

EXECUTIVE CABINET

19 September 2018

Present: Councillors Warrington (in the Chair),
Councillors Bray, Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Kitchen and Ryan.

In Attendance:

Steven Pleasant	Chief Executive
Sandra Stewart	Director of Governance & Pensions
Kathy Roe	Director of Finance
Steph Butterworth	Director of Adult's Services
David Moore	Director of Growth
Jeanelle De Gruchy	Director of Population Health
Ian Saxon	Director of Operations & Neighbourhoods
Sandra Whitehead	Assistant Director (Adult Services)
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director (Operations and Neighbourhoods)

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Cooney

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23. MINUTES

a) Meeting of Executive Cabinet

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 29 August 2018

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 29 August 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

b) Strategic Commissioning Board

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 29 August 2018.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 29 August 2018 be received.

c) Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 6 September 2018 be received.

d) Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 3 September 2018 and the recommendations contained therein.

Members received the recommendations in relation to the Capital Monitoring report for period 4 2018/19 which showed projected capital investment in 2018/19 of £74.798m by March 2019.

Members received the recommendations in relation to the Local Full Fibre Network seeking approval of the development of a bid to DCMS LFFN, which sought to join together similar open fibre infrastructures across the North of England.

Members received the recommendations in relation to the Asset Management (Capital repair spend on the Council's property) seeking approval of £9,718.70, associated with statutory compliance capital repairs for the period June 2018.

Members received the recommendations in relation to the proposed changes to the Education Capital Programme.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 3 September 2018 be received.**
- (ii) That the re-profiling of £16.753m into future year(s) to match expected spending profile and to reflect up to date investment profiles be approved.**
- (iii) That the changes to the Capital Programme as detailed within the submitted report be approved.**
- (iv) That the updated Prudential Indicator position as detailed in Appendix 5 of the submitted report be approved.**
- (v) That the development of a bid to DCMS LFFN be approved.**
- (vi) That the spend of £9718.70, associated with statutory compliance capital repairs for the period June 2018, be approved.**
- (vii) That the proposed changes to the Education Capital Programme as outlined in Appendix 1 (Basic Need Funding Schemes) and Appendix 2 (School Condition Allocation Funding Schemes) of the submitted report, be approved.**

18. REVENUE MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Director of Finance that provided a consolidated forecast for the Strategic Commission and NHS Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care Foundation Trust (ICFT) for the current financial year.

It was reported that the Strategic Commission was currently forecasting that expenditure for the Integrated Commissioning Fund will exceed budget by £4.061 million by the end of 2018/19 due to a combination of non-delivery savings and cost pressures.

It was reported that there was a clear urgency to implement associated strategies to ensure the projected funding gap in the current financial year was addressed and closed on a recurrent basis across the whole economy. The Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24 identifies significant savings requirements for future years. If budget pressures in service areas in 2018/19 were sustained, this would inevitably lead to an increase in the level of savings required in future years to balance the budget.

Following the liquidation of Carillion the appointed liquidator Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) had been managing the contracts to enable the smooth transfer to other providers. The costs of this service were not budgeted for, and would continue to be incurred until everything is finalised. PwC

were charging a weekly management fee which, has increased significantly since period 2, and this was reflected in the deterioration of the forecast to a cost pressure of £0.9m.

Executive Cabinet was informed that the Strategic Commissioning Board had previously considered the report and supported the recommendations.

No alternatives were considered as not reporting on financial performance could put at risk the achievement of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. Effective budget management was critical to ensuring that financial resources were spent in line with the agreed budgets.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the significant level of savings required during 2018/19 to deliver a balanced recurrent economy budget together with the related risks which, are contributing to the overall adverse forecast, be noted.**
- (ii) That the significant cost pressures facing the Strategic Commission, particularly in respect of Continuing Healthcare, Children's Social Care and Growth, be noted.**
- (iii) That officers work to identify and action offsetting savings and efficiencies to bring the budget back into balance.**
- (iv) That it be noted the Strategic Commissioning Board (SCB) has been asked to authorise the use of headroom in the ICF risk share to increase the CCG surplus in 2018/19. This will enable drawdown of cumulative surplus in 2019/20 and improve the future financial position.**

19. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Assistant Director (Exchequer Services), which set out the procedural requirement for deciding if changes were required to the Council Tax Support scheme to become effective from April 2019. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 abolished Council Tax Benefit from 31 March 2013 and all Local Authorities, including Tameside Council, were required to design and run their own scheme with less money available due to cuts by national government. Tameside's Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) was introduced from 1 April 2013. The scheme still provided financial assistance to some Council Tax charge payers on a low income whether they rent or own their home, or live rent-free. The effect of receiving Council Tax Support is a reduction in the amount of Council Tax they have to pay.

It was explained that overall scheme costs and claimant numbers had continued to decline and support for claimants remained in place. It was stated that there appeared to be no adverse equality impact arising from the quarterly reviews that took place and further guidance, which may have a bearing on the scheme, from the Department for Communities and Local Government was not expected.

Executive Cabinet were requested to approve the undertaking of a consultation exercise in accordance with the scheme setting procedural requirements to amend the CTS to include:

- Proposal A - Award a 2 week run on for claimants moving from benefit into work
- Proposal B - Apply an earnings disregard to self-employed claimants

Members was informed that consideration had been given to the effects of Universal Credit as the Council Tax Support scheme was based on Universal Credit guidelines therefore, it was important that the scheme aligned where possible. Awarding a 2 week run on for claimants moving from Housing Benefit to Universal Credit had been introduced into the Universal Credit scheme from 11 April 2018. Awarding an additional 2 weeks CTS to any working age claimant that starts work after being in receipt of what is known as a 'passported' benefit such as Job Seekers Allowance or Income Support adheres to CTS scheme guidance to provide a work incentive. If implemented this is estimated to affect no more than 25 working age claimants per week and cost £41k based on current Council Tax levels.

It was reported to mitigate the impact on the most vulnerable, funding will be set aside to continue to support a local discretionary scheme. This money could be available to award discretionary payments to support people who are suffering severe financial hardship as a result of the changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme.

Consulting on the Council Tax Support Scheme was a statutory requirement and therefore no alternatives were considered. Members could choose to propose alternative measures however, this must be considered as part of the overall budget setting process and the legal requirement to set a balanced budget.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Council Tax Support Scheme be recommended to be amended to include the award a 2 week run on for claimants moving from benefit into work and the application an earnings disregard to self-employed claimants.**
- (i) That a public consultation exercise on the proposed changes to the Scheme be undertaken between 19 September 2018 and 22 November 2018,**
- (ii) A report be brought to the Executive Cabinet meeting to be held on 12 December 2018 advising of the result of the consultation exercise.**

20. BANDING PAYMENT SYSTEM AND AGE POLICY CHANGE FOR SHARED LIVES PLACEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Director of Adult Services which sought permission to introduce a banding payment system for Shared Lives carers to reflect the complexity of need of those cared for, and also change the age of entry into Shared Lives from 18 years of age to 16 years of age to improve transition and continuity of care for young people.

The Shared Lives Scheme is regulated under Health and Social Care Act 2008 and The Care Act 2014, which now provides a single legal framework for charging for care and support under sections 14 and 17 supplemented by The Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014.

It was reported that the proposed banding payment system for Shared Lives carers, ensures the payment made to carers is reflective of the levels of need of the service users in their care, and providing a choice to carers of the amount of assistance they want to, or can, provide at a certain cost. The proposed new framework is intended to make charging fairer and more clearly understood by everyone.

Consultation on the proposals had been undertaken by Shared Lives staff and managers, supported by Policy and Communications Team. Thirty people had responded to the consultation with twenty of those responding to the banding element of the proposal. Overall the majority felt the proposals would make the system fairer and more equitable for carers.

Members considered the alternative options of retaining the existing system but this was discounted on the grounds that this would not improve access to Shared Lives for people with more complex needs and young people coming through transition.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the introduction of a new banding payment system for Shared Lives carers, be approved.**
- (ii) That the age of entry to Shared Lives be changed from 18 to 16 years in the Shared Lives Policy.**
- (iii) That the existing Shared Lives arrangements be protected if the banding for an existing service user is assessed as being Band 1.**
- (iv) That the new a banding system be implemented by 1 April 2019.**

- (v) Where an emergency placement is made that this initially be paid at the higher rate until an assessment is completed.**

21. OFSTED INSPECTION UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Children and Families / Director of Children's Services updating Executive Cabinet on the findings of the sixth Ofsted monitoring visit which was undertaken between 22nd and 23rd August 2018.

It was reported by Ofsted that in too many areas of the service for children looked after; the pace of progress has been slow. The quality of social work practice, supervision and management oversight, and challenge by independent reviewing officers (IROs) still require significant improvement to ensure that practice improves and delivers good outcomes for children looked after. Inspectors found some evidence of improving performance in the timeliness of statutory requirements, such as reviews, completion of health assessments and personal education plans.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the report be noted.**

CHAIR