

EXECUTIVE CABINET

24 July 2019

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

In Attendance: Kathy Roe – Director of Finance
Sandra Stewart – Director of Governance and Pensions
Jessica Williams – Interim Director of Commissioning
Stephanie Butterworth – Director of Adult Services
Ian Saxon – Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
Jeanelle De Gruchy – Interim Director of Commissioning
Emma Varnam – Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
Tom Wilkinson – Assistant Director of Finance
Tim Rainey – Assistant Director of Digital Services

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16 EXECUTIVE CABINET

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 26 June 2019.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 26 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

17 STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 26 June 2019. Councillor Gwynne was noted to have been omitted from being present at the meeting.

RESOLVED

That with the inclusion of Councillor Gwynne being present that the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 26 June 2019 be noted.

18 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting held on 8 July 2019. Approval was sought for recommendations of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel arising from the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (i) The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 8 July 2019, be noted.**
- (ii) That the following recommendations be approved:**

CAPITAL OUTTURN 2018/19

- a) That the reprofiling of £5.810m of capital budgets as set out in Appendix 3 to reflect up to date investment profiles be approved.**

- b) That the changes to the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
- c) The updated Prudential Indicator position set out in Appendix 5 be approved.

CAPITAL PROJECTS GROWTH

- a) That a sum of £1.137m of 2019/2020 funding from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for adaptations as detailed within the submitted report be approved.
- b) That a sum of £0.200m for non-adaptations as set out in sections 2.7 and 2.9 of the submitted report be approved.
- c) That the corporate landlord capital expenditure associated with statutory compliance capital work of £0.156m as detailed within section 2.22 of the submitted report, be approved.
- d) That the section 106 education contribution of £0.069m as detailed in 2.30 of the submitted report be approved.
- e) That £0.100m of the £10.000m earmarked budget for Ashton Town Hall is released to fund further market testing and feasibility works

INVESTING IN CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS

- a) That Executive Cabinet be recommend to approve the £600,000 spend for the children's playgrounds as detailed within the report.

LEISURE ASSETS CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

- a) That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the floodlight replacement scheme off Richmond Street in Ashton subject to funding from Sport England and East Cheshire Harriers being provided as detailed within the submitted report.

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE

- a) To approve 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.
- b) That the risks highlighted in Section 5 of the report are noted.
- c) That additional Devolved Formula Capital of £685,902 for 2018/19 and £344,294 2019/20 Devolved Formula Capital to be added to the Council's capital programme and thereon made available to schools on request, as referenced in section 2.9 of the submitted report, be approved.
- d) That £4,842,699 2019/20 Basic Need allocation and £1,153,000 of 2019/20 School Condition grant to be added to the Council's capital programme, as referenced in section 2.4 and 2.7 respectively of the submitted report, be approved.

OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS CAPITAL

- a) That the additional capital grant funding set out in paragraph 3.7, Table 4 of the submitted report be approved.

19 UPDATE ON HOMELESSNESS, ROUGH SLEEPING IN TAMESIDE & THE A BED EVERY NIGHT SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Housing, Planning and Employment)/Assistant Director (Operations and Neighbourhoods) which provided an update on rough sleeping in Tameside, the work undertaken to tackle rough sleeping and the A Bed Every Night service. The report had been considered by the Strategic Commissioning Board, which had recommended approval of the recommendations.

The Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods explained that homelessness and rough sleeping had significantly increased over the past decade, both regionally and nationally as well as locally within Tameside. Government figures showed that there were 1768 people sleeping rough in England in 2010, a figure which rose to 4677 by 2018. Although the figures were much higher in city centre locations, every town and borough in the UK had its own rough sleeping problem, in Tameside, there were 7 people rough sleeping across the whole borough in 2012, but this had risen to 42 by 2017.

In 2018/19, Tameside Council had successfully applied for a grant under a new scheme announced by the Ministry of Housing, Community & Local Government, called the Rough Sleeping Initiative. The 2018/19 grant was £309,115 and was used to implement several schemes designed to tackle rough sleeping in Tameside during 2018/19. The schemes funded by this grant included the employment of specific members of staff tasked with co-ordinating work to tackle rough sleeping, additional outreach workers, additional accommodation units, winter provision and a rent guarantor scheme. The RSI work had been closely monitored by Ministry of Housing, Community & Local Government and Tameside had recently been granted a further £420,000 for 2019/20.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester in May 2017 made tackling homelessness and rough sleeping a top priority. As part of his pledge to tackle rough sleeping, he started the Mayor's Homelessness fund, a charitable fund designed from the outset to help deal with homelessness and rough sleeping across Greater Manchester. In spring 2018, the Greater Manchester Mayor approached all 10 Greater Manchester authorities with a proposal to introduce a new scheme called A Bed Every Night. The Mayor asked for assistance from the Authorities in offering a bed in a safe, warm environment every night between 1 November 2018 and 31 March 2019 for anyone who was rough sleeping. After considering and rejecting a number of possible options, the old library building in the grounds of Ryecroft Hall had been identified as a suitable location. By late February, the service was accommodating between 32 and 36 people every night.

The Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods highlighted that the success of the scheme at Ryecroft Hall was due to the cooperation between the Council and NHS providing wrap around services on a long-term commitment. To continue the success of the scheme a number of existing issues were required addressing including the continued suitability of Ryecroft Hall as a suitable location.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the success of the A Bed Every Night service and wider rough sleeping service be noted.**
- (ii) That the immediate identification of an alternative venue for the A Bed Every Night service be approved.**
- (iii) That the delivery of A Bed Every Night service at Ryecroft Library be cease and transferred to a new location as soon as practically possible.**
- (iv) That the announcement of financial support for the A Bed Every Night service from the Greater Manchester Joint Commission Board allowing for a joined up response across the public sector of healthcare and housing need be welcomed.**

20 MONTH 2 CONSOLIDATED REVENUE MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance & Economic Growth / Director of Finance providing an overview on the financial position of the Tameside and Glossop economy in 2019/20. For the year to 31 May 2019 the report forecast that service expenditure would exceed the approved budget in a number of areas, due to a combination of cost pressures and non-delivery of savings.

It was explained that for the 2019/20 financial year the Integrated Commissioning Fund was forecast to spend £619,213k, against a net budget of £613,693k, a forecast overspend of £5,520k.

It was stated that two months into the new financial year the report was an early look at emerging issues. A detailed monitoring report would be prepared at month 3 but there were already some significant budgetary pressures in Children's Services, and continuing income shortfalls in Growth and Operations and Neighbourhoods. Urgent action was needed to address these pressures or identify additional savings if the financial plan for 2019/2020 was to be delivered.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

21 ESTABLISHING A VENTURE FUND FOR INVEST TO SAVE OPPORTUNITIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Assistant Director of Finance, seeking approval of the creation of an Investment Fund and the transfer of £1 million from the Service Improvement Reserve into the Investment Fund.

The Assistant Director of Finance stated that the Council and Tameside and Glossop CCG were leading on the public service reform in the locality and initiatives to better align services focused on the delivery of outcomes that were best for residents. Simultaneously the delivery of savings and efficiencies was becoming an increasingly difficult process after 9 years of austerity. One of the reasons cited for non-delivery of savings was due to the lack of capacity to deliver some projects in addition to delivering normal operations.

The report sought to formally establish a fund to provide some capacity to deliver new savings and efficiencies for 2019/20 and beyond and to allow investment in the delivery of the public service reform required. It was proposed that £1m be earmarked from the Service Improvement Reserve to create a specific Investment Fund to facilitate the delivery of public sector reform and the savings required to deliver a balanced budget. The operating arrangements of the fund were set out in the report to ensure that the funding was allocated fairly and that the rationale for using this funding was sound and robust.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given to the transfer £1m from Service Improvement Reserve to create an Investment Fund that is reviewed and assessed as part of future annual budget processes.**
- (ii) That delegated authority subject to an executive decision is given to the Director of Finance, the Executive Member for Finance & Growth and the Clinical Lead for Finance for Tameside and Glossop CCG, together with the relevant Executive Member and/or Clinical lead to approve funding from the Investment Fund reserve to support the delivery of savings and public service reform. This will be subject to the Executive Decision providing satisfactorily robust business case and implementation plan been prepared, which demonstrates the investment will enable the delivery of future savings.**
- (iii) That the level of the Investment Fund be reviewed as part of the annual budget setting process.**

22 GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY FULL FIBRE NETWORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Assistant Director of Digital Services which sought approval for the Council, as part of the Greater Manchester Open Fibre Alliance Consortium, a bid for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Local Full Fibre Network Project.

The Assistant Director of Digital Services advised that in March 2018, Greater Manchester secured 25% of the total UK Local Full Fibre wave 2 funding which would be used to connect over 1300

public sector sites across Greater Manchester. The Local Full Fibre Programme would have a transformational impact on digital infrastructure in Greater Manchester leading to an increase of full fibre coverage from 2% to around 25% within three years. The existing arrangements for Manchester City Council and Tameside were different than the other 8 Greater Manchester Authorities. As part of the overall £23.8m funding awarded by the Department of Digital, Media, Culture and Sport to Greater Manchester, £2.5m was being transferred to Tameside to continue developing the existing dark fibre infrastructure and £835k for Manchester City Council to upgrade existing building connections to fibre.

A supplier questionnaire for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Local Full Fibre Network Project had been issued in Mid-April with a closing date on 13 May 2019. The supplier questionnaire process required potential suppliers to have a least 3 years financial records which prevented the Tameside Cooperative from applying in its own right having been formed in February 2018. In view of this a consortium led by Tameside MBC with Cooperative Network Infrastructure Ltd, formerly known as the Tameside Digital Infrastructure Cooperative, and additional contributions from other consortium members completed and submitted the supplier questionnaire. The consortium name was the Greater Manchester Open Fibre Alliance. Greater Manchester Open Fibre Alliance consortium was not a legal construct but a nexus of Cooperative Network Infrastructure members who were willing to pool assets, skills and resources to develop a final bid document and if successful deliver and operate the new digital infrastructure for Greater Manchester. Having been successful with the initial supplier questionnaire a full response to the tender must be submitted by 24 July 2019. Once the contracts were awarded by Greater Manchester Combined Authority it is envisaged work to construct the new network(s) would commence in October 2019.

Executive Cabinet were advised that clarification was required as to an issue in terms of state aid. It was proposed that £15m will go into the ducting, which will be owned by the Co-operative, £5m by the Council and £5m each from two others, all of whom would get return on this investment. A full state aid test would be required to determine if the Cooperative members were in receipt of an economic advantage, which could not have been obtained under normal market conditions.

RESOLVED

- (i) That Executive Cabinet approves the Council, joining in, as part of the Greater Manchester Open Fibre Alliance (Greater Manchester Open Fibre Alliance) Consortium, a bid for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Local Full Fibre Network (Local Full Fibre) Project, on the basis that further key decisions will follow on funding should the Greater Manchester Open Fibre Alliance Consortium be successful in the bid.**
- (ii) That the Assistant Director of Digital Services be authorised to enter into the Greater Manchester Open Fibre Alliance (Greater Manchester Open Fibre Alliance) Consortium Memorandum of Understanding attached at Appendix 2 of the submitted report, noting that other than confidentiality clauses it is not a legally binding document.**
- (iii) That a report updating Executive Cabinet on the bid together with an update on the further due diligence and in particular state aid matters be brought to a future meeting.**

23 SCHOOLS STRATEGY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Life Long Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage) / Assistant Director (Education) / Assistant Director (Finance), which provided an update on the implementation of the schools strategy agreed by Executive Cabinet in August 2018. This strategy assertively redefined and restated the Councils role in education and in relation to schools. The strategy emphasised the need for the Council to become an honest and intelligent broker of school support as well as the glue in the system for schools linking wider children's services to the education system.

In agreeing the strategy Members sought legal advice on the strength of the Department for Education's covenants / commitments set out in their standard documentation and the risks that would be retained by the Council, to enable the Cabinet to review its current stance on academisation of Private Finance Initiative. The report provided an update in two parts, firstly, on the implementation of the Schools Strategy and secondly, in relation to the academisation of Private Finance Initiative schools.

RESOLVED

That the report be deferred to a future meeting of the Executive Cabinet.

24 REVIEW OF PARKING IN ASHTON TOWN CENTRE AND FUTURE BOROUGH WIDE PARKING OPTIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Transport and Connectivity)/Assistant Director (Operations and Neighbourhoods) which explained that following the introduction of the Cashless Parking System in Ashton Town Centre, and in accordance with the approval by Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel, a review of the scheme had been undertaken and an emergency decision was made to suspend the scheme until a revised report could be submitted.

The report looked at the options available to the Council in relation to traffic regulation orders in Ashton town centre. It was explained that there were four options available to the Council:

- Option 1 Reinstatement of the cashless parking system as originally designed.
- Option 2 Remove the cashless parking system and continue with unregulated parking.
- Option 3 Remove the cashless parking system and return to the free limited waiting parking (one hour, no return in two hours).
- Option 4 Introduce Pay and Display machines on-street and retain the cashless system as a means of payment.

For all of the options, the recommendation was to complete the installation of bollards within the town centre as a measure of security and to introduce the operation of these bollards after a communications exercise with local councillors and businesses.

As part of the initial support for the scheme, the Panel had asked for the scheme to be reviewed at 6, 12 and 18 month periods which indicated the willingness to provide the most appropriate solution for parking options in Ashton-Under-Lyne and this is why the report has been brought forward.

The report stated that Option 3 was the preferred option due to the level of complaints received against the scheme. This option proposed the reinstatement of the one hour free parking (with no return in two hours) and no necessity for the App based system.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Cashless Parking Scheme be withdrawn from 'on-street' and an advertisement for the revocation of the associated traffic regulation order be published.**
- (ii) That replacement of the scheme with one hour free parking and no return within two hours (Option 3), and advertise the associated traffic regulation order be approved.**
- (iii) That the completion of the installation of bollards within the town centre be approved as a measure of security and the introduction of the operation of these bollards begin after a communications exercise with Local Councillors and businesses.**

CHAIR