is that every child and young person in Tameside has the best start in life, to grow, thrive, and be prepared for a successful adult life; and when the need or emerging problems occurs, communities and organisations work together with children, young people and families to co-ordinate support thereby improving the overall wellbeing and quality of life of all Tameside's children and young people.

**“Our vision is that every child and young person in Tameside has the best start in life, to grow, thrive, and be prepared for a successful adult life; and when the need or emerging problems occur, communities and organisations work together with children, young people and families to co-ordinate support thereby improving the overall wellbeing and quality of life of all Tameside’s children and young people.”**

Starting Well Partnership

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# INTRODUCTION

Our plan has been strongly shaped by young people themselves. We commissioned M.E.L Research to act as an independent body and work with our children and young people to ensure that it captures their voice.

Our children and young people were asked about their hopes for the future and how they can be supported to thrive in Tameside.

We have used what our children and young people told us to shape the priorities within this plan.

Our young people also reminded us to think of their safety and security, the accessibility of services and how to support the more vulnerable because of individual, environmental, social or economic factors.

By recognising the crucial interaction between these outcomes, we will work together to improve the lives of all our children and young people.

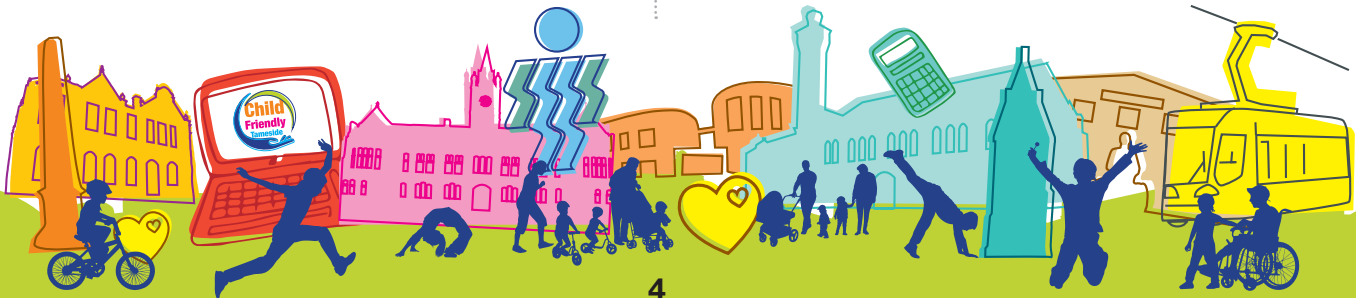
We will do this by developing action plans around the four priority areas which will be owned by the boards and groups of the Tameside Starting Well Partnership. This plan will be the benchmark for measuring effective progress and achieving the priorities.

## The Tameside Starting Well Partnership

Our Tameside Starting Well Partnership is made up of many local partners, including:

- Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
- Greater Manchester Police
- Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
- Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Action Together
- Tameside Young People

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# THE JOURNEY

We have a strong and well established Starting Well Partnership, whose participants share a common goal to work together to improve the wellbeing and life chances of every child in Tameside.

We want this plan to make a difference, not just to the services we deliver but to children's lives.

We realise the outcomes in this plan cannot be achieved by any single organisation. To really make change happen, we need all parts of the system to work together - from families to children's services, schools and other statutory services, to communities and voluntary organisations.

Our OFSTED inspection in 2019 graded children's services as 'requires improvement to be good'. Inspectors noted a "much strengthened whole council commitment to improving the quality and impact of children's services" in the borough.

Their visit in May 2019 followed an inspection in 2016 when services for children in Tameside were judged to be inadequate and so the latest inspection acknowledges the significant improvement work which has taken place while also highlighting areas for further focus. We are committed to ongoing improvement to deliver the best services for children in Tameside.

In 2017 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust and judged that services for children, young people and families were 'Good' and in 2018 rated Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust who provide mental health, community and specialist services as 'Requires Improvement'.

This new plan reflects the actions needed by all the partners to help us to achieve excellent outcomes and to fulfil our ambitions for all children and young people in Tameside to be safe, healthy, happy, ambitious for their future and develop skills for life.

We will continue to develop and learn, bringing together staff from a range of services, providing opportunities for sharing of practice and experiences.



# THE CHALLENGE

The number of children and young people living in Tameside has increased year on year for the last 10 years with the borough's birth rate being higher than the national average.

## Keeping our children and young people safe

Partners in Tameside have the statutory responsibility for co-ordinating and challenging all activity relating to safeguarding children and young people living in Tameside. Tameside faces significant challenges in protecting children who experience neglect, family breakdown or crisis and has significantly higher numbers of children who are cared for than the England average.

## Inequalities

Tameside like many other areas faces the challenge of inequalities across diverse population groups. Covid-19 has exacerbated these inequalities in many ways, with the true impact yet to be fully understood. An example of inequalities, is those living in deprivation. Continuing to tackle

child poverty, improve educational attainment, boost jobs and the local economy will be crucial to improving the outcomes for our children.

## Our children's health and wellbeing

Across many indicators, Tameside on average has poorer outcomes for children's health, compared to the England averages. Particularly, high rates of childhood obesity and poor oral health demonstrating the need for focused work to improve children's nutrition and levels of physical activity through whole system approaches.

Tameside also has increasing pressures both in terms of demand and capacity to support, in relation to our children and young people's mental wellbeing and health, that has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

## Improving education outcomes for all children

National data for the last 30 years show that outcomes for children from the most economically deprived families are much less likely to achieve

well in school from Early years through to post 16 than their non-disadvantaged peers. Since the pandemic the gap between these two groups as widened nationally and this has had a disproportionate impact on children growing up in the North of England., for example during the pandemic, 34% of children in the North (around 900,000) were living in poverty, compared with 28% in the rest of England. In Tameside a higher proportion of children grow up in economic disadvantage than national.

## Contextual safeguarding

Increasingly, our children and young people are becoming more vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. These threats include exploitation by organised crime groups such as County Lines, trafficking, online abuse, sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism.



# TAMESIDE THE PLACE

The metropolitan borough of Tameside sits on the eastern side of Greater Manchester (GM). The GM region is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country and comprises 10 local authority areas, 10 NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (as at April 2022) and 1 Integrated Care Partnership. Tameside is divided into 4 neighbourhood areas:

**North**  
Ashton-under-Lyne;  
**South**  
Hyde, Hattersley and Longdendale;

**East**  
Dukinfield, Mossley and Stalybridge;

**West**  
Audenshaw, Denton and Droylsden.

**231,071**  
current residents.  
**Good predicted growth for our younger population.**



**30%** population are aged 0-24 years.

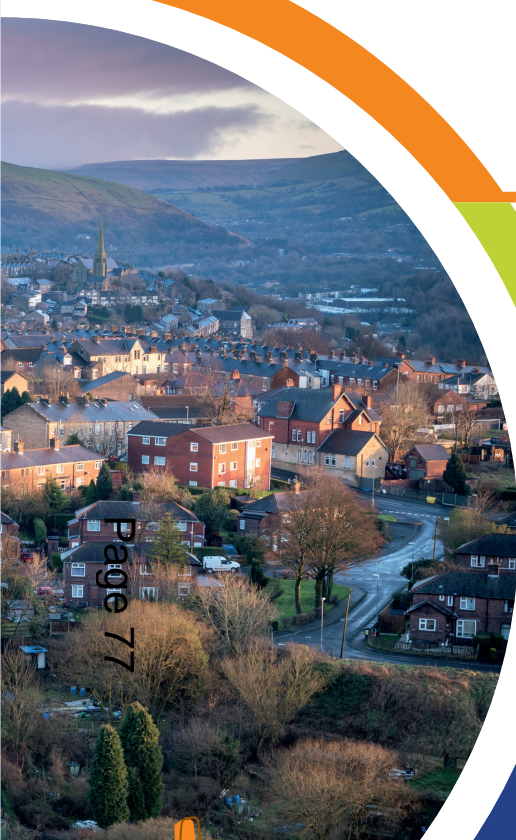
**14.5%** are from ethnic minority backgrounds.



**17.4% or 1/5** children aged under 16 are in absolute low income families, compared to **15.1%** in England.







### EDUCATION



**88.2%** Primary    **67.2%** Secondary    Tameside schools now rated by Ofsted as **good** or **outstanding**.

**69.6%** Tameside pupils achieved **GCSE Math and English grades 4 or above**, compared to **67.1%** nationally.

### HEALTH



In our most deprived areas, the **life expectancy** is **9.6** years lower for men and **9.2** years lower for women, compared to the least deprived areas.

### CRIME



In the year ending June 2019, the rate of **victim based crime** in Tameside was **65.4** per 1,000 population. This is significantly below the England and Wales average of **35.2** per 1,000 population.



# FOR EVERY 100 CHILDREN IN TAMESIDE

97

are born above the 5th percentile in weight.



92

are in education, employment or training.



40

are not school ready at age 5.



33

have a decayed, missing or filled tooth.



17  
Page 8  
are living in poverty.



63

are of a healthy weight.



14

Have Special Educational Needs



3

children have a long term illness (e.g asthma) or disability.



3

are caring for a parent with an addiction, disability or illness.



10

(aged 5-16 yrs) will experience a mental health problem.



10

are born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy.



9

young people regularly smoke.



1

are admitted to hospital with an avoidable injury.



4

are affected by domestic abuse.



1 in 1,000

will be in care.



2

aged 15-17 is pregnant.



# GROWING UP IN TAMESIDE

To ensure the plan was developed by evidence. In addition to the voice of local children and young people, a Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was undertaken.

The Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment highlights that Tameside's outcomes for children and young people are on average significantly worse than England averages, including but not exclusively to:



Children in absolute low income families (2019/20).



Babies that are breastfed at 6-8 weeks (2020/21).



Reception aged children who are obese (2019/20).



Children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception (2018/19).



5 year olds experiencing obvious dental decay.





Under 18's conceptions.



Hospital admissions for asthma  
 under 19yrs, (2020/21).



Hospital admissions as a  
 result of self-harm between  
 ages 10-24yrs (2020/21).



Children in care (2021).

The Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment makes clear recommendations, including addressing the wider determinants of health, which broadly impact outcomes of our residents, focus on early years, physical and mental wellbeing, provide support for children with vulnerable at the right time and place, and build back better and fairer from Covid-19.

The full Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment can be found [here](#).



# OUR PRIORITY: SUPPORTED FAMILIES

The children and young people's consultations told us overwhelmingly that we must give high quality support to their parents, carers and their communities.

Child health and wellbeing is dependent on supportive and safe homes; studies repeatedly show the importance of having at least one supportive caring adult to establishing childhood resilience, and this is critical so that children are able to bounce back when difficulty threatens that happiness.

We know families achieve better outcomes if their needs are supported early. Access to universal services e.g. nurseries, schools, libraries and community health care, and positive interaction in families that spend time together e.g. play, leisure, sport, cultural activities, creates opportunities for happy memories to be made and resilient capacities to be built.

This enhances the foundation for happiness and lifelong health and wellbeing. Most children and families only need universal services, however it is the practitioners working in universal settings who first

recognise when a child or family is starting to struggle and may have additional needs. These practitioners are the teachers, youth workers, health visitors and volunteers who need to build a trusting relationship with that family, helping them to organise and co-ordinate the support they may need.

All staff working with children and families should be able to recognise and address the needs of the entire family in a holistic way, keep the child and their family at the heart of their work and listen to what they need in our Strengthening Families approach.

**"I like how close my family are."**

Female, Ethnic Minority  
Communities Group, Age 20



# SUPPORTED FAMILIES - RECOMMENDATIONS

## Suggested Outcomes:

- Young people and families are in control and know where to access help and advice to manage their own health and wellbeing .
- Children and young people are protected from harm and are well cared for at home wherever possible.
- Workers will have the skills and knowledge to identify issues early in families and to address those issues quickly and effectively.
- Families receive good quality multi-agency help to support parents or carers so risks to children are reduced, reducing the need for high cost, statutory interventions.

## Suggested measures that will tell us we are making a difference:

- Number of open early help cases
- Number of children in need
- Number of children subject to a child protection plan
- Number of children looked after or cared for
- Number of people re-entered to youth justice system
- Number of parents supported for substance misuse, adult mental health, domestic abuse or parental conflict
- Percentage not in education, employment or training
- Child poverty - % children aged 0-18 living in relative poverty after housing costs
- Young carers – rate of young carers providing any unpaid care per week, per 1,000 young people aged 10-19 years

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# OUR PRIORITY: HEALTHY LIVES

We want to enable children, young people and their families and carers in Tameside to live healthier, longer lives by helping them to stay well and prevent illness in the first place.

We want to help parents to make good and informed choices to help their children have a healthy start to life. A healthy childhood leaves a legacy of good health and wellbeing for their entire lifetime and helps them to make the right choices.

**“Like he said, the fact that we’re talking about mental health now is good... but it’s not being spoken about in the right way”**

Female, Youth council, age 16

We know that the vast majority of mental health problems experienced in adult life emerge before young people reach adulthood, and that early identification and intervention of social, emotional and mental health issues can improve mental health and resilience and reduce the considerable distress of those experiencing them, and that of the people caring for them.

**“At school we talk about when people get stressed and stuff...and what we can do, like give them space and things.”**

Female, Primary School, Year 7

We aim to create healthy environments and services that are accessible and engaging to children and young people and their families and carers, to help them make the choices and changes needed for a healthy and happy life. This includes advice, tips and tools to help them make the best choices about their health and wellbeing - healthy eating and healthy weight, getting exercise to help have healthy bodies and healthy minds, increase good sleep habits, awareness of good sexual health and prevention of smoking and use of drugs and alcohol.





## HEALTHY LIVES - IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

The impact during the pandemic of working from home, temporary unemployment, home-schooling of children, and lack of physical contact with other family members, friends and colleagues have taken their toll on our families and our children and young people.



**“Children and young people have not been immune to the wide-ranging effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Children are 10 times less likely than adults to have been hospitalised with the virus, but their access to health care has been badly disrupted and their mental health has been disproportionately affected.”**

World Health Organisation, 2022



# HEALTHY LIVES - RECOMMENDATIONS

## Suggested Outcomes:

- Children, young people and families are enabled to lead healthy lives.
- More children and young people will have good emotional health and wellbeing, are emotionally resilient and equipped to manage their lives.
- Children and young people are able to safely manage their long term physical and mental health conditions and disabilities and are supported to manage the transition to adult services, if appropriate.

## Suggested Measures that will tell us we are making a difference:

### Maternal & Perinatal

- Proportion of births at low birth weight
- Smoking at time of delivery
- Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks

### Prevention of ill health

- Immunisations – 5-in-1 vaccination coverage at 12 months
- Immunisations – % of MMR vaccination coverage (second dose) at 5 years
- Healthy weight – % of 4-5 year olds living with overweight or obesity
- Oral health – rate of tooth extraction due to decay per 1,000 children aged 0-5



## Injury prevention

- Accidental injury – rate of hospital admission non-intentional injury children 0-4

## Health behaviours

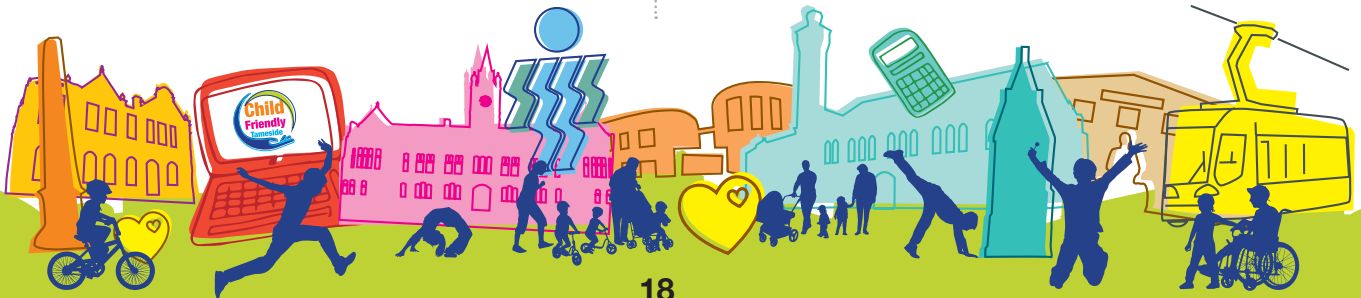
- Young people smoking - % 15-year-olds regularly smoking
- Young people drinking - % 15-year-olds reporting being drunk 2+ times
- Young people consuming drugs - % 15-year-olds reporting cannabis use ever
- Conception in young people – under 18 conception rate per 100,000 females aged 15-17

## Mental health

- Mental health prevalence - % of 5-15 year olds reporting any mental health disorder
- Mental health services – rate of CAMHS admissions per 100,000 aged 0-18
- Suicide – rate per 100,000 young people aged 15-24

## Long term conditions

- Asthma – rate of emergency admission for asthma per 100,000 aged 10-18
- Epilepsy - rate of emergency admission for epilepsy per 100,000 aged 10-18
- Diabetes – median % HbA1c level of those aged 0-25 with Type 1 diabetes
- Cancer – mortality rate per 100,000 children aged 5-14
- Disability and additional learning needs - % of pupils in mainstream education SEND



# OUR PRIORITY: POSITIVE LIVES

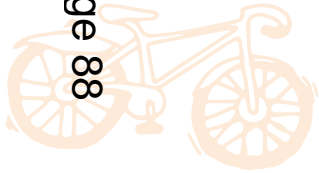
We want Tameside's children and young people to feel happy in a childhood that is full of fun, laughter and love - in vibrant and aspirational communities that they can be proud of and in which their dreams are realised.

We want families and communities that are thriving and resilient and support each other where children have a safe place to live.

We want our children and young people to grow, thrive and reach their potential and our vulnerable young people and their families are directly involved in helping themselves and others.

**“Play is an essential part of every child’s life. It is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as for social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. When children are asked about what they think is important in their lives, playing and friends are usually at the top of the list.”**

Play England



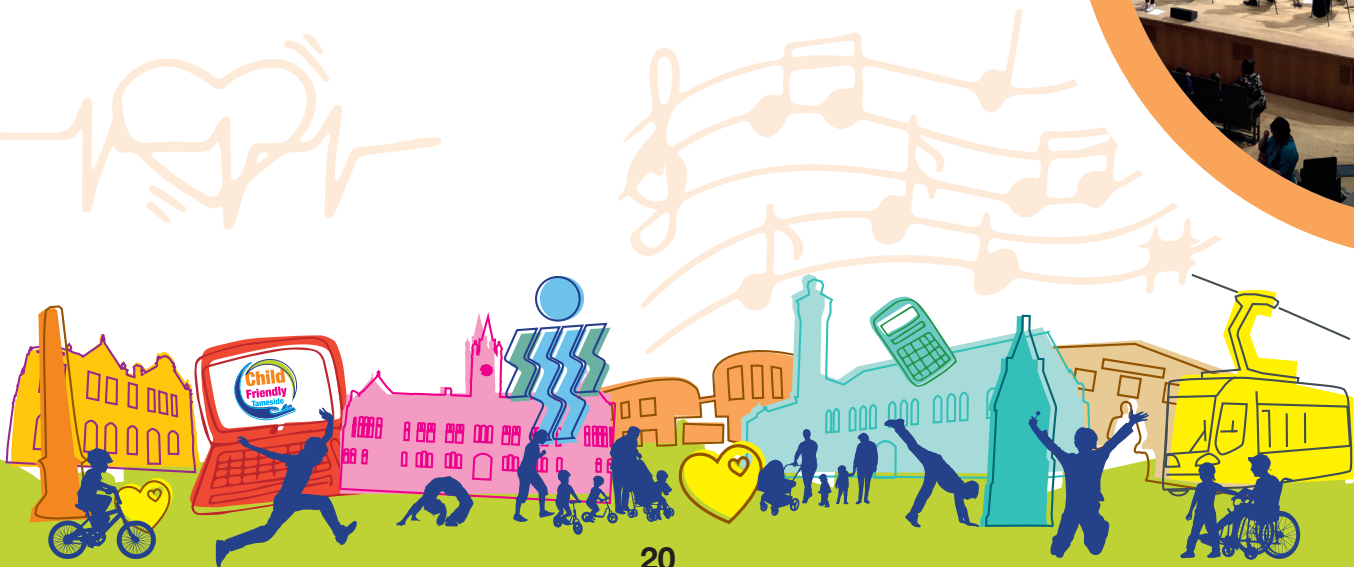
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**“Tameside Music Service. I thought that is a really, really nice space. Everyone in primary schools, a lot of them were playing instruments, and it’s just a nice way to get together. It’s a nice social space as well. I think it’s really great.”**

Male, Youth Council, age 18

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## POSITIVE LIVES - PHYSICAL SPACES TO CONNECT

In 2022 we asked children and young people about the priorities that would make their lives better. They told us that whilst school was described as a formal space, they also talked through other spaces where they chose to go to connect with others. These were framed as positive experiences and crucial to their development. People wanted more activities and spaces like this.

They told us that out of school activities were spaces that were more relaxed where they felt they could have an honest and open dialogue across peers and professionals. These spaces were important because they offered opportunities to connect with people like them across different age groups; they were a positive alternative to the schools; they were fun, but were also places where they learnt key skills and sought advice from the professionals who worked there; they were associated with more freedoms, and were where young people felt they could express themselves.

They were also able to identify why it can be difficult to take part in new activities – the main reasons being money, time and transport.

**“Just somehow try to join the community, to make friends. The communities are around to benefit... to make friends and spend time with them... meet other people.”**

Male, Experiences of Care, age 20





# POSITIVE LIVES - RECOMMENDATIONS

## Suggested Outcomes:

- Families and communities are thriving and resilient and support each other.
- All children have a safe place to live in which they can grow, thrive and reach their potential.
- Vulnerable young people and their families are directly involved in helping themselves and others.

**“We all share responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, whether as a parent, carer or family member, a friend or neighbour, an employer, or as a paid or volunteer worker.”**

Tameside Safeguarding Children's Partnership

## Suggested measures that will tell us we are making

### a difference:

- Domestic Abuse Incidents reported to Children's Services (Corp Plan N9)
- Residents Agreeing that People Look Out for One Another (Corp Plan N10)
- Residents Feeling Safe in their Local Area (Copr Plan N11)
- Uptake of short breaks
- First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10- 17 years
- Libraries/Family Hubs/leisure centres/community centres/youth groups access
- Teenage conceptions
- Number of households with dependent children in temporary accommodation
- Annual surveys and engagement events





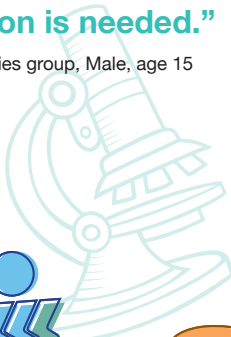
# OUR PRIORITIES: BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE

We want our children and young people to understand each other's needs, have a voice, know their rights and support each other. We want to ensure our children and young people are supported in areas such as social media, careers advice, health awareness & support and good relationships.

We want to ensure that we work with our children & young people to address diversity and the negative social attitudes that some people have towards race.

**“They may not know what they’re doing or why they’re doing that [racist comments], so maybe more education is needed.”**

Ethnic Minority Communities group, Male, age 15



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## BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE - PLACE

Overall, educational attainment levels in Tameside are good. The quality of our schools has been consistently improving over recent years schools now rated by Ofsted as good or outstanding.

There are 76 primary schools, 16 secondary schools, 5 special schools, 1 PRU in Tameside and 2 mainstream post 16 providers (Ashton Sixth Form and Tameside College). 6% of Tameside schools are Independent Schools.

Tameside schools have shared conversations with partners about children and young people they are worried about. This provides a strong foundation which supports children, young people and their families by refocusing resources on prevention rather than crisis intervention.

Early schooling matters most for children and attending a good pre-school and primary has more impact on children's academic progress than their gender or family background - the quality of teaching children receive is more important.

A high quality pre-school followed by an academically effective primary school gives children's development a significant boost, especially when built upon a foundation of a stimulating early years home-learning environment.



## BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE - DEPRIVATION

We want our children and young people to have a good level of education that gives them the opportunity to earn more and be in more fulfilling employment. Ensuring children and young people are literate and numerate will also enable them to navigate their way through adulthood better.

Tameside is relatively deprived overall, nearly a fifth of children aged under 16 (17.3%) are in absolute low income families. Reducing the gap between all student attainment and those children that are disadvantaged is important to improving overall standards and reducing inequalities.

We want all of our children to have good access to high quality early years provision to ensure that they are school ready and that no children are disadvantaged or left behind.

We want all of our children and young people to succeed in the world of work and ensure educational aspirations are high.

**“If you are a child who gets free school meals and has had support from children’s services in the past five years you are 30% more likely to pass Maths and English GCSE if you are attending a school which is rated good or outstanding; yet if you are a child receiving free school meals, you are 1.4 times more likely to be going to a school that is less than good. If you are a child with a social worker, then you are 1.2 times more likely to be going to a school that is less than good.”**

Children’s Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza DBE March 2022

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## BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE - INCLUSION

Tameside are working on improvements in SEND support; attendance and exclusions; capital investment into the right and sustainable places; having better information and advice and guidance.

Our children and young people raised concerns about, and asked us to consider, their safety and security in their environments.



**“Having pupils who are uneducated lead to really bad discrimination or hate crimes or anything like that. It is a ladder, so it needs to start somewhere, so I’d really like it to start with education services.”**

Female LGBTQ Youth group, age 18



# BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE - RECOMMENDATIONS

## Suggested Outcomes:

- Every child will achieve well above expectations and will not be held back by their social and personal backgrounds, special educational needs or disabilities.
- All children get the best start in the early years; all pupils can go to a good school and have high aspirations for their future.
- Every young person will benefit from a broad range of pathways to further learning and employment, for their own achievement and economic independence and for the success of the Tameside economy.

## Suggested Measures that will tell us we are making

### a difference:

- % of children reaching a good level of development (Corp Plan V2)
- % 3 & 4 year olds at 'good' or 'outstanding' Early Years settings (Corp plan V3)
- % 2 year olds in funded early education
- % Key Stage 4 going into/remaining in further education (Corp Plan A1)

- % Primary schools 'good' & 'outstanding' (Corp Plan A2)
- % Secondary schools 'good' & 'outstanding' ( Corp Plan A3)
- % Key Stage 2 achieving expected reading standard (Corp Plan A4)
- Secondary Fixed Term Exclusions (Corp Plan A5)
- Percentage of pupils achieving expected or higher standard at KS1 and KS2 in reading, writing and maths ?
- Persistent absence rates ?
- Percentage of pupils achieving Grade 5 or above in English and Maths at KS4 ?
- Percentage of post-16 participation and achievement rates for those in Further Education (FE)
- Percentage of pupils in apprenticeship schemes or their equivalent ?
- SEND Indicators ?



# PARTNERSHIP WORKING

This Plan provides clear direction for the Tameside Starting Well Partnership, and enables us to work better together on shared priorities in order to make the necessary changes to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in Tameside.

We will celebrate inclusion, diversity and a sense of community with our existing partners and new partners who have 'duty to cooperate' with a view to improving the wellbeing of children in the authority's area.

Partners in Tameside will monitor and evaluate performance against this Plan, and related delivery plans. Where progress is slow we will challenge each other.

Progress toward the Plan will be driven by the Starting Well Partnership and will be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board, with a comprehensive annual review taking place.

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# LISTENING TO OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We know our children and young people are passionate about what is important to them and we need to do our very best to be inclusive.

We are a co-operative council and as part of that commitment we have developed our co-production framework.

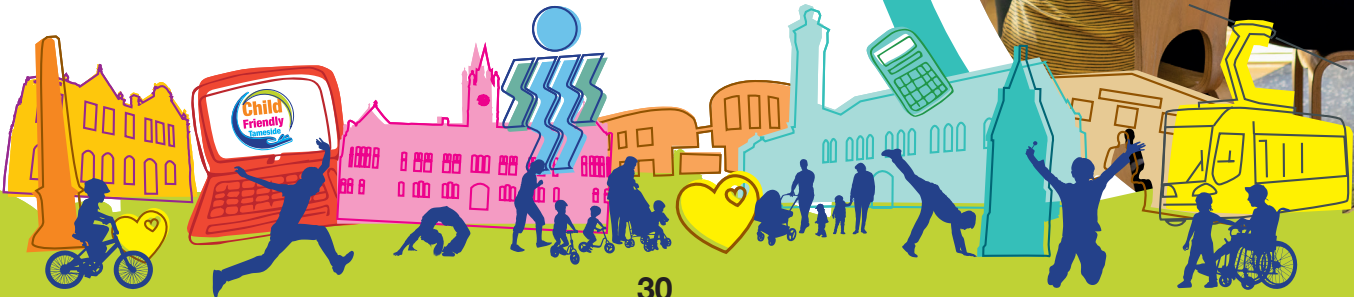
LISTEN is our commitment when commissioning local services and designing individual support with children and young people and complementary to the Tameside Voice of the Child Strategy.

LISTEN promotes collaboration and working with local partnerships and providers using local information from local people and we take this information into consideration when developing services.

The LISTEN Framework can be found [here](#).



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# CONCLUSION

This Plan is flexible enough to be adapted to meet changing circumstances, while still realising the vision.

We will continually monitor this Plan, and review it on an annual basis to ensure it remains effective. Our partnership scrutiny processes will hold us to account for our progress.

We have identified a number of key outcomes where we want to see real positive change, set ambitious actions and targets against these outcomes and we are determined to meet the challenge we have set ourselves.

The partnership will regularly support and review progress against these outcomes and challenge where it is clear that we need to take action in order to ensure progress is maintained and improved.

However, there is also a vast range of information which we will continue to review to ensure that this plan is having the impact we would want it to. We will take a flexible approach, making careful use of a range of objective

performance information so that we can respond to emerging issues. As a partnership we seek to enable change.

To achieve our ambitions within the very significant financial pressures and constraints faced by all partners we will continue to transform the delivery arrangements for local services. We will explore opportunities to find efficiencies in the way we deliver services; and, where it is in the best interests of children and their families, we will accelerate arrangements for services to be jointly commissioned across the partnership.

Our large and diverse workforce display great dedication and professionalism in the work they do every day for the children and young people of Tameside. We will support our workforce to do the job that they love through valuing, respecting and investing in them so they are confident, competent and have the skills, abilities, knowledge and motivation to provide the very best outcomes.

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# WITH THANKS

Ashton Youth Club

Tameside Youth Service Girls Group

Tameside Youth Service LGBTQ+ 'Out Loud' group

People First Tameside - group for people with learning disabilities

People First Tameside - Young Operation Farmers

Cedar Park Junior Youth Club

Fairfield High School for Girls

Ashton West End Primary Academy

Aldwark Primary School

St Mary's CE Primary School

Young People with experiences of the care system

The young parents group - 'Wrigglers and Gigglers'



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# Agenda Item 8

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	30 August 2023
<b>Executive Member:</b>	Councillor Jan Jackson – Executive Member (Planning, Transport and Connectivity)
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Julian Jackson – Director of Place
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>AUTHORITY’S MONITORING REPORT</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	<p>This report seeks approval to publish an updated Authority’s Monitoring Report (AMR) for 2022/23 to satisfy the requirements of Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The AMR monitors implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS), local planning policies, and activities under the duty to cooperate as set out by Section 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012.</p> <p>This report covers the monitoring period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and data gaps of previous years where this information is now available.</p> <p>In addition, the report seeks authority to publish an updated Statement of Community involvement as a result of monitoring processes identifying a need for review. The updated Statement of Community Involvement seeks to be clearer around consultation methods and presents information in plainer English.</p>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) to publication of those documents which comprise the 2022/23 AMR as at <b>Appendix 1</b>; and</li><li>(ii) to publish and bring into immediate effect the updated Statement of Community involvement as at <b>Appendix 2</b>.</li></ul>
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	The AMR supports the Corporate Plan vision by helping to ensure that Tameside is a place where people can start well, live well and age well, through the publication of information which discharges statutory duties and helps to inform planning decisions.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	None. The AMR does not introduce or amend the application of existing policy but rather helps to inform the potential need for its review.
<b>Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)</b>	<p>There are no direct financial implications arising from publishing the documents at <b>Appendix 1</b> and <b>Appendix 2</b>.</p> <p>The funding sources for the work discussed within the Authority’s Monitoring Report is shown below:</p> <p><b>Development of the Places for Everyone Plan and Tameside’s Homes, Spaces, Places</b></p> <p>This includes all consultation activity associated with the development of these plans.</p>

	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m	27/28 £m	Total £m
Held in Reserves						0.132
Revenue Budget	0.176	0.209	0.234	0.234	0.234	1.087
<b>Total</b>						<b>1.219</b>

### Community Involvement

All other work around community involvement (excluding consultation for the Places for Everyone Plan and Homes, Spaces, Places, which is shown above) in planning is funded through the Planning Service's revenue budget which is supported by charging for services as detailed in the Council's Fees and Charges Schedule, agreed as part of the Annual Budget Report. The table below shows the 22/23 outturn position of the service and the 23/24 budget and forecast position.

	22/23 Outturn £m	23/24 Budget £m	23/24 Forecast £m
Expenditure	0.893	1.017	1.010
Income	(0.546)	(0.858)	(0.704)
Net Position	0.346	0.159	0.306

#### Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

Each local planning authority is required to produce an Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) at least every 12 months to comply with section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.

#### Risk Management:

In not publishing an updated AMR the Council risks failing to comply with its legal requirements under Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

#### Access to Information:

Once published the AMR will be available here:

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/planning/ldf/planningmonitoring>

Once published the updated Statement of Community involvement will be available here:

[https://www.tameside.gov.uk/Planning/Statement-of-Community-Involvement-\(SCI\)](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/Planning/Statement-of-Community-Involvement-(SCI))

#### Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Graham Holland, Planning Policy Team Manager.



Telephone: 07970456260



e-mail: [graham.holland@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:graham.holland@tameside.gov.uk)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires every local planning authority to prepare an Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) at least every 12 months. Amendments brought about through the Localism Act 2011 afford the Authority a degree of flexibility to prepare its AMR as a series of individual monitoring reports instead of a single report, as this affords efficiencies in publishing information as soon as it becomes available.
- 1.2 Information relating to industrial, commercial and residential land supply are for instance made available separately through the Councils' Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) and this is published as soon as information becomes available. Similarly, the Councils' Brownfield Land Register (BLR), which is up to date, is reported separately to ensure the most readily available information is published as soon as is practically possible.

## 2. UPDATE

- 2.1 The role of the Authority Monitoring Report (as at **Appendix 1**) is to show activity across four principal areas:
- the duty to cooperate;
  - plan monitoring indicators, including information contained with the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment and Brownfield Land Register;
  - progress with plan preparation; and
  - policies which are no longer being implemented.
- 2.2 This AMR covers the monitoring period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and is published as a series of individual documents which are appended to this report. The AMR also seeks to cover the intervening period since the Council last published an AMR, publishing data for the intervening years of 2020/21 and 2021/22 where this is available.
- 2.3 The AMR also identifies a need to refresh the Councils Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The current SCI was reviewed in June 2021 to reflect the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and change in narrative around plans being prepared, namely the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework to Places for Everyone. This 2023 update (as at **Appendix 2**) reflects a post pandemic environment whilst also recording the latest position with regard to the examination of Places for Everyone. Additionally, it is presented in cleaner and clearer format with involvement of the Councils design team and is aimed to assist people to more easily understand when they can expect to be consulted by the Council about planning material.

## 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As set out at the front of the report.

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# **Tameside Local Plan**

## **Local Development Scheme Monitoring Report**

### **2022 - 2023**

#### **Introduction**

This report has been prepared to meet the requirements of Regulation 34 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. It provides details of progress against the timetable set out in Tameside's Local Development Scheme and covers the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

#### **Documents Specified within the Local Development Scheme**

Tameside Council's Local Development Scheme was updated July 2021, covering the period 2021 to 2025. Beyond the monitoring period the Council has subsequently updated this in July 2023 to continue to ensure that information about Tameside's plan making activities remains current.

The 2021 LDS sets out two development plan documents:

- Places for Everyone; and
- Local Plan.

Progress on each of these documents is discussed in turn below.

#### **Places for Everyone**

##### **Subject:**

Places for Everyone focuses on setting the strategic framework for growth for nine of the boroughs of Greater Manchester, including their housing and employment land requirements, the infrastructure necessary and environmental capacity of Greater Manchester to accommodate this in the most sustainable manner.

##### **Coverage:**

Nine of the boroughs of Greater Manchester (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan).

**Timetable:**

Initial Evidence Base	November 2014
Consultation on Draft Growth Options	November 2015 – January 2016
Consultation on Draft GMSF	October 2016 – January 2017
Consultation on Second Draft GMSF	January 2019 – March 2019
Publication of Places for Everyone	Summer/Autumn 2021
Submission	Early 2022
Examination	Spring/Summer 2022
Adoption	Summer/Autumn 2023

**Stage Reached:**

Examination

Submission and examination of Places for Everyone took place as set out within the Local Development Scheme within the monitoring period.

Publication of the plan ran from 9 August 2021 for 8 weeks, ending on 3 October 2021, where over 15,000 representations were made by over 3,800 respondents. Following on from which, summaries of the main issues raised, the plan, supporting documents and a number of additional reports were submitted to the Secretary of State on 14 February 2022 for examination. Examination of the plan officially began at that point, the point of submission. Three inspectors were appointed to examine the plan with a number of formal hearings which commenced in November 2022. These were preceded by a number of preliminary questions and matters, issues and questions, issued by the appointed inspectors examining the plan.

Examination of the plan at the time of writing is ongoing.

**Local Plan**

**Subject:**

Intends to set out a complementary vision, objectives and strategy for the spatial development of Tameside at a more localised level. List sites allocated for



development, which are illustrated on an accompanying Policies Map. Intends to set out the policies against which planning applications will be considered.

**Coverage:**

Covers the whole of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council’s administrative area.

**Timetable:**

Regulation 18 Notification	January 2017
Integrated Assessment Scoping Report	April 2017
Consultation on first Draft Local Plan	Summer 2022
Consultation on second Draft Local Plan	Summer 2023
Publication of plan	Summer 2024
Submission	Autumn 2024
Examination	Winter 2024
Adoption	Spring 2025

**Stage Reached:**

Regulation 18 Notification and Consultation on Integrated Assessment Scoping Report.

Consultation on Tameside’s first Draft Local Plan did not take place in Summer 2022 as had been scheduled to occur as the next plan making step. Given the close relationship between Places for Everyone and the Local Plan, particularly in terms of Places for Everyone setting the housing requirement for the Local Plan, consultation on an initial draft local plan was timetabled to follow examination of that plan. Scheduling of the Council’s Local Plan in such a way allows the Local Plan to be developed with a firm understanding of the planning context being provided by Places for Everyone. Additionally resourcing of the examination process itself took priority to ensure the Council is able to bring forward and up to date plan.

**The proposals map**

There was no timetable included within LDS for the proposals map but it did identify that the proposals map will be updated alongside the production of the Local Plan.

## **Supplementary Planning Documents**

The LDS does not specifically identify a timetable for the production of any SPDs.

## **Statement of Community Involvement**

The Council's Statement of Community (SCI) involvement was adopted in June 2021 and has guided the approach which has been taken to consultation and engagement activities associated with the production of Places for Everyone to date. However, given the time which has passed since its adoption, it is considered appropriate to review the SCI to ensure it remains fit for purpose, represents the latest position with regard to the examination of Places for Everyone and is presented in a cleaner and clearer format.

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# Tameside Local Plan

## Policies Monitoring Report 2022 – 2023

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to meet the requirements of Regulation 34(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. For monitoring purposes the regulation requires that where a local planning authority is not implementing a policy within a Local Plan, the monitoring report must identify that policy and include a statement of:
- The reasons why the local planning authority are not implementing the policy; and
  - The steps (if any) that the local planning authority intend to take to secure that the policy is implemented.
- 1.2 For the monitoring year 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023, the local plan policies for Tameside were the policies of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) that have been saved. Many of the policies contained within the UDP relating to minerals and waste matters have now been replaced by the policies of the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Development Plan Document (DPD) and the Greater Manchester Joint Waste DPD. The monitoring of the policies of these latter two documents are addressed in separate monitoring reports.
- 1.3 All of the saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan were being implemented during the monitoring year except for those policies listed in the table below. The table also identifies reasons why these policies are not being implemented and what steps, if any, are being taken to secure their future implementation.

UDP Policy No.	UDP Policy Name	Reason why the policy is not being implemented	What steps (if any) are being taken to secure that the policy is implemented
UDP Part 1 Policies			
1.13	Meeting Obligations on Minerals, Waste and Energy	Superseded or partially superseded by policies in the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals DPD and Greater Manchester Joint Waste DPD.	Not applicable.

UDP Policy No.	UDP Policy Name	Reason why the policy is not being implemented	What steps (if any) are being taken to secure that the policy is implemented
UDP Part 2 Policies			
E1	Regional Investment Site/Strategic Regional Site	Partially - Development has already been brought forward on much of the identified site with the exception of a portion of land bounded by M60 motorway, rail line, Richmond Street and Lord Sheldon way, known predominantly as plot 3000.	Not applicable
E2	Development Opportunity Areas  Allocates sites as Development Opportunity Areas where the council will permit redevelopment/ refurbishment for high quality employment, leisure, retail, residential or a mix of uses.	Partially – Development has been brought forward on several of the 14 identified Development Opportunity Area sites.	Not applicable
H1	Housing Land Provision	Partially – The sites allocated for housing provision within Policy H1 have now largely been brought forward with development having completed on many of the 18 identified sites.	Not applicable
OL6	Outdoor Sport, Recreation and Play Space Developments	Improvements have been brought forward on some of the allocated sites. Notably these include opening up public access to the former railway line between Ashton and Park Bridge (site 7) and improvements to the playing fields and new changing facilities	Not applicable

UDP Policy No.	UDP Policy Name	Reason why the policy is not being implemented	What steps (if any) are being taken to secure that the policy is implemented
		at Stockport Road Playing Fields with industrial development on the western part of the site (site 9).	
T2	Trunk Road Developments	<p>Partially – Policy T2 comprises the line of the Mottram to Tintwistle Bypass which runs from the M67 junction 4 roundabout, through Mottram, it then diverges with one route running south to the A57(T) where it adjoins allocation T3(1), and another running north up to Arnfield Reservoir and the border with High Peak.</p> <p>The southern extent of the bypass was granted a Development Consent Order on 16 November 2022 as part of the A57 Link Roads project, though this is currently undergoing a legal challenge which has yet to be concluded.</p> <p>The Northern extent of the bypass did not form part of the A57 Link Roads project and should therefore be retained for protection from development</p>	Not applicable
T3	Major Highway Schemes	<p>Partially – Allocation T3(1) comprises the Glossop Spur from Mottram Moor to Woolley Lane. This scheme was granted a Development Consent Order on 16 November 2022 as part of the A57 Link Roads project, though this is currently undergoing a legal challenge which has yet to be concluded.</p> <p>Allocation T3(2) comprises stage 2 of the Ashton Northern Bypass between Turner Lane and Penny Meadow. The bypass has been completed therefore this allocation is no longer required.</p>	Not applicable

UDP Policy No.	UDP Policy Name	Reason why the policy is not being implemented	What steps (if any) are being taken to secure that the policy is implemented
T5	Metrolink Extension	The policy refers to the Metrolink extension to Ashton via Droylsden and Audenshaw. The Metrolink has been constructed and is operational therefore this policy is no longer required.	Not applicable.
MW1 – MW9	Mineral Working, Waste Management and Pollution Control Policies	Policies MW1 to MW9 have been superseded or partially superseded by policies in the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan DPD <sup>1</sup> and Greater Manchester Joint Waste DPD <sup>2</sup> .	Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> [Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan, April 2013](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan Document, April 2012](#)

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# Tameside Local Plan

## Duty to Cooperate Monitoring Report 2022 – 2023

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the Act), as amended by the Localism Act 2011, introduced a duty to cooperate in relation to the planning of sustainable development. The duty requires Tameside to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with other local planning authorities and prescribed bodies in: the preparation of development plan documents such as Places for Everyone or Homes, Spaces, Places; other local development documents; and activities that support the preparation of such plans, so far as relating to a strategic matter.

1.2 The full list of prescribed bodies is set out in The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The bodies identified for Tameside are:

- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes England
- Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership
- Office of Rail and Road
- National Highways
- Transport for Greater Manchester
- Tameside Local Highways Authority
- Marine Management Organisation

1.3 Also acknowledged is the relevance of the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership and the Greater Manchester Local Nature Partnership (Greater Manchester Natural Capital Group).

1.4 Section 33A of the Act defines a strategic matter as:

- (a) sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, and*
- (b) sustainable development or use of land in a two-tier area if the development or use—*
  - (i) is a county matter, or*
  - (ii) has or would have a significant impact on a county matter.*

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also states local planning authorities are under a duty to cooperate with each other and with other prescribed bodies on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.

1.6 The NPPF identifies a number of areas for strategic policies to consider where cooperation is required<sup>3</sup>, including an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development but also making sufficient provision for:

- Housing (including affordable housing, employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development);
- Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and
- Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change through mitigation and adaptation.

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<sup>3</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (2019) Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Para. 20.

## **2.0 Purpose of this report**

- 2.1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012<sup>4</sup> require that details of activities undertaken in relation to the duty to cooperate are recorded and published in the authority's monitoring report. In accordance with these requirements, this monitoring report provides details of Tameside's main activities in relation to the duty to cooperate over the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.
- 2.2 This monitoring report will make up a key part of the evidence base in support of the Council's plan-making activities and whether it has brought this forward in line with the duty to cooperate as a key legal test against which any plan will be assessed when considered at public examination<sup>5</sup>.
- 2.3 Plans and spatial development strategies are examined to determine whether they are sound. Plans are sound if, amongst a number of other considerations, they are effective; this requires them to be based on effective joint working on cross boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, and which is evidenced through one or more statements of common ground.
- 2.4 A statement of common ground is a written record of the progress made by strategic policy making authorities during the process of planning for strategic cross-boundary matters. It can document where effective cooperation is or is not happening throughout the plan making process and is a way of demonstrating at examination that plans are deliverable over the plan period and are based on effective joint working. This monitoring report forms part of the evidence to support the drafting of statements of common ground, demonstrating that plan making activities are based on effective cooperation and have complied with the duty to cooperate.

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<sup>4</sup> Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Part 8, Regulation 34(6).

<sup>5</sup> Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, section 20(5).

### **3.0 Activities relating to Strategic Issues during the 2022/2023 monitoring period**

3.1 Tameside has been involved in a number of areas of joint working on strategic issues which are of relevance to the duty to cooperate during the 2022/23 year. In addition to the activities listed, there are also numerous discussions with local authorities and other prescribed bodies on a variety of issues including individual planning applications with cross boundary implications and responding to consultations from neighbouring authorities.

3.2 During this monitoring period, Tameside has been involved in the preparation of Places for Everyone (PfE), a Joint Development Plan Document for nine of the Greater Manchester boroughs (excluding Stockport). PfE is a long-term plan for jobs, new homes and sustainable growth which began in 2014 as the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF). Following the withdrawal of Stockport Council from the GMSF in December 2020, the remaining nine districts agreed to proceed with preparing the joint plan which evolved to become Places for Everyone. PfE was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination on 14 February 2022 and planned Examination hearings on PfE took place between November 2022 and March 2023. As with the GMSF, many of the strategic cross-boundary issues affecting Tameside are addressed through Places for Everyone. These include issues such as:

- scale, distribution and type of housing;
- scale and distribution of employment land;
- transport;
- air quality;
- flood risk;
- Green Belt; and
- strategic site allocations.

3.3 The following table provides a summary of activities undertaken by Tameside Council during the 2022/23 monitoring period in relation to the above strategic issues.

Strategic Issue	Description	Objective	Activity undertaken	Organisations involved
Scale and distribution of housing across Greater Manchester	<p>Identify the net amount of additional new homes required across Greater Manchester over the Places for Everyone plan period and how it should be distributed across the city region including setting district housing targets.</p> <p>Local authorities to be agreed at a sub-regional level due to the identification of Greater Manchester as a housing market area.</p>	Ensure appropriate provision is made for housing delivery across Greater Manchester.	<p>Regular discussions at Greater Manchester meetings: Chief Planners, Directors of Place, separate Land Supply Group and other Places for Everyone associated discussions.</p> <p>Participation at Places for Everyone examination hearing sessions.</p>	Nine of the Greater Manchester local authorities (excluding Stockport) and the GMCA.
Type of housing delivered across Greater Manchester	Identify the broad mix of dwelling types required across Greater Manchester and take forward the approach with the precise mix being determined through district local plans.	Ensure appropriate provision is made for housing delivery across Greater Manchester.	<p>Regular discussions at Greater Manchester meetings: Chief Planners, Directors of Place, separate Land Supply Group and other Places for Everyone associated discussions.</p> <p>Participation at Places for Everyone examination hearing sessions.</p>	Nine of the Greater Manchester local authorities (excluding Stockport) and the GMCA.

Strategic Issue	Description	Objective	Activity undertaken	Organisations involved
Scale and distribution of office development across Greater Manchester	Identify the scale and distribution of office requirement across Greater Manchester, the provision within Tameside and how this contributes to the Greater Manchester requirement.	Ensure appropriate provision is made for office development for Tameside and across Greater Manchester.	<p>The potential for office development within Tameside has been identified through the Council’s Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment. The assessment forms part of the evidence base underpinning Places for Everyone and the Tameside Local Plan.</p> <p>Regular discussions at the Greater Manchester meeting of Chief Planners, Directors of Place, separate Land Supply Group and other GMSF/Places for Everyone associated discussions.</p> <p>Participation at Places for Everyone examination hearing sessions.</p>	Nine of the Greater Manchester local authorities (excluding Stockport) and the GMCA.

Strategic Issue	Description	Objective	Activity undertaken	Organisations involved
Scale and distribution of industrial and warehousing development across Greater Manchester	Identify the scale and distribution of industrial and warehousing requirement across Greater Manchester, the provision within Tameside and how this contributes to the Greater Manchester requirement.	Ensure appropriate provision is made for industrial and warehousing development across Tameside and Greater Manchester.	<p>The potential for office development within Tameside has been identified through the Council’s Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment. The assessment forms part of the evidence base underpinning Places for Everyone and the Tameside Local Plan.</p> <p>Regular discussions at the Greater Manchester meeting of Chief Planners, Directors of Place, separate Land Supply Group and other GMSF/Places for Everyone associated discussions.</p> <p>Participation at Places for Everyone examination hearing sessions.</p>	Nine of the Greater Manchester local authorities (excluding Stockport) and the GMCA.



Strategic Issue	Description	Objective	Activity undertaken	Organisations involved
<p>Transport infrastructure across Greater Manchester</p>	<p>Assess the potential impact of anticipated levels of development on Greater Manchester’s transport infrastructure. Promote sustainable transport, mitigate impacts and enhance existing network.</p> <p>Transport infrastructure is a strategic cross-boundary issue and needs considering at a Greater Manchester level given the spatial strategy set out within Places for Everyone and the cross boundary nature of the network.</p>	<p>Ensure residents, businesses and visitors to Greater Manchester benefit from a sustainable and integrated transport network.</p>	<p>Transport Assessment work is ongoing at a Greater Manchester level, led by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM).</p> <p>Regular discussions at the Greater Manchester meeting of Chief Planners, Directors of Place, Greater Manchester Transport Strategy Group and other Places for Everyone associated discussions.</p> <p>Meetings with TfGM, Systra and Highways England and adjacent boroughs to discuss Tameside issues as part of the Greater Manchester assessment.</p> <p>Participation at Places for Everyone examination hearing sessions.</p>	<p>Nine of the Greater Manchester local authorities (excluding Stockport), the GMCA, High Peak Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and National Highways.</p>
<p>Air Quality across Greater Manchester</p>	<p>Air quality is a strategic cross-boundary issue not restricted to local authority boundaries.</p>	<p>Improve air quality across Greater Manchester.</p>	<p>Participation at Places for Everyone examination hearing sessions.</p> <p>Work is ongoing on developing a non-charging Clean Air Plan for Greater Manchester.</p>	<p>Nine of the Greater Manchester local authorities (excluding Stockport), the GMCA and TfGM.</p>

Strategic Issue	Description	Objective	Activity undertaken	Organisations involved
Flood Risk and Water Management across Greater Manchester	Assess flood risk for development sites, the impact of future development on flood risk and to safeguard land for future flood risk management.	Continue to manage and mitigate flood risk and manage water resources across Tameside and Greater Manchester.	<p>Regular discussions at Flood Risk Officers Group and Greater Manchester Flood and Water Management Board.</p> <p>Regular discussion with United Utilities to appraise the development pipeline for any waste or fresh water infrastructure constraints, easements or associated infrastructure which need to be taken account of.</p> <p>Participation at Places for Everyone examination hearing sessions.</p> <p>Working with GMCA, United Utilities, neighbouring Local Authorities and others (list out in full e.g. Mersey Rivers Trust?) on development of an Integrated Water Management Plan for Greater Manchester. Similar discussions have taken place on developing a Place-based Planning pilot for the River Tame catchment area.</p>	All other Greater Manchester local authorities including Lead Local Flood Authorities, the GMCA, Environment Agency and United Utilities.

Strategic Issue	Description	Objective	Activity undertaken	Organisations involved
Greater Manchester's Green Belt	<p>Define new Green Belt boundaries for Greater Manchester, to meet future development needs whilst also identifying new areas of land to bring into the Green Belt.</p> <p>Given the interconnected nature of the spatial strategy the issues need to be considered at a Greater Manchester level.</p>	To bring forward appropriate provision of land for development whilst minimising loss of Green Belt.	<p>Regular discussions at the Greater Manchester meeting of Chief Planners, Directors of Place, separate Green Belt Steering Group meetings and other Places for Everyone associated discussions.</p> <p>Participation at Places for Everyone examination hearing sessions.</p>	Nine of the Greater Manchester local authorities (excluding Stockport) and the GMCA.
Gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople	Meeting the accommodation needs of the Travelling community is a strategic cross-boundary issue to be considered at the Greater Manchester level.	To ensure the Tameside Local Plan considers the provision of pitches as part of a coordinated strategy across Greater Manchester.	Regular discussions at the Greater Manchester meeting of Chief Planners regarding the scope of the GMSF.	Nine of the Greater Manchester local authorities (excluding Stockport) and the GMCA.

Strategic Issue	Description	Objective	Activity undertaken	Organisations involved
Tame Valley Employment Area	Places for Everyone identifies the Tame Valley as a strategically valued employment area that is important to maintaining a strong and diverse supply of sites and premises both within Tameside, but also throughout Greater Manchester.	To ensure Places for Everyone sets an appropriate policy framework to preserve and enhance the Tame Valley and to support its role within Tameside and Greater Manchester as a strategic employment area.	Discussions as part of the Places for Everyone strategic approach, covering land supply and proposed allocations at the meetings of Greater Manchester Chief Planning Officers and other meetings associated with Places for Everyone.	The nine other Greater Manchester local authorities, the GMCA and others consulted as part of ongoing progression of PfE.
Ashton Moss West	Ashton Moss West is one of the three Places for Everyone strategic site allocations within Tameside. Policy JP Allocation 30 of the submitted Places for Everyone plan sets out the overall policy approach for it.	To ensure Places for Everyone sets an appropriate policy framework to deliver the site.	<p>Discussions as part of Places for Everyone strategic approach, covering land supply and proposed allocations at the meetings of Greater Manchester Chief Planning Officers and other meetings associated with Places for Everyone.</p> <p>Participation at Places for Everyone examination hearing sessions.</p> <p>The Council approved a draft Development Framework for Ashton Moss in January 2023.</p>	The nine other Greater Manchester local authorities, the GMCA and others consulted as part of ongoing progression of PfE.

Strategic Issue	Description	Objective	Activity undertaken	Organisations involved
Godley Green Garden Village	Godley Green Garden Village is one of the three Places for Everyone strategic site allocations within Tameside. Policy JP Allocation 31 of the submitted Places for Everyone plan sets out the overall policy approach for it.	To ensure Places for Everyone sets an appropriate policy framework to deliver the site.	<p>Discussions as part of Places for Everyone strategic approach, covering land supply and proposed allocations at the meetings of Greater Manchester Chief Planning Officers and other meetings associated with Places for Everyone.</p> <p>Participation at Places for Everyone examination hearing sessions.</p> <p>An application for outline development on the allocation site was received in October 2021 ref. 21/01171/OUT. Assessment of the application is ongoing, including discussions with key stakeholders and consultees.</p>	The nine other Greater Manchester local authorities, the GMCA and others consulted as part of ongoing progression of PfE.

Strategic Issue	Description	Objective	Activity undertaken	Organisations involved
South of Hyde	South of Hyde is one of the three Places for Everyone strategic site allocations within Tameside. Policy JP Allocation 32 of the submitted Places for Everyone plan sets out the overall policy approach for it.	To ensure Places for Everyone sets an appropriate policy framework to deliver the site.	<p>Discussions as part of Places for Everyone strategic approach, covering land supply and proposed allocations at the meetings of Greater Manchester Chief Planning Officers and other meetings associated with Places for Everyone.</p> <p>Participation at Places for Everyone examination hearing sessions.</p>	The nine other Greater Manchester local authorities, the GMCA and others consulted as part of ongoing progression of PfE.

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# **Tameside Local Plan**

## **Performance Indicators Monitoring Report 2022 – 2023**

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Tameside Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2004 identifies sixteen indicators that will be used to measure performance of the plan in each annual review. This report sets out the status of each indicator for the monitoring period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, and for the intervening years since publication of the last AMR for 2020/21 and 2021/22. Where information relating to a particular indicator is located in a separate report this is recorded in the table below. Figures provided are as of year-end unless otherwise stated.



Indicator	Monitoring period			
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
1. Area of land developed for employment purposes, and floorspace provided	see <a href="#">Industrial and Commercial Land Supply Report</a>			
2. Remaining supply of land for employment development	see <a href="#">Industrial and Commercial Land Supply Report</a>			
3. Area of land previously used for employment which was developed for other uses	see <a href="#">Industrial and Commercial Land Supply Report</a>			
4. Total number of new dwellings completed	see <a href="#">Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment</a>			
5. Number of dwellings completed on windfall sites	see <a href="#">Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment</a>			
6. Number and proportion of dwellings completed on windfall sites	see <a href="#">Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment</a>			
7. Number of social or affordable dwellings completed	see <a href="#">Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment</a>			
8. Number of dwellings cleared, including tenure and occupancy	see <a href="#">Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment</a>			
9. Remaining supply of land for housing development	see <a href="#">Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment</a>			
10. Number of commercial premises in each town centre and vacancy ratio	A comprehensive review of the borough's town centres will be undertaken in the 2023/24 monitoring year to provide a consistent basis for monitoring vacancy rates across centres moving forward.			
11. New retail and leisure floorspace completed in-centre, edge-of-centre and out-of-centre	see <a href="#">Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment</a>			
12. Net change in protected greenspace	1047.5 ha	1047.5 ha	1047.5 ha	1047.5 ha

Indicator			Monitoring period			
			2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
13. Net change in buildings protected for heritage value and in number of buildings at risk	No. of listings <sup>6</sup>		331 listings	331 listings	331 listings	331 listings
	No. of buildings protected <sup>7</sup>		461 buildings	461 buildings	461 buildings	461 buildings
	Number of buildings at risk <sup>8</sup>		10 listings 1 Conservation Area	10 listings 1 Conservation Area	10 listings 1 Conservation Area	11 listings 1 Conservation Area
14. Net change in sites protected for nature conservation value	Local Nature Reserves		11	11	11	11
	Sites of Biological Importance	Number	57	57	57	57
		Area	1445.2 ha	1445.1 ha	1445.1 ha	1445.1 ha
	Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Number	3	3	3	3
		Area	122.1 ha	122.1 ha	122.1 ha	122.1 ha
	Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)/Special Protection Areas (SPA)		105.98 ha	105.98 ha	105.98 ha	105.98 ha
15. Net change in protected	Tree Preservation	Individual trees	2353	2340	2340	2340

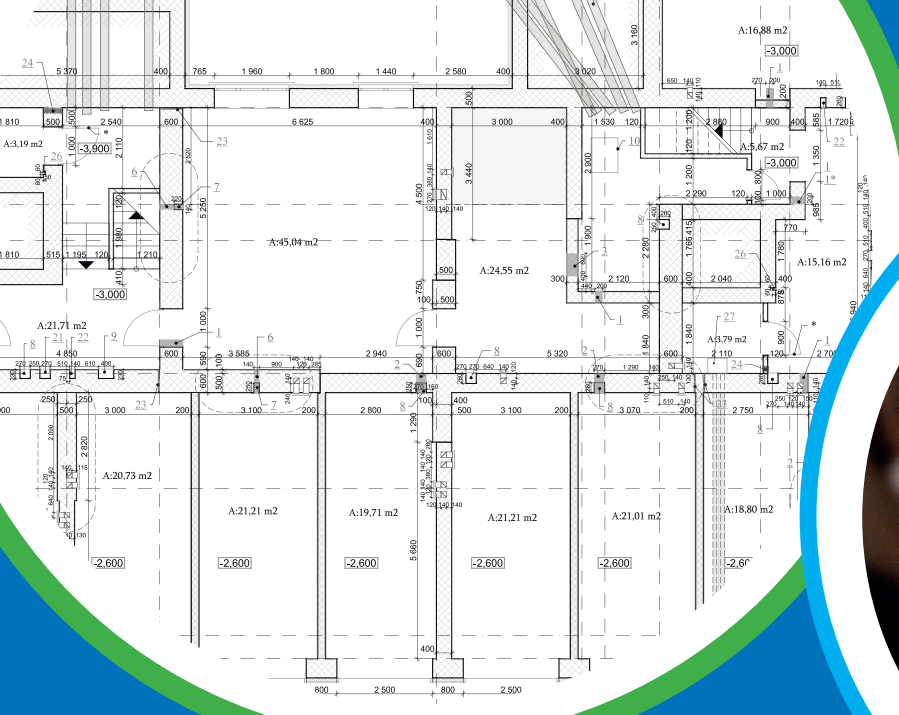
<sup>6</sup> No. of listings excludes scheduled monuments.

<sup>7</sup> List entries sometimes contain multiple buildings and/or structures. The number of buildings and/or structures protected has been estimated based on individual listing descriptions and officer's professional judgement.

<sup>8</sup> Reported as the number of listings identified in the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register and refers only to the number of list entries; list entries may contain multiple buildings.

Indicator			Monitoring period			
			2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
trees and woodland	Orders	Woodland/ forests	691 covering 267.5 ha	689 263.51	689 263.51	689 263.51
	Ancient woodland		124 ha	124 ha	124 ha	124 ha
16. Net change in area of derelict land			A comprehensive review of the borough’s derelict land will be undertaken in the 2023/24 monitoring year, reviewing the brownfield elements of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment alongside historical National Land Use Database (NLUD) entries to determine and set a framework to be taken forward.			

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# Tameside Statement of Community Involvement

# Introduction

Planning makes sure that the right development happens in the right place at the right time, benefitting communities and the economy. This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how Tameside Council will consult and involve people in planning, both when developing and reviewing planning documents, and in the planning application process.

Our approach to community involvement is undertaken in line with regulatory requirements and considers the advice of government, including that within the National Planning Policy Framework and planning guidance<sup>1</sup>. It has been adapted over time in response to feedback and the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic.

Our aim is that by involving people early in the planning process we can try to understand relevant issues at the outset, and seek to resolve objections prior to either the examination of a plan or the determination of a planning application.

This approach of early and effective engagement is supported by national planning policy and government guidance.



<sup>1</sup> Consultation and pre-decision matters (as update April 2022) and Plan Making  
[Consultation and pre-decision matters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/consultation-and-pre-decision-matters) and [Plan Making Plan-making - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making)

# Plans

We prepare plans to set out policies to guide growth in the borough, being clear where certain types of development will be encouraged, where land will be protected for certain reasons and outline the things which applicants will need to consider when they submit an application for planning permission.

Tameside wants to help people to have a greater role in shaping their local area and their local plan. When preparing a plan there are various stages where there is opportunity to provide feedback through consultation.

If you would like to add your details to our database of contacts to be notified of when future plan making consultations happen, please register [here](#)<sup>2</sup>

There are two types of plan that we prepare, Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents, and details as to who, when and how people will be involved in each are provided below.



<sup>2</sup> <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/planning/ldf/sci>



# Development Plan Documents

Development Plan Documents are documents that are subject to an examination in public. Once adopted these are the documents against which planning applications are assessed and planning decisions should be made in accordance with these documents unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

## Places for Everyone

Nine of the ten Greater Manchester authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) have prepared 'Places for Everyone', which provides the overarching framework to strategically manage sustainable growth and development across the boroughs up to 2039.

Places for Everyone is, at the time of writing, subject to an ongoing examination. The examination is the final stage in the plan making process before potential adoption. Three inspectors have been appointed by the Planning Inspectorate to examine the plan to assess whether the submitted plan meets the tests of soundness which are defined within the National Planning Policy Framework and whether it meets other relevant legislative requirements.

## Homes, Spaces, Places

Additionally, Tameside is preparing Homes, Spaces, Places, which will be the final part of the borough's Local Plan and will set out more detailed local policies, including both strategic and non strategic policies, as appropriate, reflecting local circumstances. Homes, Spaces, Places, alongside Places for Everyone and the Greater Manchester Minerals Plan and the Greater Manchester Waste Plan, are collectively intended to be the boroughs' Local Plan.

## Who will we involve?

- **Specific consultation bodies** – these are organisations which are detailed in regulation, a number of which are the government's advisory bodies or are parties responsible for providing infrastructure and utilities for example. A detailed list is provided in Appendix 1.
- **General consultation bodies** – these are typically community and voluntary bodies and those representing different interest groups.
- **Elected representatives** – Elected Members, Members of Parliament and the Mayor of Greater Manchester.
- **The general public** – those who live in, work in or visit the borough.
- **Businesses** – those with business interests in the borough.
- **Landowners, developers and agents** – those with a direct interest in the borough.
- **Duty to Cooperate bodies** – such as neighbouring councils. A detailed list is provided in Appendix 1.



# Development Plan Documents

## When will we involve them?

- At the **start of the process**, asking what the plan should contain and identifying the relevant local issues and the evidence needed.
- During preparation, as appropriate, to confirm the issues and develop options to address them, review policy approaches, and to request comments on a draft plan during a specified period of consultation.
- At **publication of a draft plan**, when we publish the proposed submission version of the plan a formal period of consultation will take place on the soundness of the plan and whether it meets legal requirements. Representations from individuals and organisations made at this stage are taken through for consideration at the examination.
- From **submission**, when the draft plan is submitted to the Government, the Secretary of State will appoint an Inspector to undertake an examination of the submitted plan. Those who have made representations at the previous stage will be invited to take part in the examination which may include further consultation on proposed modifications to the plan.
- At **adoption** the Council will notify of adoption of the plan.

## How will we involve them?

The Council will consider using a range of consultation methods and activities (a number of which are specified by regulation) selecting from the following list as appropriate for the consultation stage and nature of the plan being prepared:

- **Documents:**
  - **Electronic copies** of the plan, proposals map, integrated assessment and other background documents made available on the Council's website.
  - A **paper copy** of the **plan, proposals map** and **integrated assessment** made available at the Council's main reception.
  - **Paper copies** of the **plan** and **proposals map** made available at all Tameside Council libraries.
- Use a **range of online engagement methods** that could include social media posts, online news items and Council newsletters to publicise consultations.
- **Emails and letters** sent to registered parties on the planning policy database of contacts.
- **Media items** in local newspapers, use formal press notices, posters and flyers as appropriate, displayed in prominent public spaces.
- **Display site notices** at or near sites.
- **Presentations** at established public meeting cycles.
- **Stakeholder discussions.**
- **Drop-ins, exhibitions and workshops.**
- **Other alternative methods** of physical and/or virtual engagement, as considered appropriate.

# Supplementary Planning Documents

Supplementary Planning Documents are not subject to independent examination and are not policy themselves, but instead provide further guidance about how plans will be implemented and may for instance provide advice on the design of housing or how trees should be considered within development sites.

## Who will be involved?

The Council will seek to encourage involvement from a wide range of bodies and organisations, individuals, businesses and other stakeholders as it considers appropriate. The nature of involvement will largely be dependent on the document's content where, for site-specific Supplementary Planning Documents, the Council will for instance seek to engage with and notify those that are considered to be more directly affected or likely to have a particular interest.

## When will we involve them?

There are no set stages during development of a Supplementary Planning Document as to when consultation is required to take place, although it is likely that the Council will engage with a range of stakeholders and residents throughout this process. The nature of that engagement will be reflective of the content of the proposed Supplementary Planning Document. This will however culminate in a formal consultation stage once a draft of the Supplementary Planning Document has been written and this will be made available for comment.

## How will we involve them?

The Council will consider using a range of consultation methods and activities (a number of which are specified by regulation) selecting from the following list as appropriate for nature of the plan being prepared:

- **Documents:**
  - **Electronic copies** of the Supplementary Planning Document and other relevant background documents made available on the Council's website.
  - **Paper copies** of the Supplementary Planning Document made available at the Council's main reception and at all Tameside Council libraries.
- **Emails and letters** sent to registered parties on the planning policy database of contacts.
- Use a **range of online engagement methods** that could include social media posts, online news items and Council newsletters to publicise consultations.
- **Other** - Alternative methods of physical or virtual engagement as considered appropriate.

# Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood Planning<sup>2</sup> gives communities the opportunity to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. The Neighbourhood Plan<sup>3</sup> or Neighbourhood Development Order forms part of the 'development plan' for an area and is used by the Council in determining planning applications.

Neighbourhood Plans are led by a 'qualifying body' which can be either a parish or town council or a recognised neighbourhood forum that has applied to the Council to obtain that status. The Council has a duty to advise and assist the neighbourhood forum or parish/town council during plan preparation.

Communities set out a vision and the neighbourhood forum or parish/town council should engage and consult with the neighbourhood they seek to represent during the development of their plan<sup>4</sup>.

They also have a duty to engage with consultation bodies whose interests it considers may be affected by their plan. Neighbourhood plans need to be consistent with other elements of the development plan for an area and are subject to an examination conducted by an inspector. Tameside as Local Planning Authority has a specific role in the preparation of a neighbourhood plan and will assist in the development of Neighbourhood Plans by:

- Publicising the application for designation of a neighbourhood forum and neighbourhood plan area, where required.
- Provide evidence and professional advice, including advice on local and national planning policy and signposting to useful websites and resources.
- Engage with the forum or parish/town council and provide comments on their draft plan.
- Work with the forum or parish/town council to publicise the statutory steps in the development of the Neighbourhood plan
- Organise the independent examination.
- Publicise the examiner's report and plan proposal decision.
- Organise the public referendum (the vote by the local community to make the plan or Order).
- Publicise the making of the neighbourhood plan or Order.

Further guidance and advice on Neighbourhood Planning in Tameside can be found on the Council's website<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/637/contents>

<sup>3</sup>Neighbourhood planning - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

<sup>4</sup>see [regulation 14](#) and [regulation 21](#) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The consultation bodies are set out in [Schedule 1](#) to the Regulations.

<sup>5</sup><https://www.tameside.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning>

# Planning Applications

## Introduction

The construction of most new buildings, changes to existing buildings or to the local environment needs planning permission. The council's Development Management Team is responsible for processing all planning and related applications and consultation is an integral part of the process.

The minimum legal requirement for public consultation is set out in legislation. The following sections set out the measures the council will undertake to consult the community on development proposals, where the legal minimum will often be exceeded.

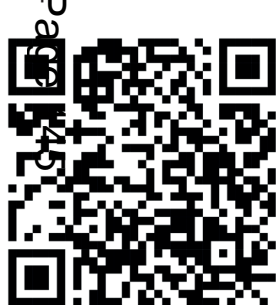
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# Pre-Application Discussions

The National Planning Policy Framework states that good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improves outcomes for communities. The aim is to encourage discussion with a range of stakeholders, to enable the submission of high quality development schemes that are dealt with quickly. Developers are therefore encouraged to contact the council prior to the submission of an application to discuss their proposal.

The Council offers a chargeable pre-application service. Using this service will help prospective applicants be clear as to the information required when their application is submitted, provide an overview of relevant policies and the planning merits of a proposal. It will also help to identify the main constraints to consider and if any additional advice or planning contributions will likely be required. Further detail can be found here<sup>7</sup>:



<sup>7</sup> <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/planning/preapplications>

Where the council considers that a proposal is likely to generate a significant level of public interest, developers are encouraged to engage in consultation with the local community prior to submission. This will raise awareness of proposals prior to formal consideration and enable developers to take the views of local people on board. Details of how consultation with the local community has assisted in shaping an application should be submitted with the application.

Small scale developments such as house extensions will generally not require formal pre-application community involvement, but applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with neighbours and people who are directly affected, before an application is submitted.



# Publicity for Planning and Related Applications

There are a variety of different applications that the council deals with, where different types and scale of development will result in different methods of publicity and interest from the public. The Council will use the following methods to publicise applications (where necessary):

- Weekly list of applications received
- Notices in the local press
- Site notices
- Letters to neighbours

All application documents can be viewed on the Council's website. Computers are available at local libraries to view the website.

Community consultation will vary between providing for general publicity with the wider community and more targeted consultation where a proposed development could have an impact on an individual or set of individuals neighbouring a site. The following sections set out the minimum measures the council will undertake.

## Applications for Planning Permission

Legislation requires all applications for planning permission to be advertised by way of either a site notice or a letter notifying all adjoining properties of the development. The exact details of who and how to notify is left to the council and can vary significantly. Planning applications that attract the most public interest tend to be large scale or have the potential to adversely affect residential amenity. Different levels of public consultation are set out below to reflect this.

## Householder Applications

Applications for householder development are amongst the smallest but can have the potential to affect the amenity of neighbours. All householder development will be advertised by way of a letter sent to all properties that are adjacent to the application site (not including those separated by a road) and a site notice if the owner of an adjacent site cannot be identified.

## Applications for Major Developments, Applications including Environmental Impact Assessment and Applications not in accordance with the Development Plan

These applications are generally some of the most controversial that the council will deal with. Legislation requires consultation by way of a notice in the local press, and either a letter to all adjoining properties or a site notice. Given the nature of the proposals, all properties adjacent to an application site will be consulted by letter as well as the display of a site notice and notice in the press. Wider consultation may be appropriate for larger or more controversial developments.

## Applications for Telecommunications Apparatus (including prior notification)

All properties adjoining and directly opposite a site will be consulted by way of letter and a site notice will be displayed.

# Publicity for Planning and Related Applications

## All Other Planning Applications

All other planning applications will be publicised by way of a letter to adjacent properties. Where the owner of an adjacent property cannot be identified, a site notice will be displayed.

## Applications for Listed Building Consent and Applications for Planning Permission that Would Affect the Setting of a Listed building or Conservation Area

Legislation requires these applications be publicised by a notice in the local press and a site notice. In addition, applications will be advertised as 'all other planning applications' above.

## Commission of Amendments to Applications

With the exception of applications subject to an environmental impact assessment, it is up to the council to decide whether further publicity and consultation is necessary when additional information or amendments are submitted whilst a proposal is under consideration. If an application is amended in this way and the council decides further consultation is necessary, anyone who was originally notified, additional households who have made representations and those who would be newly affected by the revisions will be notified by way of letter and/or site notice and given 14 days to comment.

For applications subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, legislation requires that the application be publicised for a period of 30 days where additional environmental information is received.

## Minor Material Amendments

These applications are effectively for full planning permission under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Consultation on minor material amendments will be the same as for other planning applications.

## Non Material Amendments & Discharge of Conditions

There are no statutory requirements to consult with the public on these applications. As they relate to the agreement of details post decision, no notification will be undertaken.

## Applications for Advertisement Consent

There is no requirement to consult on these applications and in general they attract little public interest. Consultations on applications for advertisement consent will be by way of a site notice unless the application is in a conservation area and/or it is for an illuminated advertisement opposite residential properties. In these cases, affected properties will be consulted by letter.

## Applications for Certificates of Existing Lawful Use

These applications are to establish whether planning permission is required to retain a building or use. As it is a question in law, no public consultation will be undertaken. However, in certain circumstances, it may be useful to consult for the purposes of gathering evidence.

# Publicity for Planning and Related Applications

## Applications for Certificates of Proposed Lawful Use

These applications are to establish whether planning permission is required to carry out a development or change of use. It is a question in law and so no public consultation will be undertaken.

## Applications for Consent to Undertake Works to Protected Trees

There is no statutory requirement to advertise these applications and so no notification will be undertaken.

## Applications for Prior Notification for Larger Householder Extensions

The council is required to notify occupiers of adjoining dwellings on these applications.

## Applications for Prior Notification – Change of Use

Legislation requires that these applications are publicised by site notice or by notifying adjoining properties.

## Applications for Prior Notification – Demolition

There is no requirement for the council to publicise these applications, although the applicant is required to display a site notice. As the council has only limited time to determine applications for demolition, no public consultation will be undertaken.

## Applications for Prior Notification – Agriculture

There is no requirement for the council to publicise these applications, and given the limited time within which a decision must be issued, no public consultation will be undertaken.

## Applications to be determined by Speaker's Panel

Where an application is to be determined by Speaker's Panel, notification letters will be sent to all those who have made representations advising them of the arrangements.

## Acknowledgement of Representations and Notification of Decisions

No acknowledgement letter will be sent in relation to representations received, even if one is requested. All decisions are available to view on the Council's website, so no notification will be sent. The case officer can also be contacted.



# Resources

Community involvement has resource implications but the Council nonetheless recognises that investing in it can help minimise future costs by avoiding as far as possible the need for lengthy and controversial decision and plan-making processes.

The level of community involvement for both plan preparation and Development Management related work that is identified in this SCI is considered to be realistic and sufficiently targeted to enable the Council to achieve its requirements for community involvement. The requirements for community involvement as set out in this SCI can largely be met through existing internal staffing resources.

There may however be specific circumstances in which the Council will need to consider assigning additional resources to cover the costs of further assistance. Additionally, officers will continue to work closely with colleagues and partner organisations to adopt a positive approach to involving external groups and individuals and will utilise existing networks linked to other Council plans and strategies.

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# Monitoring and Review

The Statement of Community Involvement has and will be reviewed in the future. The continuing aim is to learn from experience and to find ways to improve on the arrangements and processes set out.

The Council will continue to evaluate its consultation processes in terms of resources used and responses received. The Council will also assess the effectiveness of various community involvement techniques used in order to review the appropriateness of those methods and procedures. Amendments required as a result of any future changes will manifest in revision of the Statement of Community Involvement as appropriate.

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# Appendix 1 | Consultees

Please note the below lists are not exhaustive and the Council will apply its discretion where appropriate particularly in relation to successor bodies where reorganisations occur.

## Duty to Cooperate Bodies:

- Civil Aviation Authority;
- Environment Agency;
- Historic England;
- Homes England;
- The Marine Management Organisation;
- Natural England;
- The Office of Rail and Road;
- Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership;
- Tameside Local Highways Authority;
- Transport for Greater Manchester; and
- National Highways.

Above is a list of the relevant agencies that are to be engaged in addition to any neighbouring local planning authority or other local planning authorities with which there is a cross boundary matter.

- Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Local Nature Partnerships

The above two bodies are not subject to the requirements of the duty. However local planning authorities that are subject to the duty must cooperate with them and have regard to their activities when preparing Local Plans, provided their activities are relevant.

## Specific Consultation Bodies

The following will be consulted in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and subsequent amendments. Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment legislation refers to the Statutory Consultees who are shown in bold in the list below:

- **Environment Agency;**
- **Historic England;**
- **Natural England;**
- Oldham Council;
- Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council;
- Manchester City Council;
- High Peak Borough Council;
- Derbyshire County Council;
- Mossley Town Council;
- Tintwistle Parish Council;
- Charlesworth Parish Council;
- Chisworth Parish Council;
- Saddleworth Parish Council;
- Mayor of Greater Manchester;
- Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner;
- National Highways;
- Homes England;
- Network Rail;
- Peak District National Park Authority;
- Transport for Greater Manchester

- Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership;
- The Coal Authority;
- The Marine Management Organisation;
- United Utilities;
- Relevant electricity and gas companies;
- Relevant telecommunications companies; and
- Manchester Airport<sup>6</sup>

## General Consultation Bodies

- Voluntary bodies, some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interest of disabled persons in the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area

## Other Consultees

To ensure robust consultation and enable early engagement in the planning document production process the Council will continue to consider the need to consult, where appropriate, with those it has historically consulted, including with a wide variety of groups, individual business interests on the existing planning policy database of contacts.

<sup>6</sup>Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 stipulate who are specific consultation bodies, this does not include Manchester Airport, they are however included here due to their sub regional role.



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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	30 August 2023
<b>Executive Member:</b>	Councillor Jacqueline North, First Deputy for Finance, Resources & Transformation Councillor David Sweeton, Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nick Lamb, Interim Assistant Director for Investment, Development & Housing
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>UKSPF PEOPLE &amp; SKILLS FUNDING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	The report provides an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) People & Skills funding for Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), with approval being sought to accept the funding as detailed in this report and outlining the project proposals to achieve the outcomes set by GMCA.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>That Executive Cabinet approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The acceptance of a grant totalling £0.618m from the GMCA as part of the UKSPF funding to support Young People considered as NEET, of which:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. £0.490m will support the delivery of the proposed programme of work from September 2023 – August 2025.</li><li>b. £0.128m will support the recruitment and retention of additional resource to manage the programme.</li></ol></li><li>2. The delivery of a cross Directorate project that will achieve the outcomes set by GMCA, in accordance with the grant conditions, and provide positive progression for young people in the Borough.</li></ol> <p>That Members note the funding from the GMCA is follow on funding to maintain NEET provision across the region, following the cessation of the previous programme that had been funded by the European Union's European Social Fund.</p>
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	This supports the Aspirations & Hope priority of increasing the number of 16-19 year olds in employment or education.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	Effective delivery of this work supports priorities with the Inclusive Growth Strategy, Equality Policy and Building Resilience: Tackling Poverty Strategy.
<b>Financial Implications:</b> <b>(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)</b>	<p>The Council is being offered UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) People &amp; Skills grant funding of £0.618m to deliver a two year programme designed to meet GMCA outcomes in respect of Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The funding consists of £0.490m for delivery of the programme and £0.128m for programme management.</p> <p>The funding is to be utilised to finance additional fixed term posts to</p>

provide mentoring and support to young people. Funding will also be utilised to commission additional mental health support and to provide additional funding to the Youth Employment scheme. A summary of the proposed funding allocation is set out in section 5.

The Council will be required to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with GMCA. This has not yet been received but is expected to include specific terms and conditions for utilisation of the grant, and reporting and monitoring requirements. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of grant may put funding at risk and result in financial loss to the Council.

Officers must ensure that the project proposals are deliverable and affordable within the grant funding envelope, and that there is no adverse impact on the 2023/24 revenue budget or future year MTFS proposals and the general fund.

**Legal Implications:**  
**(Authorised by the**  
**Borough Solicitor)**

As outlined in the report, approval is sought to accept Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) People & Skills funding for Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The Grant Funding Agreement has not yet been received. It is likely that it will set out specific monitoring requirements and timescales for compliance. It will also likely specify the circumstances under which the funding could be suspended, withdrawn or recovered and so further Legal advice on its terms will need to be sought to ensure compliance with its terms. Given there are likely to be obligations to comply with procurement legislation and the Subsidy Control Act 2022 any commissioned works funded by the grant will need to be procured in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and appropriate advice from STAR Procurement sought in order to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and to avoid any subsidy arising. Due to the value of this grant, this is a Key Decision.

**Risk Management:**

Supporting young people who are not in education, employment or training into positive employment and careers enables long term economic growth.

**Access to Information:**

Not confidential

**Background Information:**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Sarah Jamieson, Head of Economy Employment & Skills



Telephone: 0161 342 3629



e-mail: [sarah.jamieson@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.jamieson@tameside.gov.uk)



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This funding replaces the ESF (European Social Fund) which has delivered support for young people recognised as NEET (Not in Employment Education or Training). In Tameside this has been delivered by Ingeus (Future You) and Career Connect (Connect to Your Future). These programmes ceased to take new referrals from June 2023 with delivery due to end in September 2023. These programmes have not been commissioned by Tameside Council and we have not had any involvement or control of these contracts.
- 1.2 The provision expected from this new fund is to provide locally delivered support to move young people into or towards employment, education or training. This is separate from the statutory duty of Local Authorities to track young people and to provide careers advice, although the work will have operational links.
- 1.3 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority, after consultation with Local Authorities Work & Skills Local Leads, have agreed a funding split for part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) People & Skills E33 (Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills) and E34 (Supporting people furthest from the labour market through access to basic skills) interventions.
- 1.4 The funding split has been calculated from a review of the percentages of young people who are in the NEET (not in education, employment or training) group.
- 1.5 This will enable Local Authorities to deliver a hyper place based approach to supporting young people aged 15-18 years of age, and those aged up to 24 with an Education & Healthcare Plan (EHP) or aged to 21 if care experienced, who are at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET); who are already NEET; or who are in the group referenced as 'Unknown' where the current education, employment or training situation is not recorded.
- 1.6 This decision was confirmed in writing on 30 June 2023 and a proposal was required to be submitted to GMCA by 14 July 2023 confirming how the funding will be utilised by the Local Authority.
- 1.7 A grant of £490,000 is offered to Tameside Local Authority to deliver the project and additional funding of £128,000 to recruit additional resource for a two-year period to manage this work monitor outcomes and act as liaison with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).
- 1.8 The grant funded spend and related work must take place between September 2023 and completed by 31 March 2025.

## 2. FUNDING ALLOCATION

- 2.1 The funding allocation is based on NEET (16-17)/ Not Known rates (March 2023 data) which has then been converted into a % of GM share for the proposed NEET (£4.75m) interventions.
- 2.2 The table below shows the allocations for Greater Manchester.

Local Authority	NEET (16/17) / Not Known as % of GM	UKSPF NEET Funding allocation
Bolton	8.9%	£420,000
Bury	5.0%	£240,000
Manchester	23.3%	£870,000

Oldham	15.2%	£720,000
Rochdale	10.2%	£480,000
Salford	9.9%	£470,000
Stockport	6.5%	£310,000
Tameside	10.3%	£490,000
Trafford	6.7%	£320,000
Wigan	9.2%	£440,000

### 3. PLAN AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The grant will be provided to deliver a hyper place based programme of activities that will support priority groups through key transition groups to:
- Decrease levels of young people identified as at risk of NEET transitioning into NEET,
  - Reduce NEET levels for priority groups,
  - Reduce the disparity in NEET levels for priority groups against whole age cohort,
  - Reduce levels of young people whose situation is not known and increase participation levels of priority groups.
- 3.2 The support provided must include a personal support fund to remove barriers and identified mental health support.
- 3.3 Specific outcomes and outputs have been set by Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and monitoring with evidence will be required to show that they have been achieved, these are as follows:
- Number of people engaged in job-searching following support,
  - Number of people experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision,
  - Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support,
  - Number of people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills funded by UKSPF,
  - Number of people with basic skills following support.
- 3.4 The timeframe, as advised by GMCA, is as follows:
- Specification, template and Annex A issued 30 June 2023,
  - Template and Annex A to be completed and submitted by Local Authorities by 14 July 2023
  - Appraisal 17 July 2023 – 20 July 2023 by GMCA
  - Hand over to Grant Funding Pack development team – 20 July 2023,
  - Grant Funding Agreements provided to LA's mid-late August for return to allow delivery from September 2023.

### 4. TARGETS AND COHORT

- 4.1 GMCA have advised that the minimum expectation for Tameside is for 258 young people to be engaged with during the lifetime of this project, from September 2023 to 31 March 2025.
- 4.2 Whilst the cohort in scope for this support will change in September 2023 when young people decide if they are engaging with the education, employment or training (EET) outcomes initially planned, the current known cohort is as follows:
- 280 NEET (not in education, employment or training)
  - 110 'unknown' (not known if NEET or EET)
  - 104 care experienced young people

4.3 Engagement will be made with Year 11 providers to understand the ‘at risk’ cohort when the new academic year begins, as education providers are now within the summer break it is not possible to gain this information.

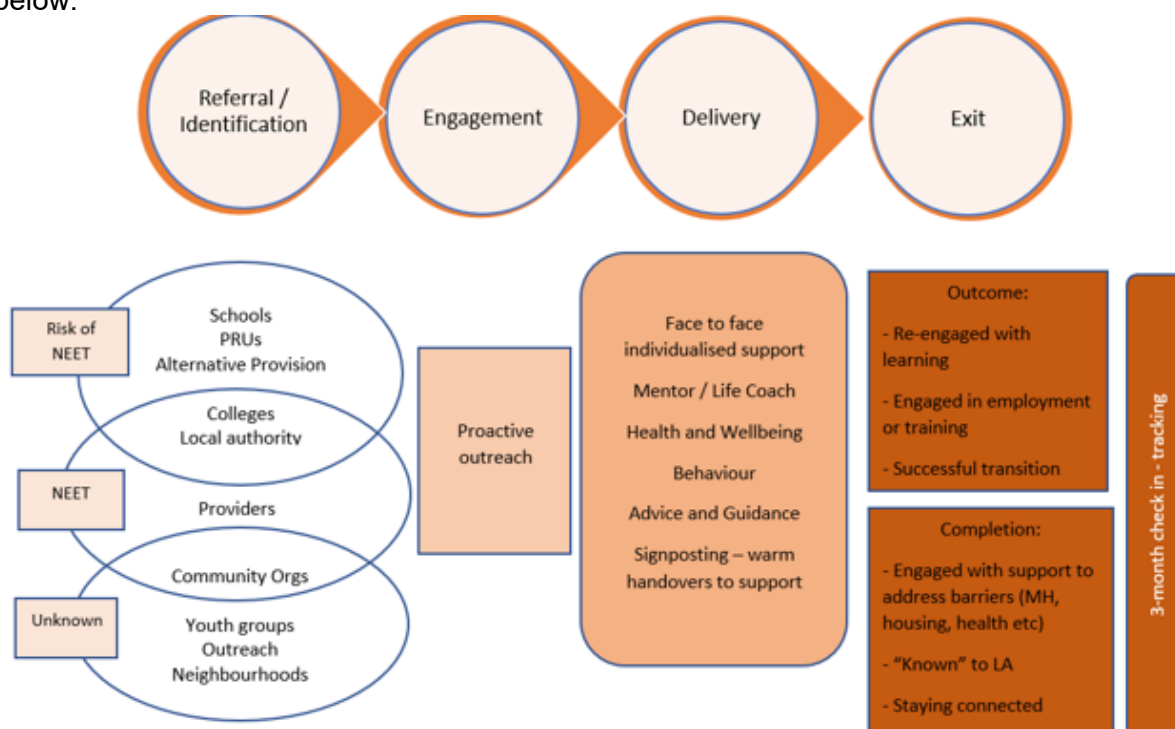
## 5. TAMESIDE DELIVERY PROPOSAL

5.1 A task group has been formed with colleagues from Economy, Employment & Skills, Childrens Services (including Leaving Care, SEND and Virtual School) and Population Health to develop the proposal in the short time frame available with advice taken from Director of Childrens Service.

5.2 A summary of the proposal is set out in this section and the full proposal submitted to GMCA is attached as **Appendix 1**. Funding is to be allocated as follows:

Funding Allocation	Cost
Staffing (Approx, Oct 23 to Mar 25): Outreach Support worker x 2 EET Focused Support Worker x1 Routes to Work Keyworker x1 NEET Partnership Engagement Officer x1 Apprentice Support x1	£315,000
Commissioned Mental Health Support	£49,000
Youth Employment Scheme	£100,000
Development Fund & Contingency	£26,000
<b>Programme Delivery Grant Total</b>	<b>£490,000</b>
Programme Management Funding	£128,000
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£618,000</b>

5.3 The delivery will match the GMCA requirements following the model shown in the visual below.



- 5.4 This project will build on cross Directorate and partnership work in Tameside. Delivery will be primarily through the creation of Mentor roles who will link with existing teams for the additional resource required that will allow an increased focus on EET destinations. This will act as a 'link' team between the services who work with our young people, including Youth Justice Services, Virtual School, SEND, Leaving Care, Young Carers, SHIFT, Staying Close, Youth Employment Support, FE Pastoral teams, our Careers guidance team and the EET opportunities which include the offer from Further Education, Apprenticeships, Supported Internships and employment.
- 5.5 The need for support for young people with an EHCP has been highlighted and we will extend the successful Routes to Work supported employment model to create a role that will focus on EET outcomes for young people with health barriers. The role will have matrix management from the Routes to Work manager and the Tameside Futures team.
- 5.6 Additional Mental Health support will also be commissioned, following a recent commission for the Staying Close project this will be duplicated to create additional support that young people can access as there will be crossover from both projects.
- 5.7 The proposed staffing model is shown in the table below:

Engagement	Outreach & detached - 2 x Mentor
Mentoring	1 x Mentor / Keyworker 1 x Disability Specialist Supported Employment Mentor / Keyworker 1 x Partnership & Engagement Officer
Mental Health	Support via Big Life Living Well specialist
Administration	Business Administration Apprentice

- 5.8 In addition to staffing, a proportion of the fund will be allocated to the creation of job opportunities using the Tameside Youth Employment Scheme model which reimburses employers for the critical first months of employment. This has been successful in creating roles for care experienced young people in a tolerant environment enabling a routine to be established and employer expectations understood, leading to sustained employment.
- 5.9 A smaller allocation is set aside for the spot purchase of support or specific training where not already available or to overcome other barriers to EET outcomes. Existing support will be considered before the use of this fund.

## 6. MONITORING AND CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Whilst the timescale for the development of this proposal has not allowed for consultation with young people, this will be included within the project implementation following the Lundy Model, which is the consultation model preferred by GMCA.
- 6.2 Consultation has taken place with a range of professionals from the teams referenced in section 3.4 with the aim of ensuring that the plan has the involvement of all required partners.
- 6.3 Following the requirements set by GMCA, an IT database system will be utilised to monitor outcomes and outputs that is able to link directly to the GMCA GMIT system. A separate task group is being established with colleagues from IT, Audit and Information Governance to ensure that the planned Sharepoint system is suitable and that data is protected in the correct manner.
- 6.4 Data Protection Impact and Equality Impact Assessments will also be completed.

## **7. UKSPF GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT**

- 7.1 The grant funding agreement for this element of UKSPF is expected to be provided in mid/late August to all local authorities in Greater Manchester.
- 7.2 The signing of the grant funding agreement will enable the Council to deliver the UKSPF SME Workspace investment priority for Tameside and drawdown associated funding. The Grant Funding Agreement is based on the Government's "Model Grant Funding Agreement" and sets out the conditions which apply to Tameside receiving the UKSPF SME Workspace investment grant.
- 7.3 It is expected that the grant funding agreement will be as received and signed to accept the UKSPF Communities & Place and UKSPF Local Business funding streams.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 As set out at the front of the report.

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**UKSPF Proposal Template - Supporting People and Skills Investment Priority**

**Project:** NEET LA Grant programme

**Local Authority:** Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

**1. Please provide an overview and description of the project including;**

- Project name
- Overview of project
- Objectives and intended impact of the project
- Proposed model of deliver (as a minimum, please include information on mental health support and Youth Voice)
- How will you add value to existing NEET reduction plans and apply learnings to enable continuous improvement
- Which of your local wards/areas do you want to prioritise via this grant funding?

**Project name**

Tameside Futures

**Overview of project**

The project will seek to work with young people aged 15-18, 15-21 if care experienced and 15-24 for the EHCP cohort where the young person is at risk of NEET, NEET or their status is unknown to progress them into or towards EET outcomes.

**Objectives and intended impact of the project**

- Decrease levels of young people identified as at risk of NEET transitioning into NEET
- Reduce NEET levels for priority groups
- Reduce the disparity in NEET levels for priority groups against whole age cohort
- Reduce levels of young people aged 16-18 whose situation is not known – e.g. not engaged with post 16 services and destination not confirmed via established Local Authority tracking duties
- Increase participation levels of priority groups
- Enable fast access to mental health support for those who need it

**Proposed model of delivery (as a minimum, please include information on mental health support and Youth Voice)**

This project will build on cross Directorate and partnership work in Tameside. Delivery will be primarily through the creation of Engagement Officer / Mentor roles who will link with existing teams for the additional resource required that will allow an increased focus on EET destinations. This will act as a 'link' team between the services who work with our young people, including Youth Justice Services, Virtual School, SEND, Leaving Care, Young Carers, SHIFT, Staying Close, Youth Employment Support, FE Pastoral teams, our



Careers guidance team and the EET opportunities which include the offer from Further Education, Apprenticeships, Supported Internships and employment.

The need for support for young people with an EHCP has been highlighted and we will extend the successful Routes to Work supported employment model to create a role that will focus on EET outcomes for young people with health barriers. The role will have matrix management from the Routes to Work manager and the Tameside Futures team.

Additional Mental Health support will also be commissioned, following a recent commission for the Staying Close project this will be duplicated to create additional support that young people can access as there will be crossover from both projects.

The proposed staffing model is shown below:

Engagement	Outreach & detached - 2 x Support Worker
Mentoring	1 x Support Worker 1 x Disability Specialist Supported Employment Support Worker 1 x Partnership & Engagement Officer
Mental Health	Support via Big Life Living Well specialist
Administration	Business Administration Apprentice

In addition to staffing, a proportion of the fund will be allocated to the creation of job opportunities using the Tameside Youth Employment Scheme model which reimburses employers for the critical first months of employment. This has been successful in creating roles for care experienced young people in a tolerant environment enabling a routine to be established and employer expectations understood, leading to sustained employment.

A smaller allocation is set aside for the spot purchase of support or specific training where not already available or to overcome other barriers to EET outcomes. Existing support will be considered before the use of this fund.

Whilst the timescale for the development of this proposal has not allowed for consultation with young people, this will be included as the project implementation begins following the Lundy Model. Consultation has taken place with a range of professionals from the teams mentioned above with the aim of ensuring that the plan has the involvement of all required partners.

**How will you add value to existing NEET reduction plans and apply learnings to enable continuous improvement**

The model detailed above takes learning from successful work and extends it to reach a wider number of young people, by extending existing work and engaging with young people where possible via existing relationships with professionals.

By using existing teams who are already in contact with many of our young people and adding to their resource we are reducing the barrier of young people being required to engage with an unknown external service with the aim of breaking down the barriers to EET conversations. This will enable continuous improvement by bringing professionals working with young people closer to EET outcome services and demonstrate the positive outcomes of young people engaging in education, employment or training.



Previous work has demonstrated that navigating the options and opportunities available can be overwhelming and confusing, for both professionals and the young people they are supporting. The additional resource, who will be aware of the EET offer, will help overcome this barrier.

Continuous improvement will be achieved by regular reviews of the offer to consider what's working, what's not and what's missing. This will not be viewed as a 'static' offer and the additional resource recruited will be encouraged to continually shape the project, as the cohort being supported needs.

**Which of your local wards/areas do you want to prioritise via this grant funding?**

The grant funding will be prioritised to groups of young people where cohort levels are high, for example known at risk of NEET include young people enrolled in PRU and/or alternative provision as well as EHE (elected home educated), and not by geographical location.

**2. Please describe the strategic fit/context of your proposal including how it:**

- Supports the relevant [Greater Manchester Strategy](#) shared commitments.
- Complements and aligns with other elements of NEET provision you deliver; please detail the values of your current NEET provision that will run until March 2025 as we are asked to report Leverage to DLUHC.

This work supports a number of GM Strategies, including:

- Work & Skills
- Good Employment Charter
- Social Value Priorities
- Children & Young People's Plan

This also aligns with Tameside's Corporate Plan, Priority 2 Aspirations & Hope (young people going into Higher Education; Number of 16-19 year olds in employment or educated) and Priority 2 Work, Skills & Enterprise (Increase the number of people earning above the Living Wage; Working age population with at least Level 3 skills; Increase the number of good quality apprenticeships delivered).

As referenced in section 1, this work will sit within the matrix of existing work to support NEET, and at risk of NEET, young people including but not limited to Youth Justice Services, Virtual School, SEND, Leaving Care, Young Carers, SHIFT, Staying Close, Youth Employment Support, FE Pastoral teams, and our Careers guidance team. This brings additional resources both to these teams and into this project.

**3. UKSPF Ways of Working**

**Please explain how you will ensure that this project will:**

- Move Greater Manchester closer to its 2038 Net Zero Carbon target by supporting business to adapt to environmental issues.
- Reduce the inequalities that exist within GM, as outlined in the Greater Manchester Strategy – this should include how the project will engage and work with key equalities groups to ensure representative participation across the programme.

- Will contribute to Greater Manchester’s [Social Value Framework](#).

- Move Greater Manchester closer to its 2038 Net Zero Carbon target by supporting business to adapt to environmental issues.

Whilst this project does not directly support businesses or focus on Net Zero Carbon targets, the additional talent that will be developed for employers to build productivity will have a longer reach.

- Reduce the inequalities that exist within GM, as outlined in the Greater Manchester Strategy – this should include how the project will engage and work with key equalities groups to ensure representative participation across the programme.

This project will operate under the Tameside Equality Strategy 2023 – 2027 which has adopted Cared for Children and Care Leavers as a protected group.

[https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/Comms/Equality-Strategy-2023-27\\_1.pdf](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/Comms/Equality-Strategy-2023-27_1.pdf)

- Will contribute to Greater Manchester’s [Social Value Framework](#).

This project will continue work taking place to tackle the inequalities around us by helping young people to progress positively in their lives and will utilise social value commitments from businesses that we work with and procure services from to reach these outcomes. We will encourage the creation of opportunities within local employers and the sponsorship of events by those based elsewhere to ensure that the maximum impact is achieved.

**4. Engagement and stakeholder management**

Please detail your proposed engagement and stakeholder management strategy for engaging with local communities to deliver the People and Skills NEET programme.

A Stakeholder Group will be created to engage with all partners on this project, this will meet monthly to review engagement and consider where additional partners, such as community groups or delivery partners, can add value.

With the overall outcomes in mind, all staff recruited to the project will be managed to ensure that workloads are realistic and engagement levels will be monitored with this in mind. Whilst the targets are important, approaching them in a way that ensures quality of delivery is paramount.

**5. Deliverability of proposal**

- A) Please see **Annex A** to provide a full expenditure profile and output and outcome profile.
- B) Please provide a detailed breakdown of the expected costs incurred to deliver this service in this section of the template.

Engagement	Outreach / detached work (2 staff)	£40,000
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F2F support	Mentors / Keyworkers (3 staff) & admin	£62,000
Mental Health	External provision commissioned	£15,000
Employment	Employment - YES - Youth Employment Scheme	£35,000
Support fund	Personal support fund to overcome barriers	£11,000

The above costs are for the period from implementation to 31 March 2024 and are estimated to allow for the recruitment period which has variables such as candidate interest and notice periods from current roles. The exact figures will be monitored within the contract management of this work.

- C) Please explain what processes you will have in place to manage delivery of the programme. This should include;
- How you will manage performance to ensure delivery of the agreed UKSPF outputs and outcomes. Please note, that all outcomes will need to be achieved and evidenced by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 when profiling this section.

The NEET Project Manager funded by GMCA will work closely with our UKSPF Project Manager to ensure that the agreed outputs and outcomes are monitored, recorded and reported on as required. The evidence required for outcomes has been noted and will be followed. Once the CRM is in place and the links to GMIT understood, we will develop a process to ensure that the evidence required for each output and/or outcome is correctly gathered and recorded.

The process for monitoring and evidencing delivery will be set out clearly so that all staff working on the contract are able to support with this and training will be provided. Monthly staff 1-2-1's will review this and provide additional support where needed.

Contract monitoring will take place monthly internally with reviews of progress and to understand any issues with evidence requirements to allow this to be resolved. Weekly management meetings will also take place to ensure that any emerging issues are resolved. Support from management with strong experience in contract delivery will be provided, this includes staff with experience of delivering, managing and contract management of Flexible New Deal, Work Programme, and Skills for Employment contracts all of which required specific evidence and monitoring.

- How you will meet the agreed minimum expenditure profile (as provided in Annex A).

This will be met through the recruitment of the resource set out in section 1 of this document.

- What the internal governance arrangements for this programme will be; is this a new governance structure for this programme or will it be an existing forum. What are the main terms of reference relating to this grant?

Internal Governance is current in process, the report has been tabled for Cabinet in August 2023 and seeks delegated authority for the Director of Place to sign the Grant Funding Agreement. Reports on progress will be taken to the UKSPF Board, chaired by the Director of Place. The UKSPF Board provides quarterly progress reports on all UKSPF work in Tameside to Senior Leadership Team and Executive Members via Cabinet. Regular briefings are also scheduled with relevant Executive Members, for the

NEET work this will be Councillor Leanne Feeley, Executive Member for Achievement & Education, and Councillor David Sweeton, Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment.

#### **6. Route to market for the NEET's grant**

Please indicate your intended route to market: -

- Via a contract variation to an existing NEET contract  
No
- Via procurement  
Yes, for mental health support. This has recently been commissioned for the Staying Close contract and the model will be followed.
- Via In-house delivery  
Yes, for additional resource as set out in section 1
- Other

Please detail any considerations you would like to make the GMCA aware of and include a project implementation and risk plan with the expected contract start date.

A project implementation and risk plan has been included, however the contract start date is subject to the receipt of the grant funding agreement from GMCA as the date for this has not been specified.

#### **7. Please confirm you considered SUBSIDY CONTROL.**

Yes, the subsidy control questionnaire has been considered and this is confirmed not to be a subsidy.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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