

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET AND AUDIT PANEL

13 December 2017

Commenced: 2.00 pm

Terminated: 3.05 pm

Present: Councillor K. Quinn (Chair)
Councillors Cooney, J. Fitzpatrick, Gwynne, Taylor, L Travis and Warrington.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Robinson.

In Attendance:	Steven Pleasant	Chief Executive
	Angela Hardman	Director of Population Health
	Robin Monk	Executive Director (Place)
	Kathy Roe	Director (Finance)
	Sarah Dobson	Assistant Director (Policy, Performance and Communications)
	Alan Dow	CCG Chair
	Tom Wilkinson	Assistant Director (Finance)
	Tim Rainey	Assistant Director (Digital Tameside)
	Ian Saxon	Assistant Director (Environmental Services)
	Emma Varnam	Assistant Director (Stronger Communities)
	Sandra Whitehead	Assistant Director (Adult Services)

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Members of the Executive Cabinet.

31. MINUTES

(a) Executive Cabinet

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 18 October 2017.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 18 October 2017 be taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

(b) Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 27 November 2017.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 27 November 2017 be received and the following recommendations approved:

Vision Tameside Phase 2 Progress Update

- (i) That the progress with the delivery of the overall Vision Tameside Phase 2 programme, be noted;

- (ii) That the emerging risk associated with the delay in the installation of the curtain walling, as set out in the report, be noted, however this must be closely monitored to ensure that the overall project programme was not compromised by the delay;
- (iii) That the outcome of the recent National productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) announcement, which had an impact on the Streetscape Improvement project, as set out in the report, be noted;
- (iv) That the budget variations and virements identified in Section 7 of the report, be approved; and
- (v) That progress being made to drawdown the £4 million Skills Funding Agency Capital Funding, be noted.
- (vi) That a further report be received from the Director of Place on the recant plan as a matter of urgency so clarity could be provided about service delivery going forward.

Corporate Asset Management Plan Update

- (i) That the list of disposals identified in Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and
- (ii) That the capital schemes on corporate buildings detailed in section 3.1 of the report, totalling £25,730.58 be approved. This would be funded from the earmarked resource of £3 million for Property Assets Statutory Compliance works.
- (iii) The Director of Place provide all members of the Panel with a complete list of all property identified for disposal, including those valued below £50,000.

Education Capital Programme Update

- (i) That the allocation of Basic Need grant funding schemes as outlined in Section 3 and Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (ii) The allocation of School Condition grant funding schemes as outlined in Section 4 and Appendix 2 and 3 of the report be approved; and
- (iii) That the establishment of an Education Capital Programme Working Group be noted, to ensure the programme was delivered effectively in line with Council priorities.

Engineering Capital Programme 2017/18

- (i) That the allocation of CCAG2 grant funding and the schemes detailed in Section 1.5, Table 1 of the report, be approved;
- (ii) That the additional information contained with the report regarding Safer Roads Fund bid, a joint bid with Oldham MBC, be noted; and
- (iii) That the allocation of capital expenditure for Flood repairs with the revised spend for 2107/18, as detailed in Section 5.4, Table 2, be approved.

Investing in Children's Playgrounds

- (i) That £600,000 capital funding be allocated for improvements to children's playgrounds across Tameside Council; and
- (ii) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel setting out the proposed works and associated costs to be spent on each area based on the audit currently being undertaken.

Review Of Learning Disability Day Services – Oxford Park Development

That capital investment of £0.455 million to fund the development of the Oxford Park site be approved, subject to agreement being reached with Active Tameside to ensure that the project, as described, is deliverable and will not adversely impact Active Tameside's revenue generating activities as this may affect the contribution sought from the Council through the leisure management contract. The Council should record and monitor the costs avoided through the development to ensure that best value can be shown and the assumptions upon which the decision was based were correct.

(c) Enforcement Co-ordination Panel

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Enforcement Co-ordination Panel held on 25 October 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Enforcement Co-ordination Panel held on 25 October 2017 be received.

(d) Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel held on 30 November 2017.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel held on 30 November 2017 be received.

(e) Single Commissioning Board

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Single Commissioning Board held on 31 October and 24 November 2017.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Single Commissioning Board held on 31 October and 24 November 2017 be received.

(f) Association of Greater Manchester Authorities / Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader and Chief Executive, which informed Members of the issues considered at the AGMA Executive Board and Greater Manchester Combined Authority held on 24 November 2017 and the Forward Plan of Strategic Decisions of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and AGMA Executive.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

32. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Performance and Finance) and the Assistant Director (Finance) which detailed the annual audit letter for Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council and Greater Manchester Pension Fund from Grant Thornton for the external audit of 2016/17. A copy of the letter was appended to the report.

It was explained that the annual audit letter summarised the key findings arising from the work carried out for the year ending 31 March 2017. An unqualified opinion on the Council's financial statements had been delivered and the audit did not identify any adjustments affecting the Council's expenditure or level of useable reserves. The report highlighted that the Council had put in place proper arrangements to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources during the year.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Audit Letter for 2016/17 be noted.

33. REVENUE MONITORING – QUARTER 2 2016/17

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Performance and Finance) and the Assistant Director (Finance) showing that at quarter 2 the overall net projected outturn revenue position for 2016/2017 was £0.738m under budget. The report explained that the pressures within Children's Services in particular threatened the financial sustainability of future years budgets and that whilst these had been absorbed through prudent contingency planning and proactive restrictions on spending elsewhere, further funding cuts and inflationary pressures in 2018/2019 and beyond eroded the financial base and Council's ability to sustain pressures of this size. It was stated that strong budget management was required across the Council to ensure the Council achieved its financial plans and higher than budgeted spending would need to be addressed.

The report detailed Directorates projected revenue outturn position for 2017/2018 against budgets for the year. It was explained that overall projected net revenue expenditure for 2017/2018 was expected to be £1.359m less than budget.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the forecast revenue outturn position be noted (Table 1).**
- (ii) That the detail for each service area (Section 3) be noted and that Directors be required to identify measures to ensure expenditure is maintained with the approved budget for the year.**
- (iii) That the changes to revenue budgets as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.**
- (iv) That the position on the Integrated Commissioning Fund be noted, and that temporary support of up to £5.0m through the risk share agreement be met from the earmarked reserve for Care Together.**
- (v) That the Executive Cabinet authorise the payment of a non-recurrent sum, to a maximum value of £1.0 million, to the Tameside & Glossop NHS Integrated Care Foundation Trust (T&G NHS ICFT) as detailed within section 6 of the report – any such amount to be agreed by the First Deputy (Performance and Finance).**

34. CAPITAL MONITORING

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Performance and Finance) and the Assistant Director (Finance) summarising the capital monitoring position at 30 September 2017 with a current projected forecast for service areas to spend £73.703m on capital investment by March 2017 which was £6.033m less than the current capital budget for the year.

It was proposed that the capital investment programme was re-profiled to reflect current information with £5.494m being re-profiled into following year. The report also detailed schemes with an in-year variation in excess of £0.100m and sought approval to re-profile the capital expenditure of the project.

Particular reference was also made to an update on Prudential Indicators; capital receipts, Compulsory Purchase Orders, indemnities and potential liabilities and it was –

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the reprofiling to reflect up to date investment profiles be approved;**
- (ii) That the changes to the Capital Programme be agreed;;**
- (iii) That the updated Prudential Indicator position be agreed.**
- (iv) That the current capital budget monitoring position be noted;**
- (i) That the resources currently available to fund the Capital Programme be noted;**
- (ii) That the updated capital receipts position be noted;**

(iii) That the timescales for review of the Council's three year capital programme be noted.

35. TREASURY MANAGEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Performance and Finance) and the Assistant Director (Finance) that provided a mid-year review of the Council's Treasury Management activities for 2017/18, including the borrowing strategy and the investment strategy.

It was explained that over the year to date, the Council had moved to a more diverse portfolio involving more foreign banks and more longer-duration investments in order to achieve an enhanced return in the current low interest rate environment. All counterparties used had been selected on the basis that they were highly rated and met the criteria set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

The Council held £116,260m of investments as at 30 September 2017 (£164.450m at 31 March 2017) and the investment portfolio yield to date was 0.39% against LIBID of 0.13%.

The return had largely been earned due to an increased number of longer-duration investments. The average fixed term investment placed by the Council in 2017/18 to date had been 229 days, compared to 179 days in 2016/17.

RESOLVED:

That the reported treasury activity and performance be noted.

36. COMMUNITY LOANS POLICY

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Performance and Finance)/Assistant Director (Stronger Communities) that proposed the conditions, circumstances and value of community loans that would be available from Council reserves for capital schemes undertaken by Tameside charities, community groups and Town Councils. It was stated that the policy set the framework within which the scheme would operate. The policy stated:

- Who the Council would provide loans to;
- What the Council would provide loans for;
- The minimum and maximum that would be lent;
- The interest rate chargeable and the loan term.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to approve the Community Loans policy as set out in appendix 1 to the report and that it be reviewed after 12 months.

37. TAMESIDE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Performance and Finance) and the Assistant Director (Digital Services) which provided an update on progress towards putting in place a new digital infrastructure across Tameside which would provide the future speeds and connectivity that would allow the public sector partners and investors to transform their services.

It was explained that spare capacity on the infrastructure would be used as catalyst to support and grow the digital economy in Tameside through the creation of a Co-operative operating vehicle which would provide private sector telecommunication companies with the ability to invest in new and innovative technologies.

The report detailed the rules, structure and outline business model for the new Co-operative and also provided details of £2.2m grant funding from Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) awarded as part of the Governments Local Full Fibre Programme. The funding was to be used to

support the creation and operation of the Tameside Digital Co-operative (TDIC) by accelerating investment in key elements of the digital infrastructure in the borough.

Members were informed that DCMS wanted to use the principles being adopted in Tameside as one of their national exemplar projects which they hoped other areas across the UK would consider and adopt. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) was intending to build on Tameside's example and put a bid into DCMS for £42m to replicate what was being done in Tameside across the wider conurbation.

AGREED

- 1) That it be noted that prospective members of the Tameside Digital Infrastructure Cooperative (TDIC) have been invited to declare their mutual intent in support of the formation of the cooperative on the terms outlined in section 2 and Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report.
- 2) That the registration process proceeds and that the Council is one of the Founder Members.
- 3) That the Council will underwrite start-up funding for the fledgling Cooperative with the guarantee of a share based equity loan of up to £120k over a 5 year period based on 5% interest repayment rate as set out in paragraph 2.19 of the report.
- 4) That the Council will sell its spare fibre capacity to the Cooperative for £100k and will agree to purchase par value shares in the Cooperative to make this purchase possible as set in paragraph 2.19.
- 5) That the Council has discussions with other public sector investors in regard to the sale of their spare fibre capacity to the Cooperative on the same basis as above.
- 6) That approval is given to £1,725K capital investment set out in section 3 of the report:
 - £1,366k to fund the installation of ducting and fibre optic cable associated with the expansion and development of the Tameside Digital Infrastructure
 - £359k to fund the replacement of network perimeter security equipment and dark fibre switches.

It should be noted that some preliminary costs of £206k have been incurred in advance of full approval for this project due to works that needed to take place alongside other planned works, to minimise disruption.

- 7) That approval is given to £840k capital investment on the construction of a new purpose built Data Centre in Ashton Old Baths as detailed in section 4 of the report.
- 8) The Borough Solicitor is authorised to sign and seal the Project Agreement with TfGM for use of tram-side ducting to install and light fibre optic cable for phase 1 (Ashton to Droylsden) and phase 2 (Droylsden to Piccadilly) on behalf on the Council as detailed in section 5 and Appendix 7.
- 9) That before the project progresses the Director of Finance must satisfied that the proposals and business case for this project have been properly assessed and represent value for money.
- 10) That any further proposals which involve the Council in the setting up or running of the Co-operative as opposed to being a founding member will require further Cabinet approval subject to a business case setting out a cost benefit analysis.

38. SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS – PROPOSED CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Lifelong Learning), Director (Place) and Director of Finance explaining that the current financial arrangements for the school meals

service had not been reviewed for some time and had become disjointed and haphazard. Improvements that could be made to the arrangements had been identified and it was planned to consult schools about these.

It was reported that the provision of school meals was a delegated item in the Local Management of Schools meaning that schools were free to decide who they commissioned to provide the service, with the cost being met from their delegated budget.

It was proposed that the additional charge to schools of 13 pence per meal would cease. However, it was levied to cover a number of costs associated with the catering service including trade waste collection, catering health and safety checks in kitchens, pest control, replacement and maintenance of equipment, overheads and non-payment by parents. These services still needed to be provided and therefore it was proposed that these would be carried out by schools as schools would already be carrying out a number of these activities as part of the local management arrangements.

The Executive Board noted that the plan to pass the responsibility for the direct cost of these services to primary and secondary schools did not necessarily mean an extra cost to the school's budget. Apart from a saving from the ending of the 13p charge, schools would not incur the Council's overhead charge and would almost certainly improve collection of school meal charges from families.

The proposed changes would bring primary schools in line operationally with the secondary schools in the borough. It would help to future proof these primary schools making it easier to change the school meals provider if they desired or make the transition to an academy.

It was reported that a number of schools had cashless payment systems making it much easier to collect income and the ability to track where payments had not been received. To ensure that all schools had the same opportunity it was proposed that the Council would pay for the installation of a cashless payment system and the first year's maintenance for those schools without such a system.

It was noted that changes in the financial arrangements of the school meals service would have to be applied consistently across all schools, i.e. schools could not have the individual choice whether to opt in, or not, to some or all of the arrangements.

In conclusion, it was stated that the transfer of responsibility of school meals income to schools would support effective use of resources for both the Council and the schools in the collection of income. The procurement and roll out of a cashless system in primary schools would provide parents with an easier method of payment of the meals and manage payments to schools more succinctly.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That approval be given for consultation to commence on the full delegation of the school meals service to primary and secondary schools.**
- (ii) That the implementation of cashless payment systems in school be supported.**

39. TRANSPENNING ROUTE CONNECTIVITY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Clean and Green) and the Director (Place) which provided an update on the works currently being undertaken on the Trans-Pennine Upgrade Programme and the Transpennine Tunnel Strategic Study initiative.

It was explained that on the 2 November 2017 Highways England had confirmed the preferred package for the Trans-Pennine upgrade programme. The following elements were now being taken forward to the next stage of development:

- **Mottram Moor and A57(T) to A57 Link Roads:** Option A was identified as the preferred route. This option performed the best in terms of community impact and had the most support from those taking part in the consultation.
- **Safety and technology:** There was broad support for the majority of the proposed measures, so further work to identify how they can be best used along the route is to be developed.
- **Improvement works:** At Westwood Roundabout, Tankersley, Barnsley, to improve congestion and traffic flows

Members expressed support for the proposal and agreed that it was important to work with Local MPs and colleagues from High Peak and Derbyshire Councils.

RESOLVED

(i) That the Highways England announcement for the following be welcomed:

- Taking forward route Option A to include a new Mottram Moor Link Road and a A57(T) to A57 link road to Glossop as set out within the report.
- The introduction a series of safety and technology improvements addressing accident clusters on the A57/A628 Woodhead Pass
- Improvement works at Westwood Roundabout, Tankersley, Barnsley, to improve congestion and traffic flows

(ii) That it be noted that officers continue to seek assurances from Highways England that any potential funding shortfalls are fully secured to enable completion of the package of announced measures.

(iii) That it be noted that whilst Tameside's full scope of involvement in the Develop Consent Order process is fully established for Executive Cabinet approval, comment has been and will be provided on receipt of two early documents in respect of an "Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report" and "Statement of Community Consultation", respectively, to the Planning Inspectorate in conjunction with the Executive Director of Place

(iv) That support be given to the ongoing joint working initiative between Tameside and High Peak Borough council in securing the full benefits of the announced works and in their continued lobbying for a full bypass not only around Mottram but also Hollingworth and Tintwistle.

(v) That Highways England be fully supported in developing initiatives to alleviate traffic issues in Tintwistle and Hollingworth.

(vi) That the current position in respect of the on-going feasibility study for a high performance road link between Manchester and Sheffield through a purpose-built tunnel be noted.

40. STRATEGIC HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT LAND AVAILABILITY 2017 AND THE BROWNFIELD LAND REGISTER

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader and the Director (Place) which explained that the available supply of land for housing had been refreshed alongside a review of available land for employment in order to provide an up to date position across the Borough for the 15 year period from 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2032. This would determine the contribution that this supply of land provided towards the Borough's objectively assessed housing requirement and

employment land needs. The updated assessments were crucial to demonstrate best use of urban land in support of the strategy set out in the draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) to maximise the use of urban land in order to minimise the need for the release of land in the Green Belt.

Members were informed that the government had introduced two new sets of regulations in April 2017. These covered the publication of the brownfield land register (BLR Regulations) and the grant of planning permission in principle (PiP Regulations). These were aimed at speeding up the delivery of housing on brownfield sites. Part 1 of the Brownfield Land Register must be published no later than 31 December 2017 and was simply a list of brownfield sites (no part of which may be greenfield) which were drawn from those identified in the land availability assessment. The report therefore listed the brownfield sites that should be included on part 1 of the register. The report also outlined the basic approach for those sites to subsequently be considered for granting permission in principle. However this was a separate process that required detailed assessment and governance to be established. This was **not** required to be in place by 31 December 2017 and would be the subject of a future report to Executive Cabinet in 2018.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be noted and approval given to the publication of the brownfield sites identified at Appendix 1 for inclusion on part 1 of the Brownfield Land Register for Tameside.**
- (ii) That a further report be received in 2018 setting out the detailed requirements and recommended governance arrangements for assessing sites to be included on Part 2 of the Brownfield Land Register, granting Permission in Principle.**
- (iii) That a further report be submitted on the overall position for housing and employment land supply.**

41. GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE DISPOSAL LEVY ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY AND APPROVAL OF REVISED LEVY ALLOCATION MODEL AGREEMENT (LAMA)

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader and the Director (Place) which The current arrangements for the disposal of household waste in Greater Manchester (save for Wigan) were established in 2009 with the signing of the Recycling and Waste Management (PFI) Contract (the PFI Contract) with Viridor Laing (Greater Manchester) limited (VLGM). The GMWDA acquired VLGM (for £1) in October 2017 which will allow existing arrangements to be formally terminated so as to address issues that had arisen within the operation of the Contract and to enable significant efficiency savings to be released. The current Inter Authority Agreement, which was signed by all Districts in 2009, falls away with the termination of the PFI Contract and it is therefore necessary to reconsider the Levy apportionment within GM and for all Districts to approve and enter into a revised Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA) which reflects the new arrangements. That Agreement is designed to apply for 10 years, and would be applied in full for the 2019/20 financial year onwards, with transitional arrangements being proposed for the financial year 2018/19

RESOLVED:

- (i) That it be agreed that the revised Levy Apportionment Methodology Agreement be applied in full from 2019/20 with transitional arrangements in place during 2018/19; and**
- (ii) That authority be delegated to the Director of Governance and Pensions and Borough Solicitor in consultation with the Assistant Director of Environmental Services and the Assistant Director (Finance) the finalisation of the Levy Apportionment Methodology Agreement, a current draft of which is appended at Appendix A, including any amendments required, together with the transitional arrangements, and any associated documentation relating thereto.**

CHAIR